



Sai Anantam

Special Edition
Ascension Day 2011



There are eight different types of gurus, who impart spiritual instructions of different kinds. Among these, the really important guru is "Vihitha Guru", the preceptor who removes the doubts in the minds of the disciples and reveals to them the process of Self-discovery and Self-realisation. The guru should destroy the darkness of ignorance (about one's Reality) and illumine the mind of the disciple. The illumination must result in the perception of the One Reality that is beyond name and form and attributes.

- *Sathya Sai Baba*

Wisdom From Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji: A Vihitha Guru

The Lord is concerned about working on the inside; on your soul; on your spirit. Because it is as eternal as God is. It is invincible. So should it really be treated with small little velvet gloves? No. It does not have to be. It is much bigger than that. It is much better than that. It is greater than all of that. So yes, it may seem hard, but that is on the outside. God is working on the inside to make everything all right, to straighten up everything and get you prepared to meet the Lord. And it does not have to be in heaven. It could be five minutes from now. It can be twenty minutes from now. It could be in tonight's meditation, to get you ready to see God. Do not think all of those yogi's spent all of those years in their practice, do not think all of those people who left regular society to live in mountains and caves, that they did it for nothing or they did it for sleep or they did it to escape responsibility. No, they made all those sacrifices for one purpose, to meet God, to see God, to communicate with God, to know God. It is your opportunity. I would like to see everybody know the Lord, because God is a very interesting God. You almost cannot say one way or the other, "God is this or that." God is so many wonderful things.

In Bhagavad Gita it says, "I am the light. I am the mountains. I am the oceans. I am the Friend. I am the Refuge." This you will see for yourself when you experience the Lord in those different capacities. Healer, Revealer, Clarifier, Teacher, Leader. We do not know anybody like that in our world. However, to see it in God is so wonderful and beautiful.

Transformational Service in L.A.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

Being allowed to participate in the mission of Lord Sai in any small manner is a great blessing in this life. Thus are the sentiments of all the teachers of the SSEHV classes taught to a group of young students in Southern Los Angeles, CA on Saturday afternoons the last 3 years. It was with great joy that this service has been offered.

Nine SSEHV teachers, from Sai Anantam Ashram and two from Sai Centers in the Pacific region; worked in association with the V.I.D.A. (Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives) Program at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Lennox Youth Activity Center. The V.I.D.A. program utilizes innovative techniques targeting youth at risk for positive redirection. The youth's ages ranged from 11 to 15. There were approximately 35 participating students composed of multicultural groups from the local community.

Each class focused on one of the Five Human Values of Truth, Peace, Non-Violence, Right Action and Love designated by Sathya Sai Baba. The Teachers worked collectively and harmoniously sharing responsibility for facilitating the sessions. It was truly an offering of love.

The V.I.D.A. students were very shy initially, but blossomed to the point where they enthusiastically shared in discussions of the quotations and stories. It was wonderful to watch the silent sitting participation evolve to a point of peacefulness where most of the youth were able to sit in quiet for the duration and imbibe their inner sanctuary.

One of the young adult SSEHV teachers, Hari Prem, who was faithful to offer service for every class the second year shared the following; "I enjoyed most of our direct interaction with the children in small groups. We were able to discuss their lives and share actual life situations where they could use the Human Values to bring about better outcomes to handling life problems. Several children shared their appreciation of being provided with the tools that enabled them to resolve real life problems in a positive manner".

A highlight was the session, which culminated with a performance of a song composed especially for SSEHV by teacher Shyam Reyes. It is called "Change We Can Believe In". Students added lyrics elaborating on each of the Five Human Values. Some of the students sang and others "rapped" their original lyrics. The song was performed before an audience comprised of parents and friends of the participating children along with V.I.D.A. personnel. The youth really put their hearts into the

presentation! There were many wet eyes amongst the SSEHV teachers and parents. We were also blessed by an inspiring talk from the Sai Institute U.S.A. National Director, Dr. Hymon Johnson. Students, Teachers, and all present were deeply touched by the visit of Dr. Johnson and his lovely wife Juanita. Deputies Jones and Beckford, two of the Sheriff's who supervised the V.I.D.A. Program in association with SSEHV, shared praise and appreciation for the hard work of the SSEHV teachers and the results they witnessed in the children. Deputy Jones shared that he was surprised to witness the level of participation we were able to garner from the children. He said that a large percentage of the youth served reported that the SSEHV teachings helped them to 'Believe' in themselves.

With Baba in the forefront many lives were touched. What a joy, honor, and blessing for all the participants.

- Anandamayi

My objective is to establish unity in mankind, to reveal the aspect of the Divinity latent in man, and that God must be the only goal in life. It is also My duty to make you realize the kind of relationship that should exist between fellow human beings.

- Sathya Sai Baba

Revelation In The Sky

I was returning home to Sai Anantam Ashram for the 3rd year Ascension Celebration of my beloved Guru, Swamini Turiyasangitananda. I had missed my connecting flight so I would be arriving about 3 hours later than expected. There is a reason for everything and I thanked God for being able to get on another flight rather quickly. The plane ride was nice and smooth with very little turbulence.

I curled up in the seat of the plane the last 30 minutes of the flight, reminiscing on all of the beautiful and wonderful memories of my life as a student under the tutelage of Swamini. Her words of advice, healing, teaching, along with stricter lessons in discipline, morals, virtues, and obedience echoed in my ears. But more so echoed her ambiance of love and peace which to this day still envelopes me and comforts me often when life presents its many challenges and obstacles. I remember so very often when Swamini would tell me individually or in a Satsang that "Spirit never leaves spirit." She especially started telling me this Herself when my family and I moved back to New York in 1997.

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Mahasamadhi

On January 12, 2007 our divine Guru Devi transitioned from her human form back to the expansive, infinite spirit realms. *Bhagavad Gita* speaks of great souls who leave during the bright half when the sun is in its northernmost route. Esoterically this connotes that yogis and devotees of the Lord leave in the brightness and Self-consciousness of their nature that is Light. Vedas also states that men of Realization have the boon of selecting their time of departure. Swamini had been destined to leave earth years earlier. She shared that the Lord had kindly given her an extension of time. Because death is not old age, it is only time, simply speaking her time to leave had come. And Swamini, in complete surrender, yielded to the Lord's Divine call to return home from whence she had come. The respiratory condition was only the external vehicle for her divinely timed 'disappearance.'

Although devastated as people on earth are by the departure of someone loved and cherished, all who knew and revered Swamini sensed in depths of the heart that the Lord's devoted servitor had completed her work on earth. As spiritual preceptor, she prepared her students well. She had given the scriptural guidance as well as an exemplary life that affirmed surrender to God as the focal point of her life.

Under divine direction, she had given spiritual tools allowing aspirants to successfully navigate the turbulent waters of life. When leaving on a journey once she had emphasized, "Matter can separate from matter. Spirit can never separate from spirit." So although we miss her form, the encouraging smile and comforting guidance, and quick humor, we know that she remains present in her spirit form. We have to relate to her in a new way. We have to tap deeper into our own spirit Self to connect with her. We remain with her by honoring the sacred teachings, evoking the mosaic of memories of her each heart has captured. As we practice the disciplines, and chant the holy Names that she loved and inspired us to love, we feel her vibrant proximity and divine blessings.

So it is with humble hearts that we give thanks for causeless dispensation of mercy and grace that the Lord has given. He has gifted humanity with His holy Presence in the person of Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji. Whether persons have met her or not, people worldwide and the earth mother herself, have benefited from her lifetime of continuous prayers and sacrifice. We could all



Ashram students circumambulating the Mandir while celebrating Swamini's Ascension Day. Malibu Temple Priest, Krishna, is leading.

spend the remainder of our lives in divine service, and it still would not pay for the great debt we owe the Lord for His great blessing of causeless mercy upon us. So each in his/her own way will no doubt find the unique means of expressing, of rendering back to God some offering and expression of service in a humble expression of gratitude.

May all glories, exaltation, and thanksgiving be given to God through each and every soul she has ever blessed, suffered for, prayed for, awakened and guided toward the eternal Light of Truth.

- Shankari

Revelation continued...

Every time that I would visit the ashram thereafter, Swamini would often remind me that Spirit never leaves spirit and she would always say, "Welcome home, Brahmachandri." As the plane started to make its descent, a feeling of elation came over me as it always does whenever I returned to the ashram. Then it dawned on me, although Swamini would not be there physically to welcome me, I still had joy in my heart at returning home.

Wow, Spirit never does leave spirit! Swamini would always be at the ashram or anywhere I envisioned her! I was filled with joy! What a revelation when something finally dawns that your spirit has known all along! As I turned to look out of the airplane window, the lights of the City of Angels (Los Angeles) came into view. One of the most beautiful sunsets ever to be seen illuminated the sky; brilliant colors of orange, red, and yellow.

As the plane started its slow descent, I continued looking at the awesome sky and I knew within my heart that Swamini was gently telling me, "Welcome home, Brahmachandri."

- Brahmachandri

Highlights of 2010



- Undoubtably, Sai Anantam's highlight of the year was the sacred opportunity for initiated students to sing to the Avatar, Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Approximately 14 members from Sai Anantam were blessed to be part of the U.S.A. National Sai Choir. Rehearsals began several months before January 2010 and culminated with a July performance in the Kulwant Hall, directly in front of Mother/Father Sri Sathya Sai. The choir was skillfully and devotedly directed by Bill Bailey and Maryalice Jessup. One of the ashram's children, Kaneya, participated in the U.S.A. children's cultural program. For many Sai Anantam members, singing to Sri Sathya Sai was not only the highlight of the year... but of their lives.
- The confluence and celebration of Lord Sri Krishna's Appearance Day and Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji's Appearance Day was observed on August 28th. The occasion was acknowledged by a retreat at Sai Anantam Ashram. Sri Hari led a wonderful outdoor hatha yoga class, Viswarupa facilitated a study circle, and students engaged in group karma yoga. The day concluded with prasad and heartfelt sharing among students.
- A Special Project that was produced and completed in September was Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji's "Eternity's Pillar." It is now available to the public in DVD format.
- On December 5th a musical tribute was offered to Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji by KCRW at U.C.L.A.'s Royce Hall, saluting her life and work. On the bill with such luminaries as McCoy Tyner was the ashram's own Radha Botofasina. Radha was accompanied on piano by her son Surya, and her husband Shyam contributed background vocals. The beautiful culmination of their performance was when Swamini's daughter, Sita Michelle Coltrane led a soulful rendition of the bhajan chant, "Deva Deva", with Radha and family backing her up.



*Why just this morning the Lord said to me: "Hey Turiya,
At dawn, sit at the Feet of Action.
At noon, be at the Hand of Might.
At eventide, be so big, that sky will learn Sky."*

*- Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji
from Monument Eternal*