

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

**STHOOPA, SAWANT, TEMPERATURE
April 3rd, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you. Thank you very much for your time and the keen interest you have been evincing on this podcast over the years. Thank you very much!

Now as we know, Bhagavan Baba said, “Don’t give any importance to difference of opinion about language, religion, caste or country. Develop the feeling that all are children of God! Always bear the thought there is only one God!”

Swami has always been teaching us that all religions are one and the symbol of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization has symbols of the five main religions inscribed on it. This is visible on the *Sarva Dharma Stupa* at Prasanthi Nilayam.

Are you aware of how and when this *Stupa* came into existence? Well, 23rd November 1975 was the 50th Birthday of Bhagavan Baba. It was the 50th year of the Advent of the Avatar on earth for the welfare of humanity. To commemorate this occasion, it was decided that a *Sarva Dharma Stupa* would be constructed. According to Swami’s instruction, a plan was drawn up and the responsibility was entrusted to Brigadier Bose. He was given a time of only 60 days to complete the task. But it was also backed by Swami’s boundless Grace.

It was Swami’s wish that the work would be carried out only by the devotees and should not be entrusted to any Contractor or labourers. It was an arduous task to carry out this work without the help of skilled labourers, but it was made possible because of Swami’s *Sankalpa*. The first stage of laying the concrete was carried out by the Divine Lotus Hands of Bhagavan Baba Himself!

All the office bearers of the Central Office took part. All the Seval volunteers and the college students also got the opportunity to participate in this project. And what seemed impossible at first became possible through Bhagavan’s Grace! When the work was in progress, one night there was heavy rains. Brigadier Bose was very worried that all the work done so far would go waste due to the rains. The next morning, he visited the site

and to his surprise found that it had rained all over, barring the area around the site. How God has control over nature!

During the inaugural ceremony, the Balavikas children sang several sacred verses from the Vedas, Zend Avesta, Tripitaka, Bible and the Quran. While inaugurating the 50-foot tall pillar bearing a lotus on top, Swami explained that the five petals of the lotus symbolized the five major religions of the world.

He said, “*Eshwara Sarva Bhutanam* – God exists in all things, in all living beings. If this truth is realized, all differences will be cast aside. Self – realization will dawn! Everything will be seen as divine!”

To all the devotees belonging to the different faiths and parts of the world who had gathered there Swami said, “Thousands of devotees from different castes, creeds and religions have come here from all over the world. They are all inspired by one goal. Love brings everyone together. It broadens the heart. All religions teach one and the same thing - Love. So no one should give any undue importance to personal differences, hate, selfishness etc. and tread the spiritual path with faith and courage!”

Well, this is a story from the year 1962. At this time, Sri P K Sawant, a generous and pious gentleman, was the Agriculture Minister of Maharashtra. He had also been appointed as the Honourable President of the Shirdi Sansthan. When he heard that Shirdi Sai’s reincarnation is now well known as Sri Sathya Sai, he got in touch with a devotee of Sri Sathya Sai, named Sri Lakshmidas Bhatia. Through him, Sri Sawant met Sri Madhav Dixit, the nephew of late Sri Kaka Saheb Dixit and Dr. Gadia. From all these people, he heard about Swami’s *leelas* and His life story.

Once, Sri Sawant went to Sri Bhatia’s house, to get some information on Prasanthi Nilayam. He saw a long queue outside the door. Out of curiosity, he enquired about it. He was told that Sri Bhatia’s old and trusted servant suddenly took ill and with no medical help available had been wincing in severe pain. At this juncture, Dr. Gadia was inspired to give him *Vibuthi*. He took a pinch of *Vibuthi*, invoked Swami and put it in the servant’s mouth. The servant got completely cured within half an hour. When the news spread, all the servants from the building gathered there to get some *Vibuthi*.

Well, just then Sri Sawant reached there. He started insisting that Dr. Gadia should put some *Vibuthi* in his mouth too. Initially, Dr. Gadia was hesitant.

He told Sri Sawant, “I will give it in your hand. You eat it yourself!”

But Sri Sawant would not agree and finally Dr. Gadia had to put the *Vibuthi* in his mouth. This moment was captured by a photographer on his camera who was part of the crowd. Now Dr. Gadia was really worried. He thought that if someone showed this photograph to Swami, He might not be pleased. However, when the photograph was given to Dr. Gadia, he was wonderstruck. The picture showed him putting the *Vibuthi* in Sri Sawant’s mouth and in the background one could see a beam of light from Swami’s photo on the wall reaching Mr. Sawant.

When the photograph was shown to Swami, He said, “When Dr. Gadia was putting the *Vibuthi* in Sawant’s mouth, he thought to himself, ‘Will this *Vibuthi*, be as effective as the *Udi* from Shirdi?’ So I had to immediately clear his doubt!”

Swami did His *leela* only to purify a *Sadhak’s* heart. Later He appointed Sri Sawant as a Trust member of Sri Sathya Sai Trust and the President of *Prasanthi Vidwan Maha Sabha*.

We are so fortunate that God has taken human form and is moving amongst us, taking utmost care that each and every one of us transforms into good human beings.

A long time ago Swami was once explaining to His devotees about meditation. He said, “When you sit in meditation, bring His *Roopa* – form in front of your eyes. Along with this, chant any of His names you desire most! If you do this *Japa* alone, without seeing His *Roopa*, who will respond to you? Don’t feel that I will get angry, if you do not choose Me as *Dhyana Roopa* for meditation. You have the freedom to choose the name and the form you desire most! All names and forms are Mine! After seeing Me or hearing Me, there is no need for you to change from the earlier name or form that you are accustomed to!” Swami did not stop at this.

In April 1959, He was giving a discourse on the sands of the Chitravathi and speaking on Buddha, the *Bodhi Vruksha* and a suitable place for *Tapasya*. Suddenly, He ran His hands through the sands and materialized a copper plate about 15 – 20 inches long. There were some known and unknown syllables inscribed on it.

Swami showed it to all those who were present there and said, “If this copper plate is buried under a tree and a *Sadhak* meditates on the spot, he will progress much faster.”

On 29th June 1959, Swami buried this copper plate in the *Tapovanam* and planted a banyan tree on that spot!

While doing so He said, “Those yogis who have attained a specific state in meditation will be mysteriously attracted to this spot!”

What would have been the reason for Swami to select a banyan tree as *Dhyana Vruksha* - tree for meditation? Lord Shiva, in His *Guru Roopa*, is seen seated under a banyan tree imparting knowledge to His disciples. Maha Vishnu rests in *Yoganidra* on a banyan leaf during the *Pralaya* – the devastating flood, and protects all the 3 worlds.

Similarly, our *Sanathana Dharma* which is a combination of several philosophies can be compared to a banyan tree. The banyan tree has shoots emerging from its branches which on reaching the ground, go below as the roots, thus making this tree immortal! To date, millions of *Sadhaks* have meditated under banyan trees and have experienced *yogic* bliss!

This is a story from the time after the *Dhyana Vruksha* was planted. Shirdi Amma -well she is none other than Peddabottu, was once going to *Dhyana Vruksha* for meditation. She saw Sri Raja Reddy returning from *Tapovan*.

He asked Peddabottu, "Have you taken Swami's permission to meditate under the banyan tree?"

Peddabottu told him that she had not taken His permission but she would do so. Once, Peddabottu was meditating under *Dhyana Vruksha*, around the *Brahma Muhurtham* time. While in a deep meditative state, suddenly her eyes opened and she saw an unbelievable wondrous sight! She saw several celestial nymphs moving in the sky above the Prasanthi Mandir, beautiful in appearance, richly adorned with flowers. They were floating towards the east. She could clearly hear melodious musical sounds.

On seeing them, Peddabottu guessed that they were divine residents of the *Deva Loka* who had come down for Swami's *darshan*. Since she was a *yogini*, she was therefore blessed with such a soul-stirring experience while meditating under the holy banyan tree.

In the 4th Chapter and the 40th verse of *Bhagavad Gita*, the Lord declares, "The ignorant, the faithless, the doubting self goes to destruction. There is neither this world nor the other nor happiness for the doubter."

Bhagavan Sri Krishna has thus explained in the *Gita* what happens to a person who always doubts. We are extremely fortunate we have Lord Sai Krishna among us today who is constantly working towards removing our doubting tendencies.

This is a story from 1959. A young man had come to Prasanthi Nilayam from Madras - now in Chennai, for Swami's *darshan*. Swami called him to the first floor of the Prasanthi Mandir. It was a moonlit night. In those days, sometimes Swami used to enjoy having moonlight dinners with His devotees. This program was held on the terrace above Prasanthi Mandir. Earlier before the expansion of the Mandir, there was a terrace above the first floor.

This young man was extremely happy for being a recipient of such Grace. When he went to meet Swami, He asked the young man to touch Him. The youth found Swami's body temperature very high as in fever. Someone got a thermometer and checked the temperature. It was 104 degrees! Everyone realized that Swami had high fever and they were very concerned. But Swami was joyous, joyous as usual!

He chose this young man. He knew his house in Madras. "Your mother was going to fall prey to a fire. While saving her, My body temperature rose high, that's all!"

After 5 minutes, Swami asked for His body temperature to be checked again and this time it was 96 degrees. Everyone was relieved and the dinner program went off smoothly. But the young man could not sleep all night. As he tossed and turned, only

one thought troubled him. It was about his mother. How is she? Has she really suffered any burns? Did Swami really go to Madras to save her? Is this true or is He making up a story? So on and so forth, his mind was engulfed in doubts!

Next morning, he went to the post office and booked a trunk call to Madras. In those days, telecommunication was not as efficient as today. When the mother came on the line, He narrated the earlier night's incident to her. After hearing him out, she could not control her emotions.

She sobbed as she told him, "Yesterday, while I was doing *Pooja* in the shrine at home, my sari caught fire from the flame of the burning oil lamp. I frantically invoked Swami and within a few moments, miraculously the fire was put out!"

She further asked her son, "How is Swami? I hope His Hands did not suffer burns while saving me!"

After hearing this from his mother, the young man felt ashamed for having doubted Swami. He returned to the *ashram* with an overpowering feeling of guilt. As he reached the Mandir, he saw Swami waiting outside the door.

Swami asked him, "What did your mother say? Look here, see My hands! They did not get burnt at all. Only My body temperature rose high, that's all!"

The young man's doubts had been removed completely and he bowed down in reverence and touched Swami's Feet. Swami smiled gently and patted him on his back.

Thank you! We will meet again!