

Ati Rudra Maha Yajna – Highest form of worship of Lord Śiva

„Develop devotion, *bangaru!* You must be immersed in devotion, not deep ocean. It is only such devotion that will take you to the Divine.“ – Sri Sathya Sai Baba, *Ati Rudra Maha Yajna fosters the divine nature of humans*, Divine Discourse on 9th August 2006, ARMY in Prashanthi Nilayam



‘See What I Will Make Out Of It!’

Every effect has a cause and every purpose, an instrument. The chosen instruments for this grand spectacle were the Sai Youth of Karnataka. Sri Vinay Kumar who led this dynamic team of youth exceptionally well, recalled the very initial days of this sacred project saying: “On the 13th of June, when I submitted this humble prayer at the Lotus Feet to allow us to perform this Yagna, on the same day, Swami said, “You watch what I will do. You are bringing it as this small proposal, and now you see what I will make out of it.”

True to His word, God made things happen. With clockwork precision, every single piece of the massive jigsaw puzzle fell into place perfectly. It was absolutely amazing to see how such a mammoth project was executed to perfection.

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More than a thousand fresh lotuses every morning, tons of toned sandalwood and neem wood, seamless coordination and communication in every level from the transport of massive quantities of milk, tender coconut water, curds, honey, ghee, sugar, nine types of grains and above all, waters from the nine rivers from their very sources dispersed across the country – everything was carried out as smoothly as a gentle breeze.

So, it was the Divine manager who was at work. Recalling the level of involvement of Swami, Sri Vinay Kumar, said, „The dates for the Yagna were fixed by Swami, very meticulously, the location of this Shivalingam, right here in the centre of this hall was His direction... Out of His mercy, He said, 'Every person in this Hall, every individual, the last person sitting in the hall should also be able to witness the *Abhishekam* being performed to the Lingam.' Every *Homakunda* (fire-altar) which is put up here, the layout of this *Yagashala* (sacrificial enclosure), was personally decided by Bhagawan. The colouring of the *homakundas*, the selection of the lingam, the methodology for setting up this mantapam, it was all personally advised, instructed, directed and put into action by Him. We of course have been fortunate to be used as His worthy instruments... For the first time, probably in the history of this Avatar, He released an invitation in the *Sanathana Sarathi*, inviting people for this Yagna. He commanded and ensured advertisements went through newspapers, all over the country, inviting them for the Yagna."

“Each time I took some aspect of planning related to the Yagna to Swami, He would say, 'You don't take any tension on your head. You remove all the worries from your head and transfer it to me. I will take care of everything. I will ensure that everything goes through smoothly. You don't worry about anything.' And Swami took care of everything."

http://media.radiosai.org/journals/Vol_04/01SEP06/CoverStory_Army.htm



Swami and Sri Vinay Kumar, Youth Coordinator, Karnataka Sai Youth

And here is what Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba said about Sri Vinay Kumar, coordinator of Sai Youth from Karnataka:

The material and other resources for conducting this Yajna have been arranged by the efforts of Vinay Kumar alone. He undertook the job lovingly and performed it almost single-handed. Several people came forward to donate rice, fruits, vegetables, and other materials, but, he did not agree to their requests.

The expenditure for conducting this Yajna involves a large amount of money. He went round all alone and arranged for the materials for conducting this Yajna. I wish that every state should have such dedicated sevadal leaders. He is doing a lot of service. I am very happy about his service. He spurned all offers of help for conducting this Yajna saying "Sai is with me; He alone will help me."

He was married ten years ago. Both he and his wife are in the service of Swami. When the proposal to conduct this Yajna was placed before Me, I asked them, "Dear ones! You propose to conduct this Athi Rudra Yajna in Prasanthi Nilayam. Do you wish to have a son?" They replied in one voice that that was not their desire and motive for their prayer. Then I asked what else they wished to have.

Their reply was "Swami! We want you only!"

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I have not heard such a reply so far from any couple. True to his name, Vinay Kumar is doing a lot of good work, with love and humility. His father was an Income Tax Commissioner. He was a colleague of Laxminarayana. Even now, Vinay is associated with Laxminarayana. Vinay Kumar treats him as his own father. There should be many more such souls, which should be increasing. When the leaders are good and competent, the whole world will run smoothly.

(Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Divine Discourse during on the first day of ARMY in Prashanthi Nilayam 2006)

<https://www.sathyasai.org/discour/2006/d060809.html>

Ati Rudra Maha Yajna 2006 "Lingam Miracle"

Aum Sri Sai Ram,

I would like to share with you all a small incident before the start of ARMY (Ati Rudra Maha Yajna) at Prashanthi Nilayam. One of the organisers, a Karnataka Youth member, was allotted the duty of getting the Lingam. Swami had indicated that an agent in Bangalore had to be approached for this. On approaching him, the agent guided them to a marble factory in Jaipur. So this person prior to leaving for Jaipur, went to a Hanuman temple to pray to grant him the ability to successfully bring the Lingam. After coming out, feeling that he was on a holy mission, he left his footwear at the temple premises itself and went to Jaipur barefoot. On reaching the place, they found that this factory was run by Muslims, with all employees being Muslims. The person in-charge, a young person, asked the Sai Youth to wait and work of making the Lingam was commenced. They chose a good marble without any cracks or bubbles for the purpose. The strange thing was that all work in the factory was stopped and all the employees gathered around the place where the Linga was being made and started doing Namaaz during the entire duration of the making of the Lingam which was for 4 hours!!! It was found that this was the routine in this place that whenever a lingam was being made in this factory, all of them gathered around to offer their prayers to the Almighty and the holy task was undertaken with an attitude of devotion.

The body will shine if the character is fine; service of man and worship of God will preserve its charm.

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The time came for billing . The person in-charge asked in whose name it was to be billed. The Sai Youth asked them to "please make the bill on Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba's name". Then the in-charge person told him to wait and brought his 90+ grandfather who was at his house. He came gently inside and said that he felt that it was his great fortune that he could at last make a Linga for BABA. Now the grandpa with his sweet soft voice told them , "You know what, 40 Yrs back Baba had come to this factory which was a small workshop then. I had offered Him one small Linga which was made here, but BABA said when time comes He would take it from here. It is only because BABA stepped into this small work shop it has grown into this big factory." Saying this he said, "I can't charge BABA anything. Please take this and just give it to HIM." So they left the place taking the Linga with utmost care and of course in bliss. When they reached Parthi, our dear Lord was waiting for them in the veranda. As soon as He saw them, He asked them to come to the interview room. They removed the well packed Linga and were trying to show Him when Swami insisted that they place the Linga on His lap. Reluctantly, they placed this 8 kg heavy linga on the frail delicate lap as they had no other option other than to obey HIS command. After it was placed, Swami very gently kept touching the Lingam all over and said, "THIS IS A PERFECT ONE". Then Swami asked them to keep it back. On lifting they felt that it was heavier. Swami then asked how much it had cost them. When they narrated what had happened in the factory, Swami asked the Sai Youth who had brought the Lingam to return to the factory and give the owner Rs.11/-. On returning to the room as they had to fix this linga into a silver bowl like thing which all of you would have seen they had to measure it by height and weight . The Linga which weighed 8 kg now weighed 11 kg after it was placed on Swami's lap!!! We know not what is the significance of this number 11: the linga weighed 11 Kgs; an amount of Rs.11/- was asked to be paid for this; the Athi Rudra Maha Yajna was conducted in 11 days and on each day the Vedic hymn Sri Rudram was chanted 11 times.

Submitted to SBOI group by Nideesh k

http://www.saibabaofindia.com/ati_rudra_maha_yajnam_lingam_story.htm

“The ultimate goal of any Yajna performed in Prashanti Nilayam is sacrifice; in other words, spiritual bliss which takes shape out of total renunciation of the fruits of Karma. Such Yajna is not meant to benefit merely any single individual or country. Its purpose is to bring about universal well-being.”

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http://www.sathyasaiottawa.org/pdf/SSE_Resources/sai-tapovanam.pdf



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