

7(V). SEVA DAL - AN ADHYATMIC ARMY

The age span 16-30 is crucial, for, that is the period when life adds sweetness to itself, when talents, skills, and attitudes are accumulated, sublimated and sanctified. If the tonic of unselfish Seva is administered to the mind during this period, life's mission is fulfilled for, the process of sublimation and sanctification will be hastened by this tonic.



The beginning of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Dal...
A historic occasion when Bhagawan inaugurated the first Sri Sathya Sai Seva Dal at Worli Dairy Hall in 1967

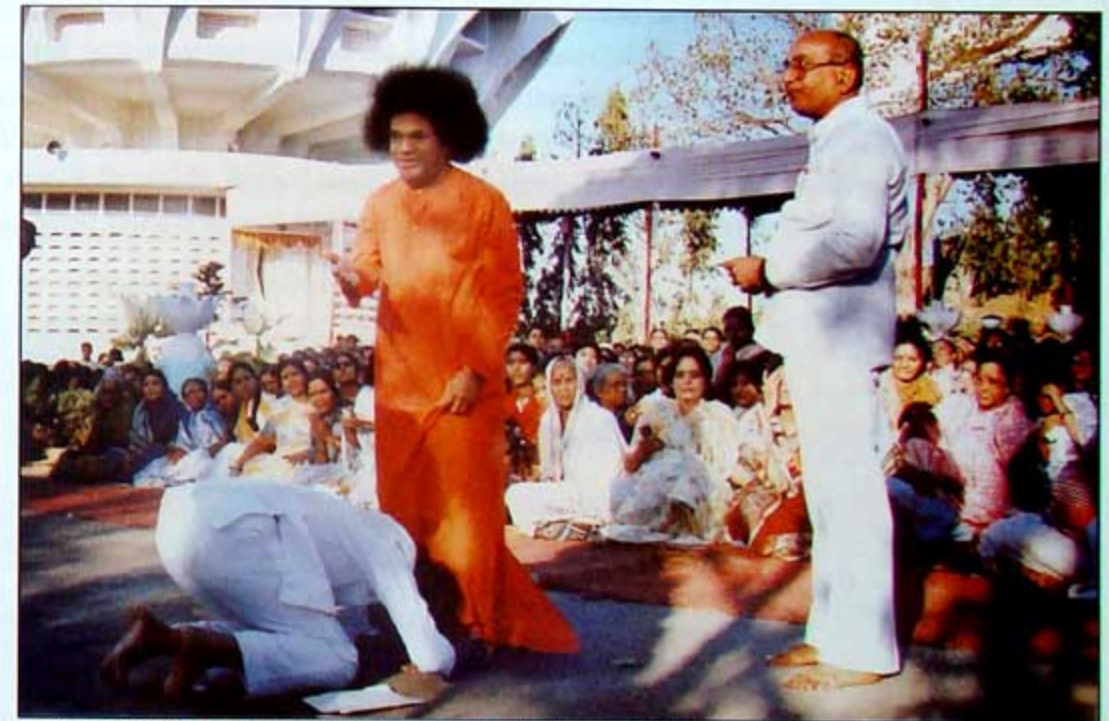
Do not serve for the sake of reward, attracting attention, or earning gratitude, or from a sense of pride at your own superiority in skill, wealth, status or authority. Serve, because you are urged by Love. When you succeed, ascribe the success to the Grace of God, who urged you on, as Love within you. When you fail, ascribe the failure to your own inadequacy, insincerity or ignorance. Examine the springs of action, disinfect them from all trace of ego. Do not throw the blame on the recipients of the Seva, or on your collaborators and co-workers, or on God.

You must share with all the love in your heart,
not with humans alone, but with all beings in creation.

Seva in all its forms, all the world over, is primarily a Sadhana! It is spiritual discipline, mental clean-up. Without the inspiration given by that attitude, the urge is bound to ebb and grow dry; or, it may meander into pride and pomp. Just think for a moment: Are you serving God? Or, is God serving you?

God serves; He allows you to claim that you have served! Without His Will, not a single blade of grass can quiver in the breeze. Fill every moment with gratitude to the Giver and the Recipient of all gifts.

The Seva Dal Badge is not a decoration, which can be secured without a 'price'. It is a symbol of high character, generous feelings and steady endeavour. It is the external indicator of internal enthusiasm and strength, skill and faith. If you are proud and self-centered, blind to the kinship that binds all in fraternal love, the badge is a betrayal.



Blessings of the Lord. Swami with active members during one of His visits, with Sathyadeep in the background.

Do not circumscribe your Seva. Be alert to the call everywhere, at all times; be ready with the smile, the kind word, the useful suggestion, the knowing care, the pleasant reply. Look about for chances to relieve, rescue or resuscitate. Train yourselves that you may render help quickly and well.

But, it is not the quantity that matters; nor is it the variety. It is the inner joy, the Love that you radiate that is important. Mere sentiment and sympathy are of

A true human being is one who recognises the Divine within him.