



Dearest Youth of Sai,

Jai Sai Ram !

With the Divine blessings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, an International Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference will take place, in the Divine presence, during the festival of Gurupoornima. The theme and structure of the Conference blessed by Swami is **“Ideal Sai Youth – Messengers of Sai Love”**. The core themes underpinning the Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference will centre upon Swami’s guidance to the Youth and Spiritual Transformation. These are the fundamental questions and ideologies that our Sai Youth across the world, have desired to dive deep into.

It is an illusion that has plagued us since time began that we are less than divine. It is an illusion that we are merely a conglomeration of flesh and bone, instinct and sensation, thought and emotion. It is an illusion that we are limited to these small individual identities, these frail human bodies, and these fickle faulty minds. Not so. We are much more. Swami has taught and demonstrated many times that mankind is unique among all of God’s creation. We are capable of turning inward deeply and intensely, and finding the divine source and essence of our lives. Our spiritual heart, our inner voice, our conscience, our soul are all names for our true spiritual identity. That is who we really are, and that is what we are seeking to realise in our lives. The truth is that we are manifestations of the Omnipresent Divinity. These are the underlying principles of this Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference.

Sai Youth from all corners of the world will be gathering together in a spirit of Love, Unity and Harmony. Our unified presence in Prashanti will make Bhagawan very happy, therefore we must make every effort to attend and support this Conference.

Swami has said that his hopes and aspirations for the future rests upon the shoulders of his Youth. As Youth of this most unique and sacred Organisation it is our vision and mission to become exemplary Ideal Sai Youth. Benjamin Disraeli, the British Prime minister, remarked: *“the youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity”*. Mahatma Gandhi, later reiterated the same point: *“If we are to reach real peace in this world... we shall have to begin with the youth”*. And Swami says the *“youth wing can be compared to the energy body of the Sai Organisation. The prosperity and well being of the world depends on the conduct of the youth”*.

Only when our conduct is good, can the world have an ideal future. The Sri Sathya Sai Organisation can help us achieve our goal. How do we derive maximum benefit from the Sai Organisation. It is very simple. The divine indweller becomes the ruler of our being, and his qualities emerge. They are manifested in the world by each of us; we are the personifications of Sathya, Dharma, Shanthi, Prema and Ahimsa. Swami says

it is a very easy path. These are Swami's words. In our Organisation, planning devotional service and educational projects may be the business at hand. But selfless love and experiencing divine consciousness is the business at heart. Our Sai Youth must bring their enthusiasm, creativity and courage to explore innovations into the Organisation. The Organisation will greatly benefit from their qualities. Youth must recognise that among the members and elders of the Organisation they will find examples of selfless love, profound wisdom and extensive spiritual knowledge. Ideal Sai Youth must have humility so that they can optimise the benefits they will enjoy from being with people of this calibre.

All of us must remember that Swami pays little attention to chronology. Once Swami pointed to a man in his nineties and said, "He is a youth". Swami was referring to his inner qualities. People think that youth means young men and women. But this is not so. Youth denotes certain qualities. The main qualities of youth are Purity, Sacredness, Enthusiasm, Energy and Courage. If youth want to be considered Ideal Sai Youth then they must personify these qualities. If you have these then you are worthy to be called a Sai Youth, be it 16 or 90

Both the elders and youth must rejoice in the wonders of each other. The elders must see themselves as they were at a younger age and marvel how spiritually gifted are our youth. Our youth must see the beauty and goodness that has resulted from many years of devotion to the spiritual life demonstrated by many of the elders. They must emulate and honour these exemplary qualities. This is the first step in transforming oneself into Ideal Sai Youth.

Swami has often said that we should regard the youth as the leaders of tomorrow. However, All of us should recognise that the leaders of tomorrow must be the participants of today. What does youth involvement in the Sai Organisation mean? What should it mean? It should mean deepening of our devotion to our divine Lord Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It should mean always striving to be aware of our own divinity. It should mean that we are consciously involved in selfless action and love in the world. It should mean that we have adopted a spiritual way of life enhanced by our organisational programmes and activities and perpetuated by our own faith, determination and self-confidence. These goals are the purpose of human life. We are all striving consciously and unconsciously to achieve these goals.

Today, the world is haunted by suffering, unrest, disorder and agitations. Any country filled with noble beings is bound to be peaceful and happy. What is the reason for the sad plight of a country? It is the absence of young men and women of high character.

To protect a country it is not so important to have arms and missiles and atom bombs. It is most essential to have young men and women of great virtue. Swami has said that Character is the basis for all our behaviour, quality and actions.

*"If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.
If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.*

*If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.
When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world” – Sathya Sai Baba*

None can be perfect but we can make every effort to develop excellent character. Whichever country we may belong to, the cultivation of character is essential at any point of time. Character is common to the entire humanity. Whichever country we may hail from, whatever language we speak and whichever faith we follow, we all should maintain sterling human character. When all countries are filled with such noble people the world will be blossoming with peace and prosperity. Swami says:

“Whatever happens I shall protect you. Do not be carried away by profit or loss. One who practices and propagates the ideals such as goodness, morality, and truth is a youth in the strict sense of the term. In fact, only such people are My best friends.”

The role of youth is crucial in the Sai Organisation, not only are we to learn from our elders and put this into practice but we also have the task of nurturing the young SSE children, so that we all grow spiritually, blossom and reach great heights along the spiritual path. As Swami says:

“Only those who are immersed in the Divine are dear to Me and are My dear friends. If you want to be dear friends of Swami, conduct yourself in the Divine manner”.

CONCLUSION

There are millions of people in this world, but only you, the fortunate few have got the golden opportunity of attending the Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference. Make best use of this opportunity and share this joy with everybody. First and foremost, we as Ideal Sai Youth, must make efforts to understand our true nature. The difference between God and Man is very subtle. As long as we do not understand this truth, we will remain as human beings. However once we recognise this truth, we aspire to the heights of Divinity.

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Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference 2007