

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 41-B**

**NARAYANA SEVA, EQUIPOISE
March 7th, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

As an expression of His limitless Grace, Swami materializes *Vibuthi* or other objects. He calls this process *Sankalpa Siddhi*. This means that objects are created only through Swami's *Sankalpa*. Not only 'Vastu' – objects, but I have seen many 'Vaastus' – buildings, structures erected through Swami's *Sankalpa*. To name a few, Prasanthi Nilayam, Dharmakshetra, Sivam, Sundaram, Trayee Brindavan, a number of schools and colleges, university buildings, hospitals, the Hill View Stadium and the huge idols erected there, museums, planetarium, Poomachandra and Sai Kulwant Hall, the Sarva Dharma Stupa – have all come up through Swami's *Sankalpa* in a short span of time.

Besides, given the work that is carried out here, whether related to education, healthcare or water projects, is carried out smoothly and efficiently. Well, all this happens only due to Swami's Divine will. Years ago, somebody asked Swami some questions regarding this.

Question: What power manifests a miracle? What power manifests a miracle?

Swami: Well, to call it a miracle is wrong. That which is a power, which is ever present, can it be called a miracle? But I have understood your question. What you call miracle is a Divine power. This is a power which is vast and endless like an ocean. Anyone can come and fill up his vessel with the water of this ocean according to his capacity.

Yes, I manifest objects, what you call a miracle, but not for exhibiting My power. One exhibits to impress people. The object appears the moment I will it! The object appears the moment I **will** it! It is spontaneous – '*Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavathi*.' Whatever comes to the mind just happens! The objects come in the hand with the *Sankalpa*.

Next question: In which year, did you attain this Divine power?

Swami: I chose My birth! I chose My mother! In life, people can choose only husband or a wife. They cannot choose a mother, but I chose My mother, and right since My birth, I have this *Prema Drishti* – loving glance and *Divya Shakti* – divine power.

Sri Rama and Sri Krishna had also chosen their mothers. They served their people with love. Sri Krishna even took the role of a charioteer in order to serve.

Well, Dr. Bhagavantam was a very well-known Indian scientist and an ardent devotee of Swami. Once he had to attend a science conference at Akara in Nigeria. Prior to his departure, Swami told him, “Go to Arusha and meet My devotee, Dr. Gadia.”

In accordance with the plan, Dr. Bhagavantam reached Arusha – ARUSHA. The people who were present there asked him, “Will you tell us something about Swami miracles?”

Dr. Bhagavantam answered, “Thousands of miles away from Prasanthi Nilayam, I am seeing the ‘Om Sri Sathya Sai Dispensary’ and ‘Sai Nilayam’ here! What can be a bigger miracle than this?”

While elaborating further on this statement he said, “Swami’s *Siddha Sankalpa* and biggest miracle is to bring about transformation among His devotees.” However, interestingly once, Swami told Sri. Kasturi, “If a student does not study all around the year, he is bound to get a zero in the examination. So just like you need to put all hard work into everything, sincere efforts are required in *Sadhana* too! If your *Sankalpa*, *Sadhana* – efforts is not there, what can Swami’s *Siddhi* do?” Therefore, our effort is also very much needed!”

For being healthy, physical well-being alone is not enough. Along with the body, even the mind has to be healthy and strong. Only then can one be called a healthy person. If either of the two gets afflicted, one falls sick. Bhagavan Baba’s grace ensures that His devotees are healthy in body and mind. Among the many names of Bhagavan Baba, one name describes Him as “*Om Sri Sathya Sai Sarva Roga Nivariney Namah.*” “*Om Sri Sathya Sai Sarva Roga Nivariney Namah.*” which means that when the devotees get afflicted with health problems, Swami easily removes the disease and grants good health.

As a part of the Divine mission and in order to fulfil the promise given to Mother Eswaramma, Bhagavan Baba established the first hospital at Puttaparthi in 1956. A number of health centres were also started but the pinnacle was reached when on 22nd November 1991, the Super Speciality Hospital came into existence at Prasanthi Nilayam to treat patients completely free of cost for various ailments related to the heart, kidneys, liver, eyes and brain.

Although succeeding in such a huge task is possible only to a divine incarnation, some doubting Thomases might ask question, “If Baba has the power to cure all diseases, where is the need to build hospitals for healthcare?”

The all-knowing Bhagavan Baba has already given a reply to such a question by saying, "Some people may think, 'If Swami can cure all diseases by His Divine Sankalpa, where is the need to construct such a large hospital?' If they think deeply, they will realize that's not the only hospital which belongs to Me! All hospitals, wherever they may be, are Mine! I keep an eye on all of them. Any person who seeks My help, whoever it may be, whether at home or in a hospital, praying to Me in any language is Mine! Don't limit My existence to Prasanthi Nilayam. From whichever place a person prays for *Prasanthi* with a pure heart, that place turns into Prasanthi Nilayam!"

The truth of this statement can be confirmed through this incident which happened in Canada. There was a family of Indian origin who migrated to Canada. In the initial years, they had to struggle for getting a job, setting up the home, educating the children etc. When they were still struggling, the lady of the house fell ill. She was found to have tumours all over her body. She was not in a proper emotional state to undergo surgery. Besides, the expenses for the surgery, [and] getting leave from a new job were some of the problems faced by the family. It seems as though a major calamity had struck. The lady would constantly worry about her children and their future in case anything should happen to her.

This lady was a devotee of Shirdi Sainath. A few years ago, she had heard about Swami being the re-incarnation of Shirdi Sai. Only recently she had been drawn towards Swami and slowly the seed of faith had started sprouting in her heart. And now this calamity! The medical treatment started but to no avail. Every day she used to constantly invoke Swami. Many days passed. Even the ups and downs continued and the fear of death was still looming over her.

One night, Swami came in her dream and said, "I am changing your blood!" He cast upon her a loving gracious glance and blessed her. Next day, one of her relatives from India who also happened to be a doctor telephoned and suggested a new medicine which was also inexpensive. The lady started taking it immediately and slowly regained her health. The black clouds of calamity disappeared through Swami's assurance in a dream. Not just hers but even family's mental equilibrium was restored back to normal. Here the important factor to be noted is that all this while neither this lady nor her family had ever had Swami's *darshan* in person. That is Bhagavan!

In the *Bhagavad Gita*, the Lord has declared,

***"Ananyash chintayanto mam ye janaah paryupaasate
Tesham nityaabhi yuktanam Yoga Kshemam Vahamyaham"***

"To those men who worship Me alone, thinking of no other, to those ever self-controlled, I secure for them that which is not already possessed - that *yoga*, and preserve for them what they already possess – that is *Kshema*!"

Bhagavan Baba has been similarly looking after the welfare of His devotees. During His childhood, He always gave food and clothes to any needy person who came to His

door. Sometimes, Mother Eswaramma used to rebuke *Bala Sathya* – Child Sai and say, “If You give any more food to the beggars, You will not get Your meal!”

Sathya Narayana – Swami did not mind this at all. He never stopped giving food and clothes to the needy. Today, Swami’s devotees from all over the world are carrying forward the same work as *Narayana Seva*.

Swami says, “If you start giving spiritual advice to a person who is starving, what is the use? Instead, feed him! Appease his hunger, give him enough clothes. This is your primary duty!”

All Swamis’ devotees have this ideal to follow and they put in their best efforts in realizing it. That (is) ‘*Annavastra Dayaya Namah: Annavastra Dayaya Namah.*’ He gives us the food and clothes.

Then, whenever festival is celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam, a *Narayana Seva* is mandatory. The poor and needy, and the hard-working labourers are given food and clothes. Their joyous expression on their faces and the feeling of gratitude expressed through their eyes is beyond description. It’s not just the needy alone, but when any devotee receives Swami’s *Prasad*, all His blessings, is overwhelmed with joy. To receive a handkerchief which has been touched by Swami is an indescribable feeling whoever gets it, preserves it carefully like *Maha Vastra* – the sacred cloth.

Here is a story from Toronto which illustrates the importance of *Annadhana* – feeding the poor. An Indian lady living there was Swami’s devotee. While doing any kind of work she had the habit of constantly chanting His name in her mind. Once Swami came in her dream and said, “I am going to make you an *Annapurna*,” meaning ‘the giver of food’. Saying this, He disappeared and on waking, the lady remembered the dream and wondered about its meaning. She understood the meaning after she woke up. That’s the point.

The dream unfolded in a very interesting way. A few Indians living in Toronto came together and formed a *Maha-Rashtra Mandal*. This group undertakes many cultural and social activities. In order that the activity should be well organized, there is a Working Committee, whose members are elected once every three years. Each person is given a post; they have to take the lead in organization, organizing any event. The elections were scheduled for the year in which Swami came in this lady’s dream. This lady’s dream, see this! When the time to choose people for the various posts drew near, there was a keenness for all other posts but that of *Annapurna* – that is distribution of food.

The other posts provided opportunities to earn respect and enjoy the festivities, but the particular responsibility *Annapurna* was very strenuous. The person-in-charge had to arrange food for all the events organized by the group. Even for feeding the poor, he was solely responsible. So nobody was keen to take up this position. Finally everyone decided to give the responsibility to this lady although she was not very keen to accept

it. Swami had given her a hint about this in a dream much earlier. So she accepted the responsibility as His directive.

She worked hard and brought about many positive changes and everyone lauded her work. She organized the *Narayana Sevas* very well, with the result that everyone was pleased with her work. Finally, when her term came to an end, all co-workers asked her to continue the good work permanently, which she did. Swami again came in her dream and said, "I am very happy with the way you have worked!" Swami's words filled her heart with joy and she felt a sense of fulfilment.

Here is an incident from Mumbai in 1982. Swami was once at Dharmakshetra. He gave an interview to 2 doctors. When the doctors expressed their concern over malnutrition amongst the poor, Swami gave them a recipe for protein food. The *Mahila Vibag* of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization, Mumbai started preparing and distributing this food among the children and adults. It consists of various roasted dhals, groundnuts, sesame seeds, dry ginger, cardamom and sugar. While it is being prepared, the ladies sing bhajans or do *Namasmarana* so the food is charged with spiritual vibrations. Even now this protein food is being supplied regularly completely free of cost to mobile crèches and several hospitals such as Nair Hospital, Cama Hospital, Tata Memorial and TB Hospital in Sewri.

Besides doing *Narayana Seva*, Swami's devotees also provided protein food to the malnourished children in the Adivasi districts of Maharashtra. The Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Agriculture & Biotechnology at Aksa, Mumbai has launched a nourishing protein food known as '*Sri Sathya Sai Poshak Aahaar*' which is given to the malnourished children all over Maharashtra. It has been found very effective in curing nutritional disorders and restoring health. The seed of *Narayana Seva* that Swami sowed in His childhood has now grown into a huge tree, giving succour to millions all over the world.

In life we experience joy and sorrow, gain or loss, according to our past *karma*.

Samartha Ramadasa said, "O mind! You alone have stored up the past and I have to suffer along with you!"

Swami says, "Joy and sorrow are equal like the two scales of a balance, but men give more importance to the sorrow. Hence they find it heavier." In spite of this, the ever-compassionate Swami constantly alleviates the suffering of those who have surrendered to Him.

A long time ago, on hearing about the glory of *Shiva-Shakti Avatar*, a couple went to Puttaparthi for Swami's *darshan*. Their family had been worshippers of *Shiva-Shakti* since many generations. They were blessed with several interviews and became recipients of Swami's love and His instructions.

During one such interview, Swami told them, “Life is full of joy and sorrow. God gives you strength to overcome difficulties. The dark clouds of calamities come and they get dispersed through Divine Grace!”

At that time they did not understand the meaning of this statement. But within 8 days, their adolescent son suddenly passed away. This tragic blow of fate was a disastrous calamity. Somehow they managed to hold their own and thought that only Sai Matha could give them the courage to start their life afresh. So they went to Swami; Sai Matha showed Her nectarine love on them and pulled them out of their sadness. In spite of this, the boy’s father was unable to overcome his grief.

So during one of the interviews, Swami made him sit in front of Him and started singing a *bhajan* in His sweet melodious voice,

*“Nanda Kishora Navaneetha Chora Brindavana Sanchara
Hey Sesa Sayana Hey Garuda Gamana Aravinda Narayana Gopalana”*

The father’s name was Gopal and the son’s name was Aravind. Normally it is the devotees who sing *bhajans* to please God. But here God Himself composed a *bhajan* and sang it to His devotee in order to alleviate his suffering. What a rare occurrence!

‘Sukha Dukhe Same Krtva Laabha–alaabhau Jaya-ajayau’ – The one who accepts both joy and sorrow with the same attitude – equipoise, he always attains victory!

May Bhagavan Baba shower His Grace upon all of us so that we may develop this attitude of equipoise!

Sai Ram! We will meet again later!