



Sai Oriented Centres Guidance Pack

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This pack is a compilation of questions regularly asked by devotees and their responses to facilitate implementation of the recommendations of Sai Oriented Centres. It is meant to be accessible to office bearers and devotees.

1. Did the guidelines for Sai Oriented Centres originate from Swami, the Prashanti Council or was it started off by someone in the UK ?

It is 77 years since the advent of the Avatar of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In His own unfathomable and subtle way, Baba is spreading His glory far and wide. He has founded the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation as a forum for the spiritual growth of devotees. The management, aims, objectives and the activities of this Organisation is governed by the Prashanti Council which is quite concerned about the future of the organisation and how it would sustain the objectives of the organisation when Baba departs His physical form at the age of 96 years. The Council is also anxious with the large number of devotees and non-devotees seeking to attend Sai Centres and whether they would feel comfortable attending Centre activities in its current state e.g. some centres in the UK have predominantly one religion represented and follow those religious traditions in the centre although UK is a multi racial, multicultural society.

Baba has said *“My Love is My greatest miracle. All should share in this Love. Then it becomes one. All of you should develop the Seva Organisation from day to day. Let all join the Organisation. Treat all of them as the children of God. Serve them in that spirit. You will experience Divinity very soon. Swami’s Love will be with you always, in you, besides you and around you”*.

Sai Oriented Centres is an initiative towards this vision.

Dr Goldstein, the chairman of the Prashanti Council had asked Baba a question *“Many devotees are asking how the centres in the various countries can be a better reflection of spirituality within their own society? The selection of bhajans, the appearance of the Sai Baba Centres, and all of the programs should be a function of each culture because Swami has planted the seed of Divinity in the land every country all over the world.”* To this Baba replied, *“Each country should follow its own procedure and culture but not compare themselves with others. You should not imitate others.”* [Baba’s address to American devotees 27 July 02].

2. Is Sai Oriented Centres a new concept of the Organisation ?

Sai Oriented Centres are not a new concept of the Organisation. To re-emphasise the underlying objectives:

- To help the individual become aware of their inherent divinity;
- To propagate the principle Human Values of Truth, Right Conduct, Love, Peace and Non-Violence;
- To make devotees more sincere and dedicated to the practice of their respective religions.

Its aim is to open centres/groups to the wider community (Sai and Non-Sai) so that they can also benefit from the Mission of Sai. This doesn’t mean that we should be going out and advertising Sathya Sai Baba to the wider community.

As Baba has said *“In order to bring Bhagawan’s message to the public, poetry and literary gimmicks are not necessary. But your practice of Swami’s teachings in your life will be the best message for the public”* [Bhagawan’s discourse to the American devotees - 27Jul 03].

Sai Oriented Centres are also meant to remind everyone that the basis of the organisation is spiritual and thus to promote Spirituality in all activities undertaken by the organisation. With the pace with which the organisation is expanding, it is also essential to present a consistent image across all centres / groups.

3. What are the recommendations of Sai Oriented Centres ?

• **Venue**

Should be	Avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral place e.g. a community school, a community hall, own hall which is neutral. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid devotee house or a place of worship

• **Altar**

Should have	Should not have
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baba's photo or statue • Chair for Baba – <i>optional</i> • Incense and flowers • Human Values emblem • Flame or candle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other worshipped images • Religious symbols

• **Main Hall**

Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove shoes as per your comfort. Removal / Wearing of shoes is <i>optional</i> • Have separate sitting for Gents and ladies • Have chairs and / or floor sitting – fulfil local needs • Provide for disabled members

• **Group Devotional Singing (Bhajan) Session**

Do	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At start - Chant Aum or / and do silent sitting • Multifaith prayers – <i>optional</i> • Jyothi Meditation • Soham Meditation • Gayathri Mantra – <i>optional</i> • Sai Athree Mantras - <i>optional</i> 	
% mix of Bhajan songs to be sung	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songs sung to meet local needs • Songs that references other faiths • Songs in English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40% - 30% - 30%
Festivals – must celebrate all	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian • Hindu • Muslim • Buddhist • Jain • Sikh • Others based upon attendees 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Aarhi</i> chanting at close of session – <i>Aarhi</i> can be done either using flame or incense sticks – see later • Follow by Chanting <i>Lokha Samastha</i> Prayer • Allow time to read extract from Sai Literature • Serve <i>Vibhuti</i> and chant prayer including English version as well at end – serving of anything else is discouraged • Announcement makers 	

- **Information Desk**

Have

- Have a information desk
- Must be manned at all times to assist visitors
– *optional for small centres/groups*
- Provide handout pack for devotees / visitors
- Trained members to welcome newcomers / visitors
- Bookstall / library for Sai Literature -

- **Other Activities**

Have

- Study Circles
- Group Service Activities
- Remind practice of the 9-point code of conduct
- Remind 10-fold Path to Divinity

4. Should all recommendations be implemented and by when ?

The work programme for the Spiritual Wing requires us to implement Sai Oriented Centre recommendations this year (2004). You may find certain changes very difficult to implement. Some of these may have to be managed very slowly, taking devotee views (e.g. study circles) and making devotees understand the significance behind the changes. Essence of Sai Centres is Swami. Sai Centres are sacred places, they are spiritual and not religious; any changes should be implemented carefully and communicated with love. We need to exercise caution in ensuring that the centre/group doesn't lose devotees.

5. Why should a devotee house or place of worship be avoided ? Because of expenses, it may not be feasible to move to a neutral venue.

A devotee house should be avoided since there could be reluctance from non-Sai community members to attend. Similarly, a place of worship should be avoided as far as practicable since the venue could deter people e.g. from other religious groups from attending. Centres / Groups of the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation must provide a forum where everyone should feel welcome.

Whilst the expense situation with very small groups is acknowledged, devotees are encouraged to explore other possibilities e.g. 2 or more groups which are not too distant to join forces to lessen the burden of expenses.

6. We can't remove the idol of Lord Ganesha which has been the cornerstone for the centre for a number of years.

We should exercise care when implementing certain parts of Sai Oriented Centres that may be difficult. Lord Ganesha's idol on the altar is a sensitive subject in a number of centres. Initially, as part of general awareness, the significance behind the idol must be stressed and devotees must be reminded about this on a constant basis:

Just as an elephant clears the pathway in a forest, Lord Ganesha removes obstacles in our path. Whilst Lord Ganesha is worshipped by Hindus, Baba has given a spiritual significance.

"The elephant is noted for its acute intelligence. Ganesha's elephant head symbolises sharpness of intellect and highest power of discrimination. The mouse is Ganesha's vehicle. The mouse is a clever and lively creature. As a symbol it means that we should be clever and diligent in our actions.

Ganapathi dwells in every human being in the form of intellect and wisdom.”

This is how we can attempt to transcend the physical and move within.

7. *We have been encouraged to celebrate the festivals of different faiths, why not have the Idols of different faiths in the altar ?*

When can we claim that we have got all faiths represented? Would not a sensible approach be to emphasise the essential teachings of all religions i.e. Universal Human Values? Thus the reason behind promoting the Human Values symbol viz. Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-Violence rather than religion. Also, presenting a message based upon Human Values helps reiterate the basis of the Organisation which is spiritual and not religion. This setting also helps people who favour Human Values but who resist any connection to any religion.

Indeed, during a UKCC meeting with Dr Goldstein (DG) on 07 Feb 04, DG narrated one of his experiences. DG was walking with Swami in the Poornachandra Auditorium. DG was fascinated by the images of the different religious deities in the auditorium and suggested to Swami that we should make this a model for Sai Centres. To this Swami remarked, 'No, no! How many religions 3, 4, 5....Conflicts today in the world have been caused by misunderstandings of religions. Have only Human Values emblem!'

8. *Can you clarify the position with the use of flame when doing Aarhi ?*

Swami had advised that Aarhi in overseas Sai Centers be performed with incense sticks instead of the flame. Listening to the prayers of devotees, Swami, in His infinite Compassion, has also instructed that those devotees who feel that Aarhi with the flame is an essential part of their devotional experience be permitted to continue.

It is therefore left to the respective centres / groups to decide how they wish to do the Aarhi. However, devotees are reminded of Swami's original pronouncement that Aarhi with the flame should be stopped; there is a meaning behind whatever Swami says which should be taken seriously.

'Aarhi' is a Sanskrit word meaning 'The Close'. Aarhi is the prayer song sung at the close of each bhajan session.

A devotee asked Baba 'Swami, is Aarhi necessary?' Swami said '*No, not necessary, Don't do rituals without the full understanding of the meaning behind them. If you understand why Aarhi is performed, then only you do it.*

'The waving of the camphor flame at the end of the Bhajan sessions is to remind you that your sensual cravings must be burnt away without leaving any trace behind, and you must offer yourself to God for being merged with His Glory.' (Sathya Sai Speaks V Chap 44 Page 246)

'Whilst it is being waved, pray' Swami says, 'O Lord! Make the allotted span of my life as pure, as fragrant and as transparent as camphor; let it consume itself in the fire, scattering light and the warmth of love to all around me and at the end of it all, let there be nothing left of me (as the camphor leaves no ash or residue) to render me liable to another sojourn amidst pleasure and pain.'

When performing Aarhi, it is recommended that devotees stand up as a mark of respect. In fact, Swami stands up when He accepts Aarhi. This is the prayer with which every session can close. In very large gatherings, due to Health & Safety reasons, it may be appropriate not to stand.

9. Wouldn't having Swami's photo only on the altar be considered as a cult, another religion ?

Sai Oriented Centres require us to sing bhajans (GDS) that embrace all religions. In addition, celebration of religious festivals e.g. by having a speaker from the particular faith, emphasising the significance of a religious festival during announcements etc is strongly encouraged. The organisation provides a forum for individuals to become better in the practice of their respective religions e.g. a Hindu to become a better Hindu, a Christian to become a better Christian, a Muslim to become a better Muslim etc. On this basis, how can this be categorised as a cult?

On the other concern as to whether we are promoting another religion – religion relates to a specific doctrine. Swami talks about Spirituality which is universal. In fact, He very often extols on the 5 Universal Human Values viz. Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-violence which is the essence of the teachings of all religions.

10. What is the significance behind having Swami's photo on the altar ? Maybe we shouldn't even have Swami's photo on the altar ?

A Sai Oriented Centre carries the name of Sai; the centre carries no meaning if the word Sai is removed. By calling it a Sai Centre, the centre identifies itself to Sai, its founder. Thus, the photo is a symbol of this sacred relationship.

What has Swami said about the significance of the form? *"The common people can derive no benefit if the Formless Absolute remains in Kailasa or Vaikunta. It is not possible to worship the Formless Absolute. Hence, the Rama-Avathar appeared in human form to enable humanity to experience the Formless in a form which is accessible to them and helpful to them. An Avathar assumes the form that is beneficial to and within the reach of human beings. Men cannot comprehend the formless and the attribute less absolute. Unfortunately, even when the Formless Absolute assumes a form, there are persons, who impelled by their own attitudes, attribute their own human foibles to the Avathar."* Swami continues, *"It is only when God comes in human form can human beings have the full opportunity to experience and enjoy the Divine."*

One must not underestimate and overlook the power of the form taken by Sathya Sai Baba. It is worth reminding ourselves of the epic declaration that Swami had made on 17 May 68 during the World Conference in Bombay,

"This is a Human Form in which every Divine Entity, every Divine Principle, that is to say, all Names and Forms ascribed by Man to God are manifest." 'Let me draw your attention to another fact. On previous occasions, when God incarnated on Earth, the Bliss of recognising Him as Incarnation was vouchsafed only after the Physical Embodiment had left the world, in spite of plenty of patent evidences of His Grace. The loyalty and devotion They commanded from men, arose through fear and awe, at their superhuman powers and skills, or at their imperial and penal authority. But, ponder a moment on this Sathya Sai Manifestation! In this age of rampant materialism, aggressive disbelief and irreverence, what is it that brings to it the adoration of millions from all over the world? The reason is, It is Supra-world Divinity in Human Form'. 'You can hear also adoration to the Name, Sathya Sai, reverberating throughout the world, even while this Body is before you, not at some future date when It has departed, but when It is with you, and before your eyes'.

11. What is the significance behind lighting a candle (Jyothi) on the altar ?

In one of His discourses, Swami had enumerated on the Jyothi, *"Prior to the commencement of this meeting, the Jyothi (sacred lamp) was lit by Swami. No other thing signifies divinity as this sacred effulgent flame. It always goes upward. It can be kept anywhere. Everywhere it is lit it dispels darkness. Since ancient times the people of Bhaarath have been observing the sacred custom of lighting a lamp at the*

commencement of any auspicious ceremony. They have been worshipping the jyothi as it dispels darkness and is a symbol of the effulgence of wisdom.” (SSS28-17)

12. Is it necessary that shoes should be removed when attending bhajans or indeed for devotees to be sitting on the floor ?

This is very much to do with culture. In fact, once a devotee asked Swami ‘Can I attend the Bhajan with my shoes on (for reasons of climate), and can I participate by sitting on a chair?’. To this Swami replied, “Yes, as long as you do not remember that you have put on your shoes or that you are sitting on a chair while doing bhajan”

13. Why is it that ladies and gents are required to sit separately during bhajans ?

This is to do with Spirituality. Swami had once commented in one of His discourses, “Some members from Western countries do not seem to favour the rule of the Sathya Sai Organisation, which lays down that, at bhajans and at other meetings, men devotees should sit apart from women devotees. The rule should be applicable to all members – whether they are Indians or non-Indians, in India or elsewhere. It is part of the spiritual discipline that is necessary for devotees” (SSSpeaks Vol 11 Page 46)

14. What is the significance behind chanting of the Aum before any Sai activity ?

Swami has said, “Whatever you do in the spiritual field, you should do it as a spiritual exercise, with full knowledge of its significance for progress. Many people do not know that *Om* or *Pranava* is the merging together of three sounds, A, U, and M. When you write GOD, you do not pronounce it ‘jeeohdee’, you voice it as GOD. So too, *AUM* is pronounced *Om*. *Om* has a sequel, of a fading M sound which finally tapers into silence, a silence that is felt and experienced.”

“*Om* is the sound of the movement of the stars in the firmament; it is the sound that manifested when the dawn of creative Will stirred the *Niraakaara* (the Attributeless) into activity. As a matter of fact, every little disturbance of equilibrium produces sound, however minute. The meeting of the eyelids when the eye winks results in sound, however faint. There are infinitesimally faint sounds which no ear can hear”
“... Out of the Primeval Sound became manifest all creation, composed of the five elements namely space, air, fire, water and earth. *Omkara* is the life principle of creation. That is why it is also called *Pranava* – meaning “that which runs through *Prana*” or pervades all life.”

“*Aum* is the primordial Word which gives life to all other words. ...*Aum* is a name of God which can find universal acceptance. The Christians say *Amen*’ in their prayers everyday. It is only a different form of *Aum*. *Aum* has universal relevance and applicability. It cuts across all barriers of time, place, religion and culture, and can be uttered by all men.” (Summer Showers in Brindavan 1979 p124-125).

In the New Testament of the Christian Bible is written, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”

To the Christians it is *Amen*. Muslims call it *Amin*, other faiths have it too but they all call it different.

The existence of this Cosmic energy is also accepted in the scientific world:

In 1978, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson were honoured with the Nobel Prize in physics for their discovery of the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB). The two researchers from Bell Laboratory serendipitously stumbled onto this phenomenon in June 1964, after first thinking it was an equipment malfunction. For a short while, they even attributed the

background noise to what they referred to as "white dielectric material"-i.e., bird droppings (Fox, 2002, p. 78). The electromagnetic radiation they were experiencing was independent of the spot in the sky where they were focusing the antenna, and was only a faint "hiss" or "hum" in its magnitude. The microwaves, which can be related to temperature, produced the equivalent of approximately 3.5 K background radiation at 7.3 cm wavelength ("K" stands for Kelvin, the standard scientific temperature scale; 0 K equals absolute zero-the theoretical point at which all motion ceases: -459° Fahrenheit or -273° Celsius). Unable to decide why they were encountering this phenomenon, Penzias and Wilson sought the assistance of Robert Dicke at Princeton University who, with his colleagues, immediately latched onto this noise as the "echo" of the Big Bang. A prediction had been made prior to the discovery, that if the Big Bang were true, there should be some sort of constant radiation in space, although the prediction was for a temperature several times higher (see Weinberg, 1977, p. 50; Hoyle, et al., 2000, p. 80).

15. Why is Jyothi meditation encouraged ?

Jyothi Meditation is a spiritual practise to control and purify one's mind. The mind is controlled to concentrate on a flame which is then invoked and visualised within, purifying one's self in the process and then to use the flame to embrace our environment and purifying it. Since the light illumines all the senses everyday, a time comes when one wouldn't relish anything which is dark, negative and evil.

16. What is the benefit of practicing Soham Meditation ?

What Swami says on Soham Practice -

"Every moment we are engaged in breathing air. We are sustained by the oxygen in the air. Man inhales and exhales air 21,600 times a day in 24 hours. While inhaling, the sound 'So' is produced. In exhaling, the sound 'Ham' is produced. Together, they make up the term 'So-Ham' meaning 'He is I' proclaiming the inherent divinity of Man. God is to be recognised in the process of inhaling and exhaling'

"SO" means He (God) and "Ham" means I (individual self). Constant meditation on this leads to the experience of Advaita (non-dualism) i.e. oneness of Paramatma and Jivatma.

'So Ham' is the natural mantra, the mantra of the Self. It does not belong to the East or the West or to any other religion but is inherent in all of us; it repeats continually, along with our breathing. As long as this mantra keeps going on inside us, there is life in the body. As soon as it stops, we are no more".

17. What are Swami's views on chanting of the Gayatri ?

A devotee once asked Swami, "Should Gayatri Mantra be chanted?". To this Swami replied, *"I do not say that. You can do as per the dictates of your conscience. If you feel its chanting benefits you, you can do it. Gayatri is not a woman, nor does this Mantra belong to any particular religion or country. It is only the name and the form of a deity. It has the power of Mantra. Bhur, Bhuva, Suvaha represents the three aspects of materialisation, vibration and radiation. These three are present in everyone irrespective of his country and religion. In this Mantra, one prays for the development of one's intelligence. I do not force anyone either to chant it or not chant it. Mine is not 'force' but only 'source'. You can do whatever gives you joy". (21 Nov 2001)*

"The Gayatri is the universal prayer enshrined in the Vedas. Veda means knowledge, and this prayer fosters and sharpens the knowledge-yielding faculty. The Gayatri may be considered as having three parts --(i) praise, (ii) meditation, (iii) prayer. First the Divine is praised, then it is meditated upon in reverence, and finally an appeal is made to the Divine to awaken and strengthen the intellect, the discriminating faculty of man.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>'Om Bhoorbhuvaha Swaha Thath Savithur Varenyam Bhargo Devasya Dheemahi Dhiyo Yonaha Prachodayath'</i></p> <p>'Let us meditate on God and His Glory, who has created the Universe, who is fit to be worshipped, who is the remover of all sins and ignorance. May He enlighten our intellect'</p>	Om	Primeval Sound
	Bhur	physical world
	Bhuva	mental world
	Svaha	Celestial, Spiritual World
	Tat	Paramatma, God or Brahman
	Savitur	That from which all this is born
	Varenyam	Fit to be worshipped
	Bhargo	The radiance, the spiritual effulgence, the Light that bestows wisdom
	Devasya	Divine Reality
	Dheemahi	We meditate
	Dhiyo	Buddhi (Intellect)
	Yo	which
	Nah	our
	Prachodayat	Enlighten

"Gayatri Mantra is highly sacred. Gayatri Mantra contains the essence of all the Mantras of all Gods and Goddesses. If you chant the Gayatri Mantra wholeheartedly, you will never face difficulties or misery in life. There is no need to chant any other Mantra if you chant the Gayatri Mantra."

"Never give up the Gayatri; you may give up or ignore any other mantra, but you should recite the Gayatri at least a few times a day. It will protect you from harm wherever you are travelling, working, or at home. Westerners have investigated the vibrations produced by this mantra and have found that when it is recited with the correct accent as laid down in the Vedas, the atmosphere around becomes visibly illumined."

18. Why is so much stress laid on Bhajans (Devotional Singing) ?

"People say that when you go to Sai Baba, there is nothing but devotional singing. Realize that there is nothing greater than bhajans. What bliss is there in bhajans! What a demonstration of oneness is it when a myriad throats join in uttering the name of God! The vibrations emanating from them make the heart vibrant. If you sing alone in your shrine, the vibrations return to you as a reaction. But in community singing, what you have is not a reaction but a wave of vibrations. They enter into the atmosphere and purify the polluted air. The atmosphere today is polluted by bad thoughts and feelings. When you sing the glory of God, the bad germs in the air are destroyed and the air gets purified by a treatment of antibiotics, as it were" (SSS, Jan. 1995, 26)

"You cannot insist that in the bhajans only songs on Sathya Sai should be sung! Fanaticism of that kind I very much dislike and condemn ...You betray your ignorance of the truth when you stick to any one of my names and avoid the rest."(SSS VIII, 75)

"Bhajans have to be sung and offered to God in an attitude of utter humility; they are not to be taken as exercises in an exhibition of talents or as competitions for mastery of musical skill. They have to please the Lord, not your fans." (SSS IX, 177)

"The present age is described in the scriptures as very conducive to liberation, for, while in past ages, rigorous penance was prescribed as the means, the present iron age (kali yuga) requires only repetition of the name of God (namasmarana) to win liberation."

19. Please provide some background to the Saithree ?

Chanting of the Saithree is a recommendation from the last World Conference.

This may be difficult to grasp for some devotees. Every Gayatri Mantra has a revealing prophet or Rishi and a presiding deity. Sai Baba himself is the presiding deity of this mystic formula or Mantra. SAITHREE, the triple Sai Gayatri Mantras, which are dedicated to Bhagawan Baba, are powerful aids to devotees in enabling them to live in Divine Sai Consciousness. The first part of each Gayatri Mantra denotes adoration, the second part relates to meditation and the third part connotes prayer.

<p style="text-align: center;">Sai Gayatri</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'Om Saayeeshvaraaya Vidhmahe Sathya Dhevaaya Dheemahi Thannah Sarvah Prachodhayaath'</i></p>	<p>'We know this Sai as Supreme Divinity incarnate. We meditate on this God of truth. May this, Almighty All-in-all Personality lead us on the Path of total Liberation'</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sai Surya Gayatri</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'Om Shree Bhaaskaraaya Vidhmahe Saayi Dhevaaya Dheemahi Thannah Suuryah Prachodhayaath'</i></p>	<p>'We know this Self-Shining Entity. We meditate on this Divinity as Sai Surya (sun). May this Divine Light enlighten us on the Path of Liberation'</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sai Hiranayagarbha Gayatri</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'Om Premaathmanaaya Vidhmahe Hiranyagarbhaaya Dheemahi Thannah Sathyah Prachodhayaath'</i></p>	<p>'We know this embodiment of Divine Love Sathya Sai. We meditate on this Golden Wombed Divine Personality. May the Truth-Incarnate Shree Sathya Sai inspire us on the Path of Liberation'</p>

20. What is the significance of the 'Loka Samastha' prayer ?

'Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu (May all the people of the world be happy)'. This is a universal prayer for happiness in the world.

Swami has said, *"God pervades the entire universe. The whole world is divine. Hence, the whole world should be happy."* (03 Oct 2000)

21. Can we only read extracts from Sai literature in centres/groups ?

It doesn't matter what is read as long as the essence and purpose isn't lost i.e. spiritual progression of devotees. It is suggested that some time is spent in this reading.

Reading of Sai literature is suggested since Sai Teachings are universal transcending caste, creed, religion and race. For deeper understanding, Study Circle sessions are strongly recommended. Sathya Sai Baba presents the essence of all religious teachings, spiritual messages and great works in simple yet profound manner for ordinary people to understand.

22. How should the Vibhuti prayer be chanted ? What is the significance ?

Vibhuti prayer should be chanted in both Sanskrit and English to meet needs of all devotees.

<i>Paramam Pavitram Baba Vibhootim Paramam Vichitram leela Vibhootim Paramaartha Istaartha Moksha Pradaanam Baba Vibhootim Idam Aashra Yaami'</i>	<i>'Sacred Holy and Supreme is Baba's Vibhuti Pour in forth in sacred stream this play of Vibhuti so auspicious is its might , it grants liberation Baba's vibhuti its power protects me.</i>
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Swami has said, "In the first place, it (Vibhuti) is symbolic of the life-death cycle in which everything ultimately reduces itself to ash. For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou returneth. Ash or dust is the final condition of things. It cannot undergo any further changes. In the spiritual context it constitutes a warning to the receiver to give up desire, to burn all passions, attachments and temptations, and make one pure in thought, word and deed. It is in order to press home this lesson that I materialise ash for those who come to me with love and devotion. Like other materialisations, it also acts as a talisman, healing the sick and giving protection to those who need it."

23. Can you detail the 9 point code of conduct and the 10 principles so that we can remind devotees on a regular basis ?

The Nine Point Code of Conduct

1. Daily meditation and prayer;
2. Devotional singing / prayer with members of his / her family once a week;
3. Participation in the educational programmes conducted by the Organisation;
4. Attendance at least once a month at group Devotional Programmes conducted by the Organisation;
5. Participation in community service and other programmes of the Organisation;
6. Regular study of Sai literature;
7. Putting into practice the principle of 'Ceiling on Desires' and utilising any savings thereby generated for the service of mankind;
8. Speaking softly and lovingly with everyone with whom he / she comes into contact;
9. Avoiding talking ill of others especially in their absence.

The Ten-Fold Path to Divinity

1. Love and serve the Motherland; do not hate or hurt the Motherland of others;
2. Honour every religion; each is a pathway to the One God;
3. Love all men without distinction; know that all mankind is a single community;
4. Keep your home and its environs clean, it will ensure health and happiness for you and for society;
5. Do not throw coins when beggars stretch their hands for alms, help them to become self-reliant. Provide food and shelter, love and care for the sick and the aged;
6. Do not tempt others by offering bribes or demean yourself by accepting bribes;
7. Do not develop jealousy, hatred or envy, on any count;
8. Do not depend on others to serve your personal needs, become your own servant before proceeding to serve others;
9. Observe the laws of the state and be exemplary citizen; Adore God, Abhor sin.

24. What is the significance of ending sessions by chanting Shanthi (Peace) 3 times ?

“The first call for peace is for the purity of the body part of the self (the body). The second is for the purity of the second part, the mind. The third is for the purification of the Spiritual.”

25. We need guidance on handout packs for new / existing devotees.

Standard templates are in preparation which will be supplied in due course.

26. Many centres are either singing the Lord’s Prayer (in English) or the Faiths Prayer (in Sanskrit). Are these necessary to chant ?

This is optional and it is left to the individual centres if they feel this is essential for their spirituality.

Lords Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from all that is evil, For thine is the Kingdom, The power and the glory Forever and ever.

Amen

Prayer covering different Faiths

*Om Tat Sat Sri Narayana Tu(m) Purushottama Guru Tu(m) Siddha
Buddha Tu(m) Skanda Vinayaka Savita Pavaka Tu(m) Brahma Mazda
Tu(m) Yahva Shakti Tu(m) Eshu Pita Prabhu Tu(m) Rudra Vishnu
Tu(m) Rama Krishna Tu(m) Rahim Tao Tu(m) Vasudeva Go Vishwaroopa
Tu(m) Chidananda Hari Tu(m) Advitaya Tu(m) Akala Nirbhaya Atmalinga
Shiva Tu(m)*

Tu(m) (Thou art)

Om Tat Sat (Aum. That Thou art; Thou art truth)

Sri Narayana (Lord Narayana who is radiant, splendid, glorious, beautiful graceful; who bestows prosperity, welfare, treasure, riches, good fortune, success, wealth, high rank, power, might etc.; who is the Lord of Mother Lakshmi, Goddess of wealth and prosperity);

Purushottama Guru (Supreme Lord who is embodiment of perfect Guru, Spiritual Teacher);

Siddha (God worshipped by Jnanis)

Buddha (One who is enlightened);

Skanda (Lord Subramanyam, destroyer of evil; Son of Lord Shiva)

Vinayaka (Lord Ganesh; Supreme leader who is embodiment of wisdom and grantor of success)

Savita (Sun God who sustains and nourishes the entire world and is source of life)

Pavaka (Fire that purifies);

Brahma (Infinity; One that pervades the entire universe)

Mazda (Great)

Yahva (Jehovah, God of Hebrews)

Shakti (Divine Power or Energy);

Eshu (Jesus Christ)

Pita (Father)

Prabhu (Almighty God);

Rudra (One who purifies; Lord Shiva)

Vishnu (All-pervading and nourishing Lord);

Rama (Lord Rama)

Krishna (Lord Krishna);

Rahim (One who is all kindness)

Tao (One who is embodiment of knowledge);

Vasudeva (Principle that resides in the entire creation)

Go (Cow or Mother earth)

Vishwaroopa (Omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient and infinite form);

Chidananda (Embodiment of Supreme Consciousness and Bliss)

Hari (One who destroys illusions);

Advitaya (One without a second);

Akala (One who is beyond time; timeless)

Nirbhaya (One who is fearless)

Atmalinga (Formless symbol of creation; no beginning, no end)

Shiva (Most auspicious Lord Shiva).