

10. The Greeting Card Project

*A letter on some scrap scribbled over in illegible style carrying some absurd bit of information will be carried by mail and will be delivered at the address with care and exactitude, provided it has the exact stamp fixed on it. A letter on costly notepaper carrying exquisite calligraphy and florid with a weighty message, worth its weight in gold, will lie neglected and condemned if it doesn't have the stamp that the postal regulation requires! The stamp of devotion (bhakthi) is what makes the prayer reach the destination, God—not the festoons, the fanfare, the heap of flowers, or the festive nature of the feast-offerings. The simple sincere heart is the stamp that makes the prayer travel fast. Sathya Sai Baba, *Sathya Sai Speaks VII*, Chapter 49, 276*

These days, people get many cards from friends, with most of them coming during the Christmas and New Year season. Don't throw those greeting cards away—they can be reused! Reusing the cards as described below will not only help the Earth; it will help children in need.

Collect as many cards as you can: cut the pictures off the cards, paste them onto new paper and fold them in half to create new "recycled cards". Scraps from the old cards, as well as all unusable cards are made into wallboard, so nothing is wasted. The children work on the greeting-card project and the money they earn is entirely theirs to spend or save as they wish; they are encouraged to donate part of the money to worthy charities in the spirit of giving.

A possible Bal Vikas project

If you going to collect old greeting cards in your Center, why not have your Bal Vikas children take part? Get some heavy paper and have the children make new greeting cards or Christmas cards, using the pictures on the old cards, to give to the elderly the next time your Center visits a home for the elderly or nursing home.

An Interview in July 1995

Lady: Swami, how can I help with the Water Project?

Swami: Do you have a water faucet in your house?

Lady: Yes, Swami.

Swami: Don't waste water. Turn your faucet off. And turn off your electricity too. That is your Water Project and your Electricity Project.

Sai Quote:

When you meet each other, do not shout Hello! Or Bye-bye, or some silly chatter. Let the meeting be sanctified by the remembrance of God; say Ram Ram or Om or Hari Om or Aum Sai Ram. What you call etiquette is only a 'ticket' to barbarism; you pronounce good-bye as if it was the Telugu word 'guddi-abbai', meaning a blind boy! How can mere chatter lead you to the bliss you seek? How can the mirage quench one's thirst? Its waters neither arise from the mountain nor do fall into the sea! *Sathya Sai Speaks VII*, Chapter 49, 278