

Sai on Himself

"I am [ever] new and ever ancient. I come always for the restoration of Dharma (righteousness), for tending the virtuous and ensuring them conditions congenial to progress, and for educating the 'blind' who miss the way and wander into the wilderness."

"The present Avatar has come invested with the totality of cosmic power."

"I am the Divinity that is your Reality."

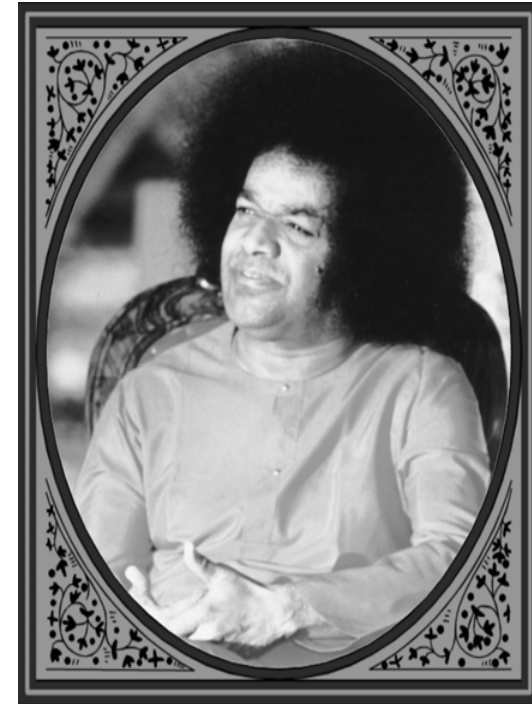
"This is a Human Form in which every Divine Entity, every Divine Principle, that is to say, all the Names and Forms ascribed by man to God, are manifest."

"I am everything, everywhere, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent."

"This is a great chance. Be confident that you will all be liberated. Know that you are saved. Many hesitate to believe that things will improve, that life will be happy for all and full of joy, and that the golden age will recur. Let me assure you that this dharmaswarupa, that this divine body, has not come in vain. It will succeed in averting the crisis that has come upon humanity."

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centers Of
Northern California & Nevada

Who is Sai?



Seventy-fourth Birthday Celebration Of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
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This is the Answer

Why does the sun rise and set every day without delay or disruption? Why do the stars that light the sky to the delight of all eyes hide their splendid faces when the day dawns, and never even slyly peer [out] to tell us where they are? Why does air always be around, giving us the breath of life? Why do these streams and rivers roar, murmur, giggle and gossip over rock, pebble and sand, as they meander along towards the parent sea? How is it that billions that constitute mankind, though they are caskets treasuring images of the same Entity, remain distinct from each other in appearance, achievement, aspiration and attitude? This is the answer. Know that I am the One who has ordained that these be such and shall behave so.

(Sathyam, IV, 117-8.)

Summary

Baba's Letter to His Brother (25 May 1947)

Sri Sathya Sai Baba touches in brief on all the themes in his letter that He later amplifies. He describes His Mission and His determination to carry it out. He relates His indifference to praise and blame and His unconcern for the outer world. He says that He is not attached to any name and responds to whatever name we use to call on Him. He adds that His Glory cannot be comprehended no matter who inquires or however long the inquiry and urges patience and forbearance on devotees, who will see His Glory in the coming years. Of this letter, N. Kasturi says: "What a letter this! It is an epic epistle; a parting of the curtain, to give us a quick glimpse of the God in this human frame!" (Sathyam, II, 11. For full citations, see References section.)

Maanasa Bhajare (Vijayadasami, 1953)

"Maanasa Bhajare" or "Worship in the mind" is the first bhajan Swami composed upon dropping the pretence of being Sathyanarayana Raju and embarking on His Mission to humanity. In this first address to a large gathering, he asserts that the re-education of Man has always been God's Mission, in whatever Incarnation He has assumed. He discusses the divisions of His life -- first sixteen years for *Balaleela*; next sixteen for *Mahimas*; and *Upadesha* or Teaching after that. He urges His devotees not to be led away by doubts or arguments. He tells us that all we need do is remove the impediment and shine forth in our real nature for the Lord to draw us to Him. He counsels us not to hurry or ridicule those who follow others paths. Finally He asserts that all must reach God some day, whether they travel by the long or short route.

Siva Sakti (6 July 1963)

After having taken upon Himself an attack of cerebral thrombosis and numerous heart attacks, destined for a devotee whom the illness would have killed, Sai Baba cures Himself by sprinkling water on His left side. He then arises and sings the complicated bhajan "Subrahmanyam," to the consternation and delight of those who listen to Him. He takes this occasion to relate the genesis of His incarnation in a promise made by Lord Siva to sage Bharadwaaja to reincarnate three times in the Kali Age: Siva once as Shirdi Sai; Siva and Sakthi together as Sathya Sai; and Sakthi alone as Prema Sai. He says that nothing now can impede His work and that His Glory will grow from day to day. He foretells that one day He will lift a mountain range to delight the devotees.

The Revelation (17 May 1968)

Addressing the world conference of Sai Seva Organizations, Swami (as Baba often refers to Himself) elaborates on themes touched upon earlier. He discusses the uniqueness of this Incarnation, which ministers to the whole world and which is known to the world while the Avathar is still alive. He warns His followers not to be fooled by His seeming humanness. He promises that those who maintain a steady faith in His Divinity can win a Vision of His Reality. He promises to restore *Dharma* in general, and *Sanathana Dharma* or the Ancient Wisdom in particular, to their rightful place in the world. He exhorts everyone to use the chance of close association with Him to the best possible effect, for winning "the summum bonum of Mergence in the Supreme Substance of Divinity."

The Milestone Speech (23 November 1968)

This speech is one of the most eloquent that Baba has ever given. It also contains a profound mystery. If the reader consults Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume Four, he (or she) will find strands of it all through Swami's discourses delivered in 1963. It is as if Swami gathered up these strands some five years later and made one speech of it -- a little-noticed miracle. Sri Kasturi

I had to tell you so much about My Truth, for, I desire that you should contemplate on this and derive joy therefrom, so that you may be inspired to observe the disciplines laid down by Me and progress towards the Goal of Self-realisation, the Realisation of the Sai that shines in your hearts.

Brindavan, 9 June 1974.
(SSS, IX, 82-85.)

not receive whatever objects I give as sign of Grace out of the fulness of Love.

I shall tell you why I give these rings, talismans, rosaries etc. It is to signalise the bond between Me and those to whom they are given. When calamity befalls them, the article comes to Me in a flash and returns in a flash taking from Me the remedial Grace of protection. That Grace is available to all who call on Me in any Name or Form, not merely to those who wear these gifts. Love is the bond that wins Grace.

Consider the meaning of the name, Sai Baba. *Sa* means 'Divine'; *ai* or *ayi* means 'mother' and *Baba* means Father. The Name indicates the Divine Mother and Father, just as Sambasiva, which also means the Divine Mother and Father (*Sa-amba-siva*). Your physical parents exhibit Love with a dose of selfishness; but, this Sai "Mother and Father" showers affection or reprimands, only for leading you towards victory in the struggle for self-realisation.

For this Sai has come in order to achieve the supreme task of uniting the entire mankind, as one family through the bond of brotherhood, of affirming and illumining the *Atmic* Reality of each being in order to reveal the Divine which is the Basis on which the entire Cosmos rests, and of instructing all to recognise the common Divine Heritage that binds man to man, so that man can rid himself of the animal, and rise into the Divine which is his goal.

I am the embodiment of Love; Love is My Instrument. There is no creature without Love; the lowest loves itself, at least. And its *self* is God. So there are no atheists, though some might dislike Him or refuse Him, as malarial patients dislike sweets or diabetic patients refuse to have anything to do with sweets! Those who preen themselves as atheists will one day, when their illness is gone, relish God and revere Him.

later made a recording of this speech and it departs in small particulars from the version in Samuel Sandweiss' Sai Baba. Holy Man and the Psychiatrist. Where the Kasturi version has sounded more convincing, slight changes have been made. Swami gives here a complete explanation of His Mission, His Nature, His way of working, His promise of liberation to the faithful, His use of miracles as "calling cards," and His uniqueness among Avathars. He mentions that He will cause a Golden Age to recur on Earth and will succeed in averting the crisis that humanity faces.

Who is Sai? (9 June 1974)

Swami warns against making statements about God affirming this or denying that. God, He says, is inscrutable and our vision at best partial. He says that His power is limitless and that all forms of power are resident in His Hand. He says that He needs to announce this about Himself because we would have no other way of knowing. He says that only love can provide a glimpse of His Reality. He explains the use of materialized objects as talismans that signal Him of danger to a devotee. He explains that the name "Sai Baba" means "Divine Mother and Father." He tells us that the task that has brought Him here is to unite all mankind as one family and to affirm the *Atmic* Reality of each being so that the Divine in each can be revealed. He describes Himself as the Embodiment of Love.

This is the Answer

Almost unbearably exquisite is this short note in which Baba declares that the stars shine and the rivers run because He has willed that it be so.

Nirmal

Baba's Letter to His Brother

To all who are devoted to me:

My dear one! I received the communication that you wrote and sent; I found in it the surging floods of your devotion and affection, with the undercurrents of doubts and anxiety. Let Me tell you that it is impossible to plumb the hearts and discover the natures of Jnanis, Yogis, ascetics, saints, sages and the like. People are endowed with a variety of characteristics and mental attitudes so each one judges according to his own angle, talks and argues in the light of his own nature. But we have to stick to our own path, our own wisdom, our own resolution without getting affected by popular appraisal. As the proverb says, It is only the fruit-laden tree that receives the shower of stones from passers-by. The good always provoke the bad into calumny; the bad always provoke the good into derision. This is the nature of this world. One must be surprised if such things do not happen.

The people too have to be pitied, rather than condemned. They do not know. They have no patience to judge aright. They are too full of lust, anger and conceit to see clearly and know fully. So they write all manner of things. If they only knew, they would not talk or write like that. We, too, should not attach any value to such comments and take them to heart, as you seem to do. Truth will certainly triumph some day. Untruth can never win. Untruth might appear to overpower Truth, but its victory will fade away and truth will establish itself.

It is not the way of the great to swell when people offer worship, and shrink when people scoff. As a matter of fact, no

has arisen. But, what I am doing now is only the gift of a 'Visiting Card!' Let Me tell you that emphatic declarations of the Truth by Avatars were made so clearly and so unmistakably only by Krishna. In spite of the declaration, you will notice in the career of the same Krishna that He underwent defeat in His efforts and endeavours, on a few occasions; you must also note that those defeats too were part of the drama which He had planned and which He Himself directed. For example, when many Kings pleaded with Him to avert the war with the Kauravas, He confessed that His Mission to the Kaurava Court for ensuring peace had 'failed!' But, He had not willed that it should succeed! He had decided that war would be waged! His Mission was intended to publish the greed and iniquity of the Kauravas and to condemn them before the whole world.

Now, I must tell you, that during this Sai Avatar, there is no place for even such 'drama' with scenes of failures and defeats! What I *will*, *must* take place; what I plan *must* succeed. I am Truth; and Truth has no need to hesitate, or fear, or bend.

'Will-ing' is superfluous for Me. For, My Grace is ever available to devotees who have steady Love and Faith. Since I move freely among them, talking and singing, even intellectuals are unable to grasp My Truth, My Power, My Glory, or My real Task as Avatar. I can solve any problem however knotty. I am beyond the reach of the most intensive enquiry and the most meticulous measurement. Only those who have recognised My Love and experienced that Love can assert that they have glimpsed My Reality. For, the Path of Love is the Royal Road that leads mankind to Me.

Do not attempt to know Me through the external eyes. When you go to a temple and stand before the Image of God, you pray with closed eyes, don't you? Why? Because you feel that the Inner Eye of Wisdom alone can reveal Him to you. Therefore, do not crave from me trivial material objects; but, crave for *Me*, and you will be rewarded. Not that you should

one Religion and that is the Religion of Love. The various limbs of the elephant that seemed separate and distinct to the eyeless seekers of its truth were all fostered and activated by one single stream of blood; the various religions and faiths that feel separate and distinct are all fostered by a single stream of Love.

The optical sense cannot visualise the Truth. It gives only false and fogged information. For example, there are many who observe My actions and start declaring that My nature is such and such. They are unable to gauge the sanctity, the majesty and the eternal reality that is Me. The power of Sai is limitless; It manifests for ever. All forms of 'power' are resident in this Sai palm.

But those who profess to have understood Me, the scholars, the *Yogis*, the *Pundits*, the *Jnanis*, all of them are aware only of the least important the casual external manifestation of an infinitesimal part of that power, namely, the "miracles"! They have not desired to contact the Source of all Power and all Wisdom, that is available here at Brindavan. They are satisfied when they secure a chance to exhibit their book-learning and parade their scholarship in Vedic Lore, not realising that the Person from whom the Vedas emanated is in the midst, for their sake. They even ask, in their pride, for a few more chances!

This has been the case, in all ages. People may be very near (physically) to the Avatar, but, they live out their lives unaware of their fortune; they exaggerate the role of miracles, which are as trivial, when compared to My glory and majesty, as a mosquito is in size and strength to the elephant upon which it squats. Therefore, when you speak about these 'miracles,' I laugh within Myself out of pity, that you allow yourself so easily to lose the precious awareness of My Reality.

My power is immeasurable; My truth is inexplicable, unfathomable. I am announcing this about Me, for, the need

sacred text lays down rules to regulate the lives of the great, prescribing the habits and attitudes they must adopt. They themselves know the path they must tread; their wisdom regulates and makes their acts holy. Self-reliance, beneficial activity --these two are their special marks. They may also be engaged in the promotion of the welfare of devotees and in allotting them the fruits of their actions. Why should you be affected by doubt and worry, so long as I am adhering to these two? After all, the praise and blame of the populace do not touch the *Atma*, the reality; they can touch only the outer physical frame.

I have a 'Task': to foster all mankind and ensure for all of them lives full of *Ananda*. I have a 'Vow': to lead all who stray away from the straight path back again into goodness and save them. I am attached to a 'Work' that I love: to remove the sufferings of the poor and grant them what they lack. I have a 'reason to be proud,' for I rescue all who worship and adore Me aright. I have My definition of 'devotion' [I expect: that those] devoted to Me have to treat joy and grief, gain and loss, with equal fortitude. This means I will never give up those who attach themselves to Me. When I am thus engaged in My beneficial task, how can My Name be tarnished, as you apprehend? I would advise you not to heed such absurd talk. Mahatmas do not acquire greatness through someone calling them so; they do not become small when someone calls them small. Only those low ones who revel in opium and ganja but claim to be unexcelled yogis, only those who quote scriptural texts to justify their gourmandry and pride, only those who are dry-as-dust scholars exulting in their casuistry and argumentative skills, are moved by praise or blame.

You must have read life-stories of saints and divine personages; in these books you must have read of even worse falsehoods and more heinous imputations cast against them. This is the lot of Mahatmas everywhere, at all times. Why then do you take these things so much to heart? Have you not heard of dogs that

howl at the stars? How long can they go on? Authenticity will soon win.

I will not give up My Mission nor My determination. I know I will carry them out; I treat the honor and dishonor, the fame and blame that may be the consequence with equal equanimity. Internally, I am unconcerned. I act but in the outer world; I talk and move about for the sake of the outer world and for announcing My coming to the people, else I have no concern even with these.

I do not belong to any place, I am not attached to any name. I have no "mine" or "thine." I answer whatever the name you use. I go, wherever I am taken. This is My very First Vow. I have not disclosed this to anyone so far. For me the world is something afar, apart. I act and move only for the sake of mankind. No one can comprehend My Glory, whoever he is, whatever his method of inquiry, however long his attempt.

You can yourself see the full Glory in the coming years. Devotees must have patience and forbearance.

I am not concerned nor am I anxious that these facts should be made known; I have no need to write these words; I wrote them because I felt you will be pained if I do not reply. Thus, your Baba.

25 May 1947
(Sathyam, II, 8-11.)

Who is Sai?

God is inscrutable. He cannot be realised in the outer objective world; He is in the very heart of every being. Gemstones have to be sought deep underground; they do not float in mid air. Seek God in the depths of your self, not in tantalising, kaleidoscopic Nature. The body is granted to you for this high purpose; but, you are now misusing it, like the person who cooked his daily food in the gem-studded gold vase that came into his hands as an heirloom.

Man extols God as omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent, but, he ignores His Presence in himself! Of course, many venture to describe the attributes of God and proclaim Him to be such and such; but, these are but their own guesses and the reflections of their own predilections and preferences.

Who can affirm that God is this or thus? Who can affirm that God is not of this form or with this attribute? Each one can acquire from the vast expanse of the ocean only as much as can be contained in the vessel he carries to its shore. From that quantity, they can grasp but little of that immensity.

Each religion defines God within the limits it demarcates and then claims to have grasped Him. Like the seven blind men who spoke of the elephant as a pillar, a fan, a rope or a wall, because they contacted but a part and could not comprehend the entire animal, so too, religions speak of a part and assert that its vision is full and total.

Each religion forgets that God is all Forms and all Names, all attributes and all assertions. The Religion of Humanity is the sum and substance of all these partial faiths; for, there is only

heart. I am the dweller in the temple of every heart. Do not lose contact and company, for it is only when the coal is in contact with the live embers that it can also become live ember.

Cultivate a nearness with Me in the heart and it will be rewarded. Then you too will acquire a fraction of that supreme love. This is a great chance. Be confident that you will be liberated. Know that you are saved. Many hesitate to believe that things will improve, that life will be happy for all and full of joy, and that the golden age will recur. Let Me assure you that this *dharmaswarupa*, that this divine body, has not come in vain. It will succeed in averting the crisis that has come upon humanity.

43rd Birthday Discourse, 23 November 1968.
(HMAP, 89-96.)

Maanasa Bhajare

When I was at Uravakonda, studying in High School, you know I came away one day and threw off My books and declared that I have My work waiting for Me. The Telugu Pandit described the event of that evening to you all in his speech. Well, that day when I came out publicly as Sai Baba, the first song I taught the gathering in the garden to which I went from the Telugu Pandit's house was:

*"Maanasa bhajare guru charanam
Dustara bhava sagara tharanam".*

I called on all those suffering in this endless round of birth and death to worship the Feet of the Guru, the Guru that was announcing Himself, who had come again for taking upon Himself the burden of those who took refuge in Him. ... That was the very first message of Mine to Humanity. *"Maanasa bhajare"*. "Worship in the mind!" I do not need your flower garlands and fruits, things that you get for an anna or two; they are not genuinely yours. Give me something that is yours, something which is clean and fragrant with the perfume of virtue and innocence, and washed in the tears of repentance! Garlands and fruits you bring as items in the Show, as an exhibition of your devotion; poorer devotees who cannot afford to bring them are humiliated and they feel sorry that they are helpless; they cannot demonstrate their devotion in the grand way in which you are doing it. Install the Lord in your heart and offer Him the fruits of your actions and the flowers of your inner thoughts and feelings. That is the worship I like the most, the devotion I appreciate the most.

In shops, things are kept in separate packets and each one specializes in some particular article or sets of articles. But in an Exhibition, hundreds of shops join to make all varieties of things available and there is a great deal of window-dressing arrangement and display. I have been all these days generally giving individual advice, like the packets available in shops and giving answers to individual questions. This `speech' today is a new experience for you. I am addressing a gathering today; but even though it may be new to you, for Me it is not new. I have given advice to large gatherings before, though not in this Appearance. Whenever *Nirakara* becomes *Sakara*, it has to fulfill the Mission and it does so in various ways. But the one purpose of the re-education of Man persists, whatever the yuga or era.

The first sixteen years of this Life have been, as I have often told you, the period when *Balaleela* predominated and the next sixteen is being spent mostly in *Mahimas* in order to give *Santhosha* to this generation. *Santhosha* or joy and contentment are short-lived sensations; you have to catch the mood and make it a permanent possession: *Ananda* or bliss. After the thirty second year, you will see Me active more and more in the task of *Upadesa* or Teaching erring humanity and in directing the World along the path of *Sathya*, *Dharma*, *Santhi* and *Prema*.

Not that I am determined to exclude *Leela* and *Mahima* from My Activity after that. I only mean that re-establishing Dharma, correcting the crookedness of the human mind and guiding humanity back to the *Sanathana Dharma* will be My Task thereafter.

Do not be led away by doubt and vain argument; do not question how and whether I can do all this. The cow-herds of Brindavan also doubted whether the little boy who grew in their midst could lift Govardhanagiri and hold it aloft! The thing needed is Faith, and yet more Faith.

may have grace and strengthen your faith in the divine. Problems and worries are really to be welcomed as they teach you the lessons of humility and reverence. Running after external things produces all this discontent. That type of desire has no end. Once you have become a slave to the senses, they will not leave hold until you are dead. It is an unquenchable thirst. But I call you to Me and even grant worldly boons so that you may turn Godward. No Avatar has done like this before, going among the masses, counseling them, guiding them, consoling them, uplifting them and directing them along the path of *sathya*, *dharma*, *santhi* and *prema* (truth, righteousness, peace and love).

My activities and movements will never be altered, whoever may pass whatever opinion on them. I shall not modify My plans for *dharmasthapana* (the establishment of righteousness), My discourses or My movements. I have stuck to this determination for many years and I am engaged in the task for which I have come: that is, to inculcate faith in the path of *prasanthi* (the highest spiritual peace). I shall not stop nor retract a step.

Not even the biggest scientist can understand Me by means of his laboratory knowledge. I am always full of bliss. Whatever may happen, nothing can come in the way of My smile. That is why I am able to impart joy to you and make your burden lighter. I never exult when I am extolled, nor shrink when I am reviled. Few have realized My purpose and significance, but I am not worried. When things that are not in Me are attributed to Me, why should I worry? When things that are in Me are mentioned, why should I exult? For Me it is always, "Yes, yes, yes." If you give all and surrender to the Lord, he will guard and guide you. The Lord has come for just this task. He is declaring that He will do so, and that it is the very task that has brought Him here. I know the agitations of your heart and its aspirations, but you do not know My heart. I react to the pain that you undergo and to the joy that you feel, for I am in your

reestablishment of the Vedas and *Sastras* (spiritual scriptures), and revealing the knowledge about them to all people. This task will succeed. It will not be limited. It will not be slowed down. When the Lord decides and wills, his divine will cannot be hindered.

You must have heard people say that Mine is all magic. But the manifestation of divine power must not be interpreted in terms of magic. Magicians play their tricks for earning their maintenance, worldly fame and wealth. They are based on falsehood and they thrive on deceit, but this body could never stoop to such a low level. This body has come through the Lord's resolve to come. That resolve is intended to uphold *satya*, or truth. Divine resolve is always true resolve. Remember there is nothing that divine power cannot accomplish. It can transmute earth into sky and sky into earth. To doubt this is to prove that you are too weak to grasp great things, the grandeur of the universe.

I have come to instruct all in the essence of the Vedas, to shower on all this precious gift, to protect the *sanathana dharma*, the ancient wisdom, and preserve it. My mission is to spread happiness, and so I am always ready to come among you not once, but twice or thrice -- as often as you want Me. Many of you probably think that since people from all parts of India, and even foreign countries outside India, come to Puttaparthi, they must be pouring their contributions into the coffers of the Nilayam (Prasanthi Nilayam: name of Sai Baba's ashram). But let Me declare the truth. I do not take anything from anyone except their love and devotion. This has been My consistent practice for the last many years. People who come here are giving Me just the wealth of faith, devotion and love. That is all.

Many of you come to Me with problems of health and mental worry of one sort or another. They are mere baits by which you have been brought here. But the main purpose is that you

Once Krishna and Arjuna were going together along the open road. Seeing a bird in the sky, Krishna asked Arjuna, "Is that a dove?" He replied, "Yes, it is a dove." He asked Arjuna, "Is it an eagle?" Arjuna replied promptly, "Yes, it is an eagle". "No, Arjuna, it looks like a crow to Me. Is it not a crow?," asked Krishna. Arjuna replied, "I am sorry, it is a crow beyond doubt." Krishna laughed and chided him for his agreeing to whatever suggestion was given. But Arjuna said, "For me, your Words are far more weighty than the evidence of my eyes; you can make it a crow or a dove or an eagle and when you say it is a crow, it must be one." Implicit faith is the road to spiritual success.

The Lord loves not the *Bhaktha* but his *Bhakthi*, remember. The Lord's Grace is like rain, pure water, falling equally everywhere; but its taste gets changed according to the soil through which it flows. So also the Lord's words are sweet to some, bitter to others. The Lord's ways are mysterious; He blessed Vidura with the words, 'be destroyed' and Dussasana with the words, 'live for a thousand years.' He meant that Vidura's 'I' will be destroyed and that the wicked Dussasana will have to suffer the ills and tribulations of this world for ten centuries. You do not know the real reasons behind the actions of the Lord. You cannot understand the motives of other men who are almost like you in everything, actuated by the same motives and having the same likes and dislikes! But yet how easily you discover the motives of One who is far, far above the level of Man! How glibly you talk and judge of something that is as strange to you as atmosphere to a fish!

There are four types of persons: the 'dead,' who deny the Lord and declare they alone exist, independent, free, self-regulating and self-directed; the 'sick,' who call upon the Lord when some calamity befalls them or when they feel temporarily deserted by the usual sources of succour; the 'dull,' who know that God is the eternal companion and watchman, but who remember it only off and on when the idea is patent and powerful; and lastly, the 'healthy,' who have steady belief in

the Lord and who live in His Comforting Creative Presence always.

You proceed from `death' to `life' and from `illness' to `health' by the experience of the buffetings of the World. The World is a very essential part of the curriculum of man; through the agony of *Asanthi* is born the infant, *Sujnana*. The pains are worth while; they indicate the birth of new Life. From *Asanthi* you get *Prasanthi*, from *Prasanthi*, *Prakanthi*; and from *Prakanthi*, *Paramjyothi*. It is like the alternating of night and day, this recurrence of joy and grief. Night and day are twin sisters, both are necessary to increase the fertility of the soil, to activate and refresh Life. They are like summer and winter. There are some who ask Me, `Baba! Make this summer less hot!' But in the heat of the summer the Earth takes in the needed *sathwa* of the Sun, so that when the rains come, she may yield a plentiful harvest. `Seethala' and `Ushna' are both in the Plan of God and yours is only to know this and treat both as valuable. Thorny plants and thornless plants are both there in nature; the wise man knows the value of both: he plants the thornless one and surrounds it with the thorny ones, so that what he fosters is left unharmed. Karma can save, as well as kill; it is like the cat which bites; it bites the kitten in order to carry it in its mouth to a place of safety; it bites the rat in order to kill and eat. Become the kitten; and Karma will rescue you like a loving Mother. Become a rat; and you are lost.

Paramatma draws the *Jeevatma* towards itself; it is the nature of both to have this affinity, for they are the same. They are like the iron and the magnet. But if the iron is rusty and covered with layers of dirt, the magnet is unable to attract. Remove the impediment; that is all you have to do. Shine forth in your real nature and the Lord will draw you into His Bosom. Trials and tribulations are the means by which this cleansing is done. That is why Kunti prayed to Krishna, "Give us always grief so that we may never forget thee." They are like the dietary and

publicity you descend to the level of those who compete in collecting plenty by decrying others and extolling themselves.

Where money is calculated, garnered or exhibited to demonstrate one's achievements, I will not be present. I come only where sincerity and faith and surrender are valued. Only inferior minds will revel in publicity and self-aggrandizement. These have no relevance in the case of Avatars. Avatars need no advertisement.

The establishment of dharma (righteousness): that is My aim. The teaching of dharma, the spread of dharma: that is My object. These miracles as you call them are just a means toward that end. Some of you remark that Ramakrishna Paramahansa (an Indian saint) said that *siddhis* or yogic powers are obstructions in the path of the *sadhaka* (spiritual aspirant). Yes, *siddhis* may lead the *sadhaka*, the spiritual aspirant, astray. Without being involved in them he has to keep straight on. His ego will bring him down if he yields to the temptation of demonstrating his yogic powers. That is the correct advice which every aspirant should heed. But the mistake lies in equating Me with a *sadhaka*, like the one whom Ramakrishna wanted to help, guide and warn. These *siddhis* or yogic powers are just in the nature of the Avatar - the creation of things with intent to protect and give joy, is spontaneous and lasting. Creation, preservation and dissolution can be accomplished only by the Almighty... no one else can.

Cynics carp without knowledge. If they learn the Sastras or scriptures, or if they cultivate direct experience, they can understand Me. Your innate laziness prevents you from the spiritual exercises necessary to discover the nature of God. This laziness should go. It has to be driven out of man's nature in whatever shape it appears. That is My mission. My task is not merely to cure and console and remove individual misery, but is something far more important. The removal of misery and distress is incidental to My mission. My main task is the

Me the thing that I have come to give you: namely, liberation itself. Even among these few, those who stick to the path of *sadhana*, or spiritual practice, and succeed are a handful.

Your worldly intelligence cannot fathom the ways of God. He cannot be recognized by mere cleverness of intelligence. You may benefit from God, but you cannot explain Him. Your explanations are merely guesses, attempts to cloak your ignorance in pompous expressions. Bring something into your daily practice as evidence of your having known the secret of the higher life from Me. Show that you have greater brotherliness. Speak with more sweetness and self-control. Bear defeat as well as victory with calm resignation, I am always aware of the future and the past as well as the present of every one of you, so I am not so moved by mercy. Since I know the past, the background, the reaction is different. It is your consequence of evil deliberately done in the previous birth, and so I allow your suffering to continue, often modified by some little compensation. I do not cause either joy or grief. You are the designer of both these chains that bind you. I am *Anandaswarupa* (the embodiment of bliss). Come, take *ananda* (bliss) from Me, dwell on that *ananda* and be full of *shanti* (peace).

My acts are the foundations on which I am building My work, the task for which I have come. All the miraculous acts which you observe are to be interpreted so. The foundation for a dam requires a variety of materials. Without these it will not last and hold back the waters. An incarnation of the Lord has to be used in various ways by man for his uplift.

The Lord has no intention to publicize Himself. I do not need publicity, nor does any other Avatar of the Lord. What are you daring to publicize? Me? What do you know about Me? You speak one thing about Me today and another tomorrow. Your faith has not become unshakable. You praise Me when things go well, and blame Me when things go wrong. When you start

other restrictions that the doctor prescribes to supplement the effect of the drug of *Namasmarana*. Sai is *Sarvajanapriya* and so any name which gives you joy you can take up. Tastes differ according to temperament and the character one has earned by generations of activity as a living being in this world. The proprietor of a coffee hotel goes to the nearby druggist for a pill to ward off his head-ache; and the druggist when he gets a head-ache goes to the coffee hotel for a cup of coffee which he thinks will cure him. Men are like that; *Ioko bhinna ruchih*. The Jnani says, '*Sarvam Brahma mayam*;' another, a Yogi, says all is *sakthi*; a third, who is a Bhaktha says all is the *Jeela* of Bhagavan. Each according to his taste and according to his progress in spiritual *Sadhana*. Do not hurry or ridicule them, for they are all pilgrims trudging along the same road.

Sadhana is most required to control the mind and the desires after which it runs. If you find that you are not able to succeed, do not give up the *Sadhana* but do it more vigorously, for it is the subject in which you did not get passing marks that requires special study, is it not? *Sadhana* means inner cleanliness as well as external cleanliness. You do not feel refreshed if you wear unwashed clothes after a bath, do you? Nor do you feel refreshed if you wear washed clothes, but skip the bath. Both are needed, the *Bhaya* and the *Bhava*, the external as well as the internal.

Children believe your words when you say that the policeman will catch them or the ghost will beat them. They are full of *Bhaya*, *Vinaya* and *Viswasa*! But having grown old and filled your heads with all kinds of doctrines and dogmas and theories and arguments, you have now to use your *Viveka* and discover God the hard way. This I will tell you, there is no escaping it; all creatures have to reach God some day or other, by the long route or by the short route.

Prasanthi Nilayam, Vijayadasami, 1953
(SSS, I, 9-14.)

Siva Sakti

(Baba was brought down the winding stairs into the private room on the ground floor, because He insisted on giving *darshan* to the thousands of devotees who had come on that auspicious day. He had had an attack of cerebral thrombosis (or tubercular meningitis?) and was in bed for eight days from the morning of Saturday, 29th June to the evening of 6th July. His left hand, leg and eye were affected; His right hand had also a slight palsy; the tongue was indistinct and the face was twitching. He was placed on the silver chair in the prayer hall and His hand and leg were adjusted in the proper position. As soon as He was seated, He communicated the following message which was interpreted and announced.) This is not Swami's illness; this is an illness Swami has taken on, in order to save some one. Swami has no illness, nor will He get ill at any time. You must all be happy; that alone will make Swami happy. If you grieve, Swami will not be happy. Your joy is Swami's food.

(Then Baba signed to Kasturi to speak, and after his short speech was over, Baba wanted the mike to be held before Him. He asked through it, "*Vinipisthunda?*" (Do you hear Me?) But, though He asked again and again, the voice was so indistinct that no one could make out what it meant. He then signed for water and when it was brought, He sprinkled a little with His shaking right hand on the stricken left hand and on His left leg. He stroked His left hand with the right. Immediately, He used *both* hands to stroke His left leg; that touch was enough to cure it. He doffed the disease in a trice! He started to speak! It was the same musical voice.)

come to correct the *buddhi*, the intelligence, by various means. I have to counsel, help, command, condemn and stand by as a friend and well-wisher to all, so that they may give up evil propensities and, recognizing the straight mark, tread it and reach the goal. I have to reveal to the people the worth of the Vedas, the Sastras and the spiritual texts which lay down the norms. If you will accept Me and say "Yes," I too will respond and say, "Yes, yes, yes." If you deny and say "No," I also echo "No." Come, examine, experience, have faith. That is the method of utilizing Me.

I do not mention Sai Baba in any of My discourses, but I bear the name as Avatar of Sai Baba. I do not appreciate in the least the distinction between the various appearances of God: Sai, Rama, Krishna, etc. I do not proclaim that this is more important or that the other is less important. Continue your worship of your chosen God along lines already familiar to you, then you will find that you are coming nearer to Me. For all names are Mine, and all forms are Mine. There is no need to change your chosen God and adopt a new one when you have seen Me and heard Me.

Every step in the career of the Avatar is predetermined. Rama came to feed the roots of *satya*, or truth, and dharma, or righteousness. Krishna came to foster *shanti*, or peace, and *prema*, or love. Now all these four are in danger of being dried up. That is why the present Avatar has come. The dharma that has fled to the forests has to be led back into the villages and towns. The anti-dharma that is ruining the villages and towns must be driven back into the jungle.

I have come to give you the key of the treasure of *ananda*, or bliss, to teach you how to tap that spring, for you have forgotten the way to blessedness. If you waste this time of saving yourselves, it is just your fate. You have come to get from Me tinsel and trash, the petty little cures and promotions, worldly joys and comforts. Very few of you desire to get from

The Milestone Speech

For the protection of the virtuous, for the destruction of evil-doers and for establishing righteousness on a firm footing, I incarnate from age to age. Whenever *asanthi*, or disharmony, overwhelms the world, the Lord will incarnate in human form to establish the modes of earning *prasanthi*, or peace, and to reeducate the human community in the paths of peace. At the present time, strife and discord have robbed peace and unity from the family, the school, the society, the religions, the cities and the state.

The arrival of the Lord is also anxiously awaited by saints and sages. Sadhus (spiritual aspirants) prayed and I have come. My main tasks are fostering of the Vedas (Hindu scriptures) and fostering of the devotees. Your virtue, your self-control, your detachment, your faith, your steadfastness: these are the signs by which people read of My glory. You can lay claim to be a devotee only when you have placed yourself in My hands fully and completely with no trace of ego. You can enjoy the bliss through the experience the Avatar confers. The Avatar behaves in a human way so that mankind can feel kinship, but rises into his superhuman heights so that mankind can aspire to reach the heights, and through that aspiration actually reach him. Realizing the Lord within you as the motivator is the task for which he comes in human form.

Avatars like Rama and Krishna had to kill one or more individuals who could be identified as enemies of the *dharmic* (righteous) way of life, and thus restore the practice of virtue. But now there is no one fully good, and so who deserves the protection of God? All are tainted by wickedness, and so who will survive if the Avatar decides to uproot? Therefore, I have

God is the Refuge for Those Who have No Refuge

"Dhikkulenivaarki dhevude gathi" -- "For those who have no refuge, God is the refuge." That is exactly the reason why I had to take on the disease that one helpless *Bhaktha* was to get. He had to suffer this dire illness, as well as the four heart attacks that accompanied it; and he would not have survived it. So, according to My Dharma of *Bhakthasamrakshana* (protection of devotees). I had to rescue him. Of course, this is not the first time that I have taken on the illness of persons whom I wanted to save. Even in the previous *sareeram* [body] at Shirdi, I had this responsibility. The suffering that you saw was too much for this particular devotee and so, I had to save him, by Myself going through it. This is My *Leela*: My nature. It is part of the task for which I have come: *Shishyarakshana* (protection of disciples).

Persons who were near Me during the last week were asking Me to give them the name of the person whom I had saved. I told them that it would make them angry against that person, for Swami, they would say, "had to undergo so much of pain in order to save that one person." Then, they replied, that they would honour the person, because of the extraordinary *Bhakthi* that persuaded Swami to run to his rescue, on Saturday morning.

Baba's Identity, Mission and Advent Revealed

Some people even asked Me whether it was this person or that, giving names of those who had attacks of paralysis, especially on the left side! This is even more ludicrous, because when I save a person, I save him completely. I do not wait until he gets the disease and I do not leave him in a fraction of the disease so that he may be identified later. It all looks so funny to me, the guesses and surmises that you make.

Even in Shirdi, Dhadha Saheb, Nandharaam, Balawanth, all were saved by these means. Balawanth was destined to get plague, but the bubo was taken over and the boy saved.

This is perhaps the longest period when I kept the devotees wondering and worried. That was because of the heart attacks which had to come later on the Bhaktha, from which he also had to be saved. Then, there is another reason too, why the eight-day period had to be observed. Well, I shall tell you why. That means I must tell you about Myself, about something which I have not disclosed so far, something which I was keeping within Myself, for the last 37 years. The time has come to announce it. This is a sacred day, and I shall tell you. You know I declared on the very day when I decided to disclose My identity, My Mission and My Advent, that I belonged to the Apasthamba *Suthra* (code of conduct), and the Bharadwaaja *Gothra* (lineage). This Bharadwaaja was a great sage, who studied the Vedas for full one hundred years; but finding that the Vedas were *anantha* (endless) he did *thapas* for prolonging life, and from Indra he got two extensions of a century each. Even then, the Vedas could not be completed, so he asked Indra again for a hundred years. Indra showed him three huge mountain ranges and said, "What you have learnt in three centuries form only three handfuls from out of the three ranges, which the Vedas are. So give up the attempt to exhaust the Vedas. Do a *Yaaga* (ritual sacrifice) instead, which I shall teach you: that will give you the fruit of the Vedic study, full and complete."

The Yaaga Performed by Sage Bharadwaaja

Bharadwaaja decided on performing the *yaaga*; Indra taught him how to do it; all the preparations were completed. The sage wanted that Sakthi preside and bless the *yaaga*. So he went to Kailasa but, the time was not opportune for presenting his petition. Siva and Sakthi were engaged in a competitive dance, trying to find out who could dance longer. Eight days passed thus, before Sakthi noticed Bharadwaaja standing in the cold. She just cast a smile at him and danced along as before! The sage mistook the smile as a cynical refusal to notice him; so he turned his back on Kailasa and started to descend. To his dismay, he found his left leg, hand and eye put out of

down in the Vedas for the good of all the peoples of the world. The revival of Vedic Dharma is the *Sai Samkalpa* (the resolve that Sai has) not only drawing people towards me, attracting them by the manifestation of My Shakti (power) and *samarthya* (capacity) this is not a *Bhramathathwam* (phenomenon of delusion). This phenomenon (*thathwam*) will sustain Truth, it will uproot Untruth, and in that Victory make all of you exult in ecstasy. This is the *Sai Samkalpam*.

Some persons, even those who have reached a certain stage of leadership and authority, have started exchanging the Vedic formulae and the principles of Bharathiya culture for lucre, selling them, in fact; and Westerners too are inclined to purchase them! These truths and discoveries are not merchandise to be sold and bought. Therefore, I am going to Western countries soon, in order to appraise them of their real worth and put a stop to this bargaining. ... It was only yesterday that passports for My visit to Africa have been brought, praying that I may visit those countries soon; I am proceeding to Africa before the month of June.

So utilize the chance of association with Me as much as possible, and endeavor as quickly and as best as you can, to follow the directions that I have been giving. Obeying My instructions is enough; it will benefit you more than the most rigorous asceticism. Practice *Sathya*, *Dharma*, *Santhi* and *Prema*, which are dear to Me; resolve to keep those ideals before you ever, in all your thoughts, words and deeds. That can confer on you the summum bonum of Mergence in the Supreme Substance of Divinity.

World Conference of Bhagawan
Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organizations.
Bombay, 17 May 1968
(SSS, VI, 210-13.)

My Divinity may be revealed to you; you have to be ready, prepared for that moment. Since Divinity is enveloped by humanness you must endeavor to overcome the Maya (Delusion) that hides it from your eyes.

This is a human Form in which every Divine Entity, every Divine Principle, that is to say, all the Names and Forms ascribed by man to God, are manifest. ... Do not allow doubt to distract you; if you only install, in the altar of your heart, steady Faith in My Divinity, you can win a Vision of My Reality. Instead, if you swing like the pendulum of a clock, one moment, devotion, another moment, disbelief, you can never succeed in comprehending the Truth and win that Bliss. You are very fortunate that you have a chance to experience the Bliss of the Vision of the *Sarvadaivathwaswaroopam* (the form which is All Forms of the Gods) now, in this life itself .

Let me draw your attention to another fact. On previous occasions when God incarnated on earth, the bliss of recognizing Him in the Incarnation was vouchsafed only after the Physical Embodiment had left the world, in spite of plenty of evidence of His Grace. And the loyalty and devotion [previous Avatars] commanded from men arose through fear and awe, at their superhuman powers and skills, or at their imperial and penal authority. But ponder a moment on this Sathya Sai Manifestation; in this age of rampant materialism, aggressive disbelief and irreverence, what is it that brings to it the adoration of millions from all over the world? You will be convinced that the basic reason for this is the Supra-worldly Divinity in Human Form.

Again how fortunate you are that you can witness all the countries of the world paying homage to Bharatha; you can hear adoration to Sathya Sai's Name reverberating throughout the world, even while this Body is existing, before you. And again, you can witness very soon the restoration of *Sanathana Dharma* to its genuine and natural status, the Dharma laid

action by a stroke. Siva saw him fall; He came up to him and consoled him; Bharadwaaja was told that Sakthi had indeed blessed him and his *yaaga*. Then Siva revived him and cured him, sprinkling water from the *kamandalu*. Both Siva and Sakthi granted the *Rishi* (sage) boons: They would both attend the *yaaga*, they said.

All Past Assurances Accomplished by One Incident

After the Yaaga was over, They were so pleased that They conferred even more boons on the sage. Siva said that They would take human form and be born in the Bharadwaaja *Gothra* (lineage) thrice: Siva alone as Shirdi Sai Baba, Siva and Sakthi together at Puttaparthi as Sathya Sai Baba and Sakthi alone as Prema Sai, later. Then Siva remembered the illness that had suddenly come upon Bharadwaaja at Kailasa on the eighth day of the waiting in the cold on the ice. He gave another assurance. "As an expiation for the neglect which Sakthi showed you at Kailasa for eight days, this Sakthi will suffer the stroke for eight days, when We both take birth as Sathya Sai and, on the eighth day, I shall revive her from all signs of the disease by sprinkling water, just as I did at Kailasa to cure your illness."

It was the working out of this assurance that you witnessed today.... This had to happen, this stroke and the cure. The assurance given in Thretha Yuga had to be honoured. I may tell you now that the poor forlorn bhaktha who had to get the stroke which I took over, was a convenient excuse, which was utilised. You see, a railway engine is not made available to haul just one bogey; they wait until a number of bogeys are to be taken along and then, they put the engine in action. So too, the disease had to be gone through, the *bhaktha* had to be saved, the assurance had to be carried out, the mystery had to be cleared, the Divinity had to be more clearly announced by the manifestation of this Grand Miracle. All these were accomplished by this one incident.

Let Me tell you one more thing: Nothing can impede or halt the work of this Avathaara. When I was upstairs all these days, some people foolishly went about saying. "It is all over with Sai Baba" and they turned back many who were coming to Puttaparthi! Some said I was in *Samaadhi*, as if I am a sadhaka! Some feared I was the victim of black magic, as if anything can affect Me! The splendour of this Avathaara will go on increasing, day by day. Formerly when the Govardhanagiri was raised aloft by the little boy, the gopees and gopals realised that Krishna was the Lord. Now, it is not one Govardhanagiri, a whole range will be lifted, you will see! Have patience, have faith. Tomorrow morning, I shall give everyone of you the Namaskaaram blessing that you missed today.

Prasanthi Nilayam, Gurupurnima Day, 6 July 1963
(SSS, III, 19-23.)

The Revelation

Since at this place, those who have devotion are gathered and people of all nations have come, I cannot but tell you one fact. World conferences dedicated to religion or spiritual problems have, no doubt, been held before; also, Conferences of followers of particular Faiths. But these have been held only after the demise of the Founders and Divine inspirers. This is the very first time that a World Conference is held of persons devoted, while the Incarnation is present before every one, with the body assumed for the purpose, bearing the Name that is chosen for it by Itself. I must tell you this fact because ninety-nine persons out of hundred among you do not know My Reality. You have come here drawn by diverse needs, a taste for spiritual matters, eagerness to develop the institutions to which you are attached, admiration or affection, love or reverence or a spurt of enthusiasm to join others and share with others your own exultation.

In truth, you cannot understand the nature of My Reality either today, or even after a thousand years of steady austerity or ardent inquiry even if all mankind joins in that effort. But, in a short time, you will become cognizant of the Bliss showered by the Divine Principle, which has taken upon itself this sacred body and this sacred Name. Your good fortune which will provide you this chance is greater than what was available for anchorites, monks, sages, saints and even personalities embodying facets of Divine Glory!

Since I move about with you, eat like you, and talk with you, you are deluded into the belief that this is but an instance of common humanity. Be warned against this mistake. I am also deluding you by My singing with you, talking with you, and engaging Myself in activities with you. But, [at] any moment,