

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 44-C**

**OMNISCIENCE, CLASS MONITOR, MIRACLE
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**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

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Prasanthi Sandesh, welcome to Sai Pearls of Wisdom!

Usually what happens in society is to react, particularly when blamed or accused or hurt. It's very difficult to accept such moments with a smile.

Throughout the life of Bhagavan, we have noticed that He is highly tolerant towards His critics. We know how some of the newspapers and some critics came forward with all critical remarks, which are most undeserving and which are false utterly. Yet Swami did not react, nor did He allow anybody to react. This kind of tolerance is a feature of Bhagavan since His childhood.

It seems some of the mischievous boys threw thorn balls at Sathya's thick hair and Sathya would run away to avoid them. The studentship at Bukkapatnam was rather trying on young Sathya hardly, and He was after all 14 years at that time! He had to finish preparing breakfast and lunch for Himself and His grandfather at Puttaparthi in the early hours of the morning. He had to have the routine breakfast: a porridge-like mixture and broken rice, or cold rice and curds as an alternative.

A few older boys also were jealous of the new special student at the school. They would rag Him. They would even man-handle Him in the sands every now and then, and douse Him with waters of the Chitravathi, spoiling His clean clothes. He was never ruffled. He would tolerate the ragging in a sportive spirit and with a smile, bearing no ill-will. And very strange enough, not merely reacting to the deeds of His classmates, instead He helped them!

In spite of such behaviour from His classmates, Sathya continued tutoring a few students in the evening for a token fee in the home of Bhima Rao, the priest at the Rama Temple. This is what it is: 'Forgive and forget' is the main teaching of Bhagavan, which He practised right from His childhood.

We also come to know how devoted Bhagavan was as a child. He always stood for devotion, discipline and duty. When He was in Bukkapatnam, there are certain instances recorded. There was a temple of Goddess Chowdamma in Bukkapatnam. Sathya would go there in the afternoon to have His lunch in solitude. Since good drinking water was available nearby, it was a favourite haunt. After lunch, Sathya would be lost in thought in the quiet sanctity of the temple, gazing at a small picture of Sai Baba of Shirdi, which He always carried with Him.

There was Subba Rao, a local government clerk, and his wife, Tippamma. Tippamma lived in one of the rooms in the Lakshmi Narayana Swamy Temple complex with their children. After her husband left for work and the children for school, Tippamma would walk around the temple every day in the fulfilment of her religious duties.

At times, she noticed Sathya sitting at the back of the inner shrine of the Hanuman temple. Curious to know what He was up to, she once hid herself and observed Sathya. She saw Him circling His hand in the air, and to her great surprise, materials for worship appeared!

He materialized a picture of Sai Baba of Shirdi, and after worshipping it, lit the camphor on His palm and offered *Arathi*. He also materialized fruits and powdered dried ginger mixed with powdered sugar as an offering to the deity. He then put it all into His school bag and went away. Tippamma watched all this with amazement, realizing that Sathya was no ordinary boy!

At school, Sathya would distribute these fruits among His classmates. When they wanted to know where He got them, He would reply that '*Shakti*', '*Shakti*' in His house gave these items. "It is Sathyamma who gives!" He would say.

"Do not even whisper..." and He used to caution His friends, "Do not even whisper this to the elders at home or anyone else!" for He will not give anymore. He had decided to confine such amazing demonstration to His schoolmates alone!

Tippamma's daughter, Nagalakshmi, would perform Shirdi Sai Baba worship at home. Sathya would stay after school, sitting at the corner of Subba Rao's *pooja* room, until the worship was completed. He would then take *Prasadam* and leave.

Often, Sathya would leave flowers at Tippamma's doorstep so that Nagalakshmi could use them for her worship. Initially, Nagalakshmi even rejected the flowers because Sathya did not come from a Brahmin family. But she soon overcame her bias.

Later, she grumbled to herself that she preferred garlands to flowers, as she did not have the time to weave garlands from the loose flowers. From the following day, Sathya brought garlands instead of flowers on His own.

In this way, even at such an early age, Sathya exhibited His omniscience. Just imagine this: without telling directly what she wanted, Swami could know and do the needful.

This is first instance of His omniscience recognized by people of His own village in the temple premises.

And then coming to another aspect of Bhagavan: He said (in) the later years, as you know, the worst of the punishments that He gives to those who don't listen to Him, was to observe silence. He will not look at their face. He will totally ignore them for (a) considerable period of time. This may be viewed as a testing period. Devotees who are very close since then, when once they are kept aloof, feel the pain. They feel tortured! They could not bear this! When the transformation took place in them, Swami begins to talk to them as if nothing had happened. That is His reformation.

Even as a monitor in the school, He did similar thing. He set a good example in maintaining cleanliness in the room and discipline. As a monitor, He was authorized to punish His classmates on instructions from the class teacher.

Sathya narrated in later years an interesting incident. He was ordered by His teacher to slap each of the students for some fault they had committed. To do this, He had to stand on a chair because He was so small. He would not slap them hard enough. So the teacher, in his turn, punished Sathya with nearly 40 slaps to show Him how (to do it). Sathya bore the punishment with no complaint.

A humorous yet revealing incident took place in the early years. According to the accounts of biographers Kasturi and Ganapathi, Mehboob Khan, a teacher in Sathya's school (who was) passing by, was shocked to see little Sathya standing on the bench as a punishment. The teacher of the class moreover was seated in a chair in front of the class.

Mehboob Khan asked the teacher why he was sitting there well past the period.

The other teacher whispered that when he got up, the chair rose with him. The chair was stuck to him. He knew not how! Mehboob Khan knew instantly the problem and suggested to the teacher to end Sathya's punishment. When Sathya was asked to step down, the chair fell off and the teacher could move about freely.

Years later, while relating this story, Baba would say that He had willed it to be so, not out of anger against the teacher, but purely to demonstrate Himself and gradually prepare the minds of people for the announcement of His identity.

Most perhaps this is another miracle known to everybody, witnessed by all students and teachers in those days, in the early years when He was in Bukkapatnam. That's how Swami's Divinity began to blossom year by year and came to be known by the public by and large, near and dear. That's how Avatar expresses Himself!

English teacher, Subbannachari tried to punish Sathya, probably for having given the impression that He had not been taking notes in the class. Subbannachari asked Him to

spread His palm. As the teacher raised the cane to strike Sathya, he saw an image of Sai Baba of Shirdi in Sathya's palm! What a wonderful miracle it is!

More of such things, we will certainly study them and enjoy the Divinity of the Avatar!

Sai Ram!