

MY LIFE IS MY MESSAGE

Sathya Sai Baba is a world teacher who teaches through example. Thousands of people in every country of the world have experienced the universal love of Sathya Sai through his life and work. These followers are not members of a sect or cult, but people from all walks of life, races, cultural backgrounds and religions.

His teaching belongs to all mankind. He says, *“I have not come to speak on behalf of any particular spiritual practice, or Hindu philosophy. I have not come on any mission of publicity for any sect or creed or cause; nor have I come to collect followers for any doctrine. I have come to tell you of this universal faith, this divine consciousness, this path of love, this philosophy of love, this duty of love, this obligation of love.”*

His biography, stretching over three-quarters of a century, is easily verified and presents fascinating reading. Born in 1926 in a tiny rural village in India, Sathya Sai grew up in humble surroundings. From an early age Sathya Sai exhibited a character full of compassion, integrity and love for those around him - and he left an impression on everyone he met - something which still occurs to this day. Sathya Sai's outstanding character influenced many around him and as he grew older it became clear that he would work for the welfare of others.

For many decades Sathya Sai has worked as an educator, spiritual leader and social worker, still based in the location where he was born, which is now transformed into a University town as a result of his untiring work. The town now contains schools, colleges, a university, two museums, a high-tech hospital (the second largest in Asia) and an arts and music college. In all these institutions education in human values takes place alongside teaching of the highest academic standard. In 2001 a new super speciality hospital was opened in Bangalore. All hospital treatment and education is given free of charge.

The Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Programme, was devised so that children everywhere could benefit, and understand the importance of human values in everyday living. In today's world, where violence, crime, drug abuse and fear are rife, the programme seeks to help draw out the inherent human values in children, so as to address these problems.

Sathya Sai encourages us to seek the underlying unity and divinity in ourselves, in others and in our lives. Concentrating on the values only, the programme of education he devised is universal, and beyond boundaries of religion, culture or nationality. He teaches, *“There is only one religion, the religion of love; there is only one language, the language of the heart; there is only one caste, the caste of humanity; there is only one God and He is omnipresent.”*

The effect of Sathya Sai values education on social reform in India is unparalleled in modern times. Many hundreds of villages in the surrounding areas have been adopted by Sathya Sai's students and voluntary workers who have built roads, bridges, schools and dug wells for them. Regular medical camps care for the health of thousands of people. Similar voluntary activities also occur in many countries around the world, performed by those who have been inspired by Sathya Sai.

It is not only Sathya Sai's example which inspires, but his extraordinary level of being, which shines through his teachings and has an impact on all who come into his presence.