

JULY 2015

SAIDHARMAM

GURU POORNIMA

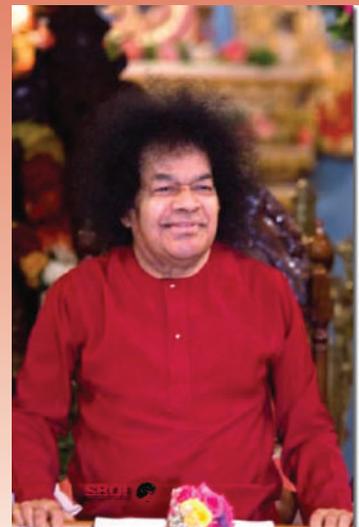
Hindus attach paramount importance to their spiritual gurus. Gurus are often equated with God and always regarded as a link between the individual and the Immortal. In the months of July and August, a full moon signifies the celebration of Guru Purnima, a day of respect for gurus. Swami has given us many insights to Guru Purnima through his various discourses. One of his many insights is the importance of forbearance. In Swami's eyes, forbearance is a great beauty. However, as time evolved, the modern man has forgotten the true meaning. He discusses the importance of showing sympathy and gratitude towards the poor and physically challenged, yet we fail to do so. Many believe that bhakti is portrayed through worshipping idols and prayers but often forget the forbearance involved. This quality is what helps men undertake noble deeds. Love is another factor discoursed, as its true meaning can be misleading. True love solely exists between two hearts. The love between God and the human race is especially sustained. It is this love that one should cultivate and strengthen. It is only when you cultivate such noble love that you will be entitled to be called true "Embodiments of love". Swami characterizes a guru as "the Almighty incarnated in human form, with the Divine message of liberating mankind from the sorrowful and miserable existence in ignorance and illusion in granting them the nectar of immortal identification of Supreme Bliss". A true Guru has a distinct attribute in which he/she has the ability to see around themselves because they have realized that everything is His own reflection and manifestation.

BHAJAN CORNER

Guru Deva Sharanam Deva
 Paahi Prabho Sharanam Deva
 Guru Deva Sharanam Deva
 Sundara Roopa Shree Sai Deva
 Sharanam Sharanam Sadguru Deva

Meaning:

We surrender to our guru and God
 Protect us Lord, Lord Sai,
 Your form is beauty itself
 We surrender to our true guru, God





VISIT TO THE HANUMAN TEMPLE

An ancient tradition spoke that it was sacred to bathe and circle any temple in the holy month of Magha. At a young age, Sathya Sai Baba convinced His friends to partake in this ritual. One morning, they all got dressed in their best clothes and went down to a small Hanuman temple located in the village of Puttaparthi. Despite His young age, He took much responsibility for all other boys, especially the young ones. He even bathed the little children incapable of bathing themselves. Once finishing their bath, they went to circle the idol of Hanuman, however Swami stayed back knowing a problem might arise between Him and Hanuman. He ushered his friends to go however His friends did not take this suggestion to well for they were incomplete without Him. After

pleading and pleading, His heart melted and He reculantly went. As soon as they started walking around the idol, the idol came to life and a large monkey stood determined in Swami's pathway, blocking Him from going any further. The monkey, or Lord Hanuman himself insisted He should be the one to circle Swami. The children were all awestruck and followed Swami out the temple as he knew, Lord Hanuman was not pleased with Him circling him. Divine feelings emerged from the hearts of the children and they were revealed a new kind of devotion, true bhakti.

WHO IS SAI BABA

Sai Baba-the embodiment of Love. Sai Baba is the Generator, Operator, and Destroyer (GOD). He is the one who the beings in heaven, earth and the underworld worship and appreciate His immense power. Today, millions from all over the world, professing various faiths and hailing from all walks of life, worship Bhagavan Baba as an 'Avatar', and the reincarnation of Sai Baba of Shirdi.

He has constantly said that His life is His message, but what is his message in life? He has said it simply to love and serve our fellow human beings selflessly and it is the fulfillment of these

duties that can bring us out of the cycle of life and death and deliver us to the Lord. As the embodiment of love, he has headed several service projects such as the free hospitals, free schools, free drinking water supply projects and free housing projects.

In a world filled with negativity and sorrow, it is Sai who can deliver us happiness and peace, which is something that is much-needed. If we try to follow his path of helping ever and hurting never, and to love all and serve all, we, too, can become beacons of hope to our fellow human beings and united we can achieve our life goal of liberation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of July is marked by the most auspicious day of 'Guru purnima'. Guru is verily the supreme Brahman. Guru is not a physical form. Guru is energy, the medium through which jnana or knowledge flows to the shishya or disciple. If you take the shishya to be an ice-cold stone and jnana to be boiling hot water, then the guru pours this hot water onto the cold stone gradually, drop by drop, lest the stone cracks with the heat. Guru takes full responsibility of the shishya, monitors him every second. Guru literally carries the shishya on the journey of evolution. He is a mirror that will show you your true self and helps you elevate yourself.

In the Bhagavad-gita (4.34) Sri Krishna Himself tells us the method of seeking out and approaching the guru:

tad viddhi pranipatena
pariprasnena sevaya-
upadeksyanti te jnanam
janainas tattva-darsinah

"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth."

"yasya prasada bhagavat-prasada: "By the mercy of the spiritual master, one receives the benediction of God." Thus, if we surrender to the bona fide guru, we surrender to God. God accepts our surrender to the guru.

"When the road ends, and the goal is gained, the pilgrim finds that he has travelled only from himself to himself."

- Sathya Sai Baba

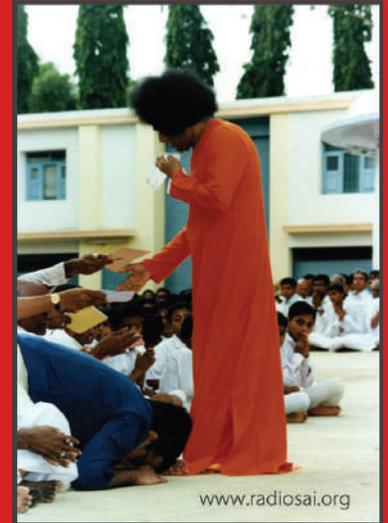
DEVOTEE SPEAKS

An ancient tradition spoke that it was sacred to batl have a very intimate story of an experience with Sai. It occurred in 1982 while I was travelling in India and Puttaparthi was one of the stops that I was making. I was sitting in the front row while Swami was passing through one day and was the first (and last) time during that visit that I had a chance to sit in the first row. At that time, it was easy to get to the front row if you lived close, but my hotel flat was located across the town so it always took me a while to get there.

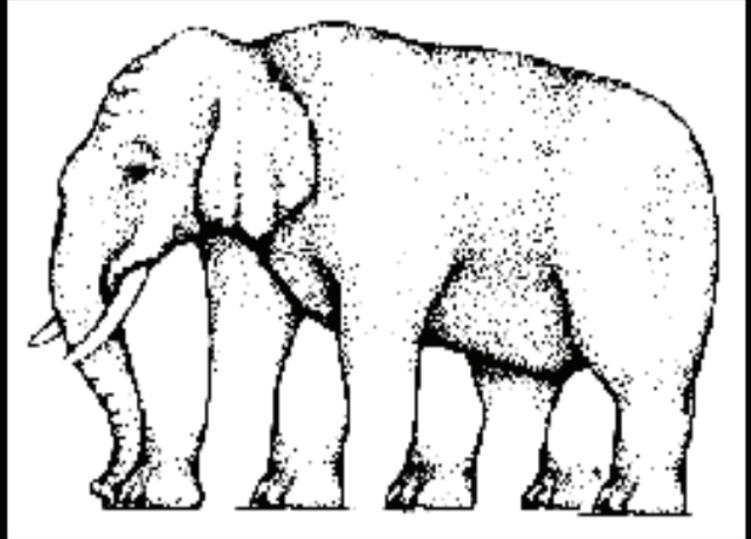
When Swami was passing by, he paused to talk to some other devotees right beside me and I realized that this could be a perfect moment to touch His feet. I knew that I had to ask permission so I looked up and at that moment, He looked back at me smiling. For some reason, my throat closed and I lost the ability to ask Him if I could touch His feet. Not saying anything for a full minute, I lowered my eyes and stared at the ground, and He moved on through the crowd.

In my head, I suddenly heard His voice saying "Never ever lose golden opportunities as they may not come back again- make full use of every chance you get in life and do not let them slip by". I realized that He had taught me a lesson and in "losing" that opportunity to touch his feet, I had learned a golden lesson.

From that day on, I was determined to take full advantage of every single opportunity I received in life and made sure not to let go of any chances that passed me by. In fact, the next time I went to Puttaparthi (in 1997), I got a chance for Padanamaskar!



How Many Legs Does the Elephant Have?



JULY

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | 1 - Universal Prayer 7:30-8:30pm Canada Day | 2 - Youth Bhajan 7:30-9pm | 3 | 4 |
| 5 - Veda Class 6:30-7:30am - Sai Picnic 10am-5pm | 6 | 7 - Veda Class 6:30-7:30pm | 8 | 9 - Bhajans 7:30-9pm | 10 | 11 |
| 12 - Veda class 6:30-7:30am | 13 | 14 - Veda Class 6:30-7:30pm | 15 | 16 - Study Circle 7:30-8:15pm - Bhajans 8:15-9pm | 17 | 18 |
| 19 - Veda Class 6:30-7:30am | 20 | 21 - Veda Class 6:30-7:30pm | 22 | 23 - Gayathri Chanting 7-7:30pm - Bhajan 7:30-9pm | 24 - Vahini Reading 7:15-9pm | 25 - Narayana Seva |
| 26 - Veda Class 6:30-7:30am - Senior home Bhajan 3:30-4:10pm | 27 | 28 - Veda Class 6:30-7:30pm | 29 | 30 - SSE Children Bhajan 7:30-9pm | 31 Guru Poornima | |