

OM SAI RAM

I offer my Humble Pranams at the Divine Lotus Feet of Our Beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who is here now, permeating everything, around us, at our side and in our hearts, and I pray for His loving guidance to this conference.

Dear Brothers and sisters,
SAI RAM to all of you

On my first trip to see Him, on January 1982, I went to Madras, today Chennai, to meet Him, he was on a trip to that city.

One day there was a public meeting at Abbotsbury that he attended and I was seated not far from Him, so in one moment I had the idea of presenting to Him my visiting card to introduce myself. I was so naïve, I thought He did not know me, but it was me who did not know Him, He knew me from the completely.

I approached Him and no one stopped me, so I was able to offer to Him my visiting card. He looked at me, took the card, and, smiling slapped my hand saying, “You are very lucky.”

Yes, dear brothers and sisters, I am very lucky, and so are all of you! We just have to realize how lucky we are.

Why are we here today? Because we are very, very, very lucky! We are here because:

- (1) Each one of us received an invitation from the Lord and our hearts responded;
- (2) Of the efforts of so many lives, we gained this divine opportunity to be on the spiritual path and have as Our Master and Guru, the *Avatar* Himself;
- (3) Each one of us believes that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the *Poorna Avatar* of this Age and our Master and Lord;
- (4) Due to our devotion to Bhagavan, we have decided to offer to Him our time, energy, skills, and talents to selflessly serve with our brothers and sisters in the organization that bears His sacred name;
- (5) Deep inside, we feel and believe that we will find here new answers to how we can serve better in the Sai organization and be better instruments in His mission;

But it is important also to recognize that we are here because:

- (6) We failed in our last incarnation to awaken and realize our true Self. Now, we have a unique opportunity to realize our divine destiny. Now is the time to ask ourselves how we can take full advantage of this incredible opportunity

In summary, we are here today because:

- (7) We have taken a commitment to work harder and have more responsibilities and commitment in this sacred organization.

This World Conference is the culmination of all the Pre-world Conferences that were held in all the zones of the World. The theme is the Sai *Ideal* Organization and the Sai *Ideal* Life.

I would like to share my belief that the Sai organization in itself is Ideal, and what is needed is that its members become ideal, so then everything will be much better.

What is the Sai organization? Let me start by telling you what is not:

- (1) It is not a political organization,
- (2) It is not a social club,

- (3) It is not a spiritual organization for a small elite group of people that have the good fortune of knowing a special secret, the identity of the *Avatar* of the Age.

The Sai organization is a spiritual organization for the upliftment of the human consciousness. The Sai organization is an expression of the Will of Bhagavan, it is an expression of His Divine Love, and the Divine Love always expands. The Sai centers are an oasis in the dessert of worldly life. In the Sai centers we can take refuge of the distractions of the world, we recover the correct vision, and we see more clearly the reality.

The Sai organization is unique, Why?

Because we have as our guide and Master the Lord Himself. We have here an unbelievable opportunity to transform ourselves, discover our true self, realize our Divinity, and help our brothers and sisters everywhere to know that God permeates everything and resides in our own hearts.

Another reason why it is Unique: each one of us has a direct and personal relation with Sai. He manifests Himself in our lives in one way or another, no matter where we are—in the USA, Alaska, Africa, Malaysia, Argentina, or in the moon. He will be there presenting His visiting card that touches our hearts and fills us with joy and delight. It is this direct heart to heart relation that we all have with Him with Our Master and Lord that makes this organization unique.

Bhagavan does not want us to become missionaries of a new Religion, *No*. He wants us to practice His teachings in all aspects of our lives, to become living examples of His Truth and Love. This is the best way we can preach, by the way we are, act, and feel.

We have to start by recognizing that the main message of Bhagavan, His most important teaching, is *Selfless Love*. We cannot be real Sai devotees if we don't live this love, if we don't express this love in all our actions and interactions. We have to add this quality of love to all the activities that we perform in the Sai centers.

The life of Bhagavan should be our teaching. He is spreading His love to all corners of the world, touching the hearts of millions of people of all countries and continents.

You are here because you have accepted roles of responsibility in the Sai organization. You are office bearers.

There are different kind of leaders, but we should never, ever be bureaucrats or dictators. Every leader must encourage and inspire.

It is our good fortune that out of millions of human beings that populate this planet, we have been selected to hold this responsibility. Nothing happens unless Bhagavan wills it.

A Sai office bearer should not act with ego or anger. This is the opposite of what Sai stands for. Swami says that for spiritual transformation the qualities that are needed are kindness, love, forbearance, and compassion.

We have to open the doors of the Sai centers by receiving the newcomers with a smile and love. The Sai centers should be centers of excellence, an excellence of love.

As members of the Sai organization we have a twofold responsibility.

- (1) Intensify our personal *sadhana* (spiritual practices)
- (2) Spread the divine message to wider and wider sectors of our societies by becoming spiritual exemplars.

Our goal is not to bring more people to the Sai centers. We do not proselytize. We just want to share with all the people revelations given by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba about the real purpose of our lives and how we can achieve it.

Speaking about His message is like planting seeds of spirituality in the people that are listening. One day, in this lifetime or another, the seeds will sprout and will change them forever. This is the best service we can render to another human being.

In this context, in one discourse Bhagavan gave on the occasion of the celebration of His Divine Birthday, He said, “The most important service you can render is to work in the Sai organization, Those that leave the Sai organization are unfortunate. Don’t be unfortunate yourselves, don’t leave the Sai organization.”

We have to ask ourselves if we are doing enough. Let me give you the simple answer: *No!* We are not doing enough. It will be enough the day we awake and realize our real Self. Until then we must do more.

This conference has also the objective to inspire us to intensify our personal *sadhana* and have more yearning to realize our Self, to motivate each of us to ask ourselves the questions:

How can I advance more in my spiritual quest?

How can I become a better instrument in the Divine Plan?

Our personal *sadhana* and our work in the Sai organization should not be just another activity of our lives. Swami cautions us not to be part time devotees. We are here to learn a divine way of life. A divine life is when we think in God all the time, when we never forget Him. If we think of Him all the time He will be with us all the time.

We have to ask ourselves what kind of commitment we have with the Sai organization, if we just want recognition or to have a better place in *darshan* when we come to Prasanthi Nilayam. Or if our commitment arise for our love for Swami and our desire to share this love we have received with one and all.

We must feel that the opportunity to serve as office bearers has been granted by Swami Himself for us to purify ourselves and gain His approval. We can achieve this only if we work selflessly.

We have to live ideal lives, and then we will have a Sai *Ideal* Organization. Let’s not miss this perspective. Our goal is to awaken and inspire other to awaken. If we forget this, we will be here in this spiritual organization with mundane ways and mundane objectives.

When the Sai organization was formed in Argentina, almost 30 years ago, we were a very small group of devotees, but we had the deep and intense desire to share the wonderful news we learnt from Swami with as many people as possible. We went to all the places we were invited to speak about Swami and His message. It didn’t matter if there was just a couple of people in the meeting. Once, we traveled several hours to a city to speak about Swami and only two people came. We did not care. We were happy to have the opportunity to speak about Swami.

Today, I would say that at least 80% of the people of Argentina know about Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Not all of them are devotees, but they have heard about Him about His message, and there are centers in all parts of the country from the north to the city near the South Pole.

Swami wants to give us the courage to dare to become divine.

The Sai organization has a way to work to fulfill its destiny, Swami stated this very clearly: *Unity, purity, divinity*.

The first step is to have unity, unity based on a feeling of brotherhood and common purpose. There is no place for competition in the Sai organization. We are all brothers and sisters brought here by Bhagavan to help each other to advance in the spiritual path. We are all fellow pilgrims moving on the path together. When we learn to keep our mouths shut and our hearts open, then all will be all right.

When we have an atmosphere of love in the Sai centers, we will feel purity. Then we will feel the divine Presence all the time. We have to elevate ourselves to the level of His purity, His Love, His Truth.

Dear brothers and sisters I want to conclude sharing with you an experience with Swami. He said, “I will not disappoint my devotees.”

Let’s not disappoint Him, let not miss the appointment with Him, He is waiting for us for ages. Let’s say Yes, Yes, Yes to Him and offer ourselves fully at His Divine Lotus Feet. We are going to be not just witnesses but active participants in the most wonderful change of human consciousness in all History.

The time is now.

We are ready.

Let's be willing!

We must take a decision to work harder with more enthusiasm. The time is now!!!

We have to become torch bearers of His light. Through the example of our lives, His light has to shine in us, in the smile of our faces, in the happiness of our hearts, and has to touch the hearts of all the people we contact, waking in them the interest in spirituality and a life guided by the human values.

Let's surrender our lives at His beautiful and divine Lotus Feet.

Let's work together, united, and face the challenges that may appear with trust and confidence.

Let's work with energy, determination and happiness.

Let's be filled with Enthusiasm.

The divine command is to expand and bring His divine message to all corners of the world. May each one of us become beacons of His Light, may we become pure channels through which His love flows to all.

I pray to our Beloved Bhagavan to help each one of us to become better instruments in His divine Mission, and I thank Him with all my heart for the opportunity He has given all of us.

JAI SAI RAM!!