

LEELA MOHANA SAI

Volume 2



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Foreword 1

Sri T. R. Sai Mohan is a true devotee of Sai.

He sent me a copy of this (Tamil) book '**Leela Mohana Sai' (Part 2)** to my residence at Delhi, with a request that I pen the forward. This, I consider as my good fortune!

As soon as I laid my hands on this book, I read it at a single go. Since the book was wonderful I read it the second time too. Despite repeated readings this book remains a delectably delightful read.

Stories in his first book encompassed captivating incidents. In this book that is the second part, he has compiled for us various incidents under 10 chapters.

The initial chapters of this book Leela Mohana Sai (Part 2) detail interesting events such as the translations of his first book Leela Mohana Sai (Part 1) into English and Telugu, the book launch and the subsequent incident that led to its Hindi translation. All of these are happenings that evoke awe and amazement.

Likewise, the other happenings described as separate chapters in this second book such as '*The Lord of Parthi sending for a doctor*', '*The bestowing of family pension*', '*The miracle at a function in Palani where a talk was delivered*', '*The Poornayajna that happened for seven days at Parthi*', '*Making a dream come true*', '*The*

miracle of saving a young boy's life by manifesting as a doctor and operating upon him' leave the readers wonderstruck.

All these leelas are both nectarous and miraculous. My personal favorite of all is the true-life incident penned by him in the chapter entitled, "***The Lord of Parthi Sends a Doctor and Showers His Grace!***"

This incident happens at Vepathur, his native village. However, he happens to live in Chennai (at that time). His brother at Vepathur contracts a severe ailment rendering him immobile. Therefore, 'on coming to know that his brother is bed-ridden,' he leaves for Vepathur. There are no hospitals there and no doctor can be fetched to that village either.

Yet, with the guiding grace of Sai Baba, Sai Mohan pedals to the neighboring town on a bicycle and brings with him a doctor. The doctor happens to be a Sai devotee too. The doctor comes to their house every day, treats his brother and cures his brother of his ailment as well. The doctor makes his brother walk. Amazing, nevertheless true.

Eventually, on the last day when he embarks on a mission to take his brother to Chennai, while he is on his way to the hospital to settle the bill on his bicycle the cycle's tyre gets punctured. All his plans crumble to dust. Why does such a true devotee have to go through this kind of an ordeal? This is the painful question that weighs upon while reading.

However, the puncturing of that tyre actually becomes a '*blessing in disguise*'. It is only because of the flat tyre did it become necessary for him to wait out at the puncture shop. And it's exactly then that everyone whom he had planned to meet to settle the dues turns up at that very puncture shop. The situation is such that they all come to meet him instead of him having to go in search of them, and all of them initiate their conversations with him. Thus, he triumphantly completes his mission. Eventually, he is able to successfully leave

for Chennai with his brother within the stipulated time as well. This wondrous event happened only because of the grace of Sai Baba.

Therefore, what is that lesson that every incident in this book teaches?

Every single happening is by the Sankalpa of Sai Baba!

Every single event has a good ending!

The Lord does not forsake those who repose faith and trust in Him. There will be trials and tribulations that come in between. If they are surpassed, there is only success!

After reading this book our trust in Bhagawan increases manifold. It becomes even stronger!

Let good thoughts prevail!

Let good actions prevail!

Let us keep up the faith!

Good is bound to happen always!

My appreciations to this author who has weaved together engaging and worthwhile incidents exquisitely and for having nourished us with the delicacy of devotion! Congratulations!

Sairam!

With Love

Justice M. Karpaga Vinayagam

Justice V. Ramasubramanian

Judge, Chennai High Court

42, Pasumai Vazhichaalai

Chennai – 28

Foreword 2

Sri Sai Mohan has been nurturing devotion towards Bhagawan Baba for more than 50 years. Sri Sai Mohan has witnessed countless miracles of Bhagawan at close quarters. He has brought out an amazing book under the title '**Leela Mohana Sai**' (Part 2). The book contains incredible personal miracles he has absorbed and revelled in the ecstasy of having witnessed them directly. Along with these spectacular miracles, he has also added Bhagawan's messages rendered for us.

Bhagawan had categorized His life into three parts. He had dedicated the first part of His life for performing leelas, the second part for delivering His divine messages and the third for undertaking service. Those of us who read this book by Sri T.R. Sai Mohan will realize that all and any occurrence in the daily lives of Bhagawan Baba's devotees has His stamp affixed. Many only see Bhagawan in a few paranormal happenings. Only those who have reached an exalted state of bhakti can see the Lord's invisible Divine Hands at play in every single incident. Likewise, Sri Sai Mohan has seen Bhagawan's Divine Hands in all incidents of his life. The extent of his bhakti is beyond measure. This book is a sacred example of such devotion.

Justice V. Ramasubramanian

*Om Saayeshwaraaya Vidhmahe
Sathya Dhevaaya Dheemahi
Thannassarva Prachodhayaath*

Foreword 3

We offer our most loving pranaams at the Golden Lotus Feet of The Akhilaanda Koti Brahmaanda Nayaka Bhagawan Baba.

“Leela Mohana Sai” Part 2 is a fascinating creation of honorable Sri Sai Mohan, featuring the divine leelas of The Most Bewitching Lord (Sundara Purusha) in a spectacular way.

I derive immense happiness in stating that I am one among those fortunate souls to have been bestowed with the friendship of Sri Sai Mohan. So far, all my interactions with him have been entirely about Bhagawan Baba’s incredible divine leelas. The way he has written (the book) evokes a feeling as if he were right in our midst narrating Bhagawan’s leelas to us. It is so engrossing that it feels as if we are penning this ourselves.

As we continue to read page after page, he takes us into Bhagawan’s presence. Further, as we continue reading there is a prevailing dismay that *‘this wonderful journey would be ending soon.’*

Here in this book, he has detailed leelas he had personally shared with me (Dr. Ganesan). To mention more specifically, it was the leela of the dance of the jhoola. So, every time I visit his house, I am blessed with the good fortune of having a darshan of that divine jhoola upon which our Bhagawan had demonstrated His feat and established His acceptance of that “jhoola’s service.”

Thus, he has had many such experiences with our Lord Sai! He has shared some of them with us. With the abiding grace of The Lord of Parthi, we await eagerly for the day when Leela Mohana Sai- Part 3 would be released.

We have with us the many epics and scriptures written by Veda Vyasa and Valmiki. A compilation of the leelas performed by those heroes has been written already and they are all in the past.

However, the leelas of our Baba flow perennially. Undaunted by the task at hand, there are Sai devotees in large numbers who continue to write about them. If they were all to be brought together, chances are that they will be no less than several lakhs in number. Since our Bhagawan's leelas have neither a beginning nor an end, they would go on endlessly. He is an ocean. It is impossible to measure its depth. It is impossible to swim across this ocean as well.

However, if one were to swim across the ocean of "samsara", then one must necessarily take His help. Books such as "**Leela Mohana Sai**" bring in a clear perspective about Bhagawan and take us to Him.

Books are many, but only in a few do the authors stand out. Or else, the heroes feature prominently in some.

But, when devotees of Sathya Sai write, the life of Bhagawan and the life of these devotees are entwined. Without Him not even an atom can exist. This book too is proof of this fact. As Bhagawan's leelas get narrated, several events in Sri Sai Mohan's life go hand in hand with them. This too is one of Bhagawan's leelas. When He is inseparable in Sri Sai Mohan's name, how can He be separated from his life?

Besides, there are so many experiences that Sri Sai Mohan has witnessed! While He has shared some of these with us (in this book), we hope he shares more in the upcoming parts. We are eagerly looking forward to it.

We request that The Inimitable Unparalleled Almighty Lord of Kali Yuga our Bhagawan Baba showers His Blessings and Grace upon Sri Sai Mohan, commands him to pen Leela Mohana Sai – Part 3 as desired by us and blesses him with good health as well.

Jai Sai Ram

Dr. V.R. GANESAN
Family Physician & Diabetologist

C.B. SHANTI
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Leela Mohana Sai

Part Two

Prologue

***"Ulagelaam Unarndu Odarku Ariyavan
Nilavulaaviya Neermali Veniyan
Alagil Jyothiye Ambalathu Aaduvaan
Malar Chilambadi Vaazhthi Vanguvaam"***

***Beyond knowledge and glory of all worlds, He is the rarest;
Crescent moon glides in His matted locks glistened by the Ganges.
Infinite Light is He who dances in the cosmos as a resplendent glow of fire;
Let's eulogize and prostrate at His Lotus Feet bedecked with anklet and flower.***

***"Anyatha Sharanam Naasthi Twameva Sharanam Mama
Thasmaath Kaarunya Bhaavena Raksha Raksha Sayeeshwara"***

***To none other I surrender and take refuge but only to Thee!
You are the embodiment of compassion Sayeeshwara; repeatedly protect me!!***

Everything is by Sri Sai's Sankalpa (Divine Conscious Will)!
Sairam!..

As per the truthful (Tamil) verse, "Avan arulaal avan thaal vanangi" meaning 'it is solely by His grace that His Feet is worshiped', the abundant grace and divine sankalpa of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba compelled me to write the first part of this book with the same title '**Leela Mohana Sai**'. It was released on the 80th birthday (23-11-2005) of the great Poornavata and that flooded my being with immense bliss! Indeed! Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Himself blessed and released the book. Those delightful memories of the glorious event where Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba showered His grace and released my book, fills my entire being with utmost joy, akin to rejoicing in the breathtaking ocean of supreme bliss!

Perhaps, Lord Rama honored Sage Valmiki's revered and sacred service of composing The Ramayana during His lifetime. He may have released the epic Himself, thereby bestowing the sage with immense joy and appreciation. However, Lord Sai Rama Himself bequeathed His blessings and created an identity for '**Leela Mohana Sai**' - a book that depicts in spectacular detail Sri Sai Rama's extraordinary miracles penned by me, the last in line of crown jewel devotees of Sai. I consider this the result of the sum total of all good deeds performed by both my ancestors and me for several lifetimes together. I consecrate The Lord's Divine Lotus Feet with my tears of joy. The embodiment of Love has flooded me with His love and compassion, profusely.

It gives me great joy to reveal at this moment that it is verily Sri Sai Rama's profuse blessings and sankalpa that inspired me to pen this book '**Leela Mohana Sai - Part 2**' as well.

Few lines about my first book '**Leela Mohana Sai**'-

During His childhood and teenage years, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba performed innumerable miracles for various people across different time periods. Thus, He attracted devotees and elevated them to blissfully ecstatic states suffused with nectarous devotion. In the 1960's, I was quite fortunate to have directly witnessed, experienced and rejoiced in many such manifestations of His divinity. Some of these mahimas (His divine glory that manifested as miracles) pertained to me or folks related to me. In other circumstances, His mahimas encompassed certain divine purpose, the purport of which was known to Him alone. None around had a clue about how such a miracle unfolded, or the reason behind its occurrence. As per this saying, "*Alagila Vilaiyaatudaiyar*" meaning '*The source of immeasurable divine games*' it is a futile effort trying to comprehend many of His miracles in their entirety. They will always remain beyond the capabilities of our limited human intellect! Such hair-raising leelas performed by Him in those days and known to me personally were narrated in my first book. Written by me originally in Tamil, the book was later translated into English, Telugu, Hindi, Oriya and Malayalam. It gathered the support and appreciation of Sai devotees all over the country. The fact that the English version is one of the bestsellers not just within India, but also among Sai devotees living abroad too is to me a delightful piece of information! Furthermore, I often receive unconfirmed reports that the book has been translated into other Indian languages apart from those mentioned above. I am also told of a few attempts made to translate the book into other foreign languages as well. All is Sri Sai Rama's grace and sankalpa!

Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam produced and published an audiobook in CD format comprising all the details of the book's English translation. This was under a project titled *CD Productions*, undertaken by the Trust my book was chosen to be produced as the very first CD. Having come to know of this, I reinstated my belief that the occurrence of any and every event is entirely due to Sri Sathya Sai Bhagawan's divine grace and sankalpa. I installed the Poornavathar's Sacred Golden Lotus Feet in my heart with devotion and having understood a tad of the wise principle of '*Namama*', I bowed down in humility singing the glory and praise of Our Lord Sai! ('*Namama*' means there is absolutely nothing that is mine).

The ancient culture of our land Bharat is beyond the clutches of time. It is a

culture that is derived from the Vedas. Eminent scholars of the Sanskrit language turn ecstatic while singing praises of our Bharat's Vedas as '*Anaadhi*' ('*that it is so ancient nothing can be ascertained about its source of origin*') and '*Apowrusheyam*' ('*that it did not come into existence by any human recitation*'). Such is the magnificence of our culture. Thus, when the Vedas are declared as '*Apowrusheyam*' it is understood in crystal clear terms that the Vedas were not rendered into existence by any human tongue! Therefore, the inherent wisdom behind their hallowed birth that the Vedas are pristine, pure, unsullied and unsoiled by a mortal's tongue leaves us speechless with awe and wonder!

The Vedas counsel man extensively on the guidelines for leading a life conforming to the laws of dharma (rightful way of living). They lay down the recipe for an individual to lead a virtuous and disciplined lifestyle, without shying away from one's responsibilities. Thus, the Vedas provide a framework for performing karma in a rightful manner. Additionally, they preach duties a human being is bound to undertake to be able to conserve and foster both the individual and the encompassing ecosystem that nurtures!

By nature, mankind is not despicable but superior in trait. Vedanta teaches the higher values and goals that are to be attained by humans.

Furthermore, Vedanta exhorts on '*self-realization*', which is the goal for mankind. It also prescribes the technique for initiating oneself to attain this lofty goal!

The Vedanta comprises prodigious works such as the Brahma Sutras, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. They are collectively eulogized as '*Prasthan Thrayam*'. They enlighten us on the essential concepts of Paramathma, Jivathma and Mithya Jagath (the enveloping world which is neither real nor unreal). These luminous works bring to fore the nuances in integrity required to live a fulfilled life. They eventually lead one to achieve the ultimate goal i.e.; '*self-realization*' - the pinnacle of our existence!

Maharishis and sages who lived several thousand years ago were epitomes of our Bharat's lofty laws of dharma. They earnestly demonstrated higher ideals of integrity and values in their personal lives as advocated by the aforesaid extraordinary works. Likewise, after their lifetimes their successors too zealously championed, protected and nurtured these very illustrious values for several centuries thereafter, and ushered in transformation! Epics and sacred mythological works that proclaim this holy soil's cultural grandeur are nothing but remarkable life stories of such noble humans endowed with sterling qualities!

Such is the blessed lineage and reputation of this land Bharat's culture. It has to be thoroughly embraced, venerated to a greater degree and advocated enthusiastically. We need to honor, celebrate and empower this remarkable and unparalleled ancient treasure of ours. Or, at the very least exhibit a spark of eagerness to seek further, ***consciously attempt*** to know more about this blessed culture and its heritage. It is appalling to note that all this is totally lacking amongst 'many of us' today. I sense this as a sign of moral degradation of our entire society. Agonized I am; my hopes withered!

I once went to meet a Muslim clergy. As I was about to enter his room, he called

out to his grandson and asked him to bring 'The Holy Quran'. The grandson came with 'The Holy Quran'. As he was coming closer albeit still at a distance, the clergy paid homage by performing the 'Namaaz' facing his grandson! This spectacle totally took me by surprise!

After wrapping up on topics I had intended to discuss in my tête-à-tête with the clergy, I made him aware of my bewilderment. *"Is it OK to offer salutations to your grandson?"* I posed. With a smile enveloping his face he said, *"I prayed not to my grandson but to that which he was carrying, the most venerated religious treatise of ours, 'The Holy Quran'. I offered my prayers and salutations to 'The Holy Quran'! Our invaluable religious treatise that preaches the right conduct to the followers of Islam deserves utmost respect!"*

That day, I felt my heart brim with the joy and fulfillment of having learned something novel and wise!

Do all ancient treatises representing this country's heritage - those that encourage practicing good virtues aimed at the upliftment and redemption of mankind receive this kind of reverence by the people of this country? In this day and age, the fact remains that most of us aren't willing to propel ourselves further to higher levels of character. On the contrary, today these honorable works receive abysmal, misinterpreted and disgraceful reviews!

More of Prologue follows:

Whenever man tends to lose connection with his higher self 'Avatars' incarnate again and again. This is to provide wise-counsel effectively and to remind man of the greatness of one's innate divinity besides educating man about the need for rekindling and reviving all godly virtues!

So in this 20th century, the Supreme Being decided to assume the garb of a human. He took upon Himself the auspicious name ***Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba*** to reroute citizens of this world into the path of righteousness. This Divine Sankalpa of The Lord is the result of extraordinary penance collectively performed by everyone.

The word '*Avatar*' means '*descending from above*'. In other words, '*Avatar*' is explained as, "*Avam Tharippathu*" which means '*a superior being of a higher plane assuming a lower state*'. Therefore, the meaning of '*Avatar*' can be perceived as, '*The incarnation of The Supreme Being as man*'.

An avataric incarnation signifies the unveiling of His divine powers during His earthly sojourn as a human. Sages with their perceptive intellects have categorized three powers of the divine manifestation. They are the '*ability to perform anything*' (***Omni-potent***), the '*ability to know everything about the past, present and future*' (***Omniscient***) and the '*ability to be present everywhere at all times*' (***Omnipresent***)!

Sri Sathya Sai Baba's divine life history (His story) is sheer proof of a Poornavatar's unlimited innate divine force and magnificence. One that has deployed itself transcending all intellectual analysis and capabilities of wise-men and masters! As He walked on earth, how many innumerable, rare divine, extraordinary actions has

He performed?! Simply how many?! With their egos pushed aside and on perceiving with their eyes wide open, crores of Sai devotees sing in glory the praises of this Lord's every splendid action. They recount that as too spectacular for their eyes and hearts to behold! These pure-hearted men and women emerge from all corners of the world! How they swell with pride in calling themselves as '*Sai Devotees*'! Such a divine revolution on this scale is verily the mark of an '*Avatar's Incarnation*'!

Did Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba visit these millions of earth's citizens (who are now His devotees) in their home countries to transform all of them? The story of His life will provide an emphatic **no** as an answer to this question!

When there were hundreds of countries that could be visited in 1968, He chose to visit a few places in South Africa. He appeared to the locals in His physical form. He showered His blessings upon them making them happy as He always did and returned to India. Without ever visiting any other nation after this only trip abroad and by staying put at Puttaparthi till His very last breath, Lord Sai's spiritual grace reigned supreme in 140+ foreign nations. If this is not proof of His '*magnificent magnetism*' and divine power, then what else really is?

Connoisseurs of Sanskrit language pronounce the syntactical meaning of the word '*Krishna:*' (Krishnaha) as '*Krishnath Ithi Krishnaha*'. They offer the explanation as, '*He who flips people's hearts and tows them towards Him.*' It is a name that deems fit for that great persona who revealed His divine, captivating magnetism at all times! Yes! The name matches His force!

There is absolutely no difference in the powers of the supremely bewitching Krishna's '*magnetic attraction*' that tugged at heartstrings and pulled thousands towards Him then and that of Kali Yuga's incarnation Sri Sathya Sai Krishna's magnetic attraction drawing crores of people towards Him today.

The word '*attraction*' relates to power. For example, we see a magnet attracting iron towards it. Here, the magnet's power is revealed as the '*attraction*' takes place. A powerful magnet will be able to draw faraway iron pieces towards it with ease. This is a well-known concept in Physics.

Although Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba seems to have donned upon the form of a normal man, His inner divine '*magnetic attraction*' was neither seen nor comprehended by men. It is this divine magnetic power that draws crores of devoted people towards Him. This is the magnificence of His complete divine incarnation!

Here is an incident where this Great Lord's magnetic magnificence was tested scientifically too!

A Russian scientist by the name Kirlian discovered a camera known as '*Kirlian Photography*'.

According to the field of Psychology, in general an individual's thoughts (good and bad) emanate certain electromagnetic energy bands (aura) from one's body. People who are repositories of virtues release aura in golden color. The aura of those harboring

negative thoughts will be of other colors. The color of an aura differs from person to person. This is in accordance with one's thought-process, whether it is good or evil, in tandem with the intensity of their thought.

Kirlian had compiled data from his analysis through the Kirlian camera that could capture such biomagnetic radiations not visible to the naked eye. He studied popular personalities belonging to various professions all over the globe. He found that the range of emitted aura-beams did not go beyond two to three inches!

When he had the opportunity to visit India, he was completely bowled over by the intensity of rays emitted by the several spiritual masters he came across! He was surprised to note the scale of golden aura emitted by India's enlightened people (jnanis)!

At this juncture, the scientist reached Prasanthi Nilayam as he came to know about Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Arriving incognito, he sat at a not so prominent spot. Nonetheless, our dear Sai Bhagawan recognized him from far away. Swami went close to him and asked, *"So, you are here to test my aura?"* Swami's question sprang upon him out of the blue, leaving the scientist in utter disbelief. As Lord Baba turned away casting a cheeky grin, Kirlian was even more puzzled as he brought out his camera to capture Him! This was because of the complete lack of an aura of any kind from Swami! At that very instant, Swami swiftly turned to him and said, *"Continue your research without any weariness,"* cracking His impish grin once again!

The scientist was left thoroughly bemused. Despite not having introduced himself to anyone and for no reason at all the all-knowing enquiry from Lord Baba was utterly the first stupefying thing he experienced. Next was this marvel of the lack of any aura when he took His photograph. The last straw that firmed-up Kirlian's extraordinary impression was when Swami asked him to undertake his research without any weariness. All these incidents made Kirlian conclude that Sri Sathya Sai Baba was not an ordinary mortal. That day he experienced something completely new and surreal through Sri Sai Baba, that which he hadn't observed in anyone until then. This was beyond his comprehension!

Next day, as our dear Swami was coming out of the mandir, Kirlian took out his camera and analyzed Swami's aura from quite a distance. He was dumbfounded! He saw a golden aura of substantial length from our Bhagawan's divine form. To him, Lord Baba was a perplexing puzzle as he could not make sense of this sudden stream of golden aura on this day when there was none at all the previous day!

Yet, the same evening he tested Bhagawan from a distance with his camera as bhajans were being sung at the mandir. Kirlian was left perspiring in disbelief! The golden aura that emanated from Bhagawan flooded several hundreds of people who were singing Bhajans there. All were immersed in a flood of golden rays. The scientist Kirlian felt dazed, completely at sea. After bhajans, our dear Bhagawan came near Kirlian and asked him, *"Awestruck, huh?"* Kirlian was speechless. Gently patting him on the shoulders Swami continued, *"Very soon there will be a gathering of several thousand people here to celebrate an upcoming festival. Do test my aura on that day, again,"* and walked away.

True to Swami's words, thousands of Sai devotees flocked to Prasanthi Nilayam on that momentous day. Swami was seated on His chair. From one end of the hall Kirlian started capturing Swami's aura for analysis. What a wonder! Golden aura that radiated from Bhagawan spread everywhere. It embraced the entire gathering of several thousand people. As Kirlian observed this miraculous happening with his camera he remained thoroughly startled, unable to fathom the mystery. He concluded that this event stood apart from all previous researches he had carried out with the same camera. Subsequently, a desire stemmed from his heart. He yearned to know where Sri Sathya Sai Baba derived that infinite aura from! He tested further by moving his camera in and around places where the golden aura was gently tiding through, with the aim of wanting to know more about its course after having emanated from Swami! To his greatest amazement he saw that as the rays emerged from Swami, they engulfed everyone present and permeated into the atmosphere flooding the whole region. Brimming to the horizon and beyond, they eventually merged into the skies. This was the stupendous spectacle that Kirlian witnessed and experienced on that eventful day! Flabbergasted that he was, he realized in his heart that **'Lord Baba is the Science beyond all Sciences'**. The concluding line of his research article features this statement, **"Perhaps! He is the man from the HORIZON itself!"** In another instance, his song of praise for Swami goes on as, **'Love walks on two feet!'**

Quite evidently, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba embodied myriad kinds of extraordinary potencies which were rooted in His divine incarnation. Bhagawan's *'expressions of magnificence'* as constantly manifested by Him remain as one of His most extraordinary potencies. People have varied opinions about such expressions of His quintessential powers (performing miracles). In this regard, my discovery of a clarification has been that *'performing magnificent feats'* and *'expressions of magnificence'* aren't one and the same! *'Performing magnificent feats'* refers to antics "achieved" by a person endowed with special powers! That is to say, akin to an artist enacting illusionary magic!

'Manifestations of His glory' is analogous to the aromatic whiff of a sandalwood tree. Like the sun's embracing warmth. The shining rays of bright light! Like a lamp's light that dispels darkness! Manifestations of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's miracles are certainly a natural characteristic trait typical of an Avatar! (Swabhava!)

When it is a *'natural trait'*, then there is no such thing as conscious effort (*'sadhana'*) on His part. Hence, the outcome of His miracles is not through sadhana. For instance, something as natural as the fragrance from a flower can't be proclaimed to be the result of the flower's sadhana, isn't it? Expressions of The Avatar Lord Sai Ram's *'Magnificence'* are for us to make sense of the fundamental corollary that an *'Avatar'* means **Glory!**

It was The Supreme Being's Divine Conscious Will (Sankalpa) that made creation happen. When we and our all-encompassing universe act as an expression of The Supreme Being's magnificence, does it not imply that The Supreme Being is magnificence personified Himself? Therefore, when Magnificence donned upon itself the human form and walked on earth, it is natural that all expressions of His potency dazzled with magnificence!

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's magnificence has attracted millions all over

the world. We come to know the details of such leelas from the books written and published by a few devotees. Although, we have to bear in mind that there are so many leelas out there that haven't been documented in any form. But, when we do come to know of those interesting accounts either because it was a story re-told or overheard, the stories flow to its targeted audience somehow, travelling straight into their hearts. In a similar vein, I shall share a wonderful story here that depicts Bhagawan's limitless power of drawing his bhaktas (devotees) towards Him. This was narrated to me at Puttaparthi by a Sai devotee hailing from outside of India. The incident is an experience of a devotee living in Australia. An amazing incident! One that is a bit weird albeit wonderful!

Here are its details:

One morning in Australia, upon waking up from his bed at his home, this gentleman got the shock of his life when he chanced upon the ring on his finger. He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw a man in it, that too moving as if in a live video. The scene that played in front of him was beyond his wildest dreams. A man with a lovely mop of hair was smiling at him from his ring. Slowly, this ring-man's right hand rose up in the air as though blessing him. Being a Christian by faith, the gentleman feared if this was "*Satan's*" trick. In panic, he removed his ring and kept it in a safe box. Then, he went about with his day's chores. A few hours later, as curiosity took the better of him, he went up to his safe box and looked at the ring. He felt relieved a bit, for the ring-man had gone! Immediately, he slipped the ring onto his finger and retired for the day.

The very next day, he was taken aback as he looked at his ring with trepidation early in the morning. The ring-man was back again, beaming! Blessing! Immediately, the ring found its way into the safe box! Subsequently, the ring-man disappeared too. This game of hide-and-seek continued for a few days.

He shared this unsettling situation with his immediate family and friends; however, none could provide any relief!

One fine day, he met a friend who was also a spiritual seeker. The Australian gentleman conveyed his confusion to him. He gave a detailed description of the ring-man too!

On listening, his friend's face lit up with enthusiasm. He pulled out a photograph from his shirt pocket and showed it to his bewildered friend asking if that was the elusive ring-man. The awe that the Australian gentleman felt upon looking at the photograph was coupled with an eagerness he couldn't contain; he exclaimed, "*Yes! He is the person I saw on my ring!*" Delighted, his friend told with great vigor pointing at the photograph, "*Your ring-man is Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who lives in India at Puttaparthi. He is an incarnation of God! He is none other than Lord Jesus Christ whom you worship daily. By appearing on your ring, the Divine Ring-Master is beckoning you to visit Puttaparthi! You are truly blessed and fortunate!*" Knowing about Bhagawan quite well, he shared a lot of details about Swami and several instances of His magnificence. The Australian gentleman was renewed in spirits on listening to Swami's glory and felt a strong urge within his heart to meet his ring-man in person. It was an overwhelmingly '*intuitive prompting*' that steered his decision towards

undertaking a visit to Puttaparthi!

He enquired with his friend regarding the logistics involved in reaching Puttaparthi. Very soon, he undertook an intercontinental journey from Australia to India and reached Parthi. The euphoria of wanting to see his ring-man in person reached its crescendo. This incident instilled in him a surge of gusto he hadn't experienced in his life before!

He was seated in the darshan line along with several thousand people eagerly awaiting Bhagawan's arrival. There, he witnessed a divine spectacle. For the first time he felt divine vibrations all around him; this wasn't just a completely new feeling but also a poignantly spiritual one where words failed him! The pin drop silence despite the presence of several thousand people was another experience he hadn't seen or felt till then, leaving him transfixed in sublime wonder!

All of a sudden, everyone seated there joined both palms together in prayer pointing towards a specific direction! Eagerly, he too looked that way! Wonder of wonders! The very same person who appeared on his ring in his distant land was there in flesh and blood! What unfolded next simply fulfilled his heart's quest. The scene of Him breaking into that familiar smile and conferring His blessings as He gently walked down was an ode to graciousness! It was ethereal, that he even began to wonder if it was all a dream. He was thrilled with goosebumps and beads of perspiration lined up all over! Gradually, he became aware of the loud chanting of, "*Sairam, Sairam!*" around him. Everything was beyond his comprehension! He could feel his vocal chords synthesize the words, "*Sairam! Sairam!*" Then, he heard himself joining the chorus as ecstatic devotion devoured him!

He felt moved. Swami had blessed him! Now, having trod into the path of devotion his mind inquired, "*How is it possible that this human being whom I am now seeing in person appeared on my ring at my home across the oceans quite far away, about a month ago? This wonderful happening is totally beyond the power of a human. An extraordinary one, for sure! For, this incident is beyond doubt an expression of divine power! In that case, is this man, who is in front of me right now, the very same person who carried out that phenomenal incident? Nay, No, He can't be just a mortal! If he is, then how was it that he manifested himself on my ring, that too alive and moving in a distant land? Ah yes! He is none other than my Jesus Christ to whom I pray. He has come in the form of a human!*" His emotion filled thoughts made him teary-eyed, for his heart and his entire being were inundated with devotion!

At the same time, Swami's discourse resounded on the microphone!

"Without my sankalpa, no one can take even a single step towards me to have my darshan!" were His opening lines. The Australian devotee turned to his neighbor and sought clarification on what Swami had meant. His neighbor explained in English (as Swami mostly gives his discourses in Telugu). He agreed in totality and said, "*Absolutely! It is truly His exceptional sankalpa that a person like me from Australia has made it to Parthi!*"

Thus, Swami performed a divine miracle to draw this devotee towards Him. Likewise, He has performed infinite and immeasurable leelas through His special

sankalpa for numerous people in their own lands. It would be the case that many of us do not get the opportunity to know about such innumerable wonderful miracles! Obviously, they don't come with adverts! These occur as ordinary expressions of an Avatar's glory! Is the Lord ever tooting his horn even a bit saying, *"I created the sun, the moon and all the glittering stars!"*? Our Lord of Parthi who incarnated as a man is a magnificent miracle worker.

Just as He attracted a gentleman from Australia in the previous story, he drew thousands from around the world and staged numerous breathtaking miracles, all the while nonchalantly staying at Parthi! There are many such spellbinding stories we haven't laid our hands upon, because they weren't documented for posterity! On the brighter side, there is a treasure trove of books brimming with details about Swami's wonderful leelas, rendered to us as a gift. These books were authored by devotees who were able to successfully document their experiences reinforced by their perseverance, motivated by their devotion and coupled with an earnestness that stemmed from their love for Swami. I dedicate my appreciation to these authors for their enthusiastic God-admiring write-ups, not only as a fellow devotee in the Sai family, but as a fellow author as well.

We saw that an Avatar's manifestation of '*Divine Potency*' evolves powerfully into extraordinary dimensions. An Avatar's omniscient power is reflected in His actions. Moreover, there is absolutely no need whatsoever for Avatars to learn or seek clarity on anything at all! Even renowned scholars will be left awestruck listening to their lectures on abstract intellectual topics! Avatars can easily lecture upon highly sublime topics that even maestros would be incapable of in spite of all their advanced learning and assimilation of a lifetime! Avatars shine as experts not only in Vedas, Vedanta and Spirituality, but are savvy in material and scientific topics too. In short, they are masters in all fields at all times. Likewise, it was quite common for our Bhagawan to give discourses highlighting intricate aspects from the ancient Vedas and the Upanishads. In His signature style, He would draw references from such heritage works. He would simplify even the most esoteric philosophies amidst experts and intellectuals in the audience leaving them spellbound!

Well, one such time while our dear Bhagawan was delivering a discourse, an expert in several languages and an eminent scholar of ancient texts was present in the audience. He listened to Bhagawan's discourse. As always, our Swami spoke highly of our Bharat's culture and heritage, quoting from several rare Sanskrit treatises, thus inspiring the listeners. His was a lengthy and engaging speech. The scholar in that audience was wonderstruck!

Once Swami finished His speech, the scholar asked Him softly, *"Swami you stopped attending school after your 8th standard. It's common knowledge that you didn't undergo any kind of formal or informal training in the Vedas, or such treatises, or on the higher and deeper truths contained in them! That being the case, how is it that you are able to spontaneously and succinctly simplify the most complex concepts from the ancient texts in a way that's even superior to experts? How are you able to give such sweeping explanations?"* Our Bhagawan Sri Baba replied, *"Most of the experts while speaking pour out everything that was learned like vomit! On the contrary, I don't follow that habit! As soon as I begin a talk, all data points and topics that I need in whatsoever texts or portions, along with their inner hidden meaning and*

explanations automatically download themselves onto my mind in a fraction of a second. I digest them, consolidate them and spontaneously express them as a discourse!" The listener was astounded. He simply couldn't fathom just how on earth those scriptures could get downloaded by themselves automatically!

Such a mind-blowing '*expression of intellectual power*' simply can't be a mere mortal's '*expression of skill*'! This is entirely and precisely the supreme manifestation of The Avatar's glorious powers and energy! Likewise, the mysterious nature of Bhagawan's Avatarhood has expressed itself in various dimensions throughout His life's sojourn on this planet!

As stated above, our Bhagawan has described countless times the intricacies and hidden truths buried in the Vedas & Sastras in great detail. He has explained deep esoteric and sublime concepts of spirituality in a way that could be easily assimilated by the common man. Yet, He just doesn't stop with that alone, He invigorates and enthralls everyone with an overwhelming joy.

Books written by our Bhagawan explain the greatness and values of our land Bharat's culture. Even after multiple readings His books continue to evoke the delightful sweetness of honey. And, they also transform by instilling divine qualities in the reader.

Bhagawatha Vahini, Dharma Vahini, Dhyana Vahini, Geetha Vahini, Leela Kaivalya Vahini, Prasantha Vahini, Prema Vahini, Ramakatha Rasa Vahini, Sathya Sai Vahini, Suthra Vahini, Upanishad Vahini, Vidya Vahini are some of Bhagawan's great works that illuminate Bharat's cultural heritage! Apart from these, there are many more books highlighting the path of virtue, that are a feast to the virtuous, gushing straight from divine nectarous glands.

Sathya Sai Avatar's glory cannot be fully described. One can write and write forever, but it is like that futile attempt of trying to sweep clean the ocean's floor to gather all the nine precious gems. Is it possible? Just as the thousand tongued Adishesha cannot sing His Glory to the fullest, so also a complete description of His greatness in a written form is simply impossible.

I am reminded of a poem that Saint Kabir Das had sung in praise of the '*Guru's glory*'. His song goes as this -

***"When sky was made a canvas
When all oceans turned into ink, as
Trees of earth became pens
To write about the Guru's greatness.
Soon there was not enough canvas,
The ink dried up with pens depleted too.
Yet, the Guru's glory remained;
Much left to be written, in plenty it grew!"***

So has Saint Kabir Das lifted the Guru's glory to the pinnacle!

Our Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai's oft-repeated holy utterance has been, "*None*

can fathom me". With this, Bhagawan simply reiterates the truth in Saint Kabir's song! Well, isn't this a truthful explanation about '*Sathyam*' – The Truth Absolute!

I have described in this book some of the leelas of our Sathya Sai Krishna that I have heard about, in harmony with this book's title '*Leela Mohana Sai*' and synonymous with an Avatar's multi-dimensional manifestation of playful divine power. Don't we all get intoxicated reading the glory of Lord Krishna's leelas through His stories? Isn't it but Bhakti Yoga when one is immersed in His '*Leelas*', brimming with love for The Lord?

The creation of my first book with this title happened because Lord Sai was the invisible companion. I have described in this book the wonderful and sacred leelas of His.

Dear devotees of Sai, as you read about the leelas of '*Leela Mohana Sai's*' they are bound to taste as sweet as honey! Please share your delight (on reading this book) with me. I have mentioned my cell phone number on the title page of this book. Let us rejoice together in His divine ecstasy!

***'The potter mounts red sand onto his wheel,
And molds to his creative spins!
Likewise, the world twirls
To that our King-Lord wills!'***

Following the potter's play of imagination, the wet red sand on the wheel takes its shape; similarly, this book too manifested itself in accordance with the sankalpa of our King-Lord! Just as we offer to Him flowers blossomed through divine grace, I dedicate this flower of a book at His Gracious Holy Lotus Feet with tears welled up in my eyes and my being enveloped with supreme bliss. With a gentle smile on His Lips and Head gracefully tilted to one side, the Lord lifted His Golden Hand and blessed me. That sight I recall within my heart and I prostrate with folded hands at His Feet that are like a freshly bloomed lotus.

Mr. Karpaga Vinayagam is a conscientious and upright judge in our midst who follows the guiding principle of integrity in public life to the core. He has held several esteemed official positions without much ado and with humility. Above all, he is a fine Sai devotee. He has penned the foreword to this book out of his immeasurable love and benevolent affection towards me that perhaps runs through several births. I feel greatly honored and express my heartfelt thanks to this ideal person. I pray to Bhagawan '*Sri Leela Mohana Sai*' bowing at His Lotus Feet to protect him at all times with His infinite grace.

At Chennai, a spiritual learning center called '*Sri Sathya Sai Study Circle*' is functional where lawyers participate. I have spoken at this circle where lawyers and judges are participants. Thus, I befriended esteemed people including the present sitting Judge Mr. Ramasubramanian and became a recipient of his friendship which is suffused with Sai love and devotion. When Justice Ramasubramanian was a young boy, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Himself blessed him by performing his upanayanam (the sacred-thread ceremony). He is an accomplished speaker on spiritual topics. His lively skillful talks are laced with wit and have the power to engross listeners.

That, in the midst of his important work schedule the judge took time to write a foreword for this book is indicative of his love in the Sai-path. I therefore offer my gratitude to him, from the depth of my heart. May our Sai Shiva shower His infinite grace and love on him for a long, healthy and happy life and enable him to continue his noble service towards the society with utmost devotion.

I always keep thanking The Lord for bestowing upon me many great fortunes. My God-loving well-wishers have sealed me with overwhelming happiness and love. Such boundless love from these well-wishers acts as an enhanced nutrition for my bhakti!

Dr. Ganesan is one such person! He is a renowned physician in Chennai at Vallasaravakkam and areas around it. He has an eternal cascade of love for The Lord of Parthi. The love from his heart for me is genuine.

His wife Mrs. Shanti Ganesan is a humble and fine devotee of Sai. Although well placed in the society, she has imprinted in her heart the adage, *'humility uplifts one among the company of immortals'* and is keen on enhancing her devotion towards Sai.

They have both honored me by authoring the foreword to this book. I offer my grateful thanks to them and offer my prayerful salutations at the Lotus Feet of Supreme Lord Sai seeking that they be blessed profusely with all auspiciousness. Jai Sai Ram!

Mr. Kishore Kumar and Mr. Rathnavel of Kallakurichi of Villupuram district are both Sai devotees who have undertaken the complete responsibility of transforming the hand-written manuscript into the digital version. Both of them are sincerely devoted to Sai. They are Sai volunteers devoid of any selfish interest. They are Sai servants dedicated to God's work. Mr. Kishore Kumar is the coordinator of that town's Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi. As I happened to stay there to make corrections to the computerized draft, I was given the opportunity to speak at their Sai center on five to six occasions. All Sai devotees whom I met at the Sai center showered love profusely.

Both the Sai devotees Kishore Kumar and Rathnavel expressed pure selfless love towards me. Their love towards me was for love's sake alone! I urge the Almighty **'Lord Leela Mohana Sai'** to continuously shower His grace on these two, to remove obstacles in their path and to inspire them so that they shine as sublime instruments of Sai! Jai Sai Ram!

Mr. Ganesan, a member of the aforementioned Sai center and the spiritual coordinator of Villupuram district, is a person for whom Sai service is his very life-breath. He and his family members have completely surrendered to Sai! Mr. Ganesan and his family have showered on me the love that Sai so often speaks of, to an extent that I almost lost myself. They smothered me with love and affection during my stay at Kallakurichi! I pray that Mr. Ganesan and his family always lives in prosperity and happiness offering themselves in Sai service. May Sri Sathya Sai Shiva shower on them His grace! Jai Sai Ram!

Would a computer type and print a book by itself? Doesn't it need a knowledgeable person?

Yes! The book '*Leela Mohana Sai-Part 2*' (Tamil) took shape in its digital format because of the professional work done carried out Mrs. Manimegalai with divine love.

She and her husband Mr. Kamaraj are owners of the 'Liberty Printers' near the daily market at Kallakkurichi.

While I spent several days at their printing press proof-reading the soft-copy, the love and reverence showered upon me made me feel one among their family and eased my mind. Long live their humanitarian outlook!

I submit my prayers to Lord Sai to bless this couple profusely at all times with abundance and prosperity. Jai Sai Ram!

Always in Sai Service
Affectionately,

Sai Mohan

I

The Birth of ‘Leela Mohana Sai’ - Through the Divine Leelas of Sri Sathya Sai-Story of the First Book

We read stories in books. But, the story of a book can be a fascinating read too! Yes! In the prologue I have referred to the remarkable story of how part 1 of this book with the same title came into being purely by Sri Sai’s divine play! The story of my first book spans the entire journey, right from its inception to completion and beyond. It’s about how the book blossomed into a handwritten manuscript, gradually taking the shape of its final Tamil paperback edition that Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba released during His 80th birthday celebrations. Eventually, how it got translated into English, Telugu and Hindi. The events described evoke awe and establish the grandeur of Lord Sri Sai’s miraculous powers. This is the story of the first book’s inception!

It was during the years 1960-1975 that I visited Puttaparthi once or every two months. Those days Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba blessed me with numerous interviews, rejuvenating my entire being! He would at times call me upstairs to His room in the mandir where He was staying! It made me feel proud! Why? Ego would raise its hood within me too! Well, what are the odds that one gets easily bestowed with such a divine opportunity? Those days, Swami would direct me to open envelopes of the countless letters He received! On certain occasions, He would allow me to pick a silk dhoti and kurta from His cupboard for Him to wear after His bath! Sometimes, He would converse with me for a few minutes and tell me everything that happened back at my home! He would talk to me casually about several events in my family as if He lived with us like a household member aware about all our ‘day-to-day occurrences’! I would wonder, “*How is it possible for Him to convey my family’s ‘day-to-day occurrences’ when my home is at a faraway village?*” The very moment this question emerged in my mind He would flash a gentle bewitching smile laced with impishness (a sweet smile not short on colors!) and declare, “*Swami knows everything.*” He would affectionately pat me on my back and glide away in a different direction!

The Sanskrit word “*Vishnu*” originated from its root word “*Vish*” which means ‘to seep into’. Since He pervades everywhere, He is known as “*Vishnu*”. After all, He permeates into everything, so He is present everywhere (Omnipresent) and therefore He is Omniscient (all-knowing). Great wise men have thus declared the elaborate meaning of the word “*Vishnu*”. His instantaneous response to me when I was plagued

by that question, “*How is it possible for Him to convey my family’s ‘everyday occurrences’ when my home is at a faraway village?*” was, “*Swami knows everything!*” So, it is apparent that He is constantly and instantly aware of whatever is generated in my mind factory. Besides, this lends proof to our understanding of the meaning of the word “*Vishnu*” as propounded by the great wise men of the past! Could He be that very Vishnu? In this way, my thoughts about Him knitted into a never-ending pattern!

Through His Love for me He showered me with many opportunities to interact with Him at close quarters! I often wondered if the greater subtle import of the Tamil saying, “*Avan Arulale Avan Thall Vanangi*” meaning, ‘*Prostrating to His Lotus Feet solely by His grace*’ connotes to this shower of compassion that I received!

As a result of His grace coupled with my dearness to Him, I was able to observe Him at close quarters. He bestowed upon me many wonderful experiences! These events are the manifestations of His magnificent divine power and they remain evergreen in the casket of my heart’s innermost chambers. These are memories between The Sacred Lord and me therefore, I do not wish to divulge about them here any further.

As a result of the liberty of love that He bestowed upon me, I have experienced that immeasurable three-dimensional supreme bliss that one yearns to receive from a divine being: Darshanam (to see), Sparshanam (to touch) and Sambashanam (to interact). This is truly the cumulative result of all the goodness I have performed in all my previous births that has enabled me to receive such abundant bliss from this manifested Mahatma!

The Hindu scriptures proclaim that God gives human beings three opportunities:

- 1. Attaining human birth!**
- 2. Having a state of mind that yearns to realize The Truth**
- 3. Being associated with a divine noble person!**

I am filled with rhapsodies of bliss when I realize that I have received all three of the above!

Importantly, my good fortune is that the noble person with whom I have gotten associated with is the Great Lord Himself. Is it not? I would always think, “*What penance have I done to get Him?*” Well, does not constantly thinking (about the Lord) become penance?

Well, here we come to the story of the divine play relating to the birth of the first book.

The First Leela!

My first book chronicles several miracles performed by Bhagawan for my family, friends and myself during the 1960s. Approved and released by Bhagawan Baba on 20-11-2005, that book describes those miracles in detail. It is most natural for anyone to wonder the reason behind publishing specifics of miracles performed by Bhagawan in the 1960s during His 80th Birthday festivities, almost 40 years after they had happened.

As these leelas were a poignant memoir of my interactions as a devotee with my Lord, I nursed a fear whether publishing these as a book would be perceived as a marketing strategy! Consequently, I made a resolve to myself that Swami should inspire and command me to write and publish His glory!

In the past as warranted by the situation, I have narrated these spectacular leelas pertaining to me to the people I happened to meet. I have also recounted those leelas at many Sai centers, as and when I was invited to address. Such situations entitled me to meet and interact with eminent personalities in the society, including some writers who wanted me to publish these leelas of Swami for the benefit of a larger audience. They incessantly insisted that I make efforts to write and publish a book. Not only did I not lend an ear to their exhortation, but also succinctly made my point across that, *"I shall write the book only when Swami tells me to."* Some among them chided me and said, *"Oh! So, is Swami going to come to you and pronounce, 'Write the book'?"* Regardless of the derision, I held firm ground.

Time flew by.

One day in the month of March 2005, a red colored car came and parked itself outside my house. Red is my favorite color. As I looked outside, I realized that it was the President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization for Tamil Nadu who alighted from the car. I welcomed him home. Following a brief conversation, he revealed the intent of his visit. He said, *"On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust we have decided to publish a book compiling the experiences of several devotees of Bhagawan. If you too could write about your experiences, we shall consolidate it with that of the other devotees and release it as a book. The book is intended for release on Bhagawan Baba's 80th birthday this year. So, I am hoping that you'd accept this proposal?"*

As usual, I told him about my unbroken resolve stating that, *"I shall write only on Swami's command."*

Breaking into a smile the State President said emphatically, *"I have come to your house directly from Puttaparthi! Aren't you able to fathom that this is Swami's command, as your article is going to be a part of the Book Trust's publication? I am here beseeching you to write after having arrived straight from Puttaparthi. Don't you understand this to be Swami's order?"* It occurred to me that this outright response of his was nothing but Swami's blessings for the steadfastness of the resolve I had carried all along!

It was soul stirring! When I was stoic about my resolve that, *"I shall write only on Swami's command,"* it was touching to see just how beautifully our Sai, the exalted Lord had sent across his *"permission"*! That too through a worthy individual! This is the first leela or miracle behind the story of how this book was born!

The State President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization took leave of me delighted that I had acknowledged the go-ahead sign I had received from Swami for writing the book!

Feeling a tug at my heartstrings, I offered my prayers and gratitude to Bhagawan and readied myself for the task at hand.

As I was about to begin the task of writing, I invoked the blessings of Lord Ganesha (through the auspicious mark made at the top-most central area of the writing-paper) and chanted the prayer, "*Swami, the pen is yours. You are giving strength to these fingers that hold the pen to write. You are the intellect behind the words (Chaitanya). Please be with me throughout and accomplish this good deed.*" Thus, I started the good work that very day.

I wrote about the leelas that The Leela Mohana Sai had performed in the 1960s. While most of them pertained to me, there were a few that concerned my friends and family. Since these were events from my own life, I was able to write about them in detail without any difficulty finishing the write up of about 100 pages in no time.

I took the hand-written manuscript to Sundaram (Sai center) in Chennai for showing it to the state president. On accepting the manuscript, he stated that he wanted time to read through it and asked me to come back a week later.

I went after a week.

"Your experiences fill a hundred pages! The Tamil book, 'Iraivanudan Iniya Naatkal' (nectarous days with the Lord) that shall be published by the Trust contains experiences of other devotees as well and hence it's quite impossible to earmark one hundred pages just for your essay. It would make sense to publish your essays as a separate book. So, to create a separate book it is essential that you also write the preface and other supporting elements that constitute a book and bring it to me! Do come back with these necessary additions. We shall then proceed further."

I resumed the writing work once again! Authoring a book mandates special skill. As an ex-Indian Railways employee with no prior experience in writing, penning the preface seemed a herculean task. Bolstering myself with the feeling of surrender to Bhagawan, I continued with the task with self-confidence and eventually completed the preface! Whew! I felt satisfied.

As in a musical concert where the lead vocalist should be the first person to be allured by one's performance, in a similar vein and by a stroke of good luck, I too felt happy that my writing gave me immense satisfaction. Thus, feeling hopeful I prepared myself to meet the state president, again.

I knocked on the state president's door. He received my copy and said that he would read it.

As one would expect, our subsequent meeting happened after some days. He looked at me and stated in a peppy voice, "*Everything you've written is beautiful. Particularly, your experiences with Bhagawan, the preface and the other supporting elements make an absorbing read. Now, is it merely enough if your readers are just enamored by the stories illustrated in your book? Why haven't you expounded on the purport of Swami's Avatar that your readers should be made aware of? To benefit from this Avatar's magnificence, which is such a rarity, shouldn't you be including pointers*

to evoke the engagement and eagerness of your readers? Please elucidate on these aspects too. Only then shall the purpose of this book be fulfilled. Please make these edits and bring it over as soon as you can." Downright bewildered, I went home.

More writing work my way! I was dismayed. For a person who had proclaimed, *"I shall write only on Swami's command,"* it dawned on me that clearly, I had no foresight about the difficulties involved in writing a book. If at all in the past Swami had ordered me to write a book, I would have presented myself as a complete novice before Him, devoid of any kind of prerequisite knowledge! My situation was like that of a man lost in the deep-dark-dense woods!

I implored Bhagawan with my tearful prayers, picked up my pen and began to write. I thought to myself, *"Isn't this book-writing turning out to be an endless task for me."* With my mind chattering so, I started off with the epilogue titling it as 'Endless Epilogue' and continued working through.

Decidedly, my mind came up with one more consolation for having titled the epilogue that way!

Well, my consolation was that all my service activities have been nothing but an offering to The Lord. Since service to the Divine Master never ceases it was simply not appropriate to end the book with the chapter titled as just the 'Epilogue'! It felt right to title it as an 'Endless Epilogue'. Therefore, I continued to write assiduously with all my heart and mind merged in Sai.

The pen jazzed in my fingers stringing together pearls of words! This I realized was *'simply not my own intellect's force at play.'* Miraculously, 15 pages of 'Endless Epilogue' were penned in 3 hours! When I had appealed to The Holy Mother Sai Saraswathy to 'write', would I not be able to write? Now, here is an incident that took place in the year 1966. With a loving prayer in our lips we had pleaded with Swami that He sets foot in Tiruchi (a city in the South Indian State of Tamil Nadu). He yielded to our pining and prayers, displaying overflowing compassion towards us. He stayed with us for 3 days, blessing several thousands of people. On one of the days, Swami beckoned from the crowd a 35-year-old person who was born speech-impaired and made him talk! I witnessed this miracle with my very own eyes! That tongue which hadn't churned out a single word in 35 years performed a ballet with words instantaneously! Similarly, will I not be able to accomplish the task of writing the book that He has willed even when I am the least qualified for the task? Everything is His Will!

On completing the book, I took it to the State President. As he leafed through, he remarked, *"I have read almost everything except for the 'Endless Epilogue' that you've newly added. Could you please come after a week so that we could reconnect on this matter?"*

And so, I did. I met him after a week. He remarked, *"Your writing technique is akin to that of a seasoned author! This is such an engaging read! It sure does have all the necessary qualifications for becoming a publish-worthy book. However, as mandated by the Book Trust, a 3-member expert panel reviews books. It is only after their review and approval that this book would be deemed worthy of publication."*

Therefore, please convert this handwritten manuscript into a computer-typed format. Bring 3 copies of the printed version in a book form, so that it's convenient for these experts to notify their decisions, as they would be reading them individually. Please meet me as soon as you can with these 3 copies." I was aghast. Book work again!! It seemed like an endless epilogue in itself, one that kneaded my brain more than I wanted it to!

The Second Leela!

Printing a 150-page manuscript in the form of a book by keying the entire text into a computer is surely not an easy task! Most importantly, I had zero knowledge about typing on a computer! Quite a handicap! Now, I began to wonder whom to ask for help.

I asked a few friends who counseled me to connect with people who undertake professional digitizing and printing work. They informed me that the job was quite laborious and not many would be willing to take it up as an assignment. I became dispirited and was unable to do any work for the next 2 days. The fire of enthusiasm that was burning bright within me was certainly doused a bit.

That evening, I attended Sai bhajan at a devotee's house. I prayed to my heart's content and came home.

The next day at around 9 am, I got a phone call. It was my friend and fellow Sai devotee Mr. Kothandaraman. He called to invite me for the evening bhajans at his Sai center at Nesapakkam in Chennai. With 2 computers and a few employees, Mr.Kothandaraman undertook professional printing of invitation cards. He invited me for the bhajans followed by prayer at their center that evening. I agreed. I narrated to him my woes about the computer typesetting of my book and sought his advice. I asked him if he had any information that could be of help to me.

He immediately exclaimed, "Sairam!" and went on, *"I had been to Puttaparthi last week. There, as Swami gracefully glided by, granting His Divine Darshan to all, His divine darshan pulled at my heartstrings melting my core. My heart spontaneously sent Him a prayer! 'Swami! Please shower Your Grace on me that would enable me to do something that spreads Your Glory! I am ready to submit myself for any book-related work as well. Swami, please bless me that I be of service to You - be it anything!' I prayed thus! The blissful state that I was in brought a cascade of tears to my eyes! Sairam! It's an unsolved mystery as to why and how I came up with such a prayer! Moreover, I had absolutely no thoughts regarding books or anything at all related to books! Honestly, I couldn't comprehend as to why I came up with such a prayer. As you have revealed to me about your inability with the computer typesetting work, I now seem to understand why I was prompted to pray so! It was The Omniscient-Omnipotent Sai's preordained Sankalpa that I come to your aid when you are swimming in the treacherous ocean of confusion regarding the computer typesetting of your handwritten manuscript.*

"Wow! Just how our Bhagawan performs leelas and takes us on the right path! See how he is knitting a pattern that's weaving different kinds of yarn into a breathtaking tapestry, Sairam! Let your worries fly away! I completely agree to

surrender myself for all kinds of computer typesetting tasks and everything related to it!

“Please come by my office right now with your handwritten manuscript! I shall allocate a computer and a person exclusively for your book's work. I will be of help to you till your book work is done with! Please come over immediately!” He spoke at length!

I stood transfixed! I wondered if I was making the whole thing up in my mind. Tears streamed down my cheeks! Spontaneously, without picking any instructions from my mind my legs carried me to my prayer room! I prostrated to Bhagawan! Our Swami often said that ‘*Namaskaar*’ is ‘*Namama*’ in action. The understanding of ‘*Namama*’ is a penance akin to the climbing of the last step in the spiritual ladder. (It means) There is nothing that is ‘*mine*’. Everything is His Sankalpa!

It is my prerogative to delve into the message and inner significance of Sai's divine play in these incidents-

#1) A few days prior to the onset of my dilemma, my friend had visited Puttaparthi and had sent a spontaneous heartfelt prayer to Bhagawan.

#2) Subsequently, the confusion regarding my book's computer typesetting work clouded my mind at Chennai.

#3) At that critical moment, my friend connected with me over the phone in a totally unexpected manner. Following our conversation, he promised to help me and willingly took up the typesetting work. Isn't this proof of Leela Mohana Sai's supreme magnificence?

Let us sail further into 'the story of this book'!

My friend's resolve to help enthused me! I went to my friend's office daily at 9 a.m. The computer typesetting work happened as an offering (to the Lord)! In 30 days, my handwritten manuscript was completely digitized and printed.

I made 3 separate copies and took the printed versions to the State President. Looking at them he said, *"You have done very well. I shall send these copies to the 3-member panel. All 3 of them will read them individually and separately of course. Once they grant their consent to proceed further there should be no roadblocks in publishing it as a book. If you could meet me after 15 days. I shall update you about the progress."*

I went after fifteen days. Smiling at me the State President said, *"Your book has received the go-ahead!"*

I asked, *"So is there no impediment now to publish this as a 'Book Trust's' publication?"*

He responded, *"Right now, the 'Book Trust' will not be able to print your book. You will have to make your own arrangements! Since you are well known in Chennai, you can do this! Please try!"* When the whole thing sank in, I felt as if a thunderbolt had struck my head!

Writing a book and self-publishing it creates a need to advertise the work to a certain extent. I had eschewed self-publicity of this kind for over 40 years and had stayed firm in my resolve that, *"I shall write only if Swami commands."*

I came home. Fear hitherto unknown gripped me as I tossed around sleepless! Though I had earlier concluded that my responsibility had ended with the writing, I now felt dejected that I had to shoulder all the responsibilities up to the final publication of my book.

The Third Leela!

Incidentally, I happened to meet my friend at Thyagaraja Nagar who was also a devotee of Sai. He holds much love for me. Since he was aware about my book work our conversation veered in that direction. I gave him a copy and he said that he'd connect with me in 2-3 days after reading the copy. On our next meeting, he praised me for my work and enquired about my determination in publishing it as a book.

I conveyed to him about the State President's response and that I would have to get it published with my own resources. I narrated to him the entire episode.

On listening, he said that he knew of a lady at Thyagaraja Nagar who took up professional printing work. He also added that the lady willingly took up work related to Swami and that she too was a Sai devotee. He suggested that I meet her the next day and talk to her about my situation.

As decided, the next day my friend and I met the lady and briefed her about the purpose of our visit. After looking at the copy of my book she immediately spoke to the State President over phone and sought from him a few details including those pertaining to my book!

After thinking for a few minutes, she summoned one of her employees and gave instructions to visit the office where my book's typesetting work had been executed, and to make changes to the format appropriate for a printed book. The employee took the address of the typesetting center from us and promised to visit the center the following day.

He commenced work the next day. After two days of work, he finished formatting it into a 130-page book.

The day after, we went to meet the lady again. She reviewed the book and asked me, *"Will you be able to pay anything for this?"* I conveyed to her about my inability in making the payment. She immediately spoke to the State President over the phone. She told him that she would print 1000 copies of the book and send them to the Trust. If the Trust were to pay her for the first 1000 copies, then she would also undertake the printing of the second batch of 1000 copies without taking any money and dispatch the second batch to the Trust. As the State President agreed to her proposal, she insisted on a written confirmation on this deal signed by the State President.

However, the State President rejected her proposal on the grounds that such signed business deals were not executed by the Sai Organization.

The lady conveyed to us the State President's rejection saying, *"If you wish to continue printing your book here, then you will have to pay us the requisite amount yourself or find a 'sponsor' who is willing to take on this responsibility."* Saying so, she left.

Inexplicable agony and disappointment loomed all over and made me feel crestfallen! I came home, knelt at the prayer altar and wailed! I beseeched The Lord, *"For a good forty years I refused to write a book, staying quietly content about it. Then out of the blue one day you motivated me to write. I took up Thy command as a 'Yajna' (Spiritual Sacrifice) and completed my task with equanimity. Is dangling me in this state of limbo (Tirushanku's Heaven) your reward for having discharged the assigned task? Governed by Thy Grace, if the book that I've written must be printed and published, then 1) You must give the money the 'Printer' is demanding or 2) Make me find a 'Sponsor' in Chennai and bring them to the 'Printer'! Swami, am I not in a situation where I am unable to achieve any of this? Free me from this embarrassing situation! Please transform my agony into achievement! Please bail me out, my Swami!"* I lamented thus and poured my heart out along with gallons of tears!

It was a sleepless night! The next day too my mind was preoccupied with these lingering questions.

I did aarti to Swami after my morning prayers. Suddenly, a thought flashed through my mind. I had a diary with the names and phone numbers of all my contacts. They were sorted by the alphabetical order in English. There were about a thousand contacts.

The thought that flashed through my mind was, *"It shall be Swami's Sankalpa that I shall open my diary in any random fashion, after praying to Him intensely. Whosoever's name catches my attention first shall be the person that shall help me."* Having decided so, I went in front of Bhagawan, prostrated to Him and offered my obeisance. I kept the diary at His Lotus Feet, mentally posted my prayer and opened the diary!

Ah! My eyes fell on Mr. Prakasam - The Advocate who was sorted under the alphabet 'P'!

'Sri Sathya Sai Advocates Study Circle' is a spiritual thought school in Chennai and was started through the worthy efforts of Justice Karpaga Vinayagam. It operates even to this day; several lawyers and a few judges are members of this study circle. Since a speaker is chosen from outside the circle to give a talk every month, I have spoken there as well. I feel extremely delighted to state that for thirteen continuous years as a person who is not from the legal fraternity, I have been bequeathed with the rare opportunity of organizing more than one hundred and fifty speakers. I feel elated in stating that this opportunity has been bestowed upon me not by the lawyers but by Bhagawan Himself!

Accordingly, I became good friends with advocate Mr. Prakasam through this study circle. Moreover, I firmly believed that there was a reason behind Swami's

gesturing towards him. Intuitively, my heart affirmed that my belief would not go in vain. I immediately contacted Mr. Prakasam over the phone.

"Sairam! Please, how can I help you?" He asked me cheerfully! At that instant, my thoughts rushed towards Swami, *"How many such altruistic friends with an evergreen will to help others have you armed me with, Swami!"* Yes! Very True! I get goosebumps thinking about the noble qualities of my friends!

With great speed I poured out my dilemma in detail to Mr. Prakasam!

Without hesitation he asked, *"Shall we change the Printer?"*

My excitement went through the roof!

"How?" I asked.

"Forget your worries. I am sharing with you the cell phone number of Mr. Ramachandran. Please write it down. I shall talk to him detailing this whole matter and I shall ask him to help you. You may decide tomorrow by meeting him and talking to him about this too. I am getting ready to go to Kumbakonam shortly. Hope this helps." Saying so, he gave me his friend's mobile number that I noted down.

It felt as if Swami had freed me from the clutches of a very tricky situation! I heaped my heartfelt gratitude upon Swami.

The Fourth Leela!

I connected with Mr. Ramachandran and got the approval to meet him as well. The next day when I met him at his office, I was quite enthused by his welcome. I felt him to be a wonderful gentleman with an immense love for God.

By profession, Mr. Ramachandran prints monthly newsletters describing subtle points useful to lawyers. He appeared to me as a service-minded devotee of Bhagawan Sai!

He listened intently to everything I told him. He also looked at a copy of the printed book that I had carried with me.

He then asked, *"So please tell me how I can help you?"*

I replied, *"This has to be printed as a book. Would you be able to make 2000 copies for me? Without expecting any money? If yes, then I would hand over the 2000 copies as charity to the Sri Sathya Sai Book Trust, with your help".*

He didn't reply immediately. It looked like he was thinking about something.

Well! It's here that Swami stages a very interesting miracle.

"Trrring trrring," his telephone rang!

He answered the phone, *"Dear Sister! Are you doing well?"* He spoke to his sister, and about his family matters. As his sister was about to wrap up the conversation with her brother, she asked him, *"What are you up to now?"*

To which he replied, *"Sister, an uncle has come here. A great Sai devotee, he too had stayed in Tiruchi! I came to know that he has played a very significant role in bringing our Swami to Tiruchi in 1966-67. He has come here seeking my help in printing a book that he has written."*

Immediately his sister asked, *"Was he in Tiruchi? Swami's devotee you say? What's his name?"* "Sai Mohan," the brother replied.

The Sister exclaimed in amazement, *"Whoa! Is it Sai Mohan! Just give him the phone now!"*

Mr. Ramachandran came to me and said, *"Sairam! It seems that my sister knows you and wants to talk to you. Could you please?"* and handed over the phone to me.

Nothing seemed to make sense to me at that moment!...

What was happening?

I took the phone and said, *"Sairam! This is Sai Mohan here."*

"Uncle! This is me Ambujam! (From) Uthamarkovil! Do you remember me?"

"Aah! Is it Ambu? How are you dear? How many years have gone by since we spoke!? You built a house at Uthamarkovil! I know that! Since I came to Chennai after that, I do not know of any happenings at Tiruchi! Are you doing well?"

"I am doing very well with your blessings uncle! I remember quite vividly that you had built a tower for the Goddess Temple at Uthamarkovil and performed the sanctification ritual too. I remember all that very well! Just how many Sai bhajans happened when you were here! It feels like they all happened just yesterday, uncle! How many good deeds you have performed here! And yes...my brother told me that you've come regarding some book "printing" work? What book?"

"You know it well Ambu! That I have been immensely blessed with the opportunity of having been closely associated with Swami! I have attempted to write my experiences with Swami as a book! I have come seeking your brother's help with its printing".

"Please don't worry uncle! Ramachandran is my brother. He will surely heed to my words! He will help you. Please give him the phone, I shall tell him"

I gave the phone to Ramachandran and told him, *"Your sister wants to speak to you!"*

As Ramachandran was about to speak to his sister, he heard her exclaim over the phone, *"Look! The person who has just come is a great devotee of Sai! There is nobody who doesn't know him at Tiruchi! Such is his divine Sai service! He organized*

the Koti Archana prayers (chanting of a crore names of the Lord) for Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and worked diligently to make the event a grand success. For four to five years in a row he performed the Lalitha Sahasranamam Pooja without a break here at Uthamarkovil; renovated the tower of the Goddess and conducted the consecration ceremony with dedication and devotion. The date of temple tower's renovation (Kumbabishekam), along with his name and other details has been carved and cemented there in a stone in that temple, which is seen even today. Not only that, he conducted Sai Bhajans at all houses including ours at Uthamarkovil! You must most definitely assist him in whatever way he needs your help regarding the book he has written! You must be fortunate and blessed to undertake this sacred work. Therefore, accomplish whatever he needs!" Sister ordered the brother thus.

Mr. Ramachandran closed the receiver and looked stunned! Gaping at me he said, *"Sairam! It has been several months since my sister spoke to me over the phone. I am perplexed as to why my sister should call me at the same time as you are here? Moreover, my sister did not talk to me about anything important or specific. Honestly speaking, I didn't know you prior to this. My sister who is a fervent Sai devotee knows much about you and your Sai services in Tiruchi. She apprised me of them and spoke very highly of you quite enthusiastically. She made me understand that helping you is a divine work and advised that I 'must help' you. I sincerely feel that these are not natural occurrences, most definitely a divinely ordained scheme of things. Moreover, my sister is like a Goddess to my family members and me! If my sister says something, that becomes a divine command for all of us! Having considered all this with happiness and a sense of great satisfaction I have decided to help you. I will positively print 2000 books and hand them over to you. Please do not pay a single paisa. My heartfelt thanks to you a billion times for having given me a wonderful opportunity to carry forward a divine service such as this!"* He gushed. He prostrated at my feet! His humility stays evergreen in my heart to this day! The holy saying '*virtue is superior to life*' is valid only because of righteous people like him who adhere to this supreme truth even till this day.

Overcome with emotion I said, *"Ramachandran, come let us thank our Great Lord Sai. Let's prostrate and surrender to him."* Wiping my tears of joy, we both prostrated to the beautifully decorated photo of Sai. He couldn't control his tears of joy too.

Behind such spectacular events, it was the Supreme Lord's sankalpa and leelas that were at work! Is it not that only the good-hearted can comprehend this?

The Fifth Leela!

I later connected with Mr. Ramachandran over phone and in person and speeded up the book's work.

Bhagawan's 80th Birthday celebration was fast approaching. In the meantime, I contacted the State President over the phone and updated him about having changed the 'Printer' to Mr. Ramachandran and that he had agreed to hand over 2000 copies of the book to the trust as charity without charging us a single penny.

The State President was delighted on hearing this. He then added that it was not simply enough if my book was approved by the book trust and that it had to be approved by Swami. He said that to get Swami's approval I needed to create a final version of the book, by any means take it to Swami and directly obtain His seal of approval. Only then would it earn the status of a book, he concluded. He had successfully dropped a ticking time bomb on my head!

I was left utterly bewildered.

The State President had initially stated that books in Tamil language attained the print worthy status when they were reviewed by the Tamil Nadu Book Trust. Likewise, my book 'Leela Mohana Sai (Part 1)' Tamil book had received the go-ahead from the Tamil Nadu Book Trust. However, his new dictum that '*For your Tamil book just the Tamil Nadu Book Trust's sanction is not enough, you would need to seek the blessing and seal of approval from Swami (Sri Sathya Sai Baba) as well!*' seemed a strategically charted ritual particularly for my book. Clearly this was the reason for my bewilderment.

Moreover, there were other Tamil books that attained the go-to-print status simply from the Tamil Nadu Book Trust. This new and separate tradition conceived by the then State President of having to take my book to Prasanthi Nilayam, earn Bhagawan's approval and blessings remains wrapped in mystery to this date. I am still left with that flickering discord in my heart with no plausible explanation this far.

I happened to visit the then State President at Sundaram in Chennai several times owing to seeking clearance for printing the Tamil book from the Tamil Nadu Book Trust. Even after it was approved by the Tamil Nadu Book Trust, the compulsive dictum by the then State President that I must travel to Prasanthi Nilayam and receive Sri Baba's approval seemed as though there was a hidden agenda behind this entire episode. That is precisely one of the reasons for the persisting uneasiness about this in my heart!

It was Bhagawan's 80th birthday. A divine grand occasion. The whole world had poured itself into Puttaparthi. It appeared as if people from all over the globe, not just within India had flocked in a devotional frenzy to Parthi. This was when the Bhuvaneswara Paavana Purusha would have taken up several sankalpas to purify the entire cosmos. I felt like the poor Kuchela (friend and devotee of Lord Krishna) wondering where to go or to talk to whom in order to attain Swami's approval for my book! Evidently, this was not one of those situations where I could simply rely on the belief that 'troubles shall turn into triumphs', even in my dream! I became increasingly disheartened ruminating over the perplexing effort that I was to employ in this unavoidable and challenging milieu that had transpired.

I galvanized my weak spirits and braced myself to face the gigantic challenge that had presented itself before me. I was determined. *"So far all our trials and tribulations were staged in Chennai. Was this gargantuan test going to be staged at Puttaparthi?"* As these thoughts surfaced, I submitted a prayer in my mind, *"Bhagawan's Lotus Feet shall always stand by me and protect me".*

I told Mr.Ramachandran that the final copy of the prototype book needed to be readied to be taken to Puttaparthi. He asserted that he would make the necessary preparations.

There was just a week left for Swami's birthday festivities to commence. It was only on 18-11-2005 did the final copy of the book get created.

Mr.Kothandaraman who helped with the computer printing work was scheduled to leave for Puttaparthi on 19-11-2005 as a sevadal member for Swami's birthday program. I tagged along with him in his car. I took with me the prototype book that was to be approved by Him. We reached Puttaparthi that evening. At that time there were more than two lakh devotees who had gathered!

I put in my best efforts to describe details of my book to several important people at Prasanthi. Despite having rushed hither and thither till about 11 p.m. that night, none came to my aid. Everyone hesitated to go near Bhagawan. Even the Tamil Nadu state president who had camped there had washed off his hands. Not knowing what to do, I spent the night there with the team of sevadals.

Next morning too, I tried canvassing with several people, but none were ready to go near Swami!

By 9 a.m. on 20th November 2005, millions more had flocked to Prasanthi. It occurred to me that staying there any further would pose a problem. I decided to leave for Chennai and conveyed it to the state president.

The state president devised a strategy, *"Please go to the Professional Couriers office outside. Keep the book cover visible in a transparent envelope if possible; write a letter to Swami and courier it to Him. It is the usual habit of Swami to open courier letters by Himself at noon. Please pray to Bhagawan well, send the courier and take your bus."* He said. His words seemed like divine command to me. My distress was such!

"Swami will not let go of me. This is His Sankalpa," I walked determined. I wrote a letter to Swami as advised by the state president and couriered it. I reached home at Chennai at around 9 p.m. that night.

I washed my hands and legs, applied vibhuti and ardently prayed at the altar! The telephone rang!

Having installed Swami in my heart I answered the call, *"Sairam! This is Sai Mohan here."*

What a wonder! The State President spoke from Puttaparthi saying, *"Sai Mohan! Swami has approved your book! He called me and said, 'See this book written by your Tamil Nadu devotee! You communicate my approval to him!'* He added, *"You please go ahead with printing the remaining copies and please make arrangements to get them delivered at Sundaram before 23-11-2005."*

I replayed the entire message several times in my head to make sure what my ears had just heard were indeed **true!** I felt elated as though this was the attainment of the goal of Supreme Truth (Purushartha) in this very life. Wise elders while speaking

about the glory of the Lord have used words with profound meaning such as 'Sowsheelam' (virtuous conduct) and 'Soulabhyam' (easy to please). So far, I did not understand its deep import. Nevertheless, with the benevolence showered by that Love-Compassion personified Lord and with *'the approval that he had crowned for my book,'* I was able to fathom its profound import in full measure!

Devoid of any selfish motive I had waited for 40 long years with the resolve that- *'I shall write a book only after Swami Commands.'* He had commanded me to write a book and I embraced His order surrendering my heart and soul to Him. Moreover, while I made sincere efforts to accomplish His command, He vanquished obstacles through His Omnipotence as and when they cropped up. He had crowned me by approving the book Himself, I the last in line among His servants. His acceptance was the reward for my determination steeped in surrender and devotion. He had summarized and instilled in me the essence of all His leelas through this heartwarming miracle. Ah! How shall I praise the magnanimity and compassion of our ever-merciful Lord? He is the boundless ocean of compassion! All through the night, I was overwhelmed reminiscing about the love that ***'That Love'*** had flooded me with!

Soon thereafter, Bhagawan's Sankalpa became crystal clear! He did not let go of me! He Himself had approved my Tamil book and had honored me.

All this has been Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's sankalpa from the very beginning. Right from my commencing work on the book, to making it all happen and eventually releasing it Himself- everything including the book attaining the publish worthy status was a test tailor-made for me! As I had undertaken the entire task with shraddha(earnestness), held on with patience and made sincere efforts, the reward was the blessings and approval that Bhagawan Himself bestowed upon! Bhagawan often reminds us that, 'Shraddhavan Labathe Gnanam'! The shraddha that I had implicitly taken upon brought me fulfilment!

In my narration above, as readers you may have come across the then state president's actions as out of ordinary! On the contrary, let us elevate our thinking by perceiving this entire incident with an evolved mindset!

If he had not made me toil so much, there would have been no way that my book, a regional language one would have attained the Bhagawan's direct approval. This would not have made history!

In this way, my optimistic outlook had kicked out the nagging thorn in my heart, that I had mentioned about earlier in this chapter. This is a classic example of how optimistic thinking can further one's spiritual ascent!

The very next day, I relayed the entire sequence of events to Mr. Ramachanrdan. He was deeply moved on hearing about the approval my book had received. He agreed to fulfill my request of printing and offering 2000 copies on Bhagawan's Birthday on 23-11-2005 at Sundaram. He carried out the necessary tasks and delivered 2000 copies at Sundaram!

Since Bhagawan's all-encompassing grace and blessing overflowed for me, I was able to perform such a 'Yajna'! Swami has oftentimes declared that 'Yajna' means

'Selfless Sacrifice'. 'Yajna' bestows the comfort of having performed such a sacrifice! 'Selfless Sacrifice' in turn bestows the bliss of having performed a 'Yajna'! On 23-11-2005, I experienced the solace of having performed a sacrifice and assimilated the reward of the Yajna too!

My good readers, did you find the Sai leela story of my first book interesting?

I am sharing with you my love through this. I request that you all share your love with me as well!

Jai Sai Ram!

II

Sri Sai's Divine Play – Story of Translation of the Tamil Book into Prasanthi's English & Telugu Editions

Dear Readers, I hope you enjoyed reading the previous chapter that described Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's leelas that gave birth to ***Leela Mohana Sai***, the first book. Other than Sathya Sai devotees, anyone with a spiritual inclination would be fascinated and joyful upon reading about such extraordinary magnificence of divine power. These are very rare occurrences! It is in our tradition from time immemorial to read such stories with eagerness. Needless to say about Sai devotees! There are millions of fortunate folks who have directly witnessed Lord Sai's leelas! The very word '***Sai Leela***' is ambrosia to their ears! They have completely submitted themselves to that Lord Sai. To them, I mentally pay my obeisance by reverentially touching their holy feet!

With Bhagawan's guiding grace, somehow, I managed to author Leela Mohana Sai Part 1 and it's typesetting happened after having toiled and being tossed around. Following that, I faltered and staggered, begged and borrowed, swung high and low on a trapeze, and got 2000 copies printed. Mr. Ramachandran and I dedicated them as our offering at the Golden Lotus Feet of Bhagawan at Sundaram on 23rd November 2005. It is the truth of truths that the accolades we received for our work is entirely His Will and Mercy. Quite literally, had not the State President visited my house personally and kindled my vigor to write, all this wouldn't have happened in the first place. For this reason, I am unable to let go of this honorable gentleman without showering him with all the accolades!

Writing a book involves giving form to formless thoughts that spring from one's heart, creating prose that is meaningful and beneficial to others. Now, isn't that a noble service? Of what use is it really if such a surge of thoughts or rare knowledge were to

be safely buried within oneself akin to a lamp glowing inside a pot? Therefore, there can be no denying that '*writing a book*' is an incomparable service! I feel ecstatic stating that I am not the kind who writes books that are a bad influence on the readers' minds! Reason being '*thoughts*' are related to '*the three gunas*' (*Satva, Rajas, Thamas*). The three gunas are fundamentally premised on '*Vasana*' (mental impressions imprinted through desires accumulated from previous births). Flavors of food garnished with delicious spices and wrapped in a paper permeate into that paper too. Likewise, actions arise from thought waves that in turn are due to the imprints of accumulated Vasanas. Therefore, an author's thoughts rooted in his/her Vasanas may not bring about a thirst for moral uprightness in readers!

Consequently, as a result of my past good deeds I have had the good fortune of recording rare events pertaining to a divine incarnation, after having known and experienced these remarkable events. However, as an author my accumulated Vasanas have not manifested themselves into Thamasic and Rajasic thought waves, and thereafter into prose. Instead, the content and my topic of interest has been saturated in Satvic thoughts. The result is my ability to write about the rare events of an Avatar Purusha and that itself is spectacular. Besides, I have also been able to write about the bliss derived. Authoring such a book is a noble deed for which I have accumulated some good fortune. I consider this a special privilege, particularly bestowed on me by Lord Sai in making use of me to spread His glory. I hold on to His Divine Lotus Feet in exultation.

Let us now enter into the core of this essay:

A few days passed by in leisure after having submitted 2000 copies of **Leela Mohana Sai** at Sundaram.

Mr. Kothandaraman, who was referred to in the previous chapter as the one who had assisted me with typesetting the soft copy, took me to meet an elderly gentleman at Neelangarai in Chennai one day.

The elderly gentleman was Dr. Balasubramaniam MD. A devotee of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Dr. Balasubramaniam had retired as the dean from various regional government hospitals in India. He worked as an honorary doctor at the Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital at Whitefield in Bangalore for more than 15 years till his 84th year of age. Such a virtuous devotee! The doctor has authored the English books, '**Sai The Supreme Consciousness**', '**Sai The Paramatman**' and the Tamil book '**Sathya Jnana Paramporul Sai**' as well.

Having known Dr. Balasubramaniam to be an eminent spiritual thinker, Kothandaraman wanted to associate with this great man. Therefore, he took me along to meet the doctor at his house in Neelangarai. A short sathsang ensued. We spoke about Sri Sathya Sai Baba's grandeur and about His wise teachings. Our subsequent meetings likewise took shape into further sathsangs. That was also the time when I was busy with the printing work of the Tamil edition of **Leela Mohana Sai**.

I narrated to Dr. Balasubramaniam all details pertaining to **Leela Mohana Sai** beginning from the time I started writing, to its then current state where it was on the verge of getting printed. Since the doctor was interested in having a look at a copy of the book, I gave him a copy that I already had with me.

He finished reading the book in quick time within a couple of days and conveyed to me his appreciation as well. He also helped me by heartily volunteering to write the foreword for the Tamil book. Since a foreword by Justice Mr. Karpaga Vinayagam was already printed, I gave the doctor's foreword for printing as the second one.

Once the Tamil book's printing work reached completion, I shared one of the final copies with the doctor too. In this manner while we were talking and exchanging information on a few spiritual topics, in a trice, our topic of discussion veered towards translation of the Tamil language book into English. As I had not thought about the English translation prior to this, I considered this as a miracle of Bhagawan's sankalpa! In due course, the esteemed doctor expressed his willingness to pen the English translation for my Tamil work.

I was awestruck! Thinking that my Tamil book was to get its English version in the most unexpected manner, I felt it to be synonymous to the (Tamil) metaphor, '*the slipping of a fruit all by itself into the cereal bowl*'. (This is quoted when something happens as a spin-off, without much premeditation) I was quite excited and enthusiastic about it! The doctor's innate nature of dedicating himself voluntarily towards any service made me a tad jealous too!

Though occupying an esteemed position in society, Dr. Balasubramaniam who was 84 then (he is currently 94 years old) volunteered with humility like an ideal sevadal to a very ordinary servant as I, to carry out the English translation work. We get to understand his virtue from this gesture of his. He firmly believed that any work that extols the glory of our Supreme Lord Sai becomes an ornament adorning the doer!

If milk and water were to be stirred together in a bowl, a swan would be able to separate out and only drink the milk, leaving all the water behind. Likewise, noble actions of virtuous men like Dr. Balasubramaniam needs to be observed deeply and assimilated into our hearts to cleanse our impurities and set right our mental aberrations. Our spiritual progress, '*the ripening of spirituality*' within us is bound to accelerate, for sure. This is perhaps the extraordinary reward that a sathsang can bestow upon us, as reinforced in the teachings of many great men too.

After having been assigned the task of writing the Tamil book, the book finally reached its logical conclusion after many trials and tribulations and was dedicated to Bhagawan too. At this stage, a new offshoot relating to the book had surfaced in the form of its English translation. I was wonderstruck! A thought flashed in my mind. Authors generally title their final chapters as 'Epilogue'. But in my book, unwittingly and somehow out of sheer inspiration I had titled it as 'Endless Epilogue'. When tasks related to this book were always a work-in-progress due to Lord Sai Ishwara's sankalpa, how could I title it (the final chapter) simply as 'Epilogue' (as if everything attained completion)?

The Lord's sankalpa is such that events even beyond the fancy of man's imagination occur quite spontaneously and cohesively in a manner where related events

become unrelated and unrelated events become related. Therefore, as these events unfolded many other events become encompassed within them.

Anyway, the doctor's translation work happened quite intensely and diligently. We would often speak over the phone and I would visit him at Neelangarai in person too! Making sure that the flavor of the original did not diminish in any way he went on to translate the Tamil words with their correct equivalent yet charming English words. The doctor handed over the entire collection as a computer typed copy and as a CD as well.

I apprised the then State President about the doctor's English translation of my Tamil book. The then State President advised me that I would have to contact the Prasanthi Nilayam Book Trust regarding other language books other than Tamil, to seek approval and go-ahead for the publication.

I achieved success only after having gone to Prasanthi Nilayam from Chennai for my Tamil book. I considered that if Prasanthi Nilayam was the place that decided the course for all other language books except Tamil then there was a good chance that the approval for the English translation of my work should be easy enough. Besides, a visit there would yield the opportunity of the darshan of Sri Sathya Sai Bhagawan too!

As known, Swami had approved the Tamil book on 20th November 2005 and all the copies were submitted at Chennai's Sundaram on 23rd November 2005, the sacred Birthday of Bhagawan.

At any rate, we needed time till April 2008 for the completion of the English translation and all its accompanying work.

My friend Mr. Kothandaraman and his Sai center friends wished to serve as sevadals for Mother Easwaramma Day celebrations on 6th May 2008. Hence, they planned to leave for Puttaparthi by car on 5th May 2008. As I came to know about this, I decided to accompany them to Prasanthi Nilayam. I took with me the printed copy and CD that the doctor had given me.

We reached Prasanthi Nilayam that evening.

At around 10 a.m. on 6th May 2008, I went to the office of 'Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust - Prasanthi Nilayam'.

Our first meeting scheduled with the Book Trust Convener's assistant was about the format of the book. He had a pleasant demeanor and seemed to be a person who venerated his clients. I introduced myself. During our conversation he was awestruck upon hearing from me about my proximity to Bhagawan during my early days. He displayed love and respect on learning about my dearness to Bhagawan and seemed to reciprocate the same warmth with others who interacted with him.

He took the English translation copy and the CD that I had taken with me. He then asked me about information regarding the translated book's copyrights. I agreed that I would give it in writing that the copyrights for this book shall be with the Prasanthi Nilayam Book Trust alone. He also took the signed agreement document from me.

At that precise moment, the Convener of the Book Trust came into his room and the assistant took me to the Convener. After a brief introduction, he told the Convener that the purpose of my visit was with regards to the publication of the English translation of my Tamil work.

On listening to the details and after seeking some clarification the Convener spoke, *“After Bhagawan Himself had approved your original Tamil book; you had donated 2000 copies to the Tamil Nadu Book Trust via Sundaram. After all these blessed events there won’t be obstacles in releasing this book by the Prasanthi Book Trust. There is no reason for you to worry about this at all. However, I shall read and review the English translation. To go ahead and begin the printing, a panel within Prasanthi Nilayam’s Book Trust needs to grant its approval too. In your case this would only be part of the necessary formalities and there won’t be any hitches. However, these panel members will not be able to read and review your book immediately, as they would be taking their offs for the summer. They would be going to Bangalore or other cities and are currently busy with their travel plans. They would be back again only after the month of July to commence the book review. Therefore, it would be a good idea for you to please come here after the 10th of August. That shall be an appropriate time for you to know about the final status of your book.”*

After handing over the printed manuscript and CD to the Convener and on giving in writing the copyrights to the Book Trust, I had presumed that I could easily get the English version printed and published by the Prasanthi Nilayam Book Trust. I had built a gorgeous castle in my mind assuming everything would go through smoothly. However, I was in for great disappointment after I received the Convener's news regarding the organizational glitches relating to publication of the book. With disappointment piling up, my heart sank in a humdrum! At that instance, the beautiful smiling form of Bhagawan in a big photo caught my eye and seemed to bless me in Abhaya (protection from fear). I absorbed that beautiful scene through my eyes and installed it in my heart. As I was immersed in that feeling focusing on Swami's photo, I felt Swami's lips muttering something to me!

“Why are you feeling wearisome? When agony vanishes you jump up high, claiming it to be your achievement! But when agony creeps in, you become disheartened in distress.

“Think properly and clearly! Who motivated and made you write a book when you had absolutely no knowledge or skill about 'writing books'? When your intellect was bereft of any knowledge regarding authoring books, who was the one that downloaded all that knowledge into you? Who was the one that sculpted meaningful words and installed them on paper? Did the computer publish all your effort?

“Even after the Tamil Nadu State President expressed his inability to print the books via Tamil Nadu Book Trust and although the lady in charge of printing demanded- ‘Give me the money! Or get a sponsor’ leaving you high and dry, how was it that though you did not spend even a penny, you were able to still deliver 2000 books at Sundaram as your donation - was this related to any of your skill? In the thick of all this, Bhagawan Himself had recognized your Tamil book. Is there any achievement of

yours here? Can you say that you ran hither and thither and found experts by yourself to get your English translation created?

*"In the end, you have now come here after listening to what that 'Convener' said. In despondency you proclaim that 'disappointments rapidly pile themselves over and over'- as if someone out there is stacking up disappointments for you to face. Feeling inferior you accuse 'someone' thinking of 'somebody'. Do you know who that 'somebody' is? That 'somebody' is your boosted and fortified ego! Since you crown yourself with pride that you are doing everything yourself, you face those disheartening thoughts. Go from here understanding that there is nothing that is 'Yours'! From here on, learn to savor everything that transpires! **'Why Fear When I am Here?'**"* I felt Swami's discourse resounding in His own voice in my subconscious mind. In a trice, my heart became light as a feather. I took leave of the Convener. He also bid me a kind farewell.

After having exited the Convener's chamber, I spent some time speaking with his assistant. I asked him if he knew of any other way through which my English version could see the light of day sooner. He affirmed that the way declared by the Convener was the only practical route ahead and that none could execute anything against the Convener.

I reconfirmed everything he had already collected from me -- the typed copy of the English translation, a CD copy and copyright related matters. *"OK Sairam! As suggested by the Convener, please come again in the month of August. In the meantime, you can contact us via phone; there won't be any obstacles to that. You have given your phone number anyway! If there are any important matters, I shall definitely contact you!"* so saying he shook hands with me and sent me off.

Since it was Mother Easwaramma's Day, I was lucky to be blessed with a divine darshan of Bhagawan. After having internalized that divinity, I undertook the task of meeting the Convener. That evening as I participated in the festivities, I was blessed with the great opportunity of participating in the Sai bhajans and listening to Swami's divine discourse as well. It nourished my heart and spirit.

Next day, together with Mr. Kothandaraman and the sevadal members who had accomplished their duties, all of us returned to Chennai.

As I was ruminating about the delay in the printing and publication of the English version of the book, my mind turned a bit tired. However, I pepped up my spirits. I consoled myself that with Bhagawan's grace everything happens for good and focused my attention and energy on the day-to-day matters.

Exactly four days later, the telephone at my home beeped.

"Sairam! This is Sai Mohan here," I said. I heard a voice from the other end of the wire, *"You Fortunate Soul! Sai Mohan! This is the Convener of Prasanthi Nilayam Book Trust. Didn't I not tell you that since the book review panel members are preparing for their summer vacations your book publishing work would get delayed and I had asked you to come in the month of August, had I not? Well, after you had left, Bhagawan called for me. He asked me about matters relating to books. Along with*

other topics I also relayed about your book and its details. I told Him that I had asked you to come back in the month of August. Immediately, Bhagawan said, 'Why did you tell him so? Focus on work relating to his book immediately. Complete all the prerequisite tasks related to the book in two to three days! Another thing, hand over the book to Telugu scholars to translate into Telugu. Work and focus on this swiftly. After the book gets translated into Telugu, I want you to work immediately and swiftly on its printing and publishing tasks!' Thus, Swami ordered me. Right now, your book's work is happening at a brisk pace. Generally, with regards to matters of books, Swami has not shown this kind of a concern for any other book! You came here regarding the book's English version. Right now, unexpectedly the book is getting ready for its Telugu version as well! Without any effort your book is getting translated into another language and getting published. We shall send you the copies of the books as soon as they are ready. You are indeed a very blessed soul, Sairam!" He ended! Hanging down the phone I jumped up high with joy! Having touched the pinnacle of bliss my heart assumed wings. I spread them wide and flew to Prasanthi Nilayam circumambulated it and offered my obeisance singing Bhagawan's glory! When the heart pines to sing praises, shouldn't the hearty gratitude be offered to The Esteemed Lord?

I leaped to the prayer room! I knelt before the Merciful Lord, the ocean-of-compassion. Tears streamed down my face. My body hunched up, my voice came out as a hoarse whisper as I choked with tears, *"Thank you Lord! Thank you! Thank you! And please accept several thousand of my Thanks to You my Lord!"* I thus went on and on.

An intense desire to express gratitude in myriad ways swept my body and mind. But as my body froze in stupor, I dropped myself on the floor before Him. My heart pinned for Him and raced to Prasanthi Nilayam. My heart hugged tight the Lotus Feet of that Ocean of Compassion and showered a thousand kisses. If He permitted, I desired to take those soft Feet into my hands, place them on my head and continue singing His glory. My heart danced in ecstasy and yearned to linger on in that scene. My heart pined for that Prasanthi Nilayam and wished it were right opposite my house. I could then simply run across and grab those Feet that measured this entire earth and take solace in them! *"Can I ever repay this debt of love, even if I were to take several births? Your Leela is Leela, Swami! Bhagawan, I now understand in crystal clear terms that when I had declared all along for 40 years that I would write the book only on Your command You had been listening to it. This is the innermost import of such leelas of Yours!"* Thus, I lamented in myriad ways. A rose flower from the garland that decorated Him in the altar gently fell on my head, as if consoling me!

My bliss was boundless! I arose. I took the rose reverentially to my eyes and touched them. *"Silly! You cried fancying why Prasanthi Nilayam wasn't across your house, eh? Don't you realize that I am right here, at your prayer hall?"* it felt as if Swami said so. A lesson taught by that rose!

I wiped the cascade of tears from my face!

"Om Saayeeshvaraaya Vidhmahe

Sathya Dhevaaya Dheemahi

Tannassarvha Prachodayaath"

I chanted the above Sai Gayatri several times to obtain peace!

Jai Sai Ram!

III

Lord Sai's Leela Of Translating The Tamil Book into Hindi

In accordance with the divine command of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the English and Telugu translations happened directly under His supervision. Both books were titled '*Leela Mohana Sai*'. The Prasanthi Book Trust sent 5 copies of the English book and 3 copies of the Telugu book. I received them in Chennai. I accepted them wholeheartedly as Prasanthi's sacred offerings (prasada)! Flooded with immense happiness my heart jumped up high in glee, danced and sang thousands of hymns, offering gratitude and glory to Bhagawan!

Echoing a divine verse from The Gita '*Sambhavaami Yuge Yuge*,' proximity to The Great Avatar indeed was a rare blessing that I had earned. Not just nearness, He allowed me to be dear to Him and blessed me with such rare opportunities! Drawing a parallel between this and the bygone days of Lord Rama, Ayodhya's several ordinary citizens would have experienced close proximity to Him. Supposing that we happen to meet some of these blessed citizens of Ayodhya to hear their stories about their Lord, it's quite likely that we wouldn't have read about them in any of the literary works. The same could be said about Krishna's incarnation too! Dadhi Baandan (one of Krishna's devotees who attained moksha through Krishna's grace) and the damsel (originally a woman with a humped back who was later transformed into a beautiful maiden by Krishna) will endearingly entertain us with stories of their proximity to their beloved Krishna whom they had adored and cherished with all their hearts! However, we would never know about others like them, those who enjoyed such dearness with Krishna, for their stories weren't documented for posterity.

In a similar vein, it's most likely that there are several other ordinary citizens like myself who have enjoyed and cherished being close to The Great Avatar Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It is quite likely that owing to their circumstances these people couldn't record their experiences with The Lord as I have done here! At the same time, we do come to know of the good actions of several people who have recorded their experiences and released them as books. In my opinion, it's a great privilege bestowed upon me that I could author in detail my own experiences of Swami's leelas! I am fully

aware that nothing is my own achievement. This principle of '**Namama**' (not mine) is the panacea for remaining unburdened and liberated during this lifetime!

The privilege of my proximity to Bhagawan that I was bestowed with made me regard all the wonderful experiences as manifestations of His grace alone. Hence the book – Leela Mohana Sai (Part 1) that came into existence in Tamil. It got translated into English and Telugu too. Many people complimented me after reading it. Several devotees from within and outside the country spoke to me over the phone and lauded my work too.

Likewise, a Sai devotee from the city of Indore in the state of Madhya Pradesh contacted me over phone. He introduced himself as Mr. Thangappan and complimented me for my work. As he spoke, he showered me with much love. He spoke to me frequently. I too felt an overpowering love towards him. Perhaps this was the profound effect of the power of pure and selfless love! He spoke to me often, solicited my blessings and even kept me updated about his family's welfare!

Pure Love incarnated as Pure Love. Wielding the weapon of Love, He taught us- '***You are the embodiment of Love, see others as yourself, live in Love and seek wisdom! Love all and be happy!***' This was our Lord Sai's '***Lesson of Love***'. True to His teachings, Mr.Thangappan shared such worthy love without having met me in person even once! I learned a lot about sharing love from him.

One fine day, a dear friend of mine Mr.Nagaraj who was also my colleague in the Indian Railways, came to meet me from Tiruchi. He is an ardent devotee of Sai. He actively took part in all Sai Service activities in the '60s while I was fervently engaged in them. Nagaraj took charge of all worship related tasks at Thillai Nagar Bhajan Mandali that was started by me with Bhagawan's Grace. He is a remarkable servant of Sai who performs selfless service.

Mr. Nagaraj is an exponent in Hindi. Having mastered the language quite well, he has all the qualifications to teach Hindi and many have benefited from it.

Having come to my house that day he praised me and spoke highly about my book. I showed him the English and Telugu books as well. He stated that writing a book was an art that demanded special skills and not everyone could accomplish that. He said that I had achieved that successfully and appreciated me for it.

Therefore, after seeing both language books he asked me for the details about how the translations happened. I described to him Bhagawan's leelas behind the events. He was awed and completely taken by surprise on listening to them. Choking with emotion he poignantly declared, "*With Bhagawan's Sankalpa anything could be accomplished easily!*"

Nagaraj is not only an affectionate person but virtuous too. To this day he greets me with "*Sairam*" followed by "*Gurubhyo Namaha*". The reason he greets me in such an exalted manner is because of my mentoring him during our early days. I had inspired him to lead several events and prayer sessions thereby engaging in the worship of The Lord.

He would accomplish almost anything that I asked him to do. He yearned to interact with me at all times. It is my great honor to have been blessed with such individuals as friends.

I am not certain if I wanted to utilize his willingness to execute any task that I placed before him. No, perhaps not! Quite unknown to me I was inspired to suggest, *“Nagaraj, it occurs to me that my book shall get translated into another language,”* not able to clearly imply to him what came to my mind.

Not comprehending he asked me, *“How?”*

“Do u see this person here right in front of me! He is a great Hindi language pundit!” I answered.

Appreciating the humor in my response he said, *“If that is Swami’s sankalpa He will definitely accomplish His work by employing me.”*

“Anyhow, please do let me know if you have any reservations in accomplishing this task,” I continued.

“So far I have only taught Hindi. To me, translating a book challenges the translator’s proficiency. A niche skill and scholarship are prerequisites. It’s no ordinary task that you wrote this book. Since Swami has blessed you with the capability, you could make it possible! If it is Bhagawan’s Sankalpa that I should undertake this task of translating the book into Hindi then He will also equip me with the necessary expertise! I heartily accept this task since you are keen that I take this up!” He said so with conviction and self-confidence.

I continued, *“Through His Sankalpa our Swami compelled me to write the book in Tamil first. He then accomplished His task of translating it into English through my acquaintance and friendship with Dr.Balasubramaniam. Thereafter, He took up the Telugu translation into His own Hands, delegated it to Prasanthi Book Trust’s Convener and got that accomplished too! For several years both of us have been involved in Sai Seva activities together with an attitude of offering everything to our Lord. Our chance meeting today has taken the course of our conversation towards a book originally written in one language and later brought out in two other languages. You are an expert in Hindi. What do you make of this? Don’t you infer that Bhagawan has summoned you here to translate my book into Hindi? I don’t have to tell you that this too is one among the multitude of His profound leelas that you and I have known. Therefore, keep in mind that He is the doer. Please accept this and accomplish it.”*

He was completely overwhelmed, his eyes brimmed with tears. He said, *“I have done all that you’ve said so far. They got accomplished without any constraints. This is a good opportunity bestowed upon me by Bhagawan and I accept it. I consider this holy task as a service to Bhagawan! I have decided to take this up and accomplish it. Please give me the original Tamil book along with the English version!”* He went into my prayer room, paid obeisance to The Lord and took both the books from me! He bid me goodbye and left for Tiruchi that very night.

Days flew by.

One day Nagaraj came to meet me. At an advanced age of 77, he had toiled hard day and night with an attitude of service and surrender. With dedication and determination he had finished translating the book into Hindi. He handed over to me his handwritten manuscript. Since I didn't know Hindi I flipped through and placed it at Bhagawan's Lotus Feet in my prayer room. I lauded him for this noble of his and his determination to work ceaselessly in carrying out the Lord's work. We chatted for a while. He later left saying he had other things to attend at Chennai.

Every time I entered the prayer room my eyes fell upon the Hindi manuscript.

"The translation into Hindi got accomplished in the most unexpected manner. Going forward it needs to be typed in Hindi! After a few trials and tribulations Swami brought Kodhandaraman into our midst for typesetting the Tamil manuscript, blessed it and got that work accomplished! Where do I go for typesetting it in Hindi?! Whom do I approach?" I pondered. Anyway, I firmly believed that Bhagawan would guide me and be by my side.

A few days rolled by. I didn't take any initiative regarding the typesetting of the Hindi book and nothing unexpected happened.

Sai bhajans and prayers at our house went on as usual. That day we placed the Hindi manuscript at Bhagawan's Lotus Feet and conducted bhajans as a heartfelt prayer. We beseeched him to execute the Hindi typesetting work.

The following day Nagaraj came home all of a sudden. After I wrapped up my conversation with him I expressed my concern over the pending typesetting work. I stated that it had to happen at the earliest.

Straightaway he called one of his relatives a lady, from my landline phone. After talking to her he conveyed to me that the lady had a Hindi keyboard at her office and that she had agreed to type the manuscript in Hindi. As soon as the message sank in, I began to bask in bliss. I expressed my sincere gratitude to The Great Lord Sai for having fulfilled our prayers within 24 hours.

"Will she also take up proof-reading the typed work?" I quizzed.

"No worries at all. I shall engage my student and family friend Natarajan for the proofreading. Since he is at Vadapalani in Chennai right now I shall meet him en route and update him about the details. Please have no anxiety or worry in this regard."

He replied.

Do I need a better example than this to reiterate that Bhagawan indeed lends an ear to our prayers? My heart became light as a feather.

That night Nagaraj telephoned me on reaching Tiruchi. He confirmed that Natarajan had agreed to oversee the Hindi typesetting work. He added that on completion Natarajan would hand over the printed manuscript to me personally and that Natarajan intended to meet me shortly to get the work rolling.

Nagaraj coordinated with both Natarajan and his relative, and also kept me updated on the progress.

About 40 days passed by.

Just when I was worried about how the Hindi typesetting work would commence it had miraculously almost got accomplished now. Another concern took over me albeit slowly. I started to wonder about whom to contact for publishing the printed copy.

Swami made Mr.Ramachandran take responsibility for the Tamil book's publication. He became the guardian for the English and Telugu books. Now, whom was He going to send for the Hindi book, I wondered? I began to speculate about how He would make an appearance and how His miracle would unfold? I spent a few days deliberating thus. In the interim, there was no interesting news from the Hindi typesetting team.

It was the year 2007, the 27th day of November. At around 8:30 a.m. that day, my adopted daughter had delivered a baby boy as her second child at a hospital in Chennai. I was getting ready to visit her and my infant grandson at the hospital. Someone rang the doorbell. I went to the hallway and found that the grill gate at the entrance was locked. As I unlocked I saw a gentleman I hadn't met before waiting outside. He said "*Sairam*" and humbly stood outside with palms pressed together.

I welcomed him, "*Please come in, Sairam.*"

He came inside, sat on the chair and said, "*Sairam, I am Thangappan from Indore.*"

With surprise riding over me I exclaimed, "*O! Sairam! Thangappan, eh?! Since how long we were telephone friends?! Today Bhagawan has strengthened our bond of friendship further as an illustration of the verse '**Install the form in your heart along with heaps of love.**' He has made us meet face-to-face today for this very purpose! Today is truly a golden day in my life, Thangappan! Not only have I been blessed with a grandson, but also a son as precious as gold. Just how much love have you showered while we spoke over phone! I feel immensely proud about having gained such a friend from North India. Seeing you today gives me abundant happiness.*" I turned emotional.

"*It's me who is the most fortunate one. I feel honored meeting you as you have closely interacted with Bhagawan. Although I attempted to meet you several times in the past I have been blessed with that fortune only today. It's my promise that I shall remain your son as declared by you,*" he said choking with emotion. He fell flat in front of me prostrating at my feet and did Namaskaar.

It was a poignant moment for both of us. Words failed. We fell silent.

Moments later I briefed Thangappan about my adopted daughter's delivery that day and that everyone at home was at the hospital. I made coffee for him.

"*I am immensely fortunate to drink this coffee made by you, Sairam!*" He said heartwarmingly as he drank it.

We spoke for a long time about his family, my Sai Service activities and Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai's magnificence. We had lunch at a fine restaurant nearby.

On coming back home we continued our interesting talk about Swami's magnificence. He was eager to listen to my experiences with Swami straight from me. I told him all about that and in the course of our discussions I also came to know of how he became devoted to Swami. I was wonderstruck listening to the leelas he narrated.

It soon turned past 4 p.m. and he wished to leave.

Surprisingly at that very moment my friend Nagaraj's student Natarajan came home. He seemed to be in haste. I asked him to sit down and relax. I introduced Thangappan and Natarajan to each other. I briefed him about Thangappan's devotion to Swami.

Since he had his Hindi tuitions scheduled at several places in Chennai, Natarajan intended to leave immediately. He left as soon as I accepted the typed Hindi manuscript that he had brought with him.

As Thangappan witnessed this, I narrated to him the story of how Swami compelled me to write a book originally in Tamil followed by the miraculous ways in which the book got translated into English and Telugu with its latest upcoming Hindi avatar that's pending publication.

On listening to the entire story, Thangappan sprang forward and said without any trace of hesitation, *"Swami has indeed sent a person to make the Hindi book happen, Sairam!"*

"I don't get you," I said perplexed.

"Here I am!" he said emphatically.

Shell-shocked, I interjected, *"What are you saying Thangappan?"*

"Sairam! Hailing from North India (where Hindi is a prevalent language) I happened to read your Tamil book about a year and a half ago. Only upon reading it did I come to know about you and the divine proximity of yours with Bhagawan. From then on I attempted to meet you several times. After your Tamil book has gone through translations into English and Telugu, and when the Hindi typesetting is also through, it's only now that I've had the good opportunity of meeting you in person. It was right at this very moment while I was seated here that the proof-ready copy has been handed over to you! What is the import of this? I am a Sai devotee passionate about engaging myself in Sai service. Having governed everything in such a close-knit fashion Swami dispatched appropriate individuals to take charge of each book. Bhagawan has precisely done that now as well. That's the reason He didn't will that we meet for over a year and a half! Isn't it crystal clear? I am ready to take up this work wholeheartedly as a service to Lord Sai! Please have no worries! From now on all responsibilities in this matter are mine! Please hand over the typed Hindi manuscript to me. Once I reach Indore, I shall meet the Madhya Pradesh state president and involve him too. With the guiding grace of Bhagawan by my side I shall undertake the necessary steps. Please have no qualms regarding this and be happy! As your son this is my appeal to you! On

reaching Indore I shall stay in touch with you through telephone as always. I shall send you copies of the book as soon as they are published!" He said so enthusiastically and prostrated at my feet. I blessed this God-given son with all my heart. I chanted Bhagawan's name in my heart and applied vibhuti to his forehead. Tears streamed down my face. Thangappan too felt deeply emotional. He took the manuscript and bid farewell.

"Was all that had happened now real? Can such events occur? With what immaculate precision were the coins of this cosmic board game moved around! How beautifully He weaved men and situations into a wonderful tapestry of events! Does it not imply that all this is the result of heaps and heaps of goodness that I have performed in my previous lifetimes that has allowed me to be a witness to such a divine drama?" Thus, I was swept away in an ocean of thought-waves. In my heart, I thanked Bhagawan profusely.

Thangappan and I lived in faraway cities and had been only talking over phone for almost 2 years without meeting each other in person. Purely bonded by love devoid of any selfish interests, our friendship grew from strength to strength with the nourishment of selfless offerings. Isn't such a friendship superior and noble? Perhaps the great sage Thiruvalluvar addresses such refined friendship as, *'Whatever a noble person offers, even poison, a cultured person heartily accepts that too.'*

Our Swami would often counsel us as, ***"Manas Ekam Vachas Ekam Karmanyekam,"*** meaning unity in thought, word and deed – saying what one thinks and doing what one utters. This is Trikarana-Suddhi. Our Bhagawan would insist that this be the yardstick for anyone who is on the path of dharma!

Being such a noble and virtuous gentleman, Thangappan spoke what he thought and accomplished what he said. He exhibited great determination in publishing ***'Leela Mohana Sai'*** in Hindi and eventually emerged victorious!

On talking to him over the phone I congratulated him, *"You have done it Thangappan! You achieved it."* Humbly he replied, *"Yes! Sairam! Our Sai Bhagawan made us meet and achieve too!"*

Jai Sai Ram!

IV

The Lord of Parthi Sends A Doctor and Showers His Grace

Those were the early days of the new millennium!

My elder sister lived with her husband in her own house at a tiny village called Vepathur near the town of Kumbakonam. I also had an elder brother, a bachelor. I am a resident of Chennai. Although my brother stayed with me in my house at Chennai for a while, due to circumstances in the family he moved to his own house at Vepathur. He adapted to life at Vepathur and continued living there by himself.

I made frequent trips to Vepathur and stayed in constant touch with all of them. I helped them with the buying and stocking of essentials from the nearby town of Kumbakonam as they were all well over 70 years of age and were living in a remote village devoid of many basic facilities.

My sister had an abiding interest and devotion to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sri Baba was everything to her! Every morning she and her husband had their first sip of coffee at 5 a.m. only after offering that to Swami. In that nondescript distant village, she conducted bhajans at her house every Thursday evening without fail. Many villagers took part in those bhajans. At the end, delicacies were distributed to all with pomp and splendor! To everyone there, that was '**Baba's house**'.

My elder brother too nurtured an extraordinary love for Swami. He would always engage himself in *Likita Japa* by writing the holy name '**Om Sri Sai Ram**' lakhs and lakhs of times. It was not an ordinary love. His was a special kind of devotion towards Bhagawan, for he had not met Bhagawan even once. It didn't matter to him because he saw Swami in everything! Way back in 1962 he was severely stricken with an illness at our house in Thiruvaidaimaruthoor. Many villagers who checked him declared that he was '*dead and gone*'. At that stage, he was saved and brought back to life by our Swami. I was in Puttaparthi that day. Swami called me in for an interview and told me He had saved my brother from his deathbed. This spectacular incident has been described in detail in my first book under the essay '**The Grace of Rescue from the Jaws of Death**'!

One day, I got a call from Vepathur. It was my brother. He said he was feeling ill for the past few days with numbness in his hands and legs. I could sense a tinge of fear in his voice as he requested me to visit him. He said that my staying with him would make him feel a lot better.

I started off to Vepathur at once. As I reached quite late that night, all of us retired for the day with a hope that we could talk about his health the next day.

At sunrise next morning I checked my brother's health. He couldn't hold anything with his hands. One of his legs seemed totally numb and he had developed fever too. There were no doctors or emergency services in that village to treat him immediately. A lone government bus that plied to the town of Kumbakonam once every 3 hours was packed to the roof. Unfortunately, there were no autos those days or for that matter any other convenient means of transport to reach Kumbakonam. To make matters worse, none of the doctors from Kumbakonam ever came to the village. My brother-in-law and village folks filled me in with such nuggets of information.

Villagers relish in gossiping, it's one of their favorite pastimes. That day at our street, my brother's illness flashed as the headline news in their gossip columns. Such crisis scenarios at households became a theater for amusement to those gossipmongers. None of them offered any kind of help, but remained avid bystanders mocking and guffawing to their heart's content. If anyone among them were to be called for any help, they would run away for good emptying off the entire town! That was sort of the norm in such remote rural communities. But of course, they couldn't be blamed, for they had no other means of entertainment!

One of the villagers walked up to me displaying an air of concern. He slowly prodded me about my brother's health, in an effort towards building his gossip database. *"What are you going to do by keeping your brother at such a place where there is absolutely no medical facility? Just take him to Chennai,"* he advised. It was their habit to offer advice freely at the very onset of any random situation without ever considering the victim's opinion, or for that matter about the circumstances that drove the crisis in the first place, or about those affected. Why? Because they didn't bother!

"Thank you for your advice. Is there no doctor in this village or in its vicinity?" I queried.

"Right now, there are no doctors in this village. On your way to Thiruvidadaimaruthoor there is a small village called Kalyanapuram. A doctor from Kumbakonam runs his clinic on Kalyanapuram's main road. He has opened it quite recently. But he won't come for patient-visits to our village whatever be the reason. Whoever beseeches his help or whatever be the emergency, he doesn't come. Today doctors consider visiting village houses as something that's beneath their stature. Therefore, it would be better if you could somehow take your brother to his clinic. Later, it's your choice." Just as he finished, he walked away towards somebody who seemed to call out to him.

I went into the house and asked my brother-in-law about the doctor at Kalyanapuram. My brother-in-law replied that there were no means of transport such as bus or auto to take my brother to the doctor's clinic.

I felt clueless. My brother's fever seemed to grip him rather viciously.

Can the wise words '**God is the only refuge for the forsaken**' advocated by our ancestors go meaningless? Sayings such as, '**Believers are never betrayed**' not only remain as great morale boosters but also glow brightly with timeless preciousness, as they are deeply soaked in wisdom!

I prostrated before our Bhagawan's portrait with firm and steadfast faith, *"Swami, you are Lord Vaidiswara the Divine Healer and Lord Dhanvanthari the Primordial Doctor from The Milky Oceans of Ambrosia! Once in the past, you had graciously saved this brother of mine from Yama-The Lord of Death! You narrated to me that incomparable extraordinary miracle in an interview at Puttaparthi! All of us at home came to realize only later that everything that had occurred was exactly as You had told me. From then on to this very day, all of us foster and celebrate our intimate love towards You. You will stay by my side and help me this time as well! I trust you firmly. Who else is there to help me in this village or world other than Thee? You are the very Sarvaantharyaami- The Omniscient Power. Since it is not feasible to take my brother to that doctor, I am going to meet that doctor and request him to come here instead. Please come along with me. Please, Swami You must do something to make him come to this house. I am going armed with my faith in Thee alone!"* I prayed so with tears streaming down my face. I applied vibhuti (sacred ash) to my forehead. I hopped onto a bicycle and pedaled chanting, "**Jai Sai Ram**".

Kalyanapuram is a very tiny village. I faced no difficulty in locating the clinic. As I entered, I noticed two wooden slabs placed as waiting seats. There was a screen tactfully hiding a small space wherein I could see the doctor.

A name board on the wall said Govindarajan M.B.B.S. However, it wasn't spelt correctly in English, leaving an onlooker to almost guess that to be the doctor's name. The alphabets were arranged in a weird manner with some letters repeated multiple times and some missing. I gathered that the doctor must have consulted a numerologist to have his name's letters rearranged in such an obviously disarrayed manner. My eyes wandered towards the small room that was partially covered by the screen. I almost fell off my seat by an unimaginable revelation! A beautiful photograph of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba decorated the wall beside the doctor. There was a beaming Swami blessing in His ubiquitous Abhaya Hasta (hand raised in blessing) pose. I experienced boundless enthusiasm; my inner mind drenched in ecstasy.

Just a few minutes ago I had intensely prayed to Swami at Vepathur. I had requested him to accompany me. I had beseeched Him to somehow help me in convincing the doctor to come to my brother's house for his treatment. What's most interesting here is the unfolding of a totally unexpected miracle. In a tiny hamlet located at an obscure unheard-of corner in Tamil Nadu, the only doctor in the entire vicinity happens to be a devotee of Bhagawan!

Precisely at this moment a patient exited from his room by brushing the screen aside. Since there were none waiting, I walked in. At once, I loudly greeted him by saying, "*Sairam Doctor,*" all the while parking myself on an empty stool placed near him, presumably for patients.

He appeared preoccupied with his head bent down, perhaps writing a record regarding a patient. On hearing me greet him, "*Sairam Doctor,*" he dropped his pen immediately. He abruptly stopped whatever he was doing, sprang from his chair and replied, "*Sairam,*" looking at me with earnestness.

I introduced myself. I explained to him briefly about my love and association with Bhagawan. I then asked him, "*Doctor, you have Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's photograph here, are you his devotee?*" He replied that his wife was an ardent devotee of Bhagawan and through her he too developed an interest towards Bhagawan. He added that they often made visits to Puttaparthi.

Quite spontaneously I interrupted him and asked, "*Why have you so obviously misspelled your name, Dr. Govindarajan, so randomly on your name board? Did any numerologist advise you to rearrange alphabets of your name in this manner? However, in my opinion such an arrangement of your name will not create any kind of improvements for you. Why? You could even face major losses.*"

Totally taken aback he said, "*Sairam. Yes, what you have said is true. It's a fact that I have lost a few lakhs, Sairam. Do you know numerology?*" he opened up willing to befriend me, also seized by inquisitiveness at the same time.

"*Sairam, I do know numerology. Well, more than me, my brother who is ill right now at Vepathur is an expert in all the 3 sciences-astrology, palmistry and numerology. He is well versed and well experienced in all of them. It was for him that I came here to seek your assistance.*" I told him.

As though he had made up his mind already, he gladly asked me, "*Sairam, what can I do for you now?*"

I briefed him about my brother's illness and symptoms. I conveyed my helplessness in bringing my brother to his clinic. "*It will be good if you could empathize with my ill-stricken brother by coming to his home and treating him,*" I pleaded. Instantaneously without thinking any further he asked me, "*How have you come?*" "*On a bicycle,*" pat came my reply. "*You can leave it here. I have a motorbike, please come, we shall travel by that,*" he said.

I couldn't believe my own surge of emotions.

My conversation with Swami before starting from Vepathur replayed in my mind, "***Swami! Please come with me. You have to do something and make him come here please, Swami.***" I told myself, "*He accepted this prayer of mine and now he has made this doctor come home! Wow! What a compassionate Lord He is!*" Feeling quite overwhelmed within, I paid my heartfelt gratitude to Bhagawan's Abhaya Hasta photograph there.

The doctor checked outside. There were no patients in waiting.

He gathered his medical kit, started his motorbike- a 2-wheeler that I climbed on as a pillion and off we headed to Vepathur!!

That big booming bike made a heroic entry into the village. It approached our street carrying Dr. Govindarajan and myself -a newbie in town with a resounding roar! This was an entry dramatic enough for the villagers not to miss, a rare chance of entertainment for them. They rushed out of their homes, covered either sides of the lane and looked in wonder at the thundering bike we were riding upon. While it was the usual norm that no doctor entered that village (so far), how was it that a person new to the village with no prior acquaintance with that doctor brought him along to the doorstep, without any help from the townsmen? Wasn't this reason enough to have all of them go crazy picking at the last straw of their brains!

My brother, my sister and brother-in-law were in for a big surprise as they saw a doctor approaching.

At once the doctor examined my brother and administered first aid to him. He prescribed in detail the medicines that my brother had to take.

Soon, I introduced the doctor to my brother since I had not said anything at all from the time we had arrived. I relayed everything right from how I left after praying, to our dramatic entry into the village, singing praises of Swami fueled by devotion all through my narrative. With a surge of emotion overspread with gratitude gushing from his heart, my overwhelmed brother who had listened attentively uttered, "*Jai Sai Ram*".

Subsequently, I relayed to my brother all details about the intentional misspelling of the doctor's name and suggested to him that the doctor's name be fixed after necessary analysis. My brother listened through and expressed his desire to set right the doctor's name. We affirmed our agreement with the doctor and asked him to furnish us with his horoscope and supporting data points for us to get ahead. The doctor readily agreed to this. He said that he would get his horoscope and details the next day. He also added that he would come to our house daily to check on my brother until he became completely all right. He even said that he would get the prescribed medicines for my brother that evening while he came for his clinic, if it were not possible for any of us to go to Kumbakonam prior to that. When the entire village was harping on the fact that no doctor had ever visited that place this doctor paid a home visit out of his own interest and self-will as soon as he was called. Not just that, he had even agreed to come daily, with the medicines. He voluntarily came forward to help. What is the background to this extraordinary event?

Prayers! Behind such extraordinary happenings are the workings of steadfast, selfless, heart melting, humanitarian prayers that stem from Self-confidence. Such prayers do get answered!

This is confirmed!! Confirmed!! Assuredly confirmed!
(Truth! Truth! Punas Sathyam- Truth Again!)

Dr. Govindarajan came every single day and carried out his treatment. He explained my brother's medical condition in detail and kept us updated on all ongoing treatments and their effects.

He came to our Vepathur house from Kumbakonam a few hours ahead of his evening consultation at his clinic.

Soon, when my brother and I analyzed his horoscope, palm-lines and details pertaining to numerology, it was clear to us that by then the doctor had recovered from the landslide fall that was bound to befall him. There were indications of future favorable changes that seemed to be coming in his favor. Eventually, since his name wasn't set right, we recommended a corrected one to him. He was quite excited. He praised that his newfound friendship with us was a blessing conferred upon him.

One day, when he came to examine my brother's health, he expressed a desire to expand his setup further in the way of starting a nursing home. He was interested to know if there were any favorable signs regarding this in his horoscope.

I replied to him that we would get back to him in two days' time after studying his horoscope in detail and analyzing all abstract astrological elements in that context.

When he met us again two days later, we told him that we were able to read favorable signs in his horoscope for him to start a hospital and asked him to make efforts in that direction.

He said, *"Sairam! I have made efforts to start a hospital near The Sun Temple (Suryanaar kovil a famous Navagraha Sthala/kshetram) close to the village Thirumangalakudi. I have selected a good building that can house a 3-bedded nursing home. I have spoken to the owner as well. I have decided in my mind to open the nursing home in 3 days. I wish to admit you (looking at my brother) as my first patient. I believe that it would be much more comfortable to take good care of you if you were to be admitted into the nursing home as I can keep you under longer hours of observation and attend to you better. That is not possible now, since I get to check upon you only once a day through my daily visits to your house. Also, if you can please advise me on how to go about the naming of my clinic and nursing home, that would be good too as I shall get it printed by tomorrow."*

Immediately, my brother and I delved into its astrological and numerological aspects and suggested the name 'Sri Sathya Sai Nursing Home/Clinic'.

The nursing home was inaugurated on the designated auspicious day. My brother was admitted as the first patient in a room that had good facilities including a bed and he was administered the necessary treatments. A physiotherapist was also brought in to give him physiotherapy sessions.

In response to the intensive treatments given to my brother there was a remarkable improvement in his health within a few days. We came to realize at that stage that my brother needed much prolonged and vigorous physiotherapy. However, the physiotherapist there had commitments to visit other hospitals in the vicinity. He was unable to give the longer hours of treatments that my brother's health demanded.

Therefore, our doctor Govindarajan advised us that it would be better if my brother went to Chennai and took up intensive physiotherapy sessions there. We heeded to his counsel and decided to head back to Chennai.

Since I needed a car to take my brother with me, I approached a gentleman who owned a car rental agency in Thiruvaidaimaruthoor. I gave him the necessary details and

requested him to bring a car to our Vepathur house the next day at 10 a.m. He asked for an advance amount of Rs.1000. As I did not carry that much cash with me then, I gave him an assurance of paying it before our trip the next morning.

Next day, it was 6 a.m. when I woke up. The car was scheduled to arrive at 10 a.m. I had to pack our belongings and had to carry out many tasks within the meager 4-hour window before driving off to Chennai.

I had to pay off the hospital dues and consultation fees to Dr. Govindarajan. I also had to pay the physiotherapist who was in Aaduthurai (a nearby village). Well, of course there was the car rental advance that I had to pay at Thiruvidadaimaruthoor. That's all I had to do. Moreover, for me to accomplish all this within the 10 a.m. deadline that day, my only mode of transport was that solitary bicycle! Those were pre-mobile days, we hadn't yet enjoyed the luxury of instant connectivity.

Kumbakonam is situated at about 10 kilometers to the north of Vepathur. Aaduthurai is to the east at 3 km. Thiruvidadaimaruthoor is located southeast at 2 km from Vepathur.

When I had come to this village owing to my brother's illness, I resorted to prayers as my only source of support and strength to bail me out from all the tribulations that came my way. Finally, to overcome this above-mentioned latest trial thrown at me before leaving the village, I resorted to the Lotus Feet of our ever-compassionate Lord Sai. I completely surrendered to Him with steadfast faith, bowed down and prayed to Him earnestly, *"Only You have to take mercy and rescue me from this conundrum. I am heading to finish off all pending tasks! Dear Bhagawan, You have to accompany me and make me complete these unfinished tasks quickly and easily, my Swami."* Accordingly, I sent Him my heartfelt prayers. I prostrated, applied vibhuti and started off on my bicycle.

As I had planned to go to Thiruvidadaimaruthoor to settle the taxi charges first I started pedaling in that direction. On the way, after crossing Kalyanapuram there is a bridge over the river Cauvery that had to be crossed. The rugged roads demanded pedaling with increasing intensity. As I continued pedaling with increasing effort, the back tire of the cycle got punctured. I immediately disembarked from my bicycle and felt distressed as there was about half the remaining distance left to reach Thiruvidadaimaruthoor.

"Bhagawan, I started off praying to You ardently. Did I not request You in all humility to accompany me and accomplish all my tasks easily? Is this how You accompany me? And is this how You help me? When this cycle is the only mode of transport in this village, Swami, You made that too become useless and have brought me to the streets helpless! Is this how You offer help?" I reprimanded Swami in my distressed state unable to bear the disappointment that I encountered.

Now, I had to add another important task to my to-do-list – fixing the punctured tire!

I started to think, *"In this tiny village, where could the cycle repair shop be? That too who would be open at the wee hours of 6:30 in the morning?"* as I strutted

with my cycle retracing my path. I stood very near to the Kumbakonam-Kuttralam highway that was intersecting with my path.

Wonder of wonders! Right opposite to me a gentleman was opening his humble thatched roof – a cycle repair shop! I heaved a huge sigh of relief!

I went up to him and told him about my predicament. The shopkeeper asked me to sit down on a small trunk case and began to fix the puncture.

Just then a young man came by on his bicycle. On seeing me, he stopped and asked,

“What’s up sir? A puncture?”

I couldn’t really identify this man; I hesitated, *“You are..”*

He quickly clarified, *“Sir, I work under Dr. Govindarajan. I have seen you at the nursing home. Doctor told me about the payment that is due from your end and has instructed me to meet you and collect it from you. So, I was on my way to your house at Vepathur for this purpose. Since I’ve met you here, I suppose I don’t need to come to your house? Please hand over the cash to me if you have it, otherwise not a problem, we shall meet later.”* As soon as he finished, I stayed put transfixed unable to contain my surprise.

Straightaway, I handed over the full amount to him.

Then I asked, *“Excuse me, can I meet the physiotherapist at Aaduthurai now?”*

“Why sir?” asked the young man. *“I have to pay him as well,”* I replied.

He appeared to vividly give a thought.

Suddenly he proclaimed, *“Sir, you are one lucky man! See, here he comes.”*

I couldn’t praise enough the blessed scene that was unfolding. Yes, indeed! The physiotherapist was approaching us on his bicycle. Seeing me and the young man, he descended from his bicycle giving us a wide grin, came near me and asked quite surprised,

“What’s up sir? What keeps you here at this place now?”

I briefly gave him the details. *“Oh, the money, where would it go? I could get it from you even later, you visit Vepathur quite often,”* he remarked.

“That’s alright, sir. Please tell me how much it is that I need to pay you,” I insisted.

He told me the sum and I settled his dues as well.

At that instant, an ambassador car sped down the bridge and quite suddenly halted beside us! It was the same car we had booked for our Chennai trip! The owner of the taxi opened the door and stepped down. *“What’s up sir, you are sitting down here? I am heading to receive a patient from Kumbakonam. I stopped the car as I noticed you here. I shall be there at your doorstep at exactly 10 a.m., sir. Please have no worries,”* he said. I was stunned with amazement. I tried not to display my stupefied state and handed over the advance amount that I intended to pay him. Thanking me, he left assuring me for one final time that the car would come exactly at 10 that morning.

Soon, the physiotherapist and Dr. Govindarajan’s young attender both left pedaling on their respective paths.

Simultaneously, the cycle shop owner came to me and said *“Sir, you can take your bicycle now. The puncture has been fixed.”* I paid for his service and pedaled my way back to Vepathur.

I was utterly transfixed wondering that all my pending tasks got accomplished while I was lounging on that trunk on the footpath of a highway. All those things that I had to set out to accomplish required me to run hither and thither for several kilometers. However, they happened so swiftly within 7 a.m., making my 4-hour window look a lot generous now!

I couldn’t help feeling overwhelmed at Lord Sai’s benevolence. Under the pretext of a punctured tire, He brought me to a halt and got every task of mine completed in His most inimitable way. Not realizing this, I lost my inner strength, got flustered and went about blaming him unabashedly. Sounds of aarti bells at a nearby Vinayaka temple reached me. Immediately, I went there. I picked a solitary spot, sat down and poured out the pangs of my heart.

“Hey Sai Vinayaka! If the cycle had to get punctured for my own good, I feel preposterous recollecting that I - who always selfishly gets distressed with any disaster that impacts me, ended up in despair and reprimanded You quite terribly! I posed at Your shameful questions challenging You and asked if puncturing my cycle’s tire was your way of helping me. In hindsight, it’s amazing that You accomplished all my pending tasks in a matter of minutes without any kind of difficulty for me whatsoever! It is foolhardy on my part to be able to fathom only now that all this while You had conducted Your divine game in answer to my prayer of surrender back home at Vepathur. Dear Lord Sai, how can I ever repay this debt of gratitude? Please forgive me and bless me.” I lamented thus. I felt the heaviness in my heart lessen quite a bit. Aarti was performed to Lord Ganesha. I installed our Sai Ganesha in my heart, *“I prostrate to You a billion times, Dear Bhagawan!”* I fumbled with childlike innocence. I offered my salutations at the temple and prostrated before Him.

Jai Sai Ram!

V

The Compassionate Lord Sai Granted Family Pension

In the previous chapter I had mentioned about my sister who lived at Vepathur. Well, here is a story of an extraordinary event concerning her, which I hope will delight you. This is the story of how my sister miraculously received pension pay from the Indian Railways in a simply impossible situation, only because of the phenomenal grace of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

My sister and the man who wedded her as his second wife lived in her house at Vepathur, a tiny hamlet near Kumbakonam. His name was Nagarajan. He had worked and retired as an employee of the Indian Railways from the North Indian city of Bilaspur. He managed his household expenses with his pension money. They had no children. I had often travelled to Vepathur from Chennai to help them.

Nagarajan fell seriously ill in the year 2006, he was 84. Hearing about his ill health I rushed to Vepathur immediately and got him admitted at a nursing home in Kumbakonam. However, despite the good care, treatment, and timely intervention Nagarajan passed away. All ceremonial last rights were duly performed for him.

While he was alive, Nagarajan received his monthly pension money from the State Bank at Kumbakonam. After his passing away, it became essential to arrange for my sister's family pension. Hence, I accompanied her to the State Bank at Kumbakonam. It was my responsibility to reach out to the concerned authorities and sort out this matter for her, as my sister suffered a hearing loss and lacked formal education.

I met the officer-in-charge and conveyed to him that as Nagarajan had passed away appropriate arrangements be made so that his wife could receive his monthly pension allowance henceforth. I also submitted a petition signed by her with the above request.

The officer received our petition. After perusal of all the relevant documents, he revealed that my sister's name was not listed in those documents submitted by Nagarajan while he was employed at his Bilaspur office. There was no mention of my sister being married to him as his second wife in the family details furnished by him. On the contrary, it had the name of his first wife Seethalakshmi alone, he said. He mentioned that there was no possibility for my sister to receive the family pension under these circumstances and concluded saying that nothing could be done in this regard.

After having lost her husband at her advanced age, with no heir or inheritance, she was hopeful that the family pension would provide her succor, akin to crutches used by senior citizens. The officer's news came down as a bullet that ripped her hope apart and devastated her completely. She collapsed. I somehow revived her and took her home.

A pall of gloom and disappointment descended on the mourning house! My sister seemed devoid of the mental strength she usually displayed. Tenacity of the mind was something she had retained even after her body weakened with advancing age. The fact that she would not be entitled to any kind of a family pension consumed and seared her little by little, with every passing minute!

I would occasionally go up to her with comforting words. I suggested that she extend her conversations with Bhagawan, thereby intensifying her prayers to Him. Although initially she expressed disdain at my advice, she gradually turned her mind and heart towards Bhagawan and found solace in Him.

As days rolled by, it became necessary for me to get back to Chennai. I gave her the reassurance that I would work tirelessly towards obtaining the-family pension for her and left for Chennai.

Since I too had worked with the Indian Railways prior to my retirement, I reached out to a few of my acquaintances at the Railways Head Office at Chennai and made enquiries about the family pension. As Nagarajan had failed to declare in his documents about his second marriage, the officers at the Indian Railways revealed that obtaining pension money for my sister was simply impossible, even if one were to somersault in thin air! They also added that even if one of us were to go to the office in North India, furnish all relevant documents and satisfactorily answer all queries posed by the officials there, it would still be impossible to receive the pension as Nagarajan was no more. According to them, this was a task that could never be successfully accomplished no matter how hard we tried.

I was thoroughly dismayed. What saddened me further was that soon after Nagarajan had wedded my sister, I had explained to him the importance of submitting to his office documents pertaining to his second marriage. I had urged him to do it

without further delay. I had repeatedly reminded him about it. Once, while I was stressing to him the importance of completing this document work, he had retorted that it had all been done so that I wouldn't trouble him any further. It became quite evident that Nagarajan had been a sitting duck in this matter, as the bank officer had brought the cat out of the bag by declaring that there was indeed no proof of Nagarajan's second marriage.

All through her married life of 25 years with Nagarajan, my sister had nurtured him with ever increasing selfless love. She had toiled hard for him cooking delicious meals he had rejoiced every time. He savored her culinary skills, slurped the delicacies in delight and even exclaimed aloud how lip-smacking they were. At the end, as a testimony to the saying that '*Those who lack love stay utterly selfish*' he had ensured that the rest of my sister's solitary life would be at its miserable best, stripping her of any dignity she deserved. It pained me hard that such obnoxious men still existed in this world.

Work took me to Tiruchi one day. There, I met my friend Mr. Jagannathan, an ardent Sai devotee. That apart, he was late Nagarajan's colleague at Bilaspur and had also retired as an employee of the Indian Railways.

As he politely enquired about my family's welfare, I took the opportunity to inform him about Nagarajan's death. I narrated to him about Nagarajan's betrayal of his own wife. Since Jagannathan had worked at Bilaspur, I asked him if it was possible for him to connect with his former colleagues and broach my sister's case. He listened to me and seemed to agree. He told me that he was planning a trip to Bilaspur very soon on some work and asked if I could accompany him on this trip armed with all relevant documents. He said he would help me connect with some officials there, explain the situation to them in person and seek their help in propelling the case in a positive direction.

In the meantime, our Bhagawan was going to perform the "Athi Rudra Maha Yagnam" by the end of January 2007 at Chennai. Jagannathan wished to attend the Yagnam with his family members. He expressed his wish to stay at my house in Chennai and witness the Yagnam. Along with those travel plans, we also drafted our itinerary to Bilaspur and booked our train tickets on 2-2-2007, a Thursday evening.

We had around 20 days left to commence our journey to Bilaspur. I toiled hard gathering all proofs and supporting documents that would help my sister obtain her pension pay. The marriage invitation of my sister and Nagarajan, death certificates of Nagarajan and his first wife, a declaration in the form of a government certificate that my sister was Nagarajan's sole heir, a letter written by my sister petitioning for family pension with her signatures, I collated them all.

Jagannathan and his family came home to witness the Athi Rudra Maha Yagnam and solicit blessings. We witnessed the ceremonies on all three days and thoroughly enjoyed immersing ourselves in its divinity and sanctity. We were in raptures over the fact that it was our greatest fortune to be able to witness the Yajnam at Chennai.

On the Thursday night of 2-2-2007 at 11:45 p.m., we started our journey to Bilaspur. Before leaving, I performed a short bhajan, did aarti and sent a heartfelt prayer to Bhagawan, *"Dear Swami, You have answered my prayers so many times and I have complete faith in your Omnipotence! This time too, this humble being surrenders in all humility at Thy Lotus Feet. I pray. I pray not for my own self but for another person who is in distress. I request You to kindly accompany us to Bilaspur. Please accomplish this goal of our trip easily dear Lord! I firmly believe that my faith in you never wavers. Swami, please come with us and make this a successful trip. I beg you again and again. Please come with us to Bilaspur and please do not give up on us!"* As I prayed tears gushed from my eyes. All present had their eyes welled up with tears too. Jagannathan and I prostrated before Bhagawan, reverentially applied vibhuti and left for Bilaspur.

Our journey towards Bilaspur unfolded. We reached Bilaspur on Saturday at the wee hours of 2 a.m. We relaxed in the waiting room till dawn. Jagannathan had informed one of his friends at Bilaspur about our arrival over the telephone. That friend met us exactly at 6 a.m. He led us to his house on his 2-wheeler while Jagannathan and I followed in a cycle rickshaw that coughed its way forward.

The friend who led us was an employee of the Railways working as a Legal officer. His name was Shankar. He stopped in front of a house, our rickshaw pulled behind too. Shankar introduced that as his home and invited us inside.

Sri Sathya Sai is always Glory personified! His mere presence evokes the greatest of wonders! His actions are fantastic, loaded with surprises! Just as we entered their house, Bhagawan welcomed us with Abhaya Hastha - His Hands raised in blessing! Yes! There was a huge picture of Bhagawan gorgeously decorated from where He looked directly at us! I was stupefied! When I had implored Him to accompany us to Bilaspur, it truly appeared that He had beaten us in this game by arriving at Bilaspur much ahead of us. It indeed felt as if He invited us inside by saying, ***"Welcome, my dears"*** with his most enchanting smile. I had goosebumps as this realization dawned on me.

Shankar lived with his mother and wife. All of them are ardent devotees of Swami! Hailing from the state of Andhra Pradesh, they speak Telugu as their native language. Shankar's wife is fluent in Telugu, English and Hindi, while his mother could speak Telugu and Hindi. Jagannathan, on the other hand is conversant with both English and Hindi. I was the weak-link as I could speak only in English with just Shankar and his wife.

Theirs was a very comfortable house. Wherever I turned I saw beautiful photographs of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba poised gracefully on the walls.

The entire family is a Sai family. All of them are deeply and madly in love with Swami! Every wall was decorated with a large and lovely photograph of Bhagawan, bedecked with breathtakingly beautiful garlands and sweet-smelling flowers that enriched the divinity! Their house glowed like a temple of Sri Sathya Sai! The two television sets in their house seemed to be playing Swami's videos all the time. There was simply no bandwidth for cable channels. They followed Swami's messages down to a T and in perfect harmony. Shankar has an elder brother who works as a teacher at Swami's school in Puttaparthi.

The Railway office was closed on weekends. As we reached there on a Saturday there was nothing I could do about the follow-up on my sister's pension. I had to stay put in their house. The mother-in-law and daughter-in-law of the house seized this opportunity. As they were crazily in love with Swami, they craved to listen to my experiences with Bhagawan. The entire day was spent in narrating my experiences to the daughter-in-law in English who in turn translated that into Telugu to her mother-in-law, without upsetting any of the daily chores that went on smoothly.

Came Sunday. We all spent that day too talking about His glory, magnificence and leelas from dawn to dusk.

At 5 p.m., the daughter-in-law of the house showed me an invite for an event scheduled for that evening and asked if I was interested in attending it.

It was an invitation for the annual day celebrations of the Sri Sathya Sai Matriculation School at Bilaspur. Since her son was a former student of that school, the Chairperson had invited her for their annual celebrations that year. Her son had moved to study at Puttaparthi, under the guardianship of his uncle.

As Jagannathan and I agreed to attend the same, Mrs. Shankar arranged for a rickshaw to drop us at the venue. By the time we reached there, more than 2000 people had already gathered. Jagannathan and I sat in a corner where two chairs had been kept. Mrs. Shankar left us there and went elsewhere.

It would have been about only five minutes since we had sat down! I heard somebody speak on the microphone in English.

“Jai Sai Ram! A hearty welcome to every one of you assembled here! The celebrations are about to commence. We all are indeed very blessed! Today we have amongst us an elderly gentleman who has closely interacted with Swami. He is Sri Sai Mohanji from Chennai! You may have noticed that there is no mention of a Chief Guest

or a Guest of Honor for today's event in the printed invite. Apparently, we approached several eminent men in the city to preside over today's function. All of them declined due to some reason or another. We had reached close to the date of this event by then, so we went ahead and printed the invitation without any mention of a Chief Guest. Well, when our Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai had pre-decided the Chief Guest, how is that even possible for us to choose someone? Sri Sai Mohanji who has been handpicked by Bhagawan for this event is here with us today. He has been closely associated with our Swami for many years. What a blessing! It is indeed our greatest good fortune that we are present here today amidst such a blessed person. On behalf of the organizing committee here, I request Sri Sai Mohanji to kindly come on stage, preside over today's event and grace us with his speech. I request the seva volunteers to please bring Sri Sai Mohanji on to the stage." I was quite amazed as I heard this on the microphone. Baffled, I glanced at Jagannathan, who looked at me equally nonplussed. His facial expression darted a battalion of questions!

Over the several years of my attending Sai activities at various towns in Tamil Nadu, I have been bestowed with numerous opportunities to speak, which has also got me acquainted with thousands of devotees. Many times, Sai volunteers have approached me to give impromptu talks at events where I went in as a regular participant. Such happenings are quite common in Tamil Nadu. However, on having arrived several miles away from my home state, to a place where I was unable to talk the local language, here was an opportunity where I was specifically called upon to give a talk in English. There is nothing commonplace about this. I thought and felt that this was a new kind of miracle by The Lord Leela Mohana Sai, one that seemed beyond my comprehension. As I was sailing in my thought waves, two seva volunteers came up to me and spoke to me in English, "*Sairam, please come to the stage! We shall take you there!*" Their words brought me down to reality. I followed them to the stage.

As I went to the stage many people came forward and introduced themselves to me. They welcomed by greeting me with, "***Sairam.***" Importantly, the person who spoke on the mic introduced himself as the area officer of State Bank of India, as well as the husband of the lady who was the Chairperson of the Sri Sathya Sai Matriculation School. The lady also welcomed me warmly and made me comfortable.

A desk and a chair had been duly decorated for my lecture. The school's Chairperson spoke about me at length and introduced me to the audience. A thundering applause ensued.

I commenced my speech. I uttered, "***Jai Sai Ram,***" 3 times, made the audience chant as well and began, "*My Dear Sathya Sai Brothers and Sisters, unfortunately I do not know Hindi. Many of you here do not know Tamil. Therefore, I will have to go about my speech only in English. This is my first event where I would be giving a lecture in English. And this glorious opportunity has been bestowed upon me because of you. If anyone here doesn't understand English, please do pardon me. The love that you all*

have showered upon me, a person who has come from a far-off town, is nothing but divine! I am at loss for words to describe the happiness that brims from my heart right now. Everything is as per the divine sankalpa of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.” I went about for the next 2 hours reminiscing all those hair-raising leelas performed by our compassionate Lord. It would not be true to state that I spoke! The truth is that Sri Sathya Sai who is constantly residing in me spoke!

It appeared that the audience listened with rapt attention and had enjoyed listening to my narration too. They clapped, applauded and cheered me on several occasions throughout my speech. The event that day became a golden one in my life.

After my speech, the Balvikas programs unfolded in a grand and beautiful manner. I was given the responsibility of choosing children who performed exceptionally well, those who displayed great enthusiasm and skills. Eventually, I was called upon to distribute prizes to all the winners as well.

With all these happenings, I felt as though I was in a realm of dreams. Just as children pretend and play with dolls, I felt that someone up there was doing something quite similar with me, making me dance to His divine tunes.

Later, as everything wrapped up all of us returned home. While having dinner, the daughter-in-law admitted that it was she who was responsible for making me the guest of honor and pretty much the reason for everything else pertaining to me that had followed!

Came next day! That being a Monday, I had to go to the Railways Office regarding my sister’s family pension. All the three of us Jagannathan, Shankar and myself got ourselves ready and went to the Office of the Railways.

Jagannathan showed me the office where I had to meet the officer-in charge of my sister’s case and thereafter left to attend to his work.

I noticed that the officer I was designated to meet was seated behind a glass door. The name board outside his office mentioned his name as Mr. Prabhu. I saw that he was busily reading through some documents laid out on his desk. I tapped at the door gently and asked, *“May I please come in?”* Mr. Prabhu swirled in his wheeling executive chair and turned around to look at me. He sprang off quite suddenly, walked to the door, opened it and said, *“Sairam, please come in. I am extremely delighted in welcoming you to my office. Please come in Sairam, please sit down!”* His welcome was warm. His face lit up with a genuinely bright smile. He made me sit on a similar wheeling chair as he sat down on his.

I was wonderstruck. I thought to myself, *“While I had imagined the scene where I would be meekly submitting my request to an authority of power, here is a strikingly*

contrasting situation where the officer himself has come forward to welcome me in a warm manner, with all humility! This is indeed strange!” Interestingly, the next thing that happened made me gape with wonder!

“Sairam, there were many of us railway employees in the audience who listened to your speech yesterday. We were all enamored listening to your impressive speech that elaborated on Bhagawan’s miracles as well as His messages. You spoke so beautifully. We were gripped with emotion. We felt overwhelmed with the realization that we had heard directly from you. All those incidents you narrated were all firsthand accounts of Bhagawan’s leelas you had experienced personally on having been closely associated with Him. Last night many of us just did not sleep. Instead we were talking about you. After having listened to your talk, a few of us now feel great devotion towards you. While some of us lamented that you were a resident of Chennai, a few of us fancied how amazing it would have been for us if you were settled here at Bilaspur. Or for that matter, any place nearby as we could meet you in person often and invite you over to the programs at the Sai circle here and listen to your speeches. I feel honored meeting you here at my office today, something which I didn’t quite expect.” Prabhu poured his heart out.

In the meantime, his office secretary brought two cups of coffee and served it to us.

At once, Prabhu took the coffee from him, cooled it a bit for me so that it wouldn’t burn my tongue and offered the coffee to me. Very humbly he said, “Sairam, I consider it an honor and my good fortune serving you a cup of coffee at my office with my own hands.”

We took our coffee.

“Sairam, now please tell me how can I help you? I will most definitely do whatever I can.” Those words were proof enough that it was the Lord of Lords (the name Prabhu means Lord) speaking!

While I was busy waging a battle in my head as to how I was going to broach open the topic of my sister’s pension problem, I felt much relieved and ready when he gave me such importance and asked me in all humility! Well begun is half done and I felt as though half my work had already been accomplished there!

Spontaneously, I blurted out the details beginning from the demise of my sister’s husband till my presence at his office that day, with a claim to acquire family pension for her. I also submitted all documents that I had carried along.

Prabhu listened intently to the details pertaining to my sister's case and went through the documents in good detail. Then, he left saying he would discuss this matter with some of his colleagues and returned in a few minutes.

He said, *"Sairam! We keep receiving several such requests all the time! Out of which many happen to be false claims with forged documents. A few of them are so terribly convoluted that they cannot be resolved no matter how hard we try and hence we are left with no choice but to reject them. However, we look at your sister's claim through you. You worked in the Railways. We trust there is nothing falsified in your sister's claim since you have directly brought this to us. Trusting on this belief, I shall take up your sister's claim directly under my wings. I shall scrutinize these documents thoroughly. If required suitable officers shall be sent directly to your sister's town for validating the authenticity of your request. Besides me, a few of my higher officials who will be evaluating this process will be recording their observations and queries too. If our team can successfully address all inquiries with proper facts, then there should be no hurdle in acquiring your sister's family pension. As I have taken charge, it is my responsibility to entirely take this up from here. I shall share with you my mobile and office phone numbers. You could please talk to me anytime. I shall also periodically keep you posted on the progress of this matter."*

Emotionally stirred, I replied, *"Coming with a complex claim from a distant town, I was in trepidation, 'would it be even possible for me to meet such an authority from the Government?' I had mused to myself. Yet, in all humility you showered on me such love and have also assured that you are directly in charge of this matter. I have not seen government officers such as you. You are a man of excellent virtues! I express and shower thousands of heartfelt gratitude to Bhagawan Sai for letting me meet a Sai devotee who is empathetic towards other's welfare and bestowing on me your friendship, Sairam!"*

"It's me whom Swami has profusely blessed with an illustrious friend as you, Sairam! Also, do you have any intention of staying further in this town, Sairam?" He asked.

As I got up from my seat, I replied, *"Yes, Sairam sir! I am leaving for Chennai the day after tomorrow evening."*

Officer Prabhu got up as well. He accompanied me to the door and bid farewell. His parents had quite aptly named him 'Prabhu'. His humility was proof enough. Officer Prabhu! Only those who resolutely possess virtues while at the same time follow them consistently are deemed fit to be called 'Prabhu'! On the contrary, if there is someone who shows no trace of virtues yet possesses the transient power of wealth—is it befitting to call him 'Prabhu'? Indeed not.

I felt my heart to be feather-light after exiting his room and the burden that had been weighing me down simply ebbed away! Those comforting and loving words of Prabhu Sairam had infused in me an unshakable faith that my sister would receive her family pension. During the next couple of days that we stayed, we visited Jagannathan's friends' houses as guests and enjoyed sumptuous feasts. In the end we bid farewell to Mr. Shankar, his wife and his mother. Finally, we left for Chennai.

I spoke to Prabhu Sairam at least once a week. He kept me updated about the progress of my sister's claim. He would himself at times call me on my phone and speak to me. In the meantime, a few officers came to Chennai from Bilaspur. They also visited Vepathur and took the necessary proofs with details as per the mandate.

In this exceptionally miraculous divine drama of His titled "***The Compassionate Lord Sai Granted Family Pension***", Jagannathan, Shankar, Shankar's wife, the organizing committee of Sri Sathya Sai Matriculation School, our Prabhu Sairam and everyone played their character roles to perfection. They put together a stellar show in Swami's divine presence! And, it was a happy ending!

As an offering from the drama that was scripted and directed by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, all the characters came and delivered the family pension to my sister that she so rightly deserved and wiped away her tears of sorrow.

Jai Sai Ram!

VI

Partheeshwara's Dance and the Shower of His Grace at Palani

Since 1990, I have been delivering talks as a guest speaker at various Sai centers across several cities including Chennai in Tamil Nadu on Bhagawan's birthday and anniversary celebrations. I have also spoken extensively at the Advocates' Study Circle in Chennai. I am proud to state that I have had the honorable privilege of selecting about 150 speakers over a span of 13 years for the monthly meetings of the study circle. On a couple of occasions, I have also been bestowed with the opportunity of addressing the IAS officers' study circle at Chennai too. These apart, I have spoken at house bhajans across various locations in Chennai as a guest speaker. Since Bhagawan has blessed me with a mellifluous voice, one that can be quite captivating, I have also been invited for singing bhajans, both at homes and at Sai centers. All this has been entirely due to the bountiful grace of Sri Sathya Sai Bhagawan and nothing else!

I was called to speak at the first anniversary commemoration of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi at Lakshmi Nagar in the town of Dindigul in September 2009. I am unable to recollect the exact date. The following day was another event – the 10th anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi at Palani for which Mr. Sai Natarajan, the center's coordinator had invited me to speak. He had sent the program's invitation as well.

The organizers of Sai center at Dindigul took me to their location in a car from Chennai! The decorations were done tastefully and preparations for the function were executed meticulously! The event was held in a spacious hall on the topmost floor of a house. Preparations had been going on since that morning. It was here in this hall that the gathering was scheduled to take place that evening. More than two hundred devotees had assembled in the hall while many of them even waited outside to enjoy the proceedings. As the function began in the evening the then Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization's district president Mr. Narayanan delivered the presidential address. He spoke about the glory of Bhagawan and highlighted responsibilities of the center's members stressing upon the importance of their commitment, readiness and hard work

necessary for the center's growth. Towards the end of his talk he introduced me to the audience and called me on to the dais to deliver the special address.

He also heaped praises on me for the many close interactions with Bhagawan that I had been bestowed with during my earlier days and for my soulful rendition of bhajans!

It was now my time to deliver the special address. I thanked the district president for his kind words and remarked that it was quite fitting to mention about my singing. I divulged to them about the good fortune of having sung in Bhagawan's physical presence. I went on to describe the event that had taken place on the 16th, 17th and 18th of December 1966 when Bhagawan had visited Tiruchi. In His divine presence I sang a bhajan in an ascending crescendo of speed, riding on a gripping pace with beats doubled at each level. I increased the pace to 5 levels and as I took it to the 6th, Bhagawan who was looking in a different direction till then sharply turned His glaring gaze directly at me. All of a sudden, He got up from his seat as if revealing His play of emotions. He had enjoyed my rendition. Afterwards, Bhagawan who had almost entered His car (to leave the venue) asked me to sit beside Him, while I stood holding the car door open for Him! He brought His Hands over my shoulder, enveloped me and asked, *"So, do you think of yourself as M.S. Subbulakshmi?"* (M.S. Subbulakshmi is one of the great doyens of Carnatic music) Shaken, I became silent! Immediately, I began to think that it was probably wrong on my part to have sung with such speed augmentations in front of the Lord. Emotionally stirred, I shed copious tears! Our Swami who embodies the tender heart of a mother, wiped my tears with His handkerchief and said, *"Hey! Why are you upset? Your song was very good (Chaala baagundhi)! Swami enjoyed it, didn't you notice? Swami was seated isn't it? It was your song that made me get up, did you not see?"* He, who is the mother of all mothers, expressed such profound love. As I finished reminiscing, there was a thunderous applause. The audience expressed their appreciation.

I then spoke about the objective of that function. I laid out in lucid terms Swami's messages for one and all. I also narrated a few leelas of Bhagawan and concluded my two-hour guest lecture.

Later, a few other chief guests also delivered their talks. They spoke in adulation of my lecture. In this manner, the special programs for the commemoration of their first-year anniversary came to an end with bhajans.

At 10 a.m. the next morning we headed to Palani by car to participate in the Palani Sai center's 10th anniversary celebrations.

Just as we reached Palani there was a procession on the streets with Bhagawan's photo mounted on an elephant. The Sai center's organizer Mr. Sai Natarajan came forward with a few dignitaries and welcomed us.

The stage was adorned with huge photographs of Bhagawan in different poses. Each of them was elaborately bedecked with colorful flowers. It was a sight to behold. At an exclusive corner was an exquisitely bedecked jhoola (swing) for Swami! Just as in all Sai centers a chair was placed for Swami, one that stood majestically with ethereal beauty! Anyone who set foot there felt bewitched in a state of euphoria, akin to entering a sacred temple!

As the holy procession ended, Bhagawan's divine photograph that was on the elephant was brought down to the dais. Camphor lit aarti was performed.

The celebrations began! Devotees filled the entire building.

The district president Mr. Narayanan initiated the proceedings with his inaugural speech. He spoke about Sai service activities, stressing upon the responsibilities and particularly on the need for a healthy collaboration between members and devotees. He appreciated the way the members had worked to bring everything together. Finally, he introduced me as the guest speaker for the day. He spoke about my experiences with Swami during my golden days and briefed the audience about a few interesting anecdotes I had narrated the previous day at Dindigul Sai center. He didn't stop with that. To bring in a sense of engagement with the audience, he went on to say that I could sing very well and that in 1966 Bhagawan had danced to my song. He said, "*Sai Mohan shall sing that very song here today for all of us to rejoice. Now, let us see if Swami dances again!*" He hadn't even finished, the audience cheered with excitement!

There were several devotees from Chennai who had assembled there, many of them who were known to me. As they knew that I could sing, everyone gathered there began to insist that I sang. Finally, I agreed to sing after my lecture. In any case, I was invited there to speak in the first place.

Several prominent people who had been invited spoke. Mr. Narayanan who was once bestowed with the responsibility of performing aarti at Chennai's Sundaram spoke for a few minutes. Subsequently, I spoke for about an hour and a half. I spoke extensively about the glory of Bhagawan's leelas I had directly experienced. Devotees seemed to be captivated in bliss! I secretly wished that they let me off the hook. But no! This was one of a kind audience that simply did not let go of me! They vehemently insisted that I sing!

Straight away, the district president Mr. Narayanan got up and said, "*Dear Devotees, Sai Mohan shall definitely sing now. Let's see if Swami who had swayed to Sai Mohan's tunes in 1966 dances again or not? If such a wonder is bound to happen, we become an extremely fortunate audience to directly witness such a spectacle. Let us invoke the blessings of our Bhagawan who is omnipresent and get soaked in supreme*

bliss. I humbly request Sri Sai Mohan to sing the very same song he had sung that holy day in 1966. Let's maintain silence so that we are able to listen to his lovely song and bask in its melody," addressing so he sat down.

Someone from the audience unable to withhold his eagerness shouted, "*Sairam, please sing!*" The zest in their devotion inspired me (to sing).

I said, "*Sairam! In 1966 I was 32! I am now 76. The song that I sang as a sprightly youth could have been a terrific feat! But, at this advanced age of mine I am not sure if you all would enjoy the same song sung by me now! In any case since you are unwilling to let go of me, I am bound to sing. Everything is as per the Divine Will of our Bhagawan!*" And I began to sing.

It was the bhajan '***Govinda Krishna Jai! Gopala Krishna Jai!***' that Swami sang very often. The bhajan is based on the classical Indian raga Mohanam! I am a die-hard classical Carnatic music maniac! While singing that song, I embody the emotion in the raga Mohanam therefore it would be harmonious. Doesn't music in spirit mean transcending the listener to a sublime state of bliss? Wasn't that how Ravana pleased Lord Shiva with his music? Even Lord Maheshwara was enamored by Ravana's compelling tunes and in all vulnerability granted him the boon!

A few seconds later as I started to sing, the audience looked at the stage with amazement. They displayed their devotional bouts without inhibition by patting their cheeks in reverence (a cultural way of seeking pardon in the Lord's presence). I thought they were doing so by melting into the emotions of my song! Having sung to a steady beat till then, I sang at a faster rhythm (the author describes this in classical music's etymological terms as singing in Dhrutha Gati). Devotees loudly screamed in exhilaration, "*Hey Sai Ram! Hey Sai Ram!*" looking at the stage.

Later, I observed that the devotees who were so far only patting their cheeks began to also take obviously sharp and deep breaths as if inhaling heavily. I heard them even proclaim, "*What a sweet fragrance! So aromatic!*" I stopped. My song came to an end.

Indeed! I too sensed the sweet scent as devotees exclaimed, "*Ah! What an aroma!*" We were wonderstruck and a bit perplexed trying to fathom how such a strong fragrance suddenly filled the air!

It's the standard practice for men to sit on one side and women on another during Sai bhajans. In order to keep a clear delineation, a long red carpet of about one to two feet in width is spread in between the two sitting areas. The carpet is not to show that men and women are separate! In fact, there are numerous instances where our omnipresent Swami appears in His subtle form and manifests Himself through

wonderful miracles. It is for this reason that the carpet stands as a representation of this faith that Swami walks around (even if not present physically). Sai centers everywhere make it a habit to spread such a carpet. Likewise, in this center too there was one such carpet that snaked its way right to the end.

Throughout its entire stretch of about twenty feet, the carpet was filled with heaps of fragrant vibhuti. Likewise, on the stage too and there was a rain of vibhuti on all the photos, garlands and everywhere! While I had been singing, devotees had enjoyed the aromatic scent due to this divine manifestation of miraculous rain of vibhuti!

As I commented to those present there, *“Our Bhagawan has graced us with this torrential downpour of vibhuti,”* I heard one of them say, *“That’s just not it Sairam! In Ananda (supreme bliss) Swami had also danced to your song!”*

“How?” I enquired completely taken by surprise.

“You were singing facing us. As you started to sing, the decorated jhoola (behind you) with Swami’s form installed on it started to swing! The jhoola danced to the rhythm of your song. On witnessing this spectacle, we exclaimed, ‘Sairam! Sairam!’ in chorus and patted our cheeks (out of devotion) too.

“As you increased the beat of your song, the jhoola rocked even faster matching the pace of your song. Once you stopped singing, the dancing of the jhoola ended too. Since you were singing facing us you were unable to witness this dance of the jhoola behind you on the stage,” he said!

Finally, in his vote of thanks, the District President Mr. Narayanan said, *“In 1966, our Swami had danced delighted by Sai Mohan’s song. We came to know of this fact firsthand from Sai Mohan himself. To prove to us that it was verily a truthful happening, as soon as Sai Mohan sang today our Sai Bhagawan who is the Sarvaantharyaami conducted this marvel of a jhoola miracle. Swami had conducted it as a sign of His rejoicing Sai Mohan’s song. Swami has established to us that He had indeed listened to it! He didn’t stop with just this jhoola spectacle though. He came here exclusively and as a proof of having rejoiced in Sai Mohan’s singing, He materialized this spectacular shower of vibhuti as well! It is entirely on account of Sri Sai Mohan’s arrival here that we were able to witness this incredible divine miracle today and derive immense bliss. It is indeed our good fortune. Let us offer our most humble prostrations as our offerings to Bhagawan. Let us also convey our heartfelt gratitude to Sri Sai Mohan.”*

So, what is it that we infer from this?

Bhagawan is listening to all our requests that are suffused with the ‘bhava’ (emotion) of love. Isn’t it also amply clear that He even demonstrates to us that He is in fact listening?

Well, that’s the secret behind the appearance of Lord Nrsimha from a pillar!

Jai Sai Ram!

VII

The Advent of Holy Ganges at Parthi

Those were the days of the Navratri festival in Oct 1962!

There was news doing rounds ahead of time that a Poornayaagam was to take place at Puttaparthi for seven continuous days (Sapthaaham) during that Navratri. I came to know about this event although I was at Tiruchi.

A few elderly and eminent people told me that this yajna that the Lord incarnate had willed to perform was one of the single most extraordinary phenomena in the timeline of several thousand years. The yajna, a very holy event was also being performed for the welfare of the world. Therefore, I decided to leave for Parthi, witness and bask in the glory of this great event and become sanctified.

In the Viṣṇusahasranāma stotra (A hymn of the thousand names of Lord Maha Vishnu), Lord Vishnu has been praised as '**Yajnapruth Yajnakrith Yajnee Yajnak Yajnasaadhanaha**'! '**Yajnapruth**' means the master controller, the proprietor of the Yajna - the Lord Supreme! '**Yajnakrith**' connotes to the one who propitiates or conducts the yajna! '**Yajnee**' refers to the Lord himself being the yajna! '**Yajnak**' implies all material objects used in the yajna! Finally, '**Yajna Saadhanaha**' adores Him as the one who is conducive of the yajna and who also becomes the objects used in the yajna thereby steering it towards success. Thus, Lord Vishnu is praised in this manner. The Lord is elucidated as Sarvaantharyaami (the indweller of everything) is here to make us - the ignorant understand that **Lord Vishnu is everything**. That very Lord Vishnu had donned a human form, descended on earth, stayed at Parthi and was about to conduct a poorna yajna as the master orchestrator- the Yajnakrith. Well, was this not a golden opportunity?

I reached Parthi two days ahead accompanied by a few friends. I decided to stay for the entire week.

During those days Prasanthi Nilayam did not have many of the amenities that are available today. The mandir building stood void of any decorations. To its east was

Sri Kasturi's residence in a small house-like building. The printing press that looked similar was next to it. Then, there were a few other such small buildings nearby. The Ganesha temple stood as it is today. To the west of the mandir was a small canteen! And that was it!

The Sapthaaham was to take place at a spot towards the north of the Ganesh mandir (on a slightly elevated ground). A tent was to be mounted for the yajna.

To perform the yajna in accordance with the Vedas and Sastras, several Vedic scholars were invited from across India. More than 130 Vedic scholars had arrived. Among them many were 'Trivedis'-scholars who had learned and mastered the three Vedas and 'Chaturvedis'-scholars with mastery over the four Vedas! Among them very few had accepted Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba as the Lord Supreme! Many conducted themselves too casually in Swami's presence. They seemed to be gloating over their personal accomplishments, with a chest thumping air of pride owing to the skill and knowledge they had acquired. Pride due to the attainment of knowledge or skill ('Vidya Garvam'/Ego) should never raise its hood. Although their training had taught them, '*Humility is the hallmark of knowledge*,' they seemed to have ignored the dictum '*Abide by the humility propounded by your training*.' News such as these spread from one individual to another amidst the thousands gathered there! Sri Kasturi who was a prominent personality in Prasanthi was loving and appreciative of me. Through him, I was privy to info about many rare events, details of which were not accessible to common folks.

On the eve of the commencement of the yajna, Bhagawan gave a discourse to the 50,000 devotees who had assembled there. He said the yajna He was to conduct the next day was a poorna yajna and all of us who had arrived to witness it were highly fortunate. He then proceeded to describe the meaning of a poorna yajna.

He said that performing a yajna was no ordinary feat; instructed that there should be no room for any kind of discrepancy or errors whatsoever in the conduct of such a yajna. Every command laid out in the Vedas must be assimilated and complied with during the conduct of rituals of the yajna.

Swami described yajna to a greater extent, "*The meaning of yajnam is sacrifice. Sacrifice is yajna. Sacrifice is selfless. It caters to and celebrates social welfare. Therefore, yajnas stand for the benefit of one and all. On these lines, the yajna that I am about to perform shall be strictly as per the mandates laid out in the Vedas, void of any imperfections, solely aimed towards the welfare of this world. For this reason, it is a poorna (absolute/perfect) yajnam. Moreover, there are important aspects to be known about the poorna yajnam. All material objects laid out in the Sastras for a yajna must be used in their exact state and measure while performing a poorna yajna. If any of those items are not available due to regional or seasonal constraints, then equivalent objects identified by the Vedas as permissible should be used. There are such mandates*

in the Vedas and Sastras. However, such a yajna is not adjudged as a poorna yajna. The last poorna yajna conducted exactly as per the Vedas was during the Great Emperor Dasharatha's time. After that, there were several yajnas performed by Lords and great men. However, none of those qualify to be known as poorna yajna. That was because, due to the forces of nature many objects required for those yajnas went missing, either due to its non-availability in that region, the mere lack of it during that time, or simply because it was destroyed in an unexpected calamity. Hence, they were not available at that time for that yajna. So, the corresponding alternative objects as laid out in the Vedas and the Sastras had to be used in their place to fulfill those yajnas. For this reason, the Sastras do permit allowances by way of suggesting identified alternatives to be used in place of source objects in their non-availability. Anyhow, yajnas performed in such a manner do not qualify for the title of poorna yajna! Despite that, this yajnam that I am about to perform will earn the title of a 'Poorna Yajna' because with my sankalpa any item prescribed but not available in today's time/context shall be manifested here in a trice, right in front of me. Accordingly, all objects shall be used exactly in their original forms and measure, as mentioned in the Vedas and the Sastras for their intended purposes in this yajna. That is how it shall be conducted and successfully completed. This yajna therefore shall earn the title of a 'Poorna Yajna'. This is the uniqueness of Sathya Sai's Sankalpa! Prema Swaroopalara, Swami's blessings are upon all of you, those who have come here to witness and rejoice in this yajna." Thus, Swami unraveled the significance of the yajna.

Swami went on to praise the Vedic scholars who had assembled there to conduct the yajna to perfection as per Vedic injunctions. He continued with the declaration that, in this vast land of Bharat, there still existed innumerable Vedic practitioners who were upholding and nurturing the treasures of the Bharatiya Vedic Culture. He extolled their greatness on having conquered the highest pinnacle of Vedic scholarship and that it would be befitting to call them as the guardians of The Vedas. Swami added that the Veda Sastra stalwarts of such fine caliber had assembled to conduct the poorna yajnam for the next seven days for the welfare of this world. *"May you rejoice and acquire merit by witnessing the forthcoming events,"* were His benedictory blessings.

In that yajna there were several modes of worship such as Rig Veda Parayanam (Recitation), Yajur Veda Parayanam, Sama Veda Parayanam, installation of deities with prayers (requesting respective gods to make themselves manifest there), Sahasralinga (Thousand Linga) Puja (to attract thousands and thousands of Linga principle vibrations) to be conducted in accordance with the rituals of Vedic Sastra based on various limbs of the Yaga. The Vedic scholars grouped themselves into smaller teams and performed these rituals. Prominent Vedic pundits who were highly experienced in presiding over yajnas seated themselves in front of the sacrificial pyre along with their teams. All the 130 Vedic scholars invited to this yajna were provided with color-coded silk dhoti sets to be worn on the yajna days in accordance to their hierarchy and responsibilities. Above all, Swami gave them three times the requested fee as their dakshina. Other than that, Swami blessed them with finger rings made of

gold, wristbands, silverwares for their daily worship and showered them with rewards to their hearts' content. They seemed extremely satisfied and expressed their contentment too. Though not disclosed to the public, I was privy to these details due the love and affection shared by Sri Kasturi, Sri Rajareddy and others. These details are a feast to a devotee's heart ever penchant for Swami. Blessed I am that I came to know about them.

After His discourse, Bhagawan sent Sri Kasturi to the Vedic pundits to determine an auspicious hour for the commencement of the yajna the following day. Sri Kasturi immediately met the Vedic brahmin pundits. They delved deep into the finer aspects of the following day's lunar calendar, that week's celestial forecast, planetary positions and decided upon the most auspicious hour to start the yajna the next day. With the aid of their scholarly expertise and skill they unanimously declared 8:30 a.m. to be the best hour to begin the yajna the next day. They also handed a note to Sri Kasturi containing their astrological deductions and reasoning (to be shared with Bhagawan).

Sri Kasturi met Swami and recounted everything. Soon enough, Swami walked to the balcony of the mandir, looked up at the sky for a few seconds and said, *"Tomorrow morning at 8:30 the stellar and planetary positions are not good! On the contrary, it's best and auspicious at 11 a.m. You may go back and convey this to them. Ask them to look at their calculations more accurately and then decide. You may then come back to me with their reply."* Saying so, He sent Sri Kasturi once again to the Vedic scholars.

As per the divine command Sri Kasturi came over to the Vedic pundits and narrated everything that Swami had said. Immediately, they retorted with puffed up pride, *"We have spent a major portion of our growing-up and learning years in understanding and assimilating the Vedas and the Sastras. The stature that we have attained today is not at all an ordinary one. When all of us here who have attained such exalted positions in our fields, have unanimously agreed and declared 8:30 a.m. to be the most auspicious time to begin the yajna tomorrow, he (our Swami) without any reasoning whatsoever comes back (through Sri Kasturi) and declares 11 a.m. tomorrow to be the most auspicious hour! Then why ask for our opinion? We are ready to start the yajna tomorrow at whatever time you ask us to begin!"*

Meanwhile, Swami did not declare or communicate any decision regarding the auspicious time for the commencement of the yajna the following day.

Morning dawned. The news of conflict between Swami and the Vedic scholars regarding the auspicious hour spread like wildfire. Everyone who knew about it talked about it with excitement! There was palpable curiosity in the air to know how and when the yajna would commence!

8:00 a.m. arrived! The skies turned black. Dark clouds gathered in the skies and roared, hovering over Prasanthi Nilayam. Perhaps they wanted to reverentially circumambulate the Lord of Prasanthi and offer their obeisance to Him. It turned dark as nightfall. Soon enough, sharp jets of raindrops darted like arrows from those dark pregnant skies! Every inch of Prasanthi was drenched in that downpour! A ceaseless deluge of rain ensued. Clueless, people ran hither and thither for shelter.

Everything came to a standstill at the Prasanthi complex! It was one spectacular rainfall!

Exactly at 9:30 a.m., the rains stopped! Activity slowly started at Prasanthi!

A few village folks from the neighboring landscape who came to witness the yajna celebrations brought along a phenomenal piece of information. Any guesses? They came in with the news that revealed the secret of our Sathya Sai Bhagawan's extraordinary and infinite divine games! Apparently, the torrential rainfall did not even send its scent to those nearby villages! It was a copious shower exclusively for Prasanthi! The Lord of Rain—Varuna intended to visit at that hour and this was verily the reason behind our Swami suggesting 11 a.m. as the auspicious time for the commencement of the yajna after looking at the skies as opposed to 8:30 a.m. suggested by the pundits. Simply, how many people can realize the import of this secret here? Would it be possible to comprehend this without merits earned from the fruits of our penance?

Many who came to know that there were no rains elsewhere but only at Prasanthi, reckoned it as only '*an event bound by our Bhagawan's Sankalpa.*' They restricted their reasoning to this alone.

Countless Sai service volunteers gathered like honey bees and attended to repairs to mend the damages inflicted by the sudden downpour. They cleaned and managed the yajna dais and ensured that there was absolutely no inconvenience caused to the Vedic pundits. They also made sure that everyone assembled there could witness the yajna comfortably seated. They accomplished their tasks thoroughly and to perfection.

All the Vedic pundits assembled at the dais precisely at 10:30 a.m. After detailed perusal and application of all their acquired knowledge and skill, they had fixed 8:30 a.m. as the auspicious time for commencement of the yajna. Not only were they disappointed that yajna would not be commencing at the time deduced by them, they also realized the truth in Swami's declaration that '*the auspicious time is at 11 a.m. alone.*' Many among them began to believe that Swami was the Lord Supreme and showed their respect and reverence towards Bhagawan.

Our Swami too entered the dais. Several Vedic pundits paid their respects by saluting Swami. Our Bhagawan too flashed his beautiful benevolent smile and blessed them. On witnessing this, many of us in the audience chanted, “Sairam,” with excitement. Despite all this, there were a few Vedic scholars who were unable to express genuine humility (as expected of their knowledge and stature) and remained veritable ego powerhouses.

Bhagawan came to the mic, saw all of us, gave His sweet smile and began, *“Prema Swaroopalara! This yajnam shall start in a few minutes, exactly at 11.00 a.m.! This is Swami’s sankalpa! Everything happens as per my sankalpa. Now, I am about to say something of great importance. I have exceptional affection towards brahmanas (Veda pundits). It’s entirely due to their tireless toil and keen interest to worship the Vedas that the Vedas are nourished even to this day. I told you yesterday that this is a Poorna Yajnam! I also told you the reason.*

“I had mentioned that, only that yajna which is conducted and concluded exactly in accordance with the dictums of the Vedas and Sastras using all the prescribed materials qualifies to be called a Poorna Yajna. Hence, I had requested the Vedic scholars here to provide me with a list of all the materials as laid out in the Vedas and Sastras that are required for this yajna. In response they have prepared this list here. (Swami showed that list to the audience) They have mentioned about 2000 items after thorough efforts. I applaud them. However, I fail to understand as to why they missed out on a very important item needed to perform this yajna! I wonder if the greatness of their brahmin-hood has reduced to this extent that they miss out on a principal item. It is surprising as to how and why they left out that one thing which occupies a very noble and supreme place in our Bharat’s culture. One that ought to be the first item in such sacred and exalted yajnas.” And saying so He stopped.

Puzzled, the Vedic pundits looked at each other and whispered. Frustrated and disappointed they discussed between themselves, *“All of us got together, thought about this deeply, referred to Vedic texts and gave the complete list. What could have been missed? That too something of utmost importance! What could that be? Nothing at all!”* (I came to know of this later through Sri Kasturi)

After hearing Bhagawan’s announcement on the microphone there was a commotion in the audience. People’s opinions were varied in accordance with their understanding and evolution. The time was 10:45 a.m.! A few of the Vedic pundits who were most mature and courteous rose up and requested Swami with all humility, *“Baba! Please reveal the one thing we missed out to mention in the list.”* And right away, Swami boldly declared, **“Ganga water!”** The Vedic pundits were astounded! Sri Kasturi was propelled to the peak of surprise! Yes! He is a sacred soul, a person of great eminence who craved for Swami and directly rejoiced and revelled in the leelas of The Lord Supreme Sri Sathya Sai at close quarters! Most blessed! I realize that I am

completely unqualified in addressing him as the ‘most blessed’ here and yet, there is some solace! Does not an ordinary stone reveal the purity of gold?

Swami continued his talk, *“The culture of our land Bharat has an extraordinary legacy. It was for a very noble and holy cause that the celestial “Mother Ganges” was brought here to earth. She is pure! She makes everything pure! According to our Bharatiya culture and the Vedas, Goddess Ganga must be invoked through prayer and Ganga water must be used to cleanse everything before the start of any sacred deed such as a yajna! But the learned Vedic pundits who have assembled here have not mentioned Ganga water in the list they have compiled! All other things needed for the yaga have been promptly listed! I myself had declared that this yajnam is a poorna yajnam. Now, with the omission of Ganga water, which is of utmost importance, how can this yajna be considered a poorna yajna? Can the words of Sathya Sai go untrue (asathya)?”* So, saying He stopped.

Many of them in the audience responded, *“No Swami, not at all. Jai Sai Ram,”* and they chanted in chorus!

Immediately, our Bhagawan beckoned a sevadal who was approaching from a distance. He went near Swami with trepidation, with his mouth covered by his palms (as a mark of humility and reverence). *“You go inside the interview room and bring that huge silver pot that’s there,”* He instructed.

That sevadal without a blink of hesitation humbly said, *“Swami! Here are the keys to the interview room. I am coming straight from that room just after having locked it. There is no such silver pot there, Swami!”* Those of us in the crowd were able to clearly hear what he said because he was standing close to the mic!

Swami seemed to be in a kind of hurry and retorted quickly, *“Hey Dongavaadu, go now, open the door and see! The pot will be there. Bring it!”* He said.

Frightened, the sevadal sprang towards the interview room. There was a flutter of excitement on the dais. A wave of exhilaration swept the audience too.

In a matter of just a minute or two, to the utmost amazement of everyone present including the Vedic pundits, that sevadal came out with a large silver pot on his shoulders and climbed on to the dais!

It was only a few minutes ago did that sevadal declare that, *“There is no such silver pot there, Swami!”* yet he was now returning with a silver pot. Since he himself had locked the door, how could a silver pot enter that room? This was the wonder of all wonders, one that did not seek any praise or placard!

The silver pot was filled with Ganga water. It was sealed with a layer of silver metal and had a stamp on it. Goodness Gracious! How can that wonder be described! Even attempting to write about it now, I feel a sudden swell of emotions and my hands tremble with goosebumps all over. Without my knowing my eyes are inundated with tears like the surge of the Ganges! My heart beats in rhapsody. Yes. The date inscribed upon the silver plate on that pot filled with Ganges water was that day's date (19-10-1962) with 10:50 a.m. as the time (it was the date and time the yajna was to commence). It had the complete address and details of a Ganges water dealer at Kasi. The most stunning thing about this was that the Ganga water in the pot was collected, sealed and delivered just in time on that very day precisely at 10:50 a.m., just as the yajna was about to begin. May be, this is the greater import of Swami's oft declared holy phrase '**His Sankalpa**'!

That pot of Ganges water was shown around to many who had assembled there. I take immense pride in stating here that I was also one among the blessed amidst thousands who rejoiced witnessing the inscription on that pot. It had the seal of Kasi (Banaras) with that day's date and 10:50 a.m. as the time with the details of the dealer.

The utmost surprising and sacred '***Advent of the Holy Ganges***' occurred that day, at that moment. All of us including those Vedic scholars who witnessed it were simply astounded. Despite being aware of the holy nature and supreme significance of the Ganges in the yajna, they had somehow failed to mention it in their list!

Appropriately, when Swami pointed out to their debacle, the 'vidya-ego' harbored by many of the pundits was shattered to dust. In yesteryears, when Celestial Mother Ganga came down to earth, Lord Ishwara attracted and received Her. Likewise, the river Ganga in North India was attracted into a pot and willed to appear at His abode in Parthi in 'His inimitable style'- to enable thousands of people to rejoice. Such was His divine magnificence that it also eliminated any trace of ego in those Vedic Pundits. Feeling humbled, all of them prostrated at Bhagawan's Holy Feet. The audience was in a state of euphoria shouting, "*Jai Sai Ram! Jai Sai Ram!*"

Now, let us delve into the most mysterious aspects of the advent of the Holy Ganges miracle. A subtle aspect here is that on having locked the room just about a minute ago, the sevadal volunteer declared to Swami that 'no such a pot' was in there. Rather, Swami who was at a good distance from the interview room overrode him by firmly instructing, '*go now and see, it is there!*' The sevadal finds the sealed silver pot upon unlocking the room. The sevadal had retained the locked room's key with him all along! How was it that the silver pot had made its way into that room through locked doors?

Secondly, how was it that Swami who was at a distance from the locked interview room, vehemently stated that the silver pot was present there? This clarifies that He could tell from a distance as to what was inside a locked room.

We come to the third nuanced aspect! Something that no one has been able to unravel so far!

How did a pot that was packed and sealed at Kasi, on the day of the yajna at 10:50 a.m. make its way into a locked room at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi, exactly at that very moment?

Yes, the one who displayed such characteristic glory in His divine play with utmost ease lived an apparently ordinary life amongst us in these modern times. Well, how many of us follow the divine guidelines from the exemplary life of this Avataric Supreme Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba when we proudly proclaim to be His devotees? Only the conscience of the individual devotee would know! These are thoughts to ponder upon.

Jai Sai Ram!

Note: The details described in this essay may not have been fully elucidated in the Sathyam Shivam Sundaram book that I remember to have read (I don't remember the volume number). It is mentioned in that book that the above-mentioned Sapthaaham was held in the year 1961. But such an event did take place in October 1962, I am sure.

Jai Sai Ram!

VIII

A Blessing That Made A Dream Come True

As stated in the previous chapters, it is a blessing that brims my heart with enthusiasm whenever I am invited to speak at Sai centers. I have been invited by Sai centers across Tamil Nadu, particularly in and around Chennai since the 1990s.

Quite a few centers in Chennai keep inviting me often to deliver talks. Nanganallur (South) is one such center where I have spoken on numerous occasions! The devotees there have showered me with their affection and unconditional love profusely, as though they had adopted me! As I deeply ponder over, I feel extremely proud to have received such lavish blessings, one that is rare or even impossible to obtain! It's wrong to feel egotistical! I don't mean to toot my own horn but feeling a sense of pride over having earned the love and affection of countless souls is not wrong. It is in fact something much more exalted!

Mr. Ramesh Sairam was the convener of the Nanganallur South Samithi. Deeply and madly in love with Swami, he has developed Ananya Bhakti (one pointed devotion with total surrender) towards Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Therefore, for him, Swami is everything! Lord Sai is his family deity, the reigning Lord of his heart, his one and only refuge.

Mr. Ramesh has been showering me with his affection. He is a friend who has great love and regards for me. His family too is equally endearing and courteous.

My acquaintance with Mr. Ramesh happened when he was the center's convener and I was invited to speak at one of their events. I happened to visit his house even before the event started. He explained to me in detail about how he proceeded to take up the responsibility of becoming the convener.

As the center was functioning from the first floor above their home, I enquired about how it came to operate from there.

"It is one of Swami's incredible miracles, Sairam!" he answered.

“And what was that incredible miracle?” I asked.

He replied, *“A marvel that made a dream a reality!” “I don’t quite get it, can you please explain in detail,” I prodded further.*

“Sairam! I am an employee of Andhra Bank. I have worked in several branches across many cities. It was then that I happened to hear about Sri Sathya Sai Baba, that He was the Lord incarnate, and so forth. I did not have faith in such statements. Anyway, I am God-fearing. I was transferred from Tamil Nadu to Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh in 1991-1992. I was auditing banks there.

“Several vans and buses went to Puttaparthi quite frequently from Anantapur. Many of our bank employees went to Parthi as well. They spoke in praise of Bhagawan Baba. Although I did not have faith in Swami (then), I went to Parthi on Sundays as I nurtured a desire to see Swami and Parthi. I was bestowed with many opportunities of having the darshan of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. At Parthi, I also happened to meet several international devotees who shared with me their breathtaking experiences that drew them to Swami. I used to feel quite amazed listening to them.

“Those devotees from distant lands would narrate their extraordinary tales of transformation. Not having had the darshan of Baba in His physical form anytime in their lives prior that trip to Parthi, they would excitedly talk about how Swami had appeared to them in their dreams and performed wonderful feats. Many of them were ordinary folks who eked out a living for a moderate lifestyle in their respective countries. Furthermore, it was true that the faith and devotion of these devotees from distant lands brought in me a sense of awe! But for reasons unknown to me, I did not develop a firm faith in Bhagawan Baba.

“At the end of three years I was transferred to Chennai. I am a resident of Nanganallur, Chennai. Therefore, I began to live in my own house there and manage work.

“There was a Sathya Sai Samithi in our neighborhood. It was known as the Nanganallur (South) Samithi. The center was functioning at a temple near our house. My wife and I began to participate in the center’s activities and volunteered for all the service as well. We took part in the weekly bhajans without fail. Even at this stage, I did not develop faith in Bhagawan Baba.

“One night, as I was asleep alone in one of the bedrooms in our house, I had a dream at around 3 a.m. I was asleep in the dream as well. In the dream I see a bright light filling the entire room. When I open my eyes a magnificent form with curly hair is approaching me. Gradually the figure shrinks to a smaller size! I see that the personality who is at a three feet distance from me is wearing a white silk shirt and dhoti. I realize that it is Bhagawan Baba! Swami is smiling and looking at me intently!

*Just for a few seconds! Swami gently moves out of that room and reaches the entrance of the house. I follow him with tears streaming down my face. I cry “**Baba! Having come to this poor man’s house just now You are leaving immediately! You must please stay with us, Swami!**” I wail and appeal to Him. Without uttering anything He goes beyond the entrance of our house, looks in and around the top floor of our house (the terrace area), smiles and then disappears.*

“I wake up and realize that it was a dream. That day, I revealed the dream to my wife. We could not comprehend anything. Nevertheless, my wife asserted that there should be a reason for Swami’s appearance in my dream.

*“I have read what Swami has declared about Him appearing in people’s dreams! He has said, ‘**Believe it to be true when I appear in your dreams. My coming in your dream should be considered as my visiting card!**’*

*“It was a Thursday, there was bhajans at our center. My wife and I went as usual. It was a routine that at the conclusion of bhajans one of the center members would speak about the service activities. On that day, he went on to say, ‘**the authorities of this temple have henceforth revoked their permission to let us continue our center activities here. Therefore, we will have to continue the center’s work on an open terrace or at a vacant house of a willing devotee. So, if there is anyone willing, we urge you to kindly come forward and let us know. This would enable us to continue our center’s activities without any hiccups!**’ So, saying, he concluded his talk for the day.*

“Hearing those words, I was shell-shocked! As I connected the dots, I was inundated with a surge of admiration for Bhagawan’s miraculous ways. In my dream Bhagawan had appeared in my room and as He walked to the entrance, I had beseeched Him to stay back in our house. He had looked up at our terrace and all around it. And then, in that meeting at the temple an office bearer had just announced the need for an open terrace at any generous devotee’s house to continue with the center’s activities. My heart that had failed to develop faith in Bhagawan until then, instantaneously installed Him firmly in its base. I began to completely accept and worship Him as the Lord Supreme!

“I clearly understood that Swami had created an opportunity to fulfill my yearning and prayer of requesting Him to stay in our home. He created a need for an open terrace to continue the center’s work and even had it announced in public.

“My excitement knew no limits and we were delighted that Swami would be staying on our terrace permanently!

“I looked at my wife to seek her permission. Meanwhile, she was already looking at me from the other side. The one who made it the penance of her life to align

with my decisions and thought-process at all times, walked up to me around the gents' side and said, **'Please do as you wish. Everything is per Swami's Sankalpa!'**

"In front of everyone gathered there I said, 'I agree to have the center's activities conducted at the terrace of our house! You could look at the place now and make the decision.' A few people from the center came over immediately and affirmed that the center's activities could take place on erecting a shed. A shed was soon erected, and Bhagawan's Birthday was celebrated as the inaugural function.

"So, for 3 years the center's activities continued there under that shed!

"In between, owing to some construction at our house, the terrace got occupied with building materials and that caused inconvenient access to the shed. Some of the center's office bearers felt that it was an inconvenience to the devotees and decided to look for another place to continue the center's activities! My wife and I were totally not for it.

"Swami had appeared in my dream and had selected this place for us. I do not think of this place as mine. This is Swami's place, His property. We are all His properties! Isn't this the meaning of the word 'Swami'? 'Swam' (in Sanskrit) refers to property. 'Swami' means proprietor. That is the reason the Vaishnavas (who worship Lord Vishnu) celebrate the Lord as 'Udaiyavar'- The Owner. When we all are His property does not this place belong to him too? This is a place that He has handpicked and selected to install Himself! It is not right on our part to act against the decisions of our Lord! As we have landed ourselves in this confusion, let us not decide anything by ourselves. Let us put this to Him through chits (bits of paper with options written on them are rolled in front of the Lord and generally it is a child who picks up one among the lot, which is considered as the Lord's will) and accept whatever is Swami's decree and act accordingly.' As I finished, everyone agreed.

"As we placed those chits in front of Swami, a small child picked up a chit that had Swami's command of 'continue worship at this place as usual', Sairam! All devotees who had a difference of opinion completely bowed their heads to Bhagawan's directive. The prayers and activities continued under that shed.

"As I was focusing on some of the construction work at our house, a desire to construct a hall next to the shed in the terrace transpired in me. This was a new thought that hadn't occurred to me before! The other day in my dream Swami had looked very intently at this portion of the terrace from the entrance! I felt that there was a connection between my dream and this new desire. All divine leelas are nothing but an interesting premiere of predetermined events as willed by the Lord!

"Circumstances and opportunities simply presented themselves to fulfill my heart's desire! And it came true! A beautiful hall soon came up right next to that shed!

Yes! This majestic hall of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi could comfortably house about 150 devotees and enable them to enthusiastically participate in the Samithi's activities. In my dream this was the precise spot that Bhagawan had consecrated by lodging upon His divine glance. Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations became that hall's inaugural function! Sairam! Today happens to be Bhagawan's Holy Birthday! On this holy day, your lecture is about to commence in this hall! Everything is the sankalpa of our Swami, Sairam!" Overwhelmed with emotion and wiping tears of joy streaming down his cheeks Mr. Ramesh narrated how Bhagawan had fulfilled his dream.

"What is this, Sairam? Both of you seem to have lost track of time! Shouldn't the center's celebrations begin now? Devotees have already assembled in the hall! Please have this coffee quickly and go to the first floor!" It was only when Mrs. Ramesh came over and nudged us did we come out of the addiction of revelling in the extraordinary miracles of Bhagawan. We gulped down the coffee and rushed to the hall!

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is that Lord Supreme who has drawn to Him different kinds of people – God-fearing and otherwise, from all over the world! Those who are devoted to Him will know this. His extraordinary miracles are well known, mysterious and varied!

Shall we delve into the finer aspects and enumerate how the protagonist of this chapter Mr. Ramesh was drawn to Swami in the most enchanting manner?

To begin with, he was not a devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba! Thereafter, although he began hearing about Swami, he did not perceive any change. At this stage, he was transferred to Anantapur. Should he be sent on transfer only to Anantapur, that is close to Puttaparthi when the Andhra bank has its branches across India? This was the 1st stage of having him drawn towards Swami.

Though he was initially not devoted to Bhagawan Baba, owing to his posting at Anantapur he gets drawn into making frequent visits to Puttaparthi. He witnesses and experiences the transformation of many overseas devotees who are drawn to Swami. He hears about these experiences directly from them. Ramesh was astounded to note that these devotees who had no prior information about Baba had experienced and seen Swami in their dreams! This was the 2nd stage in the divine drama of being drawn towards Swami! Yet, his heart and mind did not accept Bhagawan Baba as the Lord incarnate.

He gets transferred back to Chennai. His experience in the dream constitutes the 3rd stage in the divine drama of being drawn towards Swami.

The Sathya Sai Seva Organization operates at a place very close to his house! And that's the 4th stage; the net was neatly laid out for the catch.

He engages himself in service activities without having accepted Baba in his heart. He then connects the dots, between his dream and with the need for a place to continue the center's activities. He wholeheartedly surrenders to Swami! Here, the divine drama of being drawn-to-Swami concludes!

Sri Sathya Sai Bhagawan who installed Himself in Ramesh's heart also chose a place for Himself at his home and resided there. Having enthroned Himself firmly there he continues to accept their rituals of worship and prayer with each passing day. He continues to shower abundant blessings on Mr. and Mrs. Ramesh. How will this couple ever repay their debt to this Lord of Love, the ever-compassionate Sai Bhagawan? It is simply never ever possible to repay this debt. Lord Manikavachagar (Saivite saint) has asserted this through the following verse,

***You gave yourself (to me), and took me
Sankara! Whose is victory?
Eternal bliss I received, but
What have you gotten from me!***

Jai Sai Ram!

IX

Kasi Kala Bhairava! ***Return What Is Lost!***

I am about to recall from my memory and narrate events that happened around 1997-1998.

I was staying at my own house at Vallasaravaakkam in Chennai. I have mentioned about the fabulous opportunities that I was bestowed with as an invited speaker at various Sai centers in Chennai and other cities in the previous chapters of this book such as, ‘*The Lord of Parthi who Danced and Showered His Grace*’ and also that Swami had blessed me with a talent to sing soul-stirring bhajans. I have thereby earned the love and admiration of several Sai devotees even from afar! Isn’t the act of expressing and accepting unconditional love an important milestone in Lord Sai’s royal path of devotion and spirituality?

In a similar fashion, I have earned one of my most prized friendships— the love of a Mr. Ramasamy and his family. Mr. Ramasamy was holding an important position in the Sathya Sai Seva Samithi at Valasaravaakkam, having surrendered himself completely at Bhagawan’s Lotus Feet.

Nalini, one of his daughters pursued her bachelor’s degree at The College for Women established by Bhagawan at Anantapur while staying there at the hostel. Whenever she came home to Chennai to be with her parents, she would visit me at my house as well and share news about her education and the welfare of her sisters. During those conversations, she would often drown in despair and disappointment saying, “*Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba often visits the boys hostel. But He doesn’t come to our girls hostel and visits us only on very rare occasions.*”

Moreover, she would also insist that I narrate my personal experiences with Bhagawan in detail! Considering her as my own daughter I too would then dive into details of many of those incidents and experiences and narrate to her with affection. At times she would also partake food with me at my house! Such are the loving children of Sri Sathya, shaped in Sai’s mould!

It was on one such occasion that Nalini came home to talk to me! She filled me in with every bit of information since our last meeting. This happened every time we met. It is a usual habit of mine to enquire about any extraordinary happenings at her hostel. So, I asked her this time too.

And with a jaw-dropping expression she said, *“Sairam Uncle! Owing to the penance of the girls at our Anantapur girl’s hostel, Swami came to our premises all of a sudden one day,”* animatedly looking at me with excitement.

“Wow! Without building up the suspense just break into the details quickly,” I intervened, prodded by my curiosity!

“Sairam! We are 4 girls staying together in our room at the hostel. We are thick as peas in a pod. We go together everywhere. Be it lunch, dinner or whatever, we stick together as best friends! On the other hand, when it comes to academics we are quite competitive!”

“In beauty?” I digressed.

“Undoubtedly, Sairam! All the four of us are beauty queens!” she announced hoisting her pride high, *“We are no less when it comes to dressing up. One of my roommates is quite rich! She dresses up fashionably! About 15 days ago, she had worn diamond earrings! The rest of us twinged in a bit of jealousy! What to do? We didn’t own diamond earrings! Anyway, since she was our roommate we complemented her!”*

“Wholeheartedly, eh?” I tried to clarify, obviously adding fuel to the fire.

“Sairam! Please don’t go that route!” retorted smart Nalini.

“OK, go on! Hadn’t I warned you to stay off from building up the suspense? Having started off by saying that Swami came to your hostel, don’t you think that you are talking about something completely unrelated?” I asked her, eager to know about Swami.

“Oh yes, I am coming to that, Sairam Uncle! Didn’t I mention about the friend who had worn diamond earrings? After having worn it the entire day, she woke up the next morning exclaiming, ‘Oh! One of my diamond earrings has gone missing! What do I do now? Girls, get up! Please search with me,’ and woke us up agitatedly. Aghast, all the three of us searched everywhere in our beddings, mattress, blankets; dusted them up and down. We searched among the clothes that were nearby. The earring was nowhere to be seen! We swept the entire room! It was still not traceable! By then it was already 7 a.m. We were quite tired having searched the entire place since 5 a.m. All the four of us were exhausted!”

“At that time when we least expected, Swami entered our room in His physical form. All the four of us were transfixed, obviously not knowing what to do. On seeing our weird state Swami asked, ‘What are you all up to? And why are you looking agitated?’ in the most loving manner!

“The girl who had lost the diamond earring started sobbing looking at Bhagawan! One of us mustered courage and said, ‘Swami, one of her earrings is missing! She lost it somehow. The four of us have been searching for it since morning’!

“Beaming a smile Swami said, ‘Chant and pray as follows. Kasi Kala Bhairava! Return what is lost! You will get it!’ and walked out of our room.

“Not having come to our hostel, He made a visit only to our room that morning. He had listened to our prayers and also provided succor. This was something that was impossible to attain. All of the four of us basked in bliss as we had been endowed with the most rare blessing! The sorrow of having lost an earring didn’t weigh upon us anymore! In a daze of having met Swami, we talked about His visit endlessly! Then suddenly, we remembered that Swami had asked us to pray. So we washed ourselves clean, prostrated in front of Bhagawan’s photo, closed our eyes and chanted in unison, ‘Kasi Kala Bhairava! Return what is lost!’ We would have repeated it a few times. Chanting so, one of my friends opened her eyes and noticed a glitter on the floor. It was the diamond earring! Excitedly she screamed, ‘Girls! There is the diamond earring!’ We all opened our eyes at once and clearly saw the earring dazzling on the floor. All of us were elated. Trusting completely what Swami had told us, we sought refuge in Him and felt relieved that Swami hadn’t given up on us. We pinched ourselves realizing how blessed we were! The most surprising thing here was that we had searched this place where the earring was found thoroughly many times before. Swami’s heart had melted with our prayer ‘Kasi Kala Bhairava! Return what is lost!’ and He had blessed us with the lost earring.” Nalini finished in zest.

“Nalini, you have most definitely brought a fantastic piece of news this time! This is truly incredible! Come, have food and then go home! Let’s eat!” I suggested. And, we both sat down to have a meal.

That evening, Mr. Krishnan, a Sai devotee who stays at Vallasaravaakkam came over to meet me. Whenever he came, we spoke about Swami most of the time. While we were talking, I narrated Nalini’s visit and also about the episode of ‘**Kasi Kala Bhairava! Return what is lost!**’ Amazed, he said, “We do keep losing something or the other at our house quite frequently. Many a times we are unable to trace the lost object. This is a much-needed mantra for us. I shall make a note of this in my diary.” And noted it down.

Two or three days went by. Another Sai devotee came to visit me. Speaking about his family woes, he became upset recounting a loss of three thousand rupees about a week ago and that he was not able to find it even after repeated searches. I immediately conveyed to him the '**Kasi Kala Bhairava**' mantra and the episode associated with it. I sent him home after suggesting that he repeat the mantra with great devotion and reverence.

In the meantime, several devotees came over to visit me. As we kept our conversations going, I enlightened them about the '**Kasi Kala Bhairava**' episode. Hence, this information spread far and wide amongst many Sai devotees.

One day, that friend and Sai devotee who had lost Rs.3000 rang me up and said, *"Sairam! As suggested by you, I chanted the '**Kasi Kala Bhairava**' mantra for 2 days. Just about a few minutes ago, I came out of my house to go to a shop. I opened my umbrella as it was raining. Lo and behold! My wallet fell with a thud from within the umbrella. As I looked into it, the 3,000 Rupees that I had lost was found inside of it. My wallet had somehow fallen into that umbrella, Sairam. Bhagawan Baba is the Lord of Truth! Every word uttered by Him is verily the truth! He has done me a great favor through you. I shall never forget this Kasi Kala Bhairava mantra. Thank you so much, Sairam"*

After sometime, another friend from Thiyyagaiya Nagar called me on the phone. I answered, *"Sairam, This is Sai Mohan here."*

"Hello! Kasi Kala Bhairava, are you doing well?" he asked.

Surprised, I asked, *"How do you know about it, Sairam?"*

*"A Sai friend here told me that you had advised him to chant the mantra. I noted it down in my diary and chanted it a few times too. Soon then, one of my relatives from Tambaram called me over the phone and said, '**I am returning that accountancy book of yours through a friend of mine. Please confirm over phone once you receive it**' It was well over eight months since I had given him my book. That book is not available today. When I had bought it long back, it had cost me Rs.900! Since we were not in need of the book then, I had completely forgotten about having given it to him. It was only last month when there was a need to refer to it did we search for it. How could it be there at home when it was with him? Anyway, I chanted the '**Kasi Kala Bhairava**' mantra a few times and to my most pleasant surprise I got to know the whereabouts of my book immediately over phone, and also received the information that it was coming back to me. The loving words that emerge from our ever-compassionate Swami are all highly sacred mantras, are they not? Thank you so much, dear Sai Mohan!"* he said.

Many such wonderful incidents followed! I am simply unable to document all of them here! For, I am unable to recollect many of the details.

Now, here I come to one of my own experiences.

I had adopted a girl and was raising her as my own daughter. Sai friends close to me in the fraternity know of this. As she had reached the age of marriage, I had started looking out for a suitable bridegroom for her. Horoscopes (for match-making) kept flowing in. As I am well versed in astrology, I was matching those horoscopes that complemented hers the most.

That was the day of Krishna Janmashtami! My daughter was busy looking at her phone while enjoying the savories (prepared for Janmashtami). Some savories were placed in front of me as well. Anyhow, I was busy with the horoscopes.

All of a sudden, my daughter checked her ears and raised an alarm in an agitated tone that one of her earrings (gold) had gone missing. The back-screw of the earring had somehow clung on to the rear surface of her earlobe. The earring alone had gone missing. She began searching for it everywhere. Eventually, when she couldn't find it, she removed her other earring, packed it in a piece of paper, placed it before me and suggested, *"Could you please take me to GRT Jewellers today evening or tomorrow and get me a new pair of earrings in exchange for this?"* And went away hurriedly as her mother had beckoned her.

I too searched thoroughly everywhere. The earring was nowhere to be seen! In the meantime the doorbell rang. I cleared up my table, dropped all the sweetmeats that my daughter had been munching into a glass bottle, kept that glass bottle in an almirah and went to the door.

All of us searched the entire household for that earring till nightfall! It was nowhere to be found!

I was immersed in deep thought and began to wonder about my impending visit to that jewelry shop the next day to purchase another pair of gold earrings for my daughter, an expenditure that had surfaced quite unexpectedly. At that moment, Mr. Krishnan, a Sai devotee and friend arrived. Looking at my forlorn face he enquired, *"What is it Sairam, you seem to be deep in thought?"*

I explained to him my scenario and revealed that the cause of my concern was the unexpected expenditure that loomed large.

At once he asked me, *"Sairam, as soon as you realized that the earring had gone missing, you should have chanted the Kasi Kala Bhairava mantra! Did you?"*

"Sairam! I had completely forgotten. Thank goodness you have reminded me about it," I said.

At once, Mr. Krishnan and I began chanting aloud the mantra '**Kasi Kala Bhairava, return what is lost**' two times.

My daughter, who came in at that very moment exclaimed, "*Wow! Here is the lost earring.*" She took the glass bottle into which I had stored her savories and kept that in front of me. As she opened the bottle and poured its contents onto the table, we saw the earring shining brightly amongst the sweetmeats! All of us felt very happy and relieved.

When my daughter realized that her earring went missing she had searched for her it diligently everywhere but couldn't find it. I too had searched along deploying all my focus and effort and yet was unsuccessful in tracing it. All our searches proved futile. Yet, the prayer '**Kasi Kala Bhairava, return what is lost**' brought back the lost earring in a jiffy. Dear readers, the unfailing efficacy of tracing lost objects by the chanting of the prayer '**Kasi Kala Bhairava, return what is lost**' is evident not just with this one incident but with all the incidents described in this chapter. That is the amazing effect of grace!

I have spoken extensively about the '**Kasi Kala Bhairava**' mantra in most of my lectures. Those who happened to listen to it have connected with me later through my land-phone/mobile expressing their happiness and benefits accrued through the chanting of the above mantra.

Words that emanate from The Avatar written or spoken, every single word, every syllable and even the most ordinary of them can become a very potent mantra, a *Beejakshara*! '**Beejam**' means to germinate, or more specifically the '*source*'. We observe seeds germinating in the soil. However, Beejaksharas are seeds of a mantra with innate potency that would germinate in the atmosphere (ether) around us thereby showering their benefits immediately without fail. This is precisely what we read in our ancient Puranas as receiving a '*boon*' or incurring a '*curse*'. In a colloquial context we occasionally hear people say, '*don't earn her wrath*' or '*if she curses then you will never prosper*'.

We may have seen saints or exalted individuals generate a whirlwind of electromagnetic waves around them due to the constant chanting of sacred words, hymns or verses praising the Lord. These vibrations are beyond the perception of human eyes. Their ceaseless chanting of these mantras also enables them to perform miraculous feats.

The quintessential phrase in this chapter, '**Kasi Kala Bhairava! Return what is lost**' is also its title! Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who had uttered this phrase is The Avatar, The Lord Supreme. When those students pleaded to Swami about a single missing diamond earring, Swami graced them with the phrase, '**Kasi Kala Bhairava!**

Return what is lost’ and that emanated directly from His Divine Lips! Could that great verse (Mahavakya) which emanated from the Lord Incarnate’s Lips be merely for relief from the most ordinary quandaries of daily life? Was it necessary for that *‘faraway supreme being’* to descend on earth just to appease us mortals in profiteering from impermanent joys rooted in worldly affairs? It is most definitely not for that at all! Then, what is the secret import of those words that rolled off His Holy Tongue? (‘Marai ‘ in Tamil can also be understood as Veda, apart from its literary meaning, which is secret/hidden. The author here asks what could the ‘marai porul’ – ‘Vedic import’ be? A beautiful play of words in Tamil.)

“Hey Lord Kasi Kala Bhairava! – You bestowed me with the precious treasures of noble virtues of Sathya (Truth), Dharma (Righteousness), Shanti (Peace), Prema (Love) and Ahimsa (Compassion or non-violence) and sent me (to earth)! However on my arrival, I became enticed by Maya (illusion) that is prevalent on earth. Due to the lack of focus and determination on my part, I have failed to protect these precious treasures (virtues) that you had bestowed me with. Hence, I have lost them! Dear Lord, please return those noble virtues that I have lost,” shouldn’t this be the true import of that prayer that is to be internalized?

Dear devotees, when observed keenly every message delivered by this glorious Avatar-Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has many such profound truths embedded within them. These deeper spiritual truths are revealed to each of us in accordance with our spiritual evolution. It is only when there is a steady spiritual ascendance – an increase in one’s yearning to seek the truth, and when one’s devotion is strengthened continuously, does one understand these profound truths better!

For those of us who are able nurture boundless love (Prema Bhava) towards that Avatar Purusha, empower that spring of love, immerse ourselves completely and eventually merge into it, shall we elevate ourselves to the ultimate blissful state of bhakti (Bhakti Paravasam). For such devotees, Bhagawan reveals the underlying spiritual significance of His divine miracles. Many of us would be aware of such rare leelas.

It was usual for Swami to bless some people with a personal audience (interview). There is also an interview room at Prasanthi for this purpose!

For a devotee who is about to be blessed with an interview, Swami would instruct that person in Tamil as “*ulle po*”, in Telugu as “*lople po*”, in Hindi as “*andhar chalo*” and in English as “*go inside*”, implying to enter the interview room. Our Bhagawan’s Holy Lips would utter these words! Everyone who went “*inside*” got an interview with Bhagawan (Bhagawan’s darshan)!

The Lord Absolute is celebrated and praised as, “***Bahir mukha durlabhaaya anthar mukha sulabhaaya,***” so that it’s futile attempting to look for Him on the outside

to earn His darshan. It is much easier to go within oneself and seek Him there. This is our inference.

According to this principle, '*While seeking the Lord, stop searching for Him on the outside, seek Him within*' (i.e., to go inwards in one's search. In the Tamil language, God is called as 'kadavull'. Dissecting this word, 'kada' means to transcend and 'ull' means inside. Essentially, this means that we transcend everything and go inwards.) The concepts of interview and the interview room are the hallmark of this Avatar. This also drives home the subtle message about the inward path being an easier route in obtaining the Lord's darshan! Thus, the varied magnificent actions of this great personality are laden with such philosophical truths. Although His messages are cryptic, accompanied by seemingly casual actions, they reveal profoundly enlightening truths for us to decode! Only by the grace of that Lord and Guru will we be able to comprehend the truth embedded in these messages!

What does this word '**Guru**' imply? 'Gu' means darkness. 'Ru' means light. Therefore, 'Guru' is the one who leads us from darkness to light. That is, the Guru is the one who removes ignorance (Ajnana) and bestows wisdom (jnana) upon us! The prayer '***Kasi Kala Bhairava! Return what is lost!***' – on the surface seems to resonate well with the pleasures and rewards pertaining to this worldly life. We are drawn towards it and as the prayer continues, we are taken on a path of spiritual sadhana (exercise) even without our knowing! In fact this could even illumine us with '*Self-realization*'!

Dear readers, do you get the message beyond its literal meaning? We have been bestowed with this human life to attain Realization!

Jai Sai Ram!

X

Lord Sathya Sai Appeared and Blessed as A Doctor

In the earlier chapters I have alluded to the talks delivered at almost all the Sai organizations and centers in and around Chennai. Likewise, I was invited to speak at a function of Ullagaram's Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi. I reckon it was the year 2009 or 2010. The preparations for that function would have rekindled an onlooker's inner spiritual reflections; they were both captivating and divine. I was welcomed with much love when I arrived at the venue.

The devotees who had congregated began Nama Sankeertana (bhajans). Their ambrosial music sweetened by their devotion soothed our ears and nourished our hearts. The dusk that day seemed like the dawn of bliss!

The center's convener welcomed everyone and briefed the audience about the program schedule. He was appreciative of the cooperation extended by the devotees. He then announced that I would be the next speaker and introduced me to the audience.

I began my lecture. I emphasized on some of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's words of wisdom He quoted often in his discourses. I concluded my talk describing a few miraculous incidents among the many millions that Swami has orchestrated in myriad situations.

After a camphor-lit aarti was offered, the devotees received their prasadam and left quietly.

Only a few who wished to connect with me individually and share their spiritual reflections stayed back. As we were talking, a woman came over to me with her son and offered her salutations. She also instructed her handsome child to pay his respects to me. The son must have been around 10 years of age then.

As he bowed to me in reverence, I embraced him with affection. His mother spoke in English choked with emotion,

“His is a meritorious birth, Sairam!” she said

“Sairam, I fail to understand. Could you please explain, Mother?” I requested.

“He is such a blessed soul, he has received the grace of Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba completely!” said the mother Padmavati as she began describing the entire incident with a surge of emotion.

“Sairam! It was the 20th day of December in 1998! Everyone in our family felt overjoyed! It was the day my son was born! My most precious! His name is Sai Yugesh! At home, everyone is a devotee of Sai. We engage ourselves in all Sai service activities through this center here. For us too, Swami is everything! Having no other interest or anchor other than Swami, we led a fulfilled life! Life went on smoothly and happily for us!

“It was only a week since his birth! Suddenly there was shocking news about his health from his Pediatrician. He stated that the baby’s heartbeat, the ‘lub-dub’ sound was not sounding normal; instead it was more of a feeble low-sounding moan! Our tranquility was instantly shattered.

“After conducting further tests it was concluded that he had congenital heart disease. The doctors said that it was a condition where the heart was not pumping efficiently, resulting in breathing difficulty. This shocking news made me, my husband and others in the family panic-stricken.

“Subsequently, we took our baby to several renowned cardiologists at various hospitals in Chennai and sought their opinions. Everyone asserted the presence of this ailment in the baby.

“Finally, we decided to continue his treatment at the medical center headed by India’s leading heart surgeon Dr. Cherian, at Chennai. We kept visiting the doctors at the medical center once every two months to evaluate his condition and perform further tests. The doctors kept us updated with the course of procedures.

“In an unexpected turn of events on December 19th, 1999, my baby lost consciousness! Sairam, it torments me even to this day to recount the events of that horrifying night. This is even after a decade has passed by, while my son continues to live happily in the pink of his health, owing to the divine grace of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba! His entire body turned blue (blue baby). Sairam! We became agitated as we languished in pain and anxiety. The child was immediately admitted to the intensive care unit. Dr. Cherian at once declared that the baby needed an open-heart surgery. The surgery was scheduled for the 23rd of that month! That moment when our baby was wheeled in for the surgery, all of us were inundated with tears.

“A team of doctors headed by Dr. Cherian, the cardiac surgeon took up the responsibility of performing the surgical repair. Dr. Cherian would perform the most important parts of the surgery. Such a surgery could easily go on for about 6-8 hours.

“We were terrified and riddled with anxiety. While waiting there we pleaded to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to save our child.

*“At that time, the most astounding thing happened! It was phenomenal. Dr. Cherian took a separate lift to enter the operation theatre and perform the surgery. Wonder of Wonders! I saw with my own eyes Bhagawan Baba travelling in that lift instead of Dr. Cherian! I also saw Bhagawan looking at me through the lift and blessing me with both His Hands raised in Abhaya Hasta! I did not understand anything. Even though my jaws dropped in amazement, I cried out aloud unable to hold myself! All those who were nearby surrounded me and enquired what the issue was? I was in a state of disbelief, unable to utter a single word after having witnessed that miraculous scene. You could say that I had temporarily lost my faculties of speech! However, I blabbered in the most incoherent manner that, ‘**Bhagawan Himself is going up in that lift to perform the surgery for my baby!**’ None around had any clue of what had happened there, I was unable to articulate to them any further!*

*“Immediately, without my knowledge I ran up to the first floor chanting the Lord’s name ‘**Sairam**’ and began to write the name countless number of times. And I kept writing! About 5 hours later, Bhagawan in Dr. Cherian’s form called for us and said the words ‘**I have saved your child!**’ Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came in the form of Dr. Cherian and performed surgery on my baby and gave him to me as His prasadam (gift of God’s grace)!*

“We were allowed to see our baby after 4 hours. Offering our gratitude to Bhagawan, we kept our Bhagawan’s photograph under the baby’s pillow and applied the sacred vibhuti on his forehead.

“Sairam, I had referred to him (the boy) as one of the most meritorious births when I met you because Bhagawan Himself came in the form of Dr. Cherian and performed his surgery. Isn’t that accurate, Sairam? Please bless him with your hands and apply vibhuti on his forehead, Sairam!” Mrs. Padmavati poured her heart out to me, filled with a whirlwind of emotions and heartfelt gratitude!

I had goosebumps after listening to her story! The mother and child fell at my feet in reverence. I applied vibhuti to both.

Mrs. Padmavati further added, *“Sairam, he is now hale and healthy! He is a studious child and takes part in all kinds of sports at school as well. Thinking of him I feel so proud, Sairam. Everything is the blessing and grace of our Bhagawan, Sairam!”* she concluded, overwhelmed with emotion!

The (Tirukural) couplet '*Great is the joy of a mother when she welcomes her child into this world, it is even greater when she knows that her child is virtuous!*' fits perfectly in this mother's case!

Jai Sai Ram!

Endless Epilogue

I have titled this part as ‘**Endless Epilogue**’ in my first book ‘*Leela Mohana Sai*’ as well and have recorded the details therein. My justification for such a title in that book was this: by joining the army of devotees to undertake Sai’s service and in reflecting the divinely ordained human values of Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa, it becomes imperative for each of us to perform an endless list of pristine tasks. Besides, these must be performed relentlessly as well. I am unworthy of terming such an endless Godly service as an epilogue. To this end, I decided not to title the chapter merely as ‘Epilogue’. For this reason, this chapter has been titled as ‘Endless Epilogue’. As if affirming my thought and approving of it as ‘**correct**’, Bhagawan Baba has made me carry on this endless Sai service. He willed that I pen another book! This is Sai service intended for the Divine and therefore it is endless! The idea that the Supreme Lord Sai’s service activities are our responsibility must be deeply etched and firmly bolstered in our hearts and minds. They should be undertaken ceaselessly by each one of us who call themselves ‘*Sai devotees*’! That is precisely why this chapter has been titled as ‘Endless Epilogue’ in this book too!

His special gracious sankalpa allowed the creation of Sri Sathya Sai Service Organizations all over the globe. They were established on the foundation of His wise words, ‘**Service to mankind is service to God**’. Every Sai servant who has dedicated oneself to the organization abides by the rules of self-discipline and moral code of conduct as laid out to them. They all participate in the spirit of service!

As if sanctifying this truthful adage ‘**There is no truth better than the words of the Father**’, He proved to one and all that He is *The Sustainer of Truth* (Sathya Vruthan). Not the one to sway from the path of truth even when faced with numerous trials and tribulations, He demonstrated that ‘**Truth alone triumphs**’ (Sathyameva Jayathe) and bestowed His victory upon us. Not just that, He showed in principle and in action that sacrifice yielded happiness. This was also the message of His incarnation as Lord Sri Rama.

‘**Do your duty, don’t think about the rewards!**’ was the message from the Divine Lips of Lord Incarnate Sri Krishna.

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has summed up His message in eight short yet wise words!

They are ‘**Love All Serve All!**’ and ‘**Help Ever Hurt Never!**’ To love and serve one and all without any reservations, to be of help always and to not attempt anything that could be hurtful even once. This is the essence of those eight words.

On the surface, these eight words seem to convey an ordinary meaning. However, when actions are performed rooted in them and guided by that principle, these eight words serve as life's goal posts. They help us break free from all earthly shackles of 'Manamaasu' (muddled mind), caused by egotism (Ahankara Mamakaaras). In one's lifetime, she/he becomes the recipient of the love and grace of the Lord of Vishnu Loka. Such is the power derived from those modest eight words! This is the essence of all the Vedas and Vedantas! Moreover, those simple words also sum up all sublime messages that have emanated from the Divine Lips of the Great Lord Incarnate! It is common knowledge that even the most ordinary words emerging from the lips of the Avatar get fortified with meaning and become potent! They even evolve into Bheejakshara Mantras! Such mantras are chanted by many of us day after day! It is truth apparent that a person chanting mantras with discipline and mind control will see extraordinary results!

Although the avataric messages delivered vociferously by our dear Bhagawan were intended for us mortals, He Himself has practiced them and showered His blessings upon us! The wise have said, *'It is easy for anyone to preach, what is rare is walking that talk'* and this fits all mortals without exception. In other words, Swami's actions drive home the message that *'practicing what one preaches should be fundamental to human character'*. In the light of the saying that, *'The loving even leave their bones for the welfare of others'*, He has perfectly demonstrated with His own ideal life that sacrifice through the way of love touches the pinnacle of nobility. As I am unable to explain everything that He has done for the welfare of humanity in detail, here is an attempt to describe that in a concise form.

To dispel ignorance and as a gift to the society, He brought in a revolution in education unmindful of the many heavy burdens He had to shoulder! Yes! It is this revolution where education is completely free of cost right from primary school to post-graduation! This was followed by another revolution in quenching the thirst of several lakhs of people by providing them with good clean drinking water! He resolved Chennai's water-woes for several centuries to come by providing the residents with water from the river Krishna through the Sai Ganga Water Project. A revolution indeed! His revolution in healthcare - completely free, sophisticated and state-of-the-art has provided succour to millions of poor and downtrodden patients (as well as the affluent) across the length and breadth of this country. For the many lakhs of devotees who gather for the darshan of Lord Sai every day, He provides both accommodation and food at highly subsidized rates (a revolution that annihilates both hunger and disease). Diverse human needs catered to continuously is a revolution. Such sustenance by Him is proof of His love for mankind! These revolutions are His gracious gifts (prasadam) to us as proof of His overflowing love!

Above all, He has ushered in another revolution through His magnificent darshans and shower of blessings every single day! He had come here primarily for that purpose! While the previously mentioned revolutions addressed the bustles of an

ordinary life, the revolution of providing daily darshans paved the way for spiritual enrichment!

Yes! Undeniably His descent to earth was for His most exalted revolution of ‘imparting wisdom (jnana)’! He taught us sagacious transcendental wisdom just as a mother would spoon feed her child and, in the process, He had to endure much discomfort Himself. To feed an orange to her child a mother must peel it by pulling apart the segments, remove the seeds from within and eventually scoop out the pearly pulp and feed the child mounted on her lap. She asks the child to open its mouth and feeds that fruit of love. In a similar manner, The Divine Mother of Wisdom Sri Sathya Sai has fed us spirituality through His teachings and discourses. The sweet solace experienced in an environment of peace and tranquility while He ‘imparted wisdom’ is impossible for any Sai devotee to forget! A sacred blissful addiction it was! While He ‘imparted wisdom’, He melted our hearts and left us misty eyed too! I have stated here what I have experienced, like many of you!

Indeed, how many divine celebrations have taken place day after day in the presence of that Lord Supreme at ‘Kulwant Hall’! Is it possible to ever miss out on the yajna of music that fills the air every day? It sanctifies the entire atmosphere with the reverberating vibrations of bhajans - blissfully rendered and divinely melodious. It is unimaginable to forget the exhilaration derived from this! Is it possible to ever forget our own blissful states of trance accompanied by tears that welled up our eyes as the Divine Lord Sri Sathya Sai stood in front of us? Is worship through bhajans any ordinary feat where random artists sing every day to earn money? Certainly not! They are performed by intrinsically motivated students (pursuing their academic education at Sri Sathya Sai Institutes) by their own free will, without compulsions or any vested interests and as a service to The Divine! By the way, they show phenomenal interest in taking part in these Namasankeertana programs. Clearly these students consider this as their greatest fortune, without being enticed by the superfluous attractions of this world. They learn the music of Namasankeertana that is very dear to the Lord. They soulfully sing their hearts out in front of the Lord of Parthi and through this also uplift the listeners to a state of bliss. They completely offer their minds into this sacred yajna. This obviously means that Lord Sathya Sai’s graceful glance is upon them, isn’t it? Back in time, one stands as a witness to soul-stirring scenes that can be found only at Prasanthi Nilayam. Lost in ecstasy, thousands of devotees are seen shedding cascades of tears of bliss streaming down their cheeks! A spell of divinity is cast all around as He takes His seat in the divine chair that is decorated and kept clean every single day. He whole-heartedly rejoices in the melodious singing of Namasankeertana. In that silent atmosphere, He bestows His grace upon the thousands assembled there through His divine vision. This is “**Sai Darshan.**” There is absolutely nothing in parallel to this in this world. Only those who have rejoiced and witnessed this phenomenon will know! Surely, such a delightful state of ecstasy is very rarely attained anywhere else! This kind of a divine blissful feeling can be obtained only by the darshan of an Avatar! Such soulful experiences must be felt and therefore cannot be articulated in its entirety!

Countless children of Sai, who have soaked themselves in such blissful rain of grace and have thrived in Lord Sri Sathya Sai's gushing spring of compassion, reminisce about those fortunate moments. However, they feel that there is 'no opportunity' for them to experience this hereafter!

For the past several years daily, auspicious celebrations continue to happen at Prasanthi Mandir. As devotees congregate, they claim that the divine form of Lord Sathya Sai that was seen and cherished by thousands of devout crazy-for-Him hearts is no longer visible to their physical eyes now. Hence their claim of the "*opportunity lost*" is a state of whining in despondency! Is this a valid grievance? Is it even acceptable?

Let's delve further. I had been invited to a center to speak on the 'Avatar Declaration Day', the day our Bhagawan had declared Himself as the Avatar (20th October).

I said that Swami, at the young age of thirteen years, had announced Himself as the reincarnation of Sai Baba of Shirdi on 20-10-1940. He had cast away worldly ties such as parents and family. As He stepped out of their house, His mother had asked, "*Can you leave us, your mother and father and go away?*" Our Bhagawan had replied, "*Your identity as a mother or a father is sheer maya.*" I also stated that the Lord Sathya Sai had renounced everything. This is the reason He is praised as '**Sarva Sanga Parithyaagine Namaha**' I said.

A devotee from the crowd came forward and asked, "*Sairam, the relationship of mother and father is very sacred! This has been the case not just today, but from time immemorial. This relationship has been praised and fostered around the world too! It's because of this primary relationship does one build all other relationships in life. Thus, when such is the sacred nature of this relationship, how is it possible to accept that as 'maya' or 'that which is illusory or false'? In that case, such a relationship does not hold any meaning. Could you throw light on this, please?*"

I was stunned! I had simply not expected to be in a tight spot with a question such as this on a complicated subject! That Sai devotee had indeed raised a complex question. During my student days my class teacher had once told me, "*to ask questions one must employ his brains.*" He had also said, "*It is not possible for fools to ask intellectual questions.*" I fully comprehended those statements only then. "*This Sai devotee seems to be quite an astute and bright person. Shouldn't our answer be befitting, one that satisfies him completely? Otherwise he would not be relieved of his doubt! Swami! Please help me! I have just recounted what you had declared at your tender age! You have put me in a difficult situation!*" I thought so in my mind and prayed to Swami.

Just the next second an interesting inspiration dawned in my mind! I scripted that into a dramatic scene and described it to the audience.

“Once, there lived a noble and rich father with his only son. The father’s heart brimmed with immeasurable love for his son, even after the son grew up and got married! Likewise, the son too was very attached and loving to his father! Both could not stay without seeing each other even for a second! They were inseparable. Although the son was married, if he were to be afflicted even by a twinge of the most ordinary headaches, the father would bring balms and potions of all kinds to be applied, took care of the son by keeping him by his side and would not leave him till his son was completely relieved. The father was tormented with pain just as much as his son. This was the affection he demonstrated towards his son.

“One night after dinner, as the father was leafing through the day’s newspaper, he complained of chest pain. The son was tormented. He did everything he could do as first aid and sent for medical help. Before the doctors could arrive, the father breathed his last. The son was shattered and didn’t know what to do. Not having been separated from his father even for a minute, the distress and sorrow of having lost such an affectionate father baked him alive.

“The ceremonies took place the next day. A few came forward to carry the father’s body for cremation. The son was harrowed in pain. He banged his head and wailed uncontrollably. His forehead split open and blood gushed out.

“On the 15th day, his close friend came from a foreign land. He was a great spiritual thinker.

“He realized that his friend was unable to overcome the grief of having lost his father and was mentally harrowed and exhausted. He consoled his friend in several ways. He enquired about everything that had happened. He also enquired about the gash over his forehead.

“The son replied to his friend that it had happened when he, in all his stubbornness and distress, had banged his head against the wall as he had tried stopping everyone from taking his father’s body for cremation.

*“The friend then asked him, ‘**Dear friend, your father was tormented with pain even if you twitched with a mild headache. He brought all kinds of balms and tried to bring relief! If this is true, then why did he not come to your succor when you had this gaping wound on your forehead? Why did he not apply any ointment over it?**’*

*“The son got enraged. ‘**Is this your twisted sense of humor?**’ he asked.*

“Why are you enraged? I asked so on having known your father quite well,” replied the friend.

“Pushing back his tears, the friend asked him choked with emotion, ‘Are you mad? Father is dead and gone now.’

“In the past when you had headaches your father ran hither and thither and got medicines for you. But, when you inflicted this gash upon your forehead, the very same physical form of your father did not even budge! If the body which tended to even the most ordinary of headaches was your “father”, aren’t you not confused with the fact that when blood was gushing from your forehead the same body of your “father” was lying motionless on the ground without exhibiting any kind of emotion? This is because you had established your relationship with your “father” on the premise of the bodily form. That physical form had demonstrated “paternal” love towards you. Since it is not the case now, it is quite clear that this body is not the “father”. So, when the physical form was functioning, that “power that enabled the form” was the cause for it to function like the “father” and treat your headache. However, that body’s functioning power – the life force has gone elsewhere now! What kind of a mystery is this? Who is the father – is it the body or the “power that enabled the body”? To which of these two did you shower your love and affection, my dear friend?” concluded his friend.

“The friend in distress was perplexed. ‘What are you saying? Although I am puzzled, I feel the pain of my loss ebbing away a bit!’ he said.

“Yes, dear friend! Both, the form that was visible and the power that enabled the form are not your father. Everything cannot be understood. We haven’t attempted to understand either. It is the divine play of the powerful maya (illusion)! Therefore, let go of your sorrow! Learn to savor life. Life is a challenge! Stay enthusiastic to face it” said the spiritual thinker,” I explained.

Further I stated, *“Dear Sai friends! It is to prove to us that the worldly relationships and the love demonstrated in a worldly sense are all nothing but ‘maya’, did our Bhagawan say to His mother that, “Mother and Father are maya.” Through this He became ‘Sarva Sanga Parithyagam”*

Everyone at that center clapped and displayed encouragement.

The Sai devotee who posed the question got up, offered his respects and said, *“Sairam! You have explained a tough subject with a real-life situation as an example for all of us to understand. I know it quite well that it is fundamentally wrong on our part to question what Swami did, or to even ponder if it was right or wrong when He had declared His mother and father as ‘maya’ and to ask for an explanation. He is the very creator of this web of maya. He is the one who tears down this veil of maya as*

well! We sing in praise of that Lord as ‘Maya maanusha veshha’! However, just as I had posed this question to you now, I had asked this to many people in the past. None have been able to give me a convincing answer. On the other hand, your answer has been very apt and meaningful! Sairam, I thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of everyone assembled here, for having given us a befitting explanation with an example and helping us understand a very complicated subject.”

As I was about to continue my speech further, the Convener of the Center came forward and announced something.

“Unlike the days of the past, there is a dip in the willingness of devotees to serve at Prasanthi. Even though Bhagawan’s physical form is not visible to the eyes of those who visit Prasanthi, He prevails everywhere in His formless state. He will recognize, accept and bless you for your Prasanthi service that is eventually an expression of your attitude of sacrifice. Please understand this clearly and take up Prasanthi service as your responsibility. Therefore, I request with humility that henceforth, there should be an increase in the number of devotees who take up Prasanthi service from our center,” said the Convener.

He then approached me and requested that it would be helpful if I spoke something that would increase the eagerness of devotees to participate in Prasanthi service.

And, I continued my speech.

*“Shraddha” or ‘earnest determination’ is essential to matters concerning devotion/bhakti! When the form was visible to the physical eyes, He was venerated as the Lord, sought after with zest and sang about in bliss. But now, if the perseverance in our devotion dwindles because He is not visible to our human eyes then that kind of devotion is fueled by selfishness and is not true devotion at all. It is just a strategy! It is considered as real devotion when there is a ‘**mountain of love**’ for ‘**divinity**’ beyond the name and form. So, we all understand that devotion displayed exuberantly through song and dance when the form was visible was devotion merely for selfish reasons.*

*“Was it because of the name and the form that thousands of human hearts were pulled towards our Swami from all over the world? Definitely not! It was due to that divinity’s magnificent power of attraction inherent in that form. The ‘**magnificent divine power**’ is beyond the faculties of senses. It cannot be fathomed with the senses. That magnificent power is omnipresent. It is so potent that it can take upon any form by mere will or sankalpa! Certainly, such is the greatness of the form that it incarnated as ‘**The Dasavatars**’! It is the ultimate power that pervades everywhere in the formless state. Therefore, is not necessary that it be made visible to us! It will always bless us! It is the one that is omniscient!*

*“The Purusha Suktam venerates the magnificence of that great power as **‘Sahasra Sheersha Purushaha Saharaaksha Sahasrapaath’**! That is, the great power is described as the one with a thousand heads, a thousand eyes, a thousand limbs and an all-pervasive **‘ultimate power’**. It is that very same entity that is present within us as the **‘Atma’** and sustains us. That very atma that is formless, slipped into a garb, appeared in our midst as Sathya Sai and desired that we seek for Him- the indweller. He who pinpointed to us our meandering in the web of worldly attractions devised by the pancha boothas and He who imparted wisdom is an apparition of the form that came to uplift us! Lord Sri Sathya Sai is the formless entity that took upon a form! Please don’t think that I am going to talk about the **‘Advaita’** philosophy. This is not the platform for discussing that. I am attempting here to talk about our grievance about the form of Sri Sathya Sai not visible to our physical eyes and the resulting impact on the enthusiasm of our devotion. The atma that is prevalent in us is that Lord Sathya Sai! We always love ourselves, so let us now begin to love ourselves knowing that the Lord is the eternal indweller! Let us build this habit of loving! This loving is essentially the loving of Lord Sathya Sai! We will most definitely get the vision of Lord Sathya Sai within us! Spirituality is the fruit of a relentless sadhana/spiritual pursuit!*

*“It is certain that the Lord Sathya Sai who is described as **Sadhaa Bhakta Chintanaaya Namaha’** (the one who constantly thinks of that devotee who is ever immersed in contemplation of the Lord) would rush to take a thousand steps towards that devotee who takes one single step towards the Lord!*

*“The donning and the discarding of the human form is entirely due to the magnificent will of that ultimate power. There is no need for our enthusiasm to diminish just because we are unable to see Him. We pray and worship Krishna as our Lord. We have not seen Rama or Krishna! Despite not having seen their forms, we are able to offer our **‘feelings of devotion’** towards them, imagining as if they existed in flesh and blood. When this is possible, can we not exhibit such devotion towards our Lord Sathya Sai who lived in the same era as us? We have seen him, enjoyed his darshans, danced to His glory, sang hymns in His praise, leapt to Parthi calling out to Him in euphoria as, **“Bhagawan, Bhagawan”**. Despite such experiences of devotion is it proper to create a caveat that His **‘form’** is not visible to our human eyes now? Something rooted in the senses is very weak and fragile. Can we ever let this happen?*

*“When one is firm-minded, devotion will bear fruit. Our Bhagawan would often say and inspire us with these words, **‘Shraddhavaan labathe gnanam’**! Meaning, when one is fired with an earnest determination (in one’s spiritual pursuit) then one attains wisdom. Along with that phrase He would also say, **‘Samshayaatma Vinashyathi’**! It means that a person with an ever-doubting mind will perish. We need not take the import as destruction alone. It can even be understood as incurring a loss. However, in matters of devotion, showing perseverance is nothing but developing a firm-focus. This would most definitely yield us positive results!*

*“That very same Lord Sathya Sai whom we venerated through song and dance, accepted as our Lord is verily there at Prasanthi even today, shining brightly as ‘Tejomaya’! Dear devotees please don’t harbor even an iota of doubt in this regard! The very same Lord is residing not only within us but everywhere. He is omnipresent and is showering His grace! Discard your vices of lust and anger and seek to comprehend the magnificent divine philosophy of Sri Sathya Sai prevalent everywhere. Please stand by and support the Convener’s enthusiasm for divine work! **Please consider and accept Prasanthi service as the most significant responsibility of yours, as the service that is going to necessarily uplift your lives. That Lord Sathya Sai will bestow you with all kinds of prosperity that you need. He will most definitely reveal Himself in some way or the other to those devotees who fervently and truthfully yearn for Him. This is the truth. Jai Sai Ram.**”* And I concluded my speech.

It was already 10 p.m. by the time I reached home! I finished my dinner, locked the grill gate, closed the doors of the hall where I slept and lay down on my bed. I was unable to sleep.

I introspected about everything I had spoken that day, reminiscing about all that had happened at that center that evening.

I was quite shocked with my vehement statement that, *“for all those devotees who truthfully and fervently yearn, He will somehow appear or reveal Himself. This is the truth.”*

“Swami! Why did you make me talk like that! I know not what I spoke. Was it right of me to have said all that? Did I unknowingly speak just so to cheer up those devotees? I had not prepared myself to speak in that manner! Was it appropriate for me to have spoken thus about You who is present everywhere and without a physical proof? How is it appropriate for me to attempt to explain something to others when it is not quite clear to my own self! Swami, I am unable to understand this! Who is going to clarify to me if it was right or wrong to have spoken in such a manner at the center today? Swami, will you please come to my help to clear this confusion of mine?” So, I lamented to myself carrying the burden of my own mental baggage and lay down shedding tears. I had no recollection of when I drifted to sleep. And I slept.

It was exactly 4 a.m. in the morning when I got up to relieve myself. What I saw stunned me! The hall door that I had closed stood open touching my cot. I was shocked! In the last twenty years that door has never opened by itself. It can be opened only with force and stamina. Wondering if it was the handiwork of a thief, I rushed to the backyard of the house to check on the back door. That door was closed. As I went to check the grill gate that was beyond the front door, what I saw there was the most extraordinary scene! The reclining bamboo swing that was hung there was swinging all by itself at a very rapid pace. I stood completely baffled. There was no breeze of any kind. Moreover, a heavy cushion was placed on that swing and so it was simply

impossible for it to rock by itself without somebody pushing it! Amazed, I quickly washed my hands, legs and face, applied vibhuti to my forehead and came over to witness The Divine dancing. The swing was rocking at the same steady rapid speed, nonstop for a very long time. Instantly, I dropped to the ground in front of the swing and did namaskar. I got up, with palms folded, stood chanting '**Sai Gayatri**'. That swing kept rocking by itself for more than ten minutes! That early dawn on a Thursday at brahma muhurtam, I was a recipient of the '**Formless Cosmic Sai's Darshan**'! As copious tears streamed down my face, I prayed with folded palms, "*Swami, You are surely present everywhere. After praying to You with all my heart yesterday, just how beautifully have You performed a miracle such as this in my own house and clarified the confusion lingering in my mind. Lord, I had told that audience, '**Even though He is not visible to our physical eyes, Bhagawan is present everywhere**' and, '**For Those devotees who have a truthful yearning for Swami who is not visible to the physical eyes, Swami will reveal Himself in some way or the other**'. Finally, when I appealed to You, '**if whatever I had declared without any proof was correct at all**', You have graciously displayed your consensus now and right here with Your most extraordinary dance on this swing. How can I describe this divine play of Yours orchestrated in your formless state! How can I ever praise this, Swami! It is only when someone takes the pain and strength to open that door will it open and it was kept open for me to see. This is an extraordinary event where You had kept the door open beforehand, to enable me to witness the divine dance. Crores of thanks to you dear Swami for having conducted this wonderful miracle,*" I prostrated to the Lord who was swinging in His cosmic form, offered my thanks to Him again and again, praised Him and stood there immersed in bliss! After that, by the fifth minute the swinging slowly stopped. However, my heart continued jumping up with joy, having reached the heights of happiness!

As the day dawned, I proceeded to decorate the swing. Wasn't it The Swing, one where the Cosmic Lord Sri Sathya Sai Himself had lounged in joy! Who knows when He would come again and swing on it? Yes, He is our Leela Mohana Sai! Therefore, I replaced the old cushion with a brand new one. Kept a long soft velvet runner neatly folded over and made it a couch for the Lord to recline whenever He willed! My heart too danced in devotion filled with ecstasy!

Family members who had been away arrived home that morning. They enquired the reason behind the newly decorated swing. Everyone expressed amazement and chanted "*Sairam*" filled with devotion.

Although they might have felt bad that they weren't fortunate enough to witness that dance, they seemed to discuss amongst themselves with an inkling of doubt- if it were possible for the swinging to happen all by itself and if it was possible for the Cosmic Swami to have sat on that swing and danced too.

I was pained by their doubts.

In their midst, I stood facing the swing with palms folded together in prayer and said, “Swami! Just a while ago, early this morning You had honored this place by taking a seat on this swing in your cosmic form and rocked it. Just as you had come and sat on this, I request you to please come again and be seated much more comfortably now and swing once again. Do you like this cushion that has been replaced now along with this new decoration, Swami? If you find the furnishings to your liking, please somehow reveal your acceptance, My Lord!” I wholeheartedly prayed to Him. All of us sat together in front of the swing and sang some bhajans.

A few minutes rolled by! There, over that velvet spread, two bright rose petals materialized themselves out of nowhere! Until a few seconds ago there was simply no trace of any rose flower anywhere around. This was a magnificent miracle conducted by Him for my family members who were present there. He clarified doubting minds. He asserted to them that the gracious swinging that I had witnessed that early morning was indeed a ‘**truthful happening**’. As though in response to my most loving and heartfelt prayer regarding the decoration I had done with zest, He performed this miracle of the rose petals. This seemed as though He was concurring with me that He was indeed pleased! He transformed that place into His sanctum sanctorum, blessed and graced us. It is certain that the Leela Mohana Sai is always completely present at every place and inside everyone! He had proved it too!

We come to know from epics and religious texts about the supernatural powers of Sri Ram, Sri Krishna, Buddha, Lord Jesus and several others whom we have accepted as divine incarnations. We come to know of their life events. These exalted men continue to shine as beacons for people to lead a righteous life.

Many of us could have lived during the times of these great Avatars! We could have directly witnessed miracles performed by those Lords and attained bliss too!

But, lo! Perhaps the impressions from our experiences of past lives do not board onto the tracks of the impressions of the mind reserved for consecutive births and could have gotten erased instead! Hence, in our present lives we are unable to feel elated or depressed for the feelings experienced in a bygone era! Let it be so! This must be brushed aside as one of those strange and mysterious ways of the illusionary games of creation, where man is merely a play doll! What else can be done in our state of helplessness?

As mentioned above, a few intellectuals and great men of skill lived as contemporaries of the Avatars and decided to write about the life story of the Avatars. They had taken upon themselves the herculean task of recording an Avatar’s life story for the benefit of mankind, so that several thousand years later the holy Lord’s life stories would serve as precious guiding lights illuminating the lives of ordinary mortals like us. They serve as a yardstick for the virtuous conduct of men. Therefore, when we seek it, we derive bliss and benefit too!

As per the phrase '*Today's events become tomorrow's history*', with the passage of time advanced doctrines emerge from various facets of historical events. These doctrines appropriately enable history to become an epic (Puranam)! Puranam when dissected grammatically (in Sanskrit) is Pura+Navam. 'Pura' means in the past and 'Navam' means new! Therefore, Puranam refers to events that were new when they had occurred in the past. The happenings of those times were new 'then'. This is the comprehension. We can form the understanding that with the spinning wheel of time, now that (what was new) has become old!

Therefore, the word Puranam clearly and firmly establishes the meaning that the happenings of the past were 'the newest of events' then, without a ray of doubt. This reiterates the fact that ancient events of the Puranas had indeed happened during those times.

The glorious life events of an Avatar that had occurred in the bygone eras are still available to us as Puranas now in this twenty first century. Likewise, there must be a "Sri Sathya Sai Ramayana" and "Sri Sathya Sai Bhagawatham" detailing the most sacred happenings of the Lord Sri Sathya Sai Rama's incarnation. It should include His miracles, works of His Avataric mission and the actual significance of His Avatar that humanity has accepted and acknowledged. Must this not be coupled with the several magnificent details about the Great Lord Incarnate to be written for the benefit of the future generations destined to be born on this earth? In the ancient times of the Great Avatars, all extraordinary miracles of the esteemed Divinity were witnessed and experienced with an ever-oozing spring of devotion by contemporaries such as Valmiki and Vyasa. In a similar vein, are there no Valmiki or Vyasa in today's times - those who have lived in the same era as The Great Lord Sri Sathya Sai Avatar and who have 'witnessed' and experienced His miracles? Doesn't Avatar signify encompassing such aspects of preparedness well in advance? It is my firm belief that there is someone out there who is ordained to carry this out!

There are several thousands who have benefited in various ways with the advent of Lord Sri Sathya Sai's Avatar. There have been many who have benefited from (Baba's) Balvikas, school, degree, masters and post-doctoral education programs, all completely free of cost. Today, they could very well have achieved great heights in their current quality of lives. Likewise, several scholars and intellectuals of great merit have been bestowed with the rare opportunity of being dear to our Bhagawan at various occasions. They would have experienced Darshanam, Sparshanam and Sambhashanam- the core attributes of grace showered by an Avatar. So, here is a humble request from an 82-year-old staggering Sai devotee, at the fag end of his life. This is a request that envelops a thought as well as an idea. It is that all these Sai devotees who have been the recipients of His love and grace should come together and offer their gratitude towards Bhagawan by undertaking this effort of creating the 'Sathya Sai Ramayanam' and 'Sathya Sai Bhagawatham'. This is akin to an underlying

spirit of unity that enables to perform sacrifice with good intentions, as in the case of war! If our Bhagawan's Sankalpa is so, then this desire and fundamental notion of mine will most definitely see the light of day!

As I bring to fore these good thoughts and ideas of mine, chances are that Sai's Sankalpa would make them come true! I implore Leela Mohana Sai to let this happen! I am filled with boundless enthusiasm as such auspicious thoughts emanate from my being.

The details of the awe-inspiring miracles, glory and merit of the Sri Sathya Sai Poornaavatar should be compiled.

The miracles and happenings in the life of the young Poornaavatar (Bala Sai), the events pertaining to His declaration as the Avatar, the holy events at the Old Mandir, the details of miracles that Bhagawan had performed as a young child when He visited various places in Tamil Nadu attracting devotees in the process, description of events behind opening of schools in and around Puttaparthi, details about establishment of facilities required for basic sanitation, social welfare programs executed to resolve water woes in villages near Puttaparthi, the construction of the Whitefield Ashram and details of miracles associated with it, establishment of colleges and universities for girls and boys, details associated with the construction of Kulwant Hall, the expansion of Prasanthi Nilayam, magnificent miracles that catapulted the tiny hamlet of Puttaparthi onto the world map, establishment of the rail and airport facilities at Parthi, inauguration of Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College, the inclusion of the free masters degree program in them, the state of the art medical centers at Puttaparthi and Whitefield, details pertaining to lodging and dining facilities provided to the thousands flocking to Prasanthi every day, the daily darshans, discourses, the innumerable miracles performed by **Leela Mohana Sai** and most importantly a complete compilation of the innumerable discourses delivered by the Poornaavatar, the extraordinary details of transformation through the Balvikas program, the first World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization held in 1968 at Andheri, Mumbai, inauguration of the 'Sathyadeep' building, creation of Sathya Sai Service Organizations all over the world, Swami's visit to Africa in 1968, the Telugu Sai Ganga Water project that provided drinking water to the city of Chennai and several other remarkable details pertaining to this Poornaavatar's Sankalpa should be included in the Sri Sathya Sai Ramayanam and the Sri Sathya Sai Bhagawatham!

I bow down in reverence to those innumerable great men and women, the highly skilled and intelligent individuals standing tall in their lives and to all who continue to be recipients of the blessings, love and gifts of compassion from that Great Lord who incarnated as a human. I humbly beseech all devotees to collaborate in this noble task with dedication and passion, to offer this as an expression of thy gratitude. I hereby offer my obeisance to you all by reverentially touching your feet and request that you fulfill this most sacred task.

In line with the above-mentioned efforts, an exclusive compilation of ‘Sri Sathya Sai Krishna Leela’ fully encapsulating the miracles performed by the Sri Sathya Sai Avatar, covering the length and breadth of His incarnation needs to be authored. Such a holy treatise should blossom and efforts should be made to fulfill it. Just as how waves cannot be separated from the ocean and sandal emanates its sweet fragrance so naturally, leelas too are an integral part of an Avatar! Is not reading about the Lord’s miracles is worship steeped in devotion because the mind becomes one with divinity?

The 20th century that Bhagawan had incarnated in has witnessed many revolutions! Foreigners who had ruled this country by enslaving us for more than two centuries left our country. India inhaled the refreshing breath of freedom in this century! This political revolution was one of the firsts among the many revolutions that ensued! It’s quite irrelevant attempting to write about them here.

Sri Sathya Sai Avatar’s Sankalpa is a divine and a spiritual revolution of this day and age! Since this was an Avatar for the modern times, the makeover was quite apparent. No crown adorned the head! No shimmering ornaments made of gems to bedeck! On the contrary, He appeared with beautiful crowning hair! With a silk cloth flowing downwards from His waist, He donned a captivating monochrome silk robe from neck to toe. His was a mesmerizing appearance right from the first sight. This was a revolution! A revolution in Avatarhood that brought about a paradigm shift in “***Dushta Nigraham Sishta Paripaalanam***”! There was a change in stance in this revolution where He did not come armed with any kind of weaponry to punish the wicked or protect the good. This is the greatest revolution of compassion among all the Avatars where The Supreme chose to wield the power of love for the greater good. Instead of employing the might of weapons, He unleashed the force of love for goodness and affirmed that there was no need for anything else. ‘**LOVE**’ came purely as Love, to exemplify this revolution of pure love!

It was His sankalpa to transform only with this power of **PURE LOVE**! He often declared to us that ‘***Love is my only weapon***’. He clearly displayed to us that every His single action in His earthly sojourn was an expression of love. His life remains a striking testimony to the saying, ‘*Even the bones of loving persons are for the welfare of others*’. A revolution where Love was The Lord!

Our Bhagawan would often say, “***I do not need anything from you. I have come here only to give***”! These words are the spate of love emerging from the embodiment of a thousand mothers. I have been graced with the opportunity of having heard these words from the Lord Supreme in those days face to face, at a private audience with Him. ‘***He would often say these loving words “I do not need anything from you”***’ As I write these words my heart whimpers on being inundated with emotion. Fingers holding the pen shiver! Pearls of tears smudge the paper. The heart has a maddening yearning to simply run and take the darshan of that noble Lord

Supreme. Age is 82. Unknown to me my lips moan like a maddened person, “*Leela Mohana Sai, when you had rocked my bed and sung the lullaby during those days, can you allow this body to stagger now?*” Then, I wake up wide-eyed. The Divine Lord in front of me in a photo here is smiling! He even shows His protection (Abhaya hasta)! That divine vision gives me the feeling that He is with me always. When I am staggering, He brings peace to me! *Jai Sai Ram!*

Yes! I had mentioned those loving words ‘*He often said*’! Crores of Sai devotees living all over the world know very well the truth behind these truthful words of Lord Sathya Sai. He held high the magnificent import of the words He had uttered. He lived by those words. He was the very embodiment of Truth, who lived the most ideal life in every way! Yes! That honorable and noble person has not expected anything from anyone. He did not receive anything either!

Yet, He loved to accept one thing from everyone! He was willing as well! Yes! It was our pristine **LOVE**! How many of us have offered that to Him wholeheartedly as a tribute? Our own consciousness in the form of a deep internal inquiry will reveal it to us!

Love is God – That is Sathya Sai!

Shall we sing and praise His glory thus!

Prem Ishwar Hai! (Love is God!)

Ishwar Prem Hai! (God is Love!)

Sathya Sai Avatar Prem Aur Ishwar Hai!

(Sathya Sai Avatar is The Loving God!)

Always in Sai Service,
With Love,
Sai Mohan

Jai Sai Ram!

District Of Vizhupuram, Kallakurichi,
Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi

A Thank You Note From Devotees

Sai Sathsanga Bheeshma Pitaa Maha Sri Sai Mohan of Chennai, the recipient of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's boundless grace, blessings and love becomes fortunate with the authoring of this book 'Leela Mohana Sai- Part 2' owing to the divine grace and sankalpa of Bhagawan Baba.

The devotees of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi at Kallakurichi, Vizhupuram district have been the recipients of the love of Sri Sai Mohan's unparalleled path of devotion through Mr. Dr. Balasubramaniam, a devotee from Tirunelveli. To further develop and strengthen this bond, we the devotees of the Kallakurichi Sai Seva Samithi, voluntarily undertook the honorable Sai service of typesetting his handwritten manuscript of 'Leela Mohana Sai- Part 2'.

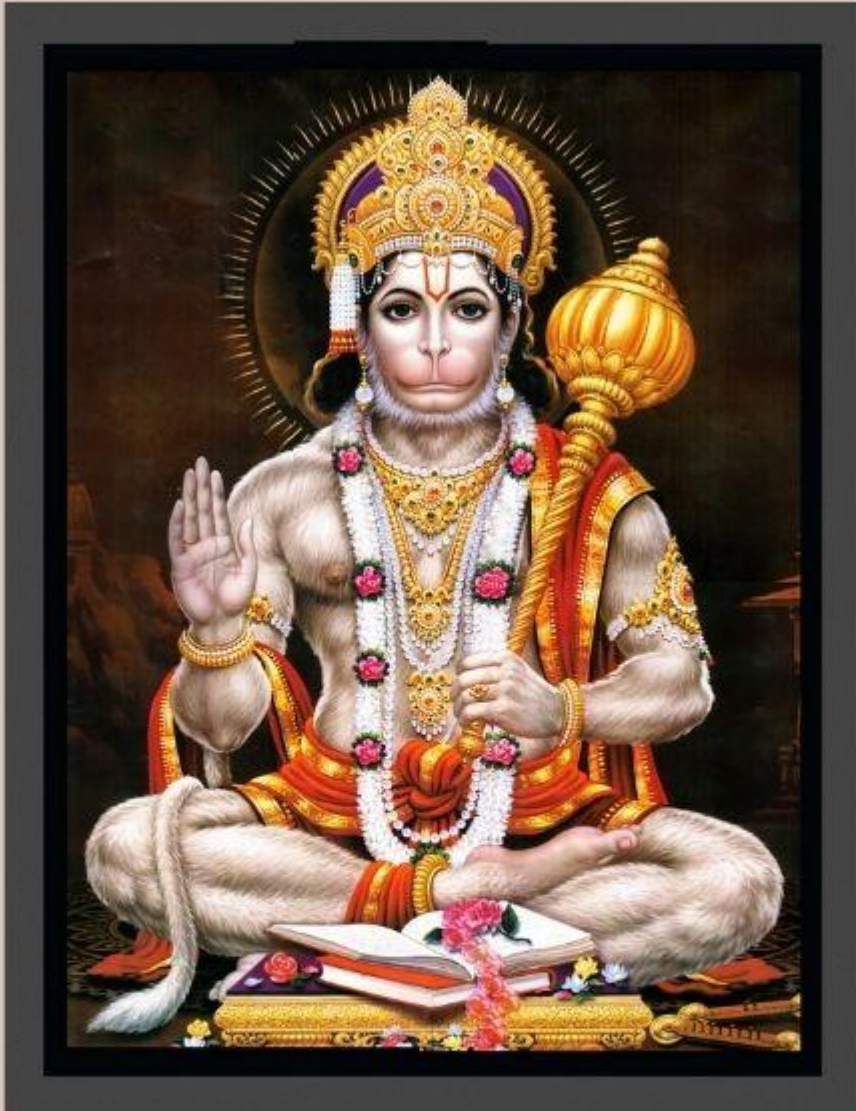
In relation to that work, it became necessary for Sri Sai Mohan himself to correct errors in the computerized version. Hence, he came to Kallakurichi, stayed in this town for more than 40 days and carried out the proofreading and corrections work. For the Sai devotees of this center, this was a boon sent from the heavens!

Sri Sai Mohan shared Bhagawan's leelas, the incredible hair-raising experiences he has had personally and imparted Bhagawan's sacred teachings to this center's people regularly. Thus, he made us rejoice in bliss. He bestowed a rare opportunity upon this town's Center people.

As per the teachings of Bhagawan, he always has a flowering smile on his face. His interactions are always an outpour of unconditional love, one that attracts everyone towards him. All those who have interacted with him have realized that he has entirely assimilated the sublime essence of Sri Sathya Sai Avatar's divine teachings - **'LOVE ALL'**!

As a token of our love, through this, all of us from this town's Center express our immense gratitude to Sri Sai Mohan.

Kallakurichi, Varanjaram, Maamaandhur Road,
Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sri Sai Mohan has been nurturing devotion towards Bhagawan Baba for more than 50 years. He has witnessed countless miracles of Bhagawan at close quarters. The book contains incredible personal miracles he has absorbed and revelled in the ecstasy of having witnessed them directly. Along with these spectacular miracles, he has also added Bhagawan's messages rendered for us.