

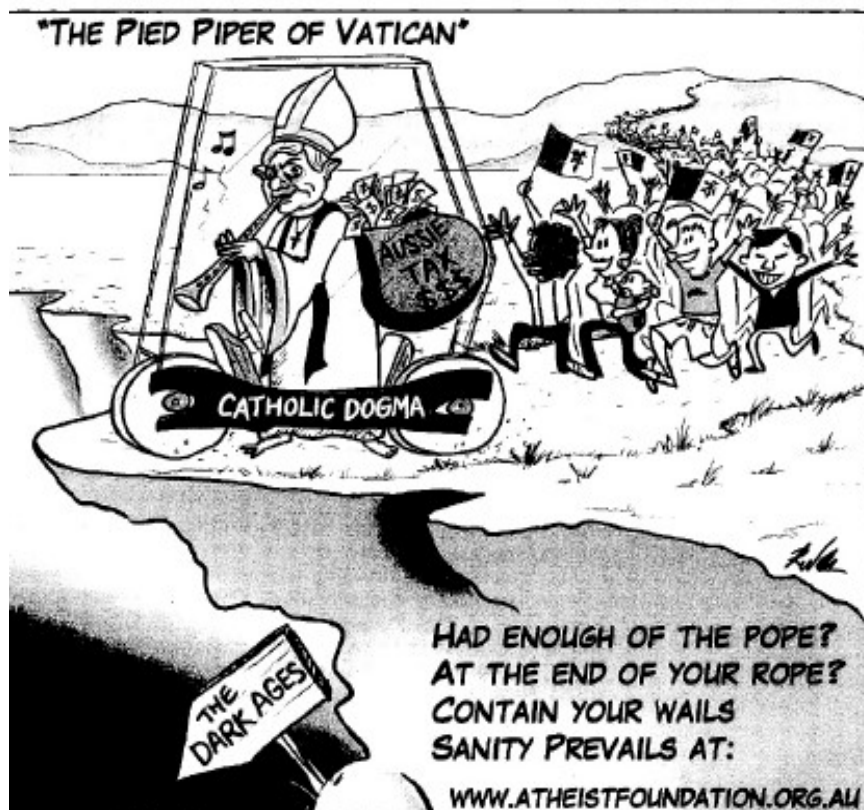


Indian Skeptic

Vol.21 No.6 15-10-2008

CATHOLIC WORLD YOUTH DAY

In response to the Pope's visit to Sydney for [CATHOLIC] World Youth Day, the Atheist Foundation will place this cartoon in *The Australian Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* on 18 July 08.



Unless otherwise stated, permission is granted to other skeptical organizations to reprint Articles from INDIAN SKEPTIC as long as proper credit is given and you send us copies of your newsletters that reprint our articles.

INDIAN SKEPTIC Rs.5/- Other countries US\$ 1/-.

Annual subscription in India Rs.60.00

Other countries by Air Mail U.S.\$ 12.00

Life Subscription in India Rs.500.00

Other countries U.S.\$ 150.00

Send M.O. or postal order made in the name of B.Premanand, payable at Podanur, or draft payable at Coimbatore.

INDIAN COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF CLAIMS OF THE PARANORMAL. Convener: B.Premanand.

Objectives:

1. To develop Scientific Temper, Humanism, Spirit of Inquiry and reforms.
 2. To encourage the critical investigation of paranormal and fringe-science claims from a responsible, scientific point of view and to disseminate factual information about the results of such inquiries to the scientific Community and the public.
 3. To investigate into the ethics of the Cult & Religious Leaders.
- To carry out these objectives the Committee:
- * Maintains a network of people interested in critically examining claims of the paranormal.
 - * Prepares bibliographies of published materials that carefully examine such claims.
 - * Encourages and commissions research by objective and impartial inquiry in areas where it is needed.
 - * Convenes conferences and meetings.
 - * Publishes articles, monographs, and books that examine claims of the paranormal.
 - * Does not reject claims on a priori grounds, antecedent to inquiry, but rather examines them objectively and carefully.

The committee is a non profit, scientific and educational organisation."INDIAN SKEPTIC" is its official journal.

Editor, Printer, Publisher and Owner: B.Premanand, Convener, Indian CSICOP, 11/7, Chettipalayam Road, Podanur 641 023 (Tamilnadu) INDIA.

Editorial Board : Rahul Singh, Bombay, Prof Narendra Nayak, R.J.Rao, Mrs. Margaret Bhatti, Nagpur.

Legal Adviser : K.N.Balgopal, 18/21 W.E.A., Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005.

TIME TO RENEW SUBSCRIPTION: If your subscription Number on the Wrapper is 09/2008 your subscription ends with this issue. Renew the subscription by sending Rs.60.00 by M.O. or by becoming a life member by depositing Rs.500/-. Overseas subscribers send by Western Union Money Order US\$ 12/- or life membership US\$ 150/- made in the name of B. Premanand

Contents

1. Contents
 2. Editor's Page
 3. Reincarnation: Overview of the work of Ian Stevenson (1918-2007)
The SKEPTIC Volume 21 Number 1 Spring 2008
 4. He beats holy men at their own game : Jeevan Mathew Kurian
 5. FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN! – SOMU a.k.a. R.G.RAO
 6. DEFENCE OF SAI BABA SEXUAL ABUSES
 7. SAI BABA and SEX: A Clear View - by Ram Das Awle
 8. Disrespect - WHO THE HELL IS SHE ????
 - From: archana borker <goan_archana@yahoo.co.in>
 9. 1- Solar eclipse: From 1995 till now
 10. SC seeks ways for a just sentence New Delhi - Deccan Herald 30.4.2008
 11. Death or life term for Shraddanand? Times of India - 1.5.2008
-

Editor's Page : Future of Indian Skeptic

In my struggle to complete some of my dreams to reality like the resurrection of Method of Science Exhibition and arranging my library with about 70,000 books and Scientific Journals, I find it difficult to put my energy on the monthly English Newspaper Indian Skeptic as the monthly expenses to run the newspaper comes to Rs.20000/- though we print and post about 2000 copies half of which goes for exchange and to the Indian Newspapers and TV channels.

My finance or assets are already diminished having even sold the property of my 2nd son Kabir Prabhu who was murdered by the SSB muscle men to steal the original records of the kidney stealing in SSB's Super Speciality Hospital.

We had asked for suggestions from our members in the July 2008 issue and taking the suggestions in right earnest, the only way I find worthy if the Indian Skeptic has to continue is to stop the printing and make Indian Skeptic an e-newspaper to be posted to the members who have email address. As a test we have posted to 200 subscribers overseas whose email address was available so far and except for about 10 emails, all other emails have been received by the addressees.

I would request the addressees who receive Indian Skeptic to inform us their email address immediately so that Indian Skeptic can be posted to them by email every month.

Those who do not have an email address we will not be posting them Indian Skeptic and we are prepared to refund the deposit of Rs.500/- I would prefer that they would order for the books worth Rs.1000/- as the life members are eligible for 50% discount on the books. The list is on the back cover of Indian Skeptic. I need your help to die a honest person settling all the financial liabilities which I had promised to the life members.

THE LIFE AFTER DEATH - INCARNATION - AND AVATAR

The business of soul, spirit, incarnation, ghosts etc., have not been so far proved and are only a part of imagination. The person who did research on life after death was late Ian Stevenson who copied the newspaper articles by one Banerjee who was appointed in the Jaipur University for research on Parapsychology. Later he was exposed by Dr.Radhanath Rath as he did not even have high school education and the parapsychology department closed.

Now one of the psychology Professors of NIMHANS Bangalore was given a Ph.D. for her thesis for proving life after death.

Many times though I tried to interview her, she was avoiding and also Dr.Ian Stevenson whom I met him in United States for a debate on his work on life after death.

Even a brilliant Supreme Court Justice Mr.V.R.Krishna Iyer who was a neighbour when we were living in Kerala came with a full page article of his talking with his late wife through a medium and after meeting her and talking with her. When I put a question to him how his dead wife appeared before the medium to talk to you through him. He stated that her soul was wrapped in the Benares saree presented to

her at the time of marriage. If one looks to the souls which are believed to be photographed they had the body at the time of death and wrapped in thin clothes.

When the life after death is not so far proved, the dead people incarnating later can't be acceptable. In Ratnakaram Satya Narayana Raju's case the book Love is my Form printed after a lot of research by the editors prove that SSB was not an avatar.

If he was an incarnation of the dead Shirdi Sai Baba, SSB ought to have remembered when he was born as he was the poorna Avathar of Shiva and Shakthi as well as Shirdi Sai Baba. SSB has not explained where he was for 8 years after his death as Shirdi Sai Baba.

Even SSB claiming to be Shirdi Sai Baba was when he was 14 years old. He didn't claim to be the dead Shirdi Sai Baba when he was born. Till 14th year he was Ratnakaram Satya Narayana Raju as per the school records and the land deeds registered in his name.

If you look to the life after death stories, the children remembered their previous life at a young age, and not after growing up. Even here RSNR did not claim that he was the incarnation of Shirdi Sai Baba.

The Karnam Kamalamma in her foreword in the Book Love is my Form Vol.1 (1926-1950) remembered the following

After the bath, He stands as a very young boy, with a towel around his waist. He keeps a Shirdi Baba photo and breaks open the coconut we carried there for the worship. Then he says I am not a ghost. I am Shirdi Baba. I was to join this boy. I trouble this body in numerous ways, to settle down.

This proves beyond doubt that it was the spirit of Shirdi Sai Baba which spoke through RSNR and what happened to the soul of RSNR is not explained.

Even when RSNR produced sweets and school necessities like rubber, pencil etc., he did not claim to be the poorna Avathar of god he only stated when questioned that it was the grace of grama Devata village goddess that he produced them from the empty bag!

The biography of RSNR is full of incidents of curing ghost possessions etc., when it has not been proved that there are ghosts moving about and he had powers to vacate the deed spirits.

This the first time that we are celebrating the real Birth date of RSNR which is 4th October 1929. We congratulate RSNR for making the whole world believe his lies as truth. It is now time that he confess!.

Reincarnation : Overview of the work of Ian Stevenson (1918-2007)

The SKEPTIC Volume 21 Number 1 Spring 2008

Leonard Angel recounts his experience of a possible post-mortem encounter with the world's most famous investigator of reincarnation claims

I HAD A DREAM last night. In the dream, a man in a suit with short hair, an intense look, and glasses, was floating in the air near my desk. He was transparent, but, judging from a photograph I had seen, the figure looked like Ian Stevenson. (Ian Stevenson has been called the "top rebirth scientist," for example, in the magazine Reincarnation International, November 1995: 34. He died at the age of eighty-eight in February 2007). Here are some fragments of the dream conversation, reconstructed, of course, in my waking life:

LA: Oh! Is that Ian Stevenson?

IS: Your guess is correct.

LA: And your life work is completed...

IS: Eighty-eight years caught up with me. I would like to have continued with more research, but was unable to do so.

LA: Yet you're satisfied with what you accomplished.

IS: Oh yes. Many of the cases I presented call for some paranormal interpretation of the data.

LA: And you investigated thousands of cases. Many of them are in print. But what I am interested in is, did you present scientifically proper investigations?

IS: Of course my investigations were scientific, and proper! *(counts on his fingers)* I investigated many spontaneously generated past-life memories of children. I investigated the abilities of children to use a language that they couldn't have naturally acquired. I investigated the correspondences between birthmarks of children and wound sites and similar sites on previous people. I recorded the remarkable correspondences. I did mathematical calculations of the probability of finding such correspondences. And I published the results. The results show that something very unusual, something paranormal, is required to explain the best of these correspondences.

LA: So you think that a succession of case investigations such as you conducted for about forty years is sufficiently scientific?

IS: Yes. That is what I just said.

LA: True, that is what you said. But it seems to me that what you did may only *look as though* it is scientific. Perhaps you didn't follow the most basic rule for scientific investigation.

IS: Please! To suggest that I failed to do the most basic thing is absurd... This is nonsense. I think I'll retreat to another place. I'll be gone. Then you won't be able to talk to me any longer.

LA: Go ahead, go...

(Ian Stevenson's image turns, floats, then turns back.)

LA: Ah, so you haven't gone anywhere.

IS: Why should I go anywhere! I have nothing to be afraid of!

LA: I'm glad you have no fear. What I'm suggesting is that the most basic method of scientific work is to develop an experimental test to see whether the data goes against the null hypothesis before suggesting special hypotheses, like "The data are best explained by paranormal means".

IS: Oh, no! Don't tell me you're going to start talking about special hypotheses and null hypotheses.

LA: You don't know what these terms mean?

IS: Of course I know what they mean. But if you have some hidden plan, I'm suspicious.

LA: What hidden plan might I have?

IS: I don't know. Perhaps you're going to write down this conversation and present it to other people. If that's the case, I'm worried. The minds of many will go blank if we talk about things like 'the null hypothesis'.

Ian Stevenson has been called
the "top rebirth scientist"

LA: You're probably right. The minds of many people do go blank when 'the null hypothesis' is mentioned. But that's too bad, and not necessary. The null hypothesis just hypothesizes that results are according to chance, that's all. Perhaps the terminology is difficult, but the terminology is just third or fourth year university work in a typical social science course about the sorts of connections you were thinking about for decades. In any case, I'll avoid using the term 'null hypothesis'. Let me put it this way: you didn't consider the most plausible hypothesis to account for the sort of data that was gathered. Nor did you test that most plausible hypothesis.

IS: Which was-?

LA: That you showed no unusual correspondences between living people and supposed past lives. The apparent correspondences were to be statistically expected.

IS: No, that's obviously not right. It's obvious from my published work that there are very striking correspondences.

LA: Sorry to disagree. Let me explain.

IS: *(with a scornful look on his face)* Please do.

LA: In dealing with data about human beings, there are so many bits of information that could be selected that anyone can take any group of persons and, by information about the members of the group, select two to show what seem - to some - to be remarkable correspondences between them. The main task is to find out whether or not random batches of material about people will generate as many correspondences with possible past lives as actual supposed memories of past lives that have been considered. This could be the subject for a scientific test of the

standard sort. There would be a control group and an experimental group. Blind ordinary subjects, or blind scientist subjects, would guess as to which correspondences needed special explanation. Then it would be found out if their guesses were chance-distributed between the control group and the experimental group.

IS: Could such a test be set up? I don't think so!

LA: Of course it could.

IS: How?

LA: It would take a moment or two to describe. May I?

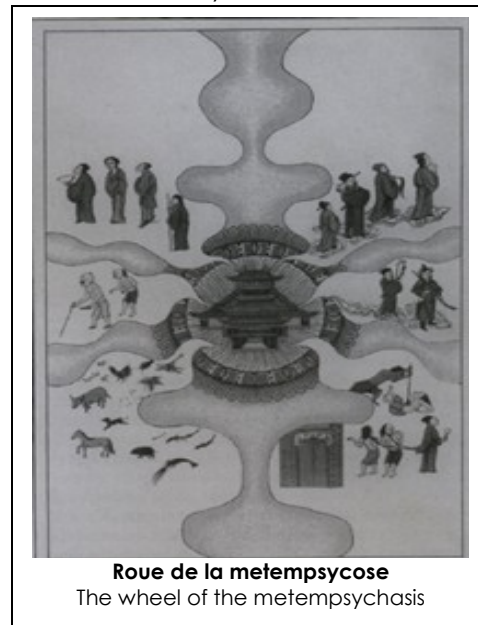
IS: I'm not in any rush!

LA: Good. Let me start with an example. In fact, in the example, we don't even start with a group of people. We start with correspondences between me and you.

IS: "Me and you"? Do you think that there are remarkable correspondences between you and me?

LA: No. Not "remarkable". But, correspondences, yes. And we want to find out if subjects - ordinary people, or scientists - might think the correspondences are remarkable. I found the correspondences between you and me from your obituary that I read the other day in the *NY Times*. I was struck with what could be called, by some people, improperly though, "remarkable" correspondences. So I compiled a list of them, and then rewrote it as a list of memories of a past life of A, that are true of another person B, someone of a previous generation. You were old enough to be my father, so you were of a previous generation. And the remarks are true; the past life that I - A in the list - remember is my own life. Here's the rewritten list. I am A. You are B. You can see at a glance that there are twenty one features (*I showed the list to Ian Stevenson. Here is what, in the dream, Ian Stevenson looked at*):

- (1) A remembers his past life as having been born in Montreal, Canada. B was born in Montreal, Canada. (2) A remembers his past life as having received the Bachelor's degree from McGill University. B received the Bachelor's Degree from McGill University. (3) A remembers his past life as having received the Degree of Doctor some time after completing the Bachelor's Degree. B received the Degree of Doctor some time after completing his Bachelor's Degree. (4) A remembers his past life as having been married twice. B was married twice. (5) A remembers his past life's mother as having been interested in spirituality. B's mother was interested in spirituality. (6) A remembers his past life as having had a home during his childhood and youth that had a big library. B's home during B's childhood and youth had a big library. (7) A remembers of his past life that his big



The Buddhist wheel of rebirth of the soul.

library in his youth stimulated his past life's interest in many matters of importance in understanding human nature. B's big library in his youth stimulated his interest in many matters of importance in understanding human nature. (8) A remembers his past life as having been a member of a family in which he not only had a sister, but also, a brother. B was a member of a family in which he had not only a sister, but also a brother. (9) A remembers his past life as having endorsed scientific method. B endorsed scientific method. (10) A remembers his past life as having gone through a phase of being positively impressed with the work of Sigmund Freud, and then moving in another direction, thinking that Freud's work was too unscientific. B went through a phase of being positively impressed

with the work of Sigmund Freud. Then he moved in another direction, thinking that



Artistic representation of reincarnation: the old folk plunge into the Pool of Life - and re-emerge as babies.

Freud's work was too unscientific. (11) A remembers his past life as having spent some years as the Head/Chair of his academic Department. B spent some years as the Head/Chair of his academic Department. (12) A remembers his past life as having investigated specific claims about memories. B investigated specific claims about memories. (13) A remembers his past life as having been cautious in public if asked for comments. If asked for a comment in public, B would be cautious about what he'd say. (14) A remembers his past life as having been primarily interested in human nature. The primary interest in B's thinking was human nature. (15) A remembers his past life as having developed some unusual views, given the range of views found expressed in the refereed literature. B developed some unusual views, given the range of views found expressed in the refereed literature. (16) A remembers his past life as having expressed some views that were quickly dismissed in what the past life thought was a 'knee-jerk' sort of way. B took it that some of his views had been quickly dismissed in what he thought was a 'kneejerk' sort of way. (17) A remembers of his past life that despite having expressed views that he thought were 'knee-jerk' rejected, he persisted in publishing the results of his thinking in journals and books. Despite having expressed views that he thought were 'knee-jerk' rejected, B persisted in publishing the results of his thinking in journals and books. (18) A remembers his past life as having published a book in a particular year, and that his past life had worked on that book for many years previously. B published a book in that year, and had worked on that book for many years previously. (19) A remembers of his past life that the book (that he had published that year) was a compendium. The book that B published that year was a compendium. (20) A remembers of his past life that he published four books, some of them with technical details for technically minded readers. B published four books, some of them with technical details for technically minded readers. (21) A remembers of his past life that he coded some information in a way that he alone knew about. B coded some information in a way that he alone knew about.

Presumably a full list of correspondences between you and me would include many more items. Of all the cars that I drove and that you drove, perhaps one of mine and one of Yours were made by the same company. Of the homes we lived in perhaps one of mine and one of yours had the same number of bedrooms or bathrooms. There was no information given on the number of children you had, and so on. Also, I wear glasses and you wore glasses. You're even wearing glasses now, in my image of you in this dream. So, there you have it: we already have a twenty-second correspondence!

In any case, for a scientific experiment, there would be about twenty or thirty groups of correspondences gathered from about twenty or thirty people and their twenty or thirty respective previous generation lives. Then twenty or thirty of the correspondences that you gathered would be slightly abstracted, so there wouldn't be names. There would just be letters instead of names, as there were in the above group. And the information for any such group would be presented in the same manner as the information in any other group. That would make a total of forty to sixty groups.

Suppose, for convenience, that there would be forty such groups. They would be randomly given numbers from 1 through 40. Then blind recorders and blind subjects would be found. This means they wouldn't know which of the groups from 1 to 40 were cases of correspondences that could not plausibly be thought to be paranormally generated (the control group), and which were cases of correspondences thought by some - you, for instance - to have been paranormally generated (the experimental group).

The subjects would then make their guesses as to which were from the control group, which from the experimental group. Recorders would record and then gather the guesses. And an analysis would be done to see if there was any statistically significant correlation between the cases guessed as coming from the experimental group and the cases that came from the experimental group. If there was no statistically significant correlation, then the natural hypothesis - the guesses are no better than chance guesses - (or, to be pedantic, the null hypothesis) would be satisfied; the special hypothesis ("many of the cases... call for some paranormal interpretation of the data") would be rejected.

Obviously, though, you didn't do any such test. This means that the basic method of science was not followed in your investigations. You didn't eliminate the chance or null hypothesis.

IS: I'm going! I don't need to hear such comments.

LA: Again, please go. I have no objections to your sudden departure.

(Ian Stevenson, in the dream, again, turns, floats, then turns back.)

LA: Ah, you remain. Perhaps you want to hear more.

IS: I don't want to hear more. I just want to say that it would take too much work to generate such a control group. It couldn't be done!

LA: Yes, it would take a fair bit of work. And perhaps it won't be done. But you said "It couldn't be done." It could be done. It would take time to generate the twenty or so control correspondences, and spending as much time as is required might not be worth it for anyone interested in the experiment. And those who don't like control versus experimental group experiments wouldn't do it either. So perhaps it won't be done.

IS: Then if it won't be done, why mention it?

LA: I didn't say, "it won't be done." I said, "perhaps it won't be done." In any case, this sort of experiment is worth mentioning. The paranormal hypothesis goes against so much ordinary science that it is necessary to eliminate the null hypothesis before taking the paranormal suggestion seriously. Ordinary science says, for example, that biological changes are all chemical changes, and that chemical changes are all changes of subatomic physical things in accordance with the abstract forces of physics. Then there aren't unusual, some would say, bizarre, connections between someone's birthmarks and the wound marks, for example, of a previously deceased person. Even if the properly scientific test is difficult to set up, still, if one wants to examine the merit of the paranormal claim, one should first eliminate the chance hypothesis.

IS: Nonsense.

LA: (shakes his head) You were a sincere, persistent, dedicated, stalwart, strong-minded researcher. But, I don't think you did the basic scientific test for your sort of case.

The paranormal hypothesis goes
against so much ordinary science that
it is necessary to eliminate the null
hypothesis before taking the
paranormal suggestion seriously

IS: You know what? I'd bet that if such a test were done, it would refute the chance hypothesis. There would be a statistically significant correlation between the guesses of cases from the experimental group and the cases that were in the experimental group.

LA: Yes...

IS: Ah! You agree with me!

LA: But only if the generator of the control group used the sorts of methods I used in noticing the correspondences between your life and mine. If that were the case, then there might be a statistically significant correlation. But if a full preparation of the control group were done, then, I venture, there wouldn't be a statistically significant correlation.

IS: Oh, and for a full preparation, the information would have to be more than, for instance, the obituary column information?

LA: I'd say, it's not just the amount of information that counts. It's the laxity, some would say the sloppiness, in the methods you used, that count. But don't turn around, threatening to go away. I won't say 'sloppiness' any more. The point is that the correspondences in the control group would have to be created in the same way that the correspondences exhibited in your work were created.

(pause)

LA (continuing): But it would take months, and it might take years, to create the control group that way, and that's what might never be done. In the example I gave, there are twenty one correspondences between me and you, confirmed, one way or another, in one short piece of information, the NY times obituary on your life, and one more from the photograph I saw of you. I'm sure there would be many more if I spent a week or two finding out further information about you. But in the correspondences you found between present and supposed past lives, there was a great deal of laxity about how to get such correspondences. You started with one person, the child with spontaneous past life memories, say, and a very large group of people, say, all the people in nearby villages and towns. Then

you tried to find correspondences without necessarily fixing in advance what the name of the person to be found was, and so on. So it is only that degree of laxity that would be required in setting up a comparable control group.

IS: I'm not sure I quite see what you mean.

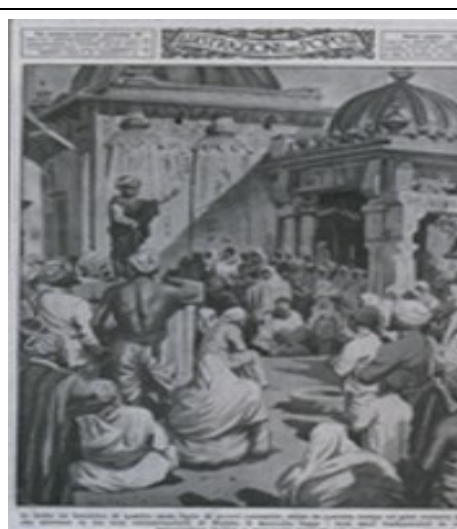
LA: A person preparing the 'control group would have to list all the degrees of laxity found in your sort of work, and the proportion of each kind of laxity, and then allow himself or herself the same kinds and degrees of laxity in creating the control group correspondences.

IS: From what material? Mine or mine plus the many others who have reached similar conclusions?

LA: Your work alone would do. A while back, James Matlock said that "the case for reincarnation rests largely upon" your research (Edwards, 1996: 253). So getting the methods, which is to say both kinds of laxity and proportions of those kinds of laxity, from your work alone, should be good enough.

IS: What you're talking about won't happen.

LA: "Won't"? Or "might not. . ."? Anyhow, to get the precise balances would be difficult. Not impossible, but difficult. For that reason, we could take a different approach. In one way of taking the different approach, we wouldn't allow low



Buddha reborn? A 4-year old Indian peasant boy, perceived to be the reincarnation of Buddha, is adored by pilgrims who come to hear him preach and interpret Buddha's teachings

standards for both the experimental group and the control group, nor would we allow different standards between the experimental group and the control group. We would only allow tough standards for both groups. But that means anyone interested in doing a proper test for the chance hypothesis might have to employ an experimental group that does not at the moment exist. Also, to rake into account coincidental correspondences, one could work hard enough to find a very large group of people - a good bit larger than thirty pairs of people - and then select from the larger group. That would parallel your selection from a very large research group as well.

(The image of Ian Stevenson turns.)

LA: Are you going away again?

IS: No, of course not. (He turns back.) Your attitude is shoddy, that's all.

LA: (sighs) All right. It seems to me that you never followed the basic rule of scientific investigation, to eliminate the chance hypothesis, or putting it another way, to nullify the null hypothesis, before presenting a special hypothesis, in this case the paranormal hypothesis. You are not interested in that kind of science. Let's suppose I accept your lack of interest in doing ordinary science. Still, the problems in your research are so many that one doesn't even need to see whether you followed the basic method of scientific research to discredit the results of your work.

IS: Too bad. It seems you haven't changed your mind about my research. That's too bad.

LA: True, I haven't changed my mind at all. Your life is now complete, though, and so, a summary of the specific details is appropriate. Shall we have a look at that?

IS: I really don't know why I'm staying here. I should have gone, long ago.

LA: - Because this is a dream of mine! That's the reason you're staying. I'm just dreaming about you.

IS: Oh.

LA: So I can go through the problems in your work, ignoring the most basic one, that the null hypothesis was never eliminated. Oops, I shouldn't have put it that way. Never mind. Let's look at what just seems to be improper work.

IS: I'm not listening.

LA: Don't listen, doesn't matter. This is just a dream. (pause)

LA: How's about if I make up a connection between me and you? Say, I remember of my past life that he lived in a house that was painted blue-gray on the outside, and refurbished from a much earlier cedar-sided home. That information is true of me. Then I say that you lived in such a house, and that's how I tabulate it in the tabulated data.

IS: But you'd be just making that up.

LA: True. But that's what you did, for example, in the Maung Tin Win case in Reincarnation and Biology. And you did that in several other cases, too, however shocking it was that you did it in even one case. How about if I distort the probabilities? Suppose I say that we were both born in Montreal, and that there is only a 1 in 12,000 likelihood that for any given person another given person was born in such a town. But actually the likelihood is closer to 1 in 2,000.

IS: So?

LA: Well, that's roughly what you did in reasoning about likelihoods of correspondences of birthmarks and previous wound or similar marks. What if I said, I lived in Calgary, which I did, by the way, and that you lived in Charlottesville, and then you confirmed that we both lived in cities whose names begin with the letter 'C'?

IS: That's just silly. I don't think I ever did anything like that!

LA: No? You often abstracted from information, and

These aren't mere bugs.

These are fatal flaws

then took the more abstracted information to be the information that needed to be confirmed. For instance, from the original informants you thought that Imad Elawar took his past life to have been named 'Mohammed'. Then you found someone who had an uncle named 'Mohammed'. Then you listed the name 'Mohammed' as having been uttered by Imad Elawar; and you took it to have been confirmed that there was someone named 'Mohammed' with some relation to the identified past life. Don't you see the multiple end point problem?

(Ian Stevenson says nothing.)

LA: How about if I set out to find someone who, like me, moved from Montreal to Vancouver; then I decide, instead, to focus on someone who moved from Montreal to Virginia, because Vancouver and Virginia both begin in the letter 'V'?

IS: Please!

LA: But you did something like that. It was a bit different, but I'd say it was equally weird. You set out to find a man named Mahmoud Bouhamzy in Khriby, who had a beautiful wife, five children, and who died as a result of a car accident. Then, instead, you found a man named Ibrahim Bouhamzy, unmarried, with probably no children, and whose cause of death was tuberculosis. You only switched because of other correspondences with information bits of Imad Elawar's reported claims. How different is that from Vancouver and Virginia both beginning in the letter 'V'? Not very, I'd say.

(Ian Stevenson shakes his head.)

LA: How about if I asked whether on someone's front porch there were two tables, and then I concluded that that was true because on that person's front porch there were two benches, each with a flat surface, and the flat surfaces were sometimes used to hold objects?

IS: I give up! What are you going to make of that?

LA: That you did something similar, of course. You said Imad Elawar had said that there were two wells near his past life's house, one full, one empty. Then you took that to be confirmed since Ibrahim Bouhamzy had two grape vats, one higher than the other. "During the rainy season one of these vats became filled with water, but the other, shallower vat did not, because the water evaporated from it. Thus one would be empty while the other was full." That's what you said in your Twenty Cases. What if I claimed to remember a past life having had a tie exactly of the sort that you were wearing, and I only claimed that after I saw you wearing that tie?

IS: Enough! Enough, that's enough!

LA: You often started an item as having only been mentioned after the verification process. How about if I never specified in advance how an item was to be confirmed as applying both to me and to you? Perhaps I used arbitrary or unreliable methods of such confirmation - just as you, apparently, did, many times. How about if I -

IS: Stop it, please, stop it!

LA *(continuing)*: - made general statements that were simply false? For example, what if I said, "I only count two people as being of the same height if they're within three inches of each other in height" -

(Ian Stevenson looks frustrated)

LA: - and then I count many people as being of the same height, though the height of one is never specified, or, from all available information, might be a foot or more different from another whose height is specified? Well, that's what you did about the 10 cm² requirement for matching birthmarks with sites on an identified past life, and for the 5 cm² correspondence. What if I

IS: However many of these so-called problems you have found

LA: I can't continue?



Dalai Lama reborn? When the Dalai Lama dies, a baby boy born at precisely the same moment is recognised by church leaders at Lhasa, Tibet, as his reincarnation.

IS: - you're just uncovering bugs in the excellent scientific work I did. I think you should know, and if you don't, I'm now telling you, that in every scientific discipline, if you run deep enough into the material, you will find many bugs.

LA: Sorry. I don't think so. These aren't mere bugs. These are fatal flaws. To illustrate this, let's look at the way you put all the information together. In your double-match table, 15-1 in *Reincarnation and Biology* - I have a scrap of paper here that says this is on pp. 1132-4 - you listed 33 double-match cases. But in not one of these 33 cases was there common-sensically good evidence for what you tabulate as having been established by good evidence. You reported that 26 of these were cases in which the family of the birthmarked one (the child typically) was acquainted with the facts about the identified past life. So there was no separation of the sources of evidence. Common sense would require that there be such separation of sources of evidence for a good case. Of the remaining seven, #18 had only a preliminary investigation; there are no reports of memory claim investigations. #26 and #22 had no detailed information given, and were not your cases. #27, #31, and #33 are mentioned in tables, but no original texts describing how the information in the tables was reached is given at all. The final case is Necip Unlutaskiran, found on page 430. There are many problems with this case. One of them is that Necip Unlutaskiran's identity card listed him as being born in 1947. The identified past life died on 7 May 1951. No information was supplied to allow anyone to conclude that the actual birthdate of Necip Unlutaskiran was after 7 May 1951. So, I'd say, using your methods of reasoning, that the best explanation of the correspondences between you and me is that you are my past life!

The fact that we were both alive during the same years seems not to be a problem.

IS: I have a hunch that you only speak this way because you think, "Well, he's dead, so he can't reply."

LA: Not at all. You started a large movement in which many researchers do similar work to yours. One of the very many followers of your work could look at my claims and respond to them. I invite them to do that. I'm claiming that no one has done the basic scientific research at all, which is to nullify the mere chance hypothesis. Second, I'm suggesting that if anyone got many groups of correspondences between one life and another earlier life, and abstracted them a bit so that they looked like claims of past life memories, and then randomly mixed them in with evidence about past life memories, similarly abstracted, and then had subjects-ordinary people, or scientists-make guesses as to which need special explanation-then there would be a mere chance distribution. If there was, on the other hand, a statistically significant correlation between cases guessed as needing special explanation and cases in the experimental group, it would be because of different degrees and proportions of laxness in generating correspondences between the two groups. Thirdly, I'm suggesting that the laxness of standards for generating apparent correspondences was shockingly large in your work I could quote Chari's research, and Thomason's, too and that the laxness undoes any common sense claims about the correspondences you supposedly found.

The image of Ian Stevenson then disappeared, and I woke up.

References and Further Reading

- Angel, L. (1994). Empirical evidence for reincarnation? *Skeptical Inquirer*, 18(5), 484.
- Angel, L. (1994). *Enlightenment East and west*. Albany: SUNY Press.
- Angel, L. (2002). Reincarnation all over again, [US] *Skeptic*, 9(3), 86-90.
- Edwards, P. (1996). *Reincarnation*, Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.
- Fox, M. (2007). Ian Stevenson, academic psychiatrist who studied claims of past lives, dies at 88. *NY Times*, February 18, 2007, 27.
- Stevenson, I. (1974). *Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation*. 2nd ed. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia.
- Stevenson, I. (1997). *Reincarnation and Biology*. Westport, CT: Praeger.
- Thomason, S. (1987). Past tongues remembered. *Skeptical Inquirer*, 11, 367-375.
- Leonard Angel teaches philosophy at Douglas College in New Westminster, BC, Canada. His main interests are in the theory of knowledge and in the nature and size of fundamental entities.

He beats holy men at their own game

Jeevan Mathew Kurian

Kozhikode, June 13 (IANS) He walks barefoot over glowing embers, conjures up sacred ash with a wave of his hand or produces gold chains in the twinkling of an eye. But Narendra Nayak is no holy man professing magical powers - in fact he is their nemesis.

Nayak is the current president of the Federation of Indian Rationalist Associations. Once a professor of biochemistry, he quit the job to devote his life to exorcising superstition from society.

'I demonstrate to people that many of the acts by holy men are just tricks and can be executed by anyone,' says Karnataka-based Nayak who was here at the invitation of local rationalists. 'It is a sleight of hand,' he explains, showing the trick of producing a chain out of thin air.

Nayak, 58, a native of Mangalore, quit his job at the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, in 2006. In the last 18 years, he has conducted around 3,000 demonstrations across the country to expose witchcraft, black magic and fake godmen - the term commonly used in India for holy men who woo followers by doing the seemingly impossible.

His observations on 'the relationship between beliefs and happenings' led Nayak to rationalism.

It was his association with famous rationalist Abraham T. Kovoov that gave him the first experience of the rationalist movement in the mid-1970s. Nayak has since travelled abroad extensively, giving interviews and taking part in talk shows.

'Superstition is there everywhere. Abroad it comes out in more subtle forms like colour therapy or numerology. You won't see a British prime minister falling at the feet of a godman.

'But in India, it is blatant. They produce sacred ash or a gold chain from thin air to fool people. Some of them even get away with crimes like murders,' Nayak told IANS in an interview.

Nayak has been to villages where those accused of black magic have been lynched.

'The victims are mostly women. The attackers usually cut the victim's hair, break their teeth and smear them with human faeces to weaken their so-called magical powers. Sometimes the victims are even killed and burned.'

On many occasions, he has gone to villages at the invitation of the police to enlighten people.

He says one of the reasons for superstition was wrong education. 'We give only literacy but no education,' he says.

'Nowadays, 21st century technology is being imposed on a 16th century mental set-up. We now have internet advertisements on 'ek mukhi rudraksha' (sacred bead) or 'vaastu' (Indian treatise on the construction of buildings).'

He says influential godmen are seemingly above the law. To stop superstitions and godmen, laws should be applied equally to all. 'The country also lacks comprehensive laws to control these practices.'

Before the Karnataka assembly elections last month, Nayak offered Rs.200,000 each to five people who could predict the results. The challenge was mainly intended for astrologers.

'I got 200 entries. The contestants were to answer 25 questions. To win the prize at least 21 of them had to be correct.'

He even allowed a 10 percent margin of error on the number of seats for political parties and votes polled by important candidates.

'The maximum number of correct answers was nine. That was done by a woman who is not an astrologer. She said she used the results of opinion polls to answer the questions. However, the maximum scored by an astrologer was only four,' said Nayak.

He is happy that the tide of fortune has turned against godmen in Kerala who face action from the government.

On May 13, Santhosh Madhavan alias Swami Amrithachaithanya was arrested in Kochi for alleged rape and possession of narcotics and pornographic films. After the incident, complaints against godmen started pouring in from various parts of the state, prompting the government to initiate a statewide crackdown.

'The momentum of this drive should remain and cleanse society of godmen as well as superstitions,' says Nayak.

FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN!

SOMU a.k.a. R.G.RAO

Email: rgrao123@gmail.com

Let's first examine whether any person can really cure any illness with his supernatural power or so called mantra shakti. (This includes so called Godmen, faith healers, gunias, mantriks, ghadi, bhagats etc.) Investigation done so far proves beyond doubt that no person on this planet can perform miracles, black magic or cure people from any sickness with mantra

shakti. In fact rationalists have time and again challenged mantriks to prove their so called mantra shakti by using it on them (rationalists) and making them suffer. This challenge is yet to be accepted.

We must consciously try to remove the baseless fear from our minds that some people may possess so-called-miraculous power of curing us of illness or making us ill. We must stop watching T.V. serials, movies, novels, religious scriptures etc. which promotes this type of irrational beliefs and behaviour. When young children of an impressionable age are exposed to such literature and movies, it results in harmful conditioning of their minds and it will make them behave irrationally at the later stage in their life. Remember ISRO scientists taking replica of satellite for Tirupathi Balaji's blessings before launching it. This may be the result of childhood conditioning with irrational thoughts.

It is also important to understand the reasons behind our tendency to believe in the so called power of Mantriks, Bhagats, Ghadi etc. One reason is that human beings have always held fascination for the supernatural, imaginary, occult etc and the very idea that someone might have this power makes him happy. This belief is not only born out of illiteracy but also because of our ignorance about nature as well as functions of our body (Anatomy and physiology).

We say that we have made tremendous progress. Yes, we have progressed! But our claim of progress is restricted to constructing mega housing projects, moving around in big cars, etc. etc. This car which is the gift of science and technology is used by people to visit swami, bhagat, mantrik etc. to do rituals which are most unscientific in nature with his family. We have studied medicine to be Doctors, similarly we have become Engineers, Teachers but the question is have we become truly rational human beings. Hard to find! We have degrees in science, we claim to be scientific minded but when it comes to so called mysterious things, supernatural things we follow the herd mentality and try to be the first one to prostrate before it.

Few days back I saw a teacher wearing a Taviz. Now imagine teachers who are supposed to teach students scientific things believing that wearing a taviz around his neck is good or will bring him prosperity and good luck etc which I am sure he must have received from mantrik after prostrating before him and donating money. What type of education can you expect from this type of teachers other than polluting the minds of young students with irrational ideas? We should not be surprised if the same students when they grow up start visiting the so called people possessing mantrashakti.

It is also due to our ignorance and belief that we rush to ghadi, bhagat when dog or snake bites us. Many times when the patient becomes all right, the ghadi or bhagat gets the credit. But the reality is that it is solely due to snake being non poisonous or the dog being non-rabid. If the snake was poisonous or the dog infected with rabies then surely the person would have died but in this case the bhagat or ghadi never gets the blame, the blame is on the person's destiny.

Another thing I realised while travelling in some areas of U.P. and M.P (This does not excludes other States.) is lack of proper health care facilities. Even where there are medical practitioners, they either lack experience or there is shortage of medicines. So

what happens there is after taking treatment for some time and when Doctor realizes that the patient does not respond either due to wrong diagnosis or lack of proper medicines he straight away suggests to the family of the patient to take him for further treatment. That is he only suggests that the patients should be taken to bhagat / Gunia for further treatment

Most of the time we do feel cured after visiting bhagat , mantrik, drinking holy(?) water, applying holy(?) ash, etc. Here we should keep in mind that most of our illnesses are Psychosomatic in origin and due to our childhood conditioning about the miraculous power of mantriks, holy(?) men etc any suggestion given by them is accepted by our brain and we feel cured.

Sometime due to many reasons such as stress or other Psychological reasons there is sudden change in behavior in person. If we don't know the scientific reason we tend to attribute this to black magic (Karni) etc and instead of visiting the Psychiatrist we visit bhagat.(Even today we think that only mad people are treated by a Psychiatrist, so going to mantrik is Socially acceptable. No stigma attached)

Only inculcating scientific attitude as a way of life in our day to day life will help us in getting rid of this fear of the unknown. We must heed the lines of Rabindranath Tagore

"where the mind is without fear..."

DEFENCE OF SAI BABA SEXUAL ABUSES

THE SATHYA SAI ORGANIZATION CONDONES AN 'EXPLANATION' OF SERIOUS SEXUAL MOLESTATIONS

Member of the Sathya Sai Organization, including some office-bearers, have circulated to many devotees a printed version of a truly sick rationalization of homosexual abuses on boys and young men of the most crude sort by Sathya Sai Baba. The paper is also

available on the Internet, posted there three years ago by a Sathya Sai Baba devotee called Ram Das Awle, who claims it was inspired and blessed by Sathya Sai Baba himself!

That the International Sathya Sai Organisation has not once refuted this sick and disgusting 'explanation' as to why Sathya Sai Baba sexually abuses males by a well-known devotee, which has been sent to many followers and even to ex-followers (including myself), is a major blot on its reputation, which is already in question for a number of reasons, including unaccountability and failure to exercise duty of care and mandatory reporting.

Considering that a mass of evidence has been available for a long time now to show that the 'avatar' Sathya Sai Baba is not at all what he claims to be, it is pitiful to see the extent to which devotees are willing to blind their own minds and bend their values backward to turn moral truths upside-down to discount indisputable facts. There are among them plenty of mental hawkers and tinkers who practice.

This paper is the last word in systematic, self-reproducing gullibility by indoctrinated members of what has become a closed and secretive cult which excludes and demonises apostates. It appeared on the [grossly misnamed] webpage "SAI BABA and SEX: A Clear View" [<http://www.saiibaba-aclearview.com/contents1.html>], webmastered by the blind follower of Sathya Sai Baba, Bon Giovanni of the USA, who sets about distorting some of the most unavoidable and recognised facts on the Procrustean bed of complete belief in Sathya Sai Baba's claims about his supposed 'truthfulness' and 'purity' etc. The essence of Awle's standpoint is that God (understood by him to mean the person of Sathya Sai Baba) can and does legitimately do ANYTHING WHATEVER, whatever the perversion or vile act by our 'merely human' standards (the vicious anal rape of minors included).

Ram Das Awle is indeed a person of what he himself claims is "fervid imagination"! His views are allegedly largely obtained from a pamphlet circulated by 'The Kundalini Foundation for Self-Realisation', New Delhi, founded by a certain Dr. Joshua Stone, which has a web page and branches in the UK and Holland (clearly very way out 'ascended masters' stuff - see here). This pamphlet - and Awle's 'inspirations' spun out from it - are mere fantasy and fraudulence, designed to mislead truly gullible followers of Indian 'gurus' who are known to sexually molest their followers, whether male or

female. It is not even worth a systematic refutation for only those who are suffering from cognitive disorders or severe indoctrination (of a 'brain-washing' kind) could be taken in by it. Awle admits that sexual interventions by Sathya Sai Baba are a fact and he further supports and 'explains' various of the sexual perversions for which this seeming paedophile 'porn' avatar stands accused as 'spiritual healing' and control of sexual urges! His own justification is as follows:-

A couple of weeks ago, Sai Baba took a letter from me in darshan, thereby instructing me to open a website, using some material I've been writing which directly addresses the allegations of Baba's sexual contact with devotees. He confirmed the final version this morning with a padnamaskar. Jai Sai Ram!

The piece presents the best evidence I've found that Baba is a Poornavatar, a full incarnation of God - yet I've also taken the point of view that some of the allegations of sexual contact may indeed be true.

Ram Das Awle rationalises all unfortunate exposures and testified allegations against Sathya Sai Baba as "part of His Divine Plan". This is a delusion shared by many Sai Baba devotees, as I have met dozens who believe this during my many years as the leader of the Sathya Sai Organization in Norway. The Sai-follower, Bon Giovanni also posted enthusiastic support and praise for the views of Awle.

This "Sai Baba and Sex: A Clear View" is surely rather the "divine Incarnation" visualised "through a glass darkly". To raise pederasty and sodomy by Sathya Sai Baba to a teaching must surely be the last straw? Anonymous devotees have circulated milder explanatory points within the Sai movement for those who cannot doubt that genital oiling and French kissing takes place, including supposedly 'raising the kundalini' or quelling young men's raging hormones, healing of malfunctions etc.

The key unproven and massive assumption on which all is based is that Seing Sathya Sai Baba as God Almighty Himself, who alone knows what is best for everyone, is the assumption made by Awle and most Sai Baba followers.

Having raised the defence of sexually perverse abuses to the level of theology, Ram Das Awle admits his acceptance of the sex abuse allegations and natural confusion but then tells how he thinks he has been inspired to surmount it by his "fervid imagination" forwards could be taken seriously by so many followers as it evidently is would support the belief that According to fundamentalist Hindu beliefs, we are in the Dark Age of Kali in which immorality reigns. If this were so, then the presence of full-blown paedophile Divine Incarnation ('Purna' Avatar) whose (sex) Life is his Message would fit nicely! Awle's self-admitted "imaginative fervour" is nothing more nor less than that... imagination, and a most sick one it is. It is a classic example of the extremes of confused thinking Sai devotees can and do descend to when their faith in him is challenged by the awful facts. Ram Das Awle wrote:-

First of all, I believe that Sathya Sai Baba is an Avatar, a full incarnation of God - "the most powerful incarnation of God ever to come to the Earth" (as Anandamoyi Ma described Sai Baba). AND, from what I've read and heard, I'm inclined to think some of the allegations about Baba are probably true: it appears likely to me that He has occasionally had sexually intimate interactions with devotees. God has given me the grace to be able to see that these two ideas are not necessarily in contradiction, and I invite the world to explore that possibility with me here. As I lay in my room immersed in confusion, I suddenly heard Baba's voice again:

"Know that whatever I do with my devotees is always the most efficient medicine for those souls, and a gift of immeasurable grace. My actions are always a perfect expression of Divine Love, for That is what I am."

One legitimate reason for sexual contact between a Master and devotee is the removal of sexual karma from a devotee's previous incarnation - and I believe this is probably the underlying reason for most of Baba's tantric work. As an Avatar, Sai Baba has come only to set us free; there could be no trace of selfish or sexual desire in Him whatsoever. And yet He is perfectly capable of functioning in a sexual way, if that is the most efficient way to set us free from our karma.

Surely, if Sai Baba has interacted with any of His devotees in a sexual way, it has been only a similar gift of Love and grace - all the more so since Baba knows the misinterpretation of such actions will put His global reputation at risk. Yet He does

exactly what is needed to set His devotees free, no matter what the damage might be to His reputation. To my mind, that is the mark of a truly great Master.

With my fervid imagination [:)] I've come up with seven types of people with whom a Divine Incarnation might interact in a sexual way:

1. Those who need a special dose of divine energy to awaken the Kundalini.
2. Those who have misused sexual energy in past lives, and therefore need that karma (and that pattern of behavior) removed. A friend of mine had a vision regarding one of the people who has accused Baba of sexual behavior, and saw that in a past life that soul had been the abbot of a monastery, and had used his position to sexually molest many of the new monks. My friend saw that in this lifetime, through Baba's intervention, that karma had been removed, and that soul thereby freed from his destructive tendency.
3. Those who have a strong pattern of sexual desire which is creating an obstacle to their happiness and spiritual growth. It seems likely to me that through one interaction with an Avatar, a pattern of desire that has been building in the mind for lifetimes could be erased instantly, just as a computer disk full of pornographic imagery can be erased in a few seconds with a single 'click'. When, through some grace-filled action, an Avatar removes a burden of karma and vasanas (unhealthy mental patterns) from an individual, the momentum of that soul's evolution would be bound to powerfully increase; it would be like being placed on a short-cut to God-Realization. (Keep in mind, some Masters have said that even after a soul meets a true Guru, there can be as many as fifty human incarnations remaining before Self-Realization is attained, depending on the individual's karma. So a short-cut to God-Realization is no small gift! Baba's intervention can literally save us from thousands of years of human suffering.).
4. Those with special health needs. The testicles are a primary source of hormonal power. Surely one touch from the Divine Hand could strengthen the life force immeasurably, ensuring a lifetime of health and vitality. Similarly, those with some form of sexual dysfunction could receive an instant healing through one touch from the Lord. (I've recently learned that Baba has, in fact, healed a number of people of impotence in exactly this way.)
5. Those who are destined to be parents to a high soul. Through one touch to the testicles, Baba could super-charge the semen with divine shakti, thereby enabling some great soul to incarnate. (Similarly, a touch to the belly of a woman could be preparing her womb for a special Divine Visitor. Imagine the lucky child, who gets his bed-womb swept by an Avatar?)
6. Those whose relationships with Divine Masters in previous lifetimes contained an element of sexuality, such as the consorts of Padmasambhava, or the Gopis and the wives of Sri Krishna. According to the 'palm-leaf prophecies', many of Sai Baba's current devotees were His wives and devotees during His incarnation as Krishna. Perhaps Krishna gave some of His wives a promise that they could return and be intimate with Him in His next incarnation - who knows? At some point, of course, God's grace will lift those devotees beyond all such desire, into full spiritual union, which is what Baba truly wants to give.
7. Those who have an unhealthy 'psychological split' between sexuality and spirituality, who believe that sex is evil and separate from God, or that God sits in condemnation of our sexuality. What better way to heal that split than to receive a loving sexual touch from a Divine Incarnation?

All of these interactions would have ultimately the same effect: leading the souls involved closer to union with God.

The above is based on much speculation. Moreover, it is of note that Sai Baba has long since stated that the kundalini is 'just talk and 'big ego' to Hislop, and he has allowed the republication of this time and again by his 'Sai Publications Book Trust'

Sai: Kundalini shakthi is balance in mind and action.

Hislop: But Swami, kundalini yoga is supposed to mean the kundalini power rising up the spine.

Sai: That is not real. It is just speeches. People claim this happening and boast about it. It is big ego.

Hislop: Does Swami mean that there is no kundalini power or energy that starts at the base of the spine and rises up the spine?

Sai: There is no such thing. That is just big talk and big ego.

Page 139:

Hislop: But Swami, how about the idea that the snake of kundalini awakens at the base of the spine and awakens each chakra as it rises up ?

Sai: That energy is prana. It is imagined as rising up the spine by the practice of pranayama. The practice of pranayama is dangerous unless all circumstances are exactly correct. It is not necessary and Swami advises against it.

From *Conversations with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba* by Dr. John Hislop - Copyright held by Sathya Sai Books and Publications Prashanti Nilayam, and published by Birthday Publishing Company, San Diego, CA. Page 134:

See also:-

<http://archive.salon.com/people/feature/2001/07/25/baba/index3.html>

http://www.geocities.com/the_sai_critic/awle.html

www.saibaba-a-clearview.com/contents1.html

SAI BABA and SEX: A Clear View

by Ram Das Awle

[Copyright 2001. This material may be downloaded, reproduced and distributed freely, as long as the source is clearly attributed.]

To view the footnotes, click on the numbers; to return to the text, click on "BACK".

A Glossary of Sanskrit terms appears at the bottom of the page.



August, 2001

Dear Friends in God,

Over the last couple of years, a number of people have alleged that Sathya Sai Baba has been engaging in sexual contact of various kinds with some of His devotees. These allegations have gathered force on the internet, creating a storm of doubt for many of Sai Baba's devotees around the world.

An American by birth, I've been a Sai devotee for the last four and a half years, spending most of that time living in or near Sai Baba's ashrams in India. Before coming to Baba, I spent five years in the ashram of another great Master, Ammachi (Mata Amritanandamayi), and then a year living in Tiruvannamalai, near Ramana Maharshi's ashram, intensely practicing meditation, Self-enquiry and other forms of sadhana. I have some interesting perspectives on the matter at hand, which God now seems to want me to share with the world.

I Believe There is Truth in Both Points of View

First of all, I believe that Sathya Sai Baba is an Avatar, a full incarnation of God - *"the most powerful incarnation of God ever to come to the Earth"* (as Anandamoyi Ma described Sai Baba). AND, from what I've read and heard, I'm inclined to think some of the allegations about Baba are probably true: it appears likely to me that He has occasionally had sexually intimate interactions with devotees. God has given me the grace to be able to see that these two ideas are not necessarily in contradiction, and I invite the world to explore that possibility with me here.

Sai Baba as Avatar

First, let me briefly address my first assertion, that is, that Sai Baba is a Divine Incarnation. In addition to Anandamoyi Ma, many God-Realized Saints have testified that Sai Baba is an Avatar. These Masters include Paramahansa Yogananda, Sri Aurobindo, Ammachi (Mata Amritanandamayi), Mother Krishnabai, Swami Satchidananda (of Kerala), Yogi Ramsuratkumar, Shiva Balayogi, Master El Moya, Master Kuthumi, Gopalakrishna Baba, Devi Amma, "Little Heart", Dr. B.S. Goel, Vasantha Sai, Vijai Shankar and Maitreya. (Direct quotes from these Masters regarding Baba's Divinity appear in Part 2 of the website.) These Saints have surely not spoken from mere conjecture or hearsay; they are merged in the omniscient, all-pervading Consciousness and know exactly what they are talking about.

In addition, various 'palm-leaf prophecies' - elaborate predictions of future events written by the ancient sages - declare that Sathya Sai Baba is the second in a triple incarnation of God.

(These prophecies are found in the Book of Bhrigu, the Shuka Nadis and the Agastya Nadis, which can still be read in various places in India.) According to those sages (and Baba Himself), in His previous incarnation He was known as Shirdi Sai Baba, the great Master who is arguably the most widely revered Saint in India today. Shirdi Sai Baba left His body eight years before the birth of Sathya Sai Baba, who tells us that eight years after He leaves His current body, He will return to the Earth in a new human form. In that incarnation He will be known as Prema Sai Baba, and will then complete the divine work He began as Shirdi Sai. Whereas Shirdi Sai Baba is said to have been an incarnation of Shiva, Sathya Sai Baba is said to embody both Shiva and Shakti, the Divine Father and Mother in one form, and to have all the sixteen qualities of a Poornavata, a rare 'full incarnation of God.'

(According to the Hindu scriptures, the last Poornavata on Earth was Lord Krishna, who lived approximately 5,300 years ago.)

There is also a prophecy (set forth in detail in Part 2 of the website) given by Mohammed, the founding Prophet of Islam, which describes the "Great Teacher" and "Master of the world" who would come in the future. The elaborate description given by Mohammed matches Sai Baba in perfect detail.

Dozens of books, some written by Western scientists, overflow with stories of Baba's miracles - resurrecting people from the dead, countless healings of 'incurable diseases', miraculously appearing in a living form in various places around the globe, sending devotees long distances through His interview room wall, instantly manifesting any object He wishes, knowing the subtlest thoughts of His devotees, etc. It seems there is nothing He cannot do.

Furthermore, unlike the 'siddhis' (supernatural powers) of ordinary yogis, which quickly fade away unless replenished by continuous sadhana, Sai Baba's miracles have poured forth in a continuous stream for over sixty years, apparently with no special effort on His part whatsoever. Clearly, He is no mere 'yogi'; such a prolific flow of miracles over such a long period is a telltale sign of an Avatar.

Since the first day I arrived at His ashram, I have experienced Sai Baba as being all-pervading and omniscient, an embodiment of perfect Love, an ever-flowing source of divine Grace and wisdom - in short, a fully Self-Realized embodiment of God. One night, after He announced they would be there, I saw hundreds of thousands of angels flying above His ashram... (Details in Part 2.) As a dedicated spiritual seeker, my inner experiences have consistently told me that Baba is an Avatar and a perfect Guru. Having spent ten full years in India and had meaningful contact with many Saints, from what I've seen of Sai Baba I simply have no doubt that He is exactly who He claims to be: a full incarnation of God.

So, when I first heard the allegations of His sexual contact with devotees, my mind reeled: How is it possible? Isn't He a Divine Incarnation? Have I been deceived?? I struggled very hard to understand, prayed day after day, and gradually gained some clarity of vision. Maybe some of my understandings can benefit you.

The Most Efficient Medicine

First let me share a couple of answers Baba gave me internally regarding this issue. In response to my urgent prayers during Baba's darshan one day, as He walked by I suddenly heard a crystal clear inner dictation:

"If you could see the past lives and the past actions of the souls with whom I have interacted in that way, along with their various mental obstacles and their prior relationships with God, you would understand what I have done with them perfectly. **And if you could see the extraordinary spiritual benefit** that will accrue to those souls in due course, as a result of their intimate contact with Me, you would be ashamed of your doubts!"

OK, I said, that's clear. Maybe I can buy that... But I kept hearing more stories, and no matter what my head was saying, my guts were definitely leaning toward the doubting Thomases! A few days later, as I lay in my room immersed in confusion, I suddenly heard Baba's voice again:

"Know that whatever I do with my devotees is always the most efficient medicine for those souls, and a gift of immeasurable grace. My actions are always a perfect expression of Divine Love, for That is what I am."

All right! I want to believe You, Baba. You've shown me often enough that You're Divine... But still my mind wavered. I needed to understand it! Why would Baba - an all-powerful omnipresent Being with all miraculous powers at His command - want to interact in a sexual way with anyone? Surely He's beyond all desire!

"Yes," came Baba's answer out of the blue, "except the one desire for which I took birth: to set you free from your karma and mental obstacles, and lead you to God-Realization."

And suddenly the light dawned, and answers began pouring in from all sides.

Tantric Traditions

First of all, unlike in the Western religions, the Hindu, Buddhist and Taoist traditions have always made room for what is known as the 'left-handed tantric path', which involves the direct use of sexual arousal, and the divinization and redirection of the energy thereby

awakened for purposes of spiritual evolution. These practices tend to cut through the mind's ideas of 'holy' and 'unholy', thus uniting the sexual with the spiritual - as opposed to more orthodox forms of spirituality, which tend to deepen the split between these two aspects of the human psyche. For this reason, tantra is a very potent path, providing great possibilities for rapid transformations in consciousness. There are numerous *sadhaks* in various Eastern traditions today who practice 'left handed tantra' as their primary *sadhana*, and there are many ancient wisdom teachings which fully support those practices as a legitimate path to Self-Realization.

As an omniscient Avatar, Sai Baba is a Master of all spiritual paths and practices, and knows exactly how to awaken each one of us from our age-old slumber into awareness of the all-pervading Self. His use of tantric techniques with certain individuals is therefore wholly legitimate, supported by the Eastern wisdom teachings, and undoubtedly an extraordinary blessing for the individuals concerned.

Unfortunately, the Western religions seem to thrive on exacerbating the split between the sexual and the Divine, and I believe this makes it especially difficult for Westerners, raised as we were on pristine paintings of the Virgin Mary and cherubs on clouds, to understand Baba's tantric work. In most of the religious traditions in the West, God is up in heaven and sex is a path to hell, and never the twain shall meet. In many of our scriptures, flat out repression - along with heavy doses of guilt - seems to be the subtly recommended technique for entrance into heaven. But repression just doesn't work - it ultimately either makes people crazy with desire, or just plain crazy! No wonder so many of our priests and ministers have AIDS, and so many in our culture are either sexually repressed, or completely obsessed with sex, or totally entangled in guilt about sex!

It seems to me that through His tantric work with certain individuals, Sai Baba is pointing us all towards a healing of that split within our psyches, as an essential step in our evolution to the Divine.

Awakening the Kundalini

Baba has been said to sometimes miraculously manifest a special oil during an interview, and rub it on a man's testicles and perineum. I've heard that most men do not experience this action as being a 'sexual touch'; in fact, many have responded to it with an instantaneous experience of higher consciousness.

Baba did this 'annointment' to a friend of mine, who tells me that in that moment, he received a huge influx of blissful energy, which rushed from the base of his spine through the top of his head, leaving him in a state of dizzy ecstasy which lasted for hours! More importantly, to quote a letter from him, "When i walked out of the room of Baba's, i felt as if all the shame about me and sexuality had been lifted.... That was an ENORMOUS healing." I think it likely that was a very important step on his path to God-Realization.

According to an article published by the Kundalini Foundation for Self-Realisation (New Delhi), the primary reason for a Guru touching the disciple near the genitals is actually to awaken the Kundalini (the latent divine power within human beings, located near the base of the spine, which remains dormant unless awakened through spiritual practices). A brief excerpt from that article:

"There are several reasons for a God-man to touch the perineum of a devotee:

1. Psychological Disturbance. If the subtle nerves (the Granthi Knot) near the Muladhara Chakra are entangled, the Kundalini will not be able to rise. This usually causes serious psychological disturbance in the individual. In such a case the Guru, and only a Guru blessed with this power, will touch the perineum to get the Kundalini moving.... This practice of working on the perineum has also been followed by the Taoists who massaged here.

2. Initiation. There are three physical places, levels of consciousness, that the Guru touches to awaken the Kundalini of a disciple: at the Ajna Chakra between the eyebrows; at the Anahat Chakra near the heart; or at the Muladhara Chakra near the sexual organ...."[1]

From this information alone, it seems very likely that any sexual contact Baba has had with devotees - of whatever kind - has actually been only a potent blessing, given to awaken the spiritual power within those souls. Who can call that "wrong"? Surely to call such contact "molestation" is perversity itself.

Yet the allegations against Baba involve more than an occasional touch to the testicles. Some men have claimed that they have had 'sexual relations' of various kinds with Baba in His interview room. Although it's possible such claims are just false accusations made by jealous people who didn't get what they wanted from the Guru, let's assume, for the sake of discussion, that the allegations are true. How to understand it?

Removal of Sexual Karma

One legitimate reason for sexual contact between a Master and devotee is the removal of sexual karma from a devotee's previous incarnation - and I believe this is probably the underlying reason for most of Baba's *tantric* work. Many souls on this planet have had the karmic thorn of lust deeply embedded in their hearts, due to repeated misuse of sexual energy in the human realm, thus creating a painful obstacle to their happiness and spiritual evolution. As an incarnation of God, Baba will know just how to most efficiently remove those thorns, which otherwise could burn and fester in those souls for eons. Sometimes the best way to remove a thorn is by using a similar thorn to dig it out; then both can be thrown away.

I like to think that God incarnating on Earth might be a bit like a brilliant doctor walking into a clinic filled with patients who have been suffering from excruciating ailments for many years, due to lack of proper treatment. Baba knows us fully, including our past actions through the centuries; He knows exactly what ails us, and exactly how to heal us. The Divine Doctor won't hesitate to perform life-saving surgery, even if the patient is reluctant to have it, for the Doctor knows what is needed and realizes that the patient doesn't. And even if, after a successful surgery, the patient condemns the Doctor for the 'abuse' he imagines he received on the operating table, the Divine Doctor will bear the condemnation gracefully, fully understanding the patient's ignorance.

Sai Baba has come to Earth to give us the most powerful karmic cleansing and spiritual healing He can, in the most efficient way possible. He is working from a platform of infinite divine knowledge, and knows full well that humanity, immersed as it is in ignorance and partial knowledge, will misunderstand much of what He does. Yet He moves right ahead with His healing mission, removing as much of our *karma* as He can, caring neither for praise or blame. His one-pointed focus is always our spiritual evolution and the healing of this planet, heavily burdened as it is by sexual karma of all kinds. Obviously, it's a thankless job; it's no surprise it was left for the Poornavatar.

Since some of the allegations against Baba involve touching children, it's important to understand that when Baba looks at a person He doesn't just see a human being of a particular age and gender. He sees the soul, an ancient spark of the infinite Divine flame - along with all the accumulated karma and mental tendencies that from that soul's bondage. (In other words, with a single glance, He sees our last five hundred incarnations!) The age of the body makes no difference - He knows the perfect way to relate to each of us, to alleviate our karma and lead us towards union with Him. By His divine power, He can remove, with a single action, a karmic obstruction that would otherwise have burdened that soul for many lifetimes.

As an Avatar, Sai Baba has come only to set us free; there could be no trace of selfish or sexual desire in Him whatsoever. And yet He is perfectly capable of

functioning in a sexual way, if that is the most efficient way to set us free from our karma.

“With That One Action...”

There is a story about the great Saint of this last century, Neem Karoli Baba (also known as Maharajji), which casts some profound light on the allegations against Sai Baba. In the early '70s, there was a woman in New York City named Joya, who, apparently through the fructification of sadhana performed in past lives, had suddenly been gifted with some extraordinary divine powers, including a remarkable degree of omniscience. Joya was teaching a 'secret class' in spirituality in New York, and constantly demonstrated that she knew the subtlest thoughts of those in the class, and would often put people into samadhi through her own will power. (I heard this directly from someone who was in the class.) One day Joya called a woman up to the front of the room and said to her, “You’ve left your Guru! Neem Karoli Baba is a perfect Master, but you’ve condemned him!” Joya went on to tell what she saw in her psychic vision: the woman had gone to see Maharajji in Lucknow, and he had called her in for a private interview. During the course of the interview he embraced her, and then quickly slipped his hand beneath her sari and touched her in a sexually intimate way. The woman was shocked and ran out of the temple, deciding that Maharajji was a false and lecherous Guru.

Joya then said to the woman, “Do you know what Maharajji did in that moment? With that one action, he removed all the sexual karma from your past five lifetimes! It was an extraordinary gift of grace. Now you must reaccept him as your Master!” And together they called forth Neem Karoli Baba's presence, and the woman received him back into her heart.

Surely, if Sai Baba has interacted with any of His devotees in a sexual way, it has been only a similar gift of Love and grace - all the more so since Baba knows the misinterpretation of such actions will put His global reputation at risk. Yet He does exactly what is needed to set His devotees free, no matter what the damage might be to His reputation. To my mind, that is the mark of a truly great Master.

Krishna, Padmasambhava and Others

By the way, for those unfamiliar with the Hindu scriptures, there is plenty of precedent for a Divine Master acting in a sexual way. Lord Rama (one of the great incarnations of God) was married and had two children, and most of the Rishis were also householders, who made babies just like the rest of us. Some of the stories of Lord Krishna's play with the Gopis have a distinctly sexual quality, such as the time He stole their clothes while they were swimming and then climbed a tree with their saris in hand, so they would have to approach Him naked! (Is it not a bit outrageous?) According to some scriptural accounts, Krishna had over 16,000 wives. I'd guess that even in 3,000 BC that was considered by many to be scandalous, adharmic, “over the top!” Yet as an incarnation of God, whatever Krishna did with His wives must have been perfect. Surely Krishna, like Baba, knew that everything, including sex, is divine, and worked through human sexuality (and every other aspect of our personalities) to lead us towards God. As Divine Incarnations, whatever Krishna and Baba do must be the very essence of dharma, even though it might appear to be adharmic at first glance.

Another example is Padmasambhava, the Enlightened Master who was one of the great forces behind the spread of Tibetan Buddhism. He is said to have had a *thousand consorts* - female devotees with whom he was having full sexual relations. Many of those women went on to attain Enlightenment. So perhaps the notions that a Divine Incarnation has to be celibate, and that a Guru should never have sexual interactions with a disciple, are just plain false, understandable misconceptions rooted in a system of morality that can never touch God's reality.

The Seven Types

With my fervid imagination [:)] I've come up with seven types of people with whom a Divine Incarnation might interact in a sexual way:

1. Those who need a special dose of divine energy to awaken the Kundalini.
2. Those who have misused sexual energy in past lives, and therefore need that karma (and that pattern of behavior) removed. A friend of mine had a vision regarding one of the people who has accused Baba of sexual behavior, and saw that in a past life that soul had been the abbot of a monastery, and had used his position to sexually molest many of the new monks. My friend saw that in this lifetime, through

Baba's intervention, that karma had been removed, and that soul thereby freed from his destructive tendency.

3. Those who have a strong pattern of sexual desire which is creating an obstacle to their happiness and spiritual growth. It seems likely to me that through one interaction with an Avatar, a pattern of desire that has been building in the mind for lifetimes could be erased instantly, just as a computer disk full of pornographic imagery can be erased in a few seconds with a single 'click'. When, through some grace-filled action, an Avatar removes a burden of karma and vasanas (unhealthy mental patterns) from an individual, the momentum of that soul's evolution would be bound to powerfully increase; it would be like being placed on a short-cut to God-Realization. (Keep in mind, some Masters have said that even after a soul meets a true Guru, there can be as many as *fifty* human incarnations remaining before Self-Realization is attained, depending on the individual's karma. So a short-cut to God-Realization is no small gift! Baba's intervention can literally save us from thousands of years of human suffering.)

4. Those with special health needs. The testicles are a primary source of hormonal power. Surely one touch from the Divine Hand could strengthen the life force immeasurably, ensuring a lifetime of health and vitality. Similarly, those with some form of sexual dysfunction could receive an instant healing through one touch from the Lord. (I've recently learned that Baba has, in fact, healed a number of people of impotence in exactly this way.)

5. Those who are destined to be parents to a high soul. Through one touch to the testicles, Baba could super-charge the semen with divine shakti, thereby enabling some great soul to incarnate. (Similarly, a touch to the belly of a woman could be preparing her womb for a special Divine Visitor. Imagine the lucky child, who gets his bed-womb swept by an Avatar?)

6. Those whose relationships with Divine Masters in previous lifetimes contained an element of sexuality, such as the consorts of Padmasambhava, or the Gopis and the wives of Sri Krishna. According to the 'palm-leaf prophecies', many of Sai Baba's current devotees were His wives and devotees during His incarnation as Krishna. Perhaps Krishna gave some of His wives a promise that they could return and be intimate with Him in His next incarnation - *who knows?* At some point, of course, God's grace will lift those devotees beyond all such desire, into full spiritual union, which is what Baba truly wants to give.

7. Those who have an unhealthy 'psychological split' between sexuality and spirituality, who believe that sex is evil and separate from God, or that God sits in condemnation of our sexuality. What better way to heal that split than to receive a loving sexual touch from a Divine Incarnation?

All of these interactions would have ultimately the same effect: leading the souls involved closer to union with God.

Answers to Some Reasonable Questions

'But why couldn't He do it some other way?' some people ask. I can only reply that since Baba is an *Avatar*, what He is doing must be perfect; it can only be "the most efficient medicine" given to just the right souls, in exactly the right way, at the right time. And if we have a problem with it, then it is our problem. Yes, the current rumors are testing the faith of millions of devotees, bringing up heaps of fear and confusion, and causing many to rethink all their understandings of what God is, what 'good' is, and who Sai Baba is! The rumors are forcing us to reconsider our long-cherished belief in the separation between Divinity and sexuality, and thereby see both our spirituality and our sexuality in a whole new light. And we're having to take a good long look at that Doubting Thomas in the mirror! Yes. And I would guess that to give His devotees cause for such profound introspection is one of Baba's primary intentions in this leela.

Others may ask, 'Why do the accusations come only from men? Is Sai Baba gay?' No, He is not gay; He is an incarnation of God: desireless, infinite, eternal and beyond any limits or categories. As an embodiment of God, it is He Himself who has brought the souls He is working with into their current bodies, and determined their gender. For whatever reason, He has brought most of the souls with whom overt sexual work is required into male bodies; perhaps God knew this would be somewhat more acceptable in the Indian culture. However, I know many long-term female devotees of Baba who say they have had sexual dreams with Him, which they felt sure were true 'darshan dreams' (rather than mere creations of their subconscious). Other

women have happily claimed that Baba has come to them in a 'subtle form' (i.e., His astral body) and made love to them. One devotee told me that for many years, almost every time she meditated on Baba she would receive a strong surge of energy and sexual desire within her lower chakras. After struggling with this daily for over a decade, *she says she has now reached a stage where sexual desire has been fully transcended, and she knows it will never be a problem again.* For a spiritual seeker, that is an extraordinary blessing! So clearly Baba works via sexuality with women as well as men.

'Does that make Him bisexual?' No, my friends; it makes him an Avatar, and we should be grateful for His blessings and His healing work, in whatever form He gives it.

'But what about the suffering His actions have caused?' The truth is, removal of past karma almost always involves some suffering in the present; that's just the way God's play works. But when past karma is removed by a Spiritual Master, the required suffering will be only a small percentage of the pain that would otherwise result from the same karma; this is a well-known principle of Hindu philosophy. (Many stories illustrate this point. Mahavatar Babaji once took a burning stick and intentionally burnt the shoulder of one of His disciples. When questioned, He said that due to a wrong action in the disciple's last lifetime, he had been karmically scheduled to die by fire. Babaji's apparently cruel action had actually been a compassionate gift of grace, which had cleared up that huge piece of karma with a single small burn.)

Baba has proven on numerous occasions that He has the power to remove even terminal illnesses with a single gesture. Surely, at the right moment, He will also remove any psychological traumas from the souls with whom He has done His *tantric* work. I personally feel certain that Baba will take special care of all of His *karmic-surgery* patients, giving them first rate post-operative care all the way until they attain Realization of God.

'But isn't Baba preaching one thing and doing another?' No, if you look beneath surface appearances, you'll see that Baba's actions are perfectly in line with His teachings of Universal Love, compassion and service to all. Remember, He is operating from a level of infinite knowledge, knowing every detail of the past actions of all beings, and exactly how to clear away our karma so we can progress spiritually. If His actions appear wrong to our minds, it is due only to our limited vision. Those with faith in Baba's Divinity will simply trust Him, knowing that He knows what He's doing and that His actions are ultimately for the best of all concerned.

Furthermore, it is perfectly permissible for an Avatar to have public teachings, meant primarily for the masses, and secret teachings meant only for a few. (Most Masters, Jesus included, have had such a dual teaching.) A Divine Master knows full well that most people are grossly ignorant, and will misunderstand just about everything, so if He sees that His most effective healing methods will be misjudged by humanity at large, it is only reasonable that He should keep them hidden from the masses, while utilizing them whenever it is appropriate for the benefit of certain souls. There's nothing hypocritical about that; it's merely practical.

'But aren't Baba's actions in violation of His own morality teachings?' This is like asking, 'When a doctor performs surgery, isn't he actually stabbing the person, and therefore guilty of assault?' As an incarnation of God, Baba is Divine Love itself in a human form, and whatever He does, no matter how it may appear, is in truth morally pure and fully in line with His dharma (duty) as an Avatar. One important thing to keep in mind: when an Avatar's words or actions appear to be unloving, or unrighteous, or coercive, or lustful - *it is only a reflection of the karma He is taking from an individual in that moment.* And when He acts in such a way that a doubt is created in our mind about Him (something which Baba and many other Masters seem to often do intentionally), *He is only reflecting the doubt that was already latent within our mind, bringing it to the surface so it can be faced directly.* Through it all He remains forever pure; that is the Avatar's nature.

To quote Baba, "Sai only reflects your mind. He has no prejudices or preferences. He is a mirror wherein you can see yourselves as you really are. In order to correct your mistakes and remove your faults, I have sometimes to use harsh words, but you may rest assured that my sole aim is to turn you to better ways." [2]<> (I think it is safe to add that He also sometimes has to use unorthodox methods - but His intention remains ever the same: our *karmic* purification and spiritual upliftment.)

Some who have turned against Baba claim they are 'following their conscience' and His actions are "just plain wrong." But do these people *really know* what Baba is doing on the higher spiritual levels with His actions? Considering all the testimony of the ancient sages and modern Masters that Sai Baba is an *Avatar*, isn't it *extremely* likely that He is actually only removing past-life *karma* from His devotees - and thereby removing the necessity for them to reincarnate again in this realm of suffering? Isn't it extremely likely that He is actually just charging their auras with divine energy in the most potent way possible, and bestowing a powerful hidden blessing on all concerned?

<>Our consciences, filled with worldly ideas of 'right' and 'wrong', are simply not equipped to judge the actions of an *Avatar*; they just don't have enough information. (Trying

to do so is like insisting that a 5-year-old child can understand quantum mechanics.) Only a God-Realized Master can fully understand the actions of another Master, and see the full results of those actions. *And as you'll see in Part 2, the Masters have consistently declared Sai Baba to be an incarnation of God.*

I personally feel that the morality teachings Baba has given to the world are basically wonderful 'kindergarten teachings' for the human race, essential for our growth into the higher levels of spirituality. However, those teachings, meant as they are for the toddling masses, cannot be used to judge the actions of an omniscient, omnipresent *Avatar*. Those who try to do so will not only hurt themselves, they will surely have to repeat kindergarten!

Baba's Big Test

It's clear to me that the current rumors are primarily a test, given by Baba to His devotees to determine the depth of their devotion and wisdom. It's one way Baba has of pruning the Sai organization tree, of keeping those who are not karmically ready to associate with the *Avatar* away.

When God incarnates in a human form, He always comes cloaked in *maya*, an illusion-based disguise which prevents immature souls from recognizing Him as an *Avatar*. Rama, Krishna and Jesus also had their disguises, or why would so many have opposed them? (One example is Jesus using a whip to drive the money-changers out of the temple. I'd guess that when this became news, many people decided He was little more than a hooligan. "This was done by the Messiah, the 'Prince of Peace'? Ha!")

Those who are fooled by the *Avatar's maya* fail the test, and are thus prevented from associating with Him.

For years, Baba has been predicting a time of great testing within His organization, when many of His weaker devotees would leave Him. To quote Dr. John Hislop (one of Baba's closest devotees for many years): "[Baba] said that as a great wind comes up at harvest time and blows away the chaff and the dried wheat kernels and leaves only the solid, healthy kernels, in like manner, a great wind is arising now and will sweep away many, many devotees. Only the firm kernels will be left."³ Well, despite the current windstorm, there are still millions of active Sai devotees around the world. Without the criticism, the crowds would be so huge that His true devotees would have no access to Him at all! (As Baba used to say, "If there is no criticism, I will buy some with money!") Those who denounce Baba are actually serving in His mission, albeit unknowingly, by helping to shake off any dead wood or rotten fruit from the Sai Organization tree, so that only those truly worthy of Baba's highest grace remain during the culminating years of His incarnation. We can be assured that the whole play is unfolding exactly as He has willed it, that even those who speak against Him are playing their parts in His movie just as He has written them. (To quote Baba, "Know that whatever happens in this world, this *Avatar* has willed it so.")

Although Baba's test is surely a tough one, other Gurus have given harder tests. I recently read a story about a Sufi Master who beat one of his young disciples to death - in front of the boy's family - and then, after some time, brought the boy back to life and healed him! That must have been one hell of a test for both the boy and his family! The question is, do we as devotees have the discrimination and strength of character to remain faithful to our Guru (as that family did) - even in the face of such a test? It is my certain faith that Baba will, like that Sufi Master, eventually 'resurrect' and heal anyone who now suffers from emotional trauma due to one of His karmic operations. In the meantime, however, many people will reject and condemn the

Divine Doctor, thus getting an 'F' on the most important test of their lives. Truly, the test is so difficult that only those devotees whom Baba feels deserve to remain with Him will be able to pass it; it is only by His grace we can pass. And only those who pass will be eligible to receive His highest grace.

In his book *Aghora: At the Left Hand of God*, Robert Svoboda describes another Guru's test:

I know of a case which happened in Girnar. There was a Muslim fakir who had 1,000 disciples. When he was about to die, his disciples all began to pretend to love him a lot. So he said to himself, "Is that so? I'd better teach these buggers a lesson."

So the next day he announced, "I have decided to leave this world, but before doing so I have a desire to have sex with a female donkey. Then I'll be ready to die."

Of the 1,000 disciples, 990 said, "Gurujī has gone crack," and left him. Only ten remained, thinking it was some sort of joke. The next day the fakir said to them, "Now, please collect the money necessary to buy the donkey." Then those ten realized he was serious, and seven of them left saying, "What can this man know when he is entangled in such worldly desires?"

Three remained and the next day the fakir said to the three, "By my astrological calculations I have determined a good day. Now, be prepared with the donkey." Another departed after this speech, leaving two. After the donkey was brought one of the two boys realized that the old fellow was going to go through with it, and he too got fed up and left. The fakir looked at the sole survivor and said, "What are you waiting for? Better go now."

The boy said, "Oh no, my Lord, I want to see how you do it with this donkey." "All right," said the old man. "Bind her legs nicely so that she doesn't kick me." After this was done he said, "Now, lift her tail so that I can have a clear passage."

As soon as the boy touched her tail the donkey turned into a beautiful Shakti, a Yakshini [Goddess], who went and sat on the fakir's left thigh. The old man said, "Now, take this Shakti, and she will teach you what you want to know." When the Shakti had passed from the fakir to the boy, the old man died.⁴

It remains to be seen how many of Baba's disciples will remain when the current exam is finished!

Ammachi tells a story about a Guru who decided to test his devotees by contracting leprosy. Most of his devotees left him, thinking 'What kind of power can he have?' He then became increasingly abusive to the others, until finally only one disciple remained. After putting him through many further tests, and seeing his unflinching faith and surrender, the Guru finally determined the disciple to be worthy; he then instantly healed himself of leprosy and bestowed on that disciple the supreme gift of Enlightenment.

So the tradition of Gurus testing their devotees is well-established. Baba has millions of devotees around the world. What better way to determine the depth of their faith and devotion than to check their responses to such a test? I pray that we may all pass with firm faith and devotion, remembering Baba's divine identity and the perfection of His eternal Love.

Planetary Karma

I believe it's also possible that through this leela, Sai Baba is actually taking upon Himself the sexual karma - not only of a few individuals - but of the entire planet, and burning off a large portion of humanity's destined suffering through the crucifixion of global slander and condemnation. With His infinite power, He can easily bear the suffering *karmically* meant for mankind, which otherwise would have further burdened our pain-wracked world. Why else would an omniscient Divine Incarnation willingly walk into such a crucible? It could only be for the benefit of humanity, and an integral part of His divine mission.

That He has created, as part of that mission, such a tumultuous storm of controversy, and yet remains, as always, dancing blissfully on the waves, clearly enjoying every moment of the globe-rocking leela, is surely yet another sign of His divine identity.

As I see it, nothing less outrageous would be Krishna.

Karmic Suicide

Of course, many people who hear the rumors will instantly judge and condemn Baba. (It certainly won't be the first time an Avatar has been condemned! Facing

betrayal and false accusations seems to be part of the life-script of most Divine Incarnations.) Like those who condemned Jesus and opposed Rama and Buddha and Krishna, when people judge Sai Baba they are truly hurting only themselves - unless, in the process, they publicly slander Baba and succeed in dragging other devotees away from Him. Such a course of action (being undertaken by a number of people these days) seems to me nothing less than karmic suicide, a tragic step onto one of the longest chutes in the cosmic 'Chutes and Ladders' game, a slippery slide leading all the way to *hell*. (I don't use the word lightly.) I, for one, definitely wouldn't want the karma of slandering or otherwise interfering with the mission of a living incarnation of God. As Neem Karoli Baba said, regarding a man who had used his name to raise money for a project which was not actually associated with Neem Karoli Baba, "I won't do anything to him. *But for what he has done, he will whirl around the universe for eons.*" ⁵

Betrayal of the Guru is no ordinary sin.

To those former 'devotees' who are now joining in the chorus of condemnation, I have a hypothetical question for you. If Baba were to miraculously appear before you today in a living form (as He has often been known to do in various places around the globe) - and reveal to you His universal form, as Krishna did for Arjuna - *would you still feel it appropriate to judge and condemn His actions?* Have you been fooled by His *maya* - and forgotten He is an incarnation of God? Do you really believe a Poornavatar, an embodiment of the Lord of the Universe, has to abide by your rules and fit within your narrow concepts?

Truly, it is laughable!

Yet we mustn't be too harsh on those who criticize Baba, for these rumors are an advanced test even by His tough standards. Although He embodies infinite Divine Love, He is nonetheless a very 'strict Teacher' - I have yet to meet a long-term Sai devotee who has not been severely tested in one way or another by the Lord. I believe He intentionally makes His tests difficult, painfully stretching our concepts of God, and pointing out the limits of our Love again and again; for the privilege of communion with an Avatar is not easily attained, and even when gained, easily lost.

God as Cosmic Author, Producer and Director

Just as a mind-expander, let's take a deeper look at what it might mean to say that God has incarnated in our midst. One concept I've meditated on for years is 'God is the Author, Producer and Director of the universal movie.' *His omniscience guarantees that every moment of the movie was previewed before the creation began, His all-seeing Mind acting as an instant movie camera for the whole universal drama.* Since He witnessed it all, from beginning to end, in the very first moment, and He alone started the show, the world play unfolding before our eyes is truly God's movie, every moment of it already filmed, and playing out by His power. Now, what kind of movie is this we're living in? Let's face it - it's full of sex and violence of all kinds, 24 hours a day! By God, it's X-rated!! And yet it's also an uplifting romance of the highest order, brimming with true love, kindness and great beauty. Furthermore, it's a holy movie, with all characters gradually growing in spiritual awareness, and each soul eventually attaining Enlightenment. So - it's a beautiful, X-rated, violent, holy movie! An all-inclusive divine comedy, written by that wondrously mischievous Krishna (or Kali, if you prefer, or Allah, God the Father, Parashakti, Lord Brahma - any name will do!) - the Creator, that Supreme Source of bliss and suffering, of bondage and liberation, of life and death and Enlightenment.

The Starring Role

Now, with the descent of an Avatar like Baba, that supreme Creator literally takes birth in this world, to play a starring role in His own movie. He comes for many reasons: to sow faith and devotion in the hearts of billions of nonbelievers, thereby uplifting the whole planet; to teach the unity underlying all religions; and to lead those who seek it all the way to Enlightenment.

AND - He's here to dance the most outrageous part in His own creation! When the Supreme Lord takes birth, He makes very big waves: He both lays down the law and breaks it to pieces, as Jesus, Moses, Krishna and Padmasambhava all did. (It should come as no surprise when the Mother Kali, incarnate in a human form, doesn't turn out to be a choirboy.) The mischievous God who created this Cosmos will both fulfill our expectations of what a Divine Incarnation should be - *and mercilessly shatter them*. He will personify dharma beautifully, and yet also behave in ways which shock and

offend people at times. He will embody - and then destroy - our concepts of what God is, for the concepts of mankind are always too rigid, too small, and inherently false. By His actions He will challenge us to see that Everything is God and All is God's will, even that which the world calls "wrong." He will show us that to truly love God is to embrace not just the good, but All That Is, for this entire world play is made *only* of and by God!

It seems natural enough to me that the Author of this divine movie, which is so full of sexual expression of all kinds, might have some sexual expression within His role as the Avatar. And it is only our rigid ideas of what is 'holy' and 'unholy' that create a problem. (Surely God Himself knows that every iota of His creation is holy.) By occasionally behaving in ways the world deems wrong, Baba is challenging us to erase *all* our judgments, and see all as God, thereby enabling us to forgive and love all beings, in all situations, throughout all time - *including ourselves*.

Is it not perhaps His most profound teaching?

Only An Incarnation of God Could Do That

The most important thing to remember in understanding Baba's actions is that He is an incarnation of God, a fact easily clouded over when such allegations are in the air. As a brief reminder of Baba's identity, here is the story of my friend Murali, an American woman who now lives in Puttaparthi (more fully set forth in her upcoming book, *Indweller of the Heart*.) In the mid-1990's, while living in the USA, she was diagnosed with potentially fatal cancer, and underwent surgery. Afterwards her doctor told her, "It's much worse than I thought. You'll need more surgery, and then chemotherapy." Murali had been meditating since she was four years old, and responded, "Let me ask God first." When she offered the question in meditation, she heard a divine voice which said, "Don't have the surgery; it will do you more harm than good. Trust in Me and go back to work."

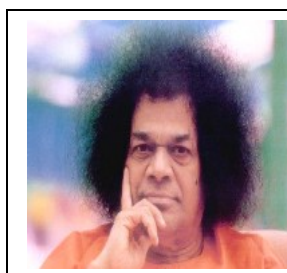
Murali had never heard the name of Sai Baba and had never seen His photo.

Two weeks later, at 4:00 a.m. on Christmas morning, she felt strongly called into her meditation room; and a few minutes after she sat down, a large ball of glowing light and energy appeared before her. Out of that light emerged the form of a Divine Man, radiant with what she recognized as a fully Enlightened aura, His hair in an afro, His body dressed in a full-length white robe - which is what Sai Baba wears on Christmas morning. She communed with the Visitor silently for a while, receiving a clear stream of inner communication. He then raised His right hand and telepathically said, "I have come to bring great blessing in your life. I will return for you when the time is right." He then raised His left hand as well, and began channeling a palpable divine energy into her body - and within seconds, Murali knew her cancer had been healed. The Visitor remained standing with her for ten minutes or so, as that healing shakti raced through her body; during this time Murali intuitively saw that all of her body's systems were being restored to vibrant health. The Visitor then waved His hand and manifested some gray ash (vibhuti, Baba's trademark gift), and dropped it onto the carpet in front of her, as proof that the apparition had been genuine. And then He vanished.

When Murali went for her next doctor's appointment, the cancer was completely gone. (The doctor was flabbergasted.)

To make a long story short, three years later Murali finally saw Sai Baba's photo - *and instantly recognized Him as her Christmas morning 'Visitor.'* Baba then appeared before her again, gave her some divine gifts, and called her to come and live in Puttaparthi.

Thomas, don't be a doubter. *Only an incarnation of God could do that.*



A Clear Choice

As author Jack Hawley has pointed out, although we don't have any way of knowing exactly what Baba is doing with His actions, "we do have some quite clear hints about what's happening here:

·It has to do with Love so deep, so divine that nothing can stand in its way - not even the threat of misunderstanding or calumny.

·It has to do with healing, not harming.

·It has to do with the Avatar's mission here on earth (which, of course, has to fit this crazy Kali age).

·It has to do with the purity of our own minds The impurity is not in the Avatar, who is purity itself; it's in the world, in our minds." · 6

How we approach the current situation can either corrupt our minds further and lead us deeper into a realm of fear, judgment and guilt - or lead us forward towards realization of the all-encompassing, all-pervading God who is our true Being.

Despite the current brouhaha, I believe Baba's Divinity is self-evident, and the choice before us is clear. Either we have faith, based on our own inner experiences and the testimony of the ancient Sages and modern Masters, that Sai Baba is an incarnation of God, and trust that His actions are therefore perfect - or, we doubt and judge Him, and thereby lose an extremely precious opportunity for communion with a living Poornavatar. If we take the latter course, and influence others to do the same, not only do we knock ourselves off a once-in-a-Yuga fast track to God-Realization, we also risk accruing karma which could stay with us for eons.

It seems to me the choice for faith, based on intelligent discrimination and the words of the Masters, is the only wise option.

Although they have challenged me to the core, the rumors of Baba's rasa dance with His devotees have ultimately given me only more love for Him, more faith in His Divinity, and greatly deepened my awareness of the All-embracing and *exquisitely* UNLIMITABLE nature of the God who He is - *and who we all truly are*.

To that supreme Divine Being, I bow.

Finally, You Must Find the Answers Within

What I've shared here, of course, are the answers that work for me. Finally, we must all search our own hearts, and find our own guidance and understanding. Remember though, the surface levels of the mind, full of worldly arguments and the judgments of others, will not suffice. For answers you can trust on such vital questions, you must dive deep within your soul, and receive your guidance directly from God.

Don't wade. Dive in!

And discover your Self.



"Within you is the mighty ocean of nectar divine. Seek it within you. Feel it. Feel it. It is here, the Self. It is not the body, the mind, the intellect, the brain... Above all these you are... You appear as the smiling flower, as the twinkling stars. What is there in the world which can make you desire anything?"⁷

- Sathya Sai Baba



During the four years I've spent at Baba's Prashanti Nilayam ashram, I've had many extraordinary experiences, and I've also collected some powerful information on the question of Sai Baba's identity, *much of it never before published*. Given the current crisis of faith, I thought it high time I share this material with the world.

Also addressed in Part 2: allegations of Baba performing 'false materializations'.

Part 2:

Potent Evidence: Who is Sai Baba?

Part 3:

The Most Precious Substance in the Universe

Part 4:

"Krishna, Kali, Mr. Mischief!" (a song...!)

Disrespect - WHO THE HELL IS SHE ????

From: archana borker <goan_archana@yahoo.co.in>

Pls forward this to few of our news channels

Hello Everyone,

These pictures I am sending you all shows the gross disrespect and insult to the



Please forward this to all ur frd. She is Hell

Indian National flag by this so called 'spiritual leader' and self proclaimed 'GOD' Mataji Nirmala Devi. This disrespect to our country's flag shows that she has definitely no respect or love for the country that gave her so much and her husband who was an IAS officer and chief of the SCI (he is seated next to her in the pics)... Such a shame..

I do urge and plead with all Indians who deeply love their country to forward the photos to as many people as possible so that it does catch the eye of someone higher up in the Indian Govt who can really take some action against this cult.

Pls dont keep this mail in your mail box as I feel keeping this in mail box itself is an insult to our country. PLZ FORWARD TO ALL U KNOW.....

1- Solar eclipse: From 1995 till now

Nature has always surprised us with its unusual phenomenon. Eclipse is one such happening which manages to attract the same attention every time. From taking holy dips to doing special religious ceremonies - eclipse becomes a national event. As people brace up for solar eclipse on Friday there is news of a lunar eclipse in 15 days. Take a look at the solar eclipse over the years...



SC seeks ways for a just sentence New Delhi, DHNS:

Deccan Herald 30.4.2008

During the hearing of the matter pertaining to the death reference of self-styled godman Swami Shraddhananda, the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Karnataka government Counsel to suggest the legal principle of sentencing a person to a life term with the rider to keep him behind bars till his death.

During the arguments a three-judge bench of Justices B N Agrawal, G S Singhvi and Aftab Alam posed the question whether Shraddhananda, convicted for killing his wife Begum Shakereh Namazi in Bangalore 17 years back, should be sentenced to life imprisonment with the direction to to keep him in jail till he is alive.

The bench asked prosecution Advocate Sanjay Hegde to submit on Wednesday the question of law, whether the court could give such a ruling to imprison him till death.

Death or life term for Shraddanand?

2-Judge Bench Divided On Punishment • Matter Referred to 3-Judge Bench

TIMES NEWS NETWORK - 1.5.2008

New Delhi: The fate of Swami Shraddanand, guilty of killing his wife Shakereh, granddaughter of the former Diwan of Mysore Mirza Ismail and ex-wife of a former diplomat, hangs on a thin thread as the Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved verdict on his punishment — death or life term.

What should be the proper punishment for Shraddanand had created a vertical division in the Bench of Justices S B Sinha and Markandey Katju, though both had little difficulty in convicting the 64-year-old Shraddanand alias Murali Manohar Mishra for murdering Shakereh, ex-wife of former Indian High Commissioner to Australia, Akbar Khaleeli.

Shraddanand was found guilty by the trial court, the Karnataka High Court and the apex court of killing Shakereh by mixing sedatives in her tea and thereafter burying her body in a coffin in the backyard of their house at Bungalow No 81, Richmond Road, Bangalore, in 1991.

While Justice Sinha felt that life term would be an adequate sentence, Justice Katju would settle for nothing less than death penalty as was ordered by the trial court in May 2005 and concurred by the Karnataka High Court.

With the difference of opinion on the quantum of punishment, the issue — whether life term or death sentence — was placed before a three-judge Bench comprising Justices B N Agrawal, G S Singhvi and Aftab Alam, which reserved its verdict on the punishment on Wednesday.

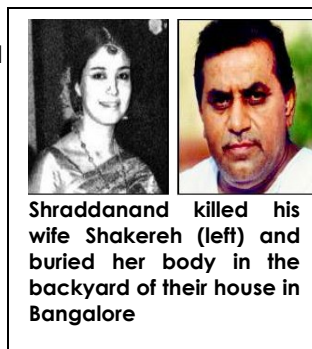
Karnataka standing counsel Sanjay Hegde said the trial court and the HC were right in awarding death sentence to the convict as Shraddanand enticed the wife of another person, married her, then killed her in cold blood for her riches, buried her in the very house where they lived and then went on to live in luxury as if nothing had happened.

The counsel for the accused, knowing fully well that there was no escape from the conviction, argued that it was not a case that would fall within the “rarest of rare” category to be given death penalty. Life imprisonment would be sufficient punishment, he argued.

Shakereh, who married Akbar Khaleeli in 1964 and got divorced in 1985, married Shraddanand in 1986. After she executed a general power of attorney and a will in favour of the accused, she was murdered in 1991.

Almost a year after the murder, Shakereh's daughter from the first marriage, Sabah Khaleeli, lodged a complaint with the Bangalore police alleging that her mother was missing since April 19, 1991. The police dug up the grave inside the house and recovered the skeleton of Shakereh in March 1994 and arrested Shraddanand.

The apex court had, on May 18 last year, after upholding the conviction of Shraddanand, allowed Sabah to take possession of the skeletal remains of her mother from the police to complete her last rites.



| BOOKS AUTHORED, EDITED OR PUBLISHED BY B. PREMANAND | | | |
|---|---|--------|-------|
| S. No. | TITLE | Rs.Ps | US\$ |
| 1. | LURE OF MIRACLES in English (Tamil & Malayalam) | 8.00 | 4.00 |
| 2. | LURE OF MIRACLES - English (Cheap Edition) | 4.00 | 2.00 |
| 3. | DIVINE OCTOPUS | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| 4. | The Story of Godmen, Gold and Diamond Smuggling | 0.50 | 0.25 |
| 5. | SATYA SAI GREED | 15.00 | 7.50 |
| 6. | SATYA SAI BABA & GOLD CONTROL ACT | 6.00 | 3.00 |
| 7. | SATYA SAI BABA & KERALA LAND REFORMS ACT | 12.00 | 6.00 |
| 8. | STRAY REVELATIONS (Poems) | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| 9. | HEALTH SOUVENIR | 10.00 | 5.00 |
| 10. | INVESTIGATE BALAYOGI | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| 11. | TOWARDS AN UNITED FRONT | 50.00 | 10.00 |
| 12. | UNITED FRONT - FIRA 2nd National Conference | 50.00 | 10.00 |
| 13. | Indian Skeptic - 10 YEARS' INDEX | 20.00 | 2.00 |
| 14. | For a Better Life - FIRA 3rd National Conference | 50.00 | 10.00 |
| <u>Skeptic Book-Club Books</u> | | | |
| 1. | SAI BABA MIRACLES AN OVERVIEW - (2nd Ed.) Editor - Dale Bayerstein | 40.00 | 10.00 |
| 2. | SCIENCE VERSUS MIRACLES-Vol.I - B. Premanand | 50.00 | 15.00 |
| 3. | SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE - A Man of Destiny of India - Dr. Mrs.Sunanda Shet | 20.00 | 4.00 |
| 4. | GOD CHECK-MATED - A. Hamath & A. Suryanarayana | 10.00 | 2.00 |
| 5. | ASKEPTIC'S GUIDE TO THE NEW AGE - Harry Edwards | 120.00 | 15.00 |
| 6. | SOUL, SPIRIT, REBIRTH & POSSESSION - A.T. Kooroor | 40.00 | 10.00 |
| 7. | EXPOSING PARANORMAL CLAIMS - A.T. Kooroor | 60.00 | 10.00 |
| 8. | ON CHRISTIANITY - A.T. Kooroor | 45.00 | 10.00 |
| 9. | GORA - His Life & Work - Dr. (Mrs.) Sunanda Shet | 80.00 | 15.00 |
| 10. | MURDERS IN SAI BABA'S BED ROOM | 400.00 | 40.00 |
| 11. | My Voyage - P.K. Narayanan | 15.00 | 3.00 |
| 12. | Human Rights & Social Justice - Ed. Dr. K.K. Kusuman | 40.00 | 5.00 |
| 13. | Astrology - Science or Ego Trip | 150.00 | 20.00 |
| 14. | My Date With God - K.N. Balgopal | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| 15. | Problems of Caste, Religion & Ethnicity in India - Ed. Dr. K.K. Kusuman | 40.00 | 5.00 |
| 16. | Rationalism of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy - Dr. D.D. Bandiste | 25.00 | 5.00 |
| 17. | Hindu Religion & Astrology - A. T. Kooroor | 40.00 | 10.00 |
| 18. | On Buddhism - A. T. Kooroor | 40.00 | 10.00 |
| 19. | End of the Dream - Robert Priddy | 200.00 | 20.00 |
| 20. | Vandalization of a Work of Art and Science - B. Premanand | 300.00 | 30.00 |
| 21. | A Critical Analysis of Religions - S. Jayarama Reddy | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| 22. | Psychosomatic structure of Miracles - P.K.Narayanan | 30.00 | 2.00 |
| 23. | Sabotage by Murali Krishna Yachendra - B.Premanand | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| 24. | India : A Mirror of Third World - Ed. Dr. K.K. Kusuman | 40.00 | 5.00 |
| 25. | Battle Against Supernatural - Narendra Nayak | 105.00 | 12.00 |
| 26. | Behind the Mask of the clown - Conny Larsson | 100.00 | 18.00 |
| 27. | Failed Sabotage by SSB Through Gerald Moreno - B.Premanand | 250.00 | 25.00 |
| 28. | Fraud,Fakery and Flim-Flam - Margaret Bhatti | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| For copies, send M.O. or draft payable to B. Premanand, Convener, Indian CSICOP, 11/7 Chettipalayam Road, Podanur - 641 023 (Tamilnadu) INDIA on any bank at COIMBATORE. Free postage if books ordered are above Rs. 10/-.Orders from other Countries send payment by Western Union Money Transfer. | | | |