

Divine Visit - Bogota, Colombia - October 12, 2017

Due to the late arrival into Bogota, in the wee hours of the morning, everyone surfaced from their rooms only around lunch. Meanwhile, preparations were in progress for the evening private Satsang at the Deeb residence. Around 60 eager devotees had gathered to experience the ultimate love from the ultimate source of divine love, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Mr Richard and his family are founding members of the Sathya Sai School in Colombia and have been tirelessly towards imparting values based education to children. They also manage a children's home in another town Medellin, which is close to Bogota. Six children from the Home were seated at Bhagawan's Lotus Feet, all dressed in white and waiting to experience His love. The caretaker of the Home was also seated along with them, who later revealed that Swami manifests regularly in the Home and some of the children are even able to see Him!

The Satsang began with Swami calling upon Mr Richard Deeb, the host, to narrate his experiences with Swami. He shared one of his most vivid experiences when during one of his visits to Puttaparthi when he was very unwell, Swami had appeared in a dream and hugged him, and he recovered the very next morning. As Mr Deeb was speaking, Swami kept enriching his talk by revealing many aspects of his life, which left his family pleasantly surprised and grateful to the Lord.

Swami then commanded Mr Isaac Tigrett to speak about human values. Mr Tigrett narrated his journey with Swami, from the first time he met Swami in Brindavan, and the 17 years he had to wait until Swami spoke to him again! He spoke about Hard Rock Cafe and how 'Love All Serve All' became the motto of the business. Mr Tigrett reminded everyone about the all inclusive and all encompassing divine love which is the same in all religions, and the basis for all the human values. He concluded by narrating how he started to incorporate these values into the business, which led to success and growth.

As Mr Tigrett finished speaking, Swami beckoned the kitchen team to feed the boys, who were all in the age group of eight to ten years, as they would be hungry. It was very sweet to see these boys as they scampered away to the kitchen.

Sri C Sreenivas spoke next about love looking at what had just happened, and Swami's all encompassing compassion. Sri B N Narasimha Murthy in his short talk lamented about the

current state of education system, which is bereft of any values. He said 'how one should become a human being', should be taught first more than anything else.

The boys then returned after their hearty meal, and Swami beckoned one of the boys to speak. The next few minutes were indeed overwhelming for everyone, and there was not a dry eye in the room. The little boy thanked Swami profusely for providing them a shelter which they can call home, and a loving caretaker whom they call mother. His innocence laden short talk left everyone wanting for more.

Swami then spoke about the little children, and then stressed the importance of education. He said, "Education makes man out of a man. Everything comes from education, more importantly educate, that which comes from inside, must be imparted. A child is the responsibility of the entire society. It is the youngest and most important member of the society. Hence nurturing a child is the collective responsibility!" Swami also said that if one has the strength to love, one will also have the strength to serve. "Strength to love arises out of selflessness, when one gives up individual thinking."

Mangala Arati was offered, and Swami blessed everyone with Prasadam, before retiring for the night.

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