

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 47-C**

**TRANCE, MAYA, ADORATION
August 21st, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

We know Baba used to go into a trance more often in those days and Swami getting into a trance happened in the later years also.

This is a description of Bhagavan going into a trance in the earlier period. Frequently, Baba used to go into a trance. Often this would be in the middle of a conversation. There would be no predictable time or situation for this. If any devotee suffered from (a) severe ailment or pain, anxiety or incurable disease, (or) any handicap whatsoever, Baba would apparently leave His body and go to that place where there was suffering.

Even while coming down the stairs or while walking, He would often fall down. Sometimes, He would lean back or forward. While in *bhajans*, His body would become stiff like a statue. At once, men would make Him lie down. Nobody touched His body. Baba Himself had instructed so! He would never recognize others during that period. He would pull on His hair and draw it into His mouth as if it were all flower petals!

If there were a box of betel leaves, nuts and edible limestone for making a *paan*, He would exhaust the betel leaves. He would laugh like a madman. He would talk to Himself, which no one could understand. Sometimes, *Vibuthi* would come out of His mouth in puffs.

He would talk in other languages. His hands and face would shrink and there were indications that He was subject to intense suffering. At times, His face would gather brilliance. If He caught anything in His grip, it would be difficult to pry it open.

The only thing the devotees could do was just to watch Him helplessly and pray silently. Whenever He would even come out of such a trance, He might report that He had been to save a devotee. Invariably such occurrences would be verified some days later when the devotee would come to express his gratitude to Baba.

Such trances started happening in Uravakonda in 1943 and continued until after His shift to Puttaparthi in the late 1950s. In the 1960s, the frequency of the trance reduced.

In 1969 on Shivaratri day, Baba went into a trance for more than half an hour after *bringing* out a *lingam* from His body. This was the trance of a long-time duration that was in public. And so, these are the situations or the narration relating to Baba going into a trance.

Now, Indian spirituality tends to discourage numerous debates on scholarly details relating to time and space, for it is concerned with a realm which is beyond time and space. Sri Sathya Sai Baba also disapproves of such debates. This may be so to discourage the foolish human mind from straying away into such winding mazes.

On some occasions, He apparently confuses people with His utterances with seemingly different and conflicting dates and names. This may be His way of discouraging such futile pursuits.

In this light, it is not quite so mystifying that right from the middle of the 1950s, biographies have accepted 1940 as the year of (His) declaration. Many important evidences were not readily accessible to researchers at that time, hence the difference! The year of grand declaration is officially taken as 1940.

Raju's following increased! Those who had been His classmates the day before, came and hesitantly stood at the door looking at their Raju with a sense of longing. He called them near and had them sing the *bhajans* that He had taught them before. He materialized *prasadam* for them. Three days passed thus!

News of this sudden turn of events reached Puttaparthi. Raju's relatives heard that Raju had returned from Hampi with an even larger number of adorers drawn by miraculous happenings at Hampi and Hospet.

And on returning, He repudiated worldly concerns, casting off books and schoolmates, declaring that earth and home would not hold Him in bondage any more! Even more bizarre were the rumours that started floating around. News flew by word of mouth from Uravakonda to Anantapur, then to Dharmavaram and Bukkapatnam, and finally, heavy with distortions, reached Puttaparthi. How rumours float, especially when associated with the out-of-the-ordinary people!

People believe what they want to believe and not the truth! Formulae are made, patterns of behaviour are structured, and categorization of people and events are made on the basis of some individual's human experience, however limited that might be! Fantasy adds a tantalizing touch to the supernatural, often missed in this world of harsh reality.

Those who returned to Puttaparthi from weekly markets at Bukkapatnam that Monday, freely aired rumours: “Sathyam has escaped to Puttaparthi! Sathyam has become a *Bala Yogi*! Sathyam has gone underground! Sathyam entered a chariot which rose beyond the sight where Sathyam stood, (and) only a handful of jasmines was seen! Sathyam is no more!” That was the trend of the rumours then.

There was no news from Seshama Raju yet. The parents were perplexed. Venkama Raju decided to go to Uravakonda and investigate for himself. Eswaramma decided to accompany him.

On the way to Uravakonda, they met a messenger who brought a letter from Seshama Raju. Sathyam had not left Uravakonda. Seshama Raju has persuaded Him to stay in Uravakonda. The parents felt uncomfortable as people looked at them with curiosity and adoration as the mother and father of the new Baba.

They entered the house and found their own Raju seated with a heap of garlands at His side. Many people were in the house and Seshama Raju was struggling to keep order. He made way for the parents so that they could approach Raju, who said when He saw them, “Oh! *Maya* has come!”

Eswaramma broke down and lamented her plight and Pedda Venkama Raju pleaded with Raju to return to Puttaparthi with them.

But Raju said, “Who belongs to whom?”

None could shake the resolve of the boy. He was constantly repeating, “It is all *Maya*!”

Yet, Eswaramma was not impressed by this philosophy. Her mother’s heart only yearned to feed her son, to seat Him on her lap, to brush His hair, to hear the songs He loved to sing, to see again His *Pandari Bhajan* dance.

Fond remembrance of the days passed made her burst into tears. She had to be led away in an attempt to console and reassure her. Those assembled narrated to her some of the miraculous happenings of recent days. But Eswaramma was unmoved!

“When did Sathyam eat today?” was all that she wanted to know!

“Did He eat at all? What food does He like best now?” Her motherly concern for her son turned into a surge for a release from the tension and fear that gripped her.

Raju was impatient to be out in the open. The enclosed place, filled with entangling filial passions, was stifling Him. But when told that Mother herself was in the kitchen preparing a meal, He quite surprisingly replied that He would eat.

Those words were balm to the mother's heart. She began cooking with added zest. When the meal was ready, Raju walked to where His parents stood and sat down on a reeded mat placed on the floor with the plate before Him.

He looked on uninterested, and His mother placed on the plate the outpouring of her love! When she finished serving, she nervously signalled that offering he accepted. With a swift movement, Raju swept all the food into one mass and rolled into three balls.

"Maya, Maya!" He kept on repeating.

Someone told the stupefied mother that Raju was bidding her to come near. She moved forward. He put one of the balls of food in her right palm and kept (His) palm before her to receive it.

As she gave it (back), Raju was whispering, *"Maya is gone! Maya has left!"*

The same has happened for the other two balls. All the filial ties were cut. The sober atmosphere struck the elders, including Seshama Raju. Sathya was not their son any more! He belonged to all mankind. They could not unravel His mystery.

It was difficult for the parents to grasp the enormous significance of all that had happened. Could they really accept that their son was a Divine being? For Eswaramma, His safety and physical well-being remained her primary concerns. The father who had lent his name and lineage to Raju was more pragmatic. His traditional training in Indian spiritual lore and his fortitude in the face of adversity had helped him accept the future with passive stoicism!

The now famous Raju family stood on the firm roots of Venkama Raju, and yet in its branches ran the sap of strong emotions inherited from Eswaramma. Tomorrow held unknown and unheard of possibilities! The privileged parents without understanding how blessed they were that day understood one thing for sure! Love, humanity, and grace alone would help them come in terms with the changed circumstances.

From then on, they were referring to their dear Sathya as Swami, the Revered One! But for the world, He would soon enough be known as Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The evening and the night were spent in bhajans in the garden of Anjaneyulu. The singing and praying went on into many hours continuously, even in that cold October morning.

Many years later, Seshama Raju was to narrate happenings that preceded the Declaration. So Seshama Raju had some things to say (about) what had happened prior to Declaration of the Avatarhood of Bhagavan Baba.

So we are coming to know the biographic details of Bhagavan Baba since His childhood. There are lots to learn. Let's eagerly await for the next session.

Thank you for your time.