

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 43-A**

**FIRST FOREIGNER, BLESSED PARENTS
April 29th, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram!

Prasanthi Sandesh welcomes you to Sai Pearls of Wisdom.

Very few of us know that Baba was visited by a foreigner when Swami was at Kamalapuram, staying with His brother, and studying in the elementary school. He was so young! And it was at that time that a foreigner met Swami. To my knowledge, he is the first foreigner who has met Bhagavan. Let's have a few details about this blessed soul.

His name is Wolf Messing. He is a Jewish person and hails from Poland. Most unfortunately, he lost all his near and dear as they were literally killed by the Nazi regime. Later, Wolf Messing started visiting many countries. He is a psychologist and he was demonstrating psychological experiments for a long time across the world. It was in the year 1939 that he went to Russia where he married and settled down. Of course, he breathed his last because of kidney failure in Moscow. These are the few of his biographical details.

As most of you know, during every summer we had a training course for University students on Indian Culture and Spirituality. On the last day, Swami always spoke about His childhood. These details which I am going to share with you were recorded when He addressed the students.

Swami was speaking about Wolf Messing. He was a powerful spiritual personality, this Wolf Messing, who exhibited a purified consciousness and an insight marked by divine characteristics.

Messing prayed, "I seek only to spread Your glory on earth! Hence I am not frightened of the tactics of the evil men."

Messing once came to India to realize the *Atmic* principle. He undertook a variety of spiritual exercises with this end in view. Consequently, he acquired this divine vision.

Then he could truly announce that he had attained a constant awareness of *Atma*, being ever conscious of that supernal unifying principle.

Baba then went on to narrate an interesting incident - something that, according to Baba, He had until then not revealed anywhere to anyone!

Baba would say, "I was on the move the whole day with some groups of boys who had gathered around Me and I was at Kamalapuram with them. On seeing Me, one person named Wolf Messing ran up to Me, took Me in his arms and kissed Me with tears pouring down his cheeks and uttering the words, "I am so happy! I am so happy!" He was also madly dancing with joy repeating, "I love You! I love You!" My companions who were watching this wondered, "Who is this white man? He looks like a lunatic! Evidently, he is planning to kidnap us!" As we moved away he was standing riveted to the spot, blissfully watching Me until I disappeared from his view! The chief characteristic of Sathya Sai, let Me tell you, is equanimity." These are the words directly from Bhagavan.

Later on another occasion, in a private gathering, Baba revealed more. He said that Wolf Messing was travelling from Madras to Cuddapah through Kamalapuram. The train stopped at Kamalapuram station for a break. Some boys along with little Sathya were playing on the other side of the station. He saw Sathya and got down with his luggage and came towards the boys. All the boys ran away into a nearby house and young Baba went to His own house. The boys thought that the white man had come to kidnap the children.

Messing came in front of Sathya's house and sat across the road, waiting there for 2 long hours. The elders noticed this and enquired why he was there. He said that he had come to speak and seek blessings from a particular boy in the house opposite. Even as some elders were also watching the strange man from the very house Messing was surveying, Sathya stood behind them and raised His hands in blessing – *Abhayahastam*. Messing got what he wanted and returned to the station, leaving by the train.

Well, I thought that it is necessary that we should also think of this great noble soul, who is the first foreigner who met Bhagavan and recognized His Divinity; and it is our fortune to have heard the whole episode from Bhagavan's lips.

In this context, I also would like to draw your attention to another aspect which is quite unique. The parents of Bhagavan Baba are really blessed! After Baba declared His Avatarhood, He started calling His father '*Griham Abbayi*,' '*Griham Abbayi*' – the boy of the house, and His mother, '*Griham Ammayi*' – the girl of the house. They used to call Him 'Swami' as did the other devotees. They settled down well in their new roles with fortitude and commitment.

Eswaramma, the Mother of Bhagavan, would look after visiting devotees particularly the women and the poor; while Venkama Raju, the father would be the traditional store-

keeper of the new *ashram*. He really adapted himself to this new way of life, carrying out selfless service to the devotees of God. People remember him for his calm demeanour.

Eswaramma was a mother to everyone who visited Puttaparthi. She would submit caring petitions to Baba on behalf of suffering children, women and all those suffering from any deprivation. Often the mother in her took the better of her and she quite forgot who her son was actually. It was painful for her to realize that Baba was beyond danger, parental care or even earthly concern. She did not give up the duty of feeding Baba.

However, even in the later years, Eswaramma was no stranger to life's sorrows. When her daughters were widowed, she bore her burden nobly. Moreover, she had Baba to fall back on in the most trying times. Learning from His example of serving others, she began to share the sorrows of other women, thereby sublimating her grief. In this sense, she was her son's best student.

The couple had witnessed innumerable *leelas*, the Divine sport, and had gone on pilgrimage to various holy shrines, accompanying Baba in the later years. This further sanctified their lives. On His Birthday, they had the privilege of anointing the head of their Divine son with consecrated oil.

A short and sudden illness visited Venkama Raju in late October 1963 and took him away. A few days later, on the 4th of November, he breathed his last in the house of his youngest son, Janakiram. Baba in an article in *Sanathana Sarathi* on Venkama Raju, had written that the Avatar confers the status of father on the person of His choice and that this honour is conferred only once in an era, when God decides to don human vesture to uplift humanity!

On May 6th 1972, Baba was emerging from His morning bath. It was during the Summer Course in Bangalore. In the lobby below, after her morning coffee, Eswaramma shouted out, "Swami! Swami!"

Baba responded, "I am coming! I am coming!"

The blessed mother breathed her last. In this way the parents are really blessed. The parents are chosen by Bhagavan which does not happen in the life of any human being. It was His will that they played the role of parents. Particularly Swami's love towards His mother was so ideal and so great that He used to shed tears whenever a mention was made about her.

Therefore in this brief talk, I wanted to bring to your attention the first foreigner who met Bhagavan Baba, Wolf Messing, and secondly, say a few words about the blessed parents.

Thank you for your attention and time. We will meet later.