



The Essence

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations



About the Organisation

Preamble

The Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, founded by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in the year 1965, is a service organisation with a spiritual core and base to benefit all mankind irrespective of religion, caste, creed or sect. The Organisation serves as a platform for its members to undertake service and other activities as their sadhana (spiritual discipline) which is motivated by an urge for self-transformation to realise one's inherent divinity.

Objectives

The following extracts from the discourses given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba proclaim the purpose of the organisation:

“You must have the firm belief that the aim of this Organisation is to remove the obstacles that keep man away from God, that separate maanavathwa (humanity) from Maadhavathwa (Divinity). There can be no human; it is all Divine. This Organisation must elevate the human into the Divine.”

— Divine Discourse, All-India Conference, Prashanthi Nilayam, 21 November 1970

“The main objective of the Sathya Sai Organisation, which you must always keep before you is to help man to recognise the Divinity that is inherent in him. But, this Divinity is latent; it is veiled; it is not always apparent to oneself or others.”

— Divine Discourse, Bombay, 6 January 1975

In a revealing discourse delivered on the 23rd of February 1968 in Prashanthi Nilayam, Sri Sathya Sai Baba clearly explained the purpose of the organisation. He said:

“The Organisations named after Me are not to be used for publicising My Name, or creating a new cult around My worship. They must try to spread interest in japam (recitation of God’s Name), dhyaanam (meditation) and other saadhanas (spiritual practices), which lead man Godward; they must demonstrate the joy derivable from bhajan (devotional group singing) and Naamasmarana (remembering God’s Name), the Shaanthi (peace) that one can draw from Sathsang (good company). They must render seva (service) to the helpless, the sick, the distressed, the illiterate and the needy. Their seva (selfless service) should not be exhibitionistic; it must seek no reward, not even gratitude or thanks from



*the recipients. Seva is saadhana, not a pastime of the rich and well placed.
Each one must realise his own truth. That is the purpose of all the teaching, all
the curing, all the counselling, all the organising, all the advising that I do”*

— Prashanthi Nilayam, 23 February 1968

It is emphasised that the Sai Organisation is not a religious or a proselytising organisation. It has also not been established to preach any particular religion. At no point is an individual asked to follow a certain religion or rituals. On the contrary each is inspired to follow his own faith so as to ensure that a Hindu becomes a better Hindu, a Muslim becomes a better Muslim, a Christian becomes a better Christian and so on. In fact, this spiritual basis inspires everyone to pursue his own religion better by putting into practice Love and Selflessness. That is why the Organisation features in its emblem the symbols of the major religions of mankind.

Thus, without any distinction of religion, nationality, race, socio-economic status, either for those who work in the Organisation or for those who are served by it, the Organisation transcends all barriers leading humanity towards the ideal of '**Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man**'.





Membership Fees

There is no fee or subscription for membership. The concept of fees or membership subscription is alien to the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, for there cannot be any fee or subscription for one's journey towards his own Self.

Units of the Organisation

The organisation functions through its primary units called as Samithis and Bhajan Mandalis of which individuals - from different strata of society, different ethnic groups pursuing different religions and faiths - are members who are bound by the dictum of "Love all, Serve All" and pursue their own sadhana towards self-realisation following the path of selfless service to humanity.

Administration

Headed by an All India President who is supported by the National Vice Presidents and State Presidents, District Presidents and Coordinators for each wing at various levels, the Organisation functions like a well-oiled machine, focused on its purpose, clear in its vision and dedicated in its efforts. •



Sri Sathya Sai Baba on Organisation

"I have not got the slightest intention to utilise the Seva Samithis (Service Organisations) for propagating My Name or canvas homage for My Name. No! I am content only when spiritual endeavours and disciplines to elevate and purify man are progressing everywhere. It is only through these that My universal reality will be revealed. So, do not limit Me to the boundaries of any one name and form. Your aim should be to see the self-same God in

all the Forms that are worshipped, to picture Him in all the Names, nay, to be conscious of His presence as the inner motivator of every living being, in every particle of matter. Do not fall into the error of considering some to be men worthy of reverence and some unworthy. Sai is in every one; so, all deserve your reverence and service. Propagate this truth; that is the function I assign to the Seva Samithis."

— World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Bombay, 17 May 1968

“You know that these organisations—Seva Samithis, Bhajana Mandalis, Seva Sanghams are for awakening in man the consciousness of the Divinity inherent in him and to encourage him to cultivate it, so that he could blossom into a real Saadhaka and then into a Saadhu (detached, devoted, virtuous, wise, aspirant), and finally into a Liberated Personality merged in the Supreme.”

— Divine Discourse, Emakulam (Kerala),
20 December 1967

These organisations are meant to broaden your love, to canalise your activities along lines of constructive service performed, as worship, not to confer on some people more power over others, or greater control over the activities of other members, or for the display of the devotion of some people. All must be conscious of this, all the time.

— Divine Discourse, Emakulam (Kerala),
20 December 1967

“Sathya Sai Seva Samithis are built on love. They thrive on love; they spread love. No other emotion or attitude has any place therein. Divinity is the magnet; humanity is the iron. Love is the force that brings them together. Nara is the iron, Naaraayana is the magnet. Bhakthi or Love is the force that draws the two together. The a-shaanthi (peacelessness) from which man

suffers should disappear; man should attain prashaanthi (inner, deep-rooted peace); that is the aim of the institutions initiated by Me.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
1 October 1968

“I must say plainly that ninety out of a hundred among you have not clearly visualised the purpose for which I have allowed you to form these Organisations. It is not to give some people places of authority or power, or for ensuring fame and publicity for Me. It is to build upon the earth the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men on strong foundations. This must be clearly grasped by all of you. You are not engaged in social service through these organisations; you are engaged in your own service. All the items of work are aimed at expanding your heart and purifying it.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
21 November 1968

“The Sai Organisation is set up to develop and foster Love; it is not set up through compulsion; it arose from the heart and it expands the heart. The inner desire to achieve Love and expand Love has taken outer shape as this Organisation.”

— All-India Conference, Prashanthi Nilayam,
21 November 1970

“The Organisation has been established, not for publicizing any

person or creed, or to provide berths for some ambitious individuals, from which they can exercise authority over others. It is as a means of Saadhana that the Organisation is to be understood. Take it in that attitude.”

— Divine Discourse, Madras,
22 December 1971

“Society shapes the individual, provides the arena for his development and sets the ideals he should plant before himself. When the individual is stronger, more intelligent, more service minded, and more efficient as a worker, society benefits; when society is more aware of its role and of the need to cleanse that role with humility and wisdom, the individual benefits.

Sai has resolved to transform the individual and society by promoting this mutual regeneration, by the action of one on the other; hence, the formation of this Organisation, and the establishment of its Units in all countries, for the sublimation of the human into the Divine.”

— Divine Discourse, Raajahmundry,
4 January 1974

“The Sathya Sai Organisation has been established to provide sacred tasks for every moment of wakeful life, to make people conscious of the vagaries and vanities of the mind and teach them the processes of disintegrating the mind and establishing the reign of the pure

intellect, by which alone the One behind all this multiplicity can be realised as the only Reality.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
24 November 1974

“In the Sai organisation there is no room for distinctions of race, religion, caste, class, or community. All should regard themselves as the children of one God. When they are united by this sense of divine kinship, they will act with Love towards all.

They should shed all narrow and limited ideas and engage themselves in service with a heart full of love for all. True seva (selfless service) can come only out of a pure and loving heart.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
18 November 1984

“The Sai Organisations were set up to make people realise their true divine nature. What is the primary purpose of the Sai Organizations? It is to make the people realise that they are sparks of the Divine and not embodiments of the physical products of Nature.”

— Divine Discourse, Sixth World Conference
of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations,
21 November 1995

“Service is the life breath of the Sathya Sai Organization. Remember the truth that you are born to serve society.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
16 October 1999 •

Charter of the Organisation



Permanent Charter granted by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to the Sri Sathya Sai Organisations¹, at the Third World Conference, dated this 14th day of January in the 55th year of His Advent, Anno Domini 1981. **Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**, out of His infinite Grace and Mercy sends blessings to all to whom this Permanent Charter shall be seen, showed, or read.

WHEREAS the Advent of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba as declared by HIM is for the establishment of Sanathana Dharma.

AND WHEREAS this World Organisation is a Spiritual Organisation founded for the whole Mankind, not recognising any distinction or separateness on the basis of religion, caste, colour, or creed,

AND WHEREAS this Organisation takes within its fold persons belonging to all religions in order to establish unity of all faiths,

AND WHEREAS the purpose of this Organisation is to establish and promote the content of such Sanathana Dharma and also to establish the Sai Teaching of Oneness (Unity) as the essence of all religions.

AND WHEREAS the most fundamental object of this Organisation as laid down by Bhagawan is to "*Awaken in Man the awareness of the Divinity INHERENT in him*" by propagating through practice and example the basic principles of sathya (truth), dharma (righteousness), shanti (peace), prema (love) and ahimsa (nonviolence) set by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba,

AND WHEREAS to experience this Divinity, mere environment and circumstances outside are not sufficient but a change in the minds of men is necessary,

AND WHEREAS the activities of the Organisation are only a means to the spiritual progress in this direction and which progress will ultimately enable everyone to enjoy inner peace notwithstanding the stresses and strains, the frustrations and sorrows, the defeats and successes, the ups and downs of life,

AND WHEREAS to achieve maximum results towards these objectives,

It Is Hereby Declared:

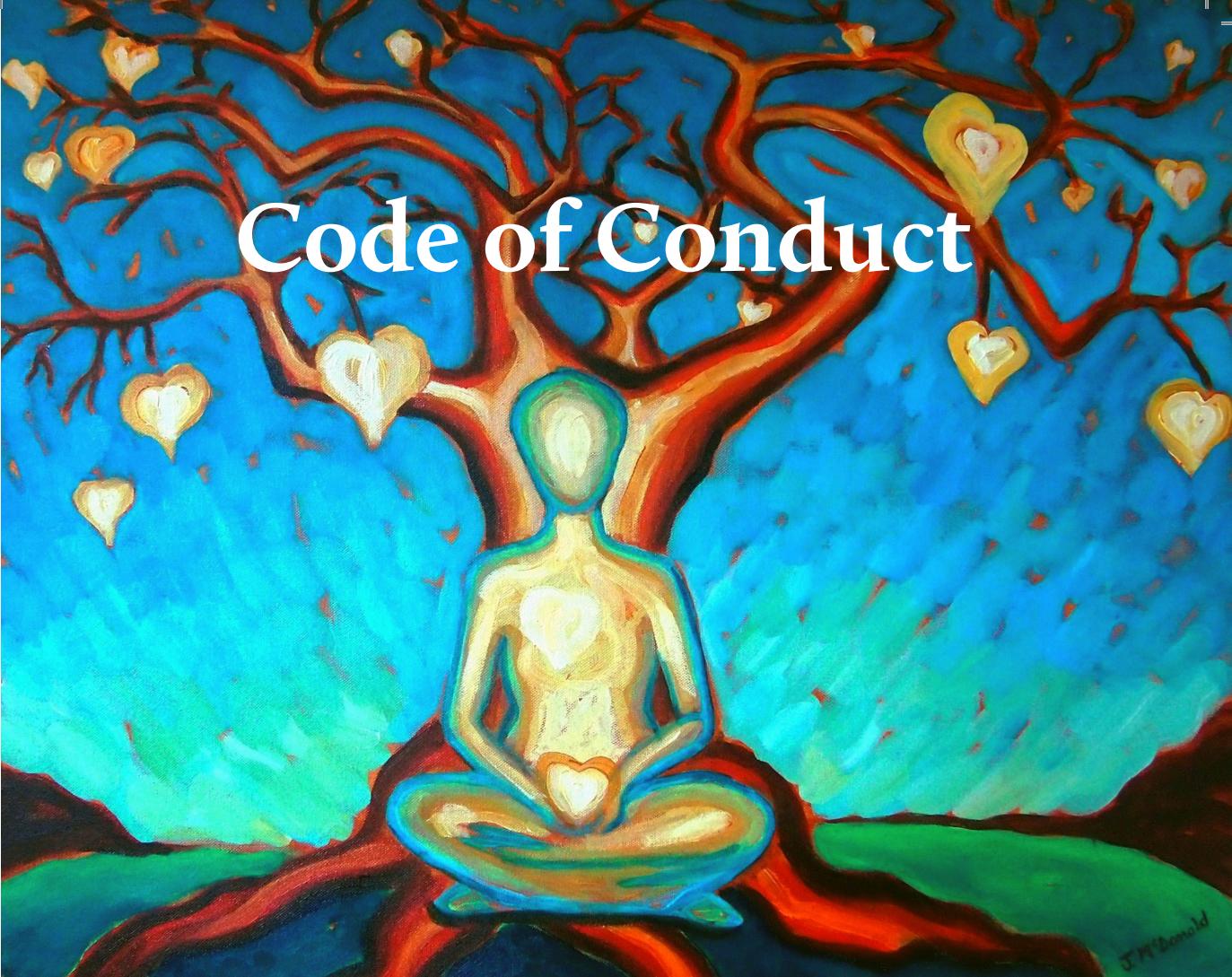
- A. That this shall be the Charter governing the Sathya Sai Organisations all over the world.
- B. That all the office bearers and members of this Organisation at present and all those who will join this Organisation

shall be one in Deed and in Name, by the name of Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, and as such, they shall be entitled to carry on the activities in the name of the Organisation.

- C. That in order to achieve the objectives as laid down hereinabove the members shall follow a strict Code of Conduct of sadhana (spiritual exercises) so that they become worthy instruments of our Bhagawan Baba in the efforts to fulfil the objectives of this Organisation.
- D. That no person shall be qualified to associate himself/herself as office bearer or worker with this Organisation who willfully deviates from the Code of Conduct laid down hereinafter. •

(The name of the organisation and all references to it, in India, shall for all purposes be read and known as Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations.)





Code of Conduct

Every member of the Organisation is expected to undertake sadhana (spiritual discipline) as an integral part of this daily life and abide by the following 9 point Code of Conduct which has been ordained by Sri Sathya Sai Baba for one's spiritual advancement:

1. Daily meditation and prayer.
2. Devotional singing/prayer with members of his family once per week.
3. Participation in the Bal Vikas programmes conducted by the Organisation for children.
4. Attendance at least once per month as group devotional programmes conducted by the Organisation.
5. Participation in community service and other programmes of the Organisation.
6. Regular study of Sai literature.
7. Putting into practice the principles of "ceiling on desires" and utilise any savings thereby generated for the service of mankind.
8. Speaking softly and lovingly with everyone with whom he comes into contact.
9. Not to indulge in talking ill of others especially in their absence. •



Ten Principles

In His discourse at the World Conference on 21 November 1985, Sathya Sai Baba gave the following ten principles to be followed by every member. He directed to follow these directives with enthusiasm and with love and be examples for others, wherever one is.

1. Love and Serve the Motherland; do not hate or hurt the motherland of others.
2. Honour every religion; each is pathway to the one God.
3. Love all men without distinction; know that mankind is a single community.
4. Keep your home and its environs clean; it will ensure health and happiness for you and for society.
5. Do not throw coins when beggars stretch their hands for alms; help them become self-reliant. Provide food and shelter, love and care, for the sick and the aged.
6. Do not tempt other by offering bribes or demean yourself by accepting bribes.
7. Do not develop jealousy, hatred or envy on any account.
8. Do not depend on other to serve your personal needs; become your own servant, before proceeding to serve others.
9. Adore God. Abhor Sin.
10. Observe the laws, rules and regulations laid down by the State and be ideal citizens. •

Core Principles of the Organisation

The organisation is founded on the following core principles:

1. There are no fees or subscription or any other charge by whatever name called for membership of the organisation.
2. Solicitation of funds, directly or indirectly, in any manner is strictly prohibited. The expenses of the day-to-day activities of the units of the Organisation are met by voluntary contribution by the members themselves. Under no circumstances a public appeal for solicitation of funds is resorted to for undertaking any activity of the organisation.

"The Sathya Sai Organisation and its units must not collect money or material from those outside the membership. Fund collection is as much opposed to this movement as fire is to water. If you yield on this point, spiritual advance will perish. Let only members contribute; do not ask all and sundry, or anyone who is not a member of the Samithi (unit)."

— Divine Discourse, Dharwar, 14 May 1971

3. The Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations cannot associate itself or partner with any other organisation be it religious or spiritual or of any nature or any institution or body or association





of persons whether registered or unregistered of any nature in carrying out or execution of its activities.

4. The organisation does not strive for proliferation or publicity or propaganda of its work, activities or achievements nor does it indulge in any kind of fanfare or exhibitionism or pomp or show in carrying out any activities as these are alien to the spiritual path.

“The Units of our Organisation should not encourage pomp or show for they are alien to the Spiritual Path.”

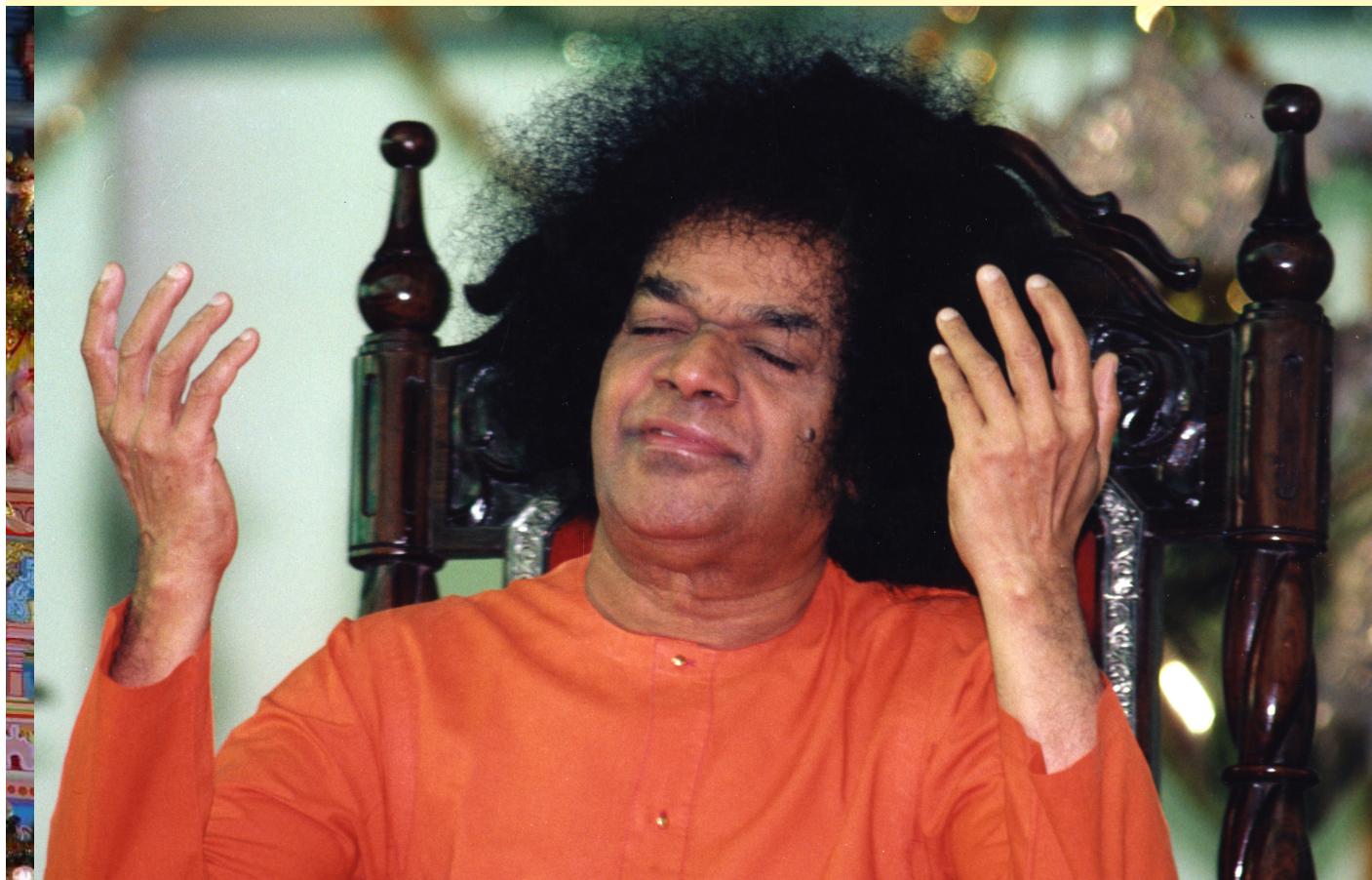
— All-India Conference, Prashanthi Nilayam,
21 November 1970

“Sai Organizations have not been set up for propaganda purpose. We do not need any publicity.”

— Discourse of Sixth World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations,
21 November 1995

“We do not need any publicity or advertisement. Work silently. Prachar (publicity) is not the achar (practice) of Sai Organisation. We should work for the progress of the Organisation through practice and spread the message of love throughout the world.”

— Sai Ramesh Hall, Brindavan, 18 March 1999

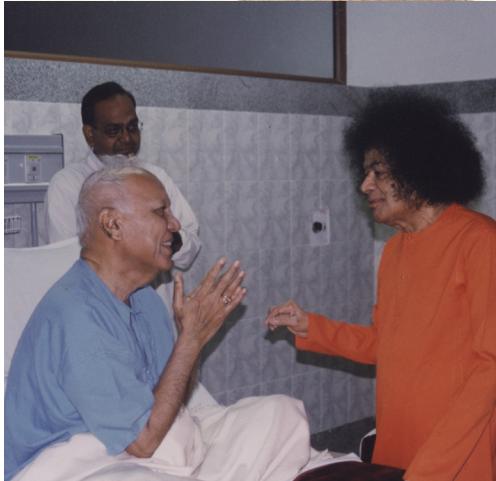


5. The organisation shall:
 - never have any connection with the government at any level
 - never seek any support or assistance or help from any government or corporate or non-corporate entity or any other agency or body in execution of or carrying out its activities.

"There are two main points for our Organisation to observe: First, do not become involved with money, government, or power. Second, do only what you can within your limits. Let the government take care of whatever it wants to take care of. Do not use its name to enter any

activities. Do only those things which you can do with your own resources and which are within your own capabilities. When you follow these principles, even government will be helping you in your endeavours. However, do not establish any connection between the government and the Sai Organisation, in relation to service."

6. Proper segregation and separation between male and female members of the organisation is always maintained while performing or executing any activity of the organisation. •



The Wings of the Organisation

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations functions under three wings viz. (i) Spiritual, (ii) Education and (iii) Service. These symbolise Worship, Wisdom and Work respectively. Although the nature of activities undertaken under different wings appear to be distinct or dissimilar, yet there is an inherent interrelationship amongst all the three wings. Spirituality and Service are complementary to each other. Spirituality is the motivational force behind service and service is the fulfilment of spirituality. Therefore, spiritual knowledge must be skilled into wisdom and should be put into practice in the form of service to humanity in order to realise the ultimate objective for which the organisation has been established.

Thus, in order to successfully realise the purpose of joining the Sai Organisation, one must participate in activities of all the three wings.

Spiritual Wing

As the tree grows, the roots must also grow inwards. The growth of the tree is dependent on the roots inside the ground. Thus, the spiritual wing undertakes activities that are targeted to arouse inspiration and inward vision with a view to developing the urge to connect with the inner core and obtaining clarification to doubts or answers to questions related to spiritual progress of the member. It helps to nurture the inner self and awakening the inherent divinity.

The activities undertaken by the spiritual wing include the following:

- (i) Bhajans
- (ii) Nagarsankeertan
- (iii) Study circles
- (iv) Naamsmarana

- (v) Japa and Meditation
- (vi) Spiritual class or lectures
- (vii) Seminars

Education Wing

The Education wing undertakes the following activities:

- (i) the Bal Vikas Course for children up to the age of 15 years
- (ii) courses for youth in the fields of Human Values, Indian Culture and Spirituality and other spiritual topics
- (iii) parenting programmes targeted towards educating young parents on value based parenting in accordance with the teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

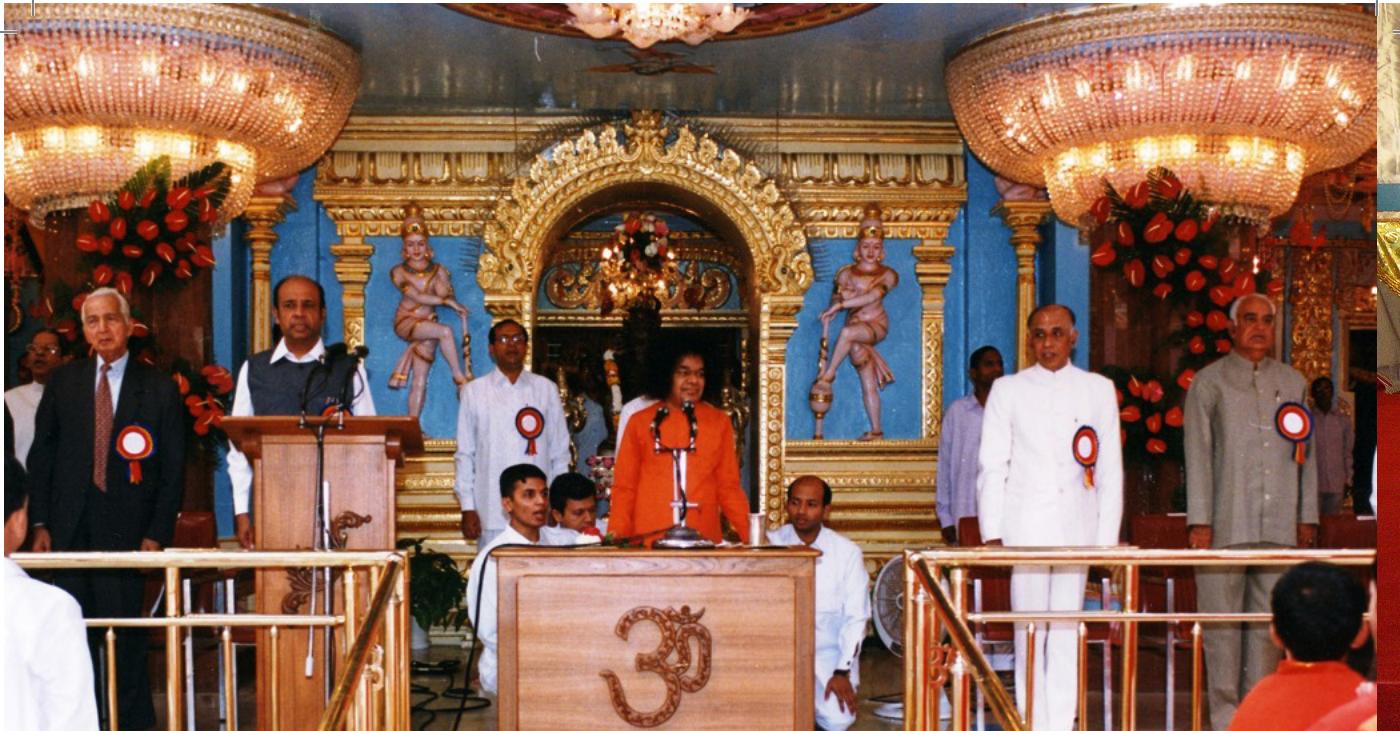
Service Wing

Sri Sathya Sai Baba professed, “*Service is the life breath of the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. Remember the truth that you are born to serve society.*”

The Service wing undertakes service activities with a view to serve the society, more particularly, the lesser privileged in the society. Such service activities apparently seem to benefit merely the recipients of the service on a worldly plane. However, on a spiritual plane, it benefits those who render such service as it helps them in their spiritual elevation towards attainment of self-realisation. Service activities that the organisation primarily engages in are:

- (i) Narayan seva
- (ii) Medical camps
- (iii) Veterinary camp
- (iv) Educational assistance
- (v) Vocational training
- (vi) Visit to hospitals
- (vii) Visit to old age homes
- (viii) Visit to orphanages
- (ix) Visit leprosy colony or hospital
- (x) Gram seva (service in villages)
- (xi) Providing relief during natural calamities or accidents. •





Administration of the Organisation

The Organisation is headed by the All India President and is structured for administrative purposes into the following levels with respective office bearers shouldering various responsibilities:

National Level

All India President
National Vice Presidents
National Coordinators for each wing

State Level

State President
State Vice Presidents
State Coordinators for each wing

District Level

District President
District Coordinators for each wing

Samithi

Samithi Convenor
Samithi Coordinators for each wing

Bhajan Mandali

Bhajan Mandali In-charge

There is also a National Council called as 'Sri Sathya Sai National Council' comprising of nine members that serves as an advisory body to the All India President.



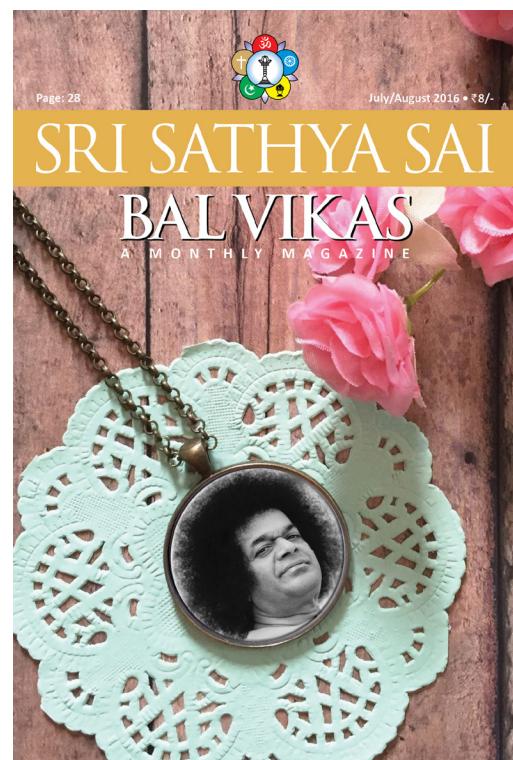
Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas - The Pathway to Righteousness -

One of the most important and integral activities of the Organisation is the Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas which is undertaken by the Education Wing.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba says, "True Education is not for mere living, but for a fuller and meaningful life" He further says, "Education is not acquisition of burdensome information regarding objects and men. It is the awareness of the immortal spirit within, which is the spring of joy, peace and courage." He emphasises that True education does not mean imparting of bookish knowledge alone. It is a process of blossoming of human excellence which is reflected in form of character of the educated. Thus, character is the most precious gift of education and virtues alone reveal the outcome of true education. Unfortunately, modern education disregards this aspect of education and concentrates merely on the head of the pupil while forgetting the heart!

It is with this objective of inculcating values by cultivating the hearts of innocent

children that Sri Sathya Sai Baba started the Bal Vikas program, the ideal of which as proclaimed by Him is "*to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean and*





clear conscience". Expounding the bigger motive behind the Bal Vikas, he declared that "the Bal Vikas is the primary basis of the great movement to restore dharma (righteousness) in the world. The elders are far gone in their ways, and it is difficult to expect change in their habits and attitudes. Children have to be led into good ways of living, into simplicity, humility and discipline."

Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas classes are conducted in a non-formal environment by trained individuals who are normally referred as the Bal Vikas Gurus. These classes have the main objective of initiating the child into a course of character building by developing self-discipline, providing healthy association and inculcating the five basic human values of truth, righteousness,

peace, love and non-violence in children. The course is spread over a duration of nine years with three groups of three years each. The classes are generally held weekly for a duration of 60 to 90 minutes.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba also stated that the Bal Vikas is equally beneficial for the Guru as well. He said that "the Bal Vikas is devised not merely for the education of the children but also of the Gurus. The Bal Vikas chores are bound to elevate and sublimate the thoughts and emotions of the Gurus far better than any other saadhana (spiritual discipline) can. Remember that as Gurus, you too have a Guru guiding you and overseeing your seva (service). So you too are pupils, and you too learn the lessons of equality, equanimity and selfless love while acting as Gurus." •

Membership

The membership of the Organisation is open to all irrespective of colour, caste, creed, religion or socio-economic status.

Any individual who fulfills the following criteria can become a member:

- (i) has attained the age of 18 years
- (ii) has faith in God
- (iii) is an eager spiritual aspirant
- (iv) has good character and has won recognition as good person
- (v) is willing to abide by the Nine-Point Code of Conduct and the Rules and Regulations of the Organisation in force from time to time
- (vi) is willing to participate in the activities of Organisation.

It is noteworthy that the membership of the organisation is not by any compulsion but is completely voluntary.

The following excerpts from the discourses of Sri Sathya Sai Baba warrant consideration for proper understanding that underlie the purpose of joining the Organisation:

“You join the Samithi, you share in its activities, for your own sake; not for the sake of Sathya Sai or the Samithi started in that name. If you feel that you can earn fame or name, or social status, or some other type of gain by entering this Organisation, there is no place for you in it. This is a place for Saadhana, constant, vigilant Saadhana (spiritual striving).”

— Divine Discourse, 22 December 1971

“Members of the Sai Organisation and those who adhere to the Universal path to Sai should not be carried away by ideas of inferiority or superiority based on differences of religion, caste or creed. They should honour Faith, Steadfastness, Sincerity, Purity, wherever found.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
17 October 1972

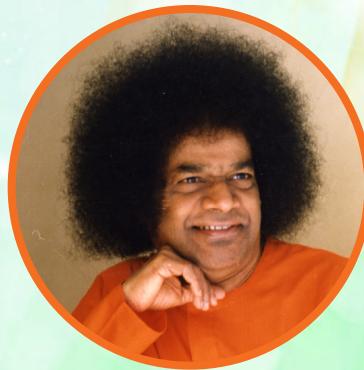
“When you join the Seva Samithi (Sai Organisation) and share in its activities, you are doing so not for the sake of Swaami, nor for the sake of the people, but the sake of the Dharma which you have a duty to uphold and foster. Attachment to Dharma, practice of Dharma and its varied manifestations of Seva (Service) and Prema (Love), can alone help transform Maanava (human) into Maadhava (God).”

— Divine Discourse, Raajahmundry,
4 January 1974

“As a member of Sathya Sai Organisation you should have no sense of ego or pride. As I have often said you should have your “Hands in society and heads in the forest”. This should be your guiding principle.

What little you do you must do with a good and pure heart.”

— Discourse to active workers of the
Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, Tamil Nadu at
Abbotsbury, Madras, 19 January 1983 •



The Emblem of the Organisation and its significance

"The symbol of the Organisation is the Harmony of Religions, the Unity of all Faiths, the Acceptance of all Approaches."

- Divine Discourse, Madras, 23 December 1971

The emblem of the Organisation is known as the 'Sarva Dharma Logo' which represents the unity of all faiths and progressions to spiritual realisation. It enshrines, in the five semicircles around the centre circle, the symbols of five major religions of the mankind.

Significance of the Stupa in the centre

Inside the main circle, in the centre is the "stupa" (pillar) with concentric rings holding a lotus flower on its top on which is the illuminating flame.

The pillar represents Yoga, with a number of rings to indicate the stages of Yogic Sadhana. This Yoga leads to the unfolding of the Lotus of the Heart, whose petals are borne on top of the pillar. The next stage of this consummation of Bhakthi and the blossoming of the Heart

is the Flame of Jnana, the Illumination, the Jyothi, which is symbolised as the finale of the Sthambha (pillar). The Yoga fructifies and takes the sadhaka (spiritual aspirant) on from one height to another, until the Lotus of the Heart blooms and the Effulgence of Illumination is vouchsafed at last.

Significance of religious symbols

The significance of the sacred symbols of various religions have been explained by Baba so that we can understand the truth that all religions lead man on the path to the same God.

Hinduism

"Listen to the primeval Pranava 'AUM' resounding in your heart as well as in the heart of the universe."



Buddhism

"Remember the wheel of cause and consequence, of deed and destiny and the wheel of Dharma that guides them all."

Zoroastrianism

"Offer all bitterness in the sacred fire and emerge grand, great and godly."

Islam

"Be like the star which never wavers from the crescent, but is fixed in steady faith."

Christianity

"Cut the 'I' feeling clean across and let our ego die on the cross, to endow on you eternity."

Sri Sathya Sai Baba proclaimed, "I have come not to disturb or destroy any faith, but to confirm each in his own faith - so that the Christian becomes a better Christian, the Muslim, a better Muslim, and the Hindu, a better Hindu." He has constantly reminded mankind about the unity of all faiths. The following excerpts from His discourses are panacea for the all problems for mankind today.

"I have come to light the lamp of love in your hearts, to see that it shines day by day with added lustre. I have not come to speak on behalf of any particular dharma (righteousness), like the Hindu Dharma. I have not come on any mission of publicity for any sect or creed or cause; nor have I come to collect followers for any doctrine. I have no plan to attract disciples or devotees into My fold or any fold. I have come to tell you of this Universal unitary faith, this Aathmic principle, this path of love, this dharma of prema, this duty of love, this obligation to love."

— Nairobi (Kenya, East Africa), 4 July 1968

"All religions teach one basic discipline - the removal of the blemish of egoism from the mind, and of running after trivial joys. Every religion teaches man to fill his being with the Glory of God, and evict the pettiness of conceit. It trains him in methods of detachment and discrimination, so that he may aim high and attain liberation. Believe that all hearts are motivated by the one God; that all faiths glorify Him alone; that all names in all languages and all forms man can conceive denote the one Supreme Being; His adoration is best done by means of love."

— Nairobi (Kenya, East Africa), 4 July 1968

"Let the different faiths exist, let them flourish; let the glory of God be sung in all languages in a variety of tunes. That should be the ideal. Respect the differences between the faiths and recognize them as valid so far as they do not extinguish the flame of unity."

"All religions, all faiths are but phases or facets of the same Universal Faith and Discipline. It is like the story where seven blind men who examined the elephant and described it to others. The man who held the tail in his hand said it was a snake; the man who felt the leg said it was a pillar; the man who examined only the ear swore that the elephant was like a winnowing basket. This story has a deep inner meaning. The Atma (spirit) is one, but, each one sees a fraction of it and judges it differently, while it is the integrated sum of each of these facets that constitute Reality."

— Divine Discourse, December 1966

"Embodiments of the Divine! Having come here, there is only one thing which is most vital for all of you to recognise and understand.

Forgetting all differences of race, religion, caste and creed, disregarding considerations of class and community, you must feel that all of you are children of one God.

*Our race is only one:
the Human Race.
We worship only One: God.
Our caste is only one:
the Caste of Love.
Our language is only one:
the Language of the Heart
When you recognise this oneness,
eschew all differences and fill your
hearts with love, you will be able
to redeem your lives by constantly
chanting the name of the Lord. That
name will help you accomplish
anything. It will fill your life with
peace and happiness. It will enable
you to rid yourself of likes and
dislikes. The supreme quality of man
is love. Develop love so that you may
get rid of attachments and
aversions. Thereby, you will be
sanctifying your lives!"*

— Divine Discourse, Poornachandra
Auditorium, 20 October 1988

*"All religions have emphasized the
same truths in their basic teachings,
but very few people try to understand
the inner significance of religions.
Out of a narrow feeling that one's
own religion is superior and the
other faiths are inferior, members
of different religions are developing
hatred towards members of other
faiths and acting like demons. Such
narrow attitude should be given up
completely. All should develop the
awareness that though Names and
Forms may differ, the essential truth*

is one in all religions."
— Divine Discourse, Poornachandra
Auditorium, 25 December 1991.

*"Whom the Muslims adore as
Allah, the Christians as Jehovah,
the Vaishnavas as Phullabjaaksha
and the Shaivites as Shambhu, who
grants, in answer to their several
prayers, health, prosperity and
happiness to all, wherever they may
be, He, the One God, is the
God of all mankind."*

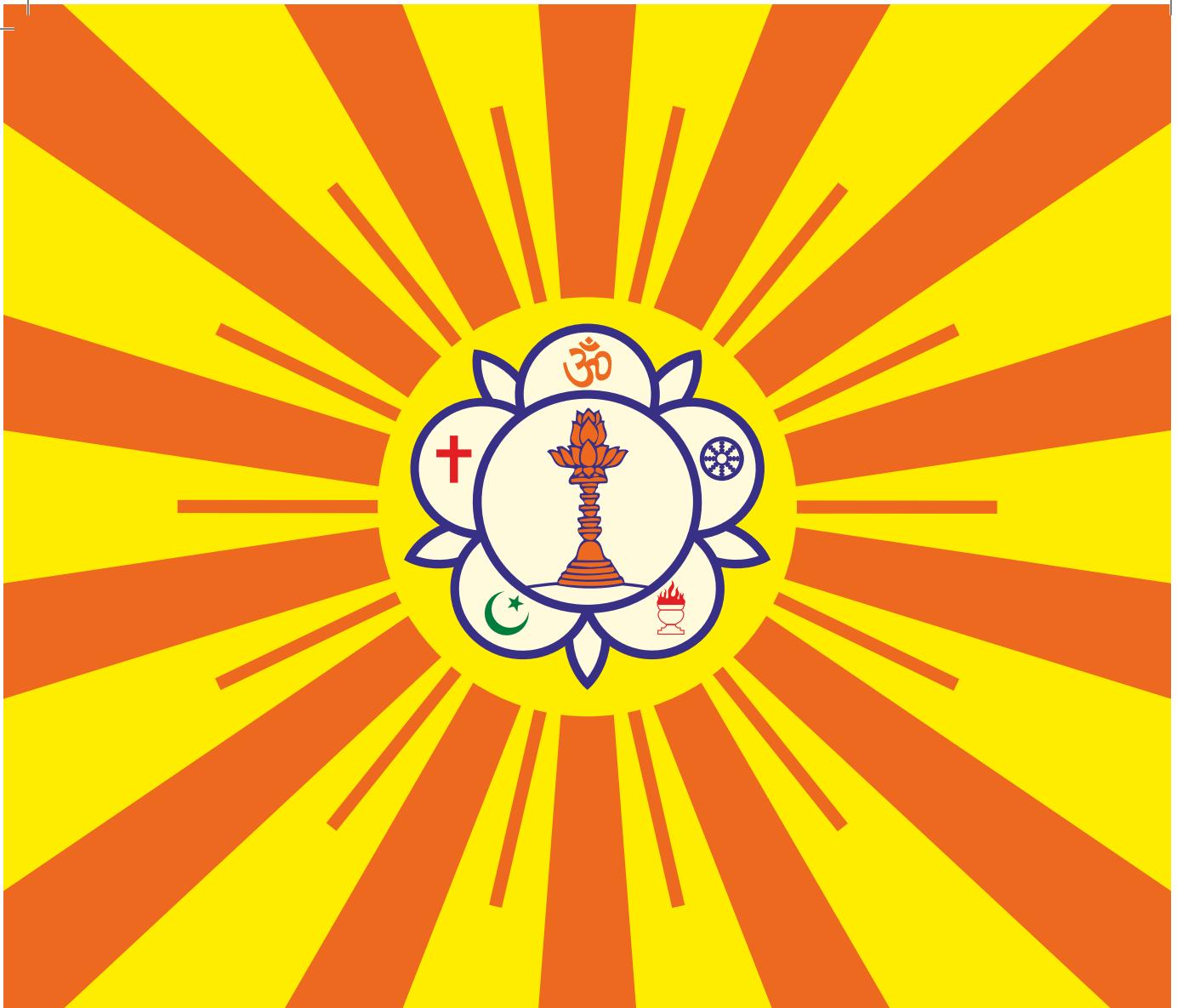
— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
1 October 1976

*"Should each person live the ideals
propounded by the founders of
his religion, unaffected by greed
or hate, the world will be a happy
and peaceful habitation for man.
In spiritual terms, all of mankind
belongs to one and the same class,
race, and religion."*

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
1 October 1976

*"The followers of every religion, in
their own way and style, call upon
the One God who is Omnipresent. It
is the same God who confers upon all
mankind, health, prosperity, peace
and happiness. No religion has a
separate God showering Grace upon
those who profess to abide by that
faith alone!"*

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
25 December 1978 •



The Prashanthi Flag

Hoist the flag in your own minds and keep it flying aloft there,
Be pure, alert and humble. I am in you; you are in Me.

Remember, the flag is a sign that is significant for each and every one of you.

It is a reminder of your duty to yourself,

It reminds you to overcome the urge of low desires, of anger and hate when your desires are thwarted;

It exhorts you to expand your heart so

that you embrace all humanity, all life and all creation in its compass;

It directs you to quieten your impulses and calmly meditate on your own inner reality.

It assures you that, when you do so, the lotus of your heart will bloom, and from its center will arise the flame of divine vision, which guarantees Prasanthi (infinite peace) to every one of you. •

— Divine Discourse November 22, 1986

The Scarf & Badge and its Significance

The Scarf and Badge is the holy insignia of the organisation. It represents sacrifice and commitment of the members of the Organisation. All members should necessarily wear scarf and badge while undertaking service activities.

The Scarf (in a combination of light and dark blue for men and yellow and saffron for women has the Sarva Dharma Logo printed in the centre) and the Sevadal badge (a round medallion with the Sarva Dharma Logo and the dictum "Work is Worship" from Sri Sathya Sai Baba inscribed in it) carry a deep message. It signifies that for a member wearing the scarf and badge, adherence to one's duty with steadfast commitment and dedication is in true sense the worshipping of God.

The following excerpts from the discourses of Sri Sathya Sai Baba underscore

the significance and import of the Scarf and Badge.

"The Sevadal badge you wear is not a decoration item which can be secured without a price. It is a symbol of high character, generous feelings and steady and sincere endeavour. It is the external indicator of internal enthusiasm and strength, skill and faith. As iron is drawn by the magnet, and when you allow these qualities to shine through you, it will draw the dejected, the downcast and the distressed towards you. If you are proud and self-centred, blind to the kinship that binds all in fraternal love, the badge is a betrayal. Mere sentiment and empathy are of no use; they must be regulated by intelligence"



and skill. It is not the quantity of service you do that matters; nor is the variety. It is the inner joy, the love that you radiate that is important.”

— Divine Discourse, 19 May 1969.

“Do not consider this badge as an ordinary call for duty, it is a step for spiritual upliftment and a tool for the cultivation of love.”

“You must realise now that this badge which I gave you is not a passport for easy life; it means strenuous routine, the giving up of comfort, the acceptance of hard toil, sleeplessness and sacrifice.”

— Divine Discourse, 24 February 1965

“It is a badge which a “servant” alone is entitled to wear, not a master lording over others. The badges rest on your hearts, don’t they? If your hearts are filled with pride, and a sense of superiority over others who have no badge on their chests, then, the hearts themselves will be affected by the evil aroused by this decoration.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
16 October 1974

“When you disregard or disrespect the badge, you are disregarding and disrespecting your own inner reality.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
16 October 1974

“It does not allow you to exercise authority over any one or appropriate anything from any one. It is a call

and a challenge for you, to provide comfort and consolation to those in need, to seek out means and methods to increase the ways in which you can help others and contribute to their joy.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,

16 October 1974

“This scarf and this badge confer on you the right to declare that Prashanthi Nilayam is your home. Keep that in mind and do not behave in any manner that will tarnish the brightness of that declaration.”

— Divine Discourse, Prashanthi Nilayam,
16 October 1974

“Do not feel that this is an obligation imposed on you by the rules of the Organisation or by the person nominated as your leader. Do not feel that the scarf and badge that you wear are impediments to freedom. They are reminders of the high mission to which you have been initiated, the keys to your Realisation of reality through the saadhana of seva.”

— Divine Discourse, Poornachandra Auditorium, 14 November 1975

“Do not put the badge in your pocket when your work here is over and the festival is finished, and when you leave for home to resume your old avocations and your discarded habits. This is not a three-day thamaasha (show).

This is a life-time’s pilgrim march. The badge must get inscribed on the heart, indelibly, for life.” •

Prayer Written By Bhagwan

O Lord, take my love, and let it flow in
fullness of devotion to Thee;

O Lord, take my hands, and let them
work incessantly for Thee;

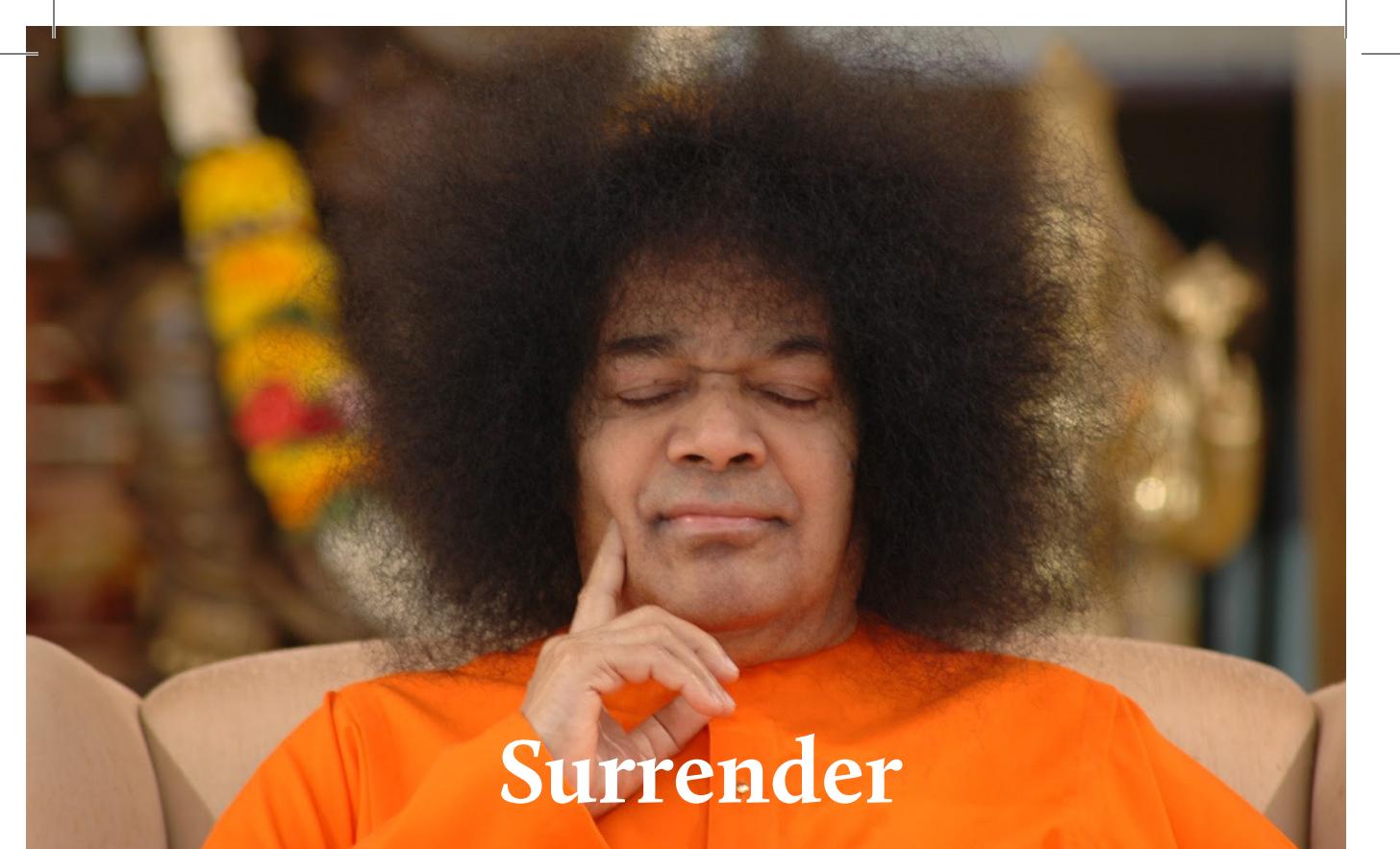
O Lord, take my soul, and let it be
merged in One with Thee;

O Lord, take my mind and thoughts,
and let them be in tune with Thee;

O Lord, take my everything, and let
me be an instrument to work for Thee.

— Sri Sathya Sai —





Surrender

“Let Me take care of all your business.
I shall be the one who will think about them.

I am waiting for nothing else than your surrender to Me,
and then you do not have to worry any more about anything.

Say farewell to all fears and discouragement.

Stop being anxious !

I always think of you, but I can help you completely
only when you rely fully on Me

I shall guide you only if you completely surrender to Me.
And when

I must lead you on a different path than the one that you expect,

I carry you in My arms.”

— Sri Sathya Sai —
(Extract from Surrender Prayer)

Pledge given by Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

“S wami, save me from any act of commission or omission which will affect adversely the three qualifications You have laid down, namely;

- I have to be eager aspirant for spiritual progress;
- I must have full faith in the Name that the organisation bears and in spreading the name in the manner suited to HIS Message and Majesty.
- I must be worthy to have won recognition as a good person.

Bless me, O Sai, with the skill, intelligence and enthusiasm necessary for the task I am dedicating myself to carry out for my own uplift. Guide me along the correct path; shower on me Your Grace so that I may earn a fair name in this attempt; guard me from temptation and wrong steps” •



Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, India.
— Prashanthi Nilayam —

All India President
Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations

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