

From: Narendranath Reddy nreddy@sathyasai.org
Subject: Love is the Answer - SSSIO is open for Dialogue
Date: June 29, 2021 at 1:59 PM



To: Managing Trustee managingtrustee@sssct.org

Cc: Nimish Pandya nimish.pandya@ssssoindia.org, Vijay L Kelkar kelkar.vijay42@gmail.com, Dr V. Mohan DrMohanS@diabetes.ind.in, K. Chakravarthi krishchakravarthi@icloud.com, S. S. Naganand naganand.ss@gmail.com, Ryuko Hira hmi@ryuko.info, TTK Bhagavat bhagavatkk@gmail.com, William Harvey wh108@usa.net, Marianne Meyer mmeyer@sathyasai.org, Anupom Ganguli aganguli@sathyasai.org, Rohan Balasuriya rbalasuriya@sathyasai.org, Gary Belz gbelz@msn.com, Leonardo Gutter lgutter@sathyasai.org, H.J. Dora hjdora2004@yahoo.co.in

**"YOUR OWN ACTIONS SHAPE YOUR DESTINY"
~ Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**

Dear Brother R.J.Rathnakar,

Om Sri Sai Ram

I hope you are doing well by Swami's Grace.

I received your email and was disappointed. I am dismayed to learn that you have decided to abandon all discussions about including the Sri Sathya Sai International Organization (SSSIO) in the Global Council. This is a marked departure from our cordial and positive discussions during our online meeting on May 30 to jointly establish the Global Council. I wish to address several comments you have made in your email, to clarify for the record.

The fact that you consider Appointments and Restructuring the SSSIO Committees and Subcommittees as "the very main clauses of the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council" indicates an audacity and obsession with imposing the SSSCT's authority and supervision on the SSSIO – which would lead to extensive reorganization and restaffing of the Organization founded by our Lord, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This is sure to disrupt the ongoing excellent work of the SSSIO, which has a proven track record over five decades. What you consider as primary clauses clearly shows that you give more importance to supervision, authority, and control than the Divine mission, which is about humanitarian service, and sharing Swami's message of love.

SSSIO leaders and I have clearly stated to you and the Trustees of the SSSCT on many occasions that we will never go against the Divine

Command, dismantling the Organization founded, nurtured, and guided by Swami. At the joint online meeting of May 30, 2021, the SSSCT representatives, including you, affirmed that there will be no change to the structure and functions of the SSSIIO. It was explicitly on this basis that we had agreed to (1) issue a joint statement with the SSSCT and SSSSO about the Global Council; and (2) redraft the Terms of Reference for the Global Council, with the primary goal to bring greater unity and cooperation and obey the Divine Command of Swami. Please note that unity and cooperation as equals does not mean supervision and command and control by the SSSCT or SSSGC. Since you decided to abruptly stop all discussions and dialogue we had no choice but announce our decision not to join the Global Council.

One should follow Swami's teachings and put the greater good of devotees and the Organization above our personal aspirations and wishes, setting aside egos and personal agendas for self-aggrandizement. No one is permanent on this earth, but the divine mission is eternal, and will go on with or without any SSSIIO officer or Trustee of the SSSCT. So, let us implicitly follow the instructions of our Lord regarding the divine mission given to each one of us.

There was never a change or indecisiveness in SSSIIO's position. I have informed you repeatedly that our decisions are unanimous, and taken jointly by the members of Prasanthi Council, directors of Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, and Zone Chairs. Many of them were appointed personally by Swami Himself and have served in the Divine Mission for several decades. Your accusations and insinuations about devoted and dedicated SSSIIO officers are full of venom, jealousy, and vindictiveness completely unbecoming of a Sai devotee, leave alone Managing Trustee of the Central Trust that bears Swami's sacred name.

You state that, "we gave our best to unite SSSIIO with Prasanthi

Nilayam, but SSSIO did not come forward.” – this statement is completely false and a blasphemy! We are always united with Prasanthi Nilayam. Swami is our Divine Mother and Father and He told us many times that Prasanthi Nilayam is our home, and we can visit it at any time. Our connection with Swami is heart-to-heart and Prasanthi Nilayam will always be our Divine Home. Thus, we are always connected with Prasanthi Nilayam, the heavenly abode of our Divine mother and father. Anyone who creates an obstacle to this assurance given by Swami is committing a great *Adharmic* action which goes against Swami’s unconditional love.

It is deplorable and shocking that you called the “Divine Command” an “excuse” in your email. This is the most disrespectful way to show faith in our Lord and Divine Parent – who has sustained, nurtured, and guided us in the spiritual path. The Divine Command was unambiguous, authentic, and prophetic. SSSIO will always obey Swami’s command implicitly, immediately, and completely as our life breath. I cannot overemphasize this point. The Central Trust can never be equated or considered at the same level as the Lord of the Universe, our Guru and God – Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Your unilateral and abrupt decision to stop the dialogue, discussions, and communications with the SSSIO is a sad reflection of your lack of sincerity and understanding. Every member of the SSSCT, SSSSO and SSSIO who participated in the online meeting of May 30 clearly heard the Trustees state that we will jointly work on a Terms of Reference for the Global Council that is acceptable to all parties. If you are sincere about the Global Council as a unifying and coordinating body, you would have continued the discussions with us. Many SSSIO officers spent countless hours in drafting the document that you rejected in a matter of hours – dismissing the SSSIO position summarily and causing anguish to many, many devotees. This again shows the

peremptory and totalitarian approach of the Managing Trustee.

You have given an ultimatum to the SSSIO to join the Global Council unconditionally, without any further communication, dialogue, and discussion. However, spiritual seekers surrender only to God unconditionally, not to a person or an organization.

We hope that the SSSCT and SSSIO can continue their mutually respectful and collaborative interactions in the future. In spite of our differences about the roles of the SSSCT and SSSIO and their charters, let us continue our respective functions, as given by Lord Sai, to serve the devotees. We have enjoyed friendly, cooperative, and cordial relations for decades, as children of the same Divine Father and Mother. Let us continue this tradition, in the future. Even though you have closed the doors for discussions, we lovingly welcome all efforts to bring unity and cooperation, with open hearts.

We pray to Swami for His love, blessings, and guidance to continue serving Him in the divine mission, as per His will.

Jai Sai Ram.
Lovingly in the service of Sai,
Dr. Narendranath Reddy.

From: Managing Trustee <managingtrustee@sssct.org>

Sent: Saturday, June 26, 2021 12:05 AM

To: Narendranath Reddy <nreddy@sathyasai.org>

Cc: Nimish Pandya <nimish.pandya@ssssoindia.org>

Subject: With deep anguish...

"YOUR OWN ACTIONS SHAPE YOUR DESTINY"

- BABA

Dr. Narendranath Reddy,

Saíram.

Received your mail rejecting the very main clauses of the Sri Sathva Sai Global

received your mail rejecting the very main clauses of the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council. It is important to mention that you are aware of these clauses right from 16th November 2020, day on which the concept note was circulated to you and Mr. Nimish Pandya. You are also aware that this Unifying initiative, SSSGC, was announced on the most auspicious occasion of Bhagawan's 95th birthday celebrations.

In spite of receiving uncivil and irrational letters from office bearers of SSSIIO accusing SSSCT Trustees and several zoom calls you and your team conducted where vicious and venomous attacks were made, we from SSSCT confined only to giving clarifications to your accusations and tried to appeal to devotees in various centres across countries. We readily came forward for an online zoom meeting accepting your requests on 30th May 2021, putting aside all the innuendos that were made on SSSCT and personal attacks your team heaped on us.

Please understand that we are in the organisations bearing the divine name of "Sri Sathya Sai" where there is neither place for ego nor for self aggrandizement. This is a beautiful organisation created by the loving lord for the sake of devotees and to uplift the entire mankind. This is not our personal organisation where we can bring in our personal agendas and idiosyncrasies. There should not be any clamor for power and positions and endless greed to hold on to our chairs. The main purpose for which we come to the Lotus feet of Sai or join the Sai Organisation is to lose our identity into Him but not to create an identity for ourselves and revel in it.

Painstakingly we have clarified all your concerns and reiterated the position of SSSCT that SSSGC is a Unifying, Coordinating and Supervising body which will not interfere with the structure and functioning of SSSIIO and SSSSO. How can we make it a mere superficial body as you are expecting? Please be assured that SSSCT did not initiate SSSGC either to disturb any organisation or to undermine any one of you. If you and your team have any prejudices, preconceived notions, mistrust and wrong opinions about individuals, then you need to deal with such perceptions yourselves, as they are concerned with individual personalities. They cannot be rubbed onto the institutions. Unfortunately you seem to place personal interests above the interests of these sacred and noble institutions started by the Avatar Himself!

In all our exchanges in several meetings, calls and emails, we could not find any logical reason in your unwillingness to accept SSSGC, except your often repeated excuse of 'divine command' as published by Dr. Michael Goldstien, in Sanathana Sarathi, 2006. Also, at times you made us feel that SSSIIO was only trying to forestall SSSCT actions and was indulging in procrastination. Maybe you are being misguided by Ganguly , Sadanand and the likes!

Our intentions and actions determine the future, and not mere words. You bring up issues like jurisdictions, independence, etc. I wonder whether we understand and appreciate the good fortune of being in such a noble, Divine Sai mission ? Swami always emphasised on "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam " and that is exactly the fundamental basis of SSSGC.

What jurisdiction can we give to Bhagawan? The whole universe is His jurisdiction!!

.....
All organisations bearing His name cannot and should not be divided in the name of jurisdiction. It goes against the very principles that Swami enunciated throughout His Avatarhood!

I feel sad to recollect that in one of your letters, you have mentioned "... removing, or replacing the jurisdictional duties of appointments and reporting of officers, means taking away one of the primal functions of the SSSIO.." The primal function of any Sri Sathya Sai organisation anywhere in the world should be following Bhagawan's spiritual teachings, participating in community service activities, spreading love and bringing peace and harmony to the society! What have we made of these divine organisations? No point talking about ideals to others, ignoring them ourselves as though they don't apply to us. You and the team flaunt authority and accuse us of being autocratic and authoritarian !!

We fail to understand the circumstances in which you are in, due to which you are being indecisive. Maybe your team members who attacked SSSGC and SSSCT under your direction must be questioning your joining SSSGC! It was you and SSSIO which sought our meeting after about five months of animosity. We readily agreed and came forward for the sake of brotherhood and it was once again you who was in a hurry to release the Joint Statement and first to release the joint statement to Sai devotees worldwide! You have also registered the entire SSSIO, including all the nations and centres en bloc on the SSSGC portal. Now you and the team are backtracking ! In spite of the clarification and comfort, I and Sri Nimish Pandya gave you during the discussions, you are going back on your word, citing your team members unwillingness!! Only Swami can help to deal with this instability in thinking. I do not know how you will face the devotees? How embarrassed your national council presidents would be to go to centers and face devotees?!

Dr Narendranath Reddy, We have given our 100% and made all possible efforts sincerely to assure you and your team. It is clear to us that you understand our intent, but you appear to be not understanding. Being a reputed and respected organisation, SSSCT is not in a position to be part of any discussion wherein you are unable to come up with any clarity and we are unable to make any headway!! The responsibility of convincing the SSSIO team is entirely yours as we are not involved in that. Please do not blame SSSCT and Trustees or any one for that matter, for your wish to stay away from SSSGC and Prasanthi Nilayam!

Let me affirm that we gave our best to unite SSSIO with Prasanthi Nilayam but SSSIO did not come forward. Top leaders should have clear thinking and cannot be dilly dallying. Without clarity, leaders lose credibility. We have no right to take devotees for granted and think that the centers and devotees will follow us just because we have some positions in the organizations. Expecting devotees to swing to our tunes is not good. Swami will be deeply hurt when we cause confusion amongst devotees. Also, every office bearer should be here only for Swami and not for any of us. If they think they are for "leaders", they don't deserve to be part of the noble mission.

.....

You need to appreciate our position that we will be moving forward on the SSSGC. We from SSSCT are committed to the SSSGC and that commitment is made to Bhagawan. We will abide by it. As far as SSSGC is concerned, all Sai organisations are already part of it. We will soon be communicating with all the countries and centers.

We, along with all those Sai children who joined Prasanthi Nilayam, will be making the offering of SSSGC at the Lotus Feet on Gurupoornima, 24th July 2021.

The doors of SSSGC will always be open for you and your team in future, but it will be without any dialogue, mails or calls and will be unconditional. Let me also affirm that SSSCT has initiated SSSGC as it is Bhagawan's own directive and a safeguard for the future.

I am enclosing Bhagawan's discourse clips for ready reference.

In Sai Service
R J Rathnakar