



Indian Skeptic

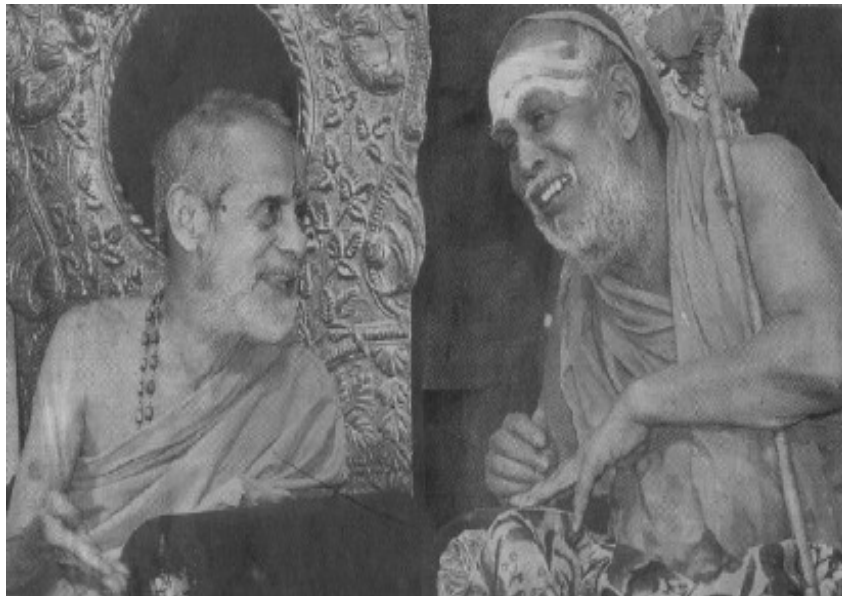
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15-09-2008

COURT NOTICE : To the first for murder and criminal case for murder against the second so their blessings did not turn to rain .

'Let Swamijis blessings turn into rain - TOI 17.7.2008



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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.

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Editor's Page: Our mentor and founder editor Premanand's chemotherapy has been discontinued as the consultant oncologist decided that it was not helping him in any way. But, Premanand is a miracle man himself! When he has been written off he has rebounded, come out with blazing guns and started his campaigns with renewed vigour and I do hope that with all our prayers, blessings from all the holy men (and women too), yagas and yagnas performed for his health he will get well soon! Sarcasm apart, the activities mentioned in the previous sentence have become the pet preoccupations of those of the ruling party in Karnataka. The chief minister Yaddiyurappa had instructed that pujas be performed in all the temples for the well being of the government and the ruling party. With the wafer thin majority that he has and with innumerable rebel groups he does need divine intervention or can hope for it!

The famous showman P.T. Barnum had remarked that "there is a sucker born every minute" that was nearly a century ago. With the increasing population of India and with our gullibility rating going up every minute, with due apology to Barnum I could say that in India there is a sucker born every millisecond! The present happenings do support this. In the month of August I was very busy. Lots of time was spent on celebrating eclipses. With two eclipses occurring within a fortnight and one more to follow within a few months, it was a great opportunity to the astrologers and the priestly class. They had a jolly good time predicting evil for those whose signs of the zodiac fall within that period. Like every other calamity of divine origin, these too could be warded off by appropriate rituals. So, that was bonanza for them (the priestly class I mean). As usual the gullible poor were the ones to be fleeced of their hard earned money.

China which is the country with the highest population and a communist ruled one, played host to the Olympic Games. Being a communist country did not prevent superstitions from scheduling the opening ceremony for the date 08/08/08 at 8 hours and 8 minutes! That number is supposedly lucky for them. On the other hand one of the Indian channels had astrologers ranting about how unlucky the date is and reeled off lists of the calamities that befell countries in the years the date occurred. Any way, like all other bad luck this too could be warded off by appropriate methods, all of which could be extremely profitable to the vendors of the charms which were supposed to counter the ill effects.

The year of eclipses has affected us rationalists too! We lost two of them in June, who were staunch ones and remained so to the last. I am citing the examples of Prof. G.T. Narayana Rao and Advocate Moorthy. GTN as the former was popularly known, was a great scholar, had written many books about scientific temper, debunking astrology, biographies of Einstein, Chandrashekar, an autobiography titled the endless journey and had edited the science encyclopedia in Kannada. He was a teacher of mathematics for three decades at many colleges and universities in Karnataka. He was actively involved in teacher's co-operatives, the NCC movement and was connoisseur of Karnatik music. He lived as a rationalist, sticking to his principles till the very end. His children were brought up with the same convictions and his three sons are also like minded. The eldest Ashok Vardhan takes active part in our movement and also publishes books, runs a book shop which is a center for many progressive activities. Prof. GTN's body was donated to a medical college and his eyes to blind persons. The same was with advocate from Mangalore Sri Vishnu Moorthy who was associated with the Dakshina Kannada Rationalist Association since its very inception. He used to take up issues affecting labour was active member of the communist party of India. He too remained a rationalist to the very end, donated his body to the medical college and his eyes to the blind. We wish that the younger generation follow the examples of those of the older generation who had much tougher battles to fight against the superstitious, reactionary mindsets of their previous generation.

Some suggestions have come in about the future course of action and we do hope that more will be coming forth. After going through them we will decide how to continue to function as the voice of reason in the cacophony of superstitions that seem to be ruling the day.

Sai Baba's teachings and education in academic isolation

Posted by robertpriddy on May 30, 2008

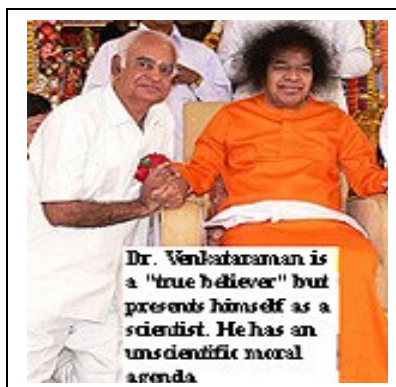
Much is made by Sathya Sai Baba and his followers of those of his supporters who are 'scientists' and 'educationalists', and not a few of them – especially the Indians who predominate among them. However, what can one say of the standard of an educational system which exists in TOTAL isolation from the world research community. Very few of those chosen by Sathya Sai Baba for top offices in his organisation and institutions (for all the academic titles they flaunt) show themselves to be progressively intellectual or up-to-date in modern knowledge. Not a single one of them seems to have published a major serious work of impact on peers or the informed public in science, philosophy or other comparable serious literature, yet many are at the same time hagiographic writers about Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Baba himself is more or less unknown to - and unmentioned by - any major world thinker of high achievement. Incidentally, nor is he quoted or referred to by any important world religious leaders.

Why is there a total absence of international peer review or scientific or pedagogic discussion at anything approaching a world professional standard in any of the publications by these known followers of Sathya Sai Baba? The primary reason is that the whole Sathya Sai Baba undertaking is clinically isolated from the wider world of non-believers and his university, though now recognised as such through his political pull, is way below the standards of the best Indian education, science and research. This is a shame, really, for at least it does provide an education to many in a state where there are so many illiterates.

Further, why are there virtually no names of educationalists involved with Sathya Sai Baba's institutions who are genuinely well-known outside the circle of Sai Baba devotees? There is a total absence of internationally-recognised scientists and researchers and no discussion with such through any known professional or public media either. Not one Nobel laureate (there have been well over a thousand of them) has proclaimed to be a follower of Sathya Sai Baba, as far as can be discovered. [One former Nobel Laureate from Texas was inducted into viewing the hospital in Puttaparthi and thanks Sai Baba for it, but he is otherwise not declaring himself as a follower.] It is not possible for a mature scholar to work in an environment such as that at the Sathya Sai University, because the methods of learning are far too traditional and - according to the famous editor V.K. Narasimhan, who knew most of the students there - those who graduate were very largely as yet incapable of any intellectual discussion outside the parameters of their textbook learning. Add to this the constant indoctrination about the Chancellor (Sathya Sai Baba) being omniscient and infallible, and the scene is set for a torpid mentality and stagnating research.

One name brandished as a 'great scientist' by Sai followers was a Dr. S. Bhagavantam, because he was a developer of the Indian atomic bomb who successfully copied US nuclear technology (good in physics but what about non-violent values?). He was a noted figure in Indian (but not world) science. Well before his death, Dr. Bhagavantam resigned from the Sathya Sai Central Trust and the World Council of the Sathya Sai Organization and left Sathya Sai Baba of his own accord around 1983, it having taken him 20 years to see through enough of his excessive claims and even his constant proven sleight of hand.

The only other remotely known physicist around Sathya Sai Baba is Dr. G.Venkataraman, who firmly believes Sathya Sai Baba is the creator of the universe, despite him knowing full well that Sai Baba's 'knowledge' of physics, astronomy, geophysics and related scientific issues has been shown to be outright ignorant and laughable! Venkataraman should know better! He publishes web pages which present standard accounts of physics and astronomy in complete contradiction to what Sathya Sai Baba has proclaimed in many discourse! Not one head of any independent University can be found who has endorsed Sathya Sai Baba's educational programmes like Education in Human Values or Educare, and – as is well



known – a branch of UNESCO withdrew from a planned educational conference under the auspices of Sai Baba once they had investigated what this involved. Since then no UN body has been willing to enter into any kind of cooperation in education or other projects with Sathya Sai Baba or his institutions.

One should not be misled by the titles and long and near-incomprehensible strings of letters graduates and others around Sai Baba attach after their names (a must-have in status-conscious India). There are many millions of graduates in the world, and some countries have educational systems using unpedagogical methods, especially India - though the top universities are reportedly state-of-the-art and their graduates are most successful internationally. Unfortunately, here in Norway at the University of Oslo, the standard of 90% of applicants from India I was involved in assessing (all supposedly having already some kind of higher educational graduation from India) was such that they needed quite elementary training before they could hope to enter for the obligatory philosophy and logic-semantic preliminary examination. I know from my academic contacts that much the same applies in UK and other West European countries. The Indian authorities are really trying to modernise the low-standard educational system of Lord Macaulay with its learning-by-rote to create nothing but clerks, not scientists, as left by the British. Admirably, they struggle to make it more egalitarian with quotas for Dalits, because since Independence it was virtually the birthright of higher caste Indians to receive - not only an education - but also a degree, whatever their academic standard. Many newspapers used to report on repeated disturbances where students would demonstrate violently and threatened professors until granted their degrees. In fact, many of supposed graduates of Indian universities who applied to the board on which I sat proved to have counterfeit degrees.

Posted in India, Sathya Sai Baba, Universities, education | 1 Comment »

Some new postings

Posted by robertpriddy on May 30, 2008

Joseph. Early Sathya Sai Baba Whistleblower. When devotees of Sathya Sai Baba finally bite the bullet and understand that the sex abuse allegations are true, they begin to recall incidents which shocked them at the time but which their powerful faith enabled them to rationalise or even simply push aside. Such is the case of Joseph, who Barry knew - a very shocking treatment by Sai Baba's 'Seva Dal' acting as true goondas to suppress a whistle-blower.

Inescapable and undeniable recorded facts in the documentary by the BBC. Though there are some small inaccuracies in the 1 hour film (which one fanatical, obsessive defender of Sai Baba - even while believing him to be a sexual abuser - disingenuously claims are major flaws!), they are of absolutely minimal importance compared to the overriding facts that are simply recorded for all to see and hear.

Conny Larsson is interviewed in 'Cyprus Today' He is a best-selling author in Sweden and tells about sex abuse by Sathya Sai Baba, and about his new book about to be published 'Flower Power, The Beatles, Maharishi and I'. See also Conny Larsson interviewed in 'Cyprus Times' where he recounted his extraordinary life story in brief.

Sathya Sai Baba: Questionable Stories and Claims. Part 2 Blatantly incorrect, capricious, misleading, based on erroneous beliefs and unfettered imagination are some of the characteristics of the stories told by Sathya Sai Baba as if they were factual truth about his authorship - and his new book about to be published 'Flower power, The Beatles, Maharishi and I'.

Sai Baba Researchers' Debt To Scholar Brian D. Steel By winnowing this enormous mass of varied documentation currently available about the guru Sathya Sai Baba, his 60-year spiritual Mission and his organisation, the former follower and author of a major Sai Baba bibliography - Brian Steel - makes it possible for anyone more readily able to separate fact from fantasy and research from propaganda in the interests of a fair evaluation of the complex Sathya Sai Baba story.

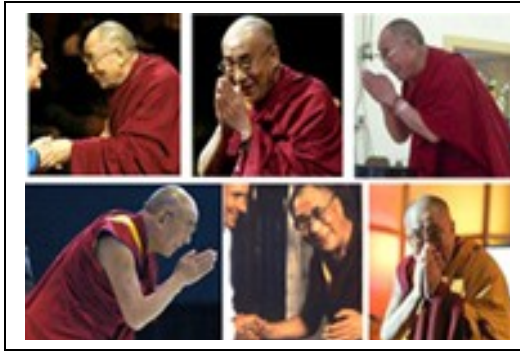
Posted in India | No Comments »

The Dalai Lama and Sathya Sai Baba

Posted by robertpriddy on May 27, 2008

Please consider the following list of questions as a little quiz.

If the answers are not immediately evident to you for one reason or another, they are listed at the bottom of the list. The fuller reasons and further documentation for the correct answers can be found in the article here



1) Which of the two - Sathya Sai Baba or the Dalai Lama is always humble and treats others as equals

2) Which of the two is open to questions and never makes fun at the expense of his questioners?

3) Which of the two is open to genuine dialogue with his critics and is respectful of them.

4) Which of the two seeks publicity only for the cause of a suppressed people and culture, not for any personal praise or self interest?

5) Which of the two actively practices non-violence and has never been involved in covering up murders on his own premises?

6) Which of the two revels in pomp and tinsel, is constantly sitting on silver thrones, golden chariots?

7) Which of the two constantly emphasises his service to others, his self-sacrifice and that no one is doing one thousandth of the service he is doing?

8) Which of the two lays claim to total spiritual and moral superiority over all living persons on earth and in every other realm?

9) Which of the two blessed golden statues of himself, and allows donations to go to build costly 'museums' and other buildings glorifying himself with blazoned images of himself and his sayings?

10) Which of the two is subject to the abuse and libel of a powerful state which employs torture and killing of his supporters?

11) Which of the two is protected by security guards at all times and cannot be approached by anyone except his servitors without body searches and the use of metal detectors?

12) Which of the two is never patronising and never harangues people for being impure and under the sway of inhuman and demonic forces?

13) Which of the two avoids the press or replying to them in any form unless vetted in advance and also describes investigative press writings about himself as 'false flights of the imagination' and demonises journalists who question him as spreading slander?

14) Which of the two is known to associate with criminals, such as the brutal dictator Idi Amin or the corrupt embezzling exile Bettino Craxi?

15) Which of the two has been accused in substantial and detailed testimonies of sexual abuses of a large number of Indian and foreign boys and young men?

16) Which of the two is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, while the other was put forward for the same honour by India's government but whose candidacy was mentioned only by a few supporters?

[[Should there be a shadow of a doubt as to the correct the answers, they are:

1) Dalai Lama 2) Dalai Lama 3) Dalai Lama 4) Dalai Lama 5) Dalai Lama 6) Sathya Sai Baba 7) Sathya Sai Baba 8) Sathya Sai Baba 9) Sathya Sai Baba 10) Sathya Sai Baba 11) Sathya Sai Baba 12) Dalai Lama 13) Sathya Sai Baba 14) Sathya Sai Baba 15) Sathya Sai Baba 16) Dalai Lama!]]

And, once again, the fuller reasons and further documentation of the correct answers can be found in the article here

Sathya Sai Baba claims that he, as Full Avatar of God, has sixteen special qualities. The above 16 questions make for a fitting comment on his 'special qualities'.

[Don't be 'the weakest link']

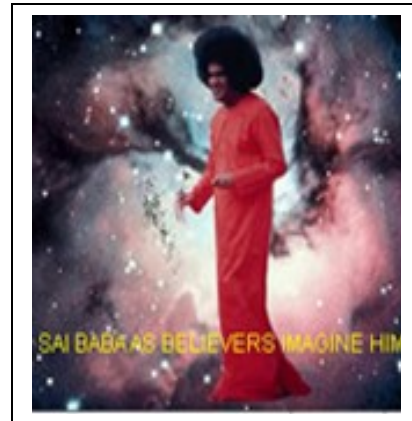
see also <http://barrypittard.wordpress.com/2008/05/04/china-courts-dalai-lama-olympic-good-spirit/>

Posted in Cults, Famous people, Godmen, Sathya Sai Baba, Spirituality | Tagged: Dalai Lama, Idi Amin | 1 Comment »

The Sathya Sai Organization's Damage-limitation efforts

Posted by robertpriddy on May 26, 2008

One of the mostly unofficial policies of the Sathya Sai Organization - especially in Western countries where there are high standards of education - is to avoid alienating possible future converts to the movement by speaking or writing about the many miraculous claims of Sathya Sai Baba or by his devotees. The Scandinavian countries were instructed by Thorbjørn Meyer to play down all the kind of proclamations that "people would not easily understand", including the miracles and Sathya Sai Baba's many claims of being the Divine Avatar come to save humanity and his many other documented 'fantastic' statements (read a cross-section of these).



Despite all this, the Sathya Sai Organisation requires all its members to accept that Sathya Sai Baba is God, this being stated clearly in the paper which, in many countries, new members must sign according to the Charter of the Sathya Sai Organization (which is not a published document, but is kept with the circle of the faithful!). Those who will not accept this condition are either not allowed to become members or - if already so - are excluded from the Organisation. Though the Official Sathya Sai Baba website (<www.sathyasai.org>), however, does promote four Sai Baba discourses as important ones, in which he makes claims of divinity and miracles, it has in its printed propaganda materials in Western countries increasingly edited this material in such a way as to reduce the claims. For documentation and a more thorough examination of this deceit by the Sathya Sai Organisation, see 'Downgrading Divinity' by Brian Steel.

Of course, the official Sathya Sai Organization is unable to control the many websites of zealous true believer devotees of Sathya Sai Baba - or unwilling to try to do so - for, after all, most of Sathya Sai Baba's attraction to the curious is the many fantastic claims about him. It is a kind of balancing act - a Janus-faced operation designed to attract more serious people by emphasising the social service projects in the name of Sai Baba and the values he promotes (in word if not in deed) yet not to alienate those who consider Sathya Sai Baba's miracles to be the be-all-and-end-all of his supposed 'mission to save humanity'.

After the BBC's documentary on Sathya Sai Baba - The Secret Swami - was aired (despite legal efforts by Dr. Michael Goldstein and other Sai Organization leaders to stop it being aired), he wrote a circular in an attempt to rein in all devotees from anything but officially-condoned or vetted contact with the media!

E-MAIL PUBLISHED ON AN INTERNET BULLETIN BOARD (error by an undisciplined devotee)

To: saibabanews@yahogroups.com

From: "Laura" <joydrops@pon.net>

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 2004 09:37:47 -0800

Subject: [saibabanews] Fwd: Message from head of U.S. Sai Organization

Procedure to handle requests for filming interviews with devotees or officers at Sai centers or regional events by Media Companies. Please carefully review the following letter from Dr. Goldstein on this subject:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sai Ram!

Recently there have been several media companies who have expressed an interest in making a program or documentary on Swami, His Works, the Sai Organization. We have advised these parties that we do not wish to participate in their documentaries or take part in personal or group interviews. Specifically, the



**Sai Baba repeatedly says Speak sweetly shed comfort with every glance
HE CHOSE GOLDSTEIN AS HIS TOP WORLD REPRESENTATIVE**

BBC is contemplating production of a video which would be controversial

in nature. We have informed them that the Sri Sathya Sai Organizations do not wish to participate in their project.

Therefore, should you be approached by any of these companies, or should they appear at any Sai Centers or Events with cameras, recorders, reporters, etc, please advise them respectfully that we do not wish to participate and politely ask them to leave the premises. If they do not comply with your polite request, then the appropriate authorities should be invoked, such as the person(s) responsible for the premises and/or the appropriate authorities.

Sincerely,

Michael Goldstein

If a Media Company approaches you concerning filming at your center, please follow the procedure outlined above and as soon as practical, please inform me by phone at 831-457-1983. This is very important.

Thanks.

More about this issue is found here

Posted in Cultism, Cults, Godmen, Gurus, Propaganda, Sathya Sai Baba | Tagged: Dr. Michael Goldstein, International Sathya Sai Organization, Sai Baba | No Comments »

Joseph. Early Sathya Sai Baba Whistleblower

Posted by Barry Pittard on May 27, 2008

Particularly for those readers those who were Sathya Sai Baba followers for decades - who are continuing to leave the Sathya Sai Organization and gradually recovering memories of their experiences - I am reposting, having unposted, my first WP blog article at - <http://barrypittard.wordpress.com>

This February 2007 article was then entitled: Joseph's Reaction. Was it shock of spiritual betrayal?

In exposing corruption, painstaking documentation, as accurate as one can get it under often trying circumstances, is paramount. Sources keep on opening. Including ones that go way back, and it is good to see memories being jogged. Much of the documentation we keep from the public domain, such as the Internet, where fanaticism, distortion, libel, slander, stalking and hatred can ride high. As I often point out in red so there can be no missing it, many former devotees welcome third party investigation by the best quality media, by scholars, and law enforcement agencies.

Documentation is much assisted by those with the rare gift of photographic memory, and also by those who kept careful written records. Yet when there is a sufficient pool of informants, where the chance of any collusion is remote or to be ruled out, the stream of informal information is also important.

It may be urged, and in part mistakenly so, that memory is too fallible to be any reliable guide. Hearsay can dominate. Non-primary evidence can obtrude itself. And so on. The game used by psychologists that is most often known as 'Chinese Whispers' (See Wikipedia reference below) illustrates the marked dangers of accounts passed from person to person and of phenomena such as rumor, gossip. However, there are well-established methodologies by which to significantly counteract such problems. Sometimes, commonsense is not to be ruled out as a useful factor.

Resource

Chinese Whispers, Wikipedia Reference

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"The mire was deep, & the child did weep". William Blake, Songs of Innocence.

Let me start with one of a number of experiences that haunt me and will not let my conscience be stilled. In 1979, in the crowd awaiting Sai Baba's public appearance (darshan), Joseph (USA) sat along with the rest of us.

I knew him well enough, and it was he who found me accommodation on my first arrival with wonderfully simple and decent village folk in Kadugodi, behind Sathya Sai Baba's Whitefield ashram. He had told me that he was formerly a college lecturer in French. Called a hippy by the village children (who may have been somewhat right), he appeared to be in his thirties, and was one of three or so Westerners remaining after the hippies and others had departed from Sai Baba in the late sixties.

Joseph began to discourse, for all of us to hear, and I sat just behind him. At times with rising stress levels, and with moral outrage, he repeated that that some college boys had told him Sai Baba had asked a number of them (in Joseph's words) to "line up and masturbate." On the third or so day of Joseph's dark rumblings, six hefty Indian male service volunteers (seva dals) came and carried him out onto the street, ordering him not to return. I expect any of the thousand or so present can never forget the fight that the immensely powerful Joseph put up, roaring out the accusations for all to hear. A very distressed Indian man said to me, "If Sai Baba is God, why do they need to use all this violence against this man?" An hour afterwards, one of the volunteers told me that his duty of ejecting Joseph was "like wrestling a tiger." He told me that his part in manhandling of Joseph saddened him because they had known each other affectionately.

For the next days, while people awaited darshan, Joseph climbed a tree outside the ashram wall, and again cried out the allegations for us all to hear. Then, he was gone. I heard from a close friend and local resident, Siva Subramanian, a Tamil and retired grain merchant who knew some of the Tamil constables, that the Kadugodi village police had soundly thrashed Joseph, and sent him on his way.

So much, then, for the cardinal doctrine of ahimsa or non-violence – in the land that still daily venerates my great hero since I was a child, Mahatma Gandhi – along with the Dalai Lama and Martin Luther King, a towering apostle of non-violence. Sai Baba everywhere preaches ahimsa, but does he – and do those around him – practise it? Many devotees will remember his brutal corrupt servitors like Kumar, the betel nut chewing, stick-wielding ex-superintendent of police, who was Sai Baba's gatekeeper at Puttaparthi for many years. Diane, a woman in the Sathya Sai Baba group not far from where I live told me of her trauma at seeing violence perpetrated by some of Sai Baba's assistants. She said it presented her with great doubts about Sai Baba but felt that she could not speak further. Her story is one of many such, a fact that devotees really need to face squarely.

Professor Anil Kumar, Sathya Sai Baba's 'left-hand' man

Posted by robertoriddy on June 25, 2008



Professor Anil Kumar is one of Sai Baba's most trusted accomplices. He is a married man, but is also accused most credibly of philandering, and with Sai Baba's permission too! So much for the morals and human values in Brindavan! I refer to Conny Larsson's bestseller in Sweden 'Behind the Mask of the Clown' in which he exposes Sathya Sai Baba as a serial molestor of males, a deceiver and a practitioner of sleight-of-hand.

In his endless moralising discourses, Sathya Sai Baba sets impossibly high standards as to sexual chastity before marriage and even within marriage, but he condones sleeping around by his personal translator and close servitor! This is hypocrisy, of course... matched only by his own widely reported and testified homosexual promiscuity.



Here is the excerpt in which Larsson describes how his girlfriend 'Tuula' Anja Tammelin was seduced into a sex relationship by the sanctimonious 'devotee' Professor Anil Kumar! The excerpt is from here

"One day I heard rumors from India that Baba had introduced a new man to Tuula, the Indian Anil Kumar, who was Baba's own English interpreter at public appearances. But he was married and had children! Tuula said nothing about that in her letters. They breathed resignation and a downright hostility towards those who lived at Puttaparthi or served as teachers within the ashram. She never so much as mentioned the earlier relationship between herself and me. Perhaps there was some bitterness about the way Sai Baba directed our lives? I did not know what to think, but I felt a growing anxiety. Finally I got on a plane to fly down to Puttaparthi to find out how matters stood.

I found Tuula living in an apartment outside the ashram. The apartment was used as a love nest for her and this new man. I was shaken, but I did not feel I was entitled to have any views on Tuula's love for Anil, as I had left her behind at Puttaparthi in obedience to Baba's orders.

Sai Baba had again acted in ways that were not in accord with the five human values. After all, by Indian standards Tuula had been made into a concubine, and that with the blessing of my God.

I could not be so presumptuous as to believe that I could determine what was right or wrong when it came to such a colossus as Sai Baba, who had shown the way to so many thousands of people. More educated persons than I had found a refuge in this incarnation of God, so who was I to sit in judgment on the one who was regarded as the new Messiah of our age. I had to acknowledge and take the consequences of my choice to leave Tuula in favor of the road indicated by Baba." (by Conny Larsson)

Professor Anil Kumar is one of the least credible of Sathya Sai Baba's unofficial 'mouthpieces' with his lip service to the morals of Sathya Sai Baba and his vast credulity about all of Sathya Sai Baba's claims and wholly uncritical naive acceptance of Sai Baba's huge boasts about himself and his own importance.

See also here Anil Kumar, the latest promoter of Sathya Sai Baba

Posted in Guru Cult, Morality, Religious sex abuse, Sathya Sai Baba | Tagged: Anil Kumar | No Comments »

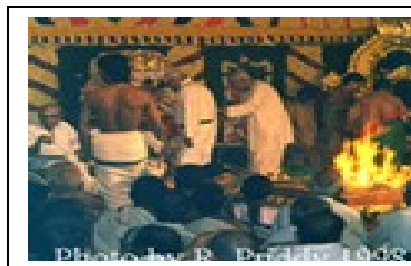
Sai Baba seen in ritual fire (photo)

Posted by robertpriddy on June 23, 2008

Sathya Sai Baba has supposedly 'manifested himself' in the ritual fire in a shed at the 'holy sandal' (Paduka) celebrations in 1998. This image and caption were published on a calendar sold in the ashram. It is true that the colours orange and black are visible in a form which, with a large portion of imagination and 'mental editing' can be interpreted as a very rough figure - but without any

distinguishing features. For a self-proclaimed omnipotent avatar, one would expect that 'Bhagwan' Sathya Sai Baba could have done better in the way of manifestation than such a vague form with no clear outline. However, because it is a ritual fire (homa offering), devotees want to see it as a response from their God Incarnate. It is quite easy - in the over-heated (sic) atmosphere of the ashrams and Sai groups - to begin to interpret many forms that appear in nature as representing Sathya Sai Baba or religious symbols. I admit to having done so myself - though the circumstances in my case were far more clear and otherwise convincing than in the above photos. This comes of too much concentration on the form of Sai Baba (which is a must for devotees) and the stories and hearsay relating to these supposed 'manifestations' (blessings, proofs of divinity or whatever).

The above image is one of hundreds of photos taken of the fire by those present, so one could be expected to show some shape that could be somewhat similar to Sai Baba. For a self-proclaimed omnipotent avatar, one would expect that he could do better in the way of manifestations than a vague form without. Incidentally, also took several photos of the ceremony which I attended with my friend V.K. Narasimhan... where I snapped him (see central figure in white below) What do you see in that image of the homa fire? Figures from Hindu mythology, deities, devas, demons, dancing girls...?



Posted in Cults, Manifestations, Puttaparthi, Sathya Sai Baba | No Comments »

Sathya Sai Baba as 'Divine Mother' - photos

Posted by robertpriddy on June 17, 2008



The above couple of manipulated images come from an entertaining website where Sathya Sai Baba is pasted into traditional photos of gods, with grotesque effect here. He looks like a transvestite drag queen or a hira.



Photograph of Baba as a modern Parvathi materialised by Baba for Thippamma

Cross-dressing: More to the point in this connection would be the supposed authentic photo of the young Sathya Sai Baba... which is claimed to have been 'materialised' (left), though one must suspect the camera of materialization and sleight-of-hand for the rest. This is in accordance with the transvestite photos of the young Sathya Sai Baba (right), and various reports of him as masquerading as a woman on numerous occasions.

Devotees love to hear any evidence of Sai Baba's supposed "divine play" (i.e. leela), such as acting the mother (Ammani) by "dancing, cleaning houses, bringing water, wearing saris and so on, like ladies did" (quote from *Love is My Form* by Padmanabhan - Sai Towers Publishing, p. 560).

Satyanarayana Raju, as he was then known, loved to take part in dances and dramas, very often taking female roles. His sisters Venkamma and Parvathamma often fixed his cosmetics and costumes, clothing him in their own saris.

On one occasion in the mid-1930s (reported by his 'official biographer' Prof. N. Kasturi) he imitated a popular dance artist, Rishyendramani, who was a touring entertainer, famous for feats such as dancing to music while picking up handkerchiefs off the floor with her teeth. At an annual school function where Rishyendramani failed to turn up, Raju put on fancy clothes and pretended to be her. He passed himself off well as a young female and even surpassed Rishyendramani's feats. The District Board President was to present a prize of a silk sari to the 'artiste', asking for 'her' to come up on stage to receive it. Raju had changed back into his male clothes by then but walked towards the stage to claim his prize. He was stopped by officials and the situation was defused when a senior teacher informed that it was actually he who had saved the day and thus he deserved a prize.

Posted in Guru Cult, Materialization, Photos, Sathya Sai Baba | Tagged: transvestitism, cross-dressing | No Comments »

Outright defenders of sexual abuse by Sathya Sai Baba

Posted by robertpriddy on June 17, 2008

Members of the Sathya Sai Organization, including some office-bearers, have circulated to many devotees a printed version of a truly abject rationalization of homosexual abuses on boys and young men of the crudest sort by Sathya Sai Baba.

The document is still found on the web, posted there years ago by a devotee - Ram Das Awle - who relates that he was inspired and personally blessed at darsan by Sathya Sai Baba to publish his thoughts! See here (<http://www.saibaba-aclearview.com/contents1.html>)

That the International Sathya Sai Organisation has not once refuted this disgusting and outrageous 'explanation' of why Sathya Sai Baba sexually abuses young males is a major blot on its reputation, - already in question for a long list of reasons, not least unaccountability to anyone but Sathya Sai Baba and complete failure to exercise duty of care and mandatory reporting to the public and prospective young male visitors to the ashrams.

Evidence from many quarters through many years has been available accusing Sai Baba in most credible ways, showing complete acquaintance with the ashram, interviews and the way Sai Baba operates to groom and seduce youth.

The US devotee Bon Giovanni - an unconcerned apologist for Sai Baba's trickeries and other misdemeanours - posted the article at "SAI BABA and SEX: A Clear View" by Ram Das Awle, who accepts that sexual abuses occur and then tries to fit the facts onto the Procrustean bed of total belief that Sathya Sai Baba is God and has inscrutable divine reasons and a right to do what he thinks fit for a follower to experience, whatever the perversion or vile act by our 'merely human' standards (the anal rape of minors included).

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 he stands accused as 'spiritual healing' and control of sexual urges! He justifies this at length too! This even evidently convinces others who defend Sai Baba in every possible way by attacking all alleging victims along with all other critics of Sathya Sai Baba. One such miscreant has declared he believed Sathya Sai Baba to be a sexual abuser - for several years - while he poured out web pages to defend the same abuser! [see the evidence here: <http://www.saibabaexpose.com/JoeFAQ.htm#abu>] His constant contrived spin tried to show the critics in the worst possible light, going to any length to assassinate their character in an unending array of ways that lawyers in three countries have opined as highly libellous, defamatory and actionable. Because he just looked too ridiculous and immoral defending the sex abuser on a daily basis, this fanatic grasped the first opportunity to flip flop - when a case by Alaya Rahm against the US Sathya Sai leaders had to be withdrawn because it transpired that there was no incorporated organization to sue. Despite that, Alaya Rahm maintains every word he has testified against Sathya Sai Baba, as do his parents!

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. Awle is a dyed-in-the-wool 'true believer', see http://www.saibaba-x.org.uk/6/Defence_of_Sai_Baba_sexual_abuses.htm #awfulawle

Having raised the defence of sexually perverse abuses to the level of pseudo-theology, Ram Das Awle admits his acceptance of the sex abuse allegations and natural confusion but then tells how he thinks he was inspired to surmount it by his "fervid imagination". Very apt!

That any of this could be taken seriously by so many followers as it evidently is would support the belief that - according to fundamentalist Hindu beliefs - we are indeed in the Dark Age of Kali in which immorality reigns. If this were so, then the presence of full-blown pedophile Divine Incarnation ('Purna' Avatar) whose (sex) Life is his Message would fit nicely! Awle's self-admitted "imaginative fervour" is nothing more or less than that... imagination. 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.

See also:-http://www.saibaba-x.org.uk/10/Sathyasaiorganization_open_letter.html

<http://barrypittard.wordpress.com/2008/05/16/sai-baba-world-cult-leaders-fail-to-meet-concerns-on-libel/>

<http://barrypittard.wordpress.com/2008/05/12/sathya-sai-baba-organization-and-libel-and-disinformation/>

Posted in Child abuse, Crime and Corruption, Guru Cult, Religious sex abuse, Sathya Sai Baba, Sathya Sai Organization | No Comments »

Ex-king Gyanendra of Nepal & Sathya Sai Baba

Posted by robertpriddy on June 11, 2008

Both the recently deposed king Gyanendra of Nepal and Sathya Sai Baba are hailed as Living Incarnations of Lord Vishnu

While Gyanendra had to step down as king, he has not stepped down as God Incarnate - or rather he can't because he has been put on a pedestal long since with all his forebears. His Hindu followers still worship him as such. So which of them is the best contender? Or are



they not both bogus gods? The devout King Gyanendra is on record as saying he is a pragmatic person, not a god. Poor man! He is possibly some kind of worshipper of Sathya Sai Baba, as were his murdered relatives and two Nepalese Prime Ministers!

Sathya Sai Baba's claim to Godhood



SATHYA SAI BABA SITS ON A THRONE SYMBOLISING THAT OF VISHNU RECLINING ON ADI-SESHA, THE COSMIC SERPENT ON THE SEA OF MILK

Supposedly, the sage Markandeya recorded a conversation he had with God Vishnu, the embodiment of the preserver aspect of the trinity, who told him how he would take a human birth in order to intervene and set the world on a new course.

Sathya Sai Baba has pronounced himself to be that Re-incarnation, come to save the world as Vishnu supposedly promised in recorded Hindu mythology. Sathya Sai Baba declared: "When dharma declines or rather, when those who have a duty to regulate their lives according to dharma lose faith in it, then, its restoration cannot be taken up by all and sundry... The Lord has come again on this Mission." (According to Lord Vishnu's promise, it is held) (Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 3, p. 106)

Ex-king Gyanendra's claim to Godhood

The BBC reported here:-

Three months after King Gyanendra seized political power in Nepal, and nearly four years after the royal massacre which dented the aura of the monarchy, many Nepalese still consider their king to have divine powers, as an incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu.

In conversations with pilgrims here, everyone identified the king with Vishnu, who in the great Hindu triumvirate of gods is the preserver and nurturer. "Vishnu looks after the people," says a female student. "He will take care of them, giving food, shelter, love - everything.

Sudhindra Sharma, a Nepalese expert on religion, says there is nothing in the Hindu scriptures that links monarchs to Vishnu's 10 traditional incarnations. But they do say kings contain portions of deities, and Mr Sharma says Nepalis have linked Vishnu and their kings for nearly 2,000 years. He quotes a Nepali saying: if the king could hear what's going on, he would do something about it; if the gods could see what's going on, they would do something about it. "For the population at large, the idea that the king should act is pervasive," Mr Sharma says.

Hardline Hindus For the ardent monarchist, honorary aide-de-camp to the king, retired general Bharat Keshar Simha, King Gyanendra can do no wrong. "Unless you have some power given to you by the god, you cannot be a king. He is courageous, he is bold, he is wise." He says a Hindu king must protect his people and that, given

the conflict with Maoists, he himself urged King Gyanendra to take firm political action. Gen Simha is president of the World Hindu Federation, an international body based in Nepal aiming at Hindu pre-eminence worldwide.

Clashing Claims? Which of them is most righteous, as any good Vishnu should be? Perhaps King Gyanendra's bloody massacres of protesters against his rule somewhat weakens the claim he is Vishnu the Preserver? Then again, Sathya Sai Baba presided over his ashram where the execution of four devotees took place in A further complication - more slaughter and mayhem

The BBC also reported here:

Gyanendra of Nepal assumed the throne in dramatic circumstances in 2001 after his brother, King Birendra, was killed in a palace massacre.

During his six years in power he went from being the country's undisputed absolute leader to a disgraced monarch accused of orchestrating the killings of his own people.

Weeks of demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of people secured the end of direct palace rule in April 2006.

The former king (also worshipped as Vishnu) and his queen, murdered by their son, had visited Sathya Sai Baba. Peculiar - two incarnations of Vishnu for the price of one? Sai Baba's blessings did not save them... or was it maybe King Birendra who blessed Sathya Sai Baba?

Posted in India, Royalty, Sathya Sai Baba, myths | Tagged: King of Nepal, Gyanendra, Lord Vishnu | No Comments »



Miracle story - Sathya Sai Baba

Posted by robertpriddy on June 9, 2008



Miracle stories from <http://srisathyasaibaba.blogspot.com/>

Here comes an account (as a constantly recycled by Sai followers) of Sathya Sai Baba's supposed "miraculous survival" of a leg fracture (or was this uncorroborated fracture just play acting, of which Sathya Sai Baba is widely praised as being a master?). Since he has stated occasionally that he never uses his proclaimed healing power to heal himself (for it would be selfish)... we ask what really happened?

On June 25th, 1963 in Venkatagiri, Bhagawan while going up some stairs in the Palace of the Raja of Venkatagiri slipped, His right leg was Fractured, Bhagawan was carried up in a chair and lifted to his Room upstairs. Came Evening and at 5'O'Clock, there was no sign of Bhagawan giving Darshan, after around 10 minutes, the wonderful sound of the siren was played which always preceeded the arrival of Bhagawan for Darshan, Bhagawan was walking as if Nothing had happened, Everybody was too stunned to speak anything, Bhagawan gave one of his sheepish smiles and gave a wonderful 10 minute discourse, He said :

PRIYATMULARA (DEAR ONES OF THE HEART),

NOTHING HAPPENS TO SWAMI, NOTHING CAN TOUCH YOUR SWAMI, SWAMI IS ALL RIGHT ALL THE TIME, IT IS ONLY YOUR BRAMA (ILLUSION) THAT I WAS HURT AND NOT WELL.

FOR SWAMI THIS PHYSICAL BODY IS ONLY A MEANS TO TEACH YOU GOOD THINGS. YOU HAVE PRAYED WHOLE HEARTEDLY THAT I SHOULD COME AND GIVE YOU DARSHAN, SEE HERE I AM, YOUR PRAYERS HAVE MADE ME TO COME, THERE WAS NEVER AN INJURY TO SWAMI, SWAMI NEVER GET INJURED, AS ALL ARE MY CREATIONS CAN MY OWN CREATIONS HARM ME ?,

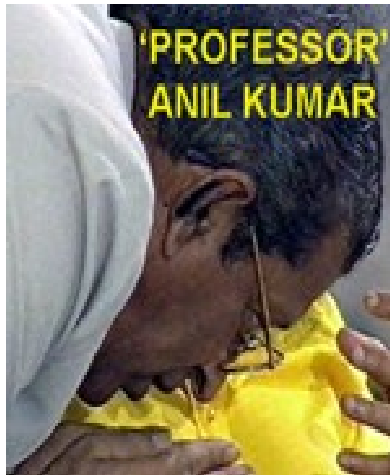
Anil Kumar – The Omniscient Sai - Prof Anil Kumar Kamaraju his Experience

Wonder why Sai Baba's leg was 'Fractured' with a capital 'F'?

Since he walked "as if Nothing had happened" it suggests strongly that nothing did happen - other than a faked fracture. Sai Baba even reportedly said: "There was never an injury to Swami. Swami never gets injured".

Despite this, 'Swami' has for some years been debilitated by a hip injury and has to use an invalid chair and specially designed vehicles to go more than a few staggering

steps. But devotees prefer to accept all of his statements unquestioningly and then regard it all a divine mystery - for it is not open to any scrutiny at all, a condition on which miracle makers depend.



'Professor' Anil Kumar has been the main interpreter to English of Sathya Sai Baba's discourses - and has posted a number of his experiences as 'satsang' with Sathya Sai Baba, complete with gushing floral word tributes of a most subjective kind. This alone is enough to cause professional scholars to cringe or laugh outright. Of what Anil Kumar is a professor is never stated. The term 'professor' is used loosely in India, as in various other countries and is defined in the free dictionary as "a college or university teacher who ranks above an associate professor" or as "a teacher or instructor" or even just "one who professes". But to use the title with a capital before one's name means the strictest version - tenured professorship at a university. Kumar's position is apparently due entirely to Sathya Sai Baba engaging him - his blind devotee - and naming him a professor at his own University.

He has been the main interpreter to English of Sathya Sai Baba's discourses - and has posted a number of his experiences with Sathya Sai Baba, complete with gushing floral word tributes of a most subjective kind. This is the work of a professor! One who professes in blind devotion. http://www.saibaba.ws/ak_satsang/ak_satsang.htm

Anil Kumar laces his strange anecdotes about Sai Baba with unquestioning endorsements of his claims of Divinity and far-fetched comparisons and adulatory comments. This hardly even needs pointing out to the most devoted of semi-educated followers. In the process Kumar unwittingly reveals certain 'private' traits of Sai Baba which illustrate his ignorance and misjudgement of the world... both of them are socially encapsulated in the cult, cut off from independent observers and especially non-believers. In short, a cocoon existence within a Hindu mythology of their own.

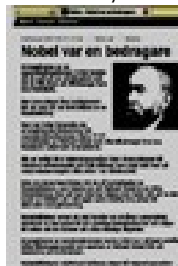
See a brief video clip in which Sai Baba discourses and Anil Kumar translates - on the 3-ton Shivaratri lingam

Read more about Anil Kumar and his activities here

Posted in Cults, Gurus, Miracles, Propaganda, Sai Baba | No Comments »

Deception against Sathya Sai Baba

Posted by robertpriddy on June 4, 2008



Sathya Sai Baba deceived by a Swedish imposter, Dr. Michael Nobel

Both his vaunted 'omniscience' and any plain common sense he has left failed when Sathya Sai Baba proudly announced how his own majesty had drawn Dr. Nobel to him, the relative of Alfred (who was claiming he was able to award four new Nobel Prizes). How come Sathya Sai Baba did not know he was a man of false credential, later to be totally discredited in the world media?

In his discourse of 18th November 2001, Sathya Sai Baba said the following:-

"They are giving the Nobel Prize to many people. The man who gives the Nobel Prize (Chairman of the Nobel Prize Committee) is coming here on the 22nd November. The ones who will show this to the whole world, TV people, are all coming here on the 22nd."

Who called them? Who invited them? If all things like these are seen, all sorts are coming here. No one has invited them at all. No one is giving them a (special) welcome. Yet they themselves are coming. What is the reason? That Chaitanya Jyothi (meaning Swami Himself) is here and It (He) is pulling them! (Applause)" (as literally translated by the premsai Sai student group - see here Note: The red italic text in parentheses is supplied by the translators)

Sathya Sai Baba actually believed that Dr. Michael Nobel is "the man who gives the Nobel Prize"! Such ignorance of the Nobel Prize - that it is given by one man - a distant relative of Nobel - is quite stunning! The actual and very worldly reason he came to Sathya Sai Baba was a fat contract for setting up the Radio Sai outfit!

Translation of the Swedish News Bulletin:-

NOBEL WAS A DECEIVER

The arrangers of a nano technology conference in the USA believe that they were witness to a world news sensation and that they had received the honour of awarding four new Nobel prizes. But only days before the conference they got to know that they had been swindled by a relative of the Nobel family.

One can well imagine the arrangers' enthusiasm when the conference Nano TX 07 was contacted by Michael Nobel who wished to announce four new Nobel prizes for alternative energy technology.

Everything was ready, according to Swedish Radio. Press releases for the world's media at full steam. In short, every exhibition arrangers' wet dream - a world scoop.

Imagine their disappointment when they were contacted by the Nobel Foundation, who stated that Michael Nobel is a genuine Nobel family member but that he has no right whatever to take the kind of initiative as creating four prizes for alternative energy research.

The Nobel Foundation considers it an infringement of copyright, misuse of the good will and prestige the Nobel Prize has and say to the (Swedish) radio that they are going to take legal action.

The arrangers of the nano conference in the have in all haste both cancelled the announcement and banned Michael Nobel from partaking in the conference.

Michael Sohlman of the Nobel Foundation told the (Swedish) science radio programme that there exists absolutely no plans to institute new prizes in Alfred Nobel's name.

(signed) TT

How could Sathya Sai Baba have been taken in so thoroughly?

Well, who else but such a person surrounded only by sycophants (who never dare correct him) could fall into such a trap as to believe that a distant relative of Alfred Nobel may secure the Nobel Peace Prize for him? One would have thought that someone among all the treasured professors, PhDs, and scientists in his cadre would have realised this and warned him off, but then there is not one internationally known or prestigious doctor or professor among them all - the majority of them being deluded devotees who cannot face all the facts that have emerged and/or pseudo-intellectuals who are hoping for a leg up in the world from the influence of his mini-empire.

Despite such an indictment of Dr. Michael Nobel and an imposter by the Nobel Foundation, the Sathya Sai official website still promotes him. He also takes it upon himself to speak "in the name of mankind" and thank his employer, Sathya Sai Baba. See screen capture of their propaganda here:-

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Service Activities

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICAL SCIENCES, WHITEFIELD

Five Years

"A truly remarkable achievement! A one of a kind combination of hi-tech, state of the art medical facility offering the top-of-the-line treatment for free to the masses of the people who would never normally have such a chance in life. An awe-inspiring achievement! Thank you (Baba) on behalf of mankind."

- Michael Nobel



or check out the Sathya Sai website

See also on my earlier blog on this subject Sathya Sai Baba as Nobel Peace Prize Candidate

Posted in Famous people, Guru Cult, Sathya Sai Baba | Tagged: Michael Nobel, Nobel Foundation - Nobel prize | comments off.

Sathya Sai Baba lack of awards

Posted by robertpriddy on June 3, 2008

Having seen in my last two blogs how international awards - the Nobel Peace Prize and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards - have evaded Sathya Sai Baba, despite the talk, misinformation and eagerness of his devotees (and himself too!) that he should in a way be recognised a bit and given praise (not least for the works they do on his behalf), one may now consider why this is so.

Sathya Sai 'service' work and organizations have received no international awards

One must ask why, when Sai Baba boasts that he does 1000 times more than anyone else in the world - and that his followers have saved the world from catastrophe by their works. Presumably all the fanfare is not judged as credible by independent bodies that would otherwise consider it. Instead, no awards involving service to mankind were given by the Spanish Noble Prize equivalent body Sathya Sai Baba or his works... which he claims to be incomparable in the whole world! Instead awards were made to major benefactors and organizations, top world benefactors in science, engineering and healthcare.

Has Sathya Sai Baba any chance of an Asturias Award?

Last year (2007) the prominent journals 'Science' and 'Nature' both received prestigious Spanish Asturias Foundation awards, as did UNICEF and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This year five scientists, 2 Japanese and 3 American worldwide leaders in the creation of new nano technology for the benefit of mankind received awards, as did numerous health organizations involved in fighting malaria in Africa. Still nothing for

Conferred annually since 1981 the Prince of Asturias awards are intended to acknowledge scientific, technical, cultural, social and humanitarian work carried out internationally by individuals, groups or organisations in the following eight categories: communication and humanities, social sciences, arts, letters, scientific and technical research, international cooperation, concord and sports. (see list of winners at bottom of page). Just compare the quality, outreach and depth of research and understanding in these serious and brilliant journals - and in the work of all other such recipients - with that supposed 'eternal knowledge' expounded by Sathya Sai Baba in his monthly journal 'Sanathana Sarathi', which is packed full of his endlessly repetitive religious mythology and handed-down superstitions packaged as self-promotion as having been the actual hero of those myths - Vishnu, Rama, Krishna! The strongly moralising rants he calls 'discourses' are a cast-iron guarantee that he cannot and will never enter the running for any respected award in any humanistic, scientific forum.

What an enormous difference in lucidity, factuality, usefulness, openness, intelligence, testability and critical thinking between these works and anything produced or done by Sathya Sai Baba. While I was a follower and before I eventually and with great reluctance became aware of the huge deceptions being practised by him and his inner circle. The former famous journalist and later in house editor of Sai Baba's journal Sanathana Sarathi - V.K. Narasimhan - were aware of the low quality of much of the discourses. The numerous problems posed by Sai Baba's teachings, his self-contradictory words, factual inaccuracy and major blunders, caused V.K. Narasimhan much worry (he had to cover these up by editorial changes and deletions).

Altogether, the Asturias awards promote a very different standard of achievement to that of anything connected with the self-promoted Saviour of Humanity as the following indicates well enough:-

Winners of Asturias Awards include Al Gore, Mary Robinson, Ralf Darendorf, Peter Lawrence, UNICEF, The National Geographic Society, Álvaro Mutis, Francisco Umbral, Mario Vargas Llosa, Camilo José Cela, Günter Grass, Doris Lessing, Arthur Miller or Claudio Magris; politicians such as Václav Havel, Jacques Delors, Adolfo Suárez, Mijail Gorbachov, Nelson Mandela, Isaac Rabin, H.M. King Hussein of Jordan or Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva; institutions such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Movement), Médicos Sin Fronteras (Doctors with no Borders) and Medicus Mundi, the Sephardic Community, the American Foundation for Aids

Research (founded and led by Elizabeth Taylor) and CNN; scientists such as Stephen Hawking, the Atapuerca Research Team, Santiago Grisolía, Guido Münch, Robert Gallo and Luc Montagnier, the human world's leading research teams in the field of the human genome, the fathers of Internet or Jane Goodall; historians such as John Elliott or Julio Caro Baroja, intellectuals such as Julián Marías, Indro Montanelli, George Steiner, Umberto Eco, Hans M. Enzensberger or Jürgen Habermas; artists such as Antoni Tàpies, Óscar Niemeyer, Joaquín Rodrigo, Vittorio Gassmann, Barbara Hendricks, Woody Allen and Miquel Barceló.

Posted in Guru Cult, Sathya Sai Baba | Tagged: Asturias Awards, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, V.K. Narasimhan | No Comments »

Sathya Sai Baba as Nobel Peace Prize Candidate

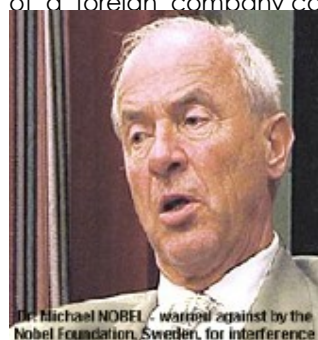
Posted by robertpriddy on June 3, 2008

Hunger for top international recognition of Sathya Sai Baba thwarted

Sathya Sai Baba ill-concealed hope of being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize was backed by Prime Minister Vajpayee's Indian Government! The chance of this was strongly hinted at by the Sai Baba himself, saying: in his 18 November 2001 Discourse

"They are giving the Nobel Prize to many people. The man who gives the Nobel Prize is coming here on the 22nd November. The ones who will show this to the whole world, TV people, are all coming here on the 22nd." The Times of India reported further (24-11-2001) - making massive factual errors: "Dr Michael Nobel, Head of the Nobel Institution and Director, Worldspace, told the Times of India, the things that Baba has done is simply amazing and this channel will spread his message to the world. He said there would be an explosion of his teachings. I am confident it will have a lasting impact. Dr Nobel said the channel now offers the reach to take his message to billions in the world."

Michael Nobel is neither the son nor the grandson of Alfred Nobel but is his great grandnephew. He is not the Head of the Nobel Institution - was actually an executive of a foreign company contracted by the Sathya Sai Organization to set up the 'Sai



Global Harmony' satellite radio station! In short - he was a paid contractor for the promotion of Sathya Sai Baba. But despite this billions of the world population remain in blissful ignorance of Sathya Sai Baba and his message today, as can be seen by the virtual total lack of coverage in current serious - or even popular - media [outside India]. Dr. Michael Nobel is involved with the administration of an appeal body supported by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to collect funds for peace purposes. This is in no way connected to any Nobel Prize-giving Committee. Dr. Michael Nobel and the organization he promotes received a hard rap over the knuckles as follows:

"...the organizers received a disturbing fax from The Nobel Foundation in Sweden. It advised them that Mr. Nobel had been voted out as head of the Nobel Family Society at a meeting in August of 2006 "mainly because of his unauthorized activities and involvements in the name of the Nobel Family Society." And it threatened legal action against those involved in creating "The Dr. Michael Nobel Award", as Mr. Nobel had indicated it was to be named."

See (The Nobel Prize that Wasn't - New York Times)

The Nobel Peace Prize award is the sole preserve of the Norwegian Government. Famously, the cosmopolitan Alfred Nobel would not trust his countrymen (the Swedish authorities) with such a task and ensured that a Peace Prize Committee was to be elected by the Norwegian Government, their decision being final. Norwegian professors of philosophy are the only persons allowed to forward a candidate (apart from Nation States). The Norwegian Committee have been informed privately about the dark sides of Sathya Sai Baba and his shady involvements, and the 1 hour Danish documentary 'Seduced' about Sathya Sai Baba's fraudulence and the sex abuse allegations was shown three times on prime time on Norwegian National Television (NRK). There was also his warm appreciation of Dictator Idi Amin who Sai devotees falsely claimed agreed with Sai Baba to delay the expulsion of the Indian population from Uganda. Nor did visits to Sai Baba by the convicted Italian prime minister Bettino Craxi or the mafia backer Italian PM Andreotti help much. This sort of reputation is surely just the ticket to sink a Nobel Peace Prize candidate without trace?

Sathya Sai Baba was inextricably involved in a gruesome murder incident in his bedroom apartment in June 1993, which was never cleared up because his followers, Narasimha Rao and S.B. Chavan quashed the CBI investigation when it began to near a result and stopped a Supreme Court petition. Neither this - nor many other substantial sex allegations against Sai Baba stopped the Indian Government under A.B. Vajpayee - a long-term devotee himself - from proposing him for the Nobel Peace Prize. Such isolation from international opinion and values is an indictment of ex-Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and his cronies who defended Sai Baba from all allegations without having made the slightest investigation of the massed evidence (as shown beyond any doubt by Basava Premanand's correspondence with the authorities (see here: Premanand challenges Vajpayee to come clean)

The moral standing of anyone who may receive the Peace Prize must be beyond suspicion and crispy clean. How could the Norwegian Nobel Committee award it to anyone who supports



anyone who supports the vastly increasing militarism and nuclear arsenal of the Indian Government? No way! Sathya Sai Baba does so through his patronage during 20 years in his ashram of the 'father' of India's atomic bomb (Dr. Bhagavantam, deceased) and his warm personal and public support with the designer of the latest nuclear delivery missiles - ex-President Abdul Kalam

See also Nobel Prize for Sathya Sai Baba

Posted in Gurus, India, Indian Government, Sai Baba, Sathya Sai Baba | Tagged: Guru Cult, Nobel Peace Prize | No Comments »

Sathya Sai Baba official website deceit exposed

Posted by robertpriddy on June 3, 2008

Faked information about the Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Guardian newspaper exposed the fraudulent claims of the official Sathya Sai Baba site that the Duke of Edinburgh had made an award to Sathya Sai Baba, showing that it was simply a standard award to a boy who wrote the name Sathya Sai Baba on his application. Thousands of youth have received this award. Mr. Westgarth, representing the Duke [see <http://home.chello.no/~reirob/guard.htm>] said that 'the event had been misrepresented' and Palace authorities informed our representative in London that the official Sai website had been forced to take down their promotion of this, which they also did. Later however, in the evident desperation to continue to deceive followers about the already over-publicised award to Sai Baba, they sneaked the false information back onto their website under cover of an unobtrusive archive of former postings! So Sathya Sai Baba cannot even claim indirect recognition of any sort by the Duke of Edinburgh, and our contact to the Palace have assured us that this will never occur in any way in future either. [Note (Further details of such contact are available to media reputed for responsible journalism. Contact me by posting a comment with your full details - it will NOT be displayed but treated as confidential).

Posted in Cultism, Godmen, Sathya Sai Baba | Tagged: Asturias Awards, The Duke of Edinburgh Awards, The Guardian | No Comments »

Swamijis funeral leads to tension near Royan Circle

Deccan Herald 10.4.2008

DH News Service,

BANGALORE: An unclaimed body of a 'Swamiji' and its funeral at a disputed site led to chaos near Royan Circle on Wednesday evening.

Finally, late in the night, Bangalore (South) police took the body into their custody and performed the last rites at Chamarajpet burial grounds. After hours of commotion, they brought the situation under control.

Around 6:20 pm, residents of No 1, II Main, II Cross, Royan Circle - disputed site - and Chamarajpet had the shock of their lives when they saw a van with the banner 'Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Maha Sabha' carrying the body. They alerted the police when members of a community were preparing to bury the body.

Then, another group belonging to Veeramma Mutt trust turned up with relevant documents laying claim to a disputed site.

Police said Boodi Mutt seer Siddalinga Swamiji (67) sustained serious injuries in a road accident in KR Puram traffic police station limits on March 23. He was shifted to Bowring Hospital, where he died on March 30.

On seeing saffron robes, a traffic constable issued a newspaper advertisement in this connection.

Body claimed

A group of people belonging to the community claimed the body on Wednesday. On completion of the formalities, they arrived with the body at the disputed site to bury the body.

Deccan Herald visited the disputed land and learnt over two dozen families from different religions and languages have been living there for more than seven decades.

Salamma (85), a resident, said, "I remember my mother paying a rent of Rs 3 to Shammanna Gowda, secretary of Veeramma Mutt.

"Flashing a bunch of receipts, she continued, "After the trustee died, none came forward to claim the rent. Residents here are having voter identity cards, ration cards and passports."

"My father was born at this Mutt and he worked as a watchman. I am retiring next month. Till now, we haven't seen any Swamiji residing here. Now, we are shocked to hear about a Swamiji's body being buried here," said Mr Rao.

Neighbours believe the site has a grave dating back to 1874 of Veeramma belonging to Uppar community. Besides the Swamiji, many land-grabbers were fighting for this land, they said.

Highlights

- *March 23: Boodi Mutt Swamiji (65) injured in an accident
- *March 30: Swamiji declared dead
- *April 9: A section of the community people lay claim to the body
- *Veeramma Mutt trustees lay claim to disputed site; Chamarajpet residents protest against burial
- *Body abandoned at disputed site for nearly five hours
- *Police perform final rites at Chamarajpet burial grounds

Dr Shantaveera Swamy of the Kolada Mutt, with the body of Boodi Mutt Siddalinga Swamy.

Ashram attack leaves two nuns dead

Deccan Herald 18.4.2008

KOLKATA, DHNS: In a shocking incident that left disciples of an ashram aghast, two nuns were brutally killed and another monk sustained multiple injuries on Wednesday by an unidentified assailant at a mission in the northern fringe of Kolkata, police said on Thursday.

"At around 9:30 pm, a man tried to force his way into the mission with a sword. On being refused entry, he attacked the nuns and monks. The head of the mission Sangeeta Devi and another nun named Dulu Datta were killed on the spot after their throats were slit," a police official said.

A monk identified as Anandakamal Brahmachari who tried to thwart attacks on nuns, had been admitted to hospital in a critical condition after the assailant hit him with a sword. However, police are to yet to find out how the attacker suffered the injuries.

Controversial god man seeks anticipatory bail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Times of India - 13.5.2008

Thiruvananthapuram: Controversial self styled Kerala godman Santosh Madhavan alias Amrita Chaitanya, who hit the headlines after reports about a pending Interpol red corner notice against him for fraud, on Monday approached the Kerala High Court seeking anticipatory bail.

Madhavan, in his application, claimed innocence and assured the court that he would fully co-operate with the investigating agencies. The development comes even as police raids on his premises revealed sleazy tales of his links with the powers that be.

Police believe that the man had assumed the name and form of a godman only to cover up his misdeeds. A tiger skin, bottles of liquor and pornographic CD's were recovered during raids on his luxury lodge in Kochi, they claimed. Preliminary inquiries

have also revealed that he had large investments in real estate across the state. Many of these, sources say, are benami investments.

Meanwhile, stories of his links with many influential persons, from police to politicians and film stars, have come to do the rounds. His wedding album recovered during the raids is testimony to his connections. Unconfirmed reports also point out that Madhavan may even have done a sting on his VIP guests who stayed in his luxury lodge and caught them in action on the bed.

The BJP's youth wing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha alleged that the police was deliberately delaying action against Madhavan to protect some prominent persons. Youth wings of the Congress and CPM also demanded action in the case.

The Interpol had issued a red corner notice against Madhavan and his friend Saifuddin Alikannu following a complaint by a woman who alleged that she was duped of Rs 40 lakhs in Dubai. Later he quietly took refuge in Kochi disguising himself as a spiritual person. Initially, there was confusion over the identity of Santosh Madhavan as the CBI too had issued a look out notice against one Santosh Madhavan for alleged gun running in connection with the 1993 Mumbai blasts.

Kerala's godman nabbed after drama

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Times of India - 14.5.2008

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: It finally took allegations from the BJP's youth wing that Kerala's controversial godman was league with the state home minister's son for the police to finally swing into action. Kerala police on Tuesday arrested Santosh Madhvan alias Swami Amritha Chaitanya.

The arrest came after week-long drama, which included the 35-year-old Madhvan surrendering before the police early last week only to be released for 'lack of evidence', even as police continued to raid his properties to arrest him. As media pressure continued, with reports of Madhvan cheating Dubai-based Malayali woman Seraf Edwin of Rs 55 lakh and that pornographic material had been found in his house in Kochi, the police had no option but to arrest him once political parties swung into action.

Raids at Madhvan's premises blew the lid off a tale of sleaze, which includes links with politicians, policemen, businessmen and film stars. The police also found three passports with his picture

The BJP and Congress on Monday accused the Left government of being soft on Madhvan, with the BJP Yuva Morcha alleging that Madhvan had business dealings with home minister Koderi Balakrishnan's son. While the minister denied the allegation and chief minister V S Achuthanandan said a probe would be conducted if there was substantial evidence, the arrest is being seen as an attempt by the government to distance itself from the controversy.

Earlier, raids at Madhvan's premises in Kochi threw the lid off a sordid tale of sleaze, which included links with politicians, policemen, businessmen and filmstars. Police also claimed they had found three passports with his picture, a tiger skin, a police officer's uniform, bottles of liquor and pornographic CDs from his four-storey lodge. Some of these CDs, sources say, are hidden camera recordings of his "VIP guests in action on the bed".

Police said Madhvan, who was arrested in Kochi, admitted he had taken Rs 55 lakh from Edwin, but claims he had received half the amount for business and the rest for services as an astrologer. His statement to the police has also raised questions about the nature of Edwin's engagements in Dubai.

Though the police is now trying to justify its lack of action by saying it could not have taken any action against Madhvan, who fled from Dubai in 2002 and created his 'Shanthitheeram' trust and ashram in Kochi, as he was not wanted for any crimes in Kerala, they were unable to explain how Madhvan managed to create a real estate empire and hobnob with the influential under their noses despite an Interpol notice against him.

A visibly embarrassed police on Tuesday also suspended a deputy superintendent of police rank. The officer, whose identity hasn't been disclosed, reportedly had close ties with Madhvan.

At a press conference later Tuesday evening, Kochi police commissioner Manoj Abraham and DIG Vinson M Paul disclosed a case will be filed against Madhavan for assaulting a minor girl at his ashram. Abraham said Madhvan had confessed that she was assaulted several times and pornographic CDs were made featuring her. Another case has been filed against him under the Wildlife Act for possession of a tiger skin.

Born into a lower middle-class family in Kattappana in Kerala's Idukki district, Madhvan dropped out of school and dabbled in astrology. After a brief stint as a priest, where he was sacked for misbehaving with a woman devotee, Madhvan went to the Gulf where he gained access among the influential posing as an astrologer. After his fall-out with Edwin, he returned to his native state and charted a course that made him one of Kerala's most powerful godmen. Operating from his luxury lodging, Madhvan managed to strike rapport with many VIPs and is believed to have many benami properties in the state.

Godman arrested for harassing minors

Deccan Herald 14.5.2008

DH News Service,

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala police have finally managed to nab fugitive godman Santosh Madhavan alias Swami Amritachaitanya, who is wanted by Interpol.

Lending an entirely new twist to the story, the 35-year-old 'crorepati' swami has been charged with rape of a minor girl, pornography and possession of narcotic substances.

Kochi City Police Commissioner Manoj Abraham and Inspector General Vinson M Paul told newsmen that a case against the swami had been registered based on a complaint filed by a 15-year-old girl.

She claimed that he had raped her for seven-eight years in his flat at Kadavanthra. "It is learnt that the swami had also brought seven or eight minor girls to his flat and harassed them and also made films with these girls," Abraham said.

Not related

The officials clarified that the arrest was not connected with the Rs 40-lakh cheating case in Dubai for which the Interpol had issued a red corner notice against him.

This was because they had been advised by Interpol Delhi that they had no jurisdiction to arrest him for a case registered in the UAE.

The police got into the act after they found porn CDs, a tiger skin and narcotic substances in the swami's flat.

Oppn parties 'feast' on godman's contacts

Deccan Herald 15.5.2008

Thiruvananthapuram: Even as the Opposition parties "feasted" on tainted godman Amritachaitanyas "high" connections to browbeat the ruling CPM-led LDF, the cops were busy scouring the backwaters for the absconding swami on Monday.

The police searched several houseboats on the Alappuzha-Kumarakom backwaters hoping to get hold of the 35-year-old swami alias Santosh Madhavan against whom Interpol has issued a red corner notice. This was after intelligence reports said he was cited in Alappuzha.

As reported earlier, Madhavan is alleged to have cheated a Dubai-based Malayali businesswoman of Rs 40 lakh after impressing her with his astrological forecasts. A raid conducted on Madhavan's flat in Kochi has confirmed that he was not leading a spiritual life.

Earlier in the day, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha State president Surendran dropped a bombshell by alleging that Home Minister Koderi Balakrishnan's son Bineesh had business relations with the "crorepati" swami.

Bineesh, who is also a small-time film star threatened to sue the BJYM leader. Interestingly, the names of several UDF and LDF politicians as well as actors have now been linked to the godman.

Reacting to the allegation, one-time youth hearthrob Kunjacko Boban clarified that he had attended a function with the swami only because he had a commitment

to a film producer who was involved in the function. Later in the day, a senior police official was asked to proceed on leave after preliminary inquiries revealed that he had misused his position to threaten some persons at the behest of the godman.

The Youth Congress joined the protest bandwagon by alleging that the swami was being protected by cops.

The YC activists pelted stones at the controversial guest house of Madhavan in Kochi and shouted slogans against the government and the police. The Home Minister himself clarified that no tainted swami would be protected.

Meanwhile, the godman has filed a petition for anticipatory bail in the high court.

Godman sent to police custody

Times of India - 15.5.2008

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: Alleged 'con-man' Santosh Madhavan alias Amrit Chaitanya, accused of swindling money and molesting minor girls, was on Wednesday produced before the chief judicial magistrate's court and remanded to police custody for five days.



Santosh Madhavan

Police had sought his custody saying they needed to interrogate him on the sources of his money and on charges that pornographic films were made in his luxury four-storey guest house in Kochi

Madhavan, who was arrested on Tuesday, has been charged with offences ranging from possession of wildlife artifacts, narcotic drugs and assault on minor girls. The charges followed recovery of a tiger skin, ganja, liquor bottles and several porn CD's from his apartment during police raids.

However, not many are convinced about the police explanation about the recovery of the uniform of one of their men from the apartment. Addressing the media on Tuesday evening, senior police officers were at pains to explain that the recovered uniform belonged to a deceased circle inspector. This officer, they claimed, had taken shelter in Madhavan's lodge one night during the rains and then left his uniform there as it was fully drenched.

Godman made porn CDs with starlets

Deccan Herald 16.5.2008

DH News Service

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Several Malayalam film starlets figure in the amateur porn films secretly made by Santosh Madhavan alias godman Amrita Chaithanya in his flat at Kadavanthra in Kochi. These startling facts have popped up during the interrogation of the 35-year-old 'swami' as well as from some of the films that were recovered.

The police who secured his custody on Thursday took the 'crorepati' swami to the Federal Bank branch in Ernakulam where about 20 such suspected CDs of porn films were kept in his safe locker there.

The godman has admitted to the police that several influential and affluent people who were enamoured of his astrology have been regular visitors to his flat. Several starlets who were also roped in simultaneously with the help of his filmy contacts were used to entertain these guests.

However, hardly anyone knew that most of the rooms in the flat were fitted with concealed video cameras. Amrita Chaithanya later used these films to blackmail the girls as well as these eminent people.

The police have also begun to probe the veracity of a statement given by 15-year-old girl that apart from her, several other minors were also raped by him and blackmailed later. These girls were inmates of a rescue home set up by the godman at Edapalli who were later forced to have sex. It was a red corner notice issued by Interpol in connection with a Rs 40 lakh cheating case in Dubai that triggered a chain of events that blew the lid off the swami's immoral and criminal activities.

Godman threatens suicide

Deccan Herald - 18.5.2008

DH NEWS SERVICE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Himaval Maheswara Bhadrarananda, yet another selfstyled godman, caused a big scare in a police station in Kochi on Saturday by brandishing a gun and threatening to shoot himself. Famously called "Ernakulam swami", the 25-year-old youth finally fired a couple of shots while grappling with the cops but only injured his palm in the process.

The dramatic events began early morning when the swami rang up a local TV channel reporter and said he was ending his life as his image was being tarnished by the media. A police team which rushed to his house brought him to the police station with a semi-automatic pistol in his possession. Despite their strong persuasion, the swami refused to part with his gun and held it to his head.

It was when the cops tried to snatch the gun from his hands in a clumsy manner that he fired two shots into the air. An inquiry has been ordered into the police mismanagement of the whole incident.

The swami's exploits had come under the scanner following the recent arrest of godman Amrita Chaitanya alias Santosh Madhavan on various charges including rape. As the cops were looking into the activities of other similar godmen it was reported that Bhadrarananda was using a beacon lamp on his car while travelling like a VVIP. However, Bhadrarananda was not worried about the charge and instead gloated about his connections with the media. He claimed that he was close to Kerala Home Minister Koderi Balakrishnan, Kerala PCC chief Ramesh Chennithala and Opposition leader Oommen Chandy. He had forecast events in the lives of these political leaders just as he had predicted the tsunami a year before it happened. However, when some news papers began to write more about his meteoric rise and his source of funds, the swami got irritated and barged into the office of a newspaper the other day.

Two cases - attempt to commit murder and attempt to commit suicide were filed against Bhadrarananda. Koderi Balakrishnan, meanwhile, said the government would not allow "fake swamis" to have a free ride in the State.



A TV grab showing Swami Bhadrarananda threatening to shoot himself in Kochi on Saturday.

Police raid premises of godmen

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Times of India - 23.5.2008

Thiruvananthapuram: The arrest of fake godman Santosh Madhavan and Bhadrarananda may have spelt doom for many of his ilk in Kerala. Alarmed by what emerged from his lockers and guest house, police are now chasing men and women allegedly making a business out of religion. But with political parties setting the agenda, there are fears if this could turn out to be an excuse to take on faith.

In the past two weeks, there has been a flurry of cases allegedly involving fake godmen or pastors from across the state. In Thrissur, cops searched the premises of Divya Joshi, a former small-time astrologer, for disproportionate wealth. However, they claimed to have found nothing incriminating.

Cops here searched an ashram operated by an astrologer following a complaint by a bank employee that he invited her for a special prayer in the night. Another godman and his centre were searched for alleged links with Madhavan. In Balaramapuram, on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram, sleuths took into custody one Varghese alias Vijayan Swami in connection with a murder case.

Asaram supporters on the rampage in Ahmedabad

Times of India - 19.7.2008

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The city was under siege on Friday as mobs ran riot with most shops and establishments closed in support of the bandh called in protest of the shoddy investigations in the death of the two boys studying in the Asaram Ashram gurukul.

Several mediapersons were attacked by devotees of Asaram Bapu gathered for the Guru Purnima celebrations, who were angry about the media coverage on the incident. Journalists of *Times Now*, *Aaj Tak* and *TV9* and other newspapers were severely beaten up, while many others suffered injuries and had to be rushed to the hospital. Violence spread to most parts of west Ahmedabad as mobs targeted buses, setting one of them on fire. Several private vehicles carrying Asaram devotees were also set on fire.

Around 6.30 am on Friday Asaram Bapu with an 11-car motorcade visited Praful Vaghela, father of one of the boys at Nirnaynagar, who has been on a silent fast unto death since the past couple of days, in protest of the mysterious deaths and the shoddy probe.



Vehicles of supporters of Asaram Bapu set on fire during a bandh called to protest the mysterious death of two boys at his Gurukul, in Ahmedabad on Friday

Two boys Dipesh Vaghela 10, and Abhishek Vaghela 11, who went missing on the evening of July 3, from the Asaram Ashram gurukul, were found dead near the Sabarmati river bed on July 5, their bodies in a mutilated condition and some parts preyed upon by animals. These boys had enrolled only in June and it was first suspected that they had become victims of some tantrik rituals, however the police still believes they drowned.

Police suspect foul play in ashram death

Times of India - 2.8.2008

Suchandana Gupta | TNN

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh police suspect foul play in the mysterious death of two four-year-old students in religious preacher Asaram Bapu's gurukul in Chhindwara even as the state government ordered a magisterial probe into the incident.

Two persons 'school teacher Manohar Jaiswal and boys' hostel warden Om Prakash Prajapati - were detained by the cops on Friday. Bodies of the two nursery students, Ram Krishna Yadav and Vedanta Manmore, were found within a span of 48 hours in the same bathroom and at around the same hour at Asaram Bapu Gurukul at Palasia Road in Chhindwara.

While Ram Krishna's body was found on the floor on Tuesday at 5 pm, Vedanta's was found around the same time two days later. Vedanta's head was found submerged in a bucket full of water.

DGP S K Raut said experts from the medico-legal institute of Bhopal are in Chhindwara for post-mortem. "It raises suspicion as both the bodies have been found from the same spot and at the same hour in a gap of two days. If the need arises, we'll interrogate Asaram Bapu," said Raut. "The door was found bolted from outside and the boy's head was forced into the bucket of water. We suspect it's an insider's who did it."

The death of the two students has left the parents stunned and agitated and at least 25 children have been withdrawn from the gurukul.

When Ram Krishna's body was found on Tuesday, Chhindwara SP R K Shivhare had said the boy had probably slipped on the floor and died because of grievous injuries. Even Ram Krishna's father Mohanlal Yadav and mother Manorama accepted the incident as "destiny". "All my family members are disciples of Asaram Bapu," Mohanlal had said. "Not just my son, but children of all my three brothers study in his gurukul. It's our fate that we lost our son."

Ram Krishna's death hadn't seemed suspicious. But when Vedanta's body was found in the bathroom exactly 48 hours later, residents of Chhindwara took to the streets demanding an inquiry. People even attacked ashram authorities.

According to police, the residential school at Chhindwara has 371 students. Children go out to play in the fields in the evening, after which they bathe. Then they go for prayers. Police suspect the two were murdered between their games period and prayers.

Ashram authorities have refused to talk to the media regarding the mysterious deaths.

Boys in Asaram gurukul killed by seniors, say cops

Times of India - 3.8.2008

Suchandana Gupta | TNN

Bhopal: Days after the mysterious death of two boys at Asaram Babu's Ashram in Chhindwara district, the Madhya Pradesh police on Saturday claimed the victims had been killed by a group of senior students of the same school.

Inspector general of police M R Krishna said the death of four-year-old Vedanta Manmore, whose body was found in the bathroom of the school on Thursday evening was an undisputable case of murder. "More than 200 people including teachers, students, wardens, school staff and visitors have been interrogated," Krishna said. "We are certain that the murder was committed by a group of two to three older students in the school. We are just waiting for the viscera report and other scientific evidence which will be with us in the next two days," the IGP said.

Two four-year-olds, were found dead in the bathroom in 48 hours this week. On Tuesday evening, school authorities found the body of Ram Krishna Yadav. No one suspected foul play and a case of natural death was registered by the police which said Ram Krishna had gone to the bathroom and probably died after a violent fall.

But suspicions rose two days later when Vedanta's body was found in a bathroom, his head submerged in a bucket of water. "The post-mortem has found injury marks on the body of the Vedanta. He was smothered, throttled and then his head forced into the bucket of water," Krishna said. A magisterial probe is being conducted.

Class 9 student killed Asaram school children

Times of India - 4.8.2008

Chhindwara (MP): Madhya Pradesh Police on Sunday claimed the two boys in Asaram Babu's school here were killed by a senior.

"The 14-year-old class IX student, identified as A (name withheld), admitted to having killed Ram Krishna Yadav and Vedant Manmodhe in the hostel's bathroom," IGP M R Krishna told reporters while claiming to have solved the murder mystery in the Ashram school.

"Ram was killed on July 29 while Vedant was murdered on July 31 by A, who, after calling the minors to the toilet on the pretext of giving them chocolates, took their lives by gagging them," he said. In Vedant's case, after killing him, A forced his head into a bucket full of water.

A had also bitten Vedant on his neck. Police after conducting the forensic examination found that the mark was of his (A's) teeth following which he was arrested.

A, who took admission in the school this year, didn't want to study and wanted to go back to his native place in Chhindwara district, police said. The post-mortem reports revealed that he killed the duo in the same method, Krishna said.

Ram and Vedant were found dead in the hostel bathroom in a span of just 48 hours in almost similar conditions. Their mysterious deaths had sparked off a series of protests across the state.

Police said A was mentally "not balanced" and students used to tease him for being obese. Panicking over the development, parents of nearly 200 children had taken away their wards from the hostel. AGENCIES

Times of India - 2.8.2008

Priest Arrested:

A priest of a Sai temple has been arrested for allegedly molesting a woman in temple premises in Rajkot on Friday. Temple priest - Patel Bachubhai alias Bachu Bapa has been held on the basis of a complaint lodged by the woman.

Times of India - 2.8.2008

13-yr-old beaten up:

A 13-year-old boy was allegedly beaten up by school principal for not completing his homework in Rajkot. The incident came to light late on Thursday night when Priyesh Varia, a student of class IX, could not sleep due to pain. The principal - Nikunj Patel beat him up with a baseball bat, the victim's father Prafulbhai told to reporters.

Narco test not done properly

Deccan Herald 5.8.2008

Kochi, PTI: Kerala High Court observed on Monday that the narco analysis test in the sister Abhaya case was not properly conducted and the CD of the test was suspected to have been tampered with.

The oral observation was made by Justice V Ramkumar after viewing the CD submitted by CBI to the court in a sealed cover. The CD did not reflect a complete account of test conducted on three persons who were questioned, the court held.

The court had directed CBI to produce the CD in a sealed cover on a petition by sister Abhaya's father M Thomas seeking speedy investigation into the case.

Abhaya case: HC seeks narco CDs

Deccan Herald 6.8.2008

DH News Service,

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala High Court on Tuesday asked the Bangalore-based Central Forensic Science Laboratory to send the original CD of the narco-analysis tests conducted there in connection with the mysterious death of Sister Abhaya directly to it.

Justice V Ramkumar, while giving the direction, also asked the CBI officer who conducted the probe to be present in the court on August 12.

Justice Ramkumar had said in open court on Monday that the woman official who had asked questions to the nun, Sister Sephy, in the narco test did not speak in chaste Malayalam.

He said that the CDs did not present the complete picture and suspected whether it has been tampered with.

Seer held, released

Deccan Herald 26.5.2008

MYSORE, DHNS: Vidyaranyaapuram police arrested and released Ganapathi Sachchidananda Swami of Avadootha Datta Peetham here on Sunday, reportedly for various charges including that of forgery by the police. This was done amidst the ongoing 66th birthday celebrations of Swami at the Ashrama situated in the City. He was released immediately as he had obtained an anticipatory bail. He has agreed to attend further inquiries regarding the matter.



Ganapathy Sacchidananda Swami of Avadootha Datta Peetham being taken into custody by police in Mysore on Sunday

Reportedly, Dr Anil Kumar of 'Village Palate', a cottage situated next to the Peetham on Nanjangud-Ooty road is fighting a legal battle against him at the City court for the past several years alleging that, "the Swamiji had forged the documents of ownership pertaining to lands (Survey numbers 106 /2 measuring 22 guntas and 106/3 measuring 28 guntas) and has also built a concrete structure on the same". Moreover, the seer had failed to appear before the court regarding the case. Very

recently the Mysore City Corporation (MCC) had sent a report to the Government supporting Anil Kumar's allegation.

The investigating officer in the case and Inspector of Nazarbad police station T D Jayaram had served a notice recently on the seer asking him to appear at Vidyaranyapuram police station for enquiry. When the seer did not reply for the same, the Inspector went to the Ashram on Saturday to summon him to the station.

The swamiji at that time reportedly avoided the police for a few hours and bought time till the evening hours.

B ' DAY C E L E B R A T I O N S O N

While the birthday celebrations of Swami continue unabated, a statement from the Ashrama authorities said "The Mysore Police sought for a witness statement from Sri Swamiji on a complaint registered with them in respect of a subject matter pending in civil courts in Mysore for the last 10 years. The subject matter of the complaint relates to a civil dispute The Hon'ble High Court has already ruled that the civil courts in Mysore should decide all disputes, which are the subject matter in complaint. All relevant documents have been placed with the Police authorities in this regard. The celebrations planned from May 25 to June 1 will continue."

Seer arrested, out on bail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Times of India - 27.5.2008

MYSORE: Avadhoota Datta Peeta seer Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swami was arrested on charges of manipulating property documents and encroaching upon land. He was released on bail on Sunday.

The seer was arrested following a complaint by Anil Kumar, who owns property next to the Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashrama premises on Mysore-Nanjangud Road.

He filed the complaint in March, alleging encroachment of land in Survey Numbers 106/02 and 106/03, where Sachchidananda Swami constructed a building on 22 and 28 guntas, respectively.

The seer was taken into custody on Sunday afternoon by Vidyaranyapuram police and granted bail by a city court.

The investigating officer told The Times of India the seer was arrested after preliminary investigations showed he had encroached upon Anil's property. But the arrest was delayed by two months because of elections and collection of documentary evidence.

DCP (law and order) V S D'Souza said an ayurvedic centre was constructed on the encroached land.

MURKY LAND DEAL



Ganapathy Sacchidananda Swami

CoD may probe seer's case

Deccan Herald 27.5.2008

FROM PREETHI NAGARAJ

DH News Service,

MYSORE: The case involving Ganapathy Sacchidananda Swami is likely to be handed over to the Corps of Detectives even as the seers 66th birthday celebrations continued as per the schedule on Tuesday.

According to the highly placed sources, Police Commissioner of Mysore, Dr P Ravindranath has decided to write to the DGP recommending CoD probe into the allegations. Ganapathy Sacchidananda Swami is facing charges of 'forgery of valuable document' pertaining to land records in this case.

"Since he feels there has been some amount of involvement by various government officials in tampering with land related records in this case, the commissioner has arrived at this decision. The officials who may have acted in the favour of the Seer and the Ganapathy Sacchidananda Trust that runs the Ashrama have been transferred to various places now, it is important that the State-level

investigating agency looks into the matter. Hence, he is contemplating on this decision in view of being in possession of a clinching evidence," a top official said.

As per the documents, in possession of Deccan Herald, an FIR to the effect of "Manipulation of documents of survey number 106/2, and 3, Nanjangud Road..." was filed by Dr S R Anil Kumar on March 19, 2008. Dr Anil Kumar, an entrepreneur and owner of the restaurant called "Village Palette" situated around the Ashrama (Datta Peetham), has complained that the land records have been 'tampered with' and survey numbers have been 'manipulated'.

Following this, further enquiry was conducted and the seer was asked to appear in the station to give his statement on May 24. 'Our officers had to wait for two and half hours to serve notice to appear the same evening for a short while at 5 pm, to record his statement/explanation,' the official said.



Ganapathy Sacchidananda Swami celebrating his 66th birthday in Mysore on Monday

HC stays probe into seer's case

Deccan Herald 2.6.2008

DH News Service,

Mysore: The Karnataka High Court has stayed investigation into the case of alleged forging of valuable documents by seer Ganapathi Sacchidananda of Avadhoota Datta Peetham.

The ashram had moved the court seeking a stay on the investigation. In its interim order given on May 27, the court said, "Pending admission of the criminal petition, it is hereby ordered by the honorable court that the further investigation in crime number 26\08 of Vidyaranyapuram Police Station Mysore the investigation, of which has been handed over to police inspector Nazarbada Police Station, by Commissioner of Police, Mysore be and same is stayed till the date of hearing." However, the court has not specified the next date of hearing.

The seer was arrested and released on bail on May 25, while his birthday celebrations were on at his ashram located on Nanjangud road, on the outskirts of Mysore. Police Commissioner of Mysore Dr P Ravindranath had made a recommendation to the DGP to hand over the case to CoD,

Celebrations

The week long birthday celebrations at the ashram came to an end on Sunday, with BSP leader PGR Sindhia and Suttur seer participating in them among other dignitaries. Former President A P J Abdul Kalam and Union Minister Shivraj Patil, who were scheduled to attend the function did not turn up.

Pejawar pontiff gets court notice:

Times of India - 11.7.2008

The fast-track court in the sessions court judge Deshpande has issued notice to Pejawar seer Visvesha Theertha Swami, the state government and three others in connection with an attempt-to murder case. The court has directed the seer to attend the court personally on July 14. The court had exonerated the seer, but it was challenged later.

Devotees gather to pay respect to the accused in Murder case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK - 15.7.2008

Bangalore: Over 300 devotees braved heavy rain to pay obeisance and listen to Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham Sri Jayendra Saraswati at Malleswaram on Monday.

Malleswaram MLA C N Ashwathnarayana arranged for a gurvandana of the seer as part of a thanksgiving function. The programme began with Kavitha Subramaniam,

accompanied by her children, singing praises of Lord Shiva. The seer arrived just before the downpour.

He was felicitated by the MLA and his devotees with garlands and shalya. He in turn blessed priests of more than 20 temples, who presented him with shalyas. Half an hour into the felicitation, home minister V S Acharya came to the venue and paid obeisance to Jayendra Saraswati. "It's a good opportunity to seek his blessings. I like the fact that Swamiji comes to our state. We have to feel proud about it. I would like him to come to Udupi. There

are so many things to learn from him. He has always encouraged education and health measures for the under-privileged," Acharya said. He offered government support for education or health projects that the Swamiji would like to initiate in the state. "We assure all i help and will be more than happy. It is a long cherished idea that a medical institution will be set up."

A priest present during the programme said: "Anybody is welcome to come and be with him and listen to his discourses. There is no distinction of community made among people who want to be his devotees. Like everybody else, Swamiji has a universal appeal to people." There were many who were visibly moved by the songs. Not only did they appreciate Kavitha, but folded their hands and stretched now and then to get a glimpse of the Swamiji. Violinist L Subramaniam was also present.

toiblreporter@tlmesgroup.com



Singer Kavitha Subramaniam performs at the Guruvandana programme on Monday. The event was organized to pay respect to Sri Jayendra Saraswati

