



Om Sri Sai Ram



Sri Sathya Sai Organizations: Navigating the Quagmire of Information and Distilling the Key Points

Helpful Guiding Points:

- Swami has gifted this organization for the benefit of humanity. Each devotee has an obligation to foster this sacred organization and should carefully take interest and spend time to educate themselves and provide input and guidance to facilitate the Divine Mission.
- Following Swami is of utmost importance; this is done by:
 - Following your Inner Conscience
 - Praying for proper Discrimination
 - Having the Right Motives
 - Treating all with Love and Respect
 - Sacrificing personal needs for the Greater Good
- Desire should be for:
 - Unity as one Sai Family
 - Connection to Prashanti Nilayam
 - Transparency in Operations

Acronyms:

- SSSIO: Sri Sathya Sai International Organization
- SSSGC: Sri Sathya Sai Global Council
- SSSCT: Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust
- SSSSO: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization of India
- TOR: Terms of Reference (document outlining formation of the SSSGC)

Areas of Agreement:

- Each side acknowledges that the leaders for both groups have been appointed by Swami, guided by Swami, and who have dedicated their lives to Swami
- Each side believes in the principle of "by Source, not by Force"
- Each side states anyone can visit Prashanti Nilayam as a devotee/visitor
- Each side affirms that international devotees are a valuable part of the Sai family, and their input and contributions are welcome and appreciated

Areas of Disagreement:

1. SSSIO wants the SSSGC to be a 'consulting' body, whereas SSSGC wishes their role should be as a 'supervising' body
2. SSSIO wants officer selection at the highest international levels to be approved by the SSSIO Chair; the SSSGC wants the officer selection at the highest international levels to be approved by the SSSGC chair.

(Both sides will relegate the Center, Regional and National Officer selection to be done within the country itself)



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Significance and Analysis of Statements and Events

1. "Importance of keeping current structure and function as it is":
 1. The SSSGC format is respecting the structure and function; it is enhancing it by making leadership at the highest levels more balanced, with more diversity, and thus with more Unity than the current format
 2. Swami always wanted us to strive for improvement, to keep our outlook fresh, not to be stagnant
 3. What should not change is the foundational human values and spiritual principles; the rules, structure and format should be changed as needed to adapt to circumstances and needs.
 4. We should be careful we do not turn into 'literal fundamentalists', who read and quote scripture and quotes while losing sight of the underlying principles. Focusing on rules and regulations and wording without using discrimination and tying back to adhering to fundamental spiritual principles is dangerous.
 5. Just because at a certain time the SSSIO, SSSSO, and SSCT were managed separately, in no way indicates that Swami would not want the organization to be united in the future.
 6. The organization's development has been constantly modified by Swami, demonstrating that rules and regulations can and should be based on time and circumstances. It is the central tenets of His teachings: Truth, Right Action, Peace, and Love practiced in the spirit of Unity and Sacrifice that will never change.
2. "If Swami wanted this design, He would have done it earlier"
 1. This is a subjective interpretation and purely conjecture regarding what Swami would want.
 2. Would Swami be against Unity? Would Swami be against having Prashanti Nilayam play a leading role in all Sai organizations? Would Swami not have wanted the organization to evolve and improve over time using our discrimination to constantly become better?
 3. Swami clearly demonstrated the importance for constant evolution of His organizations by His very actions:
 1. He is the omniscient Avatar who could have developed the perfect final structure by his 'Divine Command' from the very beginning. The fact that He constantly made changes is a clear message that we should always be on the lookout to adapt to the time and circumstances. What He never changed were His core teachings.
 2. Some examples of ongoing changes, just in relation to the international organization
 1. Started a World Council in 1985
 2. Dissolved World Council in 1987
 3. Set up Eastern and Western Coordinators
 4. Set up Zonal Chairs and Central Coordinators
 5. Set up Prashanti Council 2003 for the international organization
 6. Set up World Foundation in 2006



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3. "Sanathana Sarathi announcement in March 2006 stating "Divine Command" is the final say":
 1. "Divine Command" are words which Dr. Goldstein frequently used on many occasions when relaying information given by Swami; no special significance other than the fact that anything Swami says is a Veda, Divine proclamation, and Truth itself.
4. "Swami dissolved the World council in 1987"
 1. The 'World' Council is completely different and has no relation to the 'Global' Council (SSSGC)
 2. Reason stated by Swami was to have countries directly connect to Prashanti Nilayam, which supports the SSSGC position
5. What should be the connection to Prashanti Nilayam?
 1. SSSGC position is that it should be the headquarters for the Sai Mission and that all Sai organizations should directly be guided from Prashanti Nilayam with input from diverse leadership from around India and the world. This position makes perfect sense. Sai organizations should not function without that connection. Prior to 2011 all Sai organizations connected directly via the physical form of the Avatar. The mistake is that the direct connection for guidance and functioning as proposed with the SSSGC should have started from the time of the Samadhi, not 10 years later. It is never too late to perform a right action.
6. What about the Quote from Swami stating that those that leave the organization are unfortunate?
 1. This has no relevance to the current discussion.
 2. SSSGC is obviously Swami's organization and aligning with it is remaining within His organization.
7. "We changed as much as we could without compromising Divine instructions"
 1. This is a subjective interpretation of Swami's teachings.
 2. What about compromising Swami's directive of always striving for Unity? What about Swami's directive that the organization should always be rooted in Prashanti Nilayam and that all countries should report to Prashanti Nilayam?
8. "International members have given large sums of money over the decades":
 1. This has no relevance to current discussion. Donations are heart to heart from devotee to Swami and no organization can take credit.
9. "We only unconditionally surrender to Swami"
 1. This has no relevance to the current discussion.
 2. No one is asking people to unconditionally surrender to them. SSSIO has drawn a 'line in the sand' that the SSSSO and SSSCT feel is not acceptable.
10. "Swami never put restrictions about special seating or programs"
 1. This is not correct. Not just anyone was allowed to get special seating or perform programs. Clear protocols were in place for these privileges.



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11. " It took 25 years before I could become national president; it would not have been appropriate for me to be appointed that position when I was a fresh YA. It is not good to upset structure by haphazardly plucking people in and out"

1. This has no relevance to the current discussion. Not a fair accusation that SSSGC would lead in this manner.

12. "95% of worldwide Sai devotees are in India"

1. SSSCT and SSSSO, representing more than 95% of worldwide Sai followers, including the majority of Sathya Sai Institutions and Trusts have agreed to unite, it should be common sense and natural for the remaining 5% to collaborate and accept unity when they are offered a reasonable voice and made integral members of the team, as they have been in the TOR.

13. "Indians don't understand worldwide culture and should not be leading the international organization"

1. The SSSGC is comprised of the leadership from around the world. It will have more diversity and balanced representation than any currently existing Sai organization.

14. "SSSIO should select officers without 'outside' interference because outsiders don't understand the local situation."

1. SSSGC will only be deciding the governing positions at the highest level. It will be the National Presidents who will be guiding the selection of the national officers, regional officers, and center officers.
2. SSSGC sets up a fair, transparent system with built in checks and balances, that sets broad policies from a diverse group from around the world, with the goal to let the local people choose their officers and programs.

15. "Why fix what is not broken, the SSSIO has been doing a wonderful job"

1. It is dangerous for an organization to have the view that they should not change operations because everything is going so well
2. Perhaps things are not well in all regards; perhaps things could have been better than they had been; perhaps a structure in which an even greater awareness and implementation of Swami's teachings and message could be developed.

3. Relevant Questions:

1. Why do so still so few people around the world know of Swami's teachings? why have so few people of local origin joined our centers over the past decade? why do the grown-up children of even the local origin people who have been long time devotees not participate in the organization? why do so many YA 's raised in this country even of Indian origin leave the organization after graduating from SSE?