

Part 18 | Experiences with Swami | Prof K Anil Kumar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT20JQnB5Zc>

Highlights

To be close to Swami, we should participate in His activities. Is there anything He doesn't know? He is the embodiment of Mother Saraswati. He is wisdom personified. The entire congregation was applauding because they are all basic facts.

Truth beyond truth. We cannot even dream of free education.

Every university should have a Sathya Sai Baba. Heart diseases can be caused due to three reasons.

All the students should go to the stadium for strengthening their bodies, compulsorily do exercise, and they will be graded on it as well. It is not easy to be talented in extracurricular activities along with education.

If you visit the hostel, you will notice that it is a place of action. Do you think it is for exhibition? No. It's a show of their devotion to Swami.

There is no one wealthier than me in this world.

Why conferences are special in Prasanthi

In Swami's presence, devotees from our country and other countries visited here, prayed to Him, and experienced joy and happiness, as we all know.

Many conferences take place here. Many meetings take place.

Primarily, there are many conferences related to our university.

Every department holds national and international conferences.

Whether it is Physics, Chemistry, or Biology, they are always taking place in the university.

Besides those, some conferences take place in Prasanthi Nilayam, perhaps to give joy to the devotees.

Such as the Doctors Conference that I had mentioned earlier, the Cardio Thoracic Surgeons Conference, of which I mentioned briefly.

After that the Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishat (state-wide assembly of saints) took place here. Bhoomananda from Kalyanadurg was the President in those days.

The Vice Chancellors Conference also took place here. There was a conference of the directors of all the banks at all India level.

What else to say? In commerce, Sanatana Dharma, science, and many others.

What is the reason? Why are so many people attending?

They are attending every conference. As far as I know, there have been at least 3 or 4 orthopaedics conferences.

They were conducted at an international level. People attend from many countries. We can't even begin to talk about cardiac treatments.

As far as I know, there have been at least 3 of those. Some of them might have been conducted in Bengaluru as well.

Why do so many people attend? Are there no conferences in other places?

What is the difference between those and these? What differences are you noticing? Yes, they all took place.

We read about them in the newspaper. Every capital city holds these conferences.

So what are the differences between the conferences in Prasanthi Nilayam and elsewhere?

I would like to talk about those with you. The members who want to attend these conferences compete for them.

"We want to go, we want to go." They must be told, "Sir, only 3 or 4 are invited from each organisation."

"If all of you come there there will be chaos. So only 3 or 4 please."

They fight over themselves to attend the conferences here.

They compete. It is very surprising to us.

Whether you believe it or not, when the President is absent in the capital of Delhi, the Prime Minister must be available.

When the Prime Minister is absent, the President must be available. They cannot each say they want to go in their own ways.

That's the rule. On one occasion they both competed to go. Swami Himself told us.

"What to do? President says he wants to come. Prime Minister also wants to come."

"What to tell them? I had to tell them to take turns," said Swami.

In that way, if there are conferences held in Swami's presence representatives compete for that experience with excitement and anticipation.

We can notice a kind of anxiety in them.

This is the first one. You don't see it in any other conferences. How do I know? For conferences in other places, if they don't go,

they reduce their salary by an increment. It will be written in their reports. They have to make a note of how many conferences they attended.

So they attend out of duty. But here, they come out of a sense of devotion.

They go there because they have no other option. Here they come out of their wish and desire.

I observed carefully, and since I'm familiar with these conferences, I'm informing you.

The second one. Observe the representatives who attend these conferences.

I studied at the Andhra University. Many conferences take place there as well.

I also attended conferences at the Utkal University. So I know what these conferences are like.

They attend the inaugural conference, and then they attend the concluding conference.

The inaugural conference is crowded. Is it because it's that good? No.

For networking. "You invite me, and I will invite you."

Just like in women's domestic ceremonies of give and take.

So people attend the inaugural conference to exchange introductions.

The inaugural conference. Then they attend the concluding conference. Why?

Because their travel allowances such as TAs and DAs are reimbursed at that time.

I'm not minimising their importance. I'm not criticising them.

I'm not even denying them. I'm only telling you what happens normally.

I don't have any criticism or opinion about them. I'm only narrating what happens. They even agreed to it in Swami's presence.

I can tell you that. The third one. I went as a representative to Delhi for a conference.

What do I do? I attend the inaugural conference. There are two more days of conferences.

I go visit the city of Delhi during those two days. I attend the concluding conference on the third day.

I take what they give out, and return home.

If I'm a sensible person, I might attend one or two conferences.

But I wouldn't attend every conference. When a conference is held on a subject, there will be 4 talks, 2 in the morning and 2 in the evening.

Many prominent scientists who worked hard on their research papers attend.

Some people are excited to attend. I'm not saying they are completely empty.

But there are not as many people as those who attend the inaugural conference. Meaning some of them go on sightseeing tours.

But here, no one goes for sightseeing. Why?

Because this is the site of Swami. Swami is right here.

People can watch Him the entire time the conference is in progress. Whatever you talk about, Physics or Chemistry, He stays seated.

He pays attention. What does He not know? He is the embodiment of Mother Saraswati.

He is wisdom personified. But He listens and watches.

He greets them. He enquires if it is time for coffee or tea.

He ensures they get coffee breaks. "Is everyone seated? Good, go ahead and begin."

He enquires after other people's comfort. Their husbands, wives or better halves also attend.

A wife might accompany her husband. A husband might attend with his wife.

But they may not understand these subjects. "Are you bored? Go and see the village."

"You can go to the museum, visit the university or our hospital." "You won't understand these."

So Swami would enquire after them too.

He does not tie them to the chairs. That's His consideration.

It's His concern towards those who are not interested in the subject. If I have no idea of the subject and I'm seated in a conference about computers,

you can imagine my condition. I don't know anything about computers.

What is the use of me attending a conference about computers? Only interested people should attend. He takes care of that as well.

After the conference if there are any cities around there, they visit those

in other conferences. When they come to Puttaparthi, Swami is the only attraction.

People attend every session fully. There are slides on the screen, but they all watch Swami.

The screen is Swami, and the projection on the screen is also Swami.

Even though there are slides on the screen, they still watch Swami. I'm very surprised.

Sightseeing is not at all here.

Abstaining from certain sessions will not happen.

Total concentration is on Swami. It is wonderful.

So you should observe the special uniqueness of these conferences.

Swami's discourse at the doctor's conference

I should also tell you another thing. In the doctors conference, on the second day, at the valedictory function, you should hear Swami's discourse. All the doctors' eyebrows stayed raised. No one had them down. Why? Swami was talking about their subject on the stage.

What did He say? They say that the Rayalaseema region is filled with fluorides. They say that bones are weakened due to these fluorides. There is an easy treatment. Mix tamarind and lime. Add alum crystals. The fluorides will be completely gone. It's very simple. For this, the government earns crores of rupees. They spend crores of rupees. Fluorides keep increasing. The cost goes up. There continue to be severe losses.

They were shocked. No book had told them that tamarind, lime and alum make fluorides go away.

When Swami said that, they just say, "Okay, alright."

If I said it too fast, or if I was unclear, He says, "Repeat it."

So I repeat it. He is compassionate. He has compassion for me, and love for them.

That's one. He also brought up another point. I heard it twice from Swami. "You have talked about heart diseases."

"You are all famous in your countries for your experience."

"You have conducted research. You are here, and Swami is very happy."

"But in Swami's opinion, heart diseases are due to three causes."

"What are they? Hurry, worry, curry. Everything is hurried."

"Today we don't see anyone plan properly."

"Always in a hurry. From a child to an old man on his death bed, hurry, hurry."

"Next is worry. Who will take care of me ten years later?"

"Will you be alive for another ten years? You might pack your bags in the interim."

"Who knows? Even old people are worried about their future."

"Who will take care of me? When you don't know the future, no one needs to care for me."

"Can you not think that Swami will take you as is?" "Why do you expect the worst? Young people worry about future but they should study well now."

"If you are disciplined now, you will do well in life." "So worry about the future. The next is curry."

"They deep fry everything they eat in oil, so all their vitamins are lost."

"The vitamins are lost. It tastes good but where is the health?"

"You get heart diseases because of oils. What doctor? What do you say?" He says.

"Oh okay Swami, yes, yes, it's true," they say. "Yes, yes, yes." How can he say no, since those are the causes?

They were all very surprised when He talked about these 3 causes.

Why do international doctors attend conferences here?

On the last day, He asked two of the doctors to speak about their experiences. One of their names was Robert Bonchek, from America. This Robert Bonchek easily earns \$1,000 per hour. Per hour. If he came here for two days, you can imagine how important he is. Even the President of America was attached to him.

He was the presidential personal doctor. He is very famous in America. He submitted his application first to come here.

Everyone asked why. "You don't know Sai Baba. You don't understand Him."

"You don't have faith in Him. Why do you want to come?"

He spoke about this point on the second day, on the stage, in Swami's presence.

It is not a topic for gossip. It was discussed in public. What did he say? "Why did I want to go to this conference in Puttaparthi?"

"Many patients go there from all over India and the world."

"From children to old people go there. All kinds of heart diseases are treated there."

"I'm going to see the variety of cases." There are no disease that our doctors here don't see.

Even the person who treats them might get a heart disease. All kinds are treated here. They come from all over the country.

You cannot see that anywhere else. He said that was the reason he wanted to come.

As he was speaking in front of Swami, the entire congregation applauded. The entire congregation was applauding because they're all basic facts.

Truth beyond the truth. Then he spoke about a second point. "I came here because Hillary Clinton sent me."

"In those days Clinton was the president. She is his wife."

"Hillary herself serves the community and participated in many service activities.

She sent him here. "She told me to come here, and said the treatment is offered free."

Paying for treatment of a heart attack might make a beating heart stop.

It can be that expensive. "How are they doing it for free?" "The medicines are free, the surgery is free, the diet is free. How are they doing it?"

"Go and study that as well and come back and report to me," she said. "These are the reasons I have come here," he said.

A shiver went through my body. The hall was crowded with a thousand people.

Their applause was deafening. Because they're all facts.

And with figures. That's what is surprising.

In that way, through these cardiologists conferences new topics came to be known.

In the last session, I also narrated an experience of a Catholic doctor.

I am assuming that you all still remember it.

What all the Vice Chancellors praised

The second important conference I attended was the Vice Chancellors Conference.

If I call it a Vice Chancellors Conference, it is easier to understand.

Many people attended from across India. Swami addressed them in a discourse.

He gave a discourse on the second day as well. He asked them to speak during the concluding conference.

All of them spoke well. They said they were not speaking as prepared.

"We visited the university. We visited the hostels. We saw their rooms."

"We talked to the students. We talked to the professors."

"We even talked to the peons. We talked to all ranges of people."

"We had conversations with different classes of people." "We are speaking about the things we understood from those conversations," the vice chancellors said.

Look at their practical analysis. It is really surprising.

Why did they do that? What was their conclusion? "The discipline we saw here is found nowhere else."

"The international community of students we saw here is found nowhere else."

"There is nowhere else where human values are incorporated into education."

"We cannot even dream about free education. The education system here is very unique."

"We don't see this kind of respect and humility in students anywhere else."

"We are speaking from our position as vice chancellors." "We oversee many colleges and universities. We are speaking from that experience."

"You will not see this kind of a university anywhere else." "You will not find these kinds of students anywhere else."

"You cannot even imagine professors with such complete dedication."

"That is the uniqueness of the Sathya Sai education system." "The only institute that combines spirituality is the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning."

And so on they spoke. When they praise our Swami and our Swami's students, when they praise our education system, you can imagine how I feel as a professor.

I was looking at the people who were speaking and the people who were listening.

I was also watching our Swami in between. What was He like?

He was listening as if they are just speaking about what is already known to be true. "What is the greatness of you speaking about it?"

"That is not special. You are speaking about what is already a fact."

He was blessing them now and then. He must have been happy.

If you want to be close to Swami, participate in His activities.

What are those activities? Educational, medical and community related activities.

If you participate in those, Swami is very happy. When they were speaking about His students, how would He feel?

He was feeling thrilled as they were speaking about His students. I noticed that too. It's natural. How do parents feel when their children are praised?

That's how He feels too. I heard there is a university in Kanchi.

From what I remember, the Vice Chancellor of that university was Jayaraman.

This happened many years ago. That Jayaraman came up to speak. When he spoke I thought, "Wow, what a speech!"

"Swami, my fellow vice chancellors appreciated the Sathya Sai University."

"They praised it and explained it and described it." "All of those are absolutely true. But I have one prayer."

"I'm praying to You as a Vice Chancellor." Swami was watching to see what he was going to ask.

What he said then was great. At that time there were 108 universities in our country.

Now there are probably 200 or 300 of them, they can have one in every town if they want. At that time there were only 108, that's all. "Swami, You are running this university from here."

"It is because of You that this university is great." "What is this peace? Is it a working day at the college or vacation?"

"We can't even see an insect. There is no one in the verandah."

"Everybody is sitting in their classrooms. They go home after college."

"We saw them walking quietly on their own way, without making a sound." "We visited the hostels. This is all Your power, Swami."

"Sai's power is in this form. But I have one wish."

"Lord Krishna became many forms of Lord Krishna."

"One Krishna became as many forms as there were Gopikas." "He took on as many forms as there were cows."

"He took on as many forms as there were calves." "He took as many forms as there were cowherds."

"Therefore Swami, please take on as many forms as there are universities." "Every university should have a Sathya Sai Baba."

"Only You can transform Yourself that way." "We believe that you are an Avatar of Lord Krishna."

"Please transform Yourself and run our universities as well."

"This is my prayer," he said. That was the most amazing thought.

And then the applause was deafening, and went on and on.

Swami's students excel in all areas

Until Swami said, "That's enough." During that time, the students showed their Sanskrit talent.

Swami had the students perform dramas and Bhajans. The vice chancellors were watching.

Then the vice chancellors said, "In our universities those who participate in dramas can't study well."

"Come September. They fail in March, and retake their exams in September."

"In our universities those who ace in sports are at the bottom in studies."

"In our colleges those who have gold medals in education,"

"won't have talent in music, literature, dance, etc."

For some reason, in the Sathya Sai University all students sing songs,

all students play roles, all students dance, all students participate in dramas,

all students are talented in music, and in education they are number 1. This is not seen anywhere else. Body, mind, intellect (BMI)

For the strength of the body all students must go to the stadium.

They must exercise and they will be graded as well. They can do Yoga or Pranayama or play games.

But they cannot stay in their rooms and sleep, like at home. That's why that dexterity and uniqueness at the Sports Meets.

That expertise, that dedication, that interest, that sense of sacrifice.

You will see all of those. Those are exercises that they learn within 15 days.

It used to be very surprising to me in the beginning, if it was a dream or real.

We too had students in the college. I had worked there for 26 years.

But our gang was different. I wondered why it was so different here.

The Sports Meet is very unique. The same person also receives a gold medal during the convocation.

He rode a horse there and then receives a gold medal here. He jumped into fire there and then receives a gold medal here.

It is impossible anywhere to be on the top both in academic and co-curricular activities at the same time.

It is not normal to be on the top both in academic and co-curricular activities at the same time. A long time ago, Swami wrote the script for a drama about Adi Shankara's life and then had the students perform it. Many years ago. Probably in the 70s. That drama was really wonderful.

It was a drama about Shankaracharya. Swami also wrote the script for a drama about Paramahansa

and had them perform it. In the same way, the sweet devotion of Radha and the Gopikas for Krishna

was scripted into a drama and songs, composed the tunes, and had them perform it.

Swami is Jai Sai Shankara, Natana Nateshwara, actor of actors.

The divine actor, the divine director, and the divine writer.

Poet above all poets. Among those, the drama about Ramakrishna Paramahansa was performed at the Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi.

Vigyan Bhavan is the conference centre for the members of parliament.

Swami had that drama performed for the members of parliament. Would they have anyone else perform there?

Even the security guard would not allow us inside. So how did He have them perform? Everyone who saw it were surprised.

None of them are ordinary. Each one is either MTech, or MS or MSc, or MA.

What are those subjects? They are entirely different from the drama. Everyone lost their minds.

Sathya Sai University includes integrated education.

Exercise for the body, by way of sports and athletics.

Academics for the mind, and they must be at the top as a gold medalist. "How many marks did you get?" "80." "80? What did you do with the other 20?" says Swami.

"What is your grade?" "I got a B." "Chee, only a B? No shame?"

"What is your grade?" "A." "A? You should get an O grade, understand?"

"If you got an A grade I won't look at your face." In that way He prompted them. No one else can do that.

A teacher can't do it, parents can't do it. They don't care, and they don't need it.

Swami is the divine parent, the divine teacher.

"Swami, I failed in Physics." "You failed? Useless fellow, Chee."

"Are you going from room to room in the hostel like a cat or a rat?"

"Who is your Physics lecturer?" He will have him come over.

"He failed. Do you have no shame? He should get an A grade in the next exam."

"Otherwise I will send you home," He said. He said that to the lecturer. Are there institutions that do this?

So both students and teachers are terrified during exam time. It is exam time for us too. If someone's grade goes down, our grade with Swami goes up.

Which grade? BP. That's how Swami scolds the teachers.

So our students are always at the top when it comes to sports, education, dramas, dance, etc.

No one stays behind. He has them act that excellently.

I will narrate how Swami's excitement looks like. The students have rehearsals in the auditorium.

Swami attends every rehearsal and watches as if it's His first time.

He would have already seen it ten times. He calls each one, "That expression is not good."
"You should stand properly here. Your emotions should change here."
He will point out the defects each time. Why? His keen interest and observation.
Sometimes students perform dances. Usually girls perform dances.
After they get older and get married, they have their husbands dance.
That's what we see in our society. But with Swami, these boys perform the dances.
Swami says as He watches, "They are our boys. Who did you think they were?"
"They are not girls, they are our boys." Some ministers visit here sometimes.
Also governors, ambassadors, and other top people visit.
He sits next to them and says, "Do you know who that is?" "He completed his MTEch and is now doing his PhD."
"Look at that dance. He is from our college."
"Did you see him? How he wore a Sari? He is not a lady, he's our student."
"He looks more beautiful than a girl. Look at how well he is acting."
"He is doing his MA English." The same way that a mother does not forget her children, what they are studying, what their tastes are, what their talents are, how a mother knows, Mother Sai of the universe knows the ins and outs of every teacher, of every student. That is the uniqueness.
When I had joined newly, He said something that enraged me.
I had a lot of jealousy as well. I did not have it, but got it because of Swami's words.
He said on the Poornachandra stage, "The students in Swami's institutes"
"you will not find them anywhere else. There is nothing that these students don't know."
"There is no talent that these students don't have. They will be the ideal examples for society."
"These students will become leaders. You won't find students like these in the country." "Even if you search for them," He said. "The students do everything in the hostel."
"They are the ones who do electrical work, carpentry, cooking, and making Chapatis."
"Everything is done by the students. And they still come first in their studies." "You cannot find students like these. This is a rare educational institution."
"So I say there is no one who is wealthier than I am."
"I am the wealthiest person in the world. Because My students are My property."
"The love of My devotees is My property. So I am very wealthy," He said.
I thought He keeps talking about "My students," so who am I? Are we His step children? Are there no redeeming qualities in us?
I felt that in the beginning but later realised Swami was speaking the truth. I cannot cry about it.
He spoke the truth. Those students are very distinctive.
You should take note of the education system and the educational institutions. Especially during the annual Sports and Cultural Meet
you should notice the stage decorations. No one can do that. They stay up all night to make them that beautiful.
It is a whole industry. They create ladders and bridges and wheels.
Everything that is needed for their displays, they create them on their own. When you go and look in the hostel, it will be a place of action.
There are welding machines and someone will be carving wood. Each person is working through the night for 15 days.

Is it for exhibition? No, it is a show of their devotion for Swami.
They are not satisfied if I praise them. They are not satisfied with the spectators' applause.
Swami should praise them. All activities are here to please Swami.
Any achievement is not great at all unless it gets the attention of Bhagawan, their divine parent.
They want Swami's attention and Swami to praise them. Not one asks, "Sir, do you like it?"
Not one person asked me in the last 23 years. What did Swami say? Since I sit right next to Him, He makes some comments.
Truly, to speak about Sathya Sai institutions, we must describe them in detail.
What should we say and why? Do I need to speak about what happened so many years ago?
Swami does not like publicity. He was never in agreement of publicity.
Even if someone like me is excited to publicise, "What? That's all a show."
"It's all a show. And slow in work." He does not like show.
An important man who was in position, whose name I won't mention,
said, "Swami, we are getting so many gold medals. Why not put it in the newspaper?"
Swami said, "Look, if we have the stuff, we don't need to advertise."
"If our goods are valuable, we don't need to advertise them," said Swami.
No advertisement. He stays calm no matter how much you praise.
Why does Swami not puff up when He is praised?
"Swami, You are an ocean of compassion, You are an embodiment of mercy," people say.
"Oh, is that so?" is how He listens to them.
Why, because you are saying what is already known to be true. You are not saying anything that is untrue.
He is an ocean of compassion. You call Him an ocean of compassion. So why should He be pleased?
If you call a cruel man an ocean of compassion, he will be happy. Because he is not. If you say, "O ocean, how deep you are!" it says, "Get in and I will show you."
So however much we praise Swami He just nods His head. He might think this ignorant person just realised it.
He just nods His head. I have had that experience two or three times. I told you about Swami giving Darshan as Christ to a doctor.
When I told Him, He said, "Oh you did not know until he said it?" What to say? In Kodaikanal too, those engineers saw Swami's designs and said,
"They are amazing," "Oh is it only when he said that you realised it?"
"What to do?" says Swami. He is simplicity embodied.
He is humility personified. Compassion of Himalayan dimension.
That's how He is. So with the activities and conferences in His educational institutions, I spent 23 years, and received great bliss.