

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 43-D**

**MENIAL WORK, INTIMATE FRIENDSHIPS, ETC.
May 3rd, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

It was said in the Holy Bible, "Seek ye the Kingdom of Heaven, everything shall be added unto you." Seek God and you'll get everything. That's what it meant. The priority should be given to God and none else.

In *Mahabharata*, five Pandavas gave priority to Lord Krishna. They were never after power, pelf and money. So, all epics, mythology, scriptures of all religions want you to give priority to God over other things - material things in particular.

In respect of Swami, I would like to draw your attention (to) what had happened in Swami's younger days. Kondama Raju, as you know, is His grandfather and Swami became very, very intimate in relationship with him, and grandfather found the company of His remarkable grandchild very enjoyable. And he was first to realize Sathya's divine nature.

Years later, Sathya was to say that His father and uncles had asked His grandfather Kondama Raju, "Stay three months a year with each of us!"

This offer was made as part of a proposed distribution of property between the four brothers and Kondama Raju, who declined to take his share, saying that he wanted nothing except Sathya as his share. I repeat - the grandfather did not claim any share in the property in the joint property. He wanted his brothers to take their share and he requested Baba to be given to him as his share. What an illustrious example it is! If Sathya was with him, he had everything he wanted. From then on, Sathya stayed with His grandfather who lived until a ripe old age.

Sathya would later say about him, "He was a great devotee and he recognised My reality!"

In a touching narration, Sathya would one day relate what Kondama Raju requested of Him. "I was then nine years old. I was inside, cooking for him. I am a good cook.

Others would want to take recipes from Me. He came to Me after closing the door, calling out, "Sathya, Sathya, Sathya!"

"He caught hold of both of My hands. 'Consider these Your Feet!' He softly continued, 'I have a desire. At the time of my death you should pour water into my mouth!' I gave a word I would! In the years to come, the world would witness that Sathya did keep His word.

Two points here: Kondama Raju wanting Baba as his share and Baba giving assurance to His grandfather that He would present Himself when the last moment approaches.

So the next stage is this. Sathya graduated from the Puttaparthi elementary school. He went to Kamalapuram where He stayed with His brother while attending Form 1 in the board middle school.

Here the important point is this, my friends! When Swami was describing all this, in the whole of the auditorium, the entire gathering started crying, shedding tears on listening to Swami's narration of the difficulties He had in His brother's residence at Kamalapuram.

It was a big household and the young village boy was made to do most of the menial housework. Speaking before spellbound audiences in the years to come, Sathya, as Sai Baba, would reveal the graphic details of His life at Kamalapuram to impress the sociological and moral implications of His school days. He would thus narrate! Please follow!

"There was heavy work in the house and it was not possible to study there properly. As soon as I woke up in the morning, I had to take a big pot and fetch drinking water from the Krishna canal which was quite far away. By the time I fetched the water, it would be nine o'clock and this was the time to go to school. In this way, all my time was spent in fetching water, morning and evening."

"Before going to school at nine in the morning, I would drink '*ambali*' - A M B A L I, for breakfast which was really the left-over '*sankati*' of the previous night.. *Sankati* - S A N K A T I – left-over rice of the previous night with salt and water added. In those days there were no snacks. Eating the previous night's rice with pickles was the common practice." What an ordeal it is!

Specially to drive home the moral, He would refer to a fair. He would say this way. Here we will find how He kept up the prestige of the family without revealing the actual position - economic position of the family. How clever-fully He managed! All these things would be mentioned here.

Swami talks like this: "A fair was conducted every year at a place between Kamalapuram and Cuddapah. This was called '*Pushpagiri Thirunnaalu*' – THIRUNNAALU, and was considered to be a big fair in the region.

As the time of the fair approached, our drill master called all of us and instructed us that we should all go to the fair to volunteer social service. He said that we should all

compulsorily enrol ourselves as scouts. He came to our classroom and announced that each of us should have a *khaki* shirt, a pair of *khaki* trousers and a belt with a whistle tied on one side. He further cautioned that we should have the dress ready in a week's time. We were instructed to dress this way and render service at the fair."

"It was indeed happy news that we should all dress in that manner and go to the fair. But at that time I did not have even a *paisa* - single *pie* with Him."

"After admitting Me to school, My father had given me two *annas*, two *annas* - *ANNAS*. In those times two *annas* were of great value. I had however spent that money in the previous six months. Hence, I had nothing left with Me."

"As I was a class leader, the teacher pressed that I should not fail to go to the fair. I was therefore in a fix."

"As soon as I returned home from the school I would tie a towel around my waist and wash this school dress with soap and water. I would then put some burning charcoal into a small vessel and iron my dress. This way I would manage the whole year with only one set of clothes."

"Before the year ended, the dress started to tear at a few places and I had no money for safety pins. Therefore I used some long thorns to hold the dress together. Under such financial difficulties, how was it possible for My family to provide me a new dress? However, it would bring dishonour to My family if these circumstances became known."

"I gave serious thought to the matter and came up with a plan. I suggested sending a substitute student without informing the teacher. I told this student of this suggestion, convincing him of feigned indisposition."

See this! He did not keep anything confidential. He openly expressed the poor financial position of the family. How He maintained the whole year with a single dress!

He also then referred to His classmates. "One of the students who sat by My side at school found out My secret plan and he was the only son of a rich gentleman. His father would buy everything he needed. He told his father that he liked the scout dress very much and thus had two pairs made for him. This boy packed one of the dresses and slipped the packet into My desk!" That is Baba's desk.

"I have not revealed this incident to any one until now. When I went to the desk, I saw the packet and took it out. On the packet the boy had attached a note, "I am like Your brother. If You do not take the dress, I will die - burn myself or kill myself in some other way."

"I tore up the note but wrote on a separate piece of paper, 'You are like My brother. If you wish our friendship to be permanent, there should be no give and take. That will spoil our friendship. If you really desire My friendship, we should not have relationships based on material benefits. Only increase the love and improve the friendship!'

“I kept the note in the same desk. My friend was extremely pained to read it but could do nothing and had to take the dress away.”

He would also at length spoke of the close ties between Himself and those who loved Him. “The boys came to our house and pleaded, “Sathya, we won't go unless You come. We won't go without You!”

“The boys would similarly plead at school too. The pressure that I should go became tremendous! There were only three days left for the festival to begin. I had been telling people that I was going to the festival until the last minute. Those three days were declared holidays, and even then I kept on saying that I was going to the fair. The boys were busy with packing during those three days.”

“The actual time for leaving for the fair came and the boys arranged for a procession for themselves. They arrived at My house. Swami could hear their voices. I was thinking deeply what I should do. If I said I had fever, they would soon find out, exposing the lie. Therefore I decided to lie down groaning and pretend to suffer from stomach-ache and could not stand up!”

“All the scouts along with the teacher, Mehaboob Khan, came to the house. Seeing them, I began to groan louder and act as one in pain would. The teacher saw my suffering and was filled with sympathy. The boys enquired, ‘Where is Sathya! What is He doing?’ I replied that I had stomach-ache and could not stand up.”

The teacher chided the boys, “It is enough if Sathya is well. Don't bother Him. Let Him lie down. You can all go away!”

“The night passed like that. As soon as they left, the pain also began to subside slowly. Then I exclaimed that I had got over the pain and began to move about in the house. Even the family felt that My pain had gone!”

This incident speaks of the love of His classmates towards Him; and very important moral for all our students and even elders is, the relationships and friendships should never be based on financial transactions. Friendships will never last long if it is absolutely financial relationship.

There should not be any relationship based on material benefits. Only increase the love and improve the friendship. What a moral it is! This Swami demonstrated by denying help extended to Him.

Like this my friends, my deep intention is to highlight these values, bring to the notice of everybody - listeners, everybody, so that we'll learn and teach our children in turn and share the information in the neighbourhood.

Thank you. Meet again later! Sai Ram!