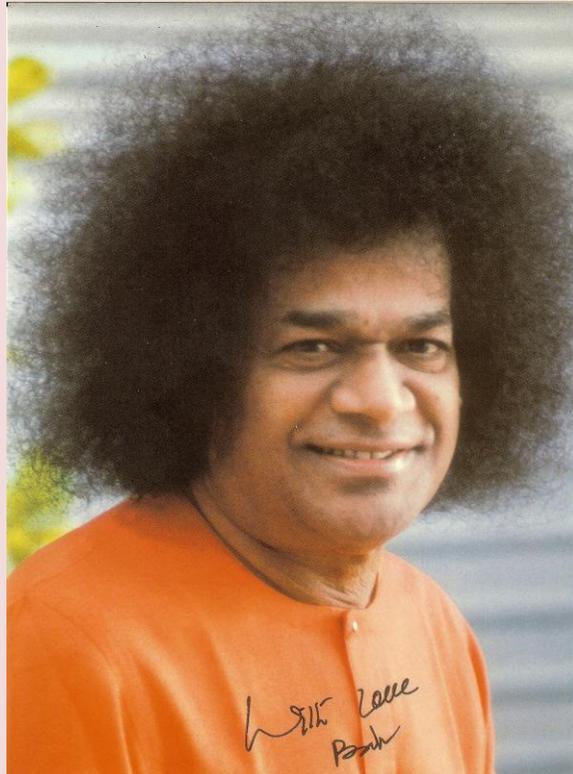


**SRI SATHYA SAI IS ALWAYS OURS!  
HAVE WE ANY TIME BECOME HIS?**

*By Principal (Dr.) Shripad Zarapkar*



**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

**Loving Sairam and Greetings on the New Year Day...!!!**

On the onset of the Year 2013, I feel, it will not be out of place to examine ourselves in order to find out our spiritual progress, particularly after the departure of Revered Bhagavan from His Physical Presence. As we always feel that **SRI SATHYA SAI IS ALWAYS OURS! But do we reciprocate and try to become His?**

## **GOD IS ALWAYS OURS**

This is a spiritual truth. In Spirituality where external laboratory experiments cannot be performed, the veracity of Truth can be accepted if there is identity between *Shastraprachiti* (records in Scriptures), *Guruprachiti* (the records of the scriptures being experienced as True by the Gurus), and *Atmaprachiti* (Guru's word experienced as True by the seekers) Thus in the Spiritual field a concept is considered True if there is identity between *Shastraprachiti*, *Guruprachiti* and *Atmaprachiti* about the veracity of the concept.

### **Shastraprachiti**

God is always ours because Vedas, Upanishads, Shrutis, Srimad Bhagavad Geeta, Bible, Quran, Granthsaheb, Avesta Pahlavi and many other Religious Scriptures have permanently inscribed it thousands of years before unknown to man. It is recorded therein that we are His creation. The universe is constituted by God and therefore His Existence and His being ours is the Universal Constitution of the entire creation. So He is our owner and we, the people of the Universe, are certainly His. This is *Shastraprachiti*.

### **Guruprachiti**

All the Avatars including Sai Avatars (Sri Shirdi Sai and Sri Sathya Sai) have proclaimed without reservations that every living and non-living entity is God (*Sarvam Khalvidam Brahman*). Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba used to constantly declare **“Not only I am God, but you are also God; the only difference is that I know that I am God while you do not know that you**

**are God. You are ignorant about your Divinity. You will realise it when you clear off all the dust accumulated on your mind-mirror.”** All the Realised Sages, Sadgurus, Saints after completing their Spiritual Sadhana (Practice) experience this Truth and also share their experiences with their disciples about the Omnipresence, Omniscience and Omnipotence of God and encourage them to do the same Sadhana. This is *Guruprachiti*.

### **Atmaprachiti**

The sincere and devout disciples, who were virtually Spiritual Scientists, like Kalyan Swami of Saint Ramdas, Janabai of Saint Namdev, Bahinabai of Saint Tukaram , Eknath Maharaj of Saint Janardan Swami, Swami Vivekanand of Sri Ramkrishna Paramahansa, Swami Yoganand of Sri Yukteshwar and several thousands over the last several centuries have done rigorous Sadhana and attained Self-Realisation i.e. the experience of themselves as being God and awareness of all the Creation as the same God. This is *Atmaprachiti*. They did not blindly believe in Shastras i.e., *Shastraprachiti* or their Guru’s Preachings i.e., *Guruprachiti* but they did experiments in their own Spiritual Laboratory and found the truthfulness of Scriptures and their Guru’s experience.

On the basis of identity of all these three *Prachitis* (realisations), it is therefore universally proved, confirmed and concluded that

**GOD IS. GOD HAS CREATED EVERYTHING.**

**WE ARE A PART OF THAT EVERYTHING.**

**THEREFORE GOD IS ALWAYS OURS. AND SO WE MUST BE HIS.**

Obviously, then, God cannot disown us as being a part of Him in exactly the same manner as a mother cannot disown her child, a tree cannot disown its fruit, an ocean cannot disown a river.

### **No Duality**

The statement '**God is always ours**' should not be misinterpreted to mean that there is duality between 'God' on one side and 'We' on the other side. There cannot be duality at all. There has to be perfect unity between the two. This is because the ingredients of God must have all entered into Man since Man is a fraction (may be smallest possible) of God. These ingredients are **Eternal Existence, Truth, Divine Love, Unending Bliss and Perpetual Peace**, to quote in terms of human words having limited meanings. All these must be in every creation of His, because the creation is emerged from Him by His Divine Sankalpa: '*Ekoham Bahusyam*' (meaning I am One, let me be many.) These ingredients must be present (may be in a nuclear form *Anurenuyan*) in the Man; otherwise 'Man' would be construed as Independent Entity unconnected with God. This is against the *Shastraprachiti, Guruprachiti and Atmaprachiti*. In fact, such duality was the understanding of Kansa, Hiranyakashyapu, Ravana and many other otherwise erudite Scholars who challenged the very existence of God due to ignorance of their own Divinity and therefore had to pay a very heavy price!

### **Why Suffering?**

Having accepted all this, the question, now, arises: If we are God, why do we experience suffering from imperfection, incompleteness, deficiency,

incapacity, unhappiness, lack of peace and restlessness? Where are those enviable ingredients of God which are settled in us? The answer can be given in the form of another question: **“HAVE WE ANYTIME BECOME HIS?”**

### **The Doctrine of Karma**

**God is always ours**—not only because we are a fraction of Him, but because He dwells in our heart as Atma (Individual Consciousness) as declared by Lord Sri Krishna in Srimad Bhagavad Geeta *“Hruddeshe cha Arjuna Tishthate”*. He is Paramatma (Supreme Consciousness) but dwells in his creation as Atma (Individual Consciousness). Though He dwells in our heart (Spiritual heart, not the Physical heart) as Atma, the latter has webbed himself by five sensory organs (Eyes, Ears, Nose, Tongue, and Skin performing functions of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and feeling touch respectively). These sensory organs are extrovert, receiving external vibrations and accentuating the motor organs (Hands, Feet, Mouth and the two excretory organs) through the Mind and Intellect to do acts according to the promptings of the vibrations. These acts (*Karma*) react, reflect, and resound and rebound in terms of consequences (*Karmaphala*).

If the acts are good, pious, virtuous and in consonance with moral and ethical standards, the man gets good fruits making him happy, contented, and peaceful. In the pursuit of remaining in this state permanently, he, being good, pious and virtuous, turns to spirituality and in due course with God’s Grace, realises himself as God. If however, the acts are, lustful, greedy selfish, wicked and not in consonance with moral and ethical standards, he gets bad fruits in the form of difficulties, non—fulfillment of

expectations, lack of progress and prosperity, full of worries, tensions, depressions, physical disorders etc. Like a Spider he gets caught up in the web constructed by himself. At this stage, if he remembers the teachings of Scriptures, Avatars, Gurus and Saints and tries to become God's by following them, the moment he extends his hand to greet God, he immediately gets his hand caught by God's hand, already extended, and the positive and negative energies come together only to bring illumination in his heart. God is always his but at that moment he realises that he also is God's and then the fountains of happiness, prosperity, fullness, peace, bliss, ecstasy bathe him forever.

### **What God expects**

Avatars, Gurus, Saints always raise their voice and proclaim that God is everybody's and that He has thousand eyes, thousand hands, thousand feet and always ready to welcome, bless and shower bliss to everyone without any expectation or selfishness. What, if at all, he expects is that everybody should try to be His, now that He is everybody's. When man becomes His i.e., when he integrates with God, the thought-waves of the two become collinear, many a time one superimposing on the other. Whatever man thinks is what God thinks through him, whatever man does is what God does through him. Then what else can there be, if not success, fulfillment, happiness, abundance, peace and liberation?

### **How to become His**

So far as Sai devotees are concerned, the answer is simple: They have to follow the life and teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Most of them have

been fortunate enough to have His Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan. He used to always say that **“My Life is my Message”** It means that if we study carefully His life, ever since His childhood till His Departure to His Abode, we will get a complete guide about how we should conduct ourselves to become His. Briefly, it can be stated as under:

1. **Respect for Parents:** In spite of His Avatarhood, He respected His mother, father, grandfather, grandmother and treated them as God. He fulfilled all the desires of Easwamma, His mother in a scale more than she wanted. We should practice this quality in our families in the same spirit. Baba will be very happy, then.
2. **Respect for Teachers:** He respected His Teachers and other elderly persons just like a humble pupil, obeying their orders in toto. When the All Powerful God becomes humble and modest to ordinary mortal man in authority we should be ashamed of our ego, pride, high—handedness, obstinacy and other tyrannical attitudes while dealing with the people. We must learn to bow down and express modesty, humbleness before the people around.
3. **Give, Give and Give:** Throughout His life, Baba has always given to people whatever they wanted and has given what He wanted to give them viz., the unbounded Divine Love. In a personal capacity He used to say “I give, give and give but do not receive”. True, God is always the Giver and not the Receiver. Who can give Him what? What is it that He needs and which we can give Him? Nothing except the Divine

Love back to Him. How can we offer Divine Love to God? Not by Worship, Rituals, Repetition of Japa, giving Charity, construction of Temples etc. These are all desire-oriented practices. We can offer Divine Love to God by heartily treating every living being and the Nature as God and doing selfless service to them. We should serve them in exactly the same manner as we serve ourselves without any difference at all. Just as while serving ourselves we value our existence, status, position, growth, name, fame, reputation, gain (or loss), security, safety, happiness and peace; we must also give due regard to all these objectives in the person we are serving. We must serve with the feeling that the person we are serving is not any 'other' person or competitor or enemy or an opposite party but another form of ourselves. Our day-to-day human conduct, we must admit, is far from this. Swami never behaved this way. He used to see Himself in every one. Of course being God it is His very nature. We are human beings with all limitations. But since we are the repositories of God, Swami advises us to practice this Prem Yog directly while dealing with everyone rather than practicing other traditional Yogas and Spiritual) Paths and waiting for transformation of our minds to love everyone. Who knows how much time it will take, whether one birth or more! This unique type Prem Yog being directly administered to every being covers Karma Yog, Seva Yog, Bhakti Yog, Raj Yog, Laya Yog, Dhyana Yog and finally gives the fruits of Jnana Yog—Constant Integrated Awareness of God all the time at all the places with all the beings.

#### 4. **Education for making Minds, not for making money**

During the school days Baba realised the futility of the faulty system of education imparted in Schools, Colleges and Universities and completely restructured it in the form of Integral Education— a blend of education of worldly subjects with Spiritual Education by introducing the principles and practice of Human Values (Love, Truth, Righteousness, Non-Violence and Peace) from the Primary School stage to the University stage. For that purpose he established Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Colleges, Vocational Institutes and a University in the districts of Anantpur, Bangalore and many other states in India to serve as Model Institutions for all the countries in the world to emulate. Further, He provided all this education completely free of charge. His aim was never to make money by selling seats and degrees but to make Minds by providing Real Education to people all over the world so that they become fully enlightened to discharge their duties towards their families, society, nation and the world thereby eradicating enmity among the people all over the world and thus establishing universal peace and happiness. Lakhs of Sai-Students coming out from Sai-institutions all over the world have established their careers successfully and serve as models for others to follow. The private educational institutions and the governments all over the world have much to learn from these Baba's successful experiments and establish such educational institutions to promote human welfare and thereby to become 'His'.

5. **Free vital service:** Not only in the field of Education but also in the field of Medicare and Healthcare, Baba has provided free Medical and Surgical services to the afflicted people by starting state-of-the-art General and Speciality Hospitals of Puttaparti and Bangalore. As against this, today the individual professionals, the medical and hospital institutions and the government have been tapping this vital field for money-making and amassing wealth. They should introspect to decide whether saving the life of a patient is a profiteering activity or a human service in recognition of divinity in him. Will not God shed tears when a professional or a hospital charges lakhs of rupees for the surgery of a patient who has a large family to feed with his limited earnings? Cannot they become 'His' by emulating Baba's free service to one and all?
6. **Providing basic necessities at no cost:** What some Governments could not do for years together in certain states---the provision of water supply in water-draught stricken areas— Baba out of Divine mercy could do it in a few months by undertaking water supply projects requiring expenditure of crores of rupees for installing equipments to transfer water from certain rivers. He provided free supply of pure drinking water to millions of thirsty people, thus recognising divinity in them. Will the local people, Village Administering Bodies, Municipal Corporations, Government Agencies learn any lesson from this Baba's instantaneous gesture of kindness and try to become 'His'?

**7. Welfare Projects:** In addition to all these free service projects to humanity Baba has introduced many other welfare projects such as rural development, agricultural development, distress management projects during famines, draughts, Narayan Seva etc. Any sincere individual who wants to do spiritual Sadhana for realising Divinity in him can plunge himself in Baba's projects selflessly dedicating his body, mind, intellect and soul to serve the needy without discrimination. He will certainly become 'His' in unbelievable short period.

**Precautions:** Just as a spider finds it very difficult to come out of the web created by itself, an individual soul finds it very difficult to pierce the deep-rooted walls of sensory desires and to free itself. It is here that God (Baba) preaches the soul to view itself in every being and then to love every being by rendering selfless, self-sacrificing and self-same service. This is very difficult to practice but it is the surest way for one to realise the identity of God with oneself. In particular, Sai-devotees have to be very alert and careful while undertaking this path because of the following reasons:

1. The devotee while serving starts feeling that he is the giver and the beneficiary is a taker. He seats himself on a higher platform and looks below while rendering service develops ego as a service—provider, the ego gets fattened when the beneficiary politely and smilingly expresses gratitude for the service provided.

2. Over a period of time, the elevations from one level or cadre to the higher in various services add power, position and prestige to the elevated. The availability of vast resources in the forms of money, materials, power, position and prestige may prompt oneself for making personal gains, favouritism, factions and groups on the basis of caste, creed, province, etc. All of us must be careful at this stage. It is always beneficial to undertake big projects, organise mass scale functions, series of lectures and talks, conferences, seminars, gatherings, audio video programmes and celebrate festivals of all faiths. However, all these should be embarked upon not for publicity and showmanship of but for actually enlightening the public mind and thought about Real Spirituality. **The white dress worn by us should be transparent enough to reflect the divinity within.**

### **Baba is among us even now**

During the physical presence of Baba, all of us had a respectful fear and answerability to Him while undertaking even a very small activity or function. Now none of us should feel that Baba has left His Body and therefore there is none to be answerable to. It would be the biggest blunder and a great disrespect and insult to the Divine existence. We don't have to SEE Baba as Baba in the physical form to make us believe that Baba is there even now. Of late, there are reports that in the houses of some devotees, Baba has been manifesting his Presence in the form of Vibhuti, Kumkum, Divine Nectar etc., emerging from Photos or Idols in the Pooja Rooms. There are instances of Baba partaking the Prasad offered to Him in

the devotees. Therefore we must be able to SEE Baba in every being we come across right from the moment we get up in the morning every day.

When this is achieved, Baba will vibrate,

**“NOT ONLY I AM ALWAYS YOURS  
BUT YOU TOO ARE MINE WITH EVERY BREATH OF MINE”.**

This will be the Divine Blessings of our Beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for the entire mankind to celebrate the New Year 2013.

Wishing you and your family a Very Divine, Blissful and Peaceful New Year 2013 at the Divine Lotus feet of His Holiness Revered Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba...!!!

II SAMASTA LOKAH SUKHINO BHAVANTU II

II JAY SAIRAM II

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