



Prof. Dr. Albert Ferrer

Sathya Sai Baba on Education



“Self-realization should be the fundamental purpose of education.”
“The educational process is basically a holy endeavour.”



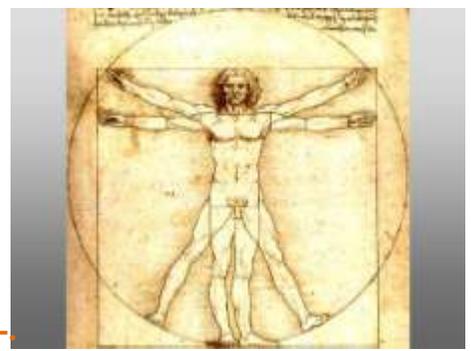
Sathya Sai Baba.

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOR A NEW WORLD.
SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS.**

**Philosophy of Education and Practical Pedagogy
For Integral Education in Human Values:
Towards the new holistic paradigm.**

**“Science sans conscience n’est que ruine de l’ame.”
“Science without conscience is but the ruin of the soul.”**

Michel de Montaigne -one of the fathers of Renaissance humanism-



Can the school system ignore the message of wisdom and humanism given by the greatest sages and philosophers?

Hence, can the educational process teach so many secondary details or instrumental tools and ignore the most important –conscience-?

One of the forerunners of modern economics, Adam Smith, warned that the famous invisible hand in society can only operate through moral beings, and that economy must be sustained upon a concept of sympathy and regard to our fellow beings.

Can the school ignore this sympathy in the classrooms and teach mere techniques?

Can education refuse to form moral beings and provide information only?

A valueless society may be at the root of the contemporary economic and social crisis.

Science without conscience may be at the root of the most serious problems of mankind.

“Information is not knowledge.

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

Who expressed this vision of education? An artist? No. A philosopher? No.

Albert Einstein did –one of the physicists who fostered the scientific revolution of the XXTh century-.

And what did he say about the present educational system?

“It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education.”

Already in the 1970s, the International Commission on the Development of Education, known as the **Faure Commission, 1972, stressed the importance of the ethical and emotional dimensions of the human being together with the intellectual or strictly academic.**

At the end of the 1990s, the **Jacques Delors Commision made one significant step further, and explicitly added the aesthetic and spiritual domains.**

“Sri Sathya Sai Baba was a spiritual leader who inspired millions to lead a moral and meaningful life.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba as a preacher of the highest human values was an iconic figure for over five decades.”

Dr M. Singh, Prime Minister of India.

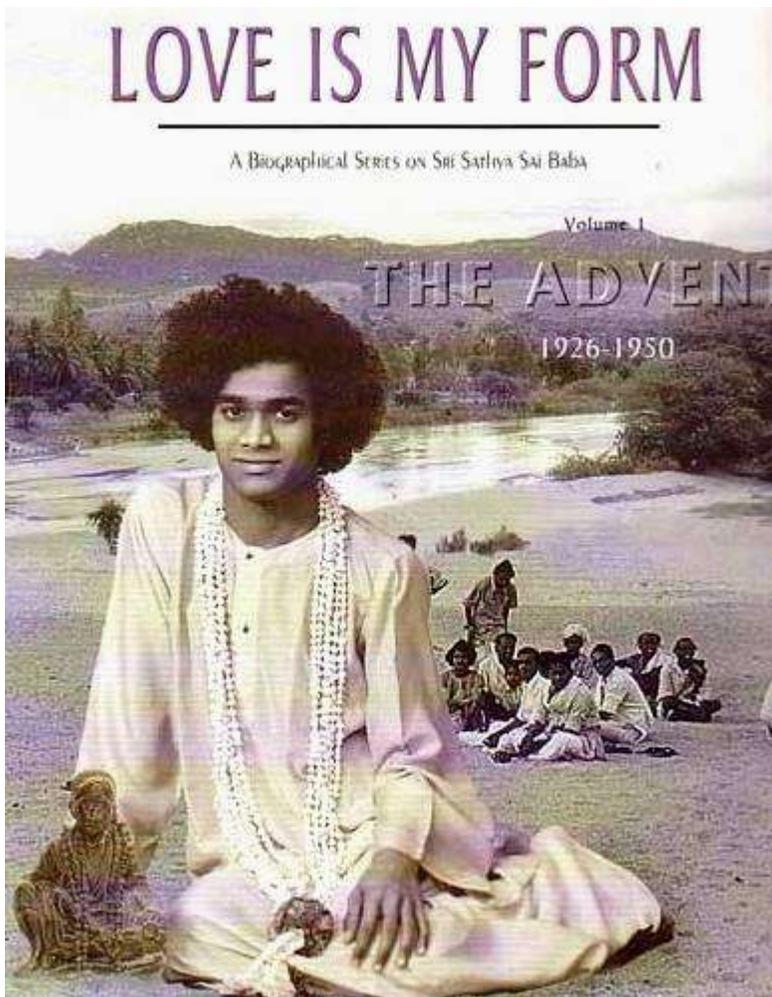
“Swami Sri Sathya Sai Baba has touched the souls of millions of people –rich and poor. He has worked selflessly to enhance the livelihoods and to benefit communities and the downtrodden.

He has treated everyone alike, and he leaves behind a legacy of high values, goodness and kindness.”

Mr R. N. Tata, Chairman of the Tata Group.

“We deeply mourn the demiss of of the great saint Sathya Sai Babaji, Who has a permanent place in the heart of lakhs of poor and downtrodden people in India and also other countries.”

Mother Theresa Charitable Trust.





**“It is not for the love of children
that children are beloved;**

**It is for the love of the soul
That dwells within children
That children are beloved.”**

Brihad-Aranyaka Upanishad.



**“Children are
Precious treasures.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.





“The one I really am.

A soul with a body.”

Sathya Sai Baba.



“Self-knowledge alone

Is true knowledge.”

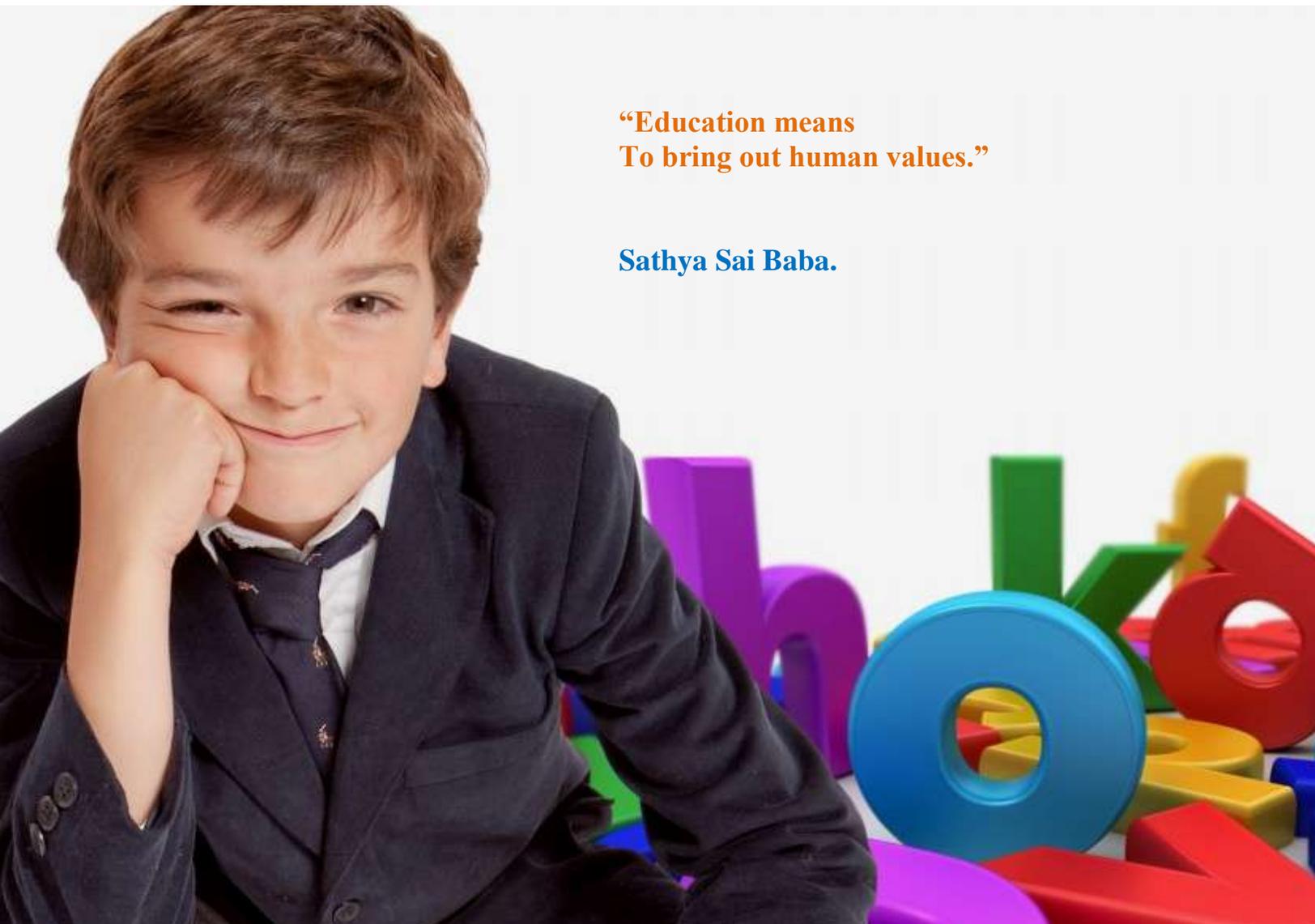
Sathya Sai Baba.

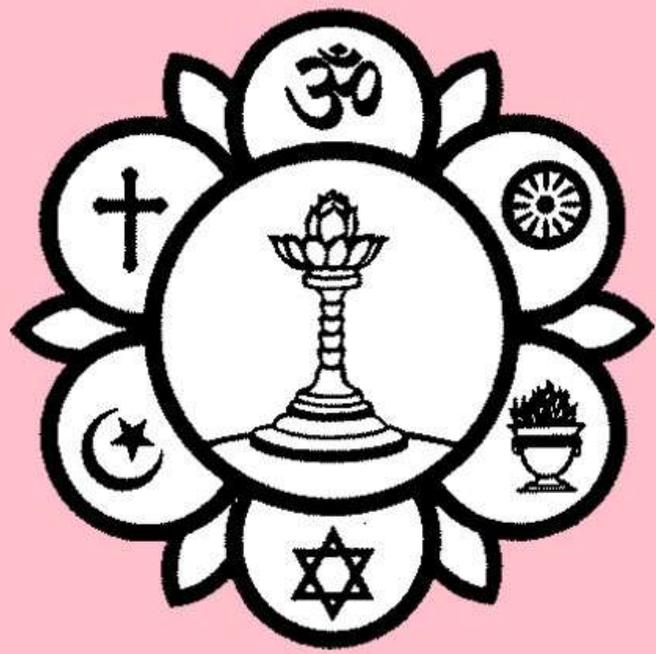




**“Education means
To bring out human values.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.





**“The value of the teaching process lies
in raising the level of consciousness of the learner.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.



**“Education should help to make students
the embodiments of human values.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.





“Education must promote ethical human behaviour.”

Sathya Sai Baba.

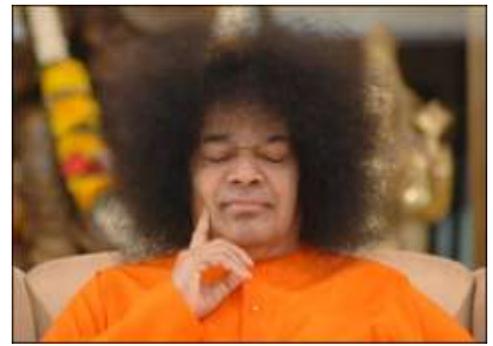




**“The world is in a sorry mess
Because of the absence of human values.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.

Sathya Sai Baba has furnished a sharp criticism of the “education” based on blind memorizing for rote tests, with repressive discipline and no love or sensitiveness for the child:



“Education today is a process of filling the mind with the contents of books, emptying the contents in the examination hall, and returning empty-headed.”

“The educational system is beset with many problems.”

“Education today has become mechanical.”

“Alongside with the growth of knowledge, ignorance is also growing.”

“There is a great and urgent need for teachers to receive training in the methods of child education.”

“This is the age of science and technology.

What the students have to learn today

Are the culture of the soul,

The broadening of the Spirit

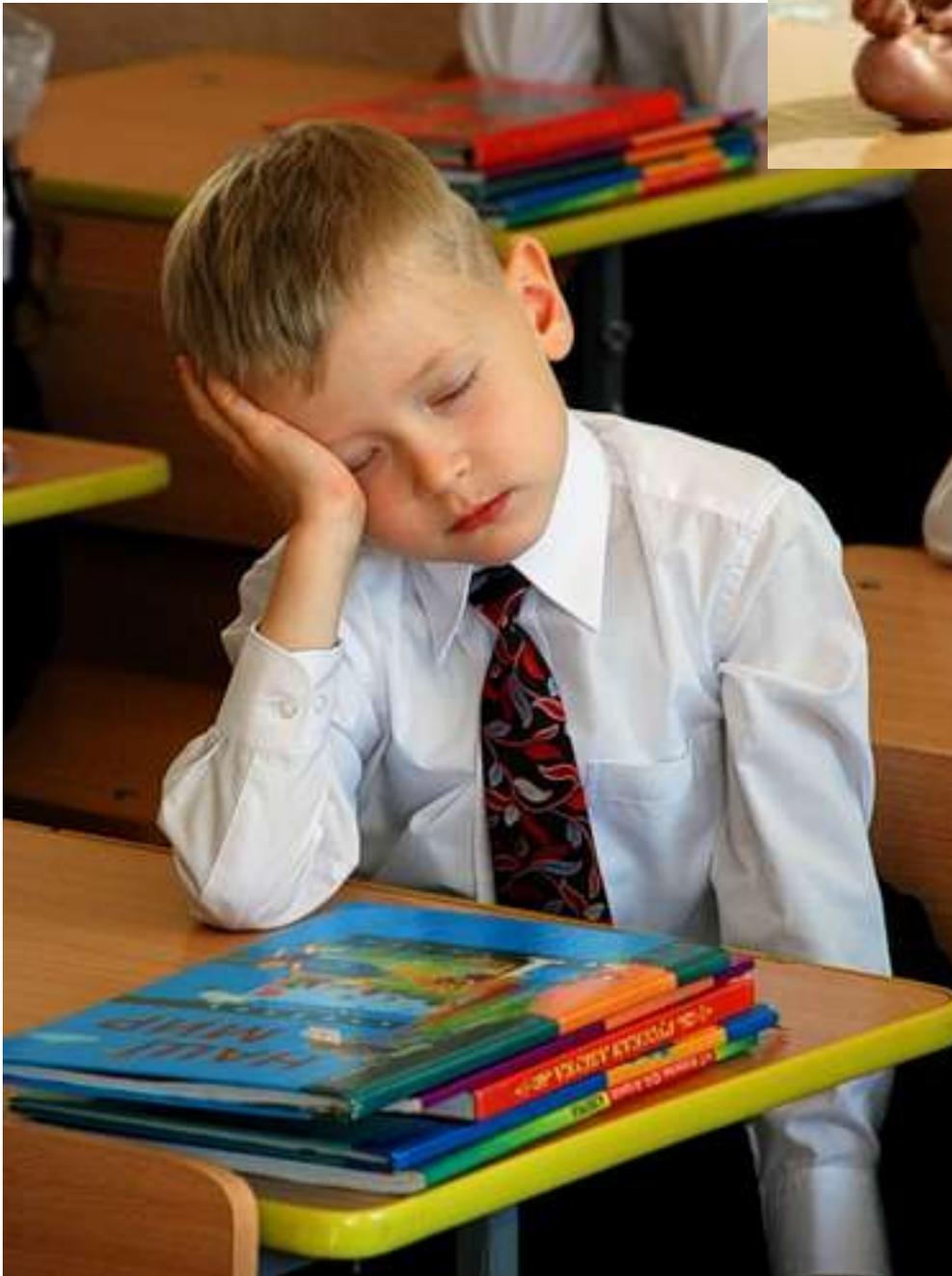
And the purification of the heart.”

Sathya Sai Baba.



**“Mere book knowledge
Is not education.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.





“Spiritual education brings out the inherent divinity in man.”

Sathya Sai Baba.





**“You are not merely teachers at your own schools,
But teachers of the human race.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.





“The end of knowledge is love.”

Sathya Sai Baba.





“The teacher must help each pupil to unfold his natural talents.”

Sathya Sai Baba.





“The practical truth of love and brotherhood.”

Sathya Sai Baba.





“Not information but transformation.

Not instruction but construction.”

Sathya Sai Baba.



“Love leads to unity.

Unity to purity.

Purity to divinity.”

Sathya Sai Baba.





“ Transcend the feeling of multiplicity

And cultivate the feeling of oneness,

The unity which underlies the apparent diversity.

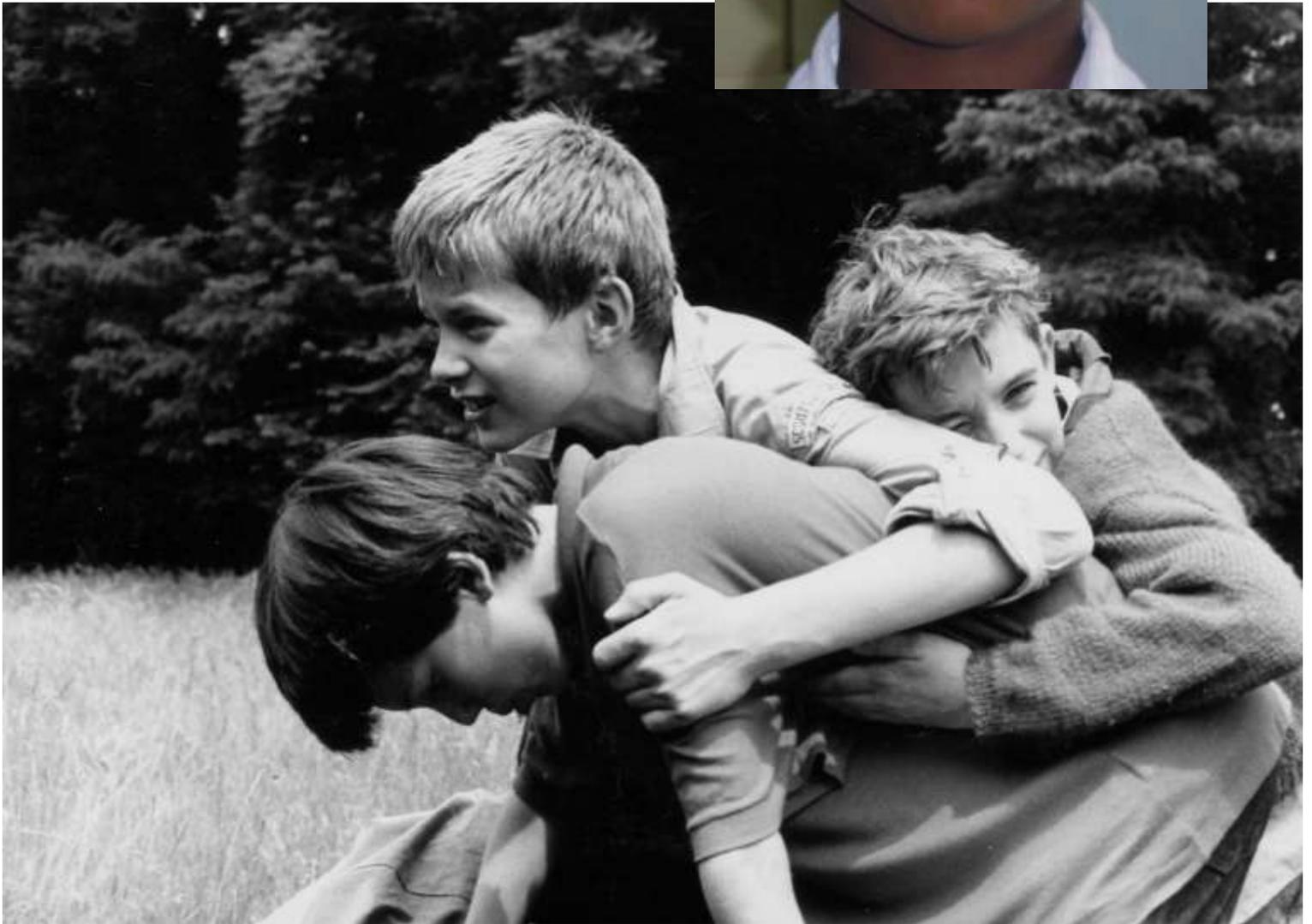
The world is one.”

Sathya Sai Baba.



**“Know the Supreme Truth
Of One Being
Behind all becoming.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.





**“See all beings as manifestations of the same divinity,
The God within.”**

Sathya Sai Baba.



OUR PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION.

TO GO MORE IN DEPTH INTO OUR EDUCATIONAL PROJECT.

*“Self-realization, the understanding of
One’s basic Reality, should be
The fundamental purpose of education”.*

*“The most desirable subject for study
Is the secret of the soul which is immortal.”*

*“Every effort should be made
To utilize education for the purpose of divinizing man.”*

“Everyone should foster divine qualities.”

“The purpose of education is to foster the sense of oneness.”

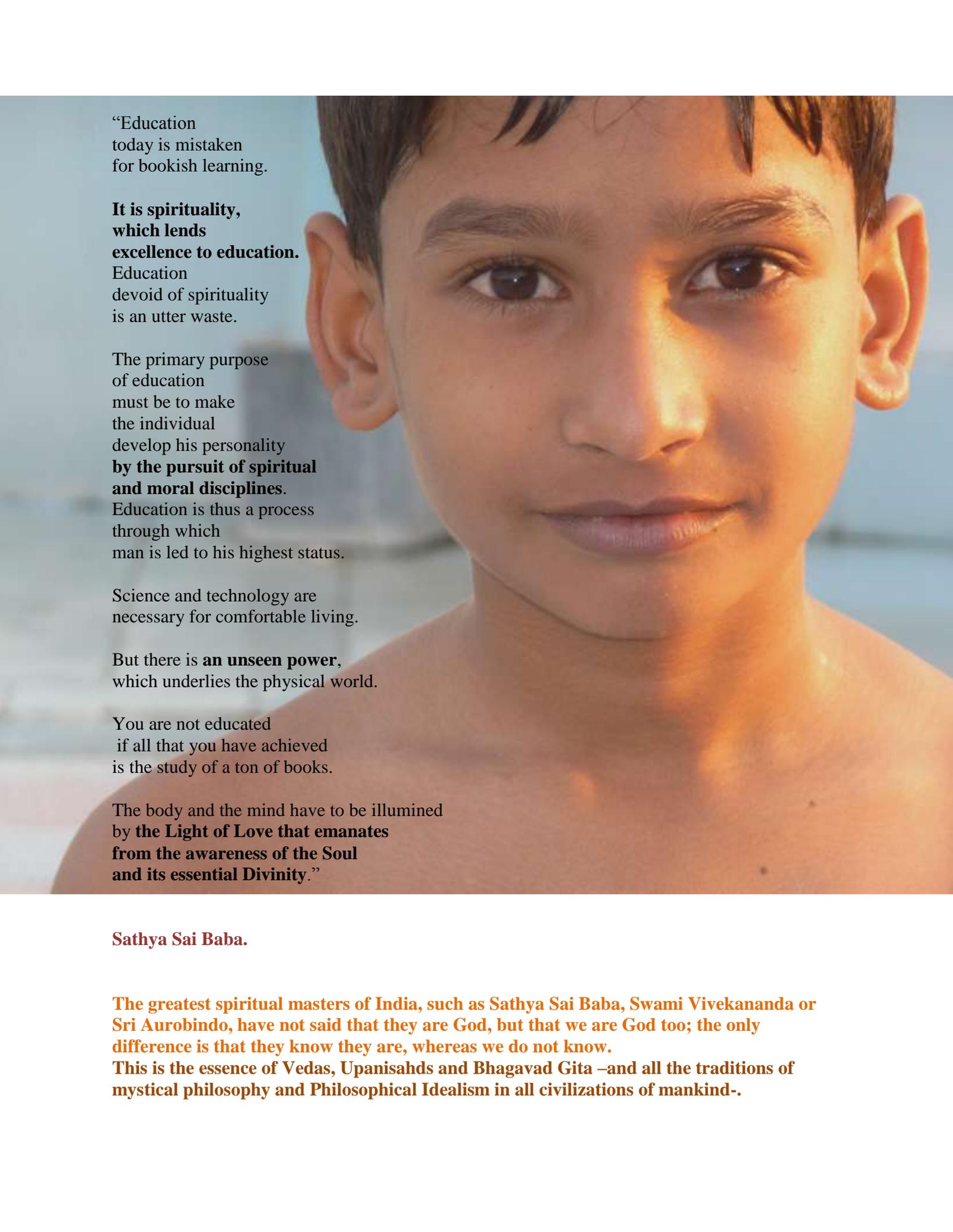
*“A school should not be considered to be just a commonplace
arrangement designed for teaching and learning.
It is the place where the consciousness is aroused and
illumined, purified and strengthened.”*

“The educational process is basically a holy endeavour.”

*“A school is assuredly a sacred place where a holy task is
being put into action.”*

Sathya Sai Baba.





“Education today is mistaken for bookish learning.

It is spirituality, which lends excellence to education.

Education devoid of spirituality is an utter waste.

The primary purpose of education must be to make the individual develop his personality **by the pursuit of spiritual and moral disciplines.** Education is thus a process through which man is led to his highest status.

Science and technology are necessary for comfortable living.

But there is **an unseen power**, which underlies the physical world.

You are not educated if all that you have achieved is the study of a ton of books.

The body and the mind have to be illumined by **the Light of Love that emanates from the awareness of the Soul and its essential Divinity.**”

Sathya Sai Baba.

The greatest spiritual masters of India, such as Sathya Sai Baba, Swami Vivekananda or Sri Aurobindo, have not said that they are God, but that we are God too; the only difference is that they know they are, whereas we do not know.

This is the essence of Vedas, Upanisahds and Bhagavad Gita –and all the traditions of mystical philosophy and Philosophical Idealism in all civilizations of mankind-.

“ Education today is a process of filling the mind with the contents of books, emptying the contents in the examination hall, and returning empty-headed.”

“The word “education” has its origin in the Latin word Educare which means “to elicit”.

Educare has two aspects, the worldly and the spiritual.

Worldly education brings out the latent knowledge pertaining to the physical world.

Spiritual education brings out the inherent divinity in man.

So, both worldly and spiritual education are essential, without which the human life has no value.”

“Education should help to make students the embodiments of human values such as truth, love, right action, peace and non-violence.”

“The end of education is character.”

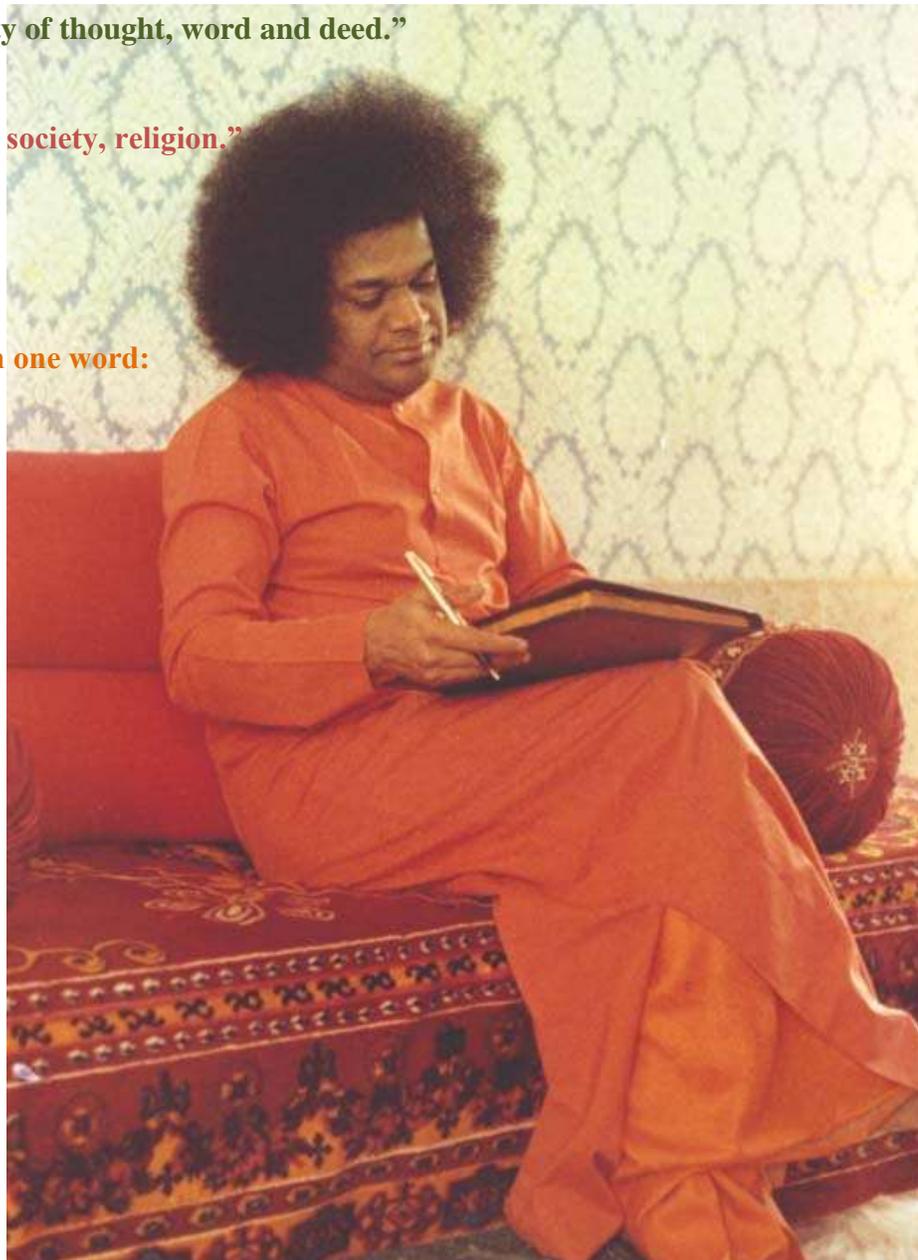
“Character manifests itself as the unity of thought, word and deed.”

“We do not need a new order, system, society, religion.”

**“The remedy lies in the mind,
In a heart filled with holiness.”**

**“True education can be summed up in one word:
Love, all-encompassing love.”**

**“All we need are men and women
who have pure and loving hearts.”**



“The Soul is our inner reality.

**To experience the Self, the Soul, you require only Self-knowledge.
Self-knowledge alone is true knowledge.”**

**“We must either know the Supreme Truth of the One Being behind all becoming, or at least know the practical Truth of Love and Brotherhood.
These two points are the limits which education must ever keep in mind, the starting point and the goal.”**

“Recognize the oneness of all beings.”

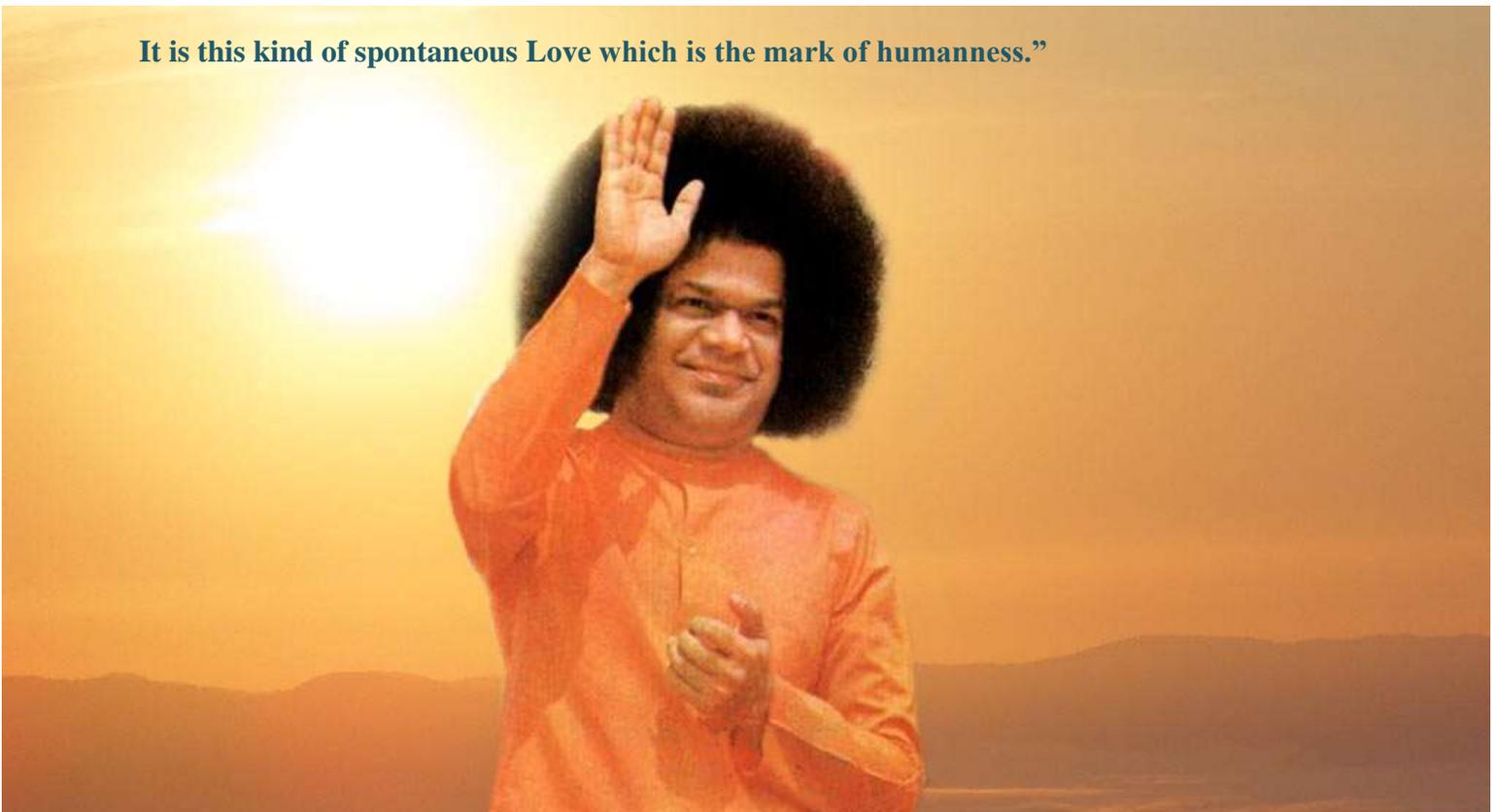
“You teach love to students only through love.”

“Love alone can alleviate anxiety and all fear. Love is joy, love is power, love is light, love is God. Love helps you to see God in everyone, everyone as Divine.”

“Love is the undercurrent of all human values.

- **When Love is associated with thoughts, it becomes Truth.**
- **When Love is introduced into your activities, your actions become Right Conduct.**
- **When your feelings are saturated with Love, your heart is filled with supreme Peace.**
- **When you allow Love to guide your understanding and reasoning, then your intelligence becomes saturated with Non-violence.**

It is this kind of spontaneous Love which is the mark of humanness.”



“There is a good deal of speculation on how to bring about a new social order. All these are exercises in futility.”

“What is required is inner experience resulting from actual practice.”

“What is required is quality and not quantity.”

“What is important is the transformation of the mind.”

“When men are transformed (...) the world is transformed.”

“Education has slid from its lofty heights of the past.”

“We should bring about reform in the current system of education.”



According to Sathya Sai Baba, **human values cannot be separated, and their intrinsic interconnectedness if filled with love. Interdependence on love constitutes the core of humanity and reality.** In His own poetical expression:



“The first that comes out from man is **Love**.
The same Love is expanded in our words, actions and thoughts.

The reflection and the spark that has come out of Love is called **Truth**.
The same Love, when expressed in action, is called **Right Conduct**.
When Love is contemplated upon, mind attains supreme **Peace**.
When we inquire from where this Love has come, and understand its very source, then we realize the great principle of **Non-violence**.

Therefore, the undercurrent that flows through Truth, Right Conduct, Peace and Non-violence, is **Love** only.

Love in feeling is **Peace**.
Love in understanding is **Non-violence**: respect and reverence for all Creation.
Love in action is **Right Conduct**.

Truth, Peace, Right-conduct and Non-violence do not exist separately. They are essentially dependent on **Love**.

When Love is associated with thoughts, it becomes **Truth**.
When Love is introduced into your activities, your actions become **Right Conduct**.
When your feelings are saturated with Love, your heart is filled with supreme **Peace**.
When you allow Love to guide your understanding and reasoning, then your intelligence becomes saturated with **Non-violence**.

It is this kind of spontaneous **Love** which is the mark of humanness.”

“There is only one law guiding and guarding this world: the law of Love.
Man’s characteristic is Love.

Love is the basis of character.
The greatest virtue is Love.

Love does not seek any return.
Love knows only to give, not to receive.
Love with no expectation in return.
For true Love, Love is its own reward.

Love all beings. That is enough.
Love because your very nature is love.
Man is Love embodied. Love all as the embodiments of the same Divine principle.
Love can transform man into a divine being.”

“Today man is only running after education, position and power. He is not making any effort to learn the essence of all learning, namely, **the education of the self**.

Education today is mistaken for bookish learning.

It is spirituality, which lends excellence to education.

Education devoid of spirituality is an utter waste.

The primary purpose of education must be to make the individual develop his personality by the pursuit of **spiritual and moral disciplines**.

Education is thus a process through which man is led to his highest status.

Students should combine **spiritual education** with **academic studies**.

Moreover, cultivation of **good character** is equally important.

Science and technology are undoubtedly necessary for comfortable living.

But there is **an unseen power**, which underlies the physical world.

Today **students should acquire both physical knowledge for living and spiritual knowledge for understanding that which sustains life**.

The two together help to make humanness blossom.

You are not educated if all that you have achieved is the study of a ton of books.

The body and the mind have to be illumined by **the Light of Love that emanates from the awareness of the Soul and its essential Divinity.**”

Sathya Sai Baba.



SATHYA SAI BABA AND WESTERN PHILOSOPHY.

**“Two things inspire me to awe:
the starry heavens above
and the moral universe within.”**

**“I had to suspend knowledge
in order to make room for faith.”**

“Freedom is alone the unoriginated birthright of man.”

Immanuel Kant.



“The purpose of education is to foster the sense of oneness.”

“When you direct your vision on this vast creation you are filled with awe and wonder.”

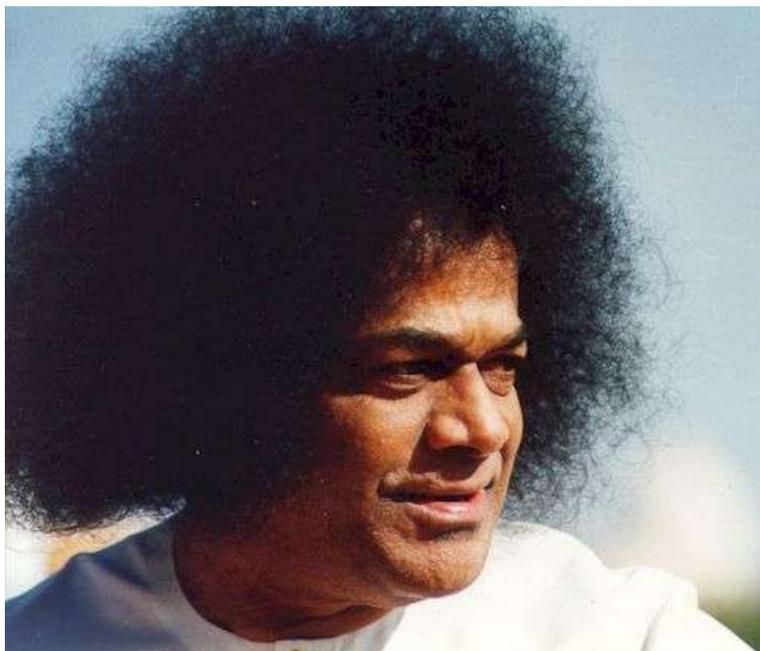
“The cosmos is the magnificent manifestation of the Divine.”

“Manifest inherent divinity.”

“Education must liberate man.”

“The end of wisdom is freedom.”

Sathya Sai Baba.



**“What is this progress?
Justice and morality are confined to books.
The hearts have become the abode of all that is foul.
Hands have become instruments of selfishness.”**

**“The world is suffering today from too much knowledge.
Virtue has not increased in proportion to the advance of knowledge.
That is the root cause of the misery in human society.”**

“The remedy lies in a mind, in a heart filled with holiness.”

“Education should make one realize the unity of all beings.”

“It is only spiritual and moral education which can foster harmony, unity and humanity.”

“The educational system should be based on human values.”

Sathya Sai Baba.



Quotations of Sathya Sai Baba about education.

Education in human values or integral education from the self.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba walked slowly to a boy, and offered a fruit himself.

- What do you want? –Sri Sathya Sai Baba said.
- **Education** –the boy answered.

Everyone was pleasantly surprised.

- I will arrange that –promised Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who asked again:
- What more do you want?
- **Nothing, except education** –the boy answered.

Who am I?

The one I believe I am:
A child with a name and surname,
Who goes to school to learn,
Who has parents and friends.

The one others believe I am:
A good or bad child,
Beautiful or plain,
According to their judgment.

**The one I really am:
A soul with a body,
Light shining on its own accord,
Regardless of the judgment of others,
And the changes of age.**



Education today is a process of filling the mind with the contents of books, emptying the contents in the examination hall, and returning empty-headed.

The educational system is beset with many problems.

Alongside with the growth of knowledge, ignorance is also growing.

Above all, realize that **children are precious treasures.**

What exactly is education?

It means opening wide the doors of the mind. It means cleansing the inner tools of consciousness, the mind, the senses, ego and reason.

Education, when it gets linked with egoism, loses its wider purpose. It becomes supremely purposeful only when it is directly related to spirituality.

The word “education” has its origin in the Latin word **Educare** which means “to elicit”. Educare has **two aspects**, the worldly and the spiritual. Worldly education brings out the latent knowledge pertaining to the physical world. Spiritual education brings out the inherent divinity in man. So, both worldly and spiritual education are essential, without which the human life has no value.

The rainbow in the sky is formed by dispersion of one single pure white ray by raindrops. It symbolises multiplicity in nature caused by the prism of the mind. The diversity of the five elements in creation has its origin in the pure Divine Light within. **Revelation of this truth is Educare.**



That which has no origin knows no beginning. It was before everything or anything was. There was nothing prior to it. For that very reason, it has no end. It expands as far as It wills, progresses as diverse as It feels, and through Its Fullness, It fills the universe too. Knowledge of this Supreme Principle is known as **Vidya, Knowledge, Wisdom, Awareness.**

The Soul is our inner reality. To experience the Self, the Soul, you require only Self-knowledge. **Self-knowledge alone is true knowledge.**

We must either know the Supreme Truth of the **One Being** behind all becoming, or at least know the practical Truth of **Love** and **Brotherhood.** These two points are the limits which education must ever keep in mind, the starting point and the goal.

Recognize the oneness of all beings.



Knowledge about what this author says or that sage teaches is not what your study circle must aim to acquire. **Not information, but transformation; not instruction, but construction** should be the aim.

Theoretical knowledge is a burden, unless it is practiced, when it can be lightened into wisdom, and assimilated into daily life.

Knowledge that does not give harmony and wholeness to the process of living is not worth acquiring.

The actual syllabus is not as important as the creation of an atmosphere where noble habits and ideals can grow and fructify.

Education must promote **ethical** human behaviour.

A school should not be considered to be just a commonplace arrangement designed for teaching and learning. It is the place where **the consciousness** is aroused and illumined, purified and strengthened.

Education must instil **the fundamental human values**. It must broaden the vision to include the entire world and all mankind.

Education should help to make students the embodiments of human values such as truth, love, right action, peace and non-violence.

The end of education is character.

Character consists of eagerness to renounce one's selfish greed.

Character manifests itself as the unity of thought, word and deed.



True education should inspire one with feelings and thoughts to lead an ideal life.

Good education is that which teaches the method of achieving world-peace; that which destroys narrow-mindedness and promotes unity, equality and peaceful co-existence among human beings.

Education is for Life, not for mere living.

From the most impressionable years, the children should be taught to cultivate **love** for all. Love leads to **unity**. Unity promotes **purity**. Purity leads to **Divinity**.

You teach love to students only through love.

Love alone can alleviate anxiety and all fear. Love is joy, love is power, love is light, love is God. Love helps you to see God in everyone, everyone as Divine.

The fundamental basis for everything is **love**.

There is only one religion: the religion of love.

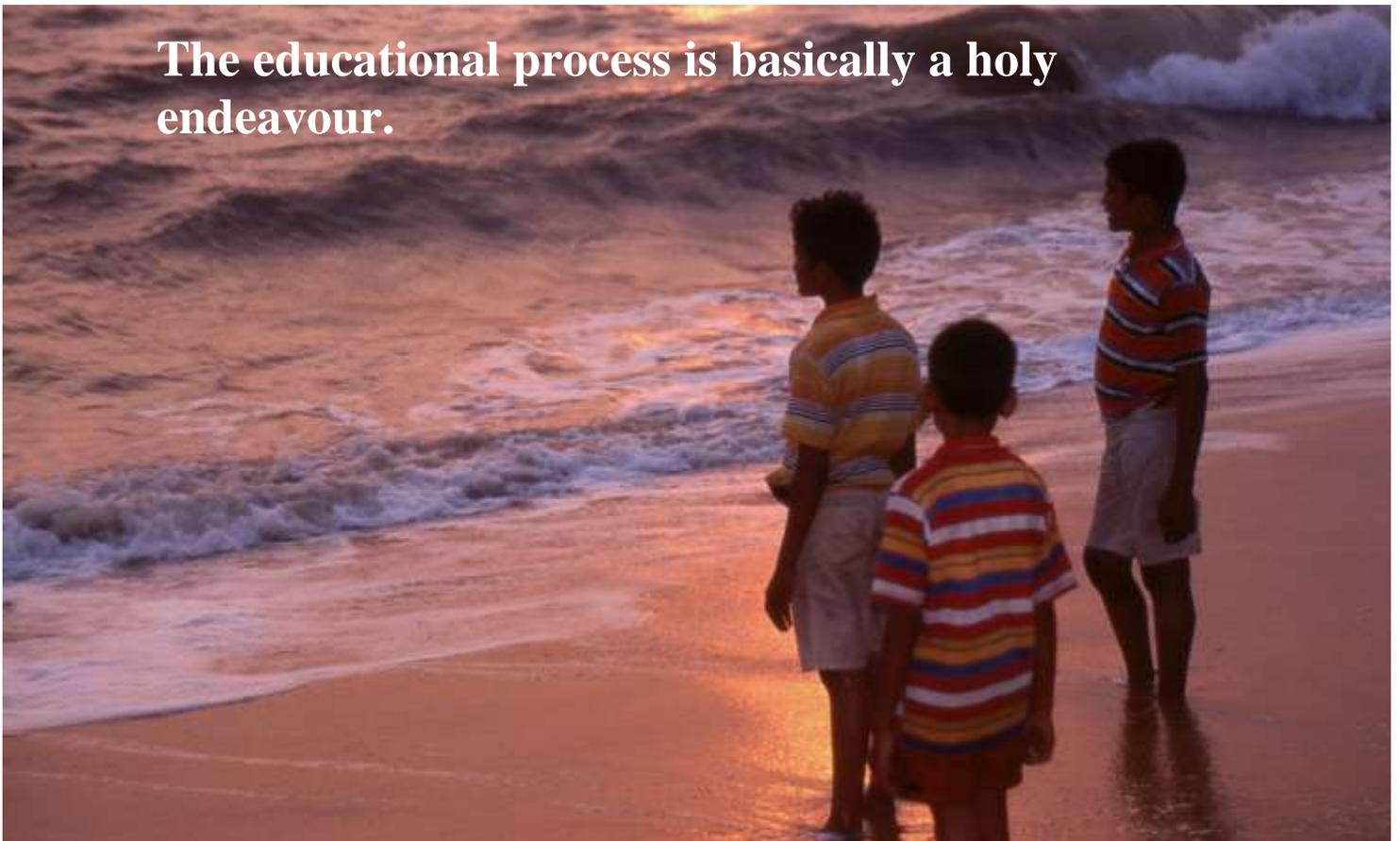
Educare means to bring out the divine love latent in man.

Love is the undercurrent of all human values.

Education must elicit the fundamental human values.

A school is assuredly a sacred place where a holy task is being put into action.

The educational process is basically a holy endeavour.



Selection of complementary texts on specific pedagogic topics.

What is education?

True education can be summed up in one word:
Love, all-encompassing love.

We do not need today a new faith or creed,
Nor a new system of education.
Nor need we to create a new society.

All we need are men and women
who have pure and loving hearts.

We do not need a new order, system, society, religion.

**The remedy lies in the mind,
In a heart filled with holiness.**

The cultivation of human values alone is education.

We must realize that the world is in a sorry mess because of the absence of these values.

In spreading the message of these values to the world, you should all cooperate with each other
and act in harmony.

**Education in human values is devised not merely for the education of the children,
But also of the teachers.**



The integral character of education.

This is the age of science and technology. Its civilization and culture are bound up with knowledge of the physical universe.

What the students have to learn today, however, are the culture of the soul, the broadening of the Spirit, and the purification of the Heart.

This knowledge leads to the unfolding of the Spirit and the sublimation of life.

Along with the development of the intellect, the blossoming of the heart should also be promoted.

Only that education is total and full (...)

It should serve to promote ethical values.

Education can be both material-oriented and spirit-oriented.

It can have as its aim the achievement of a high level of living for oneself, one's family, and one's kith and kin.

But living involves more than flesh and bone, food and shelter, more than even sensual satisfactions.

Man has certain intangible equipment like the mind, the intellect, and the consciousness in various levels. These have to be clarified, cleansed, strengthened and directed along beneficent lines. This is done by spirit-oriented training.

Now, material education has grown much too high. Spiritual education has lagged behind and even disappeared.

So there is no integration in the personality of the educated person. (...)

The process of education has become too mechanical.

It is not vitalized by the consciousness of ideals or elevated by a high purpose.

Ask any student, he replies that he is pursuing education for the sake of earning a living.

But what of the very goal of human life?

To understand it and struggle to reach it is even more important.

Education at Prashanti Nilayam has not been devised for awarding degrees only.

It is aimed at equipping the student for **an integrated life**.

The student must be aware of all aspects of the adventure of life.



The meaning of education in human values –Educare/ Bala Vikas-

What is education?

It is derived from the root word “vid”, meaning “to know” (in Sanskrit). **Vidya** is termed as education in English.

The term “education” has its origin in the Latin word “educare”, which means “to elicit”.

Educare has **two aspects**, the worldly and the spiritual.

Worldly education brings out the latent knowledge pertaining to the physical world.

Spiritual education brings out the inherent Divinity in Man.

So both worldly and spiritual education are essential, without which the human life has no value.

But spirituality finds no place in the modern education system. Only worldly education is given prominence.

You have to understand the true meaning of these two words: **education** and **human values**.

Education has two aspects: the first is related to external and worldly education, which is nothing but acquiring bookish knowledge. In the modern world, we find many well-versed and highly qualified in this aspect.

The second aspect, known as **Educare**, is related to **human values**. The word Educare means to bring out that which is within.

Human values, viz, Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa (Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence) are hidden in every human being.

One cannot acquire them from outside. They have **to be elicited from within**.

But as man has forgotten his innate human values, he is unable to manifest them.

Educare means to bring out human values.

To bring out means **to translate them into action.**

What exactly is education?

The first and foremost task for man is to understand the value of education.

Education is being confused with the acquisition of verbal scholarship.

Many read books, but mere book knowledge is not education.

Education is not confined to reading, writing and listening.

Degrees do not constitute true marks of learning.

Degrees do not make an educated person. (...)

Real education must promote concern for others (...)

True education consists in the cultivation of the heart.”



Discipline.

Today the talk is all about freedom. But **freedom should be within limits.**

The end of wisdom is freedom.
The end of culture is perfection.
The end of education is character.
The end of knowledge is love.

Freedom today has degenerated into disrespect and irreverence.

Understand the importance of **disciplined freedom** in education.

Some people talk of an educational theory, advocating full freedom to the child, allowing him to grow just as he likes. The parents are advised not to curb or control. **This is a sure way of making the child wild, a burden to itself, and a nuisance to society.**



The role of the teacher and pedagogy.

You are not merely teachers at your own schools,
But **teachers of the human race.**

Today, teaching and learning have both become **mechanical** routines.
They have lost the freshness and joy.

The value of the teaching process lies in **raising the level of consciousness** of the learner, in heightening the sense of wonder and awe, and in emphasizing the unity of one with all.

Teachers must endeavour **to help each pupil to unfold his natural talents** and innate skills, and recognize his latent potentialities.

Teachers should cultivate love for their students.
They should treat the children as their own.

Teachers must speak in loving terms.
The teacher must try the path of love.
Let your heart be soft.

Although love is inherently soft and compassionate,
In certain situations it assumes a stern form.

Even out of love, one has sometimes to use punishment.

Teachers should be cautious not to be too lenient.

Discipline should be enforced with love and understanding.
Love towards the student should be tempered with discipline.



Teachers should not lose their temper.

They should keep their emotions under control.

Do not get angry or upset when the child does not respond quickly or correctly.

Repeat the instruction again and again.

Do not parade your weakness or failings in the presence of the children.

Do not criticize others in their presence.

When you have to reprimand a child, **do not terrorize by shouting.**

Do not use fear.

Speak, try to make him understand.

Children need affectionate advice.

Personal example is the best method of teaching.

Every teacher has, like the drill teacher, to do what he says.

He must demonstrate in his own life the truth and validity of what he advises the pupils to do.

Teaching has become a process of transmission from head to head.

**True teaching goes straight to the heart,
And imprints itself permanently on the hearts of the students.**

