HE HAS COME

The Messiah * The Christ * Lord Maitreya * El Mahdi * Lord Kalki

*The Lord Sathya Sai Baba*

by

Patrick Gallivan
This book is dedicated
with love, gratitude and thanks,
at the Lotus Feet of

Our Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba,

Who has so graciously blessed this book.
"HE HAS COME"

The Messiah * The Christ * Lord Maitreya * El Mahdi * Lord Kalki

_The Lord Sathya Sai Baba._

"Above all, whatever anyone may say or do, you should not give up your devotion to God. Without the love of God, this cosmos is an empty void. Love is God, God is Love. Develop this Divine Love. Cherish it in your hearts at all times and in all situations. Do not give it up whatever troubles or difficulties you may be faced with. That love will be with you, in you and beside you and protect you. Do not blame God if difficulties confront you. Regard even these difficulties as gifts from God intended for your good. Life is a succession of good and bad. If you take in your stride these ups and downs of life with firm faith in God, the Divine will take good care of you. Always remember the Lord's name."

_Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba_
Introduction

This book is about God, and the regular appearances He makes amongst us, whenever there is discord upon the Earth; He comes to help and uplift mankind.

God manifests in a human form so that we may identify with Him, and relate to His teachings. In the past He manifested as Rama, as Krishna, as Buddha, Zoroaster, Jesus, Mohammad, and many others. Indeed, as all the great deities revered by the major religions today.

Now, we have Him with us once again upon the Earth, this time in the triple incarnations of Sai.

Let me tell you about Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
Chapter one

"I have come to light the lamp of Love in your hearts, to see that it shines day by day with added lustre. I have not come to speak on behalf of any exclusive religion. I have not come on any mission of publicity for any sect or creed or cause; nor have I come to collect followers for any doctrine. I have no plan to attract disciples or devotees into My fold or any fold. I have come to tell you of this unitary faith, this spiritual principle, this path of Love, this virtue of Love, this duty of Love, this obligation to Love."

These are the words of a twentieth century phenomenon, an exceptional spiritual teacher, called Sri Sathya Sai Baba. There are those who may have heard of Him as an educator, healer, spiritual leader and social worker. Indeed He is all these, and more.

Those who follow Sai Baba are not members of a cult or sect, but people of all walks of life, all races, all cultures and religions, who thirst and wish to drink from a deeper spiritual pool. They seek the underlying path of Unity and Divinity, within themselves, in others, and in their everyday lives.

Sai Baba has said:

"There is only one religion, the religion of Love,
There is only one language, the language of the Heart,
There is only one caste, the caste of Humanity,
There is only one God, and He is Omnipresent".
Sathya Sai Baba was born on Tuesday, November 23rd, 1926 at 5.03 am, in the remote south Indian village of Puttaparthi, formally called Gollapalli, meaning the home of the cowherd, some 110 miles from Bangalore, on the banks of the Chitravathi river. The family name was Raju and His father, Venkappa (1885-1963) and His mother Easwaramma, (1890-1972) called their son, their fourth child, Sathya Narayana; Sathya meaning "Truth" and Narayana meaning "God who dwells in all beings". On the occasion of Sathya’s birth, it is recorded that all the musical instruments in their small home, played by themselves, as if heralding the coming of a great Spirit into the world. His father and mother were a pious couple, and content in their humble role in life. They had three children before Sathya was born; two daughters, Venka and Parvata and a son, Seshama, and later another son called Janaki Ramayya. The main recreation Venkappa allowed himself was taking part in epic roles in the village stage plays, like his father before him. Kondamma Raju, Sathya's grandfather, was a most pious soul, a master of music, actor and strict vegetarian. Being vegetarian must have accounted for his longevity, as he lived to be 110 years old!

Sathya Narayana, soon proved that He was uniquely Divine in His nature and attainments. At an early age He demonstrated compassion, and would distance Himself from places where animals were killed or tortured, or where fish were trapped or caught. He avoided kitchens or the vessels used for cooking flesh or fowl. Should a bird be selected for cooking, young Sathya would run to the bird and clasp it to Him and showered it with love in the hope the elders would spare the bird's life. On occasions such as these He would run to a neighbour’s house, whom He knew to be devout people and vegetarians, and take food from them, instead of remaining at home where meat was consumed. Also, He was a pacifist by nature and would never
retaliate or complain when playmates would mistreat Him. He never seemed to suffer pain or discomfiture at their hands and was always honest and truthful at His home or school. Even at the tender age of three He would rush to help a beggar at the door asking His mother or sisters to give Him grain or flour for the waiting beggar. This, at times, caused understandable irritation in the home, especially at the endless procession of outstretched hands and cries for alms. The household elders, on occasions, would shout the beggars away before young Sathya could bring the requested relief aid. This would distress Him and He would cry long and hard until their hearts would melt with pity for Him, and they would call the dismissed beggars back. At times, however, His mother reproved Him for His "misplaced charity", and with scolding fingers would warn Him that He would go without His meals should He continue to feed the beggars. Undaunted by the warning, He fed the poor hungry wretch first at the door and would leave His meal untouched. Nothing would persuade young Sathya to return to His meal. On such occasions He never seemed hungry and looked as if He had already eaten! In answer to His parent's questions He replied that He had already been fed by "a mysterious old man", of whom nobody had seen nor heard, fed Him milk-rice. While Sathya was well-known in the village for His compassion to those in need, in later years would go to His grandfather's kitchen and assist in the preparation of the vegetarian meals; even at such an early age of six or seven, He was a very good cook!

When He was seven or eight, He was composing spiritual songs which were performed at local religious festivals. Upon starting school, He earned the price of His books, and other school items, by composing "advertising songs" for the local store-keeper and they were sung as He and His friends strolled through the village extolling the excellence of the store.
A year or two later He demonstrated His creative powers by materialising objects, out of thin air, for His school friends. Candy, pencils, rubbers, fruits, were just a few of the many items He produced, to the wonderment of all present. On one such occasion He asked His friends to pick any one of a variety of fruits, which they would like, from a nearby non-fruit producing tree. Even fruit that were not indigenous to India, or those out of season, would be found hanging from its branches. Whatever Sathya willed became a fact. Such "miracles" cannot be explained by science and transcend physical laws.

At about the age of eight the young Sathya was accepted into the Higher Elementary School at Bukkapatnam, about two and a half miles from Puttaparthi, a distance he had to trudge in rain or sunshine, over stony ground and sometimes when the season dictated it, having to wade across water, neck-deep, with schoolbooks balanced on His head. One teacher recalled Sathya as being "very obedient and simple. He never spoke more than the minimum necessary." Proceeding to school earlier than most He would arrange an image or holy picture with flowers He had with Him, and would conduct Puja (worship) and Arathi (offering a flame to one's guru or deity), and also distributing Prasad (blessed food, or anything received with devotion to God). The boys would gather around Him excitedly to see Him “taking” things from His empty school bag. When asked about it, He said that a certain “Grama Saskthi” obeyed His will and gave Him whatever He wanted.

In early 1997 Sathya Sai Baba made reference to an occurrence in His youth which He had not hitherto mentioned. He said; “I was eight years old at the time. I was in Puttaparthis. A lot of young boys of My age used to gather around Me. Some older boys also used to join us. I used to teach them reading and writing as well as singing. They were not in the habit of taking daily baths. I insisted that they should
bathe and remain clean when they come for the classes. I used to take them to a pool in the vicinity of a Hanuman* temple in the village. I advised them that after taking a bath and wearing clean clothes, they should go to the Hanuman temple with the image of Hanuman enshrined in their hearts and the name of Sri Rama on their lips. One day, the boys insisted that I should also go with them to the temple. I completed one round around the temple and stood still. The boys tried to pull Me for a second round. Despite their combined efforts I could not be moved from where I stood. The boys were puzzled. Then I told them: ‘I am unable to move because Hanuman has come out of the temple and is holding Me, saying Sri Rama cannot go around Hanuman. Hanuman will go round Sri Rama. At that moment the boys had a vision of Hanuman standing in front of Sri Rama. Where Rama is, Hanuman stands by.’” (Rama was one of Sai Baba's former incarnations.) * Hanuman; one of the most devoted followers of Rama, represented as part monkey and part man, and mentioned in the "Ramayana".

Sathya was studying at the High School for a year, and a few months into His second year class, when the call for which He was incarnated amongst mankind, could no longer be ignored by Him. It was becoming more and more difficult for Him to hide His majesty while at home or at school activities.

While on a picnic with His brother Seshama Raju, and friends amongst the ruins of the ancient Virupaksha at Hampi, one holy sage, who was seated outside the temple, said of Him, “This boy, believe me, is Divine.” While the party went into the temple, Sathya remained outside, seeming more interested in the grandure and structure of the temple. Nobody pressed Him to join them as they entered and observed the priest doing Aarathi * before the Lingam*. As the priest waved the aarathi flame in a circular movement, the camphor flame of which lit up the interior, they were startled to see Sathya standing erect and smiling in the place of the
Lingam! This was so startling and unexpected that His brother rushed outside to see if Sathya had indeed managed to enter without their seeing Him, only to find Him leaning against a wall, where they had left Him. This amazing incident seemed to precede them to the town. The next day, Thursday, Sathya, now assuming the role of Sai Baba, cured a chronic tuberculosis patient by His touch and had him get up and walk a mile! (Up to the year 1977, on the annual festival of Mahashivaratri, -the darkest night of the year,- Sai Baba brought forth, through His mouth, a lingam, in the presence of hundreds of thousands of devotees. Ellipsoid in shape and denoted as the symbol of the Cosmos in its original abstract form: Spirit and matter of which the entire Universe is founded. He has said of the lingam: “It is the symbol of emergence of the five primordial elements. The lingam is the essence of all attributes and names. It is the formless with form, the nameless with name, the primal emergent from the Divine.”)

On another occasion Sathya left His physical body to go in aid of a devotee who was in great distress. Those who were present misunderstood what had happened, assuming He had fainted, suffered a snake bite or a scorpion sting. Doctors, quacks and sorcerers, tried to diagnose and treat the condition which would happen again and again in the future, but remained totally puzzled.

On the fateful day of May 23rd, 1940, while Sathya was scattering gifts to the outstretched hands of those who came to Him, He declared, for the first time, that He was Sai Baba, the saint of Shirdi, come again, to save and uplift humanity from the calamity fast coming upon mankind. He also declared Thursday as His day for worship and asked all those close to Him to worship Him henceforth as Sathya Sai Baba.

He announced that He was, in fact, the reincarnation of Sai Baba of Shirdi the
revered saint who was born in Pathri, in the Aurangabad district, on September 27th, 1838. He was called “Babu” at birth, and in 1872, He settled in the town of Shirdi, where He caused a stir by worshipping one night in a Muslim mosque, and crossing over to worship at the Hindu temple the following night. In doing this He was demonstrating to both communities the unity of all religions. Much has been written of this noble saint who displayed a strength and strictness in His teachings. On October 15th, 1918, at 3.30am. and aged 80 years, Shirdi Baba, by which He is known, attained Samadhi (merging with the Absolute), having been born on a Muslim holy day in Ramzan, and leaving His body on a Hindu holy day in Vijayadasami, with the words, “Allah is removing the lamp that He lighted. Bury Me and go!” Forty years after His demise, Baba is reported to have appeared to a Roman Catholic nun, who was leaving the convent, with the Pope’s absolution. She was penniless and dispondent, when Shirdi Sai Baba appeared to her suddenly in her cloistered room, assuring her of a bright future in Calcutta! (The author has been unable to ascertain if the nun referred to was indeed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.)

Prior to His death He announced that He would reincarnate eight years later, in southern India, thus commencing the second of a triple incarnation, as Sathya Sai Baba.

It is now known that the third and final Sai incarnation, will be eight years after the present Sai departs His body in 2022, aged 96 years. He will then be called Prema Sai, (Prema means Love), and will be born in the Mandya District, in the village of Gunaparthi, on the banks of the river Canvery, Karnataka.

Incidentally, many Sai devotees have wondered who would take over the running of the ashrams when Sathya Sai departs His body. The answer to this question goes
all the way back to the great spiritual teacher of Advaita-Vedanta, Parahamsa Ramakrishna. One of his star pupils, by the name of Narendra, had been given the new name of Vivekananda by Ramakrishna. Vivekananda died at the age of 39, in 1902, and was reborn in Kuttipuram, Sri Lanka. In this new form he has visited Sathya Sai many times. Swami said to him, “I have been waiting for you for 85 years”; meaning while in His Shirdi Sai body. Baba asked him to take over the ashram when He departs in 2022.

“I am no longer your Sathya,” He stated to a small gathering of His school friends outside the His brother Seshama's home, where He stayed while attending the school. “I am Sai,” He said, casting aside His books. His sister-in-law, upon hearing excited voices, peered outside and was almost blinded by the light of a halo that surrounded Baba's head. She shrieked and covered her eyes. Addressing her Baba said, “I don’t belong to you; Maya (illusion) has gone; My bhakthas (devotees) are calling Me; I have My work; I can't stay any longer.” Saying this He turned and left in spite of her pleadings. Baba's brother who was a teacher at the school, hurried home on being told what was happening, and Baba said to him, "Give up all your efforts to 'cure' Me; I am Sai; I do not consider Myself related to you." A neighbour also witnessed the blinding halo around Baba's head and fell at His feet

Baba's brother always felt a responsibility for Sathya, and was perplexed by this announcement from his fourteen year old brother, talking of Work, Maya, Bhakthas and the Philosophy of Beginning! Seshama insisted that Baba stay in the house until their parents arrived at Uravakonda, but Baba refused to re-enter the house, instead went and sat on a rock in the garden of a friend. Many people came from near and far with offerings of flowers and fruit, and singing together the bhajan (devotional song) that Sai Baba taught them. The first prayer He taught was the Call, which is still sung
today by devotees around the world.

Maanasa bhajare gurucharanam

Dusthara bhavasaagara tharanam

"Meditate in thy mind on the Feet of the Guru; that can take you across the difficult sea of Samsara."

Baba was sadly missed by His school friends, who felt that their guru was now beyond them, thinking that His company was hereafter only for those He showers His Grace upon. Many came to the little garden to worship Him, others to learn and, sadly, even to laugh!

Three days of bhajan singing and worship passed, and a photographer arrived to photograph the young "phenomenon"; he wanted the young Baba to remove a large stone that was in front of Him. Baba paid him no heed, but when the photo was processed, the stone had became the image of Sai Baba of Shirdi!

One evening, while those gathered sang bhajans, Baba suddenly said, "O, Maya has come!", indicating the arrival of His mother from His home village of Puttaparthi. Easwaramma pleaded with Him to return home with her, and wept at His retort, "Who belongs to whom?" She failed to shake His resolve. "It is all Maya," He repeated over and over. Later He asked the mother to serve Him some food, which she duly did, and these dishes were rolled up into a number of balls. Handing Him three of these, and eating them, Baba stated, "Yes. Now Maya (illusion) has left. There is no need to worry." A few days later He left with His parents for home.

Sathya Sai Baba's father, Peddavenkapa Raju, remained doubtful of his Son's proclaimed Divinity, so the first thing Baba did was to give His parents a vision of Sai Baba of Shirdi. After that, miracles of various kinds were a daily occurrence, and devotees started pouring into the tiny village. A prayer hall was now needed to
accommodate the visitors, and this was built in 1944 and became known as Paatha Mandir, the Old Temple, later to be converted into a memorial to Peddavenkapa Raju. So isolated was the village of Puttaparthi, that when the Recruiting Officer came there in his jeep, for Baba's Dharshan, that it was the first time a self-propelled vehicle was seen by the villagers!

* Arathi: Offering a flame before one's guru or deity. *Lingam: Egg-shaped symbol of the Absolute
Chapter Two

Nothing could have prepared the people of little Puttaparthi for all that was now to happen. The next fifty years would see a glorious expansion of this village, not just a physical one but also a spiritual explosion.

This was now the beginning of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s mission. A mission that has never before been equalled in the annals of history. This event parallels a similar event that occurred, in the middle east, two-thousand years ago, involving another young man, who also proclaimed a mission of universal importance. His name was Jesus. Both young men being born into humble households in unknown villages. Whereas Sai Baba is presently widely known through the world, aided by books, and the media in general, Jesus' mission, which lasted only three years, was known only within the East Mediterranean area. However, both taught the same Divine principals; Peace, Love, Unity. The worshipping of the one God; love your neighbour as yourself; the equality of all religions; reminding man of his Divine origin,-are some of the similar teachings of both these men of God.

Within six years the Mandir would be outgrown with the large number of devotees converging on Puttaparthi each day, making it inadequate for its purpose. A beautiful new Mandir was inaugurated, by Sathya Sai Baba, on the fringe of the village, which was named Prasanthi Nilayam - the Abode of Supreme Peace!

This Abode gradually drew to itself, like a magnet, people of all nations, and religions. Baba's fame not only spread throughout India, but eventually far beyond its shores. His teachings touched a chord in the hearts of spiritual seekers everywhere, and His miracles of materialisations and healings, attracted the attention of the curious. To the latter He would invite with the words, "Come, test, enquire, taste,
experience."

Sathya Sai Baba teaches that the basic nature of mankind is Divine, and that the purpose of life is to realise that Divinity within us. This is achieved through leading a moral life, rendering selfless service to those in need and developing love and respect for all forms of life. He encourages us to practise the fundamental principles that form the basis of all the world’s major religions: **Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love, and Non-Violence.** These are human qualities which should be practised in our daily lives, inspiring others with our example.

Sai Baba has stated that He has not come to establish a new religion, or cult, or to direct people towards any particular religion. Indeed, He encourages those attracted to His teachings "to continue worshipping along lines already familiar to you". He further states, "Let the different faiths exist, let them flourish, and let the glory of God be sung in all languages and in a variety of tunes. That should be the ideal. Respect the differences between the faiths and recognise them as valid as long as they do not extinguish the flame of unity. If each person lives the ideals propounded by the founders of his religion, unaffected by greed or hate, then the world will be a happy and peaceful habitation for man." He also stated, "All religions are facets of the same Truth."

At the commencement of His mission, Baba said that in His life, the first 16 years would be marked by leelas (play), the next 16 years, by miracles. The rest of His earthly life by Upadesam, (impacting spiritual knowledge). That is not to say that the first two would by absent in the latter stage.

This combination of merriment and miracles was well illustrated with an incident that took place on a journey He took with a party of devotees, by bullock carts, to Uravakonda. While He occasionally left His followers for moments of solitude in the
hills and dales, He was prone to practical jokes and fun from time to time. Baba
Himself recounts this particular event, even today, with great humour. It was night,
and Baba and a group of young men were walking behind the bullock carts in the
moonlight. Unnoticed, He moved a few yards away from the group, hastening to the
cart in the lead position. There He appeared as a young girl of sixteen, tearfully
requesting a lift because her feet were sore, and that she was travelling to visit her
husband, an in-patient, at the Dharmavaram Hospital. The ladies in the cart took pity
on the unfortunate "girl" and allowed her onboard. After about a mile or so, Baba's
absence was discovered, and the convoy of carts were brought to a halt, while a
search ensued. They found Him just a few yards ahead of the leading cart. Some of
the older men dared to rebuke Him for His playfulness, in a strange place in the dark
of night! Resuming their journey only to discover that the "girl" was now missing.
Where had "she" gone? Perhaps, being anxious to be at "her" husband's bedside,
"she" ran ahead when the carts stopped. Some of the younger men ran to search the
road ahead, only to report that the road was empty for at least two miles. Believing
Baba would know the whereabouts of any missing person, they asked Him. Not
realising then, that the "girl" stood before them on the form of, Sai Baba!

The early devotees of Sai Baba, were blessed indeed. They witnessed so many
wonderful miracles, they cannot contain themselves today in describing those earlier
miracles they were privileged to witness. Be it materialising golden idols from the
sandy banks of the Chithravathi river, to challenging His followers to a race to the top
of the nearby hill, only for them to discover Him calling to them from the top, before
they had started! Or looking up from the sands, and seeing a huge form of Shirdi Sai
Baba, illuminated by a mysterious effulgence; some saw Baba's face inside the full-
moon; or the great ball of fire, like a sun, piercing the New Moon disc, making it
impossible to keep the eyes open. Some devotees fainted with shock.

From the time of His birth, Sai Baba has manifested a Divine Light, or aura, around Himself, especially around the head. This would be similar to those rays of light depicted by artists around the head of Jesus, and other saintly beings. These rays of light have been seen in a variety of colours, by those present at Darshan. One expert in the science of biomagnetic field radiation, -the science that studies the aura phenomenon, Dr. Frank G. Baranowski, of the University of Arizona, has given over 9,000 lectures on the subject around the world. His is aided with the use of Kirlian photography, which records auric emanations being given off by human and inanimate objects. Dr. Baranowski has suggested that scientists have photographed five different types of auras; physical, psychical, moral, spiritual and intellectual, and all are effected by the various emotional states of a person, turning into various hues as the emotions change. While not a devotee of Sathya Sai Baba he did travel to see Him in India, and while he has seen many auras of saintly people, as well as those of Queens, and Presidents, he said that he never seen such an aura that emanated from Baba. To quote him, “The aura that Swami (Baba) projected was not that of a man! The white was more than twice the size of any man’s; the blue was practically limitless; and then there were gold and silver bands beyond even these, right up to the horizon. There is no scientific explanation for this phenomenon… I am a Christian, born a Roman Catholic. The scientific community in my country finds it difficult to accept a god. It is not scientific, they assert. I am risking my reputation when I make this statement: two days ago… I looked into His Eyes. They have a glow inside them. It was clear to me that I had looked into the Face of Divinity!”

Referring to His healing powers, Baba said, “The miracles belong to the boundless power of God...As an Avatar, this power is intrinsic, inherent, total and
natural to My Will and Decision...This healing phenomenon has a dual aspect. I can cure, save, even resurrect people, provided they are in a spiritually receptive condition. It is like the positive and negative currents of electricity. My capacity to heal can be compared to the current. Your devotion to Me is the negative current. Once the two come together, the devotion provides what is called the miracle of healing.”

The reference to Avatars (which means an incarnation of God into physical form, or God in man), requires some explanation and how they differ from sages, saints, etc.

The key difference between a saint and an Avatar, is that the Avatar is born with the innate knowledge of His Divinity and the full powers He brings with Him, while the saint, sage or yogi must undergo various spiritual disciplines to attain the “siddhis” or spiritual powers. There have been only one Poorna (total) Avatars, before Sathya Sai Baba; the Lord Krishna, 5,000 years ago. Also, the Poorna Avatar is recognised by the full compliments of sixteen attributes, or Divine facets, while Rama, who lived 11,000 years ago, had only twelve but acquired three during His lifetime. This is not intended to down-grade great spiritual Beings like Jesus Christ, or any of the many spiritual Teachers throughout the ages.

Saints and sages, as stated, acquire certain powers by the practice of a type of Yoga, called siddhis, requiring rigorous discipline and spiritual exercises over many years. These “gifts” are acquired as a by-product of their sincere God-ward quests, which are psychic powers like clairvoyance, healing, tele-portionation, and so forth.

Being fully aware of our past, present and future, Sai Baba is conscious of the Karmic Debts from past lives, and may postpone a healing to allow the individual to learn the necessary lessons to bring balance back into his/her life before healing can
take place. As He explains. “I have to calculate the potentialities, the retribution they
deserve the use or misuse they will make of additional faculties and capabilities...You
might say that the Karma of previous births has to be consumed in this life, and that
no amount of Grace can save you from that. Evidently, someone has taught you to
believe so. But I assure you, you need not suffer from Karma like that...Grace is like
the morphine; the pain is not felt though you go through it.”

Sathya Sai Baba concludes by saying, "My miracles are My calling cards, I give
the people what they want so that they will give Me what I want; their love of God."
So there is a purpose behind His miraculous acts; that they will stay and listen to His
teachings.

It was in the early 1980’s that Sathya Sai Baba called a small group of devotees
together. They were special devotees. Highly evolved individuals who had been
seeking to go deeper into their spiritual quests.

Baba instructed them to go to the sacred Himalayan mountains near the Holy
Shrine of Badrinath, to worship and “practice the highest form of meditation that
leads to trance and connects you with the Atmic Principle.”

Most of the group of eleven were in their 30’s and had come from exceedingly
wealthy backgrounds. They were totally into the spiritual life, and as per Baba’s
instructions, they made arrangements for their family and heirs, as they were giving
up all worldly possessions and attachments. Two who had been called to this new
state, were already advanced in age and in their spirituality.

Sathya Sai Baba gave them a gift of a large urn, or vessel, called the “Akshaya
Patra”, which means the “never-declining, and ever-full” vessel. (Swami was born in
the Hindu year called “Akshaya”, and He too is “never-declining, and ever-full.”) The
urn was so-called because it spontaneously manifested all manner of food, fruits,
milk, Prasad, etc., to sustain His chosen eleven! As Jesus said, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven, and all things will be added unto you!”

Upon giving them the vessel, Swami told them, “Whenever I notice that you are hungry, the necessary food required by you will automatically appear in the container under My Divine Will.”

Sai Baba has appeared physically to them, initially every month, to give them personal Guidance and Direction. He now visits about every six months or so, and all His visits are clear examples of His Omnipresence; being seen by His devotees in the south of India, while also being in the Gufa Cave in northern India! It has been, after all, prophesised that the Avatar of this Age will “roam all over the Earth, adored by spiritual people.”

It is said that these Cave devotees, are frequently visited by saints and sages who live their lives roaming through the Himalayas. Some are reportedly hundreds of years old, while at least one is close to 1000 years old! They come to partake of the vessel’s Prasad and all have made reference to the great blessings this group of eleven have with Swami’s personal spiritual guidance whenever they need it, while these sages bemoan the fact that they themselves are not permitted close proximity to Swami.

As one sage said, “Those who have the good luck of having Darshan of God Incarnate, receiving His Grace and getting their daily food from the Prasad Patra given by Him, are really fortunate. So far as we (the sages) are concerned, the Avatar does not allow us even His (physical) proximity.”

Another sage has said, also, “Yes, Lord Shiva has descended on Earth in the form of Sai Baba, but what is surprising is that the Avatar is not allowing us, -the Siddhas (God-realised souls), anywhere near Him.”
How fortunate some of His devotees are to be able to have His Darshan, and have private interviews, while saints and sages are kept at a distance!

Finally, when Devaraha Baba, who is reportedly 450 years old, was asked about Sai Baba, he replied, “He is Parabraham Incarnate, (the Universal Absolute: God)...

It is not proper to tell such things unless they are specially asked for. There has to be a real seeker first. Besides, there is another important reason. The Lord Incarnate has strictly forbidden the Siddhas to mention this fact to anyone. As such we cannot even discuss this matter amongst ourselves. This mystery about the Incarnation of Bhagavan Sainath (meaning ‘Blessed Lord Sai’), can be discussed briefly only in the company of the highly realised Sadhakas (saints), who are really inquisitive...The time is not far off when seers, sages and saints, from all over the country, will assemble in Puttaparthi to receive the blessings of the Lord Incarnate.”

Of this, Sai Baba has said, “The time has not yet come.”

Sathya Sai Baba's fame was beginning to spread far and wide, by the stories of His miracles, acts which science cannot explain and which transcend physical laws. Thousands are wonderstruck upon seeing Him materialising objects, and the creation of Vibhuti, the sacred ash. With the circular movement of His hand Baba produces an ash, grey in colour and scented, which is considered sacred. This flows from His palm or from between His fingers and is a spiritual and physical aid for those to whom He presents it. It is a healing agent. Or changing the forms of objects like rings and medallions, from one metal into another, by simply blowing on it! All these are done, He says, “By an act of will.” He is known to have healed the sick, of all serious conditions. He has protected from harm those who have called for His help, no matter how distant they may be from Him. He has appeared in physical form in
several places at the same time, even to those who had never heard of Him at the
time, only to be told of the incidents by Him, many years later. There are, also, many
documented cases of Him raising people from the dead.

However, He has said, “You have come to get from Me tinsel and trash, the petty
cures and promotions, worldly joys and comforts. Very few of you desire to get from
Me the thing I have come to give you, namely Liberation itself!”

It can surely be said that His greatest miracles are the transformation of people
who come to Him, with doubts and apprehensions, and who leave with love in their
hearts, peace in their minds, and a resolve to lead a more useful and spiritual life.

Sai Baba recently related the story of a Muslim classmate who sadly fell into evil
ways as the result of becoming a morphia addict. He underwent a tremendous
transformation as a result of his faith in Sai. This young Muslim boy was fond of Sai
Baba and would call Him 'Raju', like the other classmates. When Baba left school, the
boy continued his studies and later worked in an insurance company. But his wife
died, and he slipped into depression, turning to morphia injections to ease the pain of
his loss. In time, he had to sell his property to help feed his addiction and the whole
family became utterly destitute. It was at this lowest point that a miracle occurred. He
happened to be passing a house where a Sai group of devotees were singing bhajans,
and it brought back the memory of his boyhood friend Raju. He thought that perhaps
Sathya Sai would deliver him from utter ruin, and pledged to Baba to abstain from
injections for three days, with faith and hope that Sai would rid him of his addiction.
He struggled for two days in extreme agony and on the third fell into a deep sleep at
midnight. He awoke in the morning to acclaim that Baba had visited him and that he
felt good and released from his ailments, both mental and physical. "My God has
saved me. Sai Baba is my God." From that moment his life changed. His
circumstances improved, and this muslim openly proclaimed: "I see my Allah in Sai. He is my omnipotent God."

Baba has, however, cautioned people against placing too much importance to miracles, when He stated, "Do not give importance to miracles. Do not exaggerate their significance. The greatness of My power does not reside in these miracles, it consists only in My Love. It is true, I can change heaven into earth, and earth into heaven. But Divine Power does not fritter itself thus to reveal itself. It is only for the sake of love that Divinity descends as an Avatar. All the ostensible miracles are only droplets of that Ocean of Love. Do not be dazzled by the droplets. Recognise the ocean and come to dip yourselves therein."

On another occasion Baba said, "It is foolish for people to think that I am just a man of miracles and no more. The kind of feeling which an elephant gets when a mosquito lands on its body is exactly like what miracles are for Me. These miracles have an insignificant place in My totality. Sometimes I feel like laughing at the ignorance of people when they attach importance to My miracles. People talk of only such small things and forget the much bigger aspects in Me."

St. Thomas Aquinas said, "Only God can perform miracles," underlining the Divine origin of miracles, equally Jesus did not attribute much importance to His "signs", as He referred to them.

Baba has demonstrated His power over the natural forces on many occasions. Heavy rain miraculously dispersed, over a darshan gathering of several thousand people, allowing the sun to shine upon them, while rain continued its downpour outside the ashram area. This was Swami's way of caring for His flock. On another occasion producing a vertical rainbow for a unbelieving American! And retreating the flood waters of the Chitravathi river, which threatened to flood the village of
Puttaparthi, and countless other delightful miracles documented over the years by His biographers.

These extraordinary incidences occur with regularity, and are witnessed daily by many thousands of devotees present at the gatherings. The writer witnessed two healings while staying in Prasanthi Nilayam, and materialisations. Anybody may see and verify such incidents, for themselves, by direct observation.

Possession of a materialised gift from Baba, be it a ring, necklace, watch, or any precious object He might present one with, it acts as a talisman and can speed up rescue in the event of an accident, although, He states, this is not necessarily so.

"One does not have to have a feeling that Swami will protect and bestow His grace only through such talisman," Baba said. "That is not correct, either. The meaning is that if the wearer of this talisman is in difficulties or danger, then this talisman immediately flashes and in one flash brings the news to Me. Similarly in a split second it flashes My grace back to the wearer, which will avert the danger or disaster to the wearer. There is a Divine Secret which exists in the talisman and that is the reason for wearing them."

Before a large gathering, at a Christmas Day discourse in 1996, Sai Baba spoke of Jesus and His mission two thousand years ago. "Scholars started investigating the validity of the statement made by Jesus Christ, 'I and My Father are One.' They collected all knowledge that existed prior to 1,530 years. All that was compiled in one book in England. Russians made it into a small tiny book. This is that book."

With that He materialised a small leather-bound book with threads as page markers, and held it between His thumb and forefinger, for the congregation to see. "This is the book, the Bible. These are the pages in it. You find the cross there on the book. This also proved the procedure to establish synthesis of all religions. Some of the details of
Christ's life found here are not recorded in the Bible. This is the true story of Jesus. It is not given to everybody to know His divinity. To know His divinity we should develop divine thoughts. Here you find the book mark thread. Every thread marks the text of a particular religion.

The most important Sloka of Bhagawat Gita is present here in this book mark. The essence of all religions is one. Surrender is the main duty of everyone. Surrender means the feeling of oneness, 'I and God are One.' Why? The reason is, who that is present in you is present in me. Only bodies are different. Bulbs are different in wattage and colours. But the current is one. This book contains that important dictum of oneness that runs through all religions."

When those present wanted to inspect the tiny Bible close-up, they found it had been teleported back from whence it came, only a few moments earlier, to its hiding place in Southern Russia.
Chapter Three

The subject of reincarnation has beset those of the Christian faith for centuries. Whereas Eastern cultures and religions, have no problem in accepting this philosophy and making it a part of their lives. As one 13th century Persian mystic once wrote;

"A stone I died and rose again a plant.
A plant I died and rose an animal.
I died an animal and was born a man."

It seems surprising that one can accept the teaching of Life After Death, but find it impossible to accept that we had lives before this life! Reincarnation, when properly understood, will appear as a supplement to the principal of Evolution. Evolution explains the process of life, while Reincarnation explains the purpose of life. It is man’s purpose to build his spiritual body, by bringing harmony and balance back into that body. Man, in his seeking is also creating the chaos which is the discord within himself, his variance with those laws, his opposition to those laws, that are guiding him. He is not a victim of circumstances. He is a Divine project, within him the Divine Spark, the manifestation in matter of God. One of these laws is the Law of Nature, which drives the soul into and out of gross matter like the tide of the ocean, rising and ebbing, back and forth, in harmony and rhythm. Within this Law, this timeless rhythm, we evolve and unless we are willing to go in and out of dense matter we will never learn to transcend matter. When man establishes one life, he is creating the next. As Sai Baba said, we are today the result of the life we created yesterday. The life we live today dictates the shape of life we will live tomorrow.

The Bhagavad Gita stated, for example, "The soul is never born and never dies; it was not born and will not be reborn; without birth, without end, eternal, ancient, it is not killed when the body in which it lives is killed. Just as one casts off old clothes in
order to put on new clothes; so the soul casts off bodies in order to take on new ones."

Sathya Sai Baba brings us back to the fundamental reality, when He says; "What is man's journey? Where is he going? Why is he continuously reborn? In order to seek the right path and knowledge of truth. What road should one seek? You should return whence you have come. That is seeking. You have come from the Divine Essence, from God, and you must return to Him." Sai Baba also states, "This is the reason why man is said to be the zenith of creation. This is the purpose for which he has struggled through stone and grass, tree, bird and beast. Hence, man should not fritter away the precious prize he has won; he should not slide back into the beast; he must move forward into Divinity". He continued, "Each of you has struggled upwards from the stone to plant, from plant to animal, from animal to man! Do not slide back into the beast; rise higher to Divinity, shining with the new effulgence of Love."

Also,"You have earned the human body by accumulated merit of many lives as inferior beings and it is indeed very foolish to fritter away this precious opportunity in activities that are natural only to those inferior beings." And finally, "Do not expect to find happiness in the other world; that world too is impermanent. Once you have exhausted your merits, you will again be cast out of it. Even in politics, candidates are elected for a term that expires after five years. Each year that passes shortens the right he earned through the election. In the same way, the duration of your 'paradise' will depend upon your merits. When these are used up, you will have to return to the earth."

Man cannot make spiritual growth beyond the growth he has made on earth. It is the lower ego which is chaining you and preventing you from going into pure Spirit. In all the universe there is no other planet which has human life, or a similar life
form. Rebirth can never be on other planets or regions of this vast universe, only upon Earth. Rebirth is unique and limited to this Earth. While man is on earth he is always striving for balance, but when man has succeeded in doing this, it will help him go into a higher strata of the Astral planes, when he passes over into Spirit. That is not to say he will not have lost those preconceptions he holds to on earth, for as he builds on earth, so will he build in Spirit, meaning, should he not accept the philosophy of Reincarnation on earth, neither will he accept it when he passes into Spirit. Equally, strongly held religious beliefs are retained by man.

One's re-entry back into earth is determined by the Law of Karma, otherwise known as the Law of Cause and Effect; i.e. "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." Karma is action, and in effect, the working out of that Law, placing into balance that which had been put out of balance. It is also man's way of transmuting evil (distorted consciousness), into Divine Consciousness.

Since man accrues Karma through experience one cannot call him a sinner, as he cannot acquire Karma in ignorance, but it is when he changes his mind and sees through the eyes of the dawning consciousness within, that the discord comes and Karma is brought into birth. Strictly speaking, Karma is not punishment, but putting the scales back into balance. So, one cannot say that Karma is bad or good, it's really the working out of strengths and weaknesses with which we are born, and which assure success or lead to failure, and are related to the way we lived previous lives.

Sathya Sai Baba, stated in 1981, in a discourse entitled "Vidya Vahini", the following confirmation on Reincarnation; "The inescapable destiny of every living being is the attainment of Fullness. By no means can it be avoided or denied. Our present condition of incompleteness is the consequence of our activities during previous lives. That is to say, the thoughts, feelings, passions and acts of past lives
have caused the condition in which we are at present. So too, our future condition is being built on the basis of our present deeds and desires, thoughts and feelings. In other words, we ourselves are the cause of our fortunes and misfortunes. This does not mean that one should not seek and secure assistance from others for promoting the good fortune and avoiding the misfortune. Why? Such assistance is very essential for all, except perhaps for a small minority. When one gets this help, one's powers are heightened to supreme levels, one's Consciousness is purified and sublimated, and one's spiritual progress is accelerated. In the end, one achieves perfection and fullness."

It has been accepted by most authors on the subject of Reincarnation that the early Christian church lived by its principal, as documented in the acts of the Fifth Ecumenical Council, also called the Second Council of Constantinople. It had also been a fundamental concept of the Egyptian Hermatic and Gnostic mystery schools, of Persian Mithraism, of Alexandrian Neoplatonic theology and of the Jewish Kabalists. The Magi, who were the first to see the child Jesus, and were Persian disciples of Zoroaster, considered reincarnation to be the tenet of their faith. All these schools taught the immortality of the soul and the mortality of the physical body. One may ask if Jesus ever referred to reincarnation, indeed there have been a number of references to it. "And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, 'Tell no one the vision until the Son of man is risen from the dead.' And the disciples asked Him, 'Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?' He replied, 'Elijah does come, and he is to restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not know him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of man will suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that He was speaking to them of John the Baptist." He further said, "This was he of whom I
John the Baptist was formerly Elijah, while Jesus was Elisha. When John denied he was Elijah, he meant that he, John, was no longer the great soul, Elijah. "...and he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him...The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha". The role was reversed. Jesus twice identified Elijah as John. (It is important to distinguish the names; Elijah and his disciple Elisha is Old Testament spelling, while Elias and Eliseus, is by the Greek translators for the New Testament).

Origen, an Egyptian from Alexandria, and an early Christian theologian of the 3rd century, was a well-known author and one of the principal proponents of Reincarnation, taught that "the soul experiences successive lives until eventually it is fit to enter heaven." He wrote; "Those who need bodies take them on, and when fallen souls have raised themselves to higher things, their bodies are again destroyed. In this way they disappear and reappear continuously."

Around the time of the Second Council, in 553 A.D., the church felt their first priority was to uproot the so-called heresies within church teachings. It is worth noting that while the Pope was staying in Constantinople at the time, he was absent from this Council. The voting was not unanimous, being split in the proportion of 3 to 2. It was at that time that the Emperor Justinian saw himself as head of the church, and being vested with both theological and ecclesiastical learning and authority. He deferred to his wife Theodora for advice and guidance; she had a great influence on his life and decisions, and this resulted in his regular intervention in church affairs. Theodora's origins are rather shady, having come from a humble family, she became a dancer and was considered a rather free soul! It is suggested, because of her past life, that she wanted the Law of Reincarnation cancelled, thus avoiding its consequences. A word by the Emperor in the Church's ear, was sufficient for it to eradicate all of
Origen’s teachings and other doctrines of the early Church, including those of St. Gregory of Nazianzus, who was bishop of Constantinople in the 4th century A.D. He asserted that those who accepted Reincarnation were in agreement with the doctrine of the Resurrection. He also said that the two were united in their conviction that “the body, whether now or in the future, is composed of the atoms of the universe.” It is sad to conclude that such excisions were foisted upon the Church and laity, by those who believed they could avoid the consequences of their actions by simply cancelling the Law!

Let us consider, finally, the words of St. Augustine, who said; "The very thing which is now called the 'Christian' religion, really was known to the ancients, nor was it wanting at any time, from the beginning of the human race, up to the time Christ came in the flesh; from which time the true religion which had previously existed, began to be called 'Christian', and this, in our days, is the Christian religion, nor as having been wanting in former times, but as having, in later times, received that name."
Chapter Four

Have you ever wondered why, when so much has been written about Jesus's three year mission with His disciples, while we have nothing about Him from the age of about twelve, when He seems to have walked in the mists of time, and disappear, only to re-appear twenty years later, on the banks of the river Jordan to be baptised by His cousin, John the Baptist? It's not surprising John did not recognise Jesus on that occasion, as they had not seen each other since childhood.

We have only the few words of Luke 2:52, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man.”

This enormous gap in Jesus's life makes Him all the more interesting a figure because of these omissions, and makes the quest for more information about the most important Being on this earth for the last two thousand years, that much more vital. Never-the-less, a great deal has been written over the years, about Jesus's lost years, and are available from equally credible sources.

Sathya Sai Baba has spoken of Jesus on many occasions, particularly at His Christmas discourses, in Prasanthi Nilayam, when many Christians and members of other faiths, gather from all parts of the world, to commemorate Jesus' birthday. Sai Baba has said that Christmas is not celebrated anywhere in the world like the way it is in Prasanthi. Over-eating or drinking, has no place at this blessed event; this birth of a Christed Being. Baba spoke of Jesus at a Christmas Day discourse in 1976, “He (Jesus) came to propagate the Omnipresence of God and His Might and Glory. Mary is the symbolic representative of the heart of man. Christ is the Joy principal that arises in the heart. That is the reason why the idea of immaculate conception is laid down. That is the reason also why Mary is pictured with the Child Jesus on her lap.” At this point of the discourse, Swami materialised a medal with Mary and Jesus
on one side, and Joseph on the reverse. This was handed around for those present to admire and touch. The Divine Mother represents the gentler qualities of human nature, much needed in the world today. He went on to state, “What the Christmas story signifies is this: There was a huge aura of splendour illuminating the sky over the village where Christ was born. This meant He who was to overcome the darkness of evil and ignorance, had taken birth, that He would spread the Light of Love in the hearts of men and the councils of humanity. Appearances of splendour or of other signs of the era that has dawned are natural when Incarnations happen on Earth. Jesus was to shatter the darkness that had enveloped the world and the Aura of Light was a sign that announced the event...”

Sai Baba stated at a Christmas Day discourse in 1979, that Jesus was born at 3.15 am. on December 28th, and it was a Sunday, in Bethlehem. “The star which appeared that day appeared only once in 800 years. Its appearance had nothing to do with the birth of Jesus. There is no rule that when Divine Energy or Divine Incarnation, descends on Earth, a star has to appear. That’s the opinion of devotees only. But Jesus was a Star of infinite value, spreading brilliance of infinite dimension. Why posit another less brilliant glow?”

The Romans celebrated December 25th, every year, as the birthday of Mithra, who was worshipped by them as the saviour of mankind; the festival was called Dies Natalis Invicti, or the birthday of the unconquered. When the Romans adopted Christianity, they converted the Mithra festival into the Christian festival of Christmas.

Jesus was the first born to Mary, who later had three other sons and several daughters. Although He is known today as Jesus, His parents called Him by the common name of Yeshi’a (Joshua) meaning “help of the Yahveh.” Later the Greeks
Sai Baba says that Jesus had "the wisdom of the Word" by the time they returned from Egypt, at the age of thirteen, and was taken in by the Essenes, the tribe of Hebrews who lived by the Vedic prescriptions and laws of Ashrama. Jesus the Nazarene means "Jesus the convert." According to Judaic laws, anyone who converts away from the Chosen People becomes a Gentile (Sudra). Jesus never called Himself a Nazarene. He never denied His God. He knew He was the Christ. Jesus left home around the age of betrothal, usually after the age of thirteen, as He attracted the attention of wealthy merchants, who saw this well-informed youth as a suitable suitor for their daughters. He chose instead to leave home and travel, before such an arrangement could be made. His mother, Mary, sold many household possessions to help Him on His journey East by merchant’s train. He travelled through Persia, on route to the Sindh area, in Western India, travelling almost penniless, and eating just one meal a day, arriving there in His fourteenth year, clothed in a loin cloth or dothi, much like He wore on the cross. His fame spread, according to legend, amongst the Jains, a 500 years old religious group, founded by a young noble-man named Varadhamana, dedicated to non-violence, peace and love, and practising celibacy and vegetarianism, as well as doing good for the poor. Where other religions, including Judaism at that time, practised the sacrificing of animals, the Jains taught that it was the animal qualities within man which should be sacrificed, not animal life itself. The young Jesus, now referred to as Issa, was being taught to look at worshipping and perceiving God, in another way, than that which He was familiar with in His homeland. (Sai Baba said the name should be correctly spelled "Isa", as in India the Master was known as Isa which when rearranged is Sai. Isa and Sai both mean "Isvara", God the Eternal Absolute. So for accuracy, we shall use this spelling). The
Jains will not injure any form of life, indeed they would wear masks and sweep the floor in front of them as they walked, lest they would kill any insect. He stayed awhile to study with them before moving on to Puri, to visit the temple of Jagannath, a Hindu temple carved out of solid rock-face.

Later, as a young yogi, Isa/Jesus went to the ancient city of Benares, known then as Varanasi, the centre of Hindu learning 2000 years ago, and to Rajhriha, the centre of Buddhist learning. In these holy cities, Isa continued His studies as a Buddhist or Hindu monk, assimilating their teachings, which is why there are similarities between His later teachings and those of Hinduism and Buddhism. It is written that Isa was a great yogi, meaning that He was adept in the science of Raja Yoga, and becoming well established in that state of higher inner meditation and super-consciousness. Raja Yoga is also called Astanga Yoga or Patanjali’s Yoga having the eight states of discipline, the ultimate being the state of Samadhi. Because Isa was a master of this science, all the miracles He performed in public were the result of attaining these yogic levels, these higher states which are called Siddhis. These powers are acquired over a long learning period, resulting in one having control over the internal as well as external nature. One acquires control over the elements as well as control over life and death. That which is impossible to the ordinary human, is possible to such a master. Although Isa/Jesus can be referred to as an Avatar, He did not have the full attributes of One such as Krishna and now Sathya Sai Baba, who are born with the full 16 Kalas, or attributes. None-the-less, Jesus was a major Avatar.

Sathya Sai Baba referred to Jesus Christ, on many occasions, corroborating the journey which, legend says, Isa took. He said, “At all times Jesus Christ had a mind which was pure and which was unwavering and selfless. All the work He did was dedicated to the good of the world. In the early days He used to proclaim Himself as
a Messenger of God and would say He had come to serve all the peoples of the world.

“While calling Himself the Messenger of God, He conducted Himself as the servant of the people and for twelve years, He was found in meditation. As a result of His meditation He proclaimed Himself as Son of God. He was moving closer to God.

“He spent five years in the Himalayan regions of India. After coming to India and practising spiritual disciplines He proclaimed, ‘I and My Father are One.’

“After experiencing this identity with the Father, and proclaiming Himself One, identical with the Father, He returned to His own country.”

As I stated earlier there is nothing about Jesus in the Bible from the age of twelve years, to the time He was baptised by John the Baptist, at the River Jordan.

Traditionally it is understood that Jesus became Christed at this baptismal event by the Jordan, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove.

However, other sources, including Sathya Sai Baba, state that Jesus attained Christ consciousness at the age of 26, when He became known as "Yesu", meaning I am He - He and I are One in Sanskrit. Returning home to Israel through Tibet, Afganistan, Persia, and areas of southern Russia, and arriving when He was about thirty years old. Tiberius Caesar had reigned for fifteen years by this time, and Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, while Herod was tetrarch of Galilee.

Great changes had taken place since His departure almost twenty years earlier. Jesus commenced His ministry in a land torn apart by strife and high Roman taxes levied on every household, to support the Roman garrisons and strongholds in His homeland.

Jesus never felt in any danger from His own people, but the same couldn't be said
of the Romans, as it was unsafe to teach in that land ruled by Roman terror. The Roman cure for any suspects of rebellion was to seize them, flay them alive, or crucify them. It was a time of unrest, and as in all such times in history, spies and traitors were plentiful, with reports of anything suspicious, like large gatherings, being speedily reported back to the authorities. It wasn't too long before Jesus attracted the same attention because of the crowds who gathered to hear His spiritual message.

On the occasion of the Last Supper, it is written that Jesus changed the bread and wine into His body and blood; this is called Transubstantiation, the most reverential point of the Mass. Sai Baba explains the true meaning of this incident as follows, "Jesus said that the bread taken in the Last Supper was His flesh and the wine was His blood. He meant that all beings alive with flesh and blood are to be treated as He Himself and no distinction should be made between friend or foe, we or they. Everybody is His body, sustained by the bread: every drop of blood flowing in the veins of every living being is His, animated by the activity that the wine imparted to it. That is to say, every man and woman is Divine and has to be revered as such."

When the end came for Jesus, He was examined and judged by Pontius Pilate the Roman governor, on the evidence of spies. Taken by His Roman accusers, Jesus was tortured and starved for seven days, according to Sai Baba, prior to the crucifixion. In this weakened state He was forced to drag the cross the long distance to the site of execution, collapsing with exhaustion many times along the way.

The site itself was of hard rocky ground, making it impossible to dig holes to contain the crosses of those to be executed by crucifixion, in that place called Golgotha; the place of the skull. It has always been my understanding that the Romans had constructed an elaborate permanent trellis structure on which the crosses
were hung by way of a hole on top of the cross, onto a stout iron nail. Sai Baba attested to this, and to the fact that Jesus did not feel any pain on the cross.

There the crucified victim was to hang in the heat of the day, or perhaps several days, and die of suffocation. When Jesus ‘died’ at five o’clock, on that fateful day, the skies darkened, thunder and earthquakes arose, as if heralding the departure of a Great Spirit from the Earth.

Where the New Testament is our chief source of information about the life of Jesus, there are other versions of the crucifixion, which differ widely from the traditional Testament. For example, manuscripts found in Nag Hammadi, Egypt, inform us that Jesus said, \textit{I did not succumb to them as they had planned. I did not die in reality but in appearance, and it was another who drank the gall and the vinegar. It was another, Simon, who bore the cross on his shoulder. It was another upon whom they placed the crown of thorns. I was laughing at their ignorance.}

Sai Baba has said that Jesus did not die, but slipped into a comatose state. To the Roman soldiers He would have appeared dead, and consequently they did not break His legs to induce death, as was the procedure for dispatching the unfortunates.

The most momentous question now arises; had Jesus not died on the cross, then we must assume He survived to live on into old age. A few brave writers agreed that Jesus survived the crucifixion, running counter to the traditional Christian belief. They suffered for their convictions. So much for freedom of faith!

At this juncture I would like to refer to an anecdote, involving Sathya Sai Baba, told by a New Zealand lady called Barbara McMalley;

\textit{I had gone to Puttaparthi with a friend from New Zealand. We both supported and encouraged each other, since it was our first visit to India. While I was happy with everything, my friend had been very much caught up in the suffering of Christ.}
She had with her two items she hoped Baba would bless for her, a crucifix and a black and white photo of the image of Christ from the Turin Shroud. Daily we would attend Darshan (audience with the Master), and on one occasion, Sri Sathya Sai Baba stopped before us. He looked at the items held out to him for His blessing, and refused to accept the crucifix.

As I watched, spellbound, Sai Baba, with a lift and wave of His hand, drew the black and white image of Christ from the photo until there was nothing but a blank sheet of gloss photo paper. By the same token, he then drew up and through that blank sheet, just as if it were laid in a darkroom developing tray, the image to be seen today on the photograph; that of the risen Jesus Christ, in colour. A Christ whose eyes are haunting, so full of love and compassion are they.

With a blessing for the two women from New Zealand, the Baba went on His way.

Dr. John Hislop, (1904-1995) and author of “My Baba and I”, was walking with Sai Baba, one day, when Baba broke off two twigs from a bush, and placing them on His palm in the shape of a cross, asked Dr.Hislop what it was. “A cross, Swami” replied Hislop. Swami blew three times on the twigs, and instantly they changed into a crucifix about two inches long. Pointing to the silver figure of Christ, being only 7/8 of an inch in height, upon the cross, Baba stated, “This was how Jesus really was when He died”, and said that the wood was that of the original cross, and went on to state, “When I went to look for the wood, every particle of the cross had disintegrated and had returned to the elements. I reached out to the elements and reconstituted sufficient material for a small cross. Very seldom does Swami interfere with Nature, but occasionally, for a devotee, it will be done”. This should put a major question mark over the many claims that pieces of the True Cross continue to exist; here and
there throughout the world.

There are a number of books by Hindu and Muslim authors, which attest to the Risen Christ, that He did live and travel with His mother Mary, to India. One such book is worth considering in pursuing this study, "A Search for the Historical Jesus", by Prof. Fida Hassnain*. He quotes an ancient Hindu *sutra* of the Nath Yogis, known as "Natha-nama-vali", which gives a unique version of the crucifixion of Jesus.

*Isha Natha came to India at the age of fourteen. After this he returned to his own country and began preaching. Soon after, his brutish and materialistic countrymen conspired against him and had him crucified. After crucifixion, or perhaps even before it, Isha Natha (Jesus) entered samadhi or profound trance, by means of yoga.*

*Seeing him thus, the Jews presumed he was dead, and buried him in a tomb. At that very moment however, one of his gurus or teachers, the great Chetan Natha, happened to be in profound meditation, in the lower reaches of the Himalayas, and he saw in a vision the tortures which Isha Natha was undergoing. He therefore made his body lighter than air and passed over to the land of Israel.*

*The day of his arrival was marked with thunder and lightning, for the gods were angry with the Jews, and the whole world trembled. When Chetan Natha arrived, he took the body of Isha Natha from the tomb, woke him (Jesus) from his samadhi, and later led him off to the sacred land of the Aryans. Isah Natha then established an ashram in the lower regions of the Himalays and he established the cult of the lingam (egg-shaped symbol of the Absolute) and the yoni there.*

Since Jesus belonged to the East, with its Eastern traditions, such writings should not be dismissed, and could be as important as traditional Christian Gospels.

An Essene source tells us; *Joseph and Nicodemus examined the body of Jesus,*
and Nicodemus greatly moved drew Joseph aside and said to him: “As sure as is my knowledge of life and nature, so sure is it possible to save him”. After this, according to the prescriptions of medical art, they slowly untied his bonds, drew the spikes out and with great care laid him on the ground. Thereupon, Nicodemus spread strong spices and healing salves on long pieces of byssus, which he brought. These he wound about Jesus's body. These spices and salves had great healing powers and were used by our Essene brothers. Joseph and Nicodemus were bending over his face and their tears fell upon him, and they blew into him their own breath (artificial resuscitation?) and warmed his temples.

Nicodemus spread balsam in both the nail-pierced hands, but he believed it was not best to close up the wound in Jesus's side, because he considered the flow of blood and water therefrom helpful to respiration and beneficial in the renewing of life.

The body was laid in the rock sepulchre which belonged to Joseph. They then smoked the grotto with aloe and other herbs and placed a large stone in front of the entrance that the vapours better fill the grotto.

Thirty hours had now passed since the assumed death of Jesus. Our brother, having heard a slight noise within the grotto, went to observe what had happened. He observed with inexpressible joy that the lips of the body moved and that it breathed. He at once hastened to Jesus to assist him. Twenty-four brethren of our Order arrived at the grotto along with Joseph and Nicodemus. But Jesus was not yet strong enough to walk far, wherefore he was conducted to the house belonging to our Order, that is close by Calvary in the garden.”

Sathya Sai Baba attested recently, that Jesus’s body was physical, not spirit-materialised body, at the "resurrection". “The physical! Yes, He travelled to Kashmir
but also to Calcutta and Malaysia.”

Both the Hindu and the Essene versions tally in that they imply the survival of Jesus from crucifixion. The Hindu version refers to miracles, while the Essene version, in the way herbal/medical treatment was applied. A prescription of an ointment known as Marham-i-Issa, is recorded in many medical books, compiled by Christians, the Magi (Persians), Muslims and by the Jews, was known in earlier times and handed down by word of mouth. The twelve ingredients of the ointment used on Jesus were;


These twelve ingredients were first recorded in the Greeks *Pharmacopoeia* and copied in later times by others.

There is much written evidence that Jesus did not die on the cross, but, in fact, lived to a ripe old age. One Muslim text suggests that He lived to one hundred and twenty five years! It is true that Jesus was revered by the Muslims as a great teacher and prophet. Indeed, the wife of the Prophet of Islam, Hazrat Muhammed, said that the Prophet once told her that Jesus, son of Mary, had lived to this great age.

Jesus was aided in leaving Israel, once again on a journey East, but this time He had to hide His identity, becoming known as *Yuzu-Asaph*, when He finally settled in Kashmir. (He assumed different names when in different cultures, *Isha Natha*, by
Hindus, *Yuzu-Asaph*, by Muslims.) He preached His doctrines in many towns and cities along the way, and many believed in Him, while others saw Him as a threat.

A Persian dictionary called *Farhang-i-Asafiyah*, referred to the name *Yuzu Asaph* by way of explanation: *Hazrat Issa, who cured many lepers, came to be known as Asaph. He was known as Yuzu, and as He had cured lepers, He came to be known as Yuzu Asaph, for He not only cured them but gathered them under His merciful protection.*

Jesus travelled with His mother, Mary, His sister and Mary Magdalene on this arduous journey, staying awhile in Taxila (now in Pakistan) before continuing to Kashmir. The Gospel of Philip states that, "There were three who always walked with the Lord: Mary His mother and His sister, and Magdalene, the one who was called His companion. His sister and His mother and His companion were each a Mary."

The hardship of the journey took its toll on His mother, she died in a small town now called Muree, named in her honour, 30 miles from Rawalpindi. Her tomb, at Pindi Point, is an important shrine for Muslims and Hindus alike to this day, and is called "Mai-Mari-de-Asthan" or the "Resting place of Mother Mary." She would have been 70 years old.

Jesus’ long journey to Kashmir, was the fulfillment of a journey He had made in a previous incarnation, as Moses. On that occasion, after "wandering 40 years in the wilderness", Moses only succeeded in gazing down from the mountains on to the valley and lakes of Kashmir, before he died.

Jesus finally settled in Kashmir, often referred to as the Holy Land, where many of the lost Jewish tribes resided. One interesting, and lesser-known fact, is that Moses took his people to this Promised Land, and while he never actually entered it, many of his people finally settled there. So, Moses, Mother Mary and Jesus are buried in
Madam Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophical Society, and other philosophers, have claimed, as the result of their research, that King Solomon’s Temple and the grave stone of Moses, are situated just south-west of Srinagar. This temple dates back to at least 1000 BC., and having fallen into a state of disrepair, was restored by Raja Gopadatta with the aid of a Persian architect. Inscriptions were carved as follows;

1) *The mason of this pillar is the most humble Bihishti Zagar. Year 54.*

2) *Kwaja Rukum, son of Markam, erected this column.*

3) *At this time Yuzu Asaph proclaimed his prophethood. Year 54.*

4) *He is Jesus, prophet of the Children of Israel.*

Raja Godapatta is thought to have reigned from about 50 AD until 109 AD.

The following was recorded by historian, Mulla Nadiri: “*At the time of the rule of Gopadatta, Yuzu Asaph came from the Holy Land up to this valley and announced that he was a prophet. He exemplified the heights of virtue and piety, and claimed that he was himself his own message, and had made God accessible to the people of Kashmir. When the Hindus came to Gopadatta in indignation, exhorting him to deal with the man, he turned them away.*”

This area was Hindu in that time, and contains no Hindu graves, because they are cremated. The Muslims conquered this region in the seventh century AD, and the monuments of "infidels" were destroyed, while Mary’s tomb was spared because she was one of the "People of the Book", honoured by Islam.

One Sheikh Al-Said, who died in 361 AD, referred to a Hindu legend, in which the Kushan Emperor, Kanishka, who conquered Kashmir, was one day at a place ten miles north of Srinagar called Wien, -a place noted for its sulphurous springs. There he met an auspicious man, robed in white, of fair skin, who replied when asked who
he was, that he was Yuzu Asaph come to preach Truth and purify religion. Kaniska asked what was his religion, and he replied, “O King! When Truth had disappeared and there was no limit to evil in my country, I appeared; and through my work the guilty and the wicked suffered, but later I suffered at their hands.”

Further questioned regarding His principles, He replied: “I have come to establish Truth, Love and purity of heart, and for this I am called ‘Isa Masih’ (Jesus the Messiah). Having cleansed the mind, and purified the impure body, man will find the way to God in the centre of light.”

One of Yuzu Asaph’s sayings was: “As long as there is light, travel therein; but keep your good deeds secret, lest they be for the show only. Treat others as you would like to be treated; shun worldly desires; give up calumny, anger and back-biting; your minds and actions should be pure and identical.” Also, a saying of Jesus’ which was carved on the main gate of the city of Fatehpur, 100 miles south of Delhi, “The world is a bridge. Pass over it, but do not settle down on it!”

(Sai Baba often stated: “Life is a bridge over a sea of change. Pass over it, but do not build a house on it.”)

It is suggested that when Jesus reached old age, He instructed His disciple Thomas, to continue His work, and to place a tomb over the exact spot where He should die. It is a simple tomb, called Rosabal, meaning "Tomb of the Prophet", situated in the Khanyar district of Srinagar, adjacent to a Muslim cemetery in which all the graves are orientated in a North-South direction, according to Muslim tradition. Whereas He is buried in accordance to Jewish custom, being positioned East-West, feet towards the West and His head to the East. It is said that coloured lights could be seen dancing around the tomb for many years later.

We must accept that Jesus came for all mankind, not just for those who became
known as Christians. For all religions! For all races! Not for one people, nor to found a new religion. One might be tempted to say that Christians “hi-jacked” Jesus, claiming Him exclusively for themselves. We should appreciate that Jesus is recognised and accepted as a Messenger of God by all religions.

Had this been understood and accepted these two thousand years, think of what a wonderful world this would have been; no religious wars, no bigotry, nobody claiming to have the one True church. Each religion respecting the faith of the other.

On one occasion Sai Baba spoke at length about Jesus, and I quote briefly here Baba’s reference to the One religion, the religion of Love; “The followers of each religion call upon the One God, Who is Omnipresent and Who listens to their prayers from whichever clime, or clothed in whatever language; but, it is the same God Who confers upon all mankind health, prosperity, peace and happiness. Each religion has no separate God showering Grace upon those who profess to abide by that faith alone!” He also said: “All religions are facets of the same Truth.”

Thomas stayed on in India to which he came in 52AD, arriving first in Kerala on the West coast. Three years after his Master's death, he travelled to South Tamil Nadu, residing in Little Mount, and later to be speared to death on St. Thomas Mount, as it is now known. He was buried there, where a great bascilica was built over his tomb in Madras, Mylapore, in recent years, and as the Pope was unable to attend, Cardinal Conway, the Primate of Ireland, was asked to officiate at the Centenary celebrations.  

* Gateway Books, The Hollies, Wellow, Bath, Englan
Chapter Five

Prophets, down through the ages, have set down predictions of a "Great Coming", of a Messiah, a world Teacher, an Avatar, to herald in the New Age of Peace and Unity. The sources of these predictions and prophesies have been many, and can be found in the ancient texts of most cultures and religions, such as the Old and New Testaments, American Indian culture, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Mormons, as well as by the great French visionary Nostrodamus.

The belief that God incarnates in human form can be found in many of the world's scriptures but no-where is it more prominent than in the Hindu faith. In the Bhagavad Gita it is said that the full complete Avatar is recognised by the expression of the Divine attributes of Omniscience (all knowing), Omnipotence (all powerful), and Omnipresence (being in all space and time). In the Mahabarata, the ancient Hindu testament, the Lord Vishnu, the Preserver and Protector of the Universe, foretold of a Kali Yuga, or age, corresponding to our present age which is marked by moral and spiritual decline, by political corruption, oppression, dishonesty, crime and the prevalence of falsehood. Lord Vishnu said "When evil is rampant upon the Earth, I will take birth in a family of a virtuous man and assume a human body to restore tranquility by the extermination of evil. In the coming Kali age of sin, I will assume a human form that is dark in colour and I will be born into a family in South India. This Avatar will possess great energy, great intelligence and great powers. Material objects needed for this Avatar's mission will be at His disposal as soon as He will think of them. He will restore order and peace in the world. This Avatar will inaugurate a new era of Truth (Sathya), and will be surrounded by spiritual people, the people of this Earth will imitate this Avatar's conduct and will bring prosperity and peace. Men will once again take on the practice of religious rites, educational
centres for the cultivation of Brahmic Laws. Temples will re-appear again and
everywhere ashrams will be filled with men of Truth. Rulers of the Earth will govern
their kingdoms virtuously. The Avatar will have an illustrious reputation."

The Lord Buddha, the Light of Asia, went amongst the people teaching Peace,
Love and Understanding, and said, "I am not the first Buddha who has come upon the
Earth, nor shall I be the last, for in due time another Buddha will arise in the world,
a Holy One, a supremely enlightened One, endowed with wisdom, auspiciousness and
embracing the Universe, an incomparable leader of men, a ruler of angels and
mortals. He will repeat to you the same eternal truths which I have taught you. He
will establish His Law. He will proclaim a righteous life wholly perfect and pure,
such as I now proclaim. His disciples will number many, many thousands, while mine
number hundreds...

Within recent times, another prophesy was discovered in a Buddhist monastery in
the Himalayas of Northern India, and one which people there believe would soon
come true. "A new era will manifest itself," it says, "But first there would begin an
unprecedented war of all nations, when brother will rise against brother; oceans of
blood will flow and people will cease to understand one another. They will forget the
meaning of the world Teacher. Just then a teacher appears, the Prophet of the New
Age. One stone upon His finger is worth more than all the world’s treasures. Even
those who, by accident, receive the teachings of the Prophet, will receive in return
a hundred-fold. Already, many warriors of the teachings of truth are re-born,
only a few years shall elapse before one shall hear the mighty steps of the Lord of
the New Era”.

All religions have within them the same truth, the same emphasis on universal
Human Values; the importance of prayer, the need for worship and what all are
seeking, is the Grace of God.

The Prophet Mohammed prophesied the coming of a Great Teacher, giving a most detailed description of He whom he called the "Guided One". Seven hundred years ago his followers compiled his many discourses into twenty-five mighty volumes which are called "Heldi", or the Ocean of Light. Volume thirteen is of particular interest to us at this time, called the "Mahdi Mood", which in Arabic means "the Great Teacher that was promised". Mohammed is said to have given twenty seven attributes or signs, by which El Mahdi, or the Guided One, as he refers to Him, will be recognised, and a very clear physical description of Him. Mohammed was asked if he was the Guided One, he said that he was not, and furthermore, that no Prophet of God had ever come to the world who would come with the power which He, the Guided One, would come. He went on to say that, "No Prophet was like this Great Teacher because all the Prophets were put to death by the people, as their powers had not been sufficient to prevent their being killed. But, no power will be able to conquer or to kill the Guided One."

Mohammed continued, "Religious people will collect under a great tree, they will have a spot on their foreheads. His power will be profuse. His forehead will be large and concave. The nose will be small with a slight bump on the bridge. His front teeth will be spaced apart. He will have a mole on His left cheek. His clothing will be like a flame. The colour of His face will sometimes be like copper, sometimes yellow like gold, sometimes very dark and sometimes shining like the moon. His body will be small in size (Sai Baba is 5' 2" tall, and 108lbs). All teachings, of all religions of the world, from the beginning of time, will be in His head. All things which He will ask from God, He, the Guided One, will give to you. All treasures of the world are at His feet. He will give everyone gifts that are light in weight, (medallions, necklaces,
watches, rings, etc.) and He will go amongst the devotees and touch their heads with His hands. Every eye which sees Him will be happy, not only humans but disembodied souls. He will be 96 years on earth, and in the last twenty years of His life, He will be king of the whole world. At that time only two-thirds of the people of the world will believe in Him. Muslims will only recognise Him nine years before His passing from the world. You could have stretched out your hands and been with Him but you missed Him”.

Five hundred years ago a learned pundit inscribed the following on a palm leaf 36cm long by 2 1/2cm deep: “The person to whom this horoscope relates, whose name is Sathyanarayana Raju, will renounce the world in His boyhood, will start schools and hospitals, will publish books for the upliftment of the world, will spend everyday of His whole lifetime for the establishment of Dharma (righteousness), which is His ideal and objective”. It further mentions: “He will be an Avatar amongst the Avatars”.

Another prophesy relating to the New Age Avatar, was written 5000 years ago by the sage Shuka Muni, son of Vyasa, in the Suka Nandi, on a rare palm leaf manuscript called, “Sai Charitamrutum”.

It deals with the incarnation of the Lord Sai in the Kali Yuga (or Kali Age). The name Sai was referred to, the date of birth; month, year and even the day of the week, and noting the stars at the time of His birth. This manuscript also states that only 1/10th of His power will manifest until the end of the century, when His full powers will be known and demonstrated.

The North American Indian, Black Elk, was born into the free life of the Oglala Sioux plains people in 1863, before the coming of the white man to his land. When he was nine years old he had a vision which showed his people becoming sick of spirit, frightened, disunited and lost in a great storm, but he was given the promise that
something beautiful was coming, as the darkness passed and a New Age be born. He saw a great star emerge from the East and a Sacred Being clothed in red, and as he looked closer he saw the trees and the stones dance with joy in the glorious light. His vision heralded a glorious message of love and understanding, bringing the entire human race into the sacred circle, in harmony with all living things. Later, in a second vision he was told that the message which was to awaken his people would come from the East, from a man who was neither a white man nor an Indian in appearance. The young Black Elk, who lived on the Pine Ridge reservation, saw that the people who received this new message would "be filled with the flames of fire," spreading into other people and those who did not accept the new message of peace and light, would be filled with darkness.

The renowned 16th century French visionary, Nostrodamus, predicted that after the Battle of Arma-geddon, a new Saviour will appear to guide people in the way of Truth and Peace. He wrote: "He who has been awaited for such a long time, will not appear in Europe. He will appear in Asia...Thursday will be His Holy Day."

"The triplicity of waters will give birth to a Man who will choose Thursday as His holy day. His voice, reign and power will rise across land and sea, amid storms in the East."

Mankind today lives in an uncertain and precarious time, full of disasters such as wars, terrorism, and of natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, famines and global warming. Fear is the dominant emotion within mankind in this century, which seemingly, offers little hope for the future, and to the generations to come. But Sathya Sai Baba does offer hope for the future, and has stated so, "Love and peace will return to the earth and cleanse the horrors and excesses of the dark ages, which today pollute the very atmosphere". *
Commenting further on predicted disasters, Baba stated, "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 divine body has not come in vain. It will succeed in averting the crisis that has come upon humanity."

He continues to reassure us that there is no reason for mankind to be distressed about the future, He says that the Golden Age of humanity is soon dawning, and that the Age of Truth commences from 1999 and continues through to His next advent as Prema Sai!

When asked about the possibility of a world war, He replied, "No. No world war!"

On another occasion He went on to reassure US devotee, Phyllis Krystal, that there would be no cataclysm in California, where she lives, as many sources of predictions had previously suggested. However, there would be many quakes to reduce the pressure which builds up deep in the earth. This is one of the reasons He has come at this time, and to prevent such calamities as nuclear war!

While Christians await the Second Coming of Christ, the Jews await the Messiah, the Muslim, the Mehdi; the Hindu, Lord Kalki; the Buddhist, the Lord Maitreya Buddha, and the American Indian, the Pale Prophet. All faiths await the Return of the Lord, -in physical form!

The similarities between all these prophecies cannot be denied, and all seers and prophets agree that there will be born, out of this calamitous period, a New Age of Love and Peace, based on Spiritual Values. Further, that all these changes will be brought about by the Advent of God on Earth.
When referring to Yugas, or ages, it is worth knowing that there are four phases or ages, which constitute world cycles of time, according to the Hindu belief. These are Krita (or Sathya) Yuga, the original Golden Age, with Virtue dominant. Treta Yuga, Dwapara (or Dvapara) Yuga, and Kali Yuga which is the present age of conflict, decline and dissolution, where Virtue is rare and vice is predominant. These four Yugas, together, make up a Mahayuga, of 12,000 years.

- "Sai Messages for You and Me", Lucas Ralli
Chapter Six

There are many similarities between the lives of Jesus and Sathya Sai Baba. One could begin with the manner of conception of both Avatars.

We know from Matthew 1: 18-25, “Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When His mother, Mary, had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. 'All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named Him Jesus.”

Sathya Sai Baba was asked the circumstances of His birth, and He turned to His mother, Easwaramma, who was present, and suggested the questioner ask her. She told the questioner, a pundit named Rama Sarma, that she dreamed of Sathyanarayana Deva (an angel of God) and he cautioned her that she should not be frightened if something happens to her through the Will of God. "That morning, when I was at the well drawing water, a big ball of blue light came rolling towards me and I fainted and fell, I felt it glide into me." Baba turned to the questioner with a smile. "There, you have the answer! I was not begotten. It was Pravesa, not Prasava." This was the
formless Divine Principal taking on its mantle of a physical human body.

Sathya Sai Baba's teachings are identical to those of Jesus Christ. While Jesus's teachings were set down and transcribed over a number of years, Baba’s teachings are delivered and immediately published in the official monthly magazine *Sanathana Sarathi*. Baba’s discourses are directed mainly to the students in His colleges, who will be the leaders of the nation of India in the years to come. He said, pointing to the first group of boys being enrolled, “These boys will grow into strong stalwart pillars of Sanathana Dharma; they will be the guides and leaders of this land in the days to come, to save it from vain follies and wild passions. You may say they are only twenty in number now, but a vast country is administered by a Cabinet of twenty Ministers, this band of students will be ample, for the work I have in view.”

His standards are high and discipline paramount in His schools and colleges, and it is a privilege for any student to attend them. He treats both the girl students and the boys, as jewels, to be polished and valued, and they return His trust and love by succeeding in the many fields of endeavour they choose to pursue in their worldly careers. Baba has said, “The purpose of education is to learn how to live, not how to make a living.” Also, “The end of wisdom is freedom. The end of culture is perfection. The end of education is character. The end of knowledge is Love.”

Sai Baba has said, “Sathya (Truth), Dharma (Righteousness), Shanti (Peace) and Prema (Love), are the four most important requirements for a man's progress. The combination of these is Love. It is through this Love that one can ride over any bridge, travelling smoothly in this world. This Love should be Spiritual Love.”

At this juncture I feel it is important to introduce The Code of Conduct and the Ten Principles which Sathya Sai Baba stresses as the means of attaining a spiritual and balanced life.
The Code of Conduct

1. Daily meditation and prayer.
2. Devotional singing/prayer with family members once a week.
3. Participation in Sathya Sai Human Values programmes organised by the Centre for children of Sai devotees.
4. Participation in community work and other programmes of the organisation.
5. Attendance at least once a month at Group devotional singing organised by the Centre.
6. Regular study of Sai literature.
7. Speaking softly and lovingly to everyone.
8. Not talking ill of others especially in their absence.
9. Putting into practice "Ceiling on Desires" and utilising savings generated for service to Mankind.

The Ten Principles

1. Love and Serve the motherland; do not hate or hurt the motherland of others.
2. Honour every religion; each is a pathway to the one God.
3. Love all men without distinction; know that mankind is a single community.
4. Keep your home and its environment clean; it will ensure health and happiness for you and for society.
5. Do not throw coins when beggars stretch their hands for alms; help them to become self reliant. Provide food and shelter, love and care for the sick and the aged.
6. Do not tempt others by offering bribes or demean yourself by accepting bribes.
7. Do not depend on others to serve your personal needs; become your own servant,
before proceeding to serve others.

8. Observe the laws of the state and be an exemplary citizen.


_Dharma_, Right Conduct or Right Living, is the most profound philosophy and teaching of the Hindu and Buddhist religions, and being one of the five principle requisites for man’s spiritual progress, is also one of the corner-stones of the Sathya Sai Organisation.

Buddha said that _Dharma_ is the very basis of good life. He insisted that everyone should surrender to its dictates so that the misery that is ever at the heels of life may be avoided.

The German philosopher, Arthur Schopenhauer, has as his fundamental doctrine the proposition that the only essential reality in the universe is _Will_. He stated that all intelligence serves originally _the will to live_. "Why should a man take to the path of _Dharma_? To preach morality is easy; to lay the foundation for morality is not."

Sathya Sai Baba, in His book "Dharma Vahini", has installed Dharma on an unshakable foundation as the reality of all life, indeed, of creation. He said;

_"Whoever conquers the ego and overcomes the natural tendency to regard the body and its furniture as his true self, is surely on the path of Dharma, for he would soon discover the truth behind all this scintillating multiplicity. He would realise that the objective world is like a gem-studded veil over Brahman, which is the one and only Truth. When a man is aware of this Truth, there will be no ‘other’; all will be ‘you’.”_ Dharma is built on the deep understanding of the depths of being. Sai Baba continues, “Build your life on the atmic plinth, the faith that you are a wave upon the ocean of bliss, a spark of the Cosmic Intelligence.” He then asks; “When you
worship an idol, what is it that you really do? First, a form of God is impressed on your mind. After that you meditate on His Power, Grace and Omnipresence, and project these qualities upon the idol, thus enabling your consciousness to transcend it and become unaware of the lithic substance before you...In the same manner, imprint on to your consciousness that form of God which delights you most and fills you with illumination and project that form on every man, heart, bird and insect, on every tree and plant, on every rock and rill; this Sadhana (prayer) will make you true, good and beautiful.”

Further, He stated in February 1995 the following, “The Dharma that is the heritage of India is the staff of life for all men; it is the backbone of morality and well-being. It is the nectar which can confer immortality. Others may, in their ignorance, laugh at Indians for taking a stone to be God, but what they do is to elevate even the stone to God. It is transformed into God, an act, which is a grand victory.”

Regarding the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation, Baba has said; “The name of SAI behind this organisation is intended solely to promote and spread faith in God and Godliness among mankind. The only objective is to turn the minds of man to noble thoughts and lofty ideals along religious and spiritual lines.”

At the conclusion of the Sixth World Conference of the Organisation in 1995, held at Prasanthi Nilayam, Sathya Sai Baba stated; “In this Conference we have framed Rules and Regulations. Rules and Regulations are essential! We have also passed resolutions. We should conduct the affairs of the Organisation according to the Rules and Regulations. We should also abide by our resolutions. The world has many such Conferences. The moment you pass resolutions you should start observing them. That is spiritual discipline.”

59
Chapter Seven

Anyone who has the opportunity to visit Sathya Sai Baba, in Puttaparthi or any of His ashrams, will not only be blessed, but will experience a great spiritual change in their lives. It is a truly spiritual experience!

My own pilgrimage to the Lotus Feet of Sathya Sai Baba, took twenty one years, from the time I first heard His name in January 1974. Why the delay I hear you ask?

I would think my journey was marked out at an early age. When I was quite young, not yet into my teens, I heard a voice say, “You have a destiny!” At least I think it was a voice, or perhaps not a voice at all, but a loud “knowing” within, but then again perhaps from some source outside of myself. It was so quick and unexpected. Anyway, when you are about 9 or 10 years of age, one cannot be expected to go too deeply into analysing the source of such a momentous incident. What I can say is that for many years afterwards, I never ceased to wonder if this or that, was my destiny. When I left my home town of Killarney, Ireland, to take up a position in Dublin, and later to London, I would invariably ask myself, “Is this my destiny?”, becoming, now, like a mantra over the years. I would eventually reflect, “No, it doesn't seem that important to be a destiny!”

Marrying, setting up home, starting my own business, none of these, important in themselves, would never measure up, I thought to myself, to such a fate as Destiny. So, I waited. Until I began to forget that fateful voice.

I had always had an interest in the Spiritual, having been reared in the Irish Catholic tradition. However, events such as deaths in the family, sent the mind searching for some truth, some logic, to our existence, eventually leading me to the Psycho/Spiritual study in 1973, and in turn, to the study and practise of Spiritual
Healing, a year later.

My wife, Geraldine, and I belonged to a group which met in our home once a week, to talk about and practise healing and generally enquiring into esoteric studies. Using the “in” phrases of the psychic groups; chakras, kundalini, vibrations, karma, -these flowed so easily from our lips. It was at this time that someone from the healing group, made reference to an Indian, asking, “Did you ever hear of Sai Baba?”. I had the unsavoury image of a U.S. west coast, Californian guru, highly popular back in the 1970’s, and dismissed any interest. However, when the questioner repeated the question, some weeks later, adding, “He is a healer”, naturally my curiosity was awakened. This time a little more was offered, like the fact that this Indian did healing, materialised objects, and was known to have raised people from the dead! This was too much! I had to find out more, but how? Where does one start? Find a book, that was the answer!

I managed to acquire a copy of Howard Murphet's book *Sai Baba, Man of Miracles*, and obtained, ironically enough, further information about Baba, from a Sai centre in California! (One of Swami's leelas, I'm inclined to think!) There and then I was hooked! I acquired a list of books, audio tapes, (no video tapes, then!) and purchased some delightful pictures of Sai Baba. Now events started to develop quite quickly, and my interest in healing grew also, but it was as if Swami sent me on a journey of change, smoothening out my orthodox Catholic thinking, a process which helped to open a window in my consciousness, allowing through a beam of radiant light, which continued to grow brighter and more radiant during those years of diligent study of other spiritual teachings.

My interest in spiritual healing laid the foundation for a spiritual quest, my Holy Grail! So many changes were wrought in my thinking, commencing with the
understanding and acceptance of the long-forgotten philosophy of Reincarnation. When I was able to embrace this teaching, I gave a public talk on the subject, at Stansted Hall, outside London, in 1979, and I started to talk on Sathya Sai Baba in 1985 to several groups in Dublin, including the Theosophical Society, and would speak of Him at our regular healings evenings, in our home. So much more opened up to me, rather like opening boxes within boxes, each containing a truth which lead me to a further, deeper discovery of my own long-lost Self. All this was in preparation for deeper wisdom that Swami was later to present to me through His discourses.

Interest in this “Spiritual Phenomenon”, began to grow and I felt it was time to establish a Sai Centre in Ireland, and in company with other devotees, the Sathya Sai Organisation of Ireland, held the Inaugural meeting with 40 people attending.

Although initially set up in the Republic of Ireland, it was later enlarged into the all-Ireland fraternity that exists today. And in early 1995, I was blessed to go to India, to visit the source of my spiritual renewal.

Having read so many books and articles, seen umpteen videos, on the most loving, powerful, yet gentle Being to walk upon this earth, to actually see Him for the first time, was such a shock that I actually hoped He would not stop and talk to me! This is totally opposite to the hopes and wishes of thousands of others who visit Him again and again, and dare to hope for private interviews. I simply was not prepared for the enormity of this visit. As the Americans would put it, “It was awesome!” Fortunately, I had a chit which permitted me a front-line position, at Darshans, without queueing. There were occasions when I felt it was not right for me to have this privilege, then I would feel the strongest of impressions from Swami, encouraging me to use that which He gave to me. Not to be meek about it, but be
courageous. “If you want to be meek,” I felt Him saying, “you can be meek. If you want to be a stone, be a stone. But I want people of confidence and courage”. He gave me so much during my stay there. No interview but lots of innerviews, as they say!

I was further graced by Him, to have the comparative comfort of an apartment, offered to me by Jean and Lucas Ralli, long-time devotees of Baba. Indeed, while Lucas was Co-ordinator of the UK. Sai Organisation, he and Jean very kindly joined us for that first official Sai Satsang (meeting) in Ireland. Later affiliating us to a full Centre status. (I’m grateful to Lucas, also, for his assistance in editing the early stages of this manuscript.)

In Baba’s ashrams one has the distinct impression of being inside His womb-like aura, and being in constant communication with Him. Everything in the general area of this vast ashram is under His control. He organises, unseen, everything in that vast ashram. Seated in the darshan* line, waiting for Sai Baba’s appearance, one has time to think and, perhaps, meditate. Or just talk mentally to Swami. He knows everything that happens, thought, or said, by those present.

A sudden hush is the signal that He has appeared from His rooms, in the distance. A flash of orange, and you know He is coming. Slowly stepping His way along the pathway between the lines of thousands of seated people, accepting letters and raising His right hand in blessing, or sprinkling them with His sacred Vibhuti. Hardly a sound is to be heard, other than the caw of the crows and the flapping of pigeon’s wings, as He seems to float through the congregation, patiently looking at the upturned smiling faces, with their hands joined prayerfully.

On one occasion I raised up a bunch of letters from devotees back home, with the words, “Letters from Ireland, Swami.” He reached towards me and with a scissors-
like movement of His fingers, grabbed the bundle and moved on.

As an example of His omnipresence, I saw, on another occasion, His lotus feet being touched by eager devotees some distance from where I was seated, in a painful cross-legs position, on my cushion, and I thought how wonderful it would be if I too could touch the feet of the Avatar (called Padnamaskar). No sooner had I thought this, than He turned and came across and stood in front of me. I reached out and touch the hem of His orange robe, receiving the feeling of being ennobled. At another darshan I had even greater good fortune when He stood slightly to my left, I hesitated momentarily to touched His feet, but He slowly extended a small brown foot towards me, as if to say, “Go ahead, you may touch it!” These are prized and treasured moments for the devotee. Explaining the importance of Padnamaskara, Baba said to Dr. John Hislop, “God is positive, man is negative. If contact is made, the Divine current flows from positive to negative. For this reason the Indian tradition of touching a Divine person. But without some form of discipline and limitation, people would be touching face and body. Hence, the custom of touching the lotus feet”.

The enormous Poornachandra Hall, built in 1973, is 220 feet long by 140 feet wide, with a floor capacity to seat about 15,000 people. Its unique feature is that it has no inside supporting columns in the middle, and is the largest free-standing auditorium in Asia. What a joy to be there on the most auspicious festival of the Hindu calendar, Mahashivratri, the festival of the New Moon. About twelve hours before, I collapsed with heat-stroke, and was delirious all that night. I awoke during the night with the impression that it was raining heavily, and I thought how awful it was going to be for everybody, next day, with the rainwater turning the dust into mud. When I finally woke at dawn and raised myself up in my bed to look out of the window, I could see the usual dusty dry ground that I was now familiar with.
“rain” sound I had heard was in fact the overhead fan, swishing gently.

My Sai colleagues, Dr. Jal Fanibunda and his brother Dr. Eruch B. Fanibunda, (author of *Vision of the Divine*), brought me an Indian dish in a tiffin, which had been flavoured with ice cream. This did the trick in reducing the fever! I was well enough to get up the following day and attend the festival and was amazed that I could sit without discomfort for over five hours. I am sure it was Swami’s wish that I did not miss this occasion.

That evening I had arrived rather late, but still in time for the opening speakers. Presenting my chit, and my apology to a tall Indian gentleman, in a well-cut cream suit, he seated me at one of the openings, right under the steel roll-up shutters, open to allow a good flow of fresh air into the auditorium. It was an excellent position, giving me an clear view of the stage and Swami's chair. However, a moment later, I felt a tap on my shoulder by my tall Indian friend, who told me to get up and follow him. Taking my hand and leading me, like a school-boy, into the main hall, I was graced to be put sitting in a row by myself! -indeed, in front of the front row! -and directly in front of the stage where Swami sits listening to talks by visiting speakers.

At the conclusion of the twenty four hour festival, the multitude gathered there received Prasad (blessed food) served by the young male students, who handed the thousands of people present, a “plate” made up of large green leaves stitched together by tiny twigs. On this was ladled rice and vegetables, from enormous shiny urns. Not being sure of the protocol, I hesitated to commence eating and also wondered to myself what the vegetable dish was. At this point in my reflections Baba arose from His chair on the stage above me, where He oversaw everything, walked slowly down the side steps, and across to where I was seated on my cushion, and said, “Sweet-and-sour! Eat up. Eat up!”, graciously answering both my thoughtful questions with one
sentence!

After darshan one should sit quietly, no talking, as Baba says; “Always find a quiet corner after My Darshan where you may enter the stillness and receive the completion of My blessing. My energy goes from Me as I pass you. If you proceed to talk immediately, the precious energy is dissipated and returns to Me, unused. Rest assured that whatever My eye sees becomes vitalised and transmuted. You are being changed day by day. Never underestimate what is being accomplished by the act of Darshan. My walking among you is a gift yearned by gods of highest heavens, and here you are daily receiving this Grace. Be grateful. These blessings you receive will express themselves in their perfect time. But also remember, that to whom much is given, much will be demanded.”

So, it is advisable to find a quiet place to meditate, or sit silently for a while in this glorious blessing. His grace, or spiritual energy, stays with you and is a truly uplifting experience. After all, that is why one goes to see Him, to be changed!

Once you make contact with Sai Baba, whether it's through a book or through personal contact, He will never let you go. He has said, “You may leave Me, but I shall never leave you. You are Mine forever!” What a glorious connection!

Despite the vast crowds in the ashram, particularly during religious festivals commemorating those of all major religions, it is still easy to find a quiet spot to sit and meditate, such as in the gardens. Statues of the spiritual deities of all religions, are there to sit and pray silently before, to the sound of gurgling waters from the tiny garden waterfall. It's a haven within a heaven.

On the occasion of the last darshan of my stay in Prasanthi Nilayam, I waited until the very last minute to see if I would be granted the much valued interview. It was not to be. Most of the devotees had left to get tea, etc. I stayed seated and turned
around to find an Indian gentleman and his young son still seated immediately behind me. Without prompting they offered me vibhiti and said, “Swami will see you soon.” This came as a surprised, and I thought did they mean that very day, but when I turned around again to ask them, they were no where to be see. It was now time for me to move and catch the bus to the airport outside Puttaparthi. The bus was about to leave so I tossed my apartment key into the desk and boarded the packed bus. I had to sit on bags near the door and hoped my baggage had been placed on board. Earlier I had taken them to the bus terminal inside the ashram and was told to leave them by the wall outside the small bank building.

On arrival at the airport I discovered my bags were nowhere to be found. The baggage handler took me to the baggage trolly which was parked on the runway, but there was no sign of them! I could only conclude that they were not put on board the bus. The baggage handler suggested returning with me to the ashram by taxi, and collecting them. We sped through the gates and drove to where I had previously placed the bags, to find them still there, untouched! All this time I had no fear or worry as to their loss. I was perfectly calm and absolutely certain everything would be alright. It was all in Swami’s hands. I felt certain it was Swami’s leela! We retrieved the bags and return to the airport, when the flight that was to take me to Bombay, had just landed. To this day I have no idea what the “play” was about. Perhaps a test of my faith and trust in Swami. However, I still hear the voices of those Indian devotees saying, “Swami will see you soon”. Let’s hope it will be really soon!

Returning home to Ireland, after three weeks at the Lotus Feet of Sathya Sai Baba, I was sure then that this was my Destiny; to have had contact with this Glorious Being, this Avatar of our time!

_Darshan: To see a great spiritual Being and receiving His Blessing._
Chapter Eight

The two most prominent activities dear to Sathya Sai Baba’s heart, are health and education. In Andhra Pradesh, the poorest state in India, Baba has established models for both, to be examples for the rest of the country. He has said that the young boys and girls in His schools and colleges, are the future politicians, business leaders and professionals, for the New Age India. They are given this education free, in the first, second and third level schools and colleges, which teach not only the general educational subjects, but also Human Values, which are essential to the character-building of the students. Baba says, “Education must equip man to live happily, without making others unhappy...Education can yield peace and prosperity only when, along with technical skills and objective information, students are equipped with moral ideals, righteous living, and spiritual insight.”

Sathya Sai Baba continues on the subject of education, “Students of today must act. They must realise that the moral strength in them is being sapped by Western culture and education. Western culture is the culture of the metropolis, where the multiplication of individual desires has led human beings to misery and unhappiness. The present education system does little for enrichment and spiritual unfoldment. It has merely brought society to the brink of disaster. We therefore require today students with broad minds, people of action capable of selfless service. Simple living and high thinking should be the ideal, not high living and low thinking, which seems to be the maxim of modern education.”

In June 1966, Baba was at the High School for Girls, at Anantapur, the biggest town in the District, and its capital, sixty miles from Prasanthi Nilayam, at the invitation of the students there. The plight of the girls, who wanted higher education,
were required to travel long distances, needing time and money. This affected Baba and He resolved there and then to establish a Women's College at Anantapur, as soon as possible. This would be the beginning of an Educational Revolution, with long-term ramifications for future students and families.

Sai Baba gives urgent priority for education of women. He has stated in His book “Dharma Vahini”, - “No nation can be built strong and stable, except on the spiritual culture of its women. This generation is full of unrighteousness and injustice, malevolence and greed, falsehood and cruelty, because the mothers who brought it up were not vigilant enough or intelligent enough, or because they were not trusted enough by men with the responsibility of chastening and fostering their children. What is past, is past. To save at least the next generation, women have to be educated in a well-planned manner and endowed with the wisdom, fortitude and faith that can equip them for greater responsibility that rests upon them.”

The first College for Women was built and inaugurated by Sathya Sai Baba in Anantapur, on July 22nd 1968. This gives young women in India, the same educational opportunities, to qualify as doctors, surgeons, business people, with equal status as their sisters in the West. Few Colleges opened with the imposing array of equipment, books, furniture, and a skilled and enthusiastic band of teachers.

The Minister in charge of Education in the Government of Andhra Pradesh, presided over the public meeting, and stated that the occasion was not only for the inauguration of just one College, but the beginning of many to come; a new chapter in the annals of Women’s Education itself. He knew that Baba had announced the establishment of one or two Colleges in every State of India, later to be knit together into a University. Sai Baba stated, “The prompting behind this College is not the search for reputation or the desire to propagate a cult, or hope of monetary profit.
Fame is a fickle figment! Reputation rots quite soon. Profit, when it is calculated in terms of cash, defiles. I have allowed this College to rise because it will install into the minds of the students the ideals of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema, -- ideals delineated in the Vedas, described in the Sastras, illustrated in the Epics, practised by countless generations and confirmed by experience, as best suited for individuals and social progress. Every child born in Bharat (India), has the right to know and benefit by this precious heritage. Agriculture is for living; Atma-culture is for success in life. An educational system that keeps children away from God, -the only Refuge, the only Kinsman, the only Guide and Guard, - is a system where the blind are engaged in blinding those who long for Light.

“Women are the bulwarks of spiritual culture. But, as is evident from the attitude and behaviour of educated women today, they are fast succumbing to the flimsy attractions of froth and frippery, cheap and shoddy literature and sensual films.”

So the race is on to establish new Colleges, as Baba views this project with a sense of urgency. For the consequences of starving the spirit, when boys and girls are preparing for the struggle that is life, are serious.

Addressing students, on one occasion, He said, “You may continue in this College or leave and join some other one, returning home after completing your studies, but wherever you are, I desire that you should shine forth as recipients of the special attention we bestow upon you. Do not enter the fray of political controversies. Politics at present, and perhaps always, is a sordid game, where passions run high, power is sought through devious ways and prejudices are fanned into hatred. You must become a new type of leader. Shaped in the crucible of Seva (service), march into the future with the Light of the past, as one who appreciates the wisdom that has been garnered through the ages.”
He further stated in the Prospectus of the College, “Now that you have earned the privilege of being students of this College, under the direct guidance and fostering care of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, make up your minds to be worthy students, remembering Baba's exhortation, ‘Education without character is a great danger’.”

The day begins in the schools and colleges with bhajans, meditation and prayer, for which students and members of the staff, have to be present. The boys and girls love Baba so much that they obey Him implicitly. They are afraid of His neglecting or ignoring them, even for a moment, that they are constantly vigilant of discipline. The result is that all students of the Colleges established by Baba, revere qualities of goodness, heights of sympathy, depths of learning and shining devotion which few would believe they possess.

Equal devotion and dedication, is dispensed by Baba for the health of the nation. He enjoins all devotees to keep their houses clean, being essential to healthy living, and free of disease. Diet also contributes to the physical well-being of mankind; it is important to be cautious of what we eat. He advocates the non-eating of meats, indeed a total vegetarian diet. Equally, non-smoking and no alcohol. In many ways we are all aware of the righteousness of these restrictions, but find it difficult to come to terms with the “giving-up”, even when we accept the validity of the advice. There need be no sacrifice in this effort, as a programme of gradual withdrawal is recommended, should an immediate stop to the practices be too harsh and difficult to attempt. However, the physical and spiritual rewards are great!

One October day in 1957, a hospital was inaugurated on the hillside behind the Nilayam, commanding a magnificent panoramic view of the mountains sweeping down to the banks of the Chithravathi. It consisted of six beds for female patients and six for men. It was fully equipped for surgery and maternity needs, with even an x-ray...
unit installed; rare indeed for a hospital of this size and at that time.

Sai Baba chose the site, in spite of murmurings from the construction engineers. Speaking at the opening, He said that there were no unbelievers, only those who did not know nor had the opportunity to experience the Lord. “Everyone, rich and poor, pious or not pious, was subject to disease.” He said, He planned the hospital for those who had no hospital for miles around, and that those who came to the hospital for their physical ills will naturally turn to Prasanthi Nilayam for treatment and cure of their spiritual ills.

At the Annual Day of the hospital, the Medical Officer in charge spoke of the many miraculous recoveries that had happened through the Blessings of Baba. Baba responded that it was more due to the spirit of Love and Service with which every stone and brick of the building was saturated. The great Teacher had now become the great Healer!

Thirty five years on, the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medicine, known generally as the “Super-Speciality” hospital, consisting of 300,000 sq. ft., was built in record time on a 105 acre site, at Prasanthi Gram, 8 kilometers from Prasanthi Nilayam, was inaugurated on November 22nd 1991. It was twelve months to the day since Sathya Sai Baba announced at His 65th birthday celebrations, before more than a million devotees, including 10,000 from 98 countries, that a new unique hospital rose above the parched, dusty plains of South India. It was an amazing feat by any standards of the West, but an even greater one considering the limited resources of that area. Today a pink and blue apparition, offering hope and comfort to the poor of Andra Pradesh, stands like a vast cathedral in the shimmering sunshine. All treatment at the hospital is free to all patients, be they local or foreign, regardless of race or religion, rich or poor. Who could have dreamed that such a poor South Indian village of
modest huts, would boast a modern hi-tech hospital?

Work started immediately after Baba made His fateful announcement. The finance for the project was forthcoming for the most part, from the American millionaire and founder of the Hard Rock Cafe chain of restaurants, Isaac Tigrett. The next person to join the team, on the invitation of Tigrett, was the British architect Keith Critchlow, a professor at the Royal College in London, as well as director of the Prince of Wales’ Institute of Architecture. Critchlow, and his team of 15 architects, were presented with the daunting task of designing a unique building which was to be completed and opened on Sai Baba’s birthday the following year! A mere twelve months! Several meetings with Sai Baba ensued, whereupon initial designs were finally agreed and Keith Critchlow’s Triad Architects, working seventeen hours a day, had complete working plans in an amazing five months!…leaving the Indian construction company seven months to complete it! A similar hospital complex would have taken seven years to build, elsewhere in the world!

The challenge was also to construct a hospital which would have the effect of welcoming and reassuring those who entered its portals. The heart-shaped building is indicative of the care and love dispensed with the medical care, and becoming a large tender heart-shaped building, pointing back to the heavens with a flowered lotus on top, and as Keith Critchlow said, “Itself a symbol of the completed consciousness. Because the symbol of health is the symbol of wholeness and unity, the central feature of the hospital should be a symbol of unity. In the human body, the heart, which is shaped like one’s hand pointing downwards, corresponds to the physical incarnate state. In the symbol of architecture, we turn the heart around and point it back to God.”

When the World Health Organisation learnt of the hospital project, it said it was
impossible, that it would not work, for several reasons. The main objection was having a hospital in the middle of an arid desert which would create problems of infection at the possible rate of 20% to 30%, because operations required a totally sterile environment. But the WHO had not reckoned on the Grace of Sai Baba and the devotion and energy of the team involved. At one time as many as 2,000 - 3,000 craftsmen and labourers were employed on the scheme. A senior physician stated at a meeting convened by the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, “This institute was born in the lap of Divinity itself. It is therefore permeated with the fervour and fragrance of spirituality. The practice of medicine in this hospital has a spiritual dimension, a breakthrough in the conceptual aspects of medicine.” As Baba has often stressed, “The doctor should think not only of the body, but the mind and conscience also.”

Despite its magnificence, the hospital echoes the best in Indian traditional architecture, and is equally functional and solid. “Even the colonnaded end pavilions are designed to be used as sleeping quarters for patients’ relatives,” Critchlow said, and continues to point out that the hospital aims to make patients and their families feel psychologically and spiritually, as well as physically healed. “An example of this,” he said, “is the placing of wards in curved wings, doing away with the dreary hospital corridor. Courtyards on either side of the wards bring air and sunlight into the building, as well as keeping patients in touch with the natural world.”

Sai Baba boldly champions the full integration of Ayurveda - India’s ancient healing science, based on subtle remedies, when most Indian medicine has totally abandoned Ayurveda in favour of western allopathic medicine. He states, “It is necessary to understand the difference between Ayurveda and allopathy. Though it is
not bound by time and space, **Ayurveda** is bound by mind, intellect and self. Hence, mind, body and Self play a very important role in **Ayurveda**. While allopathy is an external science, **Ayurveda** relates to the inner feelings. Doctors have to integrate the essence of the two.”

He continues to add that we have to observe more, the laws and the soul of nature to ensure both a healthier body and planet. “*The air we breathe is not pure. The water we drink is not pure. The food we eat is not pure. The sound we hear is not pure. All the five elements of nature are polluted. This pollution has caused diseases never heard of before. Any violation of the law of nature leads to sickness. There is a teacher for nature. That teacher is God. We should know the teacher of nature.*”

An interesting statistic on the hospital, is the extremely low mortality rate of 2% and an infection rate of under 1%, which speaks highly of the calibre of the skilled and experienced specialists employed at the hospital. The current capacity is 350 inpatients and up to 600 daily outpatients, with plans to expand. There has been as many as 17,000 heart, kidney and brain operations. Many western doctors and specialists give their services free on vacation trips to India, and others have taken early retirement, leaving home to take up positions at this remarkable “Palace of Healing”.

At a public discourse in the enormous Poornachandra Auditorium, on July 14, 1992, Sathya Sai Baba said, “*We have built the Super-Speciality Hospital here. Why did we start it? Many people suffer from many diseases. It is difficult to expect everyone to develop Divine feelings of devotion and surrender. Some people have faith in medicines, some in operations and some others in doctors. Whether it is a verandah or a choultry, it is enough if one sleeps. Similarly, here our purpose is that people should get rid of their ailments, given good health and live happily. Further,*
many experts like Dr. Venugopal and his team from Delhi, and the team from Hyderabad are performing the operations with great devotion and dedication. What is the reason for all these people to come here and carry on the operations? Apart from their faith and devotion, they have the good aspiration to give joy to one and all. They do all this keeping Swami in view.

“Earlier, the heart operation was a very frightening thing and people would shudder at the prospect of this operation. They would be afraid of the consequences. The patients would cry and make their kit and kin cry. But in Prasanthi Nilayam today, heart operation has become an easy thing like removing the thorn from one’s foot. None has any fear. There is fearlessness! Even little children come to our Hospital with a smile on their face. When Swami went to the Hospital a little child in the cot who was operated, saluted Him with a broad smile on her face. Neither her parents nor relatives were there but she was full of joy. What is the cause? It is because of the environment. Their faith is mainly responsible for this. All the things are going on very joyfully. Everyone thinks of God’s work. There is no trace of ego in those who work here.

“Faith is most important for success or failure. It is faith or lack of faith which is responsible. Without this faith if you get into argumentation in the name of devotion, it is only the effect of ego and ostentation.

“If you want to understand Divinity, you should have firm faith that Divinity is everywhere. There is no place or object without Divinity. Gurupoornima (festival) means full moon without any defect or lacuna. Moon is nothing but mind. When the mind is completely perfect, it sheds light. Gurupoornima is not performed by circumambulation and offerings to the Guru. What is the real offering? It is the offering of one’s love. To know that God exists everywhere is circumambulation. If you
understand these terms, everyday is Gurupoornima. There is only one Guru, that is God, and there is no other Guru. Contemplate on that Guru.”

To facilitate patients coming to the Hospital from long distances, Sathya Sai Baba had an airport constructed adjacent to it. This is also a boon to travellers to the ashram in Puttaparthi, thus avoiding the long bus or taxi journeys, in the heat, from Bangalore or Madras. The plane journey between Mumbai (Bombay) and Puttaparthi, takes about one and a half hours and is a great energy saver.

A planned innovation is a railway station constructed between Penukonda and the village of Puttaparthi with the first train expected in April 2000. On the 19th October 1999, the foundation stone for the College of Music (International) was laid next to the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, and it will be ready on October 2000!

Referring to the Music University, Sai Baba stated that it will be a synthesis of ancient and modern art forms. The building complex will have the shape of several musical instruments such as the Mrudangam, the Tampura, a conch in the middle, and a Sitar, etc. Just the mere sight of the building will convey to the viewer that it is a centre of musical excellence!

In the meantime, a generous offer was extended to Sai Baba, by state officials, in handing Him the titles to 70 acres of land for the construction of another Super-Speciality Hospital, this time in Bangalore city, where they will supply water and electricity. Upon hearing they plans, a wealthy American Sai devotee came forward and offered the necessary funding for the project.

Another example of Sathya Sai Baba’s benevolence to the millions of poor people in South India, was demonstrated when He announced the immense task of constructing a free fresh water supply for the drought prone area of Anantapur District. This was inaugurated on the 70th Birthday of Sai Baba, on November 23rd.
1995, and the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, started the flow of drinking water with the words, “Today, we see before us testimony of what can be achieved by commitment to service and dedication to the people’s welfare. A year ago Baba had referred to the acute water shortage in Anantapur District, which is a chronically drought prone area of the State. In providing relief, He was veritably giving a gift of life, for without water, there can be no existence. Quenching the thirst of a people is an act unsurpassed in its nobility.”

He continued, “The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, rose magnificently to meet the challenge of Baba’s call. With His blessings, a monumental endeavour was undertaken to provide water to 802 villages in a district covering more than 19,000 sq. kms. and a population of 3.5 million. The enormity of the task was only matched by the speed and efficiency with which the Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project was executed. The entire Anantapur District now has access to drinking water. I congratulate all those who, inspired by Baba, have given their time and effort to realise this dream.”

To alleviate the severe hardship of acute water shortage and arsenic poisoning of wells, the construction involved hundreds of miles of pipe lines, summer storage tanks, reservoirs, canals, infiltration and collection wells. The total cost of the Project was US $70 million!
Chapter Nine

There are many references, in Sathya Sai Baba’s statements, relating to His “previous body” as Sai Baba of Shirdi, which are vouched for by those who were devoted to the saintly Shirdi Baba, and who are now convinced Sathya Sai is a reincarnation.

The Raja of Chincholi was an ardent devotee of Shirdi Baba, and had spent some months each year at Shirdi, as well as other holy places. When he died, his wife, the Rani, was surprised to hear of the Lord’s incarnation as Sathya Sai Baba, at Puttaparthi, and she made it a point to visit there, to meet the then fifteen year old Baba. During her stay she persuaded Sathya Sai to accompany her back to Chincholi and Hyderabad. Baba mentioned a number of changes that had taken place at her home since His “previous body”, as He frequently referred to it; that a tree had been uprooted, a well that had been filled in, a newly built line of shops, etc. During His stay in the Rani’s home He asked about a small stone statuette which had been given to the Raja, but, alas, the Rani was unaware of its existence. Sathya Sai found it for her! He also said that there must also be a picture of Shirdi Baba, and that too was discovered.

Some years later the Rani came across a drinking vessel, used by Sadhus*, which had a distinctive shape and artistic design. She had been rummaging in a hugh store room in her home for suitable items for display throughout the house. She instructed the servants to clean and polish it, and upon examination, she found that to fill the vessel, the water had to be poured through a slit in the handle, and the spout had been shaped into a cow’s head. It was displayed in the drawing room of the Rani’s Hyderabad home. The following day they found a cobra coiled around the vessel and
the Rani decided to ask Sathya Sai about this unusual drinking vessel, on her next trip to Puttaparthi. When she entered the ashram, Baba sent word to ask her to come up with my drinking vessel! No sooner had He had it in His hands, He showed to devotees nearby, the letters SAA followed by a pair of short vertical lines, BAA with two more lines. SAA indicating Sai, and BAA for Baba!

* A good man, detached, virtuous, devoted, wise.

To this day the connections between Shirdi Sai, and Sathya Sai, are portraited in two life-size oil paintings displayed in the Prayer Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam. Both figures are shown standing with both hands crossed over the other; Shirdi holding His right hand with His left hand, and Sathya holding His left hand with His right. The artist had difficulty in portraying the details of Shirdi Sai’s clothing, whereupon Baba waved His hand and produced two small pictures ready for the artist to work from, with all the correct clothing details.

Some years ago a devotee from Delhi, stated in a letter to the biographer, N. Kasturi, that he had the greatest of difficulty in accepting Sathya Sai Baba as an incarnation of his beloved Shirdi Baba, until the following event occurred.

One evening while the devotee was cycling home along a deserted road between Old Delhi and New Delhi, he was deeply in thought contemplating his financial situation. Although devoted to Shirdi Baba, he was drawn to Sathya Sai, and had just returned from Puttaparthi, still with the doubt heavy on his mind. “Finished the work for the day?” a voice suddenly asked from behind. Turning, he saw a burly individual, pedalling quickly to catch up. He wore a broad smile and had a pleasant manner. Our Delhi devotee earned his livelihood by teaching music to children and occasionally playing the violin at concerts. He assumed the stranger had seen him at concerts or in
some friend's home, and replied, “Yes, I am going home now,” in the Tamil dialect, corresponding to the dialect the stranger spoke in his question. The burly stranger pleaded, “Then can you come along with me to that old temple, yonder? I will not keep you long.” Leaning their bicycles against the shaded temple wall, they sat facing each other as the stranger sought from our Delhi friend, the source of his problems.

The stranger asked how our Delhi friend could doubt that Sathya Sai was not also Shirdi Sai. “See!” he said, extending the palms of his hands, and there could be seen, as if painted in full colour, the portrait of Shirdi Sai on one palm, and on the other, the shining face of Sathya Sai!

“I could never forget those twin faces, lighting up the palms of that reverend old man,” our Delhi friend said. It was the answer that cleared all doubts and gave him a new lease of life, as he meditated on the twin images of his beloved Sai. As he watched, the stranger cycled away swiftly, and to his consternation, saw the stranger suddenly melt into thin air!

On another occasion a lady in Madras, placed her child in front of Shirdi Sai’s picture, as the child was seriously ill. Years later, she went to see Sathya Sai with her son, now a tall muscular young man. As soon as Sai saw her He said, “You had placed this boy under My care, fifteen years ago, isn't that so?”

Thus, Baba gives the positive proof of His identity, we need. Baba speaks the same consoling words, the same words of courage and enlightenment, to all who doubt or question. The same Baba, then and now. The same mission, the same message.

The same spirit, the same power, is embodied in Sathya Sai, that had been in Shirdi Baba, at the turn of this century, and in Krishna almost 6,000 years ago, and in Rama 18,000 years ago.
As Sai Baba said, “Rama, Krishna and Baba appear in different dress, but it is the same entity, believe Me...I am new and ever ancient. I come always for restoration of Dharma, 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 difficulties one may have in accepting the identities of both Babas was explained by Sathya Sai Baba at the All-India Sai Samaj, at Madras in January 1959, “The Avatars of Sri Rama and Sri Krishna are so different in the various incidents of their earthly careers; they also emphasised different aspects of ethical behaviour and philosophical belief; they differed in methods of teaching and uplifting; it is all a difference in emphasis rather than in basic things. It is difficult to get convinced that Sri Rama is Sri Krishna, but few have any doubts on that score. So, too, those who can delve deep into My mysteries can understand that the Power has now assumed, another human form.”

Sai Baba is imbued with great energy to enable Him to fulfill His Glorious Mission. He once stated that He is Saura Shakti, which is an ancient description for the Primeval Energy, otherwise known as Cosmic Energy or Cosmic Christ. So, although the Lord Maitreya is referred to as the Planetary Christ, Sathya Sai Baba is seen as the Overlord, or God of all. There are those who await the Messiah, the Christ, the Lord Maitreya, and claim His appearance is imminent. Why concern ourselves, I say, now that the Father is here and has been for the last 70 years!

At a Christmas Day discourse in 1972, Sathya Sai Baba announced to the large congregation, that Jesus said, “He who sent Me, will come again,” and that Jesus was referring to Baba. He said Jesus actually said, “His name will be Truth (Sathya). He will wear a red robe. He will be short, with a crown of hair.” Baba admitted to being
the One who sent Jesus and to being the Cosmic Christ.

When Dr. Hislop, the author of many books on Sai Baba, asked “Are you God?” Baba replied, “Let us just say, I am the switch.”

Sai Baba never ceases to remind us that everything is God. So also are we Divine. Indeed man is a much greater being than he cares to believe. With a great destiny and a far greater and more important role, which is now opening-up for mankind. It is as if man is the “chosen one”, above all other beings in the universe, chosen for a very special universal role, in which man will surpass anything his “space cousins” have achieved up to now. We must not see ourselves in terms of duality; seeing God as separate from us. Mankind and God are One. We should see ourselves, instead, as the Totality. We are presently locked into a state of illusion. “This life is illusion,” Sai Baba says, and this includes the universe overall. It is as if we are existing within a dreamlike state that we have created for ourselves. But, as we move away from this third dimension to the next, and then to the next again, we are moving away from that illusion, towards the True reality, - our own Divinity.

Sathya Sai Baba brings us back to the fundamental reality, when He says; ““What is man’s journey? Where is he going? Why is he continuously reborn? In order to seek the right path and knowledge of Truth. What road should one seek? You should return whence you have come. That is seeking. You have come from the Divine Essence, from God, and you must return to Him.

“Do not expect to find happiness in the other world; that world too is impermanent. Once you have exhausted your merits, you will again be cast out of it. Even in politics, candidates are elected for a term that expires after five years. Each year that passes shortens the right he earned through the election. In the same way, the duration of your ‘paradise’ will depend upon your merits. When these are used
up, you will have to return to the earth.”

Science/Technology is not the way forward towards that greater goal. It’s a trap, a web of our own making, and we are both the spider and the fly! Referring to science, and scientific investigation, Baba has said, “Science does not even know the truth of chemistry and physics. Each ten years or so, the old truths are discarded or modified because of research results...Science is just hit and miss.”

“How can science, which is bound to a physical and materialist outlook, investigate transcendental phenomena beyond its scope, reach or comprehension?”

Man’s position in creation is, according to Sathya Sai Baba, even higher than particular Biblical passages suggest. While the Psalm 8 says that man was created “little less than a god,” Sai Baba’s discourses states that man has the status of a god, but is totally ignorant of the great wealth lying within, and, He continues, he is likened to a beggar sleeping on a safe full of diamonds! All he has to do is wake up and discover those riches and begin to use them, for his benefit and the benefit of mankind.

“Man is Divine; he has the Lord dwelling in his heart, yet he is bound, miserable, limited, weak, agitated. Why? He is ignorant of his reality. He imagines himself weak, limited, bound and he is so shaped by the mind, which is the source of that imagination.”

Further, He said, “Man is unaware of his glory. He is the Divine poured into a human mould, just as everything else alive or inert is, but it is the privilege of man alone to be able to become aware of this precious truth!”

Saint Paul declared as much, when he stated, “Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit
Himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children, we are heirs as well: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing His sufferings so as to share His glory."

I suppose if you were to repeat “I am a sinner,” often enough, you condition yourself to believing it, particularly when those who have the responsibility of guiding your spiritual destiny, convince you that it is so, and that it is scandalous to think otherwise. They would argue, to suggest otherwise, that that is the origin of Original Sin; man boastfully claiming to be God. Whereas, the opposite could be the truth, by insulting Him who made us, and causing Him great displeasure by insisting that we are sinful, foolish and good-for-nothing! Have we forgotten the parable of the Prodigal Son? By choosing to call yourself a sinful wretch, this makes you forget and cloak-over your Divine origin, that keeps you in a state of suffering. Know the truth of your reality, and be happy! He never ceases to remind us, in His discourses, how blessed we are to be born into human form. “To be born as a man is a very sacred thing. That is, among all the animals that are born, to be born as a man is something very difficult and very sacred. Even devas (angels, gods) at one time want to have a human birth. One must make the determination to use all the organs in the body for sacred purposes.” And finally, “Man is essentially Divine.”
Chapter Ten

“Swami,” asked the young man at an interview, “Why do You only manifest inanimate objects?” With the customary circular movement of His hand, Sai Baba then drew both hands together in a cup-like position, as if holding a precious treasure between His palms. As He slowly drew His hands apart, the room-full of witnesses could detect a furry object, growing larger as the hands parted. Suddenly, a brown monkey leaped from His hands and to the howls and screeches from those present, it went around the room. Baba noticed one of the visitors had some bananas with him, and suggested one be given to the monkey. Having eaten, the monkey leaped back on to the hands of Baba, and bringing them together again, the monkey disappeared!

Sai Baba demonstrated to those present His amazing power over creation, by not only producing a live animal but, as if to prove the point, had the monkey eat as will.

Other examples of His magnificence, were displayed as on the occasion of another interview, when a young Australian was asked if he had a watch. Feigning surprise, that he had none, Baba produced a fine wristwatch for the stunned young visitor. However, the young man explained, with embarrassment to Baba, that the Australian customs officials might request a receipt of purchase. Whereupon Sai Baba went behind a curtained-off small annex in the interview room, and returned moments later with the requested receipt. Noting that the receipt had the name and address of a jeweller in his home town, the young devotee decided upon a visit when he returned home. “Yes, I sold that watch,” responded the jeweller to the enquiry, “To an Indian gentleman. In fact, I recall, he returned moments later to ask for a receipt”!

His ability to transmute an object from one property into another, was
dramatically demonstrated to an Indian geologist, Dr. Rao; not the first man of science to be confounded by Sai Baba’s power over the elements. Baba picked up a piece of granite to ask Dr. Rao what it contained. The geologist listed a number of minerals, but Baba pushed His enquiry further, “I don’t mean those, but something deeper!”

Rao answered: “Well, molecules, atoms, electrons, protons...” Baba still wasn’t satisfied: “No, no, no, go deeper still!” Dr. Rao had to profess ignorance, then Baba took the piece of granite from the geologist, blew on it, and handed it back. Rao was astounded to see that the rock had been transformed into a statue of Krishna playing the flute. Baba admonished him, saying: “You see, beyond your atoms and all, God was in the rock. And God is sweetness and joy. Break off Krishna's foot and taste it.” Rao found no difficulty in breaking the granite foot from the statue only to find, upon tasting it, that it was now sweet candy!

No wonder Dr. Rao stated later to others: “Science gives but the first word; the last word is known only to the great spiritual scientists like Sai Baba.”

The circular movement of the right hand, palm down, has become a familiar gesture, by Baba, to those at Darshan, or to those who have viewed it on videos. One devotee, seated on the floor, at an interview, close to Baba’s seat, could see under His hand, and was able to observe the circular movement associated with His creativity. He clearly saw a circular vaporous impression appear, which quickly developed into a jelly-like substance, swirling beneath His hand and solidify, within seconds, into yet another precious gift for a fortunate devotee! All done so quickly, but none-the-less quite visable to the observer seated beside Him.

We also have the recorded account of Baba's Omnipresence from “Ruth” who had a teaching job in Mexico. She was active in her local Sai centre, in Santa Barbara,
which she used to drive back and forth, every Thursday, to attend bhajans. Despite this weekly commitment she was sceptical. Health problems had been tormenting her for a long time, with bouts of extreme pain for several days at a stretch. One evening, in her little room, she suffered a severe attack of pain and in desperation cried out, “Oh, is there someone to help me? Anyone? Why am I suffering this? What shall I do? Oh, help!” Suddenly she felt a gentle touch on her arm, she stopped shouting and as she turned, she saw Baba standing beside her bed. “Don’t shout so,” He said, “I’m always here!” Then He disappeared, and along with Him went her pain!

The comforting words of Sathya Sai Baba to all those in pain, are, “There is only one God and He is Omnipresent. He has no favourite dwelling place or chosen followers or special groups of devotees. Call...He answers, He manifests, He blesses.”
Chapter Eleven

Sathya Sai Baba has been credited with a vast number of fantastic miracles, but none more “mind-blowing” than bringing those who had died, back to life! Resurrection!

The wife, of an Indian devotee who had died, requested Baba to join her and the family, in prayers for her husband. Baba responded that He would. However, He did not arrive that day, though it is customary in India to bury or cremate the dead, usually on the same day a person died. On the following day a further message was despatched, with the same response, “Yes, I will come.” By this time the body was beginning to smell badly with decomposition, but still He did not arrive, to the dismay of the family, who were now pressuring the wife to proceed with the funeral rites, and not wait any further. But she resolutely refused, insisting upon waiting, as Baba had said He would come. The third day came, and so did Sai Baba, but by then the corpse was not at all pleasant to be near. Baba asked to be left with the body in the room, while everyone waited outside. Some three minutes later Baba came out and instructed the wife to take some liquid in to her husband, whom she found well and sitting up in bed!

Another case, with dramatic results, was related to Indra Devi, a long-standing devotee of Baba. She conducted classes in meditation and Yoga, and talks on Sathya Sai Baba, in Venezuela. Troylan Orozco, of Mexico, used to attend the lectures about Baba, and went with the group to India and was happy beyond words to have had an interview with Him. Upon his returning home to Mexico, Troylan enthusiastically started a Sai Baba Centre, and gave talks about Baba to all his friends and customers. One day, his wife took a friend and her small baby for a drive. Only a few minutes passed when people came running to him with the news that there had been a
crash and his wife and the friend’s baby were killed. While rushing to the scene he was crying out for Sai Baba's help, and immediately applied vibhuti to their lifeless bodies and lips.

Three hours later the baby came back to life, much to the amazement of those present, and five hours later Mrs. Orozco also opened her eyes, not being sure where she was. She later related what occurred during those minutes after the crash; she found herself travelling down a dark tunnel, and coming out into a beautiful place so full of light. She saw Sai Baba there, having recognised Him from photographs and films. Realising she had died, she beseeched Him to return her back to her small boy who would need her care. Seeing her dead body, she re-entered it and returned back with a smile on her vibhuti-coated lips!

The other well-documented account of “life after death”, was the case of an American called Walter Cowan, who had been pronounced dead by two doctors, and resurrected on Christmas Day 1971. A fellow American, Sai devotee, Dr. John Hislop, was witness to this extraordinary drama. On the day in question, Dr. Hislop went to the Connemara Hotel, in Madras, upon learning of a fatal heart attack suffered by Walter Cowan. Cowan’s wife Elsie confirmed to Hislop that her husband had indeed died. She prayed to Sathya Sai Baba for help, but in the meantime the body was removed by ambulance to hospital. The body was examined by a doctor upon arrival at the hospital and pronounced dead. It was covered and removed to an empty room. Elsie cowan and a friend arrived at the hospital, only to find that Sai Baba had already been there. To their utter astonishment they found Walter Cowan alive! Later that day, Baba informed devotees that He had indeed brought Walter back to life. He did this, He said, because He did not want Elsie to suffer the distress and difficulties of transporting the body back home to the United States.
The following is Walter Cowan’s own account of his apparent death and resurrection, under the Grace of Sathya Sai Baba.

“Two days after arrival at the Connemara Hotel, in Madras, I was taken ill with pneumonia. Gasping for breath, suddenly all the body struggle was over and I died. I found myself very calm, in a state of wonderful bliss and Lord Sai Baba was by my side. Even though my body lay on the bed, dead, my mind kept working throughout the entire period until Swami brought me back. There was no anxiety nor fear, only a sense of well-being, for I had lost all fear of death. Sai Baba then took me to a very large hall where there were hundreds of people milling around. It was the Hall where the records of previous lives were kept. Baba and I stood before the Court of Justice. The person in charge knew Baba very well and Swami asked for the records of all my lives. He was very kind and when the records were bought Sai Baba interpreted them and after what seemed like two hours, they finished reading the armloads of scrolls, the Lord Sai Baba said I had not completed the work I was born to do and He asked the Judge that I be turned over to Him to complete my mission of spreading the Truth. I left with Baba to return to my body although it was like stepping into a cesspool to return to it, but I knew it was best to complete my mission. The instant I stepped back into my body it started all over again, trying to get my breath, being sick as I could be and still be alive. I opened my eyes and looked at my wife.”

Dr. John Hislop later asked Baba whether the experience was a real one or an hallucination, Baba replied; “The experience was a real experience, not an illusion. It was an experience occurring within Mr. Cowan’s mind and I myself was there directing and clarifying the thoughts.”

When we turn on our radios and televisions, it is unlikely we will hear of a resurrection having taken place. Does that mean that they do not occur? Should we
choose to accept that resurrections do not happen at the closing of the twentieth century, why then do we not question those mentioned in the Old and New Testaments and other Holy Scriptures? Perhaps they do occur today but are too “outrageous” to be taken seriously by the proprietors of the media. Certainly, it requires faith to believe in such events, and not reasoning powers. Modern technology, and its vast potential, would be deemed miraculous to those in a bygone age. To land a space-craft on a distant planet, would be beyond the credibility of institutions in the middle ages, who believed the world was flat, and in more recent times, to scientists who believed that travelling at speeds in excess of thirty five miles per hour, meant certain death. There must then be room for believing the “impossible”!

Scientists today admit to knowing little of the mind and all its complexities, and also its place in the causing of disorders, both physical and mental. The fact that miracles happen, means that they occur within the laws of Nature, as Nature does not work against itself. In reality there are no miracles, only occurrences outside our present understanding. As man’s consciousness is raised, he begins to perceive things today which he could not comprehend yesterday. All major scientific and technological discoveries, were the results of this process. The perseverance and faith inherent in man, continues to overcome obstacles in his search for truth, leading him to greater and deeper wisdom, especially when his determined Will to succeed is brought into play. It is as if his Will is itself a point of energy; a source of power to help punch the search forward.

The most famous resurrection was that of Lazarus, who was brought forth from his tomb, by Jesus Christ. But there had been others, as referred to in the Acts of the Apostles; St. Peter raising a disciple named Tabitha (meaning Dorcas or Gazelle),
at Joppa (Jaffa). She had fallen ill and died, and St. Peter was entreated to, “Please come to us without delay.” This he did immediately, and staying alone in the room with her, he prayed and said, “Tabitha, rise!” She opened her eyes and sat up.

The other resurrection, mentioned in the Acts, was that of a young man named Eutychus, who had been seated on a window sill, at a gathering, listening to a discourse by St. Paul. The young man sank into a deep sleep, fell down from the third story and was pronounced dead. When Paul was informed of the incident, he hurried to him, and resuscitated him. Was the young man dead or in an unconscious state? We can only accept that he was dead, as reported at the time, otherwise it would put all such miraculous happenings, in the scriptures, under question.

Jesus had suggested that we too would do greater things, in His name. Sathya Sai Baba also says as much; that in time we will also perform “miraculous” resurrections, materialisations, and great deeds. One must then presume that such Divine Beings as Jesus and Sai Baba, are the norm, in the human sense, while the rest of mankind is wholly abnormal. Baba once remarked, that there are very few HUMAN beings on earth at this time, as animal tendencies are dominant within man, cloaking-over, as it were, the Divine state which is man’s true nature.

It is interesting to postulate that Avatars, like Baba and Jesus, never perform miracles for themselves; for their own benefit or gain. All such deeds are rendered on behalf of the people they serve. Their entire lives are dedicated to the service of all peoples as well as to the other kingdoms of Earth; ie. mineral, animal, vegetable, etc. In doing so they are setting examples for us to follow; for us to have dominion over nature and our less-fortunate brothers and sisters. The real meaning of the word dominion, is to have “responsibility for”, and not mastery over, as some people choose to believe.
Chapter Twelve

“Scientists after long investigations, have discovered that the whole universe is made up of atoms. The Vedantins, on their part, declare that everything is permeated by the Divine. The terms used are different, but the meaning is the same. Energy is Brahman and Brahman is energy. The cosmos is filled with energy. All that you see, all that you do is energy. You observe an object. You see an individual. Both the object and the individual are manifestations of energy,” said Sathya Sai Baba, at a discourse on July 20th 1997.

“What is this energy?” He continues, “It is something which you cannot see or hear or conceive in the mind. Energy is energy alone. It is Divine. Every physical object has a base. There is electrical energy in man. Likewise, there is radiation energy in man. There must be a basis for all these energies. You see that in the world every object is based on some other object. God is the base for all the energies in the cosmos. The Vedantins called this energy Transcendental Energy. Scientists have termed it ‘Super-power’. The names used may vary, but the substance is one and the same.”

He proceeds to state that all individuals have latent potencies of which he is not aware. Scientists give different titles to different energies, ie. ‘psychotronic’ energy and ‘bioplasmic’ energy. Those who in the past have studied the ancient texts of the Vedas would give the blanket term, ‘Transcendental Energy’. “How is the presence of this energy to be recognised?”, He asks. “The Vedantins described the process of recognition as involving ‘will-power’, concentration, meditation and deep awareness. By these four processes, one can experience the power of the Spirit. This means that in the final analysis every individual, every object, and every form of
energy becomes one with the Divine.”

Sai Baba continues, “In this context one has to understand the implications of oneness with the Divine. One desires to merge in God and achieve liberation. How is this to be secured? God is formless. He is the source of all energy. He is effulgent. Eight kinds of potencies have been attributed to God. He is the source of all sound, all motion, all light, all speech, all bliss, all excellence, all illusion and all prosperity. How is one to realise such an omnipotent Divinity? Water can integrate with water. Air can combine with air. Fire can merge with fire. As God is formless, to become one with God, we have to become formless. What does this imply? It means that we have to get rid of the attachment to the body. This is achieved through meditation. While retaining attachment to the body one cannot hope to achieve oneness with God merely by praying for it. You have to become formless to realise the formless Divine.”

Merging with our own Divinity, is the ultimate goal of all mankind. Achieving this can only be done when we move from the dualistic state; seeing ourselves separate from that source of Divine effulgence, God. The light of all our lives comes from the supreme source of all light, and that individual light should merge in the Supreme Divinity from which all other lights emanate.

The practice of external worship, such as prayer, meditation, bhajans or spiritual songs, reciting the Lord's name, or other spiritual exercises, do not promote, as Baba says, “…the exploration of the internal spirit. They are good in themselves, but they are unrelated to spirituality. Spirituality implies relationship of spirit to spirit. All actions have appropriate consequences. Every act results in its own reward. Good acts yield good results, but they do not contribute to spiritual progress. Hence the good acts should be the stepping stones for the spiritual journey.”

He continues to impress upon us not to remain content with performing the rituals
and other acts of worship, or to be sanguine with the dogmas of our respective religions. The spiritual journey does not finish there. We must be prepared to embark on the grand spiritual adventure; the excursion from dualism to non-dualism. To become the knower of the Absolute, you have to experience the oneness with the Divine.

Unfortunately, man today is too impressed with the technological advances he sees around him. Scientific quests into outer space, and medical discoveries, dazzle him into believing that they are all important for his future well-being. Whereas the truth exists within; that man has taken human birth to manifest the Divine within. He has come from God, and can only take the return journey when he realises that “He and I are One!” and that God is not separate from him, but dwells within his heart, awaiting contact, and the final cognition of that Oneness.

While one may desire to merge with God, and attain liberation from the cycle of birth and death, we must begin our journey by detaching ourselves from limitations of the physical body. This will release us from the range of physical desires which act as chains, binding us and restricting our freedom of spiritual advancement. This image was depicted in an ancient painting showing a man chained to a great rock, in deep water, struggling to release himself from his bonds, and float gently to the sunlight above the surface. We too are bound by our desires in the deep waters of the emotional body.

When modern man begins to accept the existence of a Supreme Reality, or God, he seeks to find Him, to hold Him, as if the Creator of All could be acquired like a piece of property: to have Him on hand in case of emergencies, or at times of need.

To have God, one must realise God. When you realise God, you are One with God, and your Spiritual Journey is at an end!
A deeper explanation of this thinking, was given in the Bhagavad Gita, when Krishna told Arjuna, “Though you are highly educated, though you have sense control, though you have accomplished great feats and have developed many skills, you are, nevertheless, experiencing many difficulties. This is because you have not been able to understand the Divinity. As long as you have not been able to understand the Divinity, you cannot be free from sorrow. If you want to free yourself from sorrow and earn the grace of the Lord, you must obey my commands.

“First of all, remember that you are not the body. These sense organs have no connection with you; they are associated with the body. Use the body for doing work, but do not identify yourself with the body or the work. You have taken birth in this body as the result of your past actions, your Karma, and you must use this body for performing Karma. So, get up! Arise, Arjuna! Do your duty. Perform actions and offer them all to me. Let me have the consequences of your actions. Shun selfishness uphold justice, be fixed in faith! That is the Dharma from age to age. If you obey my commands, I will take care of you.”

Krishna continued to advise Arjuna, “I want to tell you one other thing, the blind father of these evil cousins of yours had 100 sons, yet in the end there was not even one of them left to perform his funeral rites. What is the reason for this? All these sons were the children of God, but the blind king considered them as his. Arjuna, you are also becoming a brother to him. You are deluding yourself with the idea that this body is yours when it really is not yours at all. By thinking that you are the body, you are developing the same blind outlook. That is complete ignorance. Unless you drive away this ignorance, you will not be able to realise wisdom. You have to develop discrimination and self-inquiry in order for wisdom to enter into you.

“Within your body is the spiritual heart, and within that heart is God. Also, in
your body is the individual soul. These two, God and the individual, appearing to live separately inside the body, are playing together, acting out their parts in a grand drama. They come together and go apart again, as directed by the author who has written this play. He assigns all the separate roles of good and bad, virtue and sin. But, in truth, there is only the one Divinity that plays all these parts.

“From the standpoint of the body, there is the individualised soul manifested as this particular person of body and mind, and there is God who is the indweller of the heart. As long as you have the delusion of the body, these two, God and the soul remain separate entities enjoying their play with each other. As soon as the delusion disappears, they merge into the one all-pervasive Divine Principle. When you remove the false delusion of body-consciousness, you bring about the union of the individual and God. Then you are established in Divine Consciousness and enjoy eternal bliss.

“Arjuna, always have the sense that everything which exists is one and the same entity.” Krishna said, “Do not allow the senses to pull you away from this feeling of unity and equanimity. Let your heart be free from sorrow and elation, attachment and hatred. Be unaffected by censure or praise. Treat all people equally.

“When you firmly believe that everything in this creation is the manifestation of divinity, then you will become steeped in wisdom and freed from illusion. Then you will have realised the true purpose for which you have been born as a human being. Arjuna! Carry out my commands! See me everywhere! Know me to be your very self, the Atma! Realise the Atma and be forever free!”
Epilogue

On 20th October 1940, Sathya Narayana was fourteen years old when He made the monumental statement, to His brother, Seshama, that his mission was to begin. Returning from school to His brother’s house, throwing His books aside and stating, to His astonished sister-in-law, “I do not belong to you. I am leaving. I have work ahead. Those devoted to Me are calling Me. The task for which I came is yet unfinished. I am starting now.” He continued, later, “The illusion has gone. I am no more yours. I am Sai Baba, remember.” With that, He left the house and proceeded to a neighbour’s garden, and sat under a tree, thus marking the start of His Mission as the Avatar of the New Age.

Sathya’s brother expressed loving concern for Him, wrote telling Him of the ways of the world, the weaknesses of people, about the dangers of fame and its attendant evil.

Sathya wrote the following historic response:

“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 doubt 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 right 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 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 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 sacred text lays down rules to regulate the
lives of the great, prescribing habits and attitudes that they must adopt. They
themselves know the path they must tread; Their wisdom regulated 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 tangle 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, 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 ‘reason to be proud’, for
I rescue all who worship and adore Me, aright. I have My definition of the ‘Devotion’
I expect: Those devoted to Me have to treat joy and grief, gain and loss, with equal
fortitude. This means that 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 ever 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 skill, will be moved by praise or blame.

“You must have read life-stories of saints and Divine personages; in those 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 honour and dishonour, 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 any one 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 enquiry, 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.”

Sathya Sai Baba Spoke Thus:

FATE:
The sacred Scriptures of this land loudly proclaim that the individual is the architect of his fate; high or low status in society, luxury or poverty, liberty or bondage. Whatever form the person craves for now while alive in this world, that form he attains after death. Therefore, it is clear that Karma decides birth, and that luxury or poverty, the character and attitude, the level of intelligence, the joys and griefs of this life are the earnings gathered during the previous life. The inference, therefore, is inevitable that the next life of the individual will be in consonance with the activities prompted by the level of Karma in this life.

Sadhana of Love
You wear coloured glasses and see everything through these glasses. Correct your vision; the world will be corrected. Reform yourselves; the world will be reformed. You create the world of your choice. You see many, because you seek the many, not the one. Try to subsume the many in the one: the physical bodies of yourself and others, the family, the village, the community, the state, the nation, the world. Thus, you will progressively march on towards more and more inclusive loyalties and reach the stage of unity in thought, word and deed. This is the Sadhana of Love, for Love is
expansion, inclusion and mutualisation. The individual has to become universalised, expanded until he embodies the entire creation.

**In pursuit of Money**

Man has been enslaved by money. He lives a superficial, hollow, artificial life. This is indeed a great pity. Man should seek to possess only as much money as is most essential for his living. The quantity of riches one earns, must be compared to the shoes one wears; if too small, they cause pain; if too big, they are a hinderance to physical and mental comfort. When we have more, it breeds pride, sloth and contempt for others. In pursuit of money, man descends to the level of the beast.

Money is of the nature of manure. Piled up in one place, it pollutes the air. Spread it wide; scatter it over fields, it rewards you with a bumper harvest. So too, when money is spread in all the four quarters for promoting good works, it yields contentment and happiness in plenty.

**The Sai “Religion”**

The Sai “Religion”, is the essence of ALL faiths and religions including those like Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The motive behind the foundation and propagation of all these different faiths is the same, in all cases.

When each Religion plans to extend its influence, it has to resort to vilification of others and exaggeration of its own excellences. Pomp and publicity become more important than practice and faith. But, Sai wants that the votarees of each must cultivate faith in its own excellences and realise their validity by their own intense practice.

All of you who have entered the Sathya Sai Organisation, if anyone asks you what is the Religion of Sathya Sai and of the Sathya Sai Organisation, you must have the courage and the determination to say with one voice, that “the essence of all
Religions, is the Religion of Sathya Sai Organisation.”

Let the different faiths exist, let them flourish and let the glory of God be sung in all the languages, and in variety of tunes. That should be the Ideal. Respect the differences between the faiths and recognise them as valid as long as they do not extinguish the flame of Unity.

**God Is Love**

*Start the Day with Love; Spend the Day with Love; Fill the Day with Love;*

*End the Day with Love; That is the Way to God.*

Love alone can reveal the Divinity latent in all. Love is God. Live in Love. Love lives by giving and forgiving. Selfishness is lovelessness. Do not waste your life pursuing the narrow interests of the self. Love! Love! Become what you truly are, -the embodiments of Love. No matter how others treat you or what they think of you, do not worry. Follow Jesus christ. Love for your own evolution and not for what others say. Do not imitate others. Cultivate your own life. You have your own heart, your own opinion, your ideas, your own will. Why then imitate? Imitation is human, they say; but Creation is Divine. Follow your chosen path. Let your own Experience of God be your guide and master. Do not go into the grave, weakly copying others. You won't find God if you search in the outside world. Your own heart shining with Love is God's Love. Follow the Master, face the Devil, fight to the end and finish the game. You are God. The true you is God.
Helpful Quotations:

1. **Commence a task, end it, and continue with the next one. I will take care of the results.** Maybe at the beginning you will not find it easy to give up your expectations; you will have to instruct your intellect to go without the results, placing your attention on something else and deliberately forgetting about them.

2. **Every cell in your body contains the details of your whole being.** In fact, every cell in your body holds your whole form. There are billions of cells in your body. While your form is immanent in each cell and in each limb in the microcosm, your body is your macrocosmic form. In the same manner, each one of you is the cosmic divine form. You must make efforts to fully appreciate this reality.

3. **There is only one God and He is omnipresent. Do not hate other religions.**
   
   A Muslim. The one without love can neither be called a Muslim nor a Hindu nor a Christian nor a Sikh. In fact, he is verily a demon on this earth.

4. **Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.** As is your company, so you become. How can one be good if one is in the company of bad people always?

5. **The service to man is more valuable than what you call ‘service to God’**.
   
   God has no need of your service. Please man, you please God!

6. **Reduce the luggage that you carry about when on the journey of life.**
   
   Remember that all that is not ‘you’ is luggage. The mind, the senses, the intelligence, the imagination, the desires, the prejudices, the discontent, the stress, - all these are items of luggage. Jettison them, soon, to make your
travel lighter, safer and more comfortable.

7. If you do good, you get good from those around you and from the universal entity, God. If you do bad, you get bad. Divinity but resounds, reflects, reacts; God has no favourites, no prejudices.

8. Every act in daily life can be sanctified by dedication it to God. By dedicating all thoughts to God man can achieve peace. There is no need to wait for a suitable time for embarking on this exercise. The time is at your beck and call. Great people do not wait on time. They make time their servant.

9. Hold fast to the God you believe in, despite the trials and tests, the ups and downs of life. Win the grace of your own subconscious, so that it may accept the grace of God, which is ever available. God does not deny anyone; it is only you who deny God.

10. You must not be a bit of blotting paper, absorbing all the passions and emotions, all the joys and griefs that the actress nature demonstrates on the stage of life. You must be a lotus unfolding its petals when the sun rises in the sky, unaffected by the slush where it is bron, or even the water which sustains it!

11. However high a bird may soar, it has sooner or later to perch on a tree top, to enjoy quiet. So, too, a day will come when even the most haughty, the most willful, the most unbelieving, even those who assert that there is no joy or peace in the contemplation of the Higher Self, will have to pray: ‘God grant me peace, grant me consolation, strength and joy’.

12. Never be disheartened when you are faced with difficulties or sufferings in life. Have firm faith in the power of the Atma (God within) will not suffer. The panacea for all suffering is chanting of God’s name. Have the firm
conviction that you are God. Never be under the mistaken notion that God is the Master and you are His slave. You do not have a master; you are the Master! Master the mind and be a mastermind. Never forget God’s name.

13. Difficulties are part and parcel of lives of great devotees. God subjects His devotees to tests so that their faith in Him can be strengthened and their hearts are purified. It needs a great effort on your part to cleanse a stained vessel.

14. When you offer all your love to God, He will look after all your needs. There is nothing that He cannot do in this world. In city or hamlet, in forest or in sky, on the high peak or in the deep ocean, God is everywhere. Space and time are pervaded by Him. All beings are His forms. Realise this truth, transform it into practice and enjoy the bliss.

15. Where there is faith, there is love.

Where there is love, there is peace.

Where there is peace, there is truth.

Where there is truth, there is God.

Where there is God, there is bliss.
Bibliography
AND ESSENTIAL READING ABOUT SATHYA SAI BABA

Man of Miracles, Howard Murphet, London 1971

Sai Baba: The Holyman and the Psychiatrist, Samuel H. Sandweiss MD. Birth Day Publ. 1978

Spirit and the Mind, Samuel H. Sandweiss, MD. Birth Day Publ. 1985

A Catholic Priest Meets Sai Baba, Mario Mazzoleni, Leela Press Inc. 1994

Vision of the Divine, Eruch B. Fanibunda, Bombay 1976

The Embodiment of Love, P. Mason & R. Laing, Sawbridge Enterprises 1982

The Incredible Sai Baba, Arthur Osborne, Orient Longman 1957

A Search for the Historical Jesus, Prof. Fida Hassnain, Gateway Books 1994


Sathyam Sivam Sundaram (series), N. Kasturi, M.A., B.L.

Sai Messages for You and Me, Lucas Ralli, Vrindavanum books, London. (Vols.1-5)

The Vahinis Series, (books written by Sri Sathya Sai Baba)

Sathya Sai Baba & Jesus Christ, Peter Phipps, Sathya Sai Publ. of New Zealand.

Copyright © 2001

Online version