

***SUMMER SHOWERS***  
***IN***  
***BRINDAVAN***  
***2000***

Discourses of  
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



**Prasanthi Nilayam**

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## FOREWORD

The Summer Course is an event eagerly looked forward to by the students of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and Bhagavan's devotees alike. The Institute was fortunate to have been blessed by Bhagavan to organise the course at the beginning of this academic year. It looked as if it was heralding the 75th year of the Advent and highlighting the major theme of the year — spiritual unfoldment of the Sai Mission. The Summer Course centred on Indian culture and spirituality.

Bhagavan, in his infinite compassion, delivered as many as fifteen discourses which formed the bulk of teaching material for this course. The subjects were dealt with in great depth and related to the *pancha bhuthas*, *pancha kosas*, sacredness of the human body, the concept of *dharma*, *preyas*, and *sreyas*, the states of bliss, the need for disciplined life on the part of the students, and, most importantly, the need to place the interests of the motherland above everything else and serve the society in a selfless manner. Studded with powerful anecdotes drawn from Indian mythology and cultural history and reinforced by profound spiritual truths expressed in the most lucid and elegant language, they had a remarkable impact. Understandably, the Vision of the Revered Chancellor of the Institute – true education meant to impart self awareness, self confidence, self satisfaction, self sacrifice and self realisation – came to be grasped far better by everyone, more particularly the students of the Institute.

The *grama seva* undertaken soon after Dasara was a practical demonstration of these Vedantic truths in action.

Conventionally, the divine discourses get translated into English for the benefit of the devotees all over the globe. The English rendering of the discourses this year is marked by clarity and elegance. The exercise is entirely the labour of love and devotion of Prof. G. Venkataraman, my predecessor Vice Chancellor of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The spiritual insights that the English rendering provide are too many to be listed here. A turn of the phrase here, a syntax there or transposition of an idea at an appropriate place have all made an enormous difference to our understanding of the torrential flow of Bhagavan's discourses. The Institute is profoundly grateful to him.

It is our earnest hope that this compilation will be of lasting benefit to all seekers of Truth, young and old.

Prasanthi Nilayam (A.P.)  
August, 2001

**S.V. Giri**  
Vice-Chancellor  
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of  
Higher Learning

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