

Part 19 | Experiences with Swami | Prof K Anil Kumar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3uFia-UEOU>

Highlights

The Sathya Sai movement is a silent spiritual revolution. Your status or learning is of no use in front of Him.

He went amidst them and said, "Make space, make some space."

And then He sat down with the rest of them. Our entire life is spent on chairs. We can't sleep if we don't get due importance.

Is Swami one who keeps account? People ask, "What will you give?" Is there anyone who says, "I will give?"

Without devotion to Rama, there is no liberation. He doesn't forget. He doesn't look at who's greater and who's lower.

The greatest thing is that God is walking on the earth. Is my Swami that great? I still haven't recognised it.

Not knowing our own status, we pride ourselves on thinking it is higher.

But if you see His devotees we will be astounded. If there is anyone who is spreading the message of Sanatana Dharma in the world, that would be Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishat conference

We first talked about the doctors' conference, and then about vice chancellors.

Next, I will tell you about the Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishat conference.

The President of the Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishat then was Sri Bhoomananda, from Kalyanadrug, Anantapur District.

He came early and planned everything and went back.

We didn't know it but all the arrangements were made. It was the first conference of the Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishat.

Then we found out. Swami is a silent worker.

The Sathya Sai movement is a silent spiritual revolution.

It is a silent spiritual revolution. It brings transformation silently, in all solemnity, majesty, and dignity. He just sits there and brings about all these changes.

When Swami is waving His hand who knows which wheel He is turning where? Which organisation is He developing? Swami is always like that.

The Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishat inaugural ceremony took place.

Because they were all Swamijis, they were all wearing ochre robes. All ochre up above, the stage was filled with ochre, the tables were covered in ochre.

Many people attended. The Ashram was filled with these Swamijis.

All the Swamijis came into the Poornachandra auditorium and sat down.

There were some Swamijis who were in distinctive positions.
We may call them the principal Gurus, or presidents of Ashrams, and they sat on the stage.
Where? On the stage there was only one chair.
It was Swami's throne. The table in front of it was covered by an ochre fabric.
The ground was covered in ochre. The Swamijis sat on the ground.
The principals and presidents. So Swami was supposed to sit on the throne.
The other Swamijis sat on the ground. It started with Vedam.
The students wore traditional clothes and came in chanting the Vedam.
The Supreme Lord of the Vedas came in following them. Swami, who is the Supreme Lord of the Vedas went up on the stage.
He greeted all the Swamijis who were seated there. He looked at all of them. He went amidst them and said, "Make space."
"Make some space," He said, and then He sat down with them.
Swami asked them to make space and sat down on the ground with them.
He sat on the dais along with the other Swamijis.
He wanted them to leave a little space for Him at the centre.
Because He is a tiny figure. Swami, You have a throne there.
You came and sat here. Do You think You are equal with them?
We can't live without a chair. Some of us cannot even die without a chair.
Our entire life is spent on chairs. We can't sleep if we don't get due importance.
Why did Swami sit on the floor with the rest of them? It's a lesson to everybody. Most common man.
He always says, "I am ordinary. What do I have? I just eat a small Ragi ball, that's all."
"Very simple. Swami is very simple, very common," He says.
Swami is very simple but very grand. Very grand.
You can see that royalty in His walk. Just because He sat simply don't think He is simple. You should see Swami walking behind the Veda boys.
It feels as if the Vedam itself is walking. The students are walking in the front chanting the Vedam, and He is following.
He comes walking in the status of the Supreme Lord of the Vedas. He went on the stage and sat amidst them.
Those conferences went on. There were lectures by the Swamijis starting in the afternoon.
There are usually 5 or 6 of them. If you don't mind, I will tell you the truth.
For the evening conferences, even one-third of the Poornachandra auditorium was not filled.
It was all empty. There were only Sevadals waiting to pull down the shutters.
Some were there, I'm not saying no one attended. For the inaugural ceremony, it was very crowded.
By evening there were very few people. What is the meaning of this?
We all came for Him, not for the conferences.
We came to listen to Him, not to your speeches. We have been listening to you, that's enough.
We want to hear Him. That is the interest I felt in them. The next day, Bhoomananda said in his speech, "Swami,"
"due to Your immense grace, our conferences were very successful." "Many great people, Swamijis, principal Gurus and presidents of Ashrams attended."

"I'm grateful to all of them. However, even if we thank You, it is not enough, Swami."
"I have one more wish. Please sit on the dais even during our conferences, Swami."
"As soon as You leave the stage, all the people are also leaving."
"Please stay seated," he said. Swami was listening.
As if to say, "Now you understand." "Very good, very good," He said.
As per His word, Swami stayed seated. He blessed all of them.
How those arrangements were made, how Swami's management is,
how His leadership is, I will tell you another time.
After the conference was over, it was time for the closing ceremony.
That was also completed. The next afternoon at 11 O'clock, Bhoomananda came in.
He came to the Poornachandra auditorium. There is a door at the back where Swami enters.
That's where the Sarva Dharma pillar stands. Bhoomananda opened that door and came in.
I was there at that time. He spread out an ochre cloth on the ground.
At Swami's feet. He placed money on it, including rupee notes and coins.
Swami was looking at them. He pulled out a piece of paper.
"Swami, You gave us this amount of money for this conference."
"This conference was managed with Your help."
"All of this is the remaining amount. I brought it to account for it."
"What did you bring?" "I will give You an account of it." "Does Swami keep accounts? No need."
"With this money, the Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishat can buy a van."
"If you need additional money, let Me know, and I will provide." That's what He said. Will you see this anywhere? Anywhere at all?
No, it cannot. People say, "What will you give?"
Where can you find someone who says, "I will give." Only Lord Sai can do that. That remained as a highlight for me.
Many of the Swamijis gave speeches during the Akhila Andhra Sadhu Parishat.
It was their life's learning and spiritual practice, and they spoke from their expertise.
Among them was one called Vidya Prakashananda Swami. He was from Kalahasti. He was the only one Swami gave two chances.
One was to speak in Telugu, and the other to speak in English. Even in those days, Vidya Prakashananda Swami had done his BA.
A BA in those days is equivalent to 2 or 3 PhDs today. That was British English. He spoke well and Swami appreciated him.
He is also a devotee of Swami. Thus, these three conferences took place.
It was my good fortune to be able to witness these conferences.
As this was going on, I'm remembering another incident.
Swami called one man and said, "Swamiji, how are you? Is your Ashram functioning well?"
"How is it?" "Swami, it is going on somehow but not many people are coming."
"If you conduct yourself well, they will come," He said. "If you conduct yourself well, they will all come," He said.
"If there are less people coming, that means our quality has gone down." "Learn that attracting people is not enough. Setting an ideal is important."
"If you set an ideal, everyone will come," He said. The Swamijis hung their heads.
We don't see good ideals anywhere. That too surprised me.

His dialogues, His words, these are all important to me. Every gesture of Swami, every word of Bhagawan has got a message to convey.

It has got a lesson for all of us to learn. To learn, and to share His message, His nearness is wonderful.

Cricket Match at Puttaparthi

In the same way, at another time, a cricket match took place here.

Many cricketers came for the cricket match.

They were top fellows, but since I'm not very interested, I don't remember their names.

They all came. Some of the top leaders of our organisation are crazy about cricket.

Due to their excitement and encouragement they gave out hats to all the students.

All 1500 of them. They also gave T-shirts to all the students.

They made all these arrangements to watch the cricket match. The cricketers were given special hospitality in Shanti Bhavan.

They wouldn't have received such royal treatment anywhere else. They came to the Shanti Vedika at the Hill View Stadium, where Swami's stage is one end, and they arranged another special stage at a distance.

For what? For the cricket players to take group photos with Swami.

So they arranged another one there. This one is for the Prasanthi members.

That separate stage was arranged for the cricket members.

On the last day Swami came there. They talked in their own way.

After they talked, Swami went walking there.

Swami had a special trophy made for them. A beautiful gold trophy.

It was wheeled onto the stage on a trolley. Swami then presented the trophy to them.

That trophy was very beautiful. It had a globe and there was a half-moon around it.

It was very beautiful. He presented it to them. Swami honoured all of them. It went really well.

To watch that cricket, the people from the nearby villages started lining up at midnight.

The stadium was full. You can imagine how cricket-crazy they were.

They came here. Swami's car was arriving. The Puttaparthi people said, "Swami, Swami!"

"What happened?" "Swami, they are only allowing those with badges."

"We don't have badges, Swami, what do we do?" they said. "Why so? What badge do you need for watching cricket?"

"Swami, they are all from the cities. We are just village people, Swami."

"We came to watch but no one can watch." "Who said so?" "Where was Swami born? He was born in a village."

"Where was Krishna born? He was born in a village." "Who said so? Call them. Open the door and let them in," He said.

That is Swami! "That's good, let the city people come," etc. is nothing doing for Him.

He asked everyone to come and sit. I can't tell you how happy that made me.

Swami recognizes His devotees anywhere

The same thing happened in Mumbai. The Dharmakshetra in Mumbai is very beautiful, like a blooming lotus.

There are windows at the top of the lotus. Swami looks out through those to watch the people.

Many people had come from Puttaparthi.

I was at Dharmakshetra at that time. He was looking through one of the windows.

It was an ocean of people. I don't know how He saw this gang among them.

Immediately He said to the State President, "Look, those people are from Puttaparthi."

"Ask them to come in and have them sit in the front."

Status is of no importance to Him. Your learning is useless to Him.

Great people might be proud of being wealthy, but they cannot attain liberation from it.

They might be boastful about being learned, but they cannot attain liberation from it.

They may be arrogant about their strength, but they cannot attain liberation from it.

Without having devotion to Rama, you will not attain liberation.

Swami saw their devotion and asked them to be seated inside. I can't tell you how wonderful that was.

I would like to tell you an incident I forgot to mention. I had talked about the Chowdaiah Memorial Hall.

I told you about Seshan's participation there. I'm telling you now about an important incident I should have mentioned.

Because it reflects Swami's glory. It reflects Swami's memory.

That Swami is time, time is Swami. That's all.

At the memorial hall after everyone was seated, Swami looked around and got off the stage and walked to the end.

There was an old man there by name Anna Rao.

"When did you come?" He said. Anna Rao was a TTD Chairman at one time.

He was the Chairman of the Electricity Board at one time. A devotee of Swami. How can you be a VIP once you become old?

When we get old, or retire, we are as good as dead.

"When did you come, Anna Rao? Oh, grandmother is here too?" referring to his wife. He held each of their hands, walked them up to the stage,

and made them sit in two chairs in the first row. "Anil Kumar, this is the TTD Chairman, Annaji."

"Did you know?" "Yes, Swami." He doesn't forget.

He doesn't look at who is greater and who is lower. Why? Because that awareness is divinity.

He is aware of everything. There is nothing He doesn't know. In this way, I saw all the national and international level conferences held at Puttaparthi.

With Swami's immense grace, I was able to participate in them.

Swami honours His own students

I gained a lot of happiness. What made me most happy was that CSIR exams were held.

At the university. Whoever passes it receives a Rs. 25,000 scholarship.

He can do his research anywhere he wants all over India. That is CSIR.

There are photos and proofs from that year, if you want to check.

The first ten ranks in every subject were awarded to Sathya Sai University.

From eleventh onwards other universities got their share. First ten ranks. When Swami was informed of it, He was so happy.

I can imagine. That happiness came bubbling out. Like a tsunami. He had all those students come up on the stage

and honoured them with shawls and awards. "What to do?"

"The first ten ranks in every subject were received by our university." "Every subject is ours. What to do? What will happen to the other universities?"

"What can I do? Our students are that good. We received the first ten ranks in everything."

"Very good." He raised everyone up higher. It was an occasion when Swami honoured His students.

It felt like a divine occasion to me. That's how happy the Chancellor was.

I would like to mention one more thing here. There was a Vice Chancellor named Chitti Babu, of the Madurai Kamaraj University.

He served as the Vice Chancellor for the Madurai Kamaraj University. He was a devotee of Swami. He also gave a speech at one of the convocations.

I will tell you one sentence from it, which still rings in my ears.

"Sathya Sai University is not a university."

"It is the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning." "A deemed university," he said. We already knew that, so what was great about it?

Chitti Babu need not tell us that. A small child could have told us that.

Do you know what was his next sentence? "This is a deemed university."

"The rest of the universities are doomed universities," he said. "Doomed, as good as decimated," he said.

I thought, wow Chitti Babu, he said it very well. He speaks very good English. He was an English professor.

He was from those days when they spoke very beautiful English. Tamil Nadu itself is a place for good English.

On top of that he was an English professor, and a Vice Chancellor. He was very dear to Swami. I remember that very well.

Words from Swami's elite devotees

At another conference, Nani Phalkivala gave a speech. Who is Nani Phalkivala? He was an eminent authority on constitution.

What he speaks about the constitution is final. Phalkivala was such a great man. He spoke in the Poornachandra, in front of Swami.

He gave a speech about values, but at the end said, "Why speaking on values,"

"when all the values are in human form here in our midst?"

"What more can I say about values when all the values are right here?" he said.

That was Phalkivala. He gave us at least this good fortune.

His devotees are from the highest positions. Who are we, after all?

It is all His grace. Not knowing our own status we pride ourselves as higher than we are.

If you look at His devotees, you will be astounded. "My God, where are we?" What Phalkivala said were great words indeed.

An astronaut came to see Swami in Bengaluru.

He was from America. Swami asked him to speak. Do you know what he said? "Man walking on the moon is not that important,"

"as God walking on earth."

"I saw the earth right from the moon. And the earth was so attractive."

"More attractive than moon. That's why God has chosen to be born here,"
"and move amidst us," he said, that astronaut.
What a wonderful statement it is, I thought.
Whenever I hear such statements my hairs stand on end. No one can control me. Is my Swami that great?
Is my Swami that great? I still haven't recognised it. How far away am I that I still don't know His glory.
Saints and sages praise You everyday, Swami.
Although You light up the skies like a million suns, how strange that I still can't see You
How strange that I still can't see You. Who on earth can praise You?
Your glory cannot be understood by our mere minds.
Swami, Your glory cannot be understood by our minds. Whoever has learned how to praise You, he is the true man.
See, I was able to see such instances, hear such conversations, because of being in Prasanthi Nilayam.
I think that's why I was able to see them. The thing that I feel like I'm being slapped on both cheeks is this.

The Lord of the universe

I'm talking about slapping me, not you. Why? There is a compound wall around the Sai Kulwant Hall.
There is a small space after that, and then there is the East Prasanthi.
If you look carefully you will see a lot of foreigners standing there.
Even if it is pouring rain, they still stay standing there. If we sense a drop of rain, we run for an umbrella.
Even more interesting thing that I can't believe, and you can't believe is, as the Vedam is going on inside, as the students are chanting the Vedam, these foreigners chant along with them. There are many among them who can chant the Vedam.
Very few people among us know that fact. I was watching them getting wet in the rain, some with raincoats on, and chanting the Vedam. Who can make it possible?
We think whether our children know it, and we don't know that they don't know.
What do we do? One person asked me, "Do you know Tripura Rahasya?"
We know the movie by name 'Ghandikota Rahasyam' but not 'Tripura Rahasyam'.
"I don't know it." He said, "Oh I know it, I read it many times. It's very interesting."
So what is our greatness, I don't understand. If there is One who spread the Sanatana Dharma across the world, that would be Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
Across the entire world. A small example.
Members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishat would often come here. Ashok Singhal was a devotee of Swami, and visited often.
Swami would greet him with great fondness. Some of their important members said, "Swami, the Vishwa Hindu Parishat conferences are about to take place."
"Please come and preside over it." Listen to Swami's response.

"Bangaru, what I do is also the same thing." "What I do everyday is the same thing. The entire world is right here."

"People from all countries come here. You think Hindu is a religion."

"No, it is not the Hindu religion. It is the Hindu way of life, to be practised."

"H - History, I - Individuality, N - Nationality, D - Divinity, U - Unity."

"That is what Hindu means," He said. They were stunned. We say the words 'Vishwa Hindu' but we don't know what 'Hindu' means.

History, our country has a long history.

Individuality, our culture has individuality in it. Although many foreign conquerors came Sanatana Dharma was able to stay in its truth.

That is individuality. Nationality - its national individuality remained, and hasn't changed.

It has made others follow, but it did not follow others. Nationality.

Unity - you will not see the kind of unity here anywhere else. People from all religions co-exist here. There is tolerance here.

All the religions together only preach good. Recognize this and live with discernment.

So if your mind is good, and you are able to discern well, which religion is bad?

Listen carefully, O glorious sons of Bharat! As Swami said, all religions are good.

It is your mind that is not right. Swami gave this message to the members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishat.

No one again asked Him to come and preside. "That is the work I do." He is One who has the perspective of the universe.

That is Lord Sai, the Lord of the universe.