



Prasanthi Council

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Follow the Divine Command

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Swami has always emphasised privately and in His divine discourses that He has a unique Heart-to-Heart relationship with each devotee and has no intermediaries. As sincere spiritual seekers let us focus only on Swami and His message and not be deluded by outside distractions. *Sadhana* is the inward path.

Several claims have been made in the recent past by individuals, organisations and others who are either claiming to be Sai Baba or claiming to have received instructions from Him. They are seeking donations, participation and support for their organisation.

It is good to remember and practice what Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Himself has said about such activities:

“Our relationship is only heart-to-heart and love-to-love, nothing else. Swami is love personified. Swami gives importance to love and nothing else. Do not give any value to mean and meaningless talk.”

Excerpt from Discourse on 15 October 1999 at Prasanthi Nilayam

“Talking of faith, I must issue a warning. Many people are collecting money in various places using My Name for various purposes like arranging receptions, building temples, doing Puja, etc. That is unauthorised and against My wish and command. Do not yield to such requests and encourage this practice, which I condemn.”

“There is another set of people who trade on your faith. They advertise that I am 'talking' through a medium or some other thing. Treat all such people and their agents or brokers as you treat cheats; if you do not treat them so, then you are also accomplices in the cheating process.”

“There are others who gather groups of followers and admirers and collect money. They even declare, 'Baba sent me to you to take from you some money' or 'Baba has given me this' or 'Baba blessed me specially thus and thus' and then ask for your help or your praise or your purse! I ask you to chastise all these types of men and turn them away, whoever they are.”

Excerpts from Discourse on 25 November 1962 at Prasanthi Nilayam

“There are some who extol others for the absurd reason that Sai Baba speaks through them! How silly? It is all drama which cheats sick minds. Do not fall a prey to these. That is why I say, keep your devotion within yourself, under control, and not be led away by crooks and self-seekers. These lead you

astray by giving you a wrong idea of the Lord's manifestation. They befoul the faith that their brothers and sisters repose in God."

Excerpts from Discourse on 15 October 1964 at Prasanthi Nilayam

"People say, 'Baba appeared to me in a dream and commanded me to do this and that, to you, to collect so much from you etc.', do not give heed to such cheats; punish them in the way they deserve. That is the advice I have to give you."

"Do not believe if any one comes to you and declares, 'Sathya Sai Baba came to me in my dream and commissioned me to do publicity for him. Please help me as far as you can'. I do not commission any one for such work, either in dream or while he is awake. Such men are cheats; treat them as such, without mercy"

Excerpts from Discourse on 26 March 1965 at Kakinada

"There are quite a few who declare that I am coming "upon them," possessing them rather, and they sway, shake and shiver and say all kinds of things, claiming that I am speaking through them or that they are under My Influence. They answer questions and 'foretell' things and perform many tricks to collect money or things from people who do not know Me and My reality. All this is sheer deceit; it is a disease that is spreading. Do not encourage it; nip it whenever you see cases of people suffering from it. Such people have agents and brokers; scotch them first and their puppets will disappear. They wear the dress of holiness, but their greed announces them as vile. People say 'Baba appeared to me in a dream and commanded me to do this and that, to you, to collect so much from you etc., etc. Do not give heed to such cheats; punish them in the way they deserve. That is the advice I have to give you."

Excerpt from Discourse on 3 March 1965 at Amalaapuram

"In order to make known My majesty and My glory as the Divine that has Incarnated, miraculous happenings of an amazing nature do take place in certain areas. Taking advantage of the attraction that those happenings draw upon them, many misuse them for personal propaganda and aggrandizement. They trade for money the Vibhuthi (sacred ash) that the pictures in their altars shower! They go about pretending that they are "superior devotees" of a higher order and conferring boons and blessings on the innocent folk whom they fleece. Others put forth false claims that vibhuthi is emanating from the pictures of Baba in their homes, that Amrith (nectar) is dripping from them or that material objects are falling from them, like written answers to questions. Samithis and other Units should have no contact with such cheats and crooks. Anyone who is attached to such or who encourages such can be immediately removed.

There are others who claim that I am speaking through them, and answering questions put to them. These people must be either insane or hysteria-affected or they are possessed by some ghost or by the greed to earn money thereby. I can only tell you that it is not I that speaks through them. I do not need media; nor do I need substitutes or subsidiaries or representatives."

Excerpt from Discourse on 22 November 1970 at Prasanthi Nilayam during
All-India Conference of Workers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations

“There are some people who are doing business in the Name of Sai. They are cheating others, pretending to be devotees of Sai. I do not approve of such behaviour. They are not devotees at all. They are going to different parts of the country and also abroad to make money in the name of Sai. It is a big crime. I do not ask for even a single paisa from others. I never approve of such business. Whoever it may be, if somebody approaches you with such a crass motive, tell him to get out at once. Do not allow business to enter the field of spirituality.”

Excerpt from Discourse given on 22 July 2002 at Prasanthi Nilayam during
International Seva Conference

“In foreign countries, some Indians are claiming themselves to be Swami's devotees, and they are telling many lies using the name of Swami for collecting money. Some claim they are constructing temples and schools for Swami, and they collect money. These are all blatant lies. Swami has not accepted any money for any purpose. So be careful, and keep those people at a distance who approach you for money in the name of Sai.”

Excerpt from Discourse for American devotees on 27 July 2002 at Prasanthi Nilayam

“Utilize the chance of association with Me as much as possible, and endeavour as quickly and as best as you can, to follow the directions that I have been giving. Obeying My instructions is enough; it will benefit you more than the most rigorous asceticism. Practice Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema, which are dear to Me; resolve to keep those ideals before you ever, in all your thoughts, words and deeds. That can confer on you the summum bonum of mergence in the Supreme Substance of divinity.”

Excerpt from Discourse given on 17 May 1968 in Mumbai during
World Conference of SSS Seva Organizations

Let us sanctify and redeem our lives by implicitly following the divine instructions and being focused on the goal without being distracted by anyone or other external influences.

Jai Sai Ram.

With Loving Regards,
Narendranath Reddy, MD
Chairman, Prasanthi Council