

# **PRASNOTTARA VAHINI**

(Answers to Spiritual Questions)

by

**BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA**



PRASANTHI NILAYAM

**SRI SATHYA SAI BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS TRUST**

Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134

Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Grams: BOOK TRUST STD: 08555 ISD: 91-8555

Phone: 87375 Fax: 87236

Sri Sathya Sai Books & Publications Trust  
Prasanthi Nilayam P.O. 515 134, Anantapur District, A.P. (India.).

All Rights Reserved

The copyright and the rights of translation in any language are reserved by the Publishers. No part, passage, text or photograph or Artwork of this book should be reproduced, transmitted or utilised, in original language or by translation, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photo copying, recording or by any information, storage and retrieval system except with the express and prior permission, in writing from the Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books & Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam (Andhra Pradesh) India - Pin Code 515 134, except for brief passages quoted in book review. This book can be exported from India only by the Publishers - Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam (India).

International Standard Book Number: 81-7208-306-8

First Enlarged Edition: July 2002

Price Rs.

*Published by:*

**The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books & Publications Trust**

Prasanthi Nilayam, India – Pin Code 515134

STD: 08555 ISD: 91-8555 Grams: BOOKTRUST

Telephone: 87375 Fax: 87236

*Printed at :* **Omkar Offset Printers,**  
No. 3/4, 1 Main, N.T. Pet, Bangalore - 560 002.

## THE ANSWER

**P**rasna means “question.” Uttara means “answer,” and Vahini indicates “a stream.” This book is the stream of the questions that have evoked answers from Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Among the tasks that Bhagawan has assumed while incarnating, He has declared as basic, the one which He calls, “the clarification and purification of the religious scriptures of mankind.” Every Vahini emanating from Him has done this service to some aspect or other of the spiritual upliftment of man.

This Vahini is one of the earliest in the series, since it seeks to elucidate the fundamental concepts and precepts of religion, especially the technical words and expressions that seek to concretise them. Hitherto published as an Appendix to a single Vahini, the Geetha Vahini, it is now placed in the hands of seekers as a key publication, helpful for readers of all the Vahinis.

The Ancient Wisdom (*Sanathana Dharma*), the Perennial Path, has been communicated to posterity in words that have suffered distortion, devaluation, dilution and denigration through the efflux of time and the controversies among commentators. Varna, Asrama, Yoga, Sanyasa, Yajna, Karma—these are interpreted by dialecticians and practitioners of varied schools and sects, in confusing and contradictory versions.

Bhagawan has resolved these tangles. His exemplary love and patience sweeten not only every answer but every question too, for, He has, by posturing as the interrogator, made the clarifications full and fruitful.

N. Kasturi  
Editor, Sanathana Sarathi  
14 Jan., 1984

## CONTENTS

1	The Body and the Indriyas	1
2	The Fourteen Lokas	9
3	The Four Asramas	13
4	Moksha and Karma	19
5	Vidya and Bhakthi	23
6	Obstacles To Moksha	29
7	The Pancha Kosas	35
8	Yoga and Moksha	41
9	Jnana and Yoga	45
10	Brahma Vidya and Women	49
11	Asramas and Varnas	55
12	The Sastras and Sanyasa	61
13	Manthra and Japa	67
14	Thapas	73
15	Ashtanga Yoga	81