

OM SAI BUDDHAAYA NAMAH

(Buddha Purnima, 26 May 2002)



Bhagavaan Shree Sathya Sai Baba is the latest advent of the Divine in human form, just as Bhagavaan Buddha's advent about 2500 years ago in order to uplift humanity in moral and spiritual terms. There are striking similarities between the two.

First, Buddha was known as Buddha the Compassionate. So is Sathya Sai who is compassion and kindness personified. Both of them epitomize the qualities of *dhaya* and *dharma*, i.e. compassion and righteousness based on love and non-violence. Love all, serve all. For both, *Ahimsa* is *paramo-dharmah*. Help ever, hurt never is the single most important motto.

Second, Buddha was so called because he was the enlightened person, and the cause of enlightenment of fellow human beings. Therefore, he is called Maha Maanava, a highly exalted human personality. Sri Sathya Sai is the quintessence of spiritual wisdom and practice of human values. He can be truly called Maanavatha Dharma Nirmaatha, the builder of the culture of human values. Both of them exemplify *Buddhi Yoga*, the *yoga* of creative intelligence for self-transformation and realization. Both are world preceptors (*jagat gurus*) of supreme wisdom. Aadhi Shankara calls the Buddha as the Prabuddha, the perfectly awakened one, and also as the emperor of all the *yogis* in Kali Yuga (*Kalau Yoginaam Chakravarthi*). Baba is acknowledged to be the emperor of Universal Spirituality, *Prapancha Aadhyaatmika Chakravarthi*. Buddha or for that matter Buddhism is free from dogmas, it is not a proselytizing religion. So is *Sanathana Dharma* as expounded by Baba. It is a universal, ancient but ever new, eternal and pervasive moral and spiritual value system.

Third, Buddha's form radiates ineffable peace in tranquility and serenity. He was called the prince of peace. So also Baba is the picture of *Prashaanthi*, perfect peace in contentment and bliss. Both combine supreme detachment within and *Dhaarmik* activism on the outside.

