

3. DHARMA - OUR KSHETRA

Dharmakshetra - a piece of land blessed by Bhagawan Baba, chosen by Him, and the place where Bhagawan Baba stayed the most - outside Prasanti Nilayam and Brindavan.

It was a sunny morning in the late sixties that Bhagawan Baba and a group, drove to different parts of Mumbai to choose a site for the construction of Bhagawan's physical abode during his stay in Mumbai and for establishing a centre for Seva and Balvikas activities.



After seeing some locations we came to a hillock surrounded by open land and Bhagawan said "this is the place". He also indicated the spot where the bhoomi pooja should be performed. In all sincerity but with a total lack of foresight I said to Bhagawan that this place was far from the city, no proper roads were leading to it and it would be difficult for devotees to come. Bhagawan smiled and said "this is the place" and He would recommend (!) that we buy the surrounding land, as this place would become very crowded. Wish we had done that and also had the wherewithall to think big (afterall we are in His kingdom) It is truly said "Have Purpose, resources will follow". We started on a shoestring budget following our principle of not asking Bhagawan for any finances, but His sankalpa prevailed and we had, through His grace, that master of planning and administration, Shri. Indulal Shah who led us, guided by the Divine Will and we were all blessed to see the opening of Dharmakshetra.

Many souls have toiled ungrudgingly to give of their time and efforts in shaping Dharmakshetra - a Divine piece of land divinely willed and gifted for our use, providing us a platform and a centre, through which our sadhana can be enhanced, our transformation to being "good" individuals can take place, and we can strive to become useful instruments for the love and service of mankind.

Over the decades of its existence we have witnessed many true-life incidents, many mind boggling events but all that reinforces the fact that, this divine piece of land on His 80th Birthday - if we spare no pains to further enhance it to become a magnificent inspirational centre to act as a beacon for all humanity nationally and internationally, we could offer no greater gift at the Lotus Feet than that.

Yes - brothers and sisters - this is our great chance to serve the people of our motherland and the world for the greater glory of man.

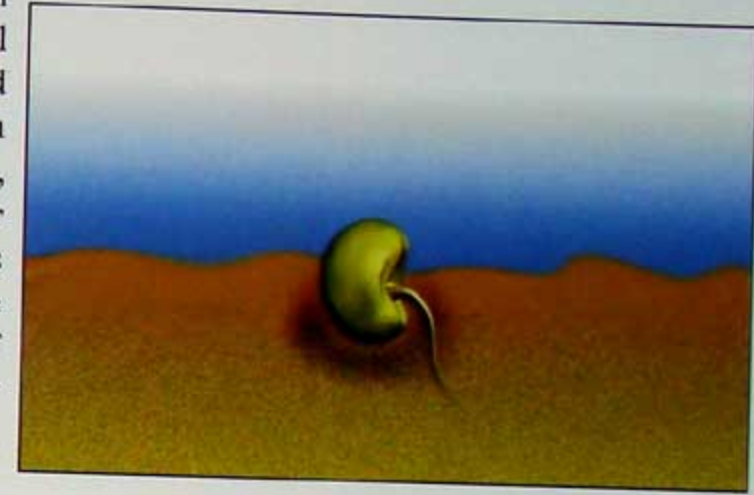
Dr. KEKIM. MISTRY

Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Maharashtra
23rd November, 2005.

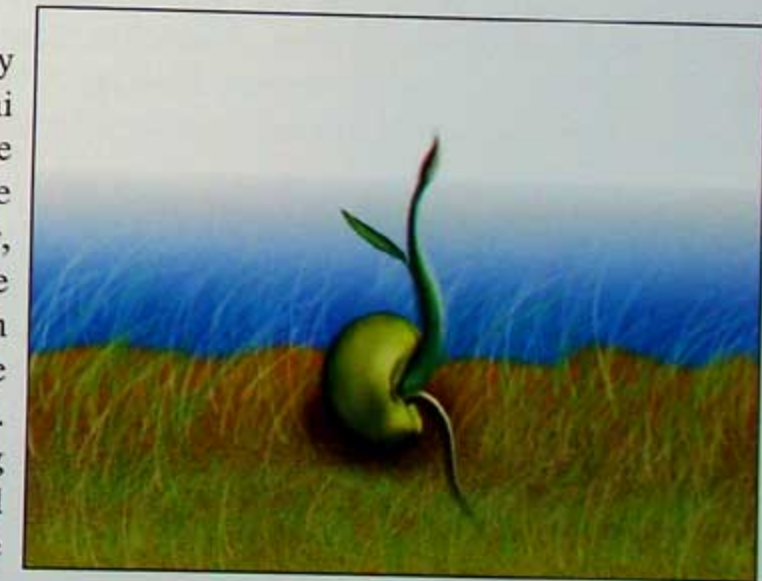
4. UNFOLDING THE DIVINE MISSION

Preparation of this Commemorative Volume on Dharmakshetra has in itself been a pilgrimage. When one reviews the events at Dharmakshetra over the past four decades, one realizes with a great sense of amazement and joy how Swami handpicked various devotees to be a part of His Divine Mission, and unfolded His Sankalpa step by step to promote our spiritual journey.

Prior to 1968, Swami visited Mumbai several times and finally selected this holy place, Kshetra, on a hillock in Andheri. Thus, He prepared the ground for planting the seed of His Sankalpa, to spread the fragrant Message of spirituality in action. Only in hindsight do we get a glimpse of the Divine Will, which is discovered in this Commemorative Volume.



On the auspicious day of 12th May 1968, Swami inaugurated the architectural marvel in the shape of a lotus flower, Sathya Deep, which He sanctified and filled with divine vibrations. Thus, the little plant was born. Significantly, it was during this visit, Swami revealed His true identity to the whole of mankind on the platform of the first World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Bhagawan Baba, the Kshetradnya, gave Divine Injunctions for all mankind, which would pave the way for a new world order.



Apart from being a Divine Abode, where the Avatar of the Age has set foot the maximum number of times out of Prasanthi Nilayam, Dharmakshetra has