

WHO IS SATHYA SAI BABA

Sai Baba was born on the 23rd of November 1926 in Puttaparthi, a small village in the Andhra Pradesh region, in the Central-South of India. From birth his life was a clear manifestation of his supernatural origins.

Thousands of people have been, and continue to be, testimony to the supernatural powers of Sathya Sai Baba. Without ever studying he knows all of the Sacred Scriptures, of every religion. He converses with the learned, philosophers, doctors and scientists from all over the world, showing the depth of his knowledge in all the sciences: physical, metaphysical and spiritual. He answers questions from his devotees, before they have had the time to verbally ask them. He knows the past, present and future of each person and often proves it. He often appears, at the same time, in different places. He hears the calls for help from devotees all over the world and immediately saves them from danger or difficulty. He has the power to manipulate energy, and therefore can materialise objects out of nothing, change them or make them disappear. He can cure the most incurable illness and has power over the forces of Nature and of the Elements.

But his biggest and indisputable miracle is that of changing the human soul.

Baba does not give importance to his miracles. He refers to them as a mean of calling the attention of those distracted by the events and problems of every-day life. He says:

"Do not give importance to miracles. Do not exaggerate their significance. The greatness of my power is not found within the miracles but in my Love. All of the miracles are nothing but drops in that Ocean of Love. Do not be blinded by the sight of the drops but see the Ocean and all that lies within its depths."

His power and His Love should not lead people to believe that who ever asks for a cure will have it granted. Some face a difficult journey in critical health hoping that the contact with Baba will grant them the cure. But it is not like that. Sai Baba knows when it is necessary to remove a physical illness and when instead it is more important to infuse the patient with energy and courage to render him stoic in front of death and suffering. He knows everything about each one of us and therefore knows what is best for us and our spiritual growth, even when his decisions are beyond our comprehension.

Sai Baba does not belong to any religion and does not preach any. He was born in a Hindu culture, but his Mission goes beyond any religious institution as he intends to show mankind the road leading to Divine Conscience through respect of universal spiritual teachings.

Sai Baba does not ask for veneration. **He instructs everyone to honour God in the way they feel best and in the manner they have been raised and taught, using the cult and prayer of their own religion,** at least until the person transcends from the religious to the spiritual, passing from an outer search to an inner one.

Sai Baba is an international personality. All of the world speaks of him and many political and religious leaders, scientists, scholars, and Oriental and Western teachers go to him for advice on their social and spiritual behaviour.

Sai Baba is a teacher. **He has founded a free education system (from Elementary to University), where next to government programmes, lessons are given based on the five values, which he calls the Human Values: Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-Violence. These values are aimed at helping the student join the social fabric while remaining faithful to the principles of honesty and righteousness and the concept of service to the needy.** Many people in the scholastic sector, after having evaluated the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values system, have fully adopted it. Graduates from Sai Baba's Universities are requested all over the world, not only for their

high level of scholastic preparation but for their integrity which represents a guarantee for correct and professional behaviour.

Sai Baba is a Teacher of Truth. His mission does not require a new cult or religion. **His main objectives are:**

A. Help the individual become aware of the divinity that is in them and thus to behave coherently with this truth.

"In man is the Truth. In man is the Wisdom. In man is Infinity."(Baba)

B. Push people into fulfilling their duty to family, the nation and themselves.

"Star the day with Love.Fill the day with Love. Spend the day with Love. End the day with Love. This is the way to God." (Baba)

C. Be sure that the values of Truth, Honesty, Love, Peace and Non-Violence are present in every human relationship.

" The true human value is the purity with which we use the instruments of Truth, Righteousness, Peace and Love. Words do not make the Human Values. Express your thought, but then put into practice what you have thought and said." (Baba).

D. Manage to transform every person into a searcher of truth.

"As a thread passes through a series of diamonds, so shall the thread of love pass through and unite together all human beings. The Principle of Love is the strongest cohesive force which unites all spiritual practices, all religions, all faiths, all Holy Scriptures and all philosophies. You will not receive the Grace of God with a mere change of religion. You must change in your mind, your way of thinking. You will not gain the qualities of God limiting yourself to a change of clothes, you must change your qualities." (Baba)

His metaphysical revelations open the gates of the unknown.

Sai Baba is the founder of the Sathya Sai Organisation with branches all over the world.

The Organisation has over 30.000 centres spread over 137 countries and expresses itself through three wings: Spiritual, Educational and Service.

The Spiritual wing covers the ethnic and devotional aspects of behaviour. The Educational wing covers teaching of the 5 Human Values: Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence. The Service wing co-ordinates a volunteer service for the needy as a way of realising a higher spirituality. Sai Baba's work is characterised by the continuous creating of hospitals, schools and homes for the needy with constant free service.

In November 1991 the most sophisticated and modern policlinic in India was inaugurated, with the presence of the Prime Minister and other important figures, free for every person on this earth because by the very fact of their being born, they deserve the best in the world.

Baba has never asked for money for any of these initiatives. He sensitises and invites those that can to help and benefit everyone.

His aim is to transform the soul of every person; his miracle is the Love which He brings to the hearts of his devotees for the benefit of all mankind.

His life is His Message, and one of the objectives He hopes to reach is the unification of all religions:

a. There is only one religion: The Religion of Love.

b. There is only one caste: The Human Race.

c. There is only one language: The Language of the Heart.

d. There is only one God: He is Everywhere.

Thousands of devotees gather in India from all over the world every day of the year to meet Sai Baba.

When a person travels to Puttaparthi the thing most aspired to is an interview, to obtain advice, a benediction or to be healed. Some are directly invited by Baba, while he passes among the crowd. There are no appointments or rules for those called, Baba decides who to invite and the interviews are only given at Baba's discretion and will, with no thought to status, religion or social standing. During his walk among the devotees, he collects requests, creates vibhuti with a movement of his hand, (an ash that has uncountable thaumaturgical and spiritual powers), or he materialises objects which he offers to heal an infirmity or just to gratify a devotee.

Sai Baba welcomes all with Love and Humility.

"I have come to serve you," he announces. He is interested in the problems of everyone giving support and courage to solve them, he gives strength by entering into the hearts of everyone and changing their destiny.

The true nucleus of his Mission is wanting to demonstrate Brotherhood among men, unity of all creatures, the duty to love and serve everyone, but the final aim of His Mission is the single unified vision of the Universe.

His biggest miracle is the transformation of the human soul. His strength lies in leading mankind along the path of good and love, and in revealing the great mystery of life and the universe.

"God is in you. Find Him".

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THE SPIRITUAL WING

Sai Baba wanted a specific sector in His Organisation dedicated to the development of an inner-life in those who were a part of it. Sai Baba says: *"Dedicate yourselves to any activity but never lose sight of your true nature, that of the Spirit."* It is important not to fall into error with the use of the term "spirituality". Many confuse it with ritual, while in reality the aim of this wing is to valorise the true human nature with any means to reach the supreme truth. In the Sathya Sai Organisation spirituality is developed through study groups, devotional singing, silent sitting, discipline and good conduct.

Sai Baba's study group invites each person to reflect on and face, in a global manner, a spiritual quest. Baba says: *"The aim is not information but transformation; not instruction but construction. Theory is heavy if it is not put to good use, because only then you are illuminated with wisdom and assimilate it into daily life. Every activity is valid and worthy because it contributes to the discovery of truth, both in oneself and in nature. In the study group a subject is chosen and each person must discuss the significance like in a round-table. Each person expresses their opinion and in the end conclusions are drawn. If you only read, doubts would remain. The subject is examined and the group studies it from different points of view. It is like a diamond that has various angles, with only one flat face, the one on the top and from which all can be seen. The task of the group is to find the upper-face."*

Devotional singing. Science confirms that the vibrations in singing act on the psyche raising it to another level. Therefore, devotional singing prepares the right mental conditions to best face an inner quest. Baba says: *"Devotional singing is a method of training the mind and extending it towards eternal values....it incites you to find the truth, to look at the beauty of God and to taste His beatitude. It encourages man to dive into his inner self and become his true self."*

Silent sitting has the aim of realising a united vision of everything for the person on a spiritual quest, a mean that allows him to discover the hidden springs of Love, Wisdom, Joy and Peace. Baba says: *"Meditation means fusion with God. it is an inner activity of man that commands a deep subjective peace, the emptying of the mind and the immersion of oneself in the light that is born from the divine spark within."*

Discipline in a spiritual quest allows the growth of one's own knowledge. Baba says: *"Discipline is essential for success in any human venture: economic, social, formative or simply material and mundane. It is even more important in achieving spiritual success. You can be devotees, you carry out the tasks that you are given, but if you do not have discipline it is useless. Restrictions, rules and self-control represent the road which leads to the goal of self-realisation."*

Moral conduct is reflected in carrying out one's duty without ever causing suffering to anyone and in helping the needy. Baba says: *"You were born to carry out a duty to your species, this duty should be carried out in the best way possible without thinking about the fruit it may bear. Fill the ideals with duty, devotion and discipline. Devotion is put to the test under discipline and should follow the directives of duty."*
The carrying out of one's duty is combined with good behaviour.

The spiritual teaching proposed by Sai Baba points towards identifying an objective to be reached, the road to travel and the best vehicle to travel in.

The Sathya Sai Organisation organises conferences and encounters to better know Sai Baba and His message, to discover the difference between religiousness and spirituality, illusion and reality, and becoming and being.

When we walk along the spiritual path, the only guarantee of success is in the sincerity of the quest, the constancy and the faith in reaching the finish-line. Baba says: *"There is only one main road along the spiritual journey: love; love for every being as a manifestation of the same divinity, that is the true essence of Self. Only faith can assure the constant presence of God in your inner-self and grant you the joy and courage needed to bring the journey to God to its end."*

EDUCATIONAL WING

Sai Baba founded an educational system (from Elementary to University) completely free, which combines government programmes with lessons of life based on the 5 values, which He calls Human Values: Love, Truth, Righteousness, Peace and Non-violence.

Sai Baba says: *"To live as true human beings, the Human Values should be practised every day of one's life."*

These values have the aim of helping the student enter the social fabric while keeping faith with the principles of honesty, righteousness and the concept of service to the needy. Many personalities in the school sector, after having weighed the Sathya Sai Education system in Human Values, have adopted it fully. Graduates from the Sai Universities are asked for the world over, not only for their high scholastic preparation but their integrity, which is a prestigious guarantee of correct and professional behaviour.

Sai Baba says: *"The main aim of the Organisation is to reawaken the human values, eliminate the beastly tendencies and see divinity blossom in mankind."*

The Educational Wing of the Sathya Sai Organisation Italy shares the task with other countries in the world in offering children, youths and adults diversified programmes in Education in the Human Values according to the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba.

In the various Italian Centres conferences open to everyone and study groups on arguments, chosen by the participants, and then discussed in depth together with their practical applications, are organised.

For Sai children there are encounters and summer camps where, through play, practical arts, fairy stories, all in a coherent didactic programme, they are educated in the human values.

In Italian schools, Sai teachers are inserting the Sai Education System in the form of a magazine for children called "Growing together" which is also distributed through the centres.

This is to teach human values as while we are not able to change the world into a place of bliss, we can perhaps use the world to change us.

The aim of the Educational Wing is to delve further into the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba and in particular to motivate everyone to put the human values into practice in everyday-life. Sai Baba says: *"The secret of education is in learning to put it into practice"*.

The teachings of Sai Baba help people turn their gaze towards the infinite in search of their own divinity; they help the person on a spiritual quest to find the most direct path; they help the materialist to rediscover his inner-self; they help the atheist to rediscover a spiritual foundation.

The aim of the Educational Wing is to allow everyone to come into contact with his true reality. According to the teachings of Sai Baba, it is possible to reach a divine level of consciousness even living in contact with society, it is sufficient not to get overwhelmed by the mundane and to manage he proposes an infallible method: put into practice the values in mankind:

Love- as a vital energy, fundamental strength that unites the whole universe and that the individual expresses with humility, charity, tolerance, patience, compassion, comprehension and participation.

Truth- told lovingly in the consciousness of the omnipresent Divinity. Man should identify himself with his consciousness not his body. This Divine Essence is our real vital strength, our true reality, the sub-level of creation. This existence is eternal, indestructible, unalterable, equal for everyone, like electric current is the same but the light-bulbs are many yet different. If we are this consciousness, then the aim of our existence is that of realising it in full.

Correct Action- understood as consciousness of one's duty. Every person should carry out their duty to the best of their capability without ever thinking of what they may gain.

Peace- as unity in difference, as inner peace or mental quiet and finally,

Non-violence- which accepts everything and forgives everything. Acceptance, respect and tolerance bring union, brotherhood, equality and cohabitation.

Sai Baba says: *"May your heart be as soft as butter, may your mind be as fresh as moonlight and may your words be as sweet as nectar"*.

The result from practising the human values is an altruistic and compassionate person, honest, just, serene and happy because free from worries and fears. The result is a spiritual transformation that modifies both the character of the individual and the social behaviour for the benefit of the world.

Baba says: *" Only when the individual is good does society advance, when society improves so does the nation, the well-being of the individual, society and nation is based on observing the human values. As a consequence, the spiritual transformation of the individual is the base for peace on Earth."*

SERVICE WING

"Service to animals and people is a laudable spiritual discipline. To serve your fellow man is the highest of spiritual disciplines. The life of each person is essentially full of action, but together with activities connected to the person's interests, every human should take part in a service activity. Service becomes sacred when it is carried out without egoism or personal gain."

"Bliss is obtained more easily in serving others than in serving one's self. Offer your service lovingly to those in need and you will experience the joy that it brings. Each of you should become a volunteer worker, ready to help those in need. Do not give importance to what others say when you give service. Make sure that compassion and self-denial are your eyes; make sure that altruism is your breath and love your tongue. Make sure that peace rings in your ears. These are the five elements with which you should live.

God will not ask you what seva you have done. He will ask you why you did it, what intention pushed you to do it. God will look for quality: quality of the heart, pureness of mind and sanctity in four reasons.

Sathya Sai Baba proposes himself as a model of life. His life is characterised by social work achieved by activating thousands of people to serve the needy through the Sathya Sai Organisation, which he proposed and inspired. In India his work has led to the adoption of about 10,000 villages which have been able to obtain structures aimed at improving living conditions by improving sanitary conditions, by teaching agricultural technology and improving the cultural level of the population by providing prepared educational programmes which eliminate illiteracy and social outcasts. He has opened schools, from Elementary to University, Assistance Centres and hospitals, all completely free. In 1991, the most sophisticated and modern policlinic was opened in Puttaparthi. It is completely free and open to any person on Earth for the simple fact that they have been born and have the right to the best. This hospital structure was built thanks to donations offered willingly from thousands of devotees, providing the funds for the most up-to-date scientific technology. It is run by hundreds of specialised doctors and paramedics and volunteers some of which Westerners, who guarantee the highest medical levels in the hospital. The Cardiology, Neurosurgery, Urology and Oncology Departments are all running full-time.

The Sathya Sai Organisation World Seva is carried out in 137 countries and works out of 30,000 centres, carrying out volunteer activities for the needy as an element of reaching the higher spiritual levels of mankind.

In Italy, the Service Wing of the Sathya Sai Organisation, proposes to reawaken in people the knowledge that every action taken inspired by the fundamental principles of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence is carried out with disinterest and freely in brotherhood.

To that end the Association programmes, co-ordinates and develops projects and social initiatives aimed at protecting the psychophysical state of the needy. In particular, assistance is directed towards: the sick, needy families, the aged, the disabled and children through a network of home-assistance and distribution of food, clothes and after-school care, with time also for nature and animals. The criteria used in choosing the needy follows Baba's guidelines which is aimed at the most fragile and abandoned members of society. Baba says: *"An austere life, pilgrimage to holy places, study of the Sacred Scriptures and prayer, will never be able to free someone from the circle of life and death. The only thing that helps you is disinterested social service.*

There is nothing more noble than to spend your life in the service of others and help the suffering."

Assistance for the disabled will be carried out in a Multi-purpose Centre nearing completion, called 'Natura Docet' (Mother Sai House) which offers modern structures and technology. 'Natura Docet' will provide a Sporting Complex for the disabled including: Tennis Court, Volley-ball, Basket-ball, Football, a Swimming pool, and an Archery field suitable for wheel-chairs with a special track for collecting the arrows, a 2 Km path through the woods with resting places along the way and suitable for wheel-chairs without helpers, a botanical garden with perfumed plants and flowers and paths especially equipped for the blind.

The Educational/Cultural Area has rooms (suitable for various kinds of disability), meeting rooms, a canteen, various rooms for practical and educational arts aimed at stimulating creativity, communication and dexterity. Self-esteem is often under-estimated by society and family allowing only passive roles to the disabled.

"With service you realise that each person is a wave on the divine sea. No other spiritual activity can lead to the unceasing contemplation of Unity of all living beings. Service does not mean simply carrying out some good deeds for others; you must understand the significance. Each of us has to get used to the idea that every service given to others is a service to God Himself."

"SEARCHING THE TRUTH: TRIP TO PUTTAPARTHI"

Thousands of devotees from all over the world travel every day of the year to India to meet Sai Baba. It is a long, tiring and often uncomfortable journey. This video aims to be a guide to help the pilgrims.

How to reach Puttaparthi

Once the airline has been chosen and a Consul Visa obtained, the first stop is Mumbai. On arrival at the Mumbai International Airport, it is necessary to transfer to the Domestic Flights and take a flight to Bangalore. To be sure of a correct price and for safety reasons, it is advisable to take the airport bus or a taxi. Tickets for both of these are available from the booths situated in the corridor at the airport exit. It is also advisable not to hand over luggage to boys or strangers which could result in the theft of luggage. Official porters wear a blue uniform and have an identity tag, but even with them it is best to be careful and take note of their number and agree on a price before giving them any luggage. Once at the Domestic Flights and before checking-in, it is necessary to 'check' luggage under the detector and make sure that it is correctly labelled by the attendant. After the check-in and before boarding the plane it is necessary to indicate one's luggage and again check that it is correctly labelled by the attendant so that there is no risk of it being left behind. The time difference is 4 hours and 30 minutes ahead compared to Italy, 3 hours and 30 minutes during Legal Summer Time. The local currency is the rupee (50lire approx.) It is advisable to change money at the airport for immediate expenses. On departure from Mumbai on the return journey, it is not possible to check-in without the Airport Tax (300 rupees) which must be paid in local currency. It is therefore suggested that on changing money 300 rupees for the Tax be placed ready in your passport.

On reaching Bangalore, you will transfer to Whitefield or Puttaparthi by a taxi booked before departure. The driver will make himself known by presenting a sign with your name on it. The cost of a taxi for Puttaparthi is 750 rupees to be divided by the passengers. The journey take 3 hours.

Life in the ashram

On arrival at the Ashram, the first stop is the Public Relations office where the travel documents are registered, then the Accommodation Office where lodgings are assigned. According to availability, rooms with bathroom will be given to be shared with 4 or 5 people of the same sex or family. Of course, preference is given to the ill, aged and families with children.

When rooms are no longer available, lodgings are provided in communal buildings (sheds) divided for: men, women and families. The bathrooms here are communal and there are no wall dividers. Lodgings are usually without mattresses, pillows, sheets and mosquito nets, which can all be bought at very cheap prices. The camp beds can be rented for a few rupees a week.

It is not allowed to use radios, tape-recorders or sing bhajans at any time of the day in the rooms or sheds in respect for others. It is not allowed to do washing as this is a task for the laundry staff that pass by the rooms twice a day. Authorised personnel (porters and laundry staff) have special identity tags and all number should be noted each time they are given something. Washing costs 1 rupee a piece.

It is not allowed to walk around the ashram after 9 pm which is when lights in the rooms and sheds are turned off.

The rooms should be left, when notified by the Accommodation Office, clean and checking that all taps and plugs are secure. The key should be left at the Accommodation Office and not given to anyone else.

For health, family or personal reasons, it is possible to lodge in one of the simple but clean hotels. The cost is higher than in the ashram but contained.

The cost of food and lodgings in the ashram is about 2.000 lire a day. The food is strictly vegetarian. A western canteen provides suitable food. It is advisable to use the canteen where the food is prepared with the maximum hygiene, and not cook in the rooms, especially with electric hot plates which are not suitable for the wiring in the ashram and because individual electricity use, cannot be measured and thus charged.

For health reasons, it is strongly suggested to wash and peel all fruit, eat only cooked vegetables, to drink only sealed mineral water and not eat food, even cooked, from street stalls.

Respect principle rules of hygiene at all times.

In the ashram there are several well-stocked shops and main services.

There is a Post Office which sends and receives post, telegrams and fax. The Travel Agency where plane tickets should be taken on arrival so that procedures may be carried out to confirm the return flight.

A State Bank where foreign currency may be changed and where donations may be made for the hospital or other projects.

A First Aid for minor ailments and a Hospital for more serious cases are also available. There is also a Book Shop with books in different languages.

Discretion should be maintained at all times when in the ashram. When moving around the ashram and especially for darshan it is obligatory to be suitably dressed: men in white, women in an Indian sari or long skirts to the ground or trousers and long shirts to the knees with shawls to cover the shoulders as local tradition requires. These rules also apply to foreigners and should be followed not only in all areas in the ashram but also in private quarters. It is important to respect local traditions such as the removing of shoes where requested (the areas for darshan, audition, rooms, shops, canteen, etc.). Men and women are seated separately (in darshan, bhajan, canteen and meetings). Men and women do not touch each other in public, in India.

The day begins very early in the ashram. The queues for darshan begin at 4 or 5 am for women and a little later for the men depending on the amount of devotees. The first

darshan is at 7 am, followed by bhajan at 9 am. Shops and services open at 9.30 am. In the afternoon queues for 4 pm darshan begin at 2, followed by bhajan at 5.30 pm.

To participate at darshan, you fit in lines in the area adjacent to the mandir. The first person in each line picks a number and that will be the entry order. Therefore, the last to arrive may be one of the first to enter and vice-versa. Bags and other objects are not allowed at darshan, so it is advisable to use a pouch for documents. Look after your property at all times as there may be thefts even in the ashram. Any found objects may be taken to the Lost Property Office where lost items may also be declared. It is important to be orderly in the queue and to keep still during the 'aarathi' and in the darshan area until Baba has not left the area. Be well-behaved at all times and remember that you are Sai Baba's guest.

It is not correct to keep a place for someone by placing objects along the queue lines for yourself or for others. During darshan you should not stand or kneel so as not to obstruct someone else's vision and if you have a crying child, please accompany him outside, you are allowed to keep your place for your return.

Do not sit in places reserved for the ill unless you are sick.

It is not allowed to run towards Baba or to try to touch his feet or offer him objects of any kind, except for letters. Remember that if Baba accepts a letter it does not mean that the requests will be granted. Do not take photographs or film unless specifically authorised by Baba in person, before hand.

Do not listen to anyone claiming to be in close terms with Baba or who has 'messages' or blessings from him. Do not listen to rumours or third-person referrals, even if they live within the ashram.

Sai Baba always communicates directly with his devotees through concrete or subtle ways but always directly. Any information on his intentions are given directly by him to his devotees. His teachings are found in the many books available in the book shop in the ashram.

"You have come to me after much trial and expense, do not waste your time in idle chatter and forming acquaintances. Time is precious. If you lose your good health you can regain it, if you lose wealth you can earn it back, but, if you lose time you will never regain a second of it. Stay close to God and do not waste one minute on idle and useless actions.

As you have come to this place to lose or get rid of some bad habit that is detrimental, watch your language, be careful, precise, gentle and pure.

Stay on your own and practise spiritual exercises...When you are alone there is no noise or chatter and the mind can rejoice in total peace. Peace is only derived from an inner-search and is a treasure that is waiting to be discovered in all of you.

When you are in your own country, you behave according to local laws and customs and no one is scandalised. But when you are in India you must watch your conduct. The first rule is to dress as local custom directs. Many of you come here dressed in ways that are disapproved of. Your clothes should not distract or attract the attention of others. be modest, simple and silent. People will judge you and your country by the way you dress and behave. Another rule is good conduct which is an indication of good character and another is to keep silence. Spirituality is based on good manners, discipline, good behaviour, suitable attire and limited speech. All of these rules must be kept when in Prasanthi Nilayam and even when elsewhere. There is also another thing that needs to be said. Many of you have a lot of money and may pay 10 rupees when it is worth 1. Ten rupees may be nothing to you but to the local people it is a large sum and by paying more than something is worth, you are making life difficult for the local residents.

When you pay too much for something, do not believe you are doing a good deed because you are doing bad. Do not waste money. The wrong use of money is evil. Money is even given to beggars that spend it on drink and drugs. If they are hungry give them food, but not money.

You have come to acquire devotion to God so concentrate on that task and develop that devotion.

Always remember that you come here to experiment with holy thoughts and to sanctify your lives. Here you must observe discipline. You must behave with decency and respect for others. Self-realisation can be achieved only through sacrifice but some are not prepared to give up smoking or eat vegetarian food. If you cannot give up these little things how can you develop the spirit of sacrifice?

When you return to your country, your behaviour should be such that fellow nationals respect you highly. They should be able to see the big change within you, with your visit to Prashanti Nilayam and try to follow your example.

When you continuously repeat to yourself, 'I am God' you develop a divine behaviour. Listen to your inner-voice, the Voice of Consciousness and then see how your behaviour will be divine.

You have come here because of your devotion and seriousness. Therefore, you should use your stay here well towards your aim. Swami will judge you not by quantity but by quality. What is important is your level of transformation and your spiritual progress.

Remember that your aim is only to realise the Divinity within you. It is difficult for everyone to have an opportunity such as this. In the millions of people in the world, how many can actually come here and experiment with the Divine? You are among the few blessed and fortunate. So, make the best use possible of this extremely good fate and transform yourself into a Divine person and you will be able to help others transform themselves as well."

When a person goes to Puttaparthi the thing he most desires is the chance of an interview with Sai Baba, to receive advice in material or spiritual matters or to be blessed or cured. Some are directly called by Baba, while he walks among the crowds during darshan (vision). There is no appointment for those called or specific rules, it is Baba who calls them. Interviews are granted only and totally by Baba's will, regardless of social standing, religion or position. Often during his walk among the devotees, Baba creates vibhuti with his hand (an ash with many taumaturgical and spiritual powers). At other times he materialises objects and gives them to cure an illness or help suffering or just as a gift. During his walk, Baba welcomes all with Love and Humility. He is interested in the problems of each person giving courage to face and solve them. He gives a strength which enters into the hearts of all present and creates in them an opening towards Love and often intervenes to modify someone's destiny.

The true nucleus of his Mission is in wanting to demonstrate brotherhood of man, unity of all creatures, duty to serve and love everyone.

The final aim of his Mission is to give a global vision of the whole united Universe.

His great miracle is the transformation of the human soul filling it with love and goodness.