

Love in Human Nature

*Rita and Robert Bruce*

[www.Love-in-Human-Nature.org](http://www.Love-in-Human-Nature.org)

## OMNIPRESENT TEACHER, SAI BABA

By Rita Bruce

We come to Prasanthi Niliyam asking, “Who is Sai Baba?” But in reality, the question is “Who are we”? Sai Baba has come on earth to teach us the truth of our own identity, so that we may become enlightened. Coming to see Him is important because His example is the living proof that God does exist in pure selfless love.

Swami asked my husband in our first interview, “Who are you?” Swami answered, “I am God, and you are God, We are God, the only difference is I know it and you do not.”

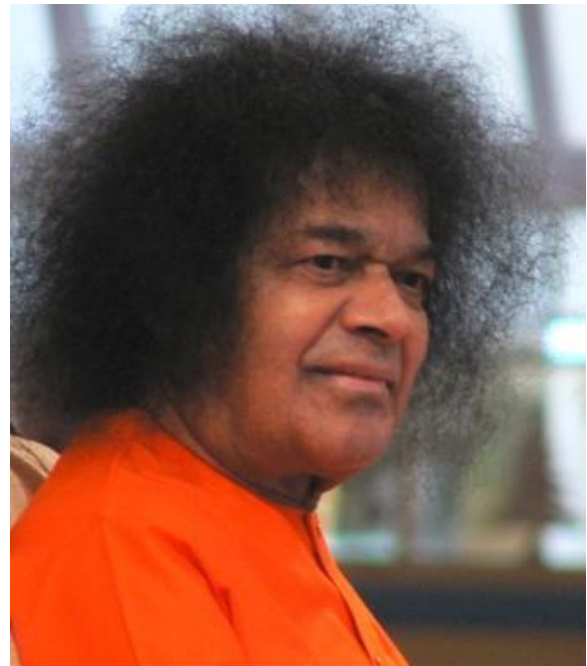
Those first words uttered to us by Our Beloved Baba is the wisdom that we as devotee’s seek to understand through the spiritual journey of experiences that will eventually lead us to Self-realization.

My path from the beginning has been the path of love. I had the American Dream, husband with a good job, four children, nice home in the county and I was very unhappy.

What the commercials promised did not come true. I expected that material objects would bring me happiness and they did momentarily and superficially, but there had to be more to our existence than this.

One day in 1968, I screamed at the Lord God, telling Him that this world was filled with hate. Everywhere I looked including my own life and family there was an absence of pure unconditional Love that Jesus came to teach us. I looked at the church members, family members, friends, and society at large and there was little evidence of this selfless Love. We had wars, corruption, assassinations etc. and threats of a nuclear war.

Therefore, I vowed to God that He did not know what love was or else He would have never created such a world of hatred. I told Him I was going to discover this selfless love and when I



did, I would inform Him. I laugh at the audacity of my ego. But you see the depth of my promise came from my inner most being, and since that time God has been teaching me selfless love.

I have been a devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba for 31 years. His wisdom connected to the countless learning experiences He has provided in my life is His method of teaching me what is pure love and most importantly how to give it to others and myself. The path of spirituality is not easy, and it takes a persistent determination and commitment.

God is Omnipresent. He is always with us teaching us. Sometimes our level of understanding or lack of awareness or time does not allow us to examine and abstract the necessary essence of His teachings and experience. When this happens we will have the same experience repeatedly until the karma is complete and we extract all the learning.

I have many examples of Sai Baba's Omnipresence in my life and I will share some.

We had a daughter on drugs and alcohol. One week before Christmas many years ago, she was admitted into a treatment center. The parents also had to go to sessions. The first session that we went to they showed a film. The film was projected onto a white board, and the priest in the film was writing on a black board. Now I used to tell Sai Baba in my heart, if He wanted me to learn something it must be written in black and white on a black board. In other words, I needed it clearly spelled out.

The priest was saying that depression was nothing more than self-pity. As he was talking about this, I said to Sai, is this message for me? Not quite sure because of course who likes to look at oneself. I was listening to the priest and at this moment did not have time to analyze myself. But I was most definitely depressed because of my daughter's terrible problem that we had been dealing with for many years.

After the talk, I again asked is this message for me? Now I remembered the two blackboards, and then the most amazing thing happened. This film was shown in the canteen and since it was Christmas on the wall in very large green letters was "MERRY CHRISTMAS". When I looked at the wall, after the film, all the letters had fallen down except RITA. The Omnipresent God not only gave me a clear message but decided to sign my name to it least I miss it! After careful examination, I realized that I was indeed feeling sorry for myself, thus depressed. Now I ask you, who else could have delivered such a personalized message than God/Sai? Sri Sathya Sai Baba was here in Prasanthi and yet the omnipresence of God is within each of us.

Swami tells us that there are three stages of surrender to God. The first stage we say, "I'm yours". During this stage Swami says it is similar to a mother cat. The mother cat can pick up her kitten and place her anywhere. The second stage is when we say, "Your Mine". This is the stage of devotion that we must all aspire to because when we declare that Swami is ours, He is bound to provide and take care of every need. It is a full commitment of knowingness that God is yours. There is no wiggle room here. The third stage of surrender is when we realize that "You and I are one". This is our ultimate goal.

Swami has protected, healed, and transformed me in ways too numerous to recall. I know His Divine Omnipresence because of these experiences. We have limited vision and if we truly knew the unbelievable gifts of His love that He gives us daily, our gratitude and service to Him would never relinquish. We have a tendency of being selfish and not remembering the deeds of

love seen and unseen that happen while being His disciple. Mother Sai is many times taken for granted neither thanked nor appreciated. We must do everything possible to correct this type of behavior in ourselves.

Robert and I were guest speakers at a Center in Vancouver, Canada, and this evening it was only for a newly formed Chinese group. We spoke through a translator. After the talk the devotees were admiring a gold necklace that Swami had materialized for me. I remembered when I was new to Swami that to touch something that He had materialized was so important so I took it off my neck and allowed them to touch it.

When they finished, one of the ladies fastened it back around my neck as I was answering questions through an interpreter. I paid no attention to the necklace being tightly fastened other than it was put around my neck. I gave it no thought.

That evening, we returned to the devotee's home, who were hosting us. I noticed that my necklace that Swami had made for me was gone. I prayed to my Omnipresent Divine Mother Sai. We searched many times and could not find it on me. It always hung around my neck and was always in plain sight. It was unmistakably missing. Robert suggested that we look in the car. This necklace could have been in the Sai Center, on the Center grounds, in the parking lot or perhaps the car. I had walked many places.

We were staying with devotees and as we approached the door to look in the car they inquired, "why were we leaving?" We explained that my necklace that Swami had made for me was gone.

I then placed both of my hands under the neck of my blouse using my thumbs to search and reenact the exact placement of the necklace. Then suddenly, as I placed my hands on my neck, the necklace mysteriously dropped between my thumbs and index finger, then as the medal dropped down from the necklace it jingled. Robert watched it appear.

It still brings tears to my eyes to realize that Our Beloved Sai, this Omnipresent God, knowing how much I loved this object of His love brought it back from wherever it was lost. His love and care of each of us when we surrender is beyond our comprehension.

When we returned to India, in an interview, Swami held this necklace jingled it, saying "Jingle, jingle, jingle". Robert and I pondered over the meaning of this. Was it some sort of nursery rhythm? Two or three years had passed and the answer deluded us.

This past year 2004, during a talk we were giving to the Overseas Devotee's at Prasanthi, I narrated this story. When I said, "It jingled as it dropped from the ether" tears swelled up in my eyes because I had finally understood what He meant when He shook my necklace with the medal and said jingle, jingle, jingle. It was His indirect way of letting me know He was there and brought it back.

Swami says, "God does not speak to His devotees directly because He does not like to interfere with their own God self."

God's patience is the ultimate. He did not tell me what He had done but gave me a very subtle hint that took me years to understand. Our ego would have wanted instant recognition. The

lessons that He teaches is on a very subtle level but the experience and meaning has the ability to seep deep into our hearts, never to be forgotten.

Sai Baba not only takes care of His disciples but this seems to also include our family members. My father was dying of Cancer of the colon, liver, and stomach. He was so ill that he could no longer eat nor drink. His large frame had shrunk to a skeleton of his original size. It was so sad to see.

My father did not believe in Sai Baba, in fact we did not speak about our travels to India since our first trip. My father was a very devoted Catholic who believed in Jesus. I will never forget my mother's remark when I first told her about Sai Baba. I said that there was no doubt that Sai Baba was God in Human Form. Before I could offer any explanation she replied. "Oh Rita, God would never come back as a dark man in India!"

What a perfect statement concerning our prejudices, and the root cause is our ignorance. It is so very easy to accept someone like our self. This supports our own ego identity. It is self-reflection. To broaden our view to include all as one, to change the fixed thinking of our life programming, comes from years of viewing Sai Baba, His example of love, equality and acceptance of all creation. Swami tells us that Jesus said, "All are one; be alike to everyone".

My father had surgery the end of November and they discovered a very large tumor in the colon that could not be removed, as well as cancer through out his stomach and liver. At this time my son was with Sai Baba. Christmas Eve we sent him a telegram telling him that his grandfather was dying of Cancer. Craig took the telegram to Swami in darshan. Baba read it and materializes Vibuthi. Craig sent it home.

In early January, Swami tells me inside to come for a visit in March. Swami my father is dying of cancer, I replied, how can we come? Swami said, "Come I will take care." We make airline reservations and my family thinks we are simply crazy.

In the third week of January, we receive the vibuthi. My father takes it out of desperation, because by now he cannot eat or drink. After taking the vibuthi, my father can again eat and drink. Then an amazing thing happens.

The surgeon who operated on Dad in November called him. Dad had not seen this Doctor since then and he is calling him, unheard of in America. The Doctor wants to do an exploratory to see if his condition had improved. My parents prayed to Jesus and decided that the Doctor calling them was a sign. So my father consented to the surgery. He was so brave. He had many escapes from death in his life, and surgery. It was courageous of him to agree again to the mental and physical reality of surgery.

When the Doctor, entered the room where mom and I waited, he had a big smile on his face. He said the tumor had shrunk, and was removed and all the cancer was *canceled*.

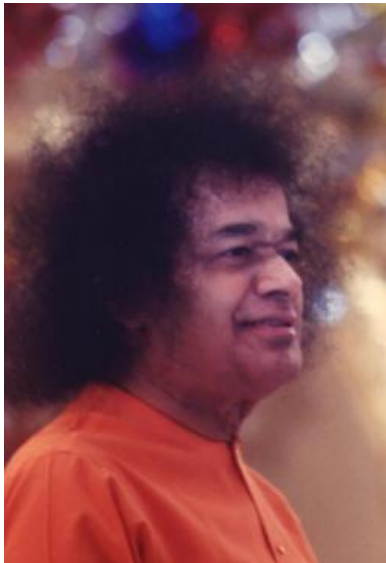
Dad came home the last week in February and we flew to India the first week of March. In an interview, I had a picture of my parents in my hand and asked, "Swami, did you cure my father of cancer?" He tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I sure did!" At that moment vibuthi from Swami's hand dropped on my mother and father's picture.

Swami in his present physical form did not operate on my father, nor come to the house bringing me my necklace. It was done in His Omnipresent form. He is everywhere.

I remember in an interview Swami asked a young man, “Where is God?” The young man pointed upward towards the ceiling. Swami replied, “Sky is up there”. God is everywhere. This is His Omnipresence.

The omnipresent form of God is our own Divinity that protects, guides, teaches, and provides for all our needs. Our association, our communication, our chanting His name, mediating on His form, feeling His Divine Presence within us will ultimately lead us to the reality that we are God.

## About Sathya Sai Baba’s Divine Mission



Sathya Sai Baba is a highly revered spiritual leader and world teacher, whose life and message are inspiring millions of people throughout the world to lead more spiritual, purposeful and moral lives. His timeless and universal teachings, and how he lives those teachings in his own life, are attracting spiritual seekers from all parts of the world. Yet, he is not seeking to start a new religion. His mission is to give us faith in ourselves and in the God within us; to follow the spiritual path of our choice and/or upbringing (as Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, etc.); and to render selfless service to mankind. Sathya Sai Baba is teaching us to see unity in diversity as he demonstrates that to be fully human is to be fully Divine.

Sathya Sai Baba was born November 23, 1926, in Puttaparthi, a small remote village in South India. As a child he demonstrated exceptional qualities of wisdom, compassion and generosity.

One example is that he would take his meals out of his parents home to share with beggars on the street. When he was seven years old he began to compose spiritual songs that were performed at religious festivals. Soon he began to materialise and distribute sweets to his classmates after the singing of devotional songs.

To this day, Sathya Sai Baba is known for his ever-present miracles. Most often he materialises vibhuti (sacred ash), which has healing and spiritual powers. He also materialises gifts (such as sacred objects, jewellery and sweets), cures the sick, and heals mental and emotional wounds. Many people, when in the presence of Sathya Sai Baba, have experienced a tremendous opening of the heart, a warmth that inspires spiritual understanding and melts the dryness that was constricting them. He says that these miracles are his “visiting cards” and that their purpose is to promote greater love of God.

Sathya Sai Baba publicly declared his mission in 1940, at the age of 14. Since then, he has daily exhibited in practical and concrete terms the highest ideals of the Human Values he teaches: Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence. He has often stated, *My life is*

*my message.* Each day, thousands of pilgrims make their way to the tiny hamlet in southern India where Sathya Sai Baba's ashram (spiritual community) is located. They come not only from India, but from virtually every country in the world.

## **SATHYA SAI BABA'S WORK**

Today world leaders seek out Sathya Sai Baba's presence. He works tirelessly for the welfare of the world. His simple lifestyle is untouched by the grandeur that surrounds him. Sathya Sai Baba gives his life, selflessly and magnanimously, to the service of mankind. He often states:

*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.*

### **Education**

Sathya Sai Baba places great importance on proper education for young people and has established a model education system. In India he has founded elementary and secondary schools, vocational schools, and a university with three campuses (two for men and one for women) that offers undergraduate, Masters, and Ph.D. degrees; no fees are charged to students. Schools based on Sathya Sai Baba's educational principles are now operating in many countries all over the world.

In addition to emphasising the pursuit of academic excellence, Sathya Sai Baba's system of "integral education" is designed to foster self-discipline, Human Values, and character development. Students take courses on morality and spirituality and devote time throughout the school year to some form of community service. Sathya Sai Baba says, *Education must implant elevating ideals and kindle the lamp of wisdom. Character is the most precious gift of education – the end of education is character.*

### **Healthcare**

Sathya Sai Baba believes in providing medical services completely free of charge in hospitals and giving the poor a chance to receive even the most complicated surgery. To this end, he has founded two large, 300 bed hospitals where specialised operations – including open-heart surgery, kidney transplants, and brain surgery – are performed routinely. The regular medical staff is supplemented by doctors from the West who come and spend their vacation time offering their services free of charge.

He has also founded many small Sathya Sai hospitals all over India and his organisation conducts free medical camps in many countries throughout the world. Motivated by the desire to serve humanity, doctors, nurses, and workers render compassionate and loving care to all patients.

## Service to the Needy

In 1994, Sathya Sai Baba initiated a project to provide an adequate supply of pure water to 1.5 million inhabitants of the State of Andhra Pradesh (India) who were living with contaminated groundwater and drought conditions. The Prime Minister of India travelled to Prasanthi Nilayam (Sathya Sai Baba's main ashram) in order to inaugurate the project. Another big water project is for the benefit of a huge slum area of Chennai (formerly Madras). Sathya Sai Baba demonstrates that it is the duty of society to ensure that all people have access to the basic requirements for the sustenance of human life.

Sathya Sai Baba has created the Sathya Sai Organisation, a spiritual, non-profit service organisation that recognises the fundamental unity of all religions of the world. It is devoted to teaching the five Human Values to children, young people and adults, to training teachers to integrate these values into their teaching, and to rendering service to the poor and the suffering. Sathya Sai Baba says, *Hands that work are holier than lips that pray.*

## SATHYA SAI BABA'S MESSAGE

As a young teenager, Sathya Sai Baba declared to his parents that he had come to this world with a mission to re-establish the principle of righteousness, to motivate love for God and service to fellow man. Since then, he has consistently called on all mankind to *Love All, Serve All* and has repeatedly asserted that the essence of all scriptures is *Help Ever, Hurt Never*.

Sathya Sai Baba says that our conscience is a reflection of the eternal spirit and that when we follow our conscience, our thoughts, words, and deeds will be noble and consistent. Spirituality is having the courage and determination to follow our conscience in all matters and at all times. In doing so, we recognise that we are all united in God and bound together by Divine love.

*I have come to tell you of this universal, unitary faith, this spiritual principle, this path of love, this duty of love, this obligation to love. Every religion teaches man to fill his being with the glory of God and to evict the pettiness of conceit. It trains him in the methods of non-attachment and discernment, so that he may aim high and attain spiritual liberation.*

*Believe that all hearts are motivated by the one and only God; that all faiths glorify the one and only God; that all names in all languages and all forms man can conceive denote the one and only God. Cultivate that attitude of oneness between men of all creeds and all countries. That is the message of love I bring.*

For more information on Sathya Sai Baba and his teachings please visit this website:  
[www.sathyasai.org](http://www.sathyasai.org)