



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 4 **Sevalaya's News Letter - September 2009** Serve 6 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

His name is Sai. His father's name, he says, is Koteswara Rao. He has two sisters, Annapoorna and Kalpana. He studied in Vivekananda academy, just next to a cinema, in T.Nagar, in Chennai. He is around 8 years old. This playful boy's life took a nasty turn – he was either kidnapped or somehow lost his way and landed in Patna, Bihar. On 4th June, 2009, morning, he gave the slip and ran away from a house in Patna. A ruffian came running behind him from the same house, caught him, beat him, and dragged him inside the house and locked it. Some neighbours noticed this and found something wrong, as they had never seen the kid in that house before. So, one good soul called the police. The house was raided within half-an-hour, thanks to the quick action by Patna police. The boy was rescued. The man could not give any proper explanation about the boy, a case was registered and the man is in jail.

When the police tried to talk to the boy and find out details about him, he could not speak Hindi, the local language, but was speaking in Tamil. Fortunately, at that time, the Patna senior superintendent of Police, was a Tamilian, Ms.Malar Vizhi. The boy was taken to her and she spoke to him in Tamil and found out that he is from T.Nagar, Chennai. So a message was sent to T.Nagar police, and they searched for his parents, but in vain. Then the SSP, called a Tamil press reporter, Mr.Shaffi Munna of Junior Vikatan, who gave a full page coverage about the boy. The press matter was also circulated in the T.Nagar area. TV Channel Star Vijay also carried this story, with a hope, that the parents will some day see the reports. Ms.Malarvizhi kept the boy in her house for a week, but as there was no trace of his parents, the boy was later handed over to Apna Ghar, a boys' home run by Government of Bihar. But the boy was not able to speak the local language, could not go to local school, and hence just whiled away time in the hostel.

I happened to see the report in Junior Vikatan and contacted the local office and got the phone

number of the reporter. Then I contacted Mr.Shaffi Munna and told him that Sevalaya can take over the boy, because if he is near Chennai, it will be easy to locate his parents. In case we are not able to locate the parents, it would anyway be better for him to study in a Tamil medium school. Then the ball started rolling, with all the Government formalities. The child welfare committees of Patna and Thiruvallur got involved and some papers were exchanged. Meanwhile, Ms.Malarvizhi was transferred to a different posting, new SSP, Mr.Vinit Vinayak took over. Finally all formalities were cleared and I was asked to go to Patna in person to take charge of the child.

I left Chennai last week and reached Patna, along with the press reporter, Mr.Shaffi Munna. Together we met some of the Bihar Government officials, including the new and old SSPs, the city commissioner, other IAS and IPS officers. Two police escorts were arranged to accompany me and the boy – the Bihar Government's responsibility ends only after Master Sai reaches Sevalaya. I went to Apna Ghar, met the boy, and brought him to Sevalaya.

Koteswara Rao of T.Nagar, Where are you? Please come to Sevalaya and pick-up Master Sai.

Thanks & Regards

Murali



Sai



The 21st Annual Day Celebrations



The Annual 3 Day Science Exhibition inauguration

Bharathiyar Team Events

The 21st Annual Day Celebrations were held at Sevalaya on 01/08/2009. Mr. D.Napolean, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment was the Chief Guest and released the 21st Annual Report. Mr. A.Krishnasamy, Ex- MP, Mr. V.S. Shanmugam, Chairman, Thiruvallur participated in the celebrations.

The 63rd Independence Day was celebrated on 15/08/2009. Mr. M.N.S.Prabhakar, Inspector of Police, Vengal hoisted our National Flag. The children presented a cultural Programme.

A Meeting on "Quran for World Peace" was held on 18/08/2009. Mr.A.R.Sayeed Sulthan, Sub Editor, Samarasam and Mr.K.Jalaudeen, Joint Secretary, Islamic Foundation Trust were the Chief guests on this occasion.

On 20/08/2009 a meeting was organised to pay Homage to the Music Legend Smt. D.K.Pattammal. Vocalist Shri. N.Vijay Siva spoke to the children about the life of D.K.Pattammal.

The Annual 3 Day Science Exhibition was inaugurated on 21/08/2009. The topic of this year's Exhibition was "Science & Technology for Mankind". Dr. P.Perumalsamy, Director of School Education inaugurated the exhibition. Ms. S.Uma, Chief Educational Officer, Thiruvallur District and Ms. A.Ponnammal, District Educational Officer, Thiruvallur participated. More than 10 schools (Govt. as well as Matriculation Schools) in and around Thiruninravur also participated in the exhibition.

The Valedictory function of the Annual Science Exhibition was held on 23/08/2009. Mr. G.Ramprasad, CEO, Tata TeleServices was the chief Guest on the occasion.

External Events

On 27/08/2009 2 students participated in the Oratorical Competition conducted by Murasoli Trust at Thiruvallur IVR Thirumana Mandapam.

Puzhal Prison

In the Puzhal Prison film on the life of Bharathiyar was screened on 08/08/2009. On 15/08/2009 Film on the life of Gandhiji was screened and on 30/08/2009 film on the life of Swami Vivekananda was screened.

Sports

On 03/08/2009 Rotary Olympia conducted District level sports meet at RAC Engineering College Kavarapet. Sevalaya Team got II place 4*100 Relay. On 06/08/2009 Sevalaya Conducted Zonal level sports meet. Sevalaya Senior Team won Throw Ball against Avadi Govt.Girls Higher Sec School. Sevalaya Senior Girls were Runners up at the Zonal level Kho Kho game at Nazarathpet on 07/08/2009. On 12/08/2009 Sevalaya student Kalpana was the Zonal winner in the Badminton singles (senior)at Aringar Anna Higher Secondary School, Poonamalle. On 21/08/2009 in the Zonal level athlete meet at Avadi TSP Patalian Ground, Baby got 2nd Place both 100m and 200m (Super Seniors) Banupriya got 2nd Place in 400mts and 800m. In the 4*100m Relay race Sevalaya team came 2nd. In the Seniors Category Chitra got 3rd Place in 100mts running, and in Javelin Throw event Mala got 3rd Place. In the 4*100m Relay Sevalaya senior team got 2nd Place.Sevalaya Students also participated in the Divisional level



A Rally on "Global Warming"



63rd Independence Day celebration

sports meet held at Nehru Park Stadium on 25/08/2009 conducted by Rotary Olympia and in the Thiramaipor – 2009 conducted by Rotract Club of Aakash On 29/08/2009 at Sevalaya Campus. Our school students Kalpana and Aarthi are runners in the Badminton doubles conducted by TamilNadu sports Development Centre on 26/08/2009

Staff Book Review

On 01/08/2009, Mr.Senthilnathan spoke on "Vivekananda's Hindu Religion. "Swami Vivekananda's Life and Message was taken up for discussion by Ms.Nadhiya on 08/08/2009. On 15/08/2009 Ms.Bhama shared her views on Vivekananda's "Beyond Death" (Tamil). Mr.Vijayaraghavan shared his views on Vivekananda's "Religion of Love" on 22/08/2009 and On 30/08/2009 Mr.P.Narayanamoorthy spoke on Vivekananda's "Youth make India" (Tamil)

Training Programme

On 10/08/2009 Mr.MuraliKrishnan spoke about Global Warming awareness Programme to all Staff members. On 10/08/2009 Mr.J.Muralidharan spoke to the Sevalaya Teaching staff on "Enhance your results to fit your capacity". On 15/08/2009 Ms .Jollean Matsen from Canada spoke to staff members on "Mind Gems" Chinmaya Mission conducted "Personality Development Programme" for the 10th and 12th Students on 19/08/2009. 4 staff members attended the Personality Development Programme at the Vedathi Maharishi Ashram at Aliyar, Coimbatore District.

NSS Activities

The NSS wing of Sevalaya undertook the cleaning of the Pakkam High School on 05/08/2009.

Gandhi Team

On 16/08/2009 hostel students and senior citizens from the Old Age Home were invited by Satyam Yoga Trust for a get together at Rangarajapuram.

A Rally was conducted to create awareness on "Global Warming" 99999 Lights Off Campaign on 24/08/2009. The rally was flagged off at the Corporation Park, Thiruvallur by Mr. K. Mohanasundaram, District Revenue Officer. Nearly 2000 students from all schools in Thiruvallur participated in the event.

Sevalaya's Kottu Murasu Team presented a programme on health awareness at Ayalur village on 27.08.2009.

Vivekanandar Team

Temple Visit

On 07/08/2009 hostel boys went to Thirumullaivoyal Shiva Temple. On 28/08/2009 hostel girls went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar temple.

Students Study Circle

On 01/08/2009 a book on Riddles for Children (Tamil) by Mr.Govindasamy was reviewed by Ramakrishnan. On 08/08/2009, Adaikalasamy shared his views on "the Magic Hundi" (Tamil) by Mr.Arul Nambi. On 22/08/2009 Shanthipriya shared her views on the "Sparrow which conquered the Oceans" (Tamil) by Mr.Govindan.

Tours

2 staff members and 25 students were taken on a 3 day trip trip to Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai's Prashanthi Nilayam at Puttaparthi on 14, 15 and 16/08/2009 by Sri Satya Sai Seva Samithi, Kilpauk.

We can, if we care!

Who called Gandhiji the Mahatma for the first time?-this is a question coming up in Gandhian circles often times.

Then, when did Mr.M.K.Gandhi turn himself in to Mahatma? Some would refer to the Maritzburg incident. To us, it seems only the trigger point, which set the course of events. Since then Gandhiji has been chiseling himself thought by thought, act by act and by even the most seemingly trivial event, in to being, and at the same time becoming, the Mahatma that he really was. The process went on till the last moment when he merged in Rama.

The question for us is whether we can become Mahatma-s. The optimistic piece of information given out by Gandhiji himself is yes, we can. He writes," Whatever is possible for me is possible even for a child and I have sound reasons to say so. The instruments for the quest of truth are as simple as they are difficult. They may appear quite impossible to an arrogant person and quite possible to an innocent child. The seeker after Truth should be humbler than the dust."

Besides simply telling us that we can, he shows us how. "My life is my message" is not a mere shibboleth. In his "Experiments with Truth" he tells the story of his experiments with Truth, and his life consists of nothing but these experiments. He narrates the incidents in a dispassionate and humble spirit. He has conducted the experiments as a scientist with the utmost accuracy, forethought and minuteness. He has gone through deep self introspection, searched himself through and through and examined and analyzed every psychological situation. Of course, he does not claim finality for his conclusions but leaves it to the reader to make his own conclusion based on his own perception of truth.

As said above, the autobiography is a string of episodes, trivial, and major, in Gandhiji's life, his analysis of them and the conclusions arrived at by him. If we agree with his conclusion, and decide to benefit by them, yes, we are that much closer to Mahatma-dom.

For example, we will narrate a small incident., his analytical observations and the conclusion he records.

Situation: In South Africa, Gandhiji asked one Mr. West to take charge of the Indian Opinion at Durban. The salary was fixed at 10 lbs. per month. He would also be eligible for part of profits, if earned. On the basis of report by Mr.Madanjit, who was previously in charge of the magazine, without examining, Gandhiji had told Mr. West that he could expect a profit.

The first report from Mr. West was alarming. He wrote: I do not expect the concern to yield the profit that you had thought probable. I am afraid there may even be a loss. The books are not in order. There are heavy arrears to be recovered, but one cannot make head or tail of them. Considerable overhauling has to be done. But all this need not alarm you. I shall try out things right as best as I can. I remain on, whether there is profit or not."

Observation (of Gandhiji.): Mr. West might have left when discovered there was no profit, and I could not have blamed him. In fact, he had a right to arraign me for having described the concern as profitable without proper proof. But, he never uttered as much as one word of complaint. I have however, an impression that this discovery led Mr. West to regard me as credulous. I had simply accepted sjt.Madanjit's estimate without caring to examine it, and told Mr. West to expect a profit.

Conclusion (arrived at by Gandhiji): I now realize that a public worker should not make statements of which he has not made sure. Above all, a votary of truth must exercise the greatest caution. To allow a man to believe a thing which one has not fully verified is to compromise truth.

(Gandhiji had immediately taken remedial steps.)

Gandhiji's Autobiography is replete with such truthful records, observations and lessons, which will benefit us if we care to.

So, we too can become Mahatmas, if we care to.

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