

JOURNEY HOME



It was my good-by darshan. I sat in one of the back rows as He walked past, ignoring my presence. Inside, I whispered, "Please look my way." I hear Him say, "No, it's better this way." I felt the flood gate lift and the tear control alarm sounded. I wanted to cry, but instead I detached. Sai says, "*Detachment is sacrifice.*"

We finished our last-minute packing and started down the stairs. Phyllis Krystal was standing there. I said, "Phyllis, for the last two days I have had the feeling that Sai Baba wants us to go for a reading from the Book of Bhrighu. I was told that you have the address. Before I went to sleep last night, I asked Sai if He wants us to go, please send us Phyllis before we leave. And here you are!"

We went to her room to get the address. She remarked

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that this is the first time in several trips that she had brought the address with her and had had several requests for it.

Since I knew very little about the readings, I asked her to explain. It appears there was a sage named Bhrighu who lived 5000 years ago. While in a trance, he received this knowledge foretelling the destiny of some people. He wrote it on thousands of palm leaves. The Book does not contain everyone's name, only those who are destined to come for a reading, to the priest who keeps the book.

The day and time you come are your destiny times. Supposedly, no-one will feel the need to go until it is their time. The pundit measures the length of your shadow in the sunlight. The length of your shadow, birth date, destiny time, all calculated together determine which palm leaf reading is yours.

“Is it accurate,” I asked?

Phyllis said “I took notes at first, but the reading predicted so many outstanding experiences with Sai Baba and also said I would write some books. You see I had not even met Sai Baba then. I was so disappointed in myself for going to see this fortune - teller. I couldn't believe a word he predicted. But that was fourteen years ago, and since that time, the readings have come true!

“I asked Sai Baba if the Book of Brighu writings are accurate. Baba said that the palm leaves were accurate, but the true meaning can be lost through the translation.” I wrote down the address, although she was uncertain if he still lives in that residence. She told

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me that the pundit speaks no English, so I will need an English translator to accompany us.

I was grateful for her explanation and help, and I thanked her as we walked to the entrance of the round building where we stayed. I was surprised to see so many dear friends gathered on the porch. "It seems as though Sai has sent you a "good-by" committee," said Catherine. In my previous trips, Sai had always given me a personal good-by. This trip it was denied, but He extended His grace and sent His loving devotees.

Another farewell to God's earthly home. With each trip to Baba, one never knows ahead of time what to expect, what challenges and lessons He will place before you. We never know what will happen. But from experience, I knew that there would be a change in my consciousness by the time I departed. Each time I left, I felt as if my emotional car had had mechanical adjustments, some times more extensively than others. I wondered which fender I had left behind this time.

As we passed through the gate leaving Prasanthi, I still felt shaken from the trauma of the last part of this trip. But I knew that somehow between leaving and arriving back home I would begin to experience the new model car rolling off the assembly line. After so many trips, I was familiar with the pattern. It's definitely Sai's repair shop; the place where we drop off old unwanted parts and get shiny new ones.

"Prasanthi Nilayam is the spiritual uplifting center for the whole world. It is the refuge for all who have no other place to go. It is a workshop where damaged minds and

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hearts come for repair or overhaul.” Sai’s words echoed in my mind.

Years ago, through inner communication, I had an explanation describing God’s method for changing our consciousness. It has helped me to understand the process. I was told that “to change consciousness, God first needs to open our consciousness. This is usually accomplished by some emotional crisis. The strength of the crisis determines the size of the opening, and that subsequently influences the amount of change.”

My inner voice continued. “It’s an internal earthquake, and that is the reason why you feel so shaken. Once the consciousness is open, it makes room for expanded consciousness by removing old programs of thought, feelings and the consequent behavior fills the space with the Oneness of Atmic Vision. This wisdom changes behavior and adds strength to the existing foundation.

“A foundation must be strong and unshakable before the structure can rise. Once floors are added to the structure, that is the higher consciousness, external influences such as earthquakes, (emotional storms) must not penetrate the building in that way you can witness the events of daily living without responding violently to them.”

I was told, “Visualize a crack made by an earthquake. This crack is filled with new earth. The original closure will never return; therefore, what exists is a new expansion of the surface—expanded consciousness, in man.”

So, why do I go to India to see Sai Baba? Why do I travel so far, suffer physical inconvenience, exhaustion,

and often illness plus the emotional and mental stress? I go for expansion of my consciousness, for Love.

The real miracle of Prasanthi Nilayam materializes, as we live with Sai Baba in His energy field of love. His Love energy transforms us, and expands our ability to give and receive Love. As He performs spiritual surgery, He wraps His energy field of love around us and He absorbs the shock of the quake. This eases our karma...we call it Grace.

“Expansion is life. Expansion is the essence of love. Love is God. Live in love.

“Love can transform man into a divine being; it helps him to manifest the divine which is his core.

“God is the source of all love. Love God, love the world as the vesture of God, no more no less. Through love you can merge in the ocean of love. Love cures pettiness, hate, and grief. Love loosens bonds. It saves man from the torment of birth and death. Love binds all hearts in a soft silken symphony. Seen through the eyes of love, all beings are beautiful, all deeds are dedicated, all thoughts are innocent, the world is one vast family.”

Our plane landed late in Bombay, and we had an hour's drive to the President Hotel. We only had one day in Bombay; we were due to depart the next night. The first item on our agenda was to call for an appointment with Mr. Kantilal Pandya, the pundit who reads the Book of Brighu. We had his address, but no phone number. The Krystals felt certain that someone at the hotel would know of him.

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We asked the manager, who checked with the staff and telephone book, but found nothing. We were told to contact a Mr. Ravi at 8:00 a.m. because he would know where to inquire. Before sleeping, we again called upon Sai, "If it's Your Will, please help us to find this pundit."

Robert returned to the lobby at 8:00 a.m. seeking Mr. Ravi, but he had not come to work today. Robert was told to see the business manager at 9:00 a.m. We continued our inquiry because one must never give up too soon, especially in India.

Behind the business manager's desk sat a very sweet young lady who ended our search. She had never heard of Mr. Pandya, but referred to the phone book, even though I stated that the manager had looked last night. She said, "I prefer to recheck."

Thank Sai! There was the name, address, and phone number of the pundit. She could speak Hindi and placed the call. It seemed that Mr. Pandya can speak English and no translator was necessary. He had taken English lessons. How fortunate for us because a second translator lessens the accuracy. He would be available to see us at 10:00 a.m. She wrote out directions for the taxi driver. The address was only fifteen minutes ride from our hotel.

We introduced ourselves and immediately were taken out into the sun for our shadow measurement. We gave him our birth date. He calculated and then brought forth some palm leaves wrapped in a protective covering.

I had heard of the Book of Brighu ten years ago, but

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had never had any desire to get a reading until two days before we left Prasanthi. How strange? It defied logic, but there we were on January 17, 1987, waiting to hear our reading.

We each had separate readings. Since Robert and I have mutually shared so many experiences our readings were somewhat similar. We were both told that Sathya Sai Baba would be our spiritual teacher in this life. Baba would give us rings and a photo of Him with us, and give me a medallion. We would travel to India many times, and Baba will see us and talk with us many times. Thus far what was read was true.

He said that Robert and I were born in India and were husband and wife in our last lifetime. We were both devotees of Shirdi Sai. This lifetime, we were both born in America because of our death wish to see America. Our next life will be spent in India, both males, Brahmacharya, living at Prema Sai's ashram. We will be good friends and come to the ashram at a very young age and spend our entire life with Prema Sai.

He continued, "Sai Baba will tell you, only it's more like a command to start writing NOW!"

I questioned him. "Is this statement written in the palm leaves?"

"Yes," he replied.

"Is the word NOW written?" I inquired.

"Yes," said the pundit.

I could hardly believe what I was hearing. The memory of our interview experience, so fresh that I still trembled

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with its impact, and this was written 5,000 years ago on palm leaves? Incredible!

The word NOW referred to our present trip. If we had decided to come during any other trip, the statement would have been invalid. The three-letter word “now” certainly substantiated the theory that you are destined to arrive at a fixed time. The balance of the reading was about our spiritual life.

It's hard to believe that this was written 5,000 years ago, predetermined. I must admit that this experience did stun me, because suddenly my whole life flashed before me looking at the events from a much different perspective. How many times I thought: I am the doer, I am in control, I have done this and that in my life? The ego is so strong and wants the ultimate control.

This new experience enlarged my vision of God as the doer and my relationship to Him. Sometimes we know the Truth but when it is experienced it becomes Wisdom and because this event with Sai Baba was so intense and emotional, the force of these feelings embedded permanently in my consciousness this Truth, that God is the doer; I am only an instrument.

“Man has two eyes; he sees only past and present. God has three eyes. God's eyes are spiritual. He sees in front, behind, above, below...God is the present. He is Omnipresent. As Baba looks at people, He sees the past, the present moment, and the future and everywhere in every direction.”

Is God determining my future? I hope so. Baba tells us if we choose to turn to the world, to follow our own

ego desires, then we are free to work out our own destiny. If we choose to surrender to God, He will protect, guide, and provide even beyond our requests.

In 1984, Dr. Hislop asked Baba, "One has the free will to choose to turn to God or to be fully involved with the world. But on the other hand, when Baba looks at a person, at one glance He sees, the past, present, and future of that person, so how can there be free will?"

Baba replied, *"From that viewpoint, of the Divine, there is no free will, for all is God. But from the ego viewpoint of the individual there is free will. There is general law, (Gods Law) and then the individual and society. The individual acts in society according to his free will, but all conform to the general law. The individual must act and his action is a function of his mind. There are thoughts. Thoughts are seeds. They sprout and become actions. The actions then appear to be free will to the concerned individual. Everyone has been given skills and talents such as intelligence, reason, energy, and they must be put into life action."*

It is easier for me to understand if I view the world as a classroom with Baba as the teacher, and I the student. For example, imagine I am in the sixth grade. My teacher has already planned the course that he will teach me this year. He knows the material he will teach day by day. My responsibility as a student is to observe, work, and learn. It is the same in the classroom of life. God knows the grade and year of study we're in and determines the necessary lessons for "our personal journey to God."

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If with my own free-will, I surrender my ego to God, then there is no separation—God and I are the same person. So God, a part of me, selects a role for me to perform in His play. He has set the stage and written the script for me. As I live through this role, I learn from these experiences. Sai tells us to experience. Why?

Because when we have "**VISION OF SAI**" we will know our identity is Divine and finally "**ARRIVE HOME.**"

