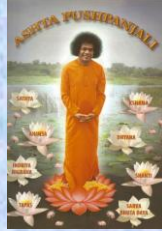


Ashta Pushpanjali



An Offering at Thy Divine Lotus Feet
on the occasion of His 85th Birthday on 23 November 2010

by

*Smt.Sarla Indulal Shah,
the founder and National Coordinator,
Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas*

Ashta Pushpanjali, the Garland of Eight Flowers of Virtues woven into the Thread of Immense Love to Revered Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was offered as a small gift on the occasion of His 85th Birthday on 23 November 2010 by Smt.Sarla Indulal Shah, the founder and National Coordinator, Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas.

Eight Flowers of Virtues are:

Sathya

Truth

Ahimsa

Non-violence

Indriya Nigrah

Controlling Five Sensory Organs

Tapas

Austerities

Kshama

Forgiveness

Dhyana

Meditation

Shanti

Peace

Sarva Bhuta Daya

Compassion to All Living Beings

All these eight virtues can be understood by making a thorough study of Life, Message and Mission of Beloved Bhagavan Baba for the last 85 years.

A minute sub-atomic explanation of each virtue has been elaborated in the forms of articles, stories, poems, quiz, quotations - authored and contributed by Bhagavan Baba, Saints, Seers, Prophet, Devotees, Office Bearers, Bal Vikas Teachers , Bal Vikas Students and other writers from the worldover.

Everyone will be proud to possess this 100 page publication that contains 20 beautiful and rare colour photographs of Bhagavan.

The publication is ideal to be possessed by every teacher, student, devotee, office bearer and can very well be given as a gift.

Publication is moderately priced @ INR 100.

The same is available in the stands of Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Prashanti Nilayam. Copies can be ordered with them directly.

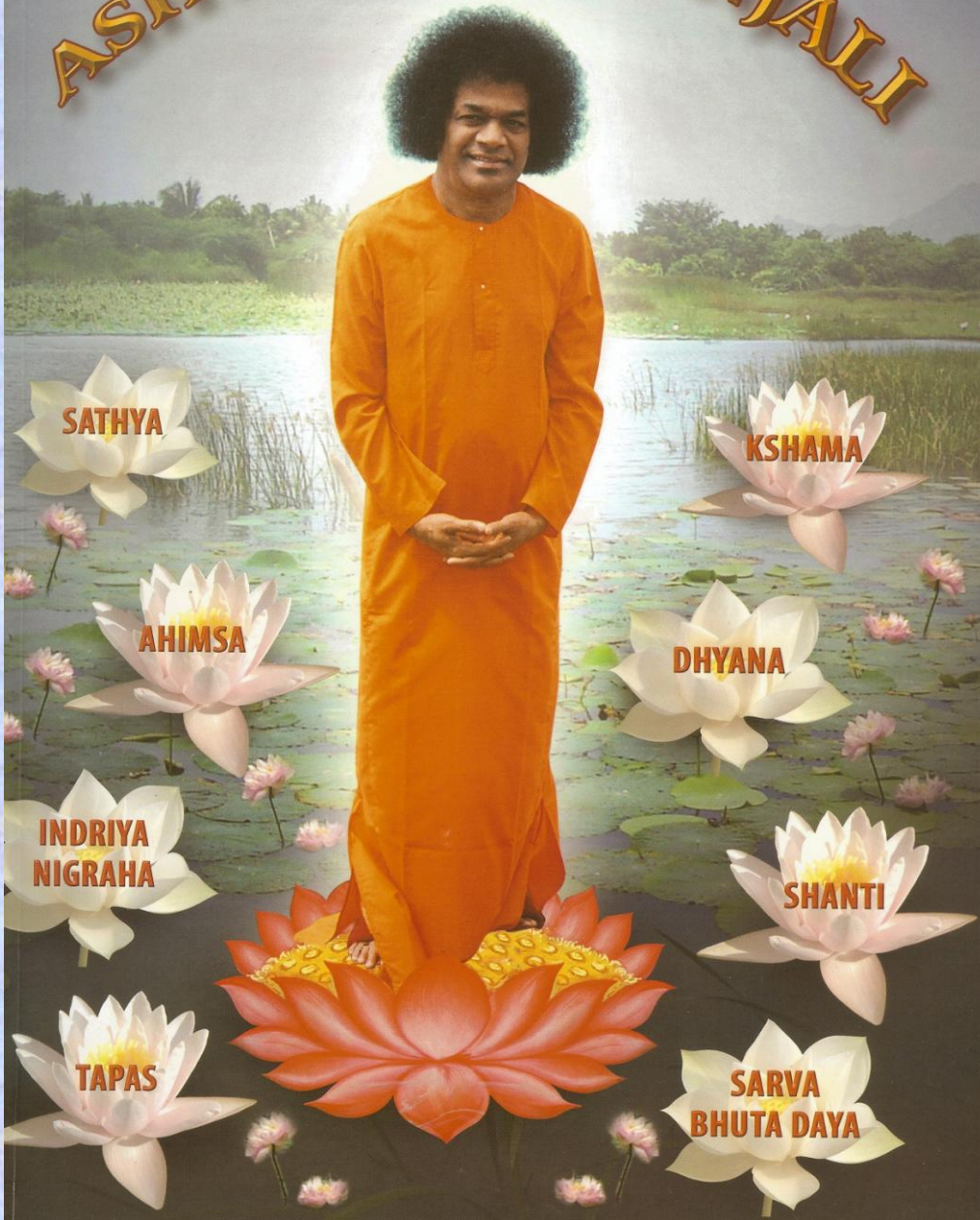
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**Please do glance through a cover page and a foreword by
Smt.Sarla Indulal Shah.**

ASHTA PUSHPANTALI



Foreword

This book, a humble offering, is a gift of love at the Divine Lotus Feet of our Beloved Lord Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, on the most auspicious occasion of His 85th Birthday on 23 November 2010.

It is my endeavour, to bring Swami's Divine Words and Teachings into the homes and hearts of the readers, through the pages of this book.

Swami says that He often repeats what He has said earlier yet, there are very few amongst us who implement His words.

Swami keeps repeating His teachings. There are many of us who are thrilled at listening to Swami's nectarine voice and His lucid discourses, but, what Swami wants is that we implement what He is teaching us. We come to Swami's feet, we listen to His words, we go back with love in our hearts and we strongly resolve to implement what He has taught us; that is what He seeks from us.

In the early days, we used to offer huge garlands, beautiful garlands of all colours and hues and rich floral tributes to our Lord.

In 1981, Swami in His own sweet way said, "You bring me all these flowers, I accept them because they are suffused with love but these are flowers that I have created and you are giving me my own creations. Give me something that you have created. Bring me flowers that you have created." He then went on to teach us about the *Ashta Pushpam* or the Eight Flowers of Devotion. These eight flowers of devotion are what Swami wants from us.

Ever since, our Sai Brothers and Sisters and our children have worked hard, though sometimes faltering, to prepare these eight flowers which Baba loves.

This book is an offering of a number of such flowers strung together with love.

As Baba says, we are all sadhakas in the making. We are all at different levels of spiritual attainment. We are all treading the path that leads to the Ultimate One.

As we keep to our role of putting together, most beautiful garlands of the *Ashta Pushpam*, may Swami through His myriad ways, continue to bless us and guide us in our efforts. May we always remain at His Lotus Feet.

I pray that this humble offering may be found useful in reminding us of Swami's words and in strengthening our resolve to make our lives sublime and worthy of His love.

May Swami continue to shower His choicest Divine Blessings on all.

Jai Sai Ram.

– Sarla Shah