

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

**TALENTS, STUDENT-TEACHER,
ASSIST PARENTS AND SISTERS
May 1st, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram!

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

We know Bhagavan is encouraging our students in displaying their fine arts and talents. We have singers, dancers, composers, experts in make-up, experts in making curtains, stage arrangements, what not! This is all due to the encouragement given by Bhagavan Himself. It is such that they have become experts in every field. Talents are divine! This tells us that we have to discover the talents within each and every one of us. Pray to Bhagavan to encourage and direct us so that the divine talents can be improved.

To give you one instance, Swami, Sathya, had the unique ability to sing and dance with great proficiency even at the Elementary School. Yes! Decades later, how Swami danced on the dais and His performance was highly applauded by everybody – officials and the villagers also!

Then I take upon the next great quality of Bhagavan. He is the best student. In fact, in one of His lectures, He even said He

doesn't remember to have opened any book and read any single page. But He always stood first in the class. That is the divine quality. Being the first in the class, He became a favourite student to every teacher in the school.

That apart, this point I want to emphasize. He helped His classmates to learn and pick up the subject. He was never selfish and He was never self-centred.

Decades later, Sathya as Sai Baba would reveal in His talks how He helped some of His classmates learn the alphabets.

"In those days, there were no slates or books. We used to write on the sand with our fingers!" This is what Baba said!

Sathya never hesitated, and grabbed every opportunity to teach His classmates. "Each one, teach one!" is the principle behind!

We also find in our University hostels, and schools hostels here, students helping each other. I know some of the senior students teaching junior students. There is a special provision in certain rooms where junior students could sit and a senior student would teach them. This is learned from Bhagavan!

Not only that; the *Veda*, *Veda* which the students recite, is passed on from one generation to another generation, batch after batch! No teacher is ever called here. No priest was invited to teach them. Seniors teach juniors. This has been the legacy or *sampradaya* in Vedic learning itself in this very land.

Now, a great quality that we notice in Bhagavan's life is this! He never hesitated to assist His family in household work. He would help His sister cook and go shopping for His father, returning with four donkeys-loads of provisions. He would explain the details of His purchases and give His father the change, correct to the last

coin. Impressed by the child's ability, His father would observe, "Look, how sincere and honest Sathya is and how smart at bargaining!"

Sometime, Sathya would even called His sister as He would help His parents in cleaning the house; fetching water from the well and doing other chores that were considered girls' work in those days!

His help was needed by the parents who eked out a livelihood by various means. Pedda Venkama Raju, His father, ran a grocery shop. Eswaramma and He would carry food grains on donkeys to sell them at the Bukkapatnam weekly market.

He also worked as a liaison between the field hands and *Karanam* for a small commission. This is the quality that we don't find among children today. On one side they are so busy with their school work, assignments and home work; and also they have no intention to help parents, brothers and sisters in the family. They need assistance.

And in fact, one can learn service from childhood. Charity begins at home. Baba displayed this spirit of service and the need to help parents, brothers and sisters and assist them. This is a great quality that we have to teach our children.

The next aspect is this. At Sathya's school, there was an interesting scheme of punishment to ensure punctuality. Whoever arrived late, irrespective of the reason, would get a taste of the cane. Those who came in first and greeted the teacher were privileged to execute the punishment. The number of cuts received depended on one's number on the list of late comers. The later one arrived, the more cuts one received!

During cold and damp mornings, the children would gather quite early under the eaves of the school house to escape punishment.

Sathya would sympathize with His fellow students' plight by bringing stray pieces of clothing from His house to help make the boys comfortable. The elders at home discovered this and since they could do nothing else, they locked inside their boxes all the clothes they could not afford to lose!

It was very difficult for the family to comprehend Sathya as a little boy. See this! The spirit of service and concern, and sympathy for His classmates who are genuinely punished for coming late; but Swami helped them by giving them some clothes so that they would cover themselves in that severe cold season. This is necessary - concern for fellow men. Sympathy and consideration are important values that we can learn from Bhagavan Himself!

At school, Sathya's remarkable musical talent had started to blossom. He had a melodious voice and would induce His friends to join Him in singing simple devotional songs called *bhajans*. The Karnam, the head of the family asked the boys to sing the *bhajans* in front of their house, offering a bag of full of puffed rice at the end of the session.

Sathya was so small that He could not even be seen properly within the group. However, He was the most active *bhajan* performer, jumping and dancing enthusiastically while singing. This talent led to re-organizing and leading the *Pandari Bhajans* Group, which in years to come, would lead to the establishment of *Bhajan* singing in Sathya Sai Organization throughout the world!

Sathya's group consisted of about 15 – 20 boys of His age, carrying flags in their hands and wearing bell anklets, they used to go around the village covering the most important meeting places. They moved around the nearby villages as well.

When the *Pandari Bhajan* Group visited a village, people cleaned their house properly, welcomed the group and fed them. The villagers believed that because of the influence of these *Pandari bhajans*, the dreadful epidemics of cholera which had been playing havoc in the neighbourhood never touched Puttaparthi. That is Bhagavan!

Doing everything for the good of the village, training the boys in singing *bhajans*, in learning and also to display their talents really speaks very highly of Bhagavan Baba Himself! See this! Because of this *Pandari bhajans* the cholera never touched Puttaparthi – the epidemic!

This is the influence of Bhagavan that made everybody consider Him as an *Avatar*. Therefore, my friends, Baba's qualities must be studied in depth and we should emulate His example.

And then I go the next divine quality of Bhagavan. Today as you all know, there is no caste distinction or racial discrimination in Prasanthi Nilayam. All sit at the same place, all dine at the same place; they all line in queues without any kind of hesitation. No division, no caste distinction! Swami never observed this kind of division, never! He always wanted all the devotees to mingle together, work together like brothers and sisters.

And I can tell you, during *Pandari Bhajans*, He used to jump up and down while dancing. Once there was a *Pandari Bhajan* competition between *Harijans* – the outcasts and other groups. The next day, Sathya visited Jonnala Narasappa in the *Harijan* slum, where the outcasts lived, and said that they had performed the *bhajan* very well.

Even in those days, Sathya never treated *Harijans* separately. Many times, He visited the slum without the elders' knowledge.

So this kind of equal-mindedness, the spirit of equality, the sense of brotherhood have all been promoted by Bhagavan Himself.

My intention is to highlight some of these qualities so that we ourselves will learn and teach our children.

Thank you very much! We will meet again!