

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

**LESSONS TO LEARN FROM AVATAR
April 30th, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram!

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

We all know that we have Education Wing functioning in our system of Sathya Sai Organization. The Education Wing comprises *Balavikas* or you may call SSE – Sathya Sai Education as in the West. And it also includes Study Circles, Educare, Education in Human Values, so on and so forth.

I am not involved in any of these wings today as I retired long back. However, my 50 years of association with the Sai Organization forces me to share with you some of my views and ideas.

The main purpose of *Avatar* is to set before us an ideal life by His own example - like Rama, like Krishna. All incarnations, all *Avatars*, noble souls, saints or seers or prophets, their lives are exemplary and we have to learn from their lives, from their biography, the way how to conduct ourselves, emulate their example and share the values that we learn from their biography.

Perhaps it is not necessary to go in detail (on) all these aspects but I will only highlight the major points for those who are involved

in Education Wing, (who) can elaborate, can dive deep into the subject, do some research and improve our quality in our presentation.

Before I start, let me be very clear that today we have a generation of children who are quite different from the past; and two, we are one among the many of the contemporary spiritual organizations spread all over the world doing similar activity. Three, children today are very inquisitive, logical, rational, scientific in their thinking.

During my travels abroad, I have learnt many things -- how sharp the children are, how intelligent they are! Therefore, our presentation should be in tune with the times that we live in. So it is completely left to you to elaborate every point that I would like to bring to your notice. The bottom line is that we have to learn, learn and learn, continue to learn from the lives of these *Avatars* or incarnations!

The first and foremost point is Bhagavan laid emphasis on vegetarianism. He wants us to be vegetarians. This He declared in the Hill View Stadium on His birthday.

Bhagavan had a natural aversion for non-vegetarian dishes from His childhood. Invariably, He would later repair (return) to His grandfather Kondama Raju and eat with him. The aged grandparents took great pride in feeding their saintly little grandson. The neighbours called Him '*Brahma Jnani*' because of His aversion to violence and love towards all creation.

When the village urchins would carry a hen hanging upside down or kick a dog in Sathya's presence, Sathya would feel miserable. Yet He would never complain to anyone about it. He avoided places of animal slaughter and fishing yards. When a bird was selected as a future meal, Sathya Narayana, the little boy, would

run towards it, clasp it to His bosom and fondle it as if the extra love poured on it would induce the elders to relent and spare the fowl.

So vegetarianism should be a discipline that's followed by Sai devotees and this has to be further propagated.

And second thing, as I travelled with Him many times, I noticed that He cannot bear the sight of any person suffering. He cannot see a beggar. He cannot see any person suffering from hunger. This is the kind of response that everyone should have towards the community.

Today in this mechanical world, most of us are indifferent, impertinent and concentrate just on our career, and life is more or less self-centred. But the lesson that we can learn from Swami is to respond, to react when we find suffering anywhere.

His heart would melt at human suffering too. Whenever a beggar appeared at the door and raised his cry, Sathya would stop His play and rush in to cajole His sisters to give the beggar some food. The adults were not willing to put up with this endless kindness to beggars.

Sometimes, Eswaramma would catch hold of Him and with a finger raised in warning say, "Look here! You may give him food, but mind You, You will have to starve!"

That would not daunt the child. He used to run inside and bring out food to the hungry man at the door, and stay away from His meal. Nothing and nobody could persuade Him to come to His plate which was left untouched! This is the second point I want to draw your attention (to).

As I said, He cannot bear anybody starving. When Sathya refused food and persisted in the refusal for days, He showed no signs of starvation. He would insist that an old man had fed Him sumptuously with balls of milk rice. That's really very great! And we all know, this kind of reaction and this kind of response from Swami in the later days shaped into *Narayana Seva* or feeding of the poor in later times.

Third point - Bhagavan is seen many times helping old people. I am a witness (to) Swami helping an old man, catching hold of his hand, making him walk, helping him to cross the road; ready to help the poor and the needy.

When Sathya began running about in the street, He sought out the maimed, the blind, the decrepit and the diseased, and led them by the hand to the doorstep of the parents' home, sisters and had to retrieve from the store or the kitchen. See that - ready to help the aged, poor and needy!

And the fourth point - Swami's readiness and His insistence on doing *bhajans*. When we do our work without *bhajans*, the work becomes mechanical. It has to be clubbed with the chanting of His matchless name, what we call *bhajans*; and this *bhajans* has turned into a kind of 24-hour *bhajans* (and) also 12-hour *bhajans* in Shivaratri – 24 hours *Akhanda Global Bhajan* – like that! Swami is very particular of these *bhajans*!

As a child, He started a group – *Pandari Bhajans*, *Pandari Bhajans* Group. Being the leader of the group, He has shown the leadership qualities. He taught them *bhajans* and He made them dance. He designed special dress to be worn by the participants, His classmates, to join in singing the glory of God. He was 10 years old at that time. Leader of *Pandari Bhajan* Group! This is (a) very spectacular point.

Many other children joined this group with a scarf with its edge stitched with a red cloth around the neck, a towel around the waist and another small towel around the head. See this! The *Pandari Bhajans* thus spread in the neighbouring villages, so many neighbouring villages all around.

And Swami is very particular of the tune, the rhythm and the beat – very particular! On the dais, when He finds students not singing well, He would call the Warden and strictly warn him. So Swami is particular of *bhajans* to be rendered in the most systematic exact way. One of His classmates reported, “If we did not perform properly, follow the music for instance, Sathya would hit us! Participating in a *Pandari Bhajan* session was not easy! It was not easy!”

Then the next point! He was the best example before the children, in such a way that they started calling Him *Guru, Guru*! The elders found this out on Rama Navami festival, celebrated in Puttaparthi. Swami was their leader and all treated Him as a *Guru*! They have taken (Him) in procession by a bullock-cart – a flower bedecked bullock-cart with a priest seated next to it. And everybody saw this five year-old Sathya brightly dressed sitting in simple majesty under the decorated picture of Rama. It only means an exemplary behaviour that He has, set Himself as a role model to everybody, made Him rise to the position of a *Guru*.

As this is the beginning of the values that we have to learn from His biography, I would stop at this and continue in the next session.

Thank you for your time!