

Sathya Sai Educare – Human Values

Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference

July 20-22, 2008

Dedicated with Love and Reverence at the Divine Lotus Feet of

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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First Printing: July 2008

ISBN-10: 0-9791426-3-6

ISBN-13: 978-0-9791426-3-5

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008905179

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The Five Mothers

Inauguration of Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College for Women

Anantapur, July 22, 1968

This is a day full of significance, not only for Anantapur or this District or this State, but, for all other States also. On the occasion of the School Day of the High School for Girls in this town, as early as 1964, I had announced that what this town needed most was a College exclusively for Women. That Sankalpa (resolve) has today realised itself. Very soon, this will become a full-fledged completely equipped educational institution, with a status peculiar to itself. The prompting behind this college is not the search for reputation, or the desire to propagate a cult, or the hope of monetary profit. I know that fame is a fickle figment, that reputation is something that rots, that profit is defiled when it is measured in terms of cash.

I have allowed this college to rise, because it will instill in the minds of the students the ancient ideals of *Sathya, Dharma, Shanti* and *Prema*, ideals that are delineated in the *Vedas*, described in *Shastras*, illustrated in the epics, practised by countless generations of the men and women of this land and confirmed as best suited for individual and social progress by its saints and sages, law-givers and leaders, for centuries.

All Are Eager to Learn the Secret of Peace

Every student born and bred in this land is the inheritor of this precious heritage and has a right to know it and benefit by it. Agriculture is for living; mind-culture is for life. Skills are for shaping material things so that they cater more for the comfort of man; studies are for shaping attitudes, feelings, desires, emotions and impulses of man, so that they may confer more peace, more joy, and more fortitude on man.

Prahlada told his father that **“the father who leads the son to God is the only father who deserves the reverence due to that status.”** Fathers who lead their sons into the vortex of sense pleasure, the volcanoes of physical passion, the boggy marsh of pride and pomp – are unaware of their duties and responsibilities. So too, an educational system that keeps children away from God – the only refuge, the only kinsman, the only guide and guard – is really a system where the blind are engaged in blinding those who depend on them.

India has forgotten its real source of strength; it is seeking strength in the debilitating hunt for cankerous comfort. This college will feed the roots of that genuine culture of Bharat, which alone can revitalise the people of India, and through them, of the whole world. My visit to East Africa has shown that people there are eager to know about the culture and philosophy of India so that they may learn the secret of peace and joy.

Women, who were all these centuries, the bulwarks of Indian culture, the guardians of Indian spiritual wealth, are fast succumbing to the flimsy attractions of foppish culture, as is evident from the modes of living and the social behaviour of many educated women. This is the result of the artificial and empty system of education, as well as the subtle pulls of cheap literature and shoddy films. **Women are the mothers of the coming generation; they are the teachers of that generation, during the first five years of life.**

The Mother’s Responsibility Is Most Crucial

The mother is the first of the five *Mathas* (Mothers), that the Indian child encounters: *Deha-matha* (the mother that gave birth to this body); *Go-matha* (the cow that gives sustaining milk); *Bhoo-matha* (the land that grows the crops which feed the body); *Desha-matha* (the Native country that gives protection, care, love, rights

and chances to serve and elevate oneself to one's full height), and *Veda-matha* (the heritage of spiritual treasure that reveals the aim and purpose of human life and takes one step by step, towards the Goal of Self-realisation). The *Deha-matha* must reveal to the child the glories of all the other four; so her responsibility is the greatest and most crucial. That is the reason why it has been resolved to start a women's college, in every State, in order to promote the *Dharma*, which I have come to establish. This is part of the general task. Every act of Mine, every word, will have only that goal in view.

***Atma-vidya* (science of the Self) alone can fix the mind in *Dharma*.** The students here will be given a glimpse of that *Atma-vidya*; they will develop a keen desire to know about it – knowledge and desire that will stand them in good stead, when they encounter the problems of life. The war of Kurukshethra, for which the *Mahabharata* is the background and the stage, lasted for eighteen days; other wars have lasted longer, seven years, thirty years and even a hundred years! But, however long, they ended! They had to finish some time!

But the battle between *Jeevi* and *Maya*, the individual and the fascinating, deluding wiles of the really unreal Nature with its enticing multi-fariousness – this battle is continuous; the earliest man got entangled in it; the last man on earth will have to fight it. **It can bring victory to the *Jeevi* (individual) only when, like Arjuna, he chooses the Lord as his charioteer and surrenders his judgement, his desires, to Him.** *Maya* can be conquered only by allying yourselves with the Master of *Maya*, *Madhava*. This is the lesson that *Atma-vidya* teaches, this is the lesson that children in India have a right to imbibe; children from all over the world can benefit immensely from it. •

Love and Be Loved

Teacher's Day

Anantapur, September 5, 1968

I am glad you have met here as an association of teachers, and you have deemed it fit to honour a few teachers, who have won the love and gratitude of generations of students. This co-operation and mutual respect must become part of one's daily conduct, one's mental make-up, one's nature. This is what the **Rishis of ancient India have consistently emphasised. 'Live together, revere each other; let not the seeds of envy and hate grow and choke the clear stream of Love,'** is the prayer that they have taught the children of this land. Their teaching has been Unity, Divinity, Charity – in thought, word and deed, from the first breath to the last. When teachers transmit this heritage, unspoilt and undiminished, to the children, the future of the land is assured to be glorious.

Teachers should not trot out excuses, based on material considerations, to shirk or by-pass their essentially spiritual task of 'education.' They must bear trials and tribulations, with calm content, and do their work even more efficiently, so that God will reward them, and society will learn to revere them all the more. The world honours the man who suffers gladly, far more than the one who enjoys shamelessly!

Fundamentally, the years of life are but a short span, a rest in a wayside caravanserai, a drama played on a rickety stage, a bubble upon the waters. During this fleeting hour, it has been given to few to share this golden chance of imparting instruction, inspiring devotion, instilling courage, into the growing children, so that the generation to follow will be ever grateful. **Do your job well as a puja (worship), an offering at the Lotus Feet, and you will be amply rewarded with joy, peace, restfulness and rapture.** These teachers whom you honour today have the same message for all of you. Do not call them poor, for they are rich spiritually, doing their duty which is well-understood, well-undertaken, and well-done joyously.

Teachers Must Turn the Children to the Path of Peace

Teachers are not nowadays aware of the nobility of their profession; society has turned ungrateful. Boys and young men have the stars of the silver screen as their gods and guides; they learn deeply and dangerously from films, from horror comics, from crime books. They have no sense of values implanted in them early in life. They are carried away by the torrent of triviality. The teacher is a helpless witness of this tragedy; for, he has no strength and sustenance to impart, no ideal to implant, no enthusiasm to transmit. If only the teacher is imbued with the lessons of the *Upanishads* and the *Geetha*, he can by precept and example turn the children along the path of peace and joy. Of course, the home and society must supplement his efforts and foster the impressions he is able to confer. **The teacher must work in an atmosphere of Love and Truth, not Hate and Falsehood. He must move among the children, happy and content, not angry and sullen. Then only can he radiate Love.**

No amount of advice and exhortation can make the teacher rise to the full stature of his profession. He has to improve himself; he cannot be improved by external pressure or persuasion. You might have taken up this profession for various reasons, but they are not relevant now. Once you have joined this grand association of teachers, you must endeavour to justify the trust placed in you, and serve the best interests of the children given unto your care, by parents who expect great things from you.

Character Is the Best Tool for the Teaching Profession

You only need to tread the footsteps of the great teachers of the past, who transmitted their spiritual wealth to succeeding generations. Of course, you were students some years ago, and naturally, as teachers, you try to shape your methods and manners on lines employed by your teachers. Perhaps, they do or do not approximate to the ideals I now spoke about. But, your duty is to delve into the Inner Reality and discover the spring of joy therein, so that the exacting task of moulding the children, into “children of Bharat” will be a re-creating job for you, highly refreshing and rewarding. Your character is the best tool for the profession you have entered upon; your learning is of course valuable, but, one can excuse a little less of it; character on the other hand, must be cent per cent, perfect. **Live, not artificially, but quite in conformity with the message of the *Rishis*, “*Sathyam vada, Dharmam chara*” (utter the truth, tread the path of righteousness).**•

The Colleges We Need

Foundation-laying ceremony of the College by the Vice President of India

Anantapur, November 7, 1969

This day marks a significant and sacred stage in the history of Anantapur. It is also a great day for those who yearn for the revival and growth of *Bharatiya* culture. The people of India are now giving themselves, through their government, vast opportunities for the development of education, and of medical facilities, and the promotion of schemes for the provision of vaster quantities of food grains and drinking water. These will raise the standard of living of the millions; more houses are built; more schools, more hospitals, more factories, better farms, more trade – these are being planned and established. This is all desirable, no doubt. But, along with these, and even more than these, plans have to be devised and executed for guaranteeing for the millions security, contentment, equanimity and peace. These are inner accomplishments which will ensure a stable, satisfied community, which can embody the real culture of India and reveal its strength-giving qualities.

It is indeed surprising that neither the rulers nor the ruled have yet tried to diagnose the prevalent discontent, the recurrent waves of hate and misunderstanding that disturb the peace, the anxiety and fear that undermine social peace. The causes for these maladies are to be sought in the realm of the spirit, rather than in the economic, political or intellectual, scholastic or social fields. It is indeed deplorable that the education of the spirit has been totally neglected, while attention is devoted to the training of skills and to gleaning and garnering information.

Sahana Gives Peace, Removes Hatred

This college and other such colleges which I am establishing in every State of India has as one of its purposes, the demonstration to the people and the Administration, the urgency of this task as well as the ways in which it can be fulfilled. **My *Sankalpa* (plan of action) is to provide the youth with an education which, while cultivating their intelligence, will also purify their impulses and emotions and equip them with the physical and mental disciplines needed for drawing upon the springs of calmness and joy that lie in their own hearts.** Their higher natures will have to be fostered and encouraged to blossom, by means of study, prayer and *sadhana*, contacts with the sages, saints and spiritual heroes and heroines of their land, and place them on the path of self-confidence, self-satisfaction, self-sacrifice and self-knowledge.

The heart of man which is now allowed to lie fallow has to be ploughed by spiritual exercise like *japam* (repetition of sacred word) and *dhyanam* (meditation) and *namasmarana* (chanting Lord's Name); then, when the seeds of *prema* are sown and fertilised by *shraddha*, and the crop protected by *thithiksha* (vigilance), the harvest of *sahana* (endurance) can be gathered. ***Sahana gives shanti* (peace), and removes hatred and anger. *Sahana is the richest treasure of man.***

To understand aright the culture of Bharat, people have to study the *Puranas* (spiritual legends), which are the *Pramanas* (authority) and the *Shastras* (spiritual sciences) which are the *Nethras* (eyes). Both these are designed to elaborate and simplify the profound teachings of *Vedanta*, and so, they can be called “popular manuals of spiritual science.”

These *Puranas* and *Shastras* stress the role of women as mothers and extol the mothers, who instilled high ideals in the minds of the children of the land. The *Vedas* speak of Maithreyi and Gargi as great scholars and spiritual heroines. Gargi was revered in the assembly of *Vedic Pandits* for her mastery of the abstruse problems of

the spiritual voyage into the heights of self-realisation. In historical times, we have the mother of Shivaji who fed him on the epics and *Puranas*, and brought him up as a brave representative of the best in Hindu culture.

India Should Get Back the Status of Guru for Mankind

Dharma for the Hindu, the adherent of *Sanathana* culture, is as near and as dear as his own body. To save it and sustain it, he was prepared to face exile, torture, death. *Dharma* was also the land whereon he lived, the breath wherewith he drew his vitality. He never cared to reside in a land where *Dharma* was not practised; he felt suffocated, when he had to be in an atmosphere that was polluted by *A-dharma* (life, contrary to the principles of *Dharma*). In the *A-dharmic* land, he can exist only as Sita did in the Ashokavana of Lanka, breathing *Rama-nama* and ignoring the entire environment.

Bharat can never find real happiness, except in the atmosphere of devotion and dedication to God; God is so much intertwined in every word, act and thought of the people. Dams, factories, universities –these too will prosper, and attain the targets, only if the men and women involved in them and benefiting by them have the earnestness, the sincerity, the humanity and the reverence which *bhakti* (devotion) can build into them. It is only by this means that Bharat can, once again, attain the status of *guru* (spiritual precept) which she had won and retained for centuries, the *guru* for all mankind.

This college will be run by the Sathya Sai Trust, which has as advisers and associates a number of distinguished sons and daughters of India, full of the spirit of *yoga* (spiritual effort) and *thyaga* (sacrifice) which are the distinct features of Bharat. They will foster the nobility of the Mother in our society and culture, and try to nourish in this institution the ideals which strengthen and support the educated, compassionate, cultured, loving, unselfish Mother, the Inspiration for the *Dharmic* (virtuous) life in this country.

The Trust does not look forward for any help, financially or otherwise from the citizens of Anantapur. It is satisfied when they derive *Ananda*, watching the *Ananda* of the Trust, its associates, the staff and the students of the college, the parents and the families of the students in the years to come. This college is not only for this town, but, it has to be a model and an eye-opener for all who are interested in the education of women and the uplift of our culture, through the mothers of the land. There is even a thought lurking in my mind to make Anantapur the Centre of a University, perhaps a Women's University.

I desire that the relationship between citizens be founded more and more on Love, and that unity will establish itself more firmly, removing all traces of malice or envy or pride. **Let the mind dwell more firmly on the universal *Atma*, which is reflected equally in every being – and, Love will automatically guide all activities along fruitful paths.** I bless that this college will be an example of the triumph that Love and Reverence can win. Let it be an inspiration to workers in the field of Women's Welfare and National Progress, in every State. May the college educate generations of noble mothers who will live *Dharma* and raise heroes surcharged with devotion and dedication to God. •

My Wish, My Vow

Sathya Sai College for Women

Anantapur, July 25, 1975

This day is a meeting between the past and the present, as all days are; for, we, in this college, are wishing well for those who have passed out and welcoming those who have just joined the classes. All moments are moments of crisis, when crucial decisions are urgently needed. **Life is a struggle between the forces of good and evil, of joy and grief, of success and failure.**

The doubt may arise whether, in the face of this perpetual fight, man can ever escape from the bonds of duality. Is it after all a vain hope or a tantalising prospect or is it the sport of God? It is really the inescapable destiny of man, and it is to prepare you for this destiny that this college has been established.

The student who spoke a few minutes ago said that the perusal of a load of books cannot be education. Yes; it has to tend the body, mind and spirit, in addition to the intelligence. It cannot be confined to the four walls of a building. **The Universe is a University for those who care to watch and learn.** Awareness is life; so, the farmer, the carpenter, the smith, the sculptor, the merchant, all have the need to be aware of their duties and responsibilities, their skills and standards, which education must foster and fix.

Spiritual Education Is Part of All Types of Education

Education is no book-worm affair; the process must include the study and appreciation of all trades, professions and guilds. It must encourage the acceptance of the good and the rejection of the bad. Spiritual education is not a distinct and separate discipline; it is part and parcel of all types and levels of education. In fact, it is the very foundation on which a lasting edifice can be built. Secular and spiritual education are like the two halves in the seeds of pulses; the germ that sprouts is in between; it is fed by both.

The feminine is the foundation on which a peaceful and happy world is to be raised. When women are true and brave, kind and compassionate, virtuous and pious, the world can have an era of peace and joy. Youth has the capacity to grow into strong straight *Sadhakas* (spiritual aspirants), who can scale the heights of spiritual adventure; but, it has no proper guidance. On the other hand, youth has evil temptation; evil example and evil advice are spread around on all sides, most attractively.

There are two evil sirens that entice them into futility and frivolity, diverting them along the paths of ruin. One of them is called, Dame Cinema and the other is named, Dame Novel. The film contaminates and corrupts; it pollutes young and innocent minds; it teaches crime, violence and greed; it destroys the basic humanness and degrades it into bestiality. Even ochre-robed monks are steadily dragged down to sin by its insidious influence.

Today's Education Has No Life-Line

Dame Novel too corrupts equally, with salacious pictures of bestiality. They both lead the young away into the wilderness of vice. They do not know, nor do they care to know, how to shape the young into self-reliant, self-confident, self-knowing citizens. The vital need is ignored.

There was a student once who held out his palm before a palmist for scrutiny. He examined the lines with care and announced that he would advance very much in education. The student was very happy. He predicted that he would amass large sum of money; the student's joy knew no bounds. He declared that the lines indicated

fame along with fortune. This filled the cup of joy to the brim; it could hold no more. Then, the palmist announced that the 'life-line' was short and it ended abruptly, quite quickly! The student fell in a faint.

Education too has no life-line, now; it does not ensure the skills and attitudes essential to live a life of peace and contentment. It is not 'full,' nor does it function in a comprehensive manner, taking all the needs and goals into its orbit. It is satisfied now with cramming books, reproducing from memory, research into trivialities and awarding degrees which mean nothing special. And, its products parade their purposelessness, shouting that God is dead and that virtue is a superstition. **How can man exist without God, or God apart from man? There can be no garland without the string that runs through the flowers; there can be no men without the Inner kinship that God ensures for each. He is the *Brahma-suthra* – the *Brahman String*, invisible, but inevitable.**

Millions of rupees have been spent on this college, not with a desire to add one more to the hundreds of colleges scattered all over the country, but, to train a generation of women who know how to live the ideals treasured in *Bharatiya* culture and who will uphold the dignity and destiny of womanhood.

Expansion Is the Keynote of Education

The reason which prompted the establishment of this college is: the need for women who as mothers will foster the expansion of love to include fellow-beings everywhere. The first step for this expansion is the home, where you must revere and please the parents who gave you this chance to live and learn. If you ill-treat them or inflict grief on their minds, how can you ever gladden others by service and understanding? **Expansion is the keynote of education.** You know that when a balloon is blown, it bursts and the air inside it merges with the vast limitless expanse outside. **Your love too must fill your home and your society, and finally, burst even those bonds and become world-wide.** A drop of water held in the palm is soon evaporated; it is too much alone. But, drop it into the sea; it survives as a part of the sea. It assumes the name and the taste, the majesty and might of the sea!

Cultivate Love; sow the seeds of love in all hearts. Shower Love on the desert sands, let the green shoots, the lovely flowers, the luscious fruits, the sweet harvest of nectar be earned by mankind. That is My Wish, My Mission, and My Vow. When you earn a degree and go out of this college, do not ask, "What is the country giving me?" ask rather, "Now, what can I give to my country?"

"Reverence Offered at the Feet of Parents Reaches Me"

Students, when they find distress or despair anywhere, they do not set about to reduce it. They pour oil on the flames and relish the damage they cause! My aim in starting and running this college is to train here the ideal mother, the ideal sister and the ideal wife, the ideal woman. In fact, the curriculum which is followed in order to prepare you for the University Examination is just a bait to draw you into this **higher curriculum of character formation and development of Universal Love.** The acquisition of a few bits of information without the transformation that is necessary is, for you, a matter of pride, though there is very little justification for the same.

The earth is but a speck in the vast Cosmos; India is a minute portion of that dot; Anantapur is microscopic particle therein and you are one of the many lakhs of human beings living here. What reason have you to thrust your pride on the attention of others and feel superior?

Women students and teachers have to be ever vigilant that they do not attract the eyes and tongues of young men by their dress, movements, laughter or behaviour. Be a little behind the times, it does not matter; it is better than adopting fashions that outrage the traditions and conventions of this country and its culture.

Do not bring dishonour to your parents or disappoint them by acting contrary to their endearing plans. **The reverence that you offer at the feet of your parents is, let Me assure you, reverence that reaches Me.** There

are some special lessons and items laid down in this college to instil into you faith and spiritual discipline. Teachers and students must show special interest in them, for they are the unique features of this college, designed for your good and the good of the country. **Teachers too must be exemplars of sincerity, simplicity and mutual co-operation and love; they too must evince interest in prayers, and other items of spiritual importance.** •

New Version for Gurus

Bal Vikas Gurus Training Camp

June 6, 1978

The Bal Vikas (organisational wing for children's development) is the primary basis of the great movement to restore *dharma* (righteousness) in the world. The elders are far gone in their ways, and it is difficult to expect change in their habits and attitudes. **Children have to be led into good ways of living, into simplicity, humility and discipline.** The parents have to be persuaded lovingly, through the example of bright, cheerful and co-operating children from the Bal Vikas classes, to send their children also to these classes. As you know, you cannot draw children to your side if you hold a stick in your hand; you will have to hold some sweets instead. So the *gurus* have to be embodiments of love and patience.

The ideal of the Bal Vikas is to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean and clear conscience. **The actual syllabus is not so important as the creation of an atmosphere where noble habits and ideals can grow and fructify.** The Bal Vikas pupils follow Bal Vikas discipline and curriculum only for one day in the week and attend their usual schools on the other days. So the impact of the *guru* has got to be extra strong if it has to act as a catalyst in the process of modification of the behaviour patterns of these pupils.

Promote Respectful Behaviour Towards Elders

The home too must feel the change in the child's behaviour. It may be advisable to gather the mother of the children once a month, or even more frequently, and give them guidelines on child care and on the higher ideals of family and social life. You can suggest to them ways and means of following up the work of the Bal Vikas in proper upbringing of children, while allowing freedom to these children at home. While allowing them due freedom, they should nevertheless hold harmful tendencies in check. They should promote respectful behaviour towards elders in the family. They should be careful how they themselves behave in the presence of children, for youngsters learn a lot by emulation. A spirit of understanding and sympathy has to pervade the home. This can be emphasised with the mothers at these gatherings. This would be a necessary supplement to the Bal Vikas. The homes in which the Bal Vikas children grow, as indeed all homes, have to be clean and with vibrations free from hatred, envy, greed, spite and hypocrisy. The food that the child takes in has to be *sathwic* (pure).

Between the age of two and five the child's mind is profoundly affected by the behaviour of those who are nearest to the child. So the parents must take care to set a good example.

Workers, office-bearers, *gurus* and *Seva Dal* (Service Corps) members of the Sathya Sai Organisation all over the world, all must remember that they are subject to the scrutiny of the public, wherever they are and whatever they do. They must be free from the habits and practices which they recommend others to give up. The *gurus* should not leave their own children out of the Bal Vikas class; they should not lose their temper; they should keep their emotions under control and not exhibit depression, dejection or a wavering Will. **The quality of work is more important than the quantity**, so they should not undertake to do more than what they can render satisfactorily. Let their own conscience be the judge: if they feel that they have discharged their duty sufficiently to the children or to society, then they may rest content.

Solve the Problems with Discrimination and Love

Of course the environmental conditions for the propagation of spiritual ideals such as simple living, spiritual search and loving service, are lacking. *Gurus* have to deal with the children of families that are often not already devotees of Sai or of any other form of Divinity. Sometimes the husbands of *gurus* may discourage the dedicated fervour with which the work is undertaken. But even as it is, I know that great success has been achieved in spreading the Bal Vikas movement in the country. There is, however, still much more scope of expansion of this work, especially in the slum areas and in the villages.

There are also other problems of all sorts. Solve them with discrimination and deep love. Meet these problems with a desire to serve the children better and they will be overcome easily. Gradually you will realise that the Bal Vikas is devised not merely for the education of the children but also of the *gurus*. **The Bal Vikas chores are bound to elevate and sublimate the thoughts and emotions of the *gurus* far better than any other *sadhana* (spiritual discipline) can.** Remember that as *gurus*, you too have a *guru* guiding you and overseeing your *seva* (service). So you too are pupils, and you too learn the lessons of equality, equanimity and selfless love while acting as *gurus*.

Saints and Seers of All Lands Are Equally Great

In the Bal Vikas classes you must try to have children from various faiths, so that friendship between them can grow into understanding, and the understanding into love. **Do not talk about differences between religions in the beginning; rather stress the obvious similarities**, so that the tender minds in your charge are not confused. Tell your pupils stories from the scriptures of all religions so that they can realise that the saints and seers of all lands are equally good and great.

Let the children realise that prayer is universal and that prayer in any language addressed to any Name reaches the same God. Let them understand that God can be invoked through a picture or an idol to fulfil man's sincere desire, provided it is helpful to others as well as to oneself. Love can bind all children together for they have not yet learned to hate. Love can, similarly, unite all mankind, provided man is cured of greed, envy, desire and attachment. The *guru* should bring into his pupil's way the common factor of good advice about human conduct contained in the scriptures of all religions.

The *Vedas* teach that man should adore and worship God in gratitude for His benedictions. The Bible teaches that he should pray for peace and practise charity. The Quran would have man show mercy to the suffering and to surrender his will to the All-High. The Buddhist texts teach the lesson of detachment and sense-control. The Zendavesta exhorts man to get rid of evil propensities and shine in his own innate glory. The *guru* has to imbibe all these qualities and then teach them to his pupils by precept and example.

Let Your Heart Be Not Hardened by Hatred

More than all else, the guru must be equipped with *sadhana* (tolerance) and a calm and quiet temper. He should be prepared to meet, without being ruffled, the buffetings of the environment. When some one inquires whether you have a calm temper, do not get enraged. Some people get angrier and angrier when they are asked this. Even when you have to speak harshly to a child or parent because all other means of bringing a point home have failed, let your heart be soft, let it not be hardened by prejudice or hatred.

You must equip yourself for this task of *seva* (service) by some individual *sadhana* done daily with sincerity and regularity. The *Pranava* (primeval sound *Om*) recital is one form of such spiritual effort. It is laid down at Prasanthi Nilayam that the early dawn recital of *Om* should be done twenty-one times. This number is not arbitrarily fixed; it has a significance of its own. We have the five *karmendriyas* (senses of action) and the five

jnanendriyas (senses of perception); we have also *pranas* (the five vital energies or airs) to sustain us. Then we have the five *koshas* (sheaths), enclosing the Divine Spark that is the Reality. These total up to twenty. Hence the recitation of *Om* twenty-one times purifies and clarifies all these twenty components and makes man the twenty-first entity, ready for the final merger with Reality.

The *Jeevathathwam* (life-principle) merges with *Parathathwam* (the Supreme Reality). The *jeevathathwam* may be pictured as a rider on the twenty-headed horse. Finally, you end the *Pranava* recital with the recital of 'shanti' three times. That completes the process of clarification and purification. The first call for *shanti* (peace chant) is for the purity of the *aadhibhouthik* (body) part of the Self. The second call is for the purity of the *aadhidhaivik* (the mind). The third is for the purification of the *aadhyathmik* (the spirit). This ***Pranava* recital will tone you up, calm all agitations in the mind and quicken the downpour of Grace.**

Om Must Be Recited with Deliberation

Om is the primeval sound, the sound caused by the vibrations of creation through the Emergent Will of the formless and attributeless (the *Nirakara, Nirguna Brahman*), and is referred to as *Sabdabrahman* (divine transcendental sound). It is a composite of the sounds of 'A,' 'U' and 'M.' Just as G, O and D, taken together is pronounced 'God' (not 'jeeodee'), so too the letters *A, U* and *M* are uttered as '*Om*.' 'A' emanates from the gullet, 'U' from the tongue lying in the interior of the mouth and 'M' from the lips. But when *Om* is uttered, the sound emanates from the region of the navel.

Om must be recited slowly and with deliberation. The sound must be like an aircraft, first approaching from a distance to the spot where you are and then flying away again into the distance (soft at first, but gradually becoming louder and louder and then slowly relapsing into silence, this silence after the experience being as significant as the *Pranava*). 'U' is the zenith, the *Kailas* (abode of God), reached by the sound in its adoration. 'A' is the initial nadir, and 'M,' the final.

In the *Sri Chakra*, the mystic figure in which the *Paraashakti* (the Cosmic energy principle, and the deity presiding over it) is invoked and installed, *Om* is the very centre, and around it are all the other symbols placed. Man too must do this installation. ***Om* is the real life-principle of every mantra (sacred formulae), of every man** (symbolically speaking). *Mantra* is what saves man, man being but the *mana* (mind), with which he can meditate on the *mantra*.

You can have this *Pranava sadhana* (practice of the transcendental sound) by watching the breath as it goes in and out, and listening in silence to the *Soham* ('so' – the 'silent' sound audible when the breath goes in and, 'ham' – the 'silent' sound audible when it goes out). **You have to ponder over the meaning of *Soham* (I am That).** What are you? You are That; you are a Spark of the Divine. You are not the body, senses, mind, intelligence, etc., with which you now identify yourselves. You are God, only caught in deluding yourselves that you are bound by this body.

***Sadhana* of this sort is a must for all Sai workers, for that alone can give them *shanti* and the other most valuable gift, *prema* (love).** It will change their vision and enable them to witness Unity where formerly they were confounded by diversity – diversity of language, religion, nationality, creed, colour and caste. Bal Vikas can be best served only after cultivating this new vision. So both the *gurus* and the pupils should decide to practise spiritual *sadhana* faithfully, and consider the Bal Vikas work too as a part of it. •

Learning and Liberation

Sathya Sai College for Women

Anantapur, August 30, 1978

Men crave for a prosperous future, for positions of authority and power and happy, care-free lives; they never desire to possess pure, clear, loving intellects and a humble disposition. Therefore the youth today, in India as well as in other lands, are afflicted with deep discontent which manifests itself in revolt against rules, regulations, curricula and social norms, and an agitational approach to every little problem that affects them. What is the basic cause of this phenomenon?

The reason lies in the fact that they have started to neglect the ancient culture of India and its ideals. They are imitating undesirable and fanatic norms of behaviour and are addicted to a code of disbelief, having no roots anywhere.

The most fundamental teaching of the ancient culture of India is Love. For generations, the youth of this land have been exhorted, encouraged and taught, by precept and example, to love the poor, the helpless, the handicapped, the illiterate and the disabled, for the same spark of Divinity that is in us is also equally evident and active in them. Education must endow man with this compassion and this spirit of service – intelligent, timely and full. **That is to say, education must not only *inform*, it must also transform.**

True Education Is That Which Liberates Man

Unless knowledge is transformed into wisdom, and wisdom is expressed in character, education is a wasteful process. If education confers this gift of transformation, then surely life will become peaceful, happy, and full of mutual help and co-operation. But the aim of education today has degenerated into the acquisition of certain skills and intellectual tricks. It provides the educated with food, clothing and shelter and considers that its task is over with that achievement.

The sages who laid down the goals of education have declared, “*Saa vidya yaa vimukthaye.*” (That is true education which helps to liberate man) – liberate him from greed, hatred, unrest, narrow loyalties and ego impulses. Education today, adds to the unrest already in the heart of man; it does not liberate him from the prison house of desire into which he has strayed. Man builds rest-houses where he can cool his tired brain and revive his exhausted nerves, but he has yet to build *shanti mandirs* (temples of peace) where he can unconcernedly learn to witness the happenings of the world, aware of the level of the world, aware of the level of their relative importance. That will give him equanimity. Faith in an All-knowing, All-operating God will render him free to watch with interest the ups and downs of history.

Education Has to Clarify the Goal of Life

Just as the body needs rest, the mind too needs quiet. **Faith in God is the best guarantee of mental quiet.** Man must follow the path of virtue, practise spiritual disciplines and take an enthusiastic part in social service. These three have to be accepted, adored and assimilated into daily life. Education has to clarify the goal of life to the rising generation and indicate the ways and means of accomplishing it.

Women are taking to modern education in larger and larger numbers nowadays. They are serving in offices, schools and factories. They are also rising to positions of authority in other fields. But most of them are prompted by urges of personal aggrandisement rather than ideals of service. When women run after jobs, who is to run the

family? If both father and mother move into offices to earn money, what becomes of the children? Pouring over books, how can the kitchen work? More money may be earned, but it leads only to more anxiety, more unrest and more loss.

The women who take up jobs are finding that they have no happiness worth the name. The educated woman must utilise her knowledge and skill to bring up her children into healthy, virtuous and disciplined youths who may be of use to their country, their culture and their community. **Earning money is not the end-all of education.** It is the greed to earn money by any means, as fast as possible, that has led to the evils that we see in society today. **Money breeds pride, pride fosters hatred.**

Cultivate the Habit of Self-Examination

No one has the golden quality of contentment. The discontented man is as bad as lost. There is no limit to man's desires. Every person wielding power over others yearns to rise higher and higher and exercise more and more influence, but no one attempts a rigorous examination of himself to find out whether he has merit enough to be conferred with the position he craves for. Those who contentedly carry out the duties commensurate to the positions they hold, are very few. Every one, fit or unfit, throws stones, on the off-chance of getting a fruit from the laden tree. Students must cultivate humility and the habit of self-examination.

Another reason for the prevalent overwhelming dissatisfaction of the youth, is the chronic hypocrisy of elders. The very people who proclaim the efficacy of *sathya* (truth) from platforms, the very preachers who dilate on *dharma* (righteousness) and *shanti* (peace), live without any regard to *sathya*, *dharma* or *shanti*. The determination that one must act according to one's profession has disappeared. We can establish peace and prosperity, morality and uprightness in the land, only when those who preach and those who teach high ideals, act up to their own exhortations.

Sheer ignorance is the root cause for the disrespect that is being shown to Indian culture and the fascination exercised by the culture of the West. Do these people at least grasp the values of Western culture fully? No. Only the fringe and the foppery are adopted. How can a person who is unable to understand his own culture and heritage understand the meaning and significance of an alien culture?

The true sign of education is humility; for there is much more to be investigated and learnt. There are always many more who are far more learned. They carry their scholarship more lightly. Discipline is important in order to progress in learning, and even more so in dealing with others. An undisciplined person is a danger to society; any moment he may run amuck. Man must recognise what limits, regulations and do's and don'ts are laid down by the sages of the past in order to ensure social security and individual advancement.

Be Conversant with Some Spiritual Discipline

The code of conduct laid down for the students of this college helps you to develop qualities that will stand you in good stead later in life. The eye, the ear, the nose, the tongue – the four senses of sight, hearing, smell and taste – are all located in the head. Of course, the eye and the tongue have been provided with doors, so that the doors can keep out what is not desirable and welcome what is. **Desire only the sight of beneficial things, only to speak out what will be conducive to peace and harmony.** Do not indulge in talkativeness. If you get a reputation for talkativeness, you will suffer from weak memory, social odium, and nervous debility.

You have the great responsibility of motherhood and the duty of educating your children into strong and good citizens of this country. Along with the University degree, you must also acquire some general knowledge which is essential for householders and others. Otherwise, though the husband and the wife may both be degree-holders, they would be helpless and desperate even if the baby caught a slight cold. You must also be conversant with

some spiritual discipline like *namasmarana* (remembering God's name), *dhyana* (meditation) and *yoga* (divine communion), so that you may not be carried away by every changing breeze.

Practise the Constant Presence of God

It is best that you imprint on your hearts the dual nature of the world that is a mixture of pleasure and pain, joy and grief, victory and defeat. **Practise the constant presence of God and learn to offer all your activities at the feet of the Lord as an act of worship.** Then they will be free from fault. Krishna advised Arjuna to enter 'the fight,' and at the same time told him not to have hatred towards the 'enemies.' These may appear to be two irreconcilable attitudes, for war is *raga* (passion, attachment) and renunciation of hatred is *vairagya* (absence of *raga*).

Arjuna asked Krishna how he was to reconcile these two attitudes. Krishna said, "*Maamanusmara, yudhyacha*" (keep Me ever in thy mind, and fight). "Do not cultivate the egoistic feeling that it is you who is fighting. I am using you as My Instrument," He said. Even the food you take should be to propitiate Him, who is resident in your bodies as the *Vaishwaanara*, eager to digest the food we place in it. It is the Lord who receives the food, digests it and supplies strength thereby to the various limbs of the body.

This college was established ten years ago. Hence it is now a sprightly girl of ten summers. A baby girl of two or three will not dare venture outside the home alone. A girl of twenty can well look after, herself wherever she is. But a girl of ten can neither be kept at home, nor does she know how to look after herself outside. Therefore we have all to guard her and guide her with great care and diligence. We must see that the ideals and aims of this college are maintained and fostered. On your discipline, devotion and duty lie the success and reputation of this college. Now, and later, you must lead lives of exemplary virtue and bring honour to parents and your *alma mater*.

Do not hanker too much after irresponsible liberty. Women suffer most when they are moved by this desire. You must be the torch-bearers of the educational ideals of this college. When one teacher neglects her duty or lowers her standard of conduct, hundreds of students are affected thereby. The moral strength and virtues of the teachers will be reflected in the students under their care. You have to treat them as your own children, children who need and deserve your love. Be like mothers to these children and let this college ring with Love given and Love received. •

Why This College?

Sathya Sai College, Brindavan, July 19, 1979

Sathyam (Truth) is to be adored and adhered to. It is the highest goal to be won by *sadhana*. So too is *Shantham* (peace and equanimity). Truth, the Principle of Truth, is immanent in every being; knowing this, **the seeker or the student has to be loving and friendly with every living being**. This is the message of the scriptures of all lands.

When we examine the life and behaviour of animals, labelled as 'lower,' we can learn many lessons for our own betterment. The elephant, the cow and the deer do not harm or wound or eat other animals. They live on leaves or grass or grain. They lead *Sathwic* (pure) lives. Therefore, they receive reverence and worshipful homage of man. On the other hand, the tiger, the leopard and the wolf have cruel natures; they hurt other animals; they eat up the animals they kill. As a consequence, man is ever trying to keep these *Rajasic* animals at a distance.

Man prides himself as the crown of creation. It is a rare piece of good fortune to be born as a human being. We all agree with this statement. His is really a holy, sublime, and beneficent role; how then can cruelty, hatred and violence pollute his heart which is the centre of compassion, love, justice and equanimity? How has he fallen from the *Sathwic* heights of Divinity to the depths of *Rajasic* qualities like ungratefulness, vengefulness and vandalism?

Students Are Embodiments of Unpolluted Love

Imagine the terror caused among the cattle when a tiger or leopard or wolf enters their shed! They struggle in panic and undergo fearsome panic, until they are felled and eaten. So too, *Rajasic* traits of character relish destroying the *Sathwic* virtues in man.

Students! You are embodiments of untainted love. The heart of man has to be saturated with pure feelings, clean impulses, and selfless urges towards service of living beings. Do not, at this stage of your lives, soak it in hate, cruelty and other evil qualities. At present, boys and girls of your age live without awareness of the suffering of others. You are, it can be said, blind and deaf. When a man in agony stands before a blind man and beats his breast, he remains unmoved, since he cannot grasp the tragedy. When some one in distress recites his story and appeals for help, the deaf man is not affected at all. When you see the sufferings of others or listen to their wailings and yet remain unsympathetic and unresponsive, you can be justifiably called blind and deaf.

Often, you yourselves cause injury or mental agony to others. You exult in the humiliation or exploitation you cause. You revel in mean tactics to insult others. Since your hearts are full of low desires they do not react when the hearts of others call out for comradeship. To set right this sorry state of affairs, **you have to cleanse and polish the heart into a clear mirror**. A mirror reflects all that is before it – the misery, the poverty, the helplessness. But if the mirror is overlaid thick with the dust of ego, it cannot reflect the sadness, yearning for relief. **When the heart is clean and clear, it will receive correct impressions of the struggles of your parents, the problems of society and anxieties that pester the country.**

Students Are Multiplying Their Problems

But, consider what students are contributing today. Instead of resolving problems they are multiplying them. Far from alleviating suffering, they are worsening it. They have themselves become sources of

anxiety. They are becoming blind to the sacrifice their parents make to educate them and to the hopes they arouse in them as well as in society and in the hearts of those who plan for the country's progress and prosperity. Many who have come to this College are blind to the purpose for which this College has been established, viz., to shape generations of students with holy ideals and pure hearts, filled with love.

In the name of education, you spend your time reading trivialities, writing trash and accepting experiences second hand. You do not seek to have elevating first hand experiences yourselves. The physics, chemistry or mathematics that you learnt at college has no practical validity, so far as your daily activities are concerned. In the laboratory you learn that oxygen and hydrogen constitute water. But, when you are thirsty during lunch at home, you cannot put the two together and drink the result. You have to drink water, as prepared by natural forces. For living out your years in peace and harmony, you have to develop common sense and master general knowledge. Poring over books or cramming formulae will not help.

Education Must Teach What Life's Goal Is

It is foolish to believe that you have to be 'educated,' since it leads to jobs. At present education is oriented to jobs, to secure a living, not to lead a life. Education must teach a person what is life, and what are its goals. It must purify the heart and clarify the vision. It must prevent pollution of the hand, heart and head by habits injurious to the individual, society and the nation. It must promote virtues and raise the moral and spiritual standards of the educated.

In times gone by, universities were referred to as "homes of humility" since humility was the characteristic of an educated person. Pride is the root of aggressiveness; it is the nature of wild animals. But the mark of man is humility in the presence of elders, teachers and parents. There is an ancient axiom which says, "**Education imparts humility; humility ensures credibility; credibility brings wealth; wealth induces charity; charity confers peace and joy, here and hereafter.**" Nowadays, all educational institutions emphasise the need for riches. "Become wealthy through the easiest and quickest methods" – that is the slogan. No effort is spent to inculcate humility and reverence, for they are won through discipline alone. Without discipline and self-control man reduces himself to the level of the beast. The stomach is not the central core of man.

Youth Do Not Want Jobs Which Require Hard Work

Youth today longs for a type of work which involves no labour. They want jobs which they can do, sitting comfortably in an air-conditioned room, signing files at the places indicated. They revel in sensual pleasures and selfish display, in starched shirts and soft assignments. They shy away from jobs that require physical exertion. Only idlers will prefer such jobs; others will relish and derive delight from hard jobs that try their physical, mental and intellectual powers. The *Gurukulas* (hermitages) of old gave such educational opportunities in plenty to the pupils.

Man does not live for food alone. To concentrate on eating and drinking is foolish. Consider how many millions are struggling on a standard of living much more pathetic than yours. Accept them and involve yourselves in their uplift. Acquaint yourselves with the scriptures of the major faiths, so that you can transmit the lessons of peace, harmony and joy they contain to others who need them more urgently.

Students today have neglected the purpose of education. They feel that the passing of examinations is the be all and end all of the four or five years of College life. How to gain marks by foul means, is the primary concern – copying from books or slips or entering the examination hall with mnemonic writings on the palms – these malpractices have become rampant. Even at this tender age, they follow crooked ways and pride themselves on their degradation.

You must recognise the distinctiveness of this college which distinguishes it from many others. We had no desire to add one more to the list of colleges that are degrading youth. Here, the curricula laid down by the University are taught and you are trained to appear for and pass the examinations conducted by the University, entitling you to the degrees they confer. But, that is not considered the primary purpose of the college.

Sai College Equips Youth to Be Future Leaders

The real aim of the college is to equip you for the role of future leaders of India, as embodiments of Truth, Justice, Peace and Love; you ought to blossom as true representatives of Indian culture, spreading tolerance, charity and brotherhood throughout the world. Since you are encouraged and enabled to acquire the degrees, your parents send you here; but, we try to instill into you qualities that most other colleges ignore, namely, reverence for elders and parents, humility; we discourage the desire to display and hurt others, to humiliate others and to cater to low sensual pleasures.

You must have read in the *Bhagavata* that Yashodha was approached by the *gopis* (cowherd girls) with complaints involving Krishna; she planned to punish Him; she offered Him butter with one hand, to persuade Him to go near her but she had also a rod held in the other hand hiding behind her back. Krishna goes near attracted by the butter but gets corrected by the threat of the rod. You have come attracted by the chance to earn a degree but you are exposed to disciplined life in the hostel. You are taught the scriptures of all faiths; you are persuaded to follow certain uplifting spiritual ideals.

When the patient is reluctant to take the medicine, the physician cannot leave him alone. The patient might even avoid the physician but since he is the well-wisher, the doctor has to be welcomed and the medicine taken. It is not merely for the good of the person who is ill; if he is cured, his parents and kith and kin will benefit; society will benefit; the nation will secure a disciplined, dutiful, devoted, dedicated subject. **When other colleges deem their existence fulfilled when the curriculum is taught, this college considers the development of self-reliance, self-confidence, self-sacrifice and self-knowledge as the basic curriculum.**

Language Medium of Sai College Is Discipline

There is much controversy going on about the first language, second language and the third language and the medium of language. **In this college the medium is discipline. The first, second and third languages are love, service and *sadhana* (spiritual discipline).** There is also much talk of progress – helping progress, measuring progress, achieving progress, etc. Do we really progress in securing peace of mind, in harmoniously living together, and in removing ignorance of higher values? No. We are only progressively declining from the human to the bestial level.

We value many-storeyed building as a sign of progress. Persons who spend their time in air-conditioned rooms breathe their own breath over and over and are polluted thereby. Their feet never touch the ground. Sunlight seldom warms their skin. Boots for the feet, pants for the legs, coat for the chest and back, hat for the head and a tight tie round the neck! This is the pitiable plight.

The British rulers needed clerks and managers who can be trained to be docile and devoted. They devised a system of education which could produce people to do such jobs for them. Even today that job-oriented system holds sway, and therefore, we have in India ‘educated’ persons in thousands desperately in need of “jobs.”

Students Should Stand on Their Own Feet

Students of our college must not seek cushy job; they must not parade their degrees, which are really “begging bowls,” before office after office praying for jobs. They should stand on their own feet, exert

independently, produce through their own effort enough and to spare for themselves and their parents and be useful to the poor, the illiterate, the diseased and the distressed. Only those who practise this ideal sincerely and to the best of their abilities can claim to honour the maxims, “Duty is God” or “Work is Worship.” On the other hand, if, like highway men, you live on the earning of others or on salaries for which you do not offer adequate work in return, your education is a waste and your life itself is a sorry burden.

As soon as you finish your course here and pass the final examination, I would exhort you to go back home and offer grateful homage to your parents. Resolve to fulfil their hopes about you; give them joy. Revere them and pay due honour. Then, learn about the problems that trouble the village or the society and plan out the lines of your service. Engage yourselves in realising those plans. **“The people around you must be glad enough to say ‘Ah! How good, how useful, how intelligent, this young man has become after being in the Sathya Sai College.’ How exemplary is his speech, manners and conduct!”** That is the return I expect from you all that we do for you in this college; nothing else.

Do not wander about like ownerless street dogs, enjoying endless wrangles and quarrels. If you fall into that company, you commit the sin of sacrilege. I am confident you will all avoid that fatal path. You must equip yourself to be the guides, teachers and leaders of India and even of the world.

Do Not Waste Time in Idle Talk and Scandal

During your years in this college, I desire two or three modes of behaviour which will help you to mould yourselves into these. **Do not waste time in idle talk and empty scandal. Continuous conversation saps one’s energy.** Talk only on problems concerning subjects of study or projects of service. Youth starts conversation on subjects and end up with talk on ‘objects.’ They start talking sense and end up with ‘senses.’ **I like silence and I would advise you to talk only when you must and only to the person with whom you have to talk.**

Communicate with the minimum words and make them as sweet and pleasant as you can. Second, when you move from the hostel to the college or from one place to another, go in line. Don’t form groups; be always open to constructive friendship. Let yours not be an exclusive association. Only cats roam from house to house; only dogs run through highroads and by-lanes. Do not reduce yourselves to those levels. **Be human, try to raise yourselves up to Divinity.** That is My Message to you. I bless you that you succeed in this noble endeavour. •

The Kingdom

Annual Day of 'Kingdom of Sathya Sai'

Prasanthi Nilayam, November 22, 1979

Students, Embodiments of the Divine Atman and Supporters and Promoters of Education! This Kali Yuga offers more facilities for liberation than any previous one, for education is much more widespread now. There are educational institutions in the farthest corners of every land, but it is a pity that peace of mind has become very rare. Why has peace remained out of reach in spite of the plethora of gadgets and contrivances that offer man comfort and pleasure?

The fault lies in human conduct, which runs along evil lines. When man thinks, speaks and acts along virtuous lines, his conscience will be clean and he will have inner peace. Knowledge is power, it is said; but virtue is peace. The world reveres, even today, great men and women who have lived exemplary lives of virtue. Jesus, Muhammad, Zoroaster, Buddha, Shankaracharya, Madhavacharya, Ramanujacharya and others were able to command the loyalty and adoration of people solely on account of the purity of their conduct and actions. They have become immortal residents in the heart of mankind. Scholarship cannot confer this high historic ascendancy. Mastery of books may help you to expound or exhibit dialectical skill, but what really is the width and depth of your experience? And just examine how conceited you have become! Man must saturate his daily life in truthful speech, virtuous acts and holy thoughts.

Never Pollute Your Speech with Falsehood

Education must equip you with a discrimination sharp enough to discover these virtues. You must know what truth is and develop love and loyalty to it. And remember, acts of virtue grow out of overcoming of selfish desire or *thyaga* (selfless sacrifice). You must keep high ideals before you and be prepared to sacrifice even your lives to achieve them. **Never pollute your speech with falsehood; never poison your thoughts with hatred and greed; never degrade your body with violence in any form.**

It is tragic that not even a small fraction of the student community values these ideals and endeavours to realise them. We have in this country plenty of scientists, scholars, spiritual teachers and seasoned politicians. But of what avail? They work at cross-purposes, each one unconcerned with the rest. One scientist is the rival of another; one scholar is at logger-heads with another expert in the same field. And of politicians, the less said the better. When this vice of disunity rules, peace and prosperity can never be established in the country, in spite of all the progress in technology, scholarship and spiritual exposition. They can be developed only when mutual cooperation, friendly feelings, love and compassion grow in man's heart. The world can shine fresh and fair, green and grand with festoons and flags on every doorstep, only when these qualities are fostered by man.

Main Cause of All Faults of Man Is Egoism

Today there is a great need for every one to dwell upon the axioms that Dharmaraja, the eldest of the Pandava brothers, kept before himself. When Krishna asked him one day where his brothers were, he replied, "Some of them are in Hasthinapura city and the others in the forest." Krishna was visibly surprised. He said, "Dharmaraja! What has happened to your brains? All of you, the five brothers, are here in the forest as you know. None is in the city of Hasthinapura!" Dharmaraja replied, "Pardon me, Lord! We are 105 brothers in all." Krishna pretended that the statement was wrong. He recounted the names of the five and queried the reason why

he added a hundred more. “My father’s sons are five; his brother, the blind Dhritharashtra has a hundred sons. When we fight with them, we are five and they hundred. But when we don’t, we are a hundred and five.”

Thus when hatred and greed end in fighting, brotherhood is broken and hearts drift apart. Today this fractionalisation is evident in every field, including even our *samithis* (organisational units)! As a natural result, anger, envy, faction and friction are fast increasing.

This is the reason why students have to uproot these evil tendencies from their minds. **The main cause of all these faults is egoism, the belief that the little self has to be satisfied at all costs.** I derive much *ananda* watching wild animals in their own habitat. Their movements, their relations with others of their kind and their free uninhibited lives are very attractive to behold. They do not bewail at the health and happiness of other animals. They do not grieve, lamenting their misfortune, comparing their fate with that of other denizens of the forest. They do not clamour for fame. They do not plan and prepare to earn positions of power and authority over other animals. They are not eager to accumulate possessions that are superfluous. When we consider these traits, we are led to conclude that they are leading lives of a higher grade than man.

Greed Is the Seed-Bed of Grief

Man has the extra qualifications of education, moral sense, and the capacity to judge and discriminate. But he is still caught in the coils of greed, **and greed is the seed-bed of grief.** Education today promotes greed instead of paralysing it. The aim is to earn more monetary income. So the struggle is directed to the acquisition of degrees which bring higher salaries. The learned man is anxious to exploit society, to pilfer from society by means fair or foul. He is not eager to give to society, to benefit society. He is concerned with what he can get from society, not with what he can give to it.

Boys from the villages are ungrateful to their parents who have bartered their own wealth and comfort to give them an education. As soon as they secure a degree (which is at best a convenient beggar’s bowl), they flee to the cities and accept a job there for a pittance. They settle in the cities, neglecting their parents and treating their hereditary professions with contempt. But their lives in cities are not any smoother; they are led into wasteful and damaging habits until they pine for peace and joy. Instead they should remain in the villages where they first saw the light of day and dedicate the skills they have acquired to the service of its inhabitants. This is their real task.

They Are Weaklings Who Revel in Imitation

I know that is very difficult for students to overcome the banal influence of society and of the elders; they do not come across inspiring examples to follow. But old students of the Sathya Sai Colleges must enter the world fully equipped with courage, compassion and inner peace and render selfless service to the people. Be vigilant always that you do not deviate from the ideals marked out by Me. Participate in all activities, armed with humility, a sense of honour and the skills needed to triumph. Distinguish yourselves in the moral, ethical, spiritual and material fields. Do not extinguish yourselves as soon as you proceed out of the Brindavan campus. So long as you are within the area, your style of dress and your manners, your character and conduct are different from what they become when you pass out. This relapse into the old baser levels reveals a fundamental flaw in character. Such persons can be written off, for they are of no help to anyone. Instead they are a burden on society. **They are weaklings who revel in imitation.** Heroes are those who rely on their eyes and ears and value their own national heritage.

You have resided in Brindavan for five, seven or nine years, and experienced maternal love more intense than what a thousand mothers can offer you. If you go out of Brindavan and adopt the behaviour patterns and life-

styles considered fashionable by the outside world, how can you be considered an 'old student' of this college? "He who chops the nose of his mother, can pluck the nose of his aunt as a flower from its stalk," says the proverb. When you commit treason against God so freely, how can you be expected to honour human rules of conduct? I desire that, at least from now, you steadily develop noble thoughts, holy feelings and selfless actions, and maintain the fair name of your college.

Whoever Hurts the Society Is a Traitor

Students occupy the role of the heart in the physiology of the social organisation. Whoever hurts the society in which he dwells or brings disrepute to it, is a traitor. Whichever position you occupy and wherever you reside, you must draw on yourself the admiration of others by your humility, discipline and manners, and by the simplicity of your dress and sweet speech. If you parade your transformation by the style of your tie and pants, by your long hair and moustache, how can you claim to be an old student of a Sathya Sai College? Your dress itself will proclaim that you are not. Prove that you are true heroes, true servants of the poor and the distressed and recipients of true education.

Of course I am warning you against falling into wrong ways of living. One day Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya shaved off his thick overhanging moustache and, with a clean face, went to an old friend and shocked him into the question, "Sir, why this transformation today?" The reply was, "I cultivated the impressive moustache out of pride that I was a man, but I realised that I could not relieve the misery of a single fellow-being. So I felt I could not justify the moustache any longer." The manifestation of manliness comes about by involving ourselves in social service and reducing the pain and poverty of human beings like ourselves. Allow yourselves to be judged not by your dress or the growth of beard, but by your motives and actions and your progress along the path of practising the ideals implanted in you by Sai.

Be Vigilant That You Do Not Slide into Wrong

Do not seek to secure jobs in order to earn a high income. Wherever you are, be vigilant that you do not slide into committing wrong. **Money comes and goes; morality comes and grows!** Amassing money is easy; no one is to be appreciated for that. It can be accumulated through cruel or unjust means, through falsehood and blackmail. Only beggars are prompted by the urge, to gather riches. Study and earn knowledge in order to rescue the world from decadence, to develop peace and joy throughout all levels of society and to add your mite to the prosperity of the state. The members of the Kingdom of Sathya Sai must follow those ideals and spread them throughout the world. So, as you claim to belong to the Kingdom of Sathya Sai, you have the special task of propagating the ideals of Sai by your precept and example. Direct your lives as citizens of the Kingdom of Sathya Sai. Let the Name be your guide and your goal.

Thyagaraja lived up to his name. When the ruler offered him gifts of precious gemstones, houses and land, he spurned them, declaring, "My heart is laid at the Feet of Rama. You cannot secure it in exchange for this trash." *Ramarajya* has become a word charged with sanctity because Rama's Kingdom was the home of righteousness, justice and peace. You have a great responsibility because you have named your association the 'Kingdom of Sathya Sai.'

Some old students of the college are worried because when they come to Brindavan later I do not speak to them or cast even a glance at them. The reason is they are not even identifiable as students who were in this college for five or seven years. Good thoughts, words and deeds have not taken root in them. Your action produces the reaction. **Sai only reflects your mind. He has no prejudice or preference. He is a mirror wherein you can see yourselves as you really are.** In order to correct their mistakes and remove their faults, I

have sometimes to use harsh words; but you may rest assured that My sole aim is to turn you to better ways. I have no anger in Me. It is the inner compassion which takes the outer form of anger. I have caused these colleges and hostels to be constructed and lakhs of rupees to be spent every year in the hope that at least a few among the students who join them will follow the ideals I set before them. Listen to that call and let it reverberate in your hearts every moment of your lives. •

The Unique University

Poornachandra Auditorium, October 8, 1981

This day, I am announcing an event which will give you great joy. Sai is ever full of joy. Anxiety, grief and unrest cannot approach Sai, not even as near as millions of miles. Believe it or not, Sai does not have the slightest experience of anxiety, for Sai is ever aware of the formation and transformation of objects and the antics of time and space and of the incidents therein. Those who have no knowledge of these and those who are affected by circumstances are affected by sorrow. Those who are caught in the coils of time and space become the victims of grief. Though Sai is involved in events conditioned by time and space, Sai is ever established in the principle that is beyond both time and space. **Sai is not conditioned by time, place or circumstance.**

Therefore, you must all recognise the uniqueness of the Will of Sai, the Sai *Sankalpa*. Know that this *Sankalpa* is *Vajrasankalpa* – it is irresistible Will. You may ignore its expression as weak and insignificant, but once the Will is formed, whatever else undergoes change, it cannot change.

Fifteen years ago, while inaugurating the College at Anantapur, I had said that it will soon be transformed into a University. People thought that Sai Baba uttered those words in that strain merely to enthuse them. We established a College at Prasanthi Nilayam only last year. While doing so, I said “This will be transformed into a University next year and so, we must ensure a stable basis.” When I said so, Bhagavantam remarked, “It is impossible. Institutions working for twenty or even thirty years, having acquired many distinctions and equipped themselves with postgraduate faculties, have yet to realise this goal. Swami is declaring thus! What course will this Sai *Sankalpa* take?” he thought within himself. He knows what course it will take. Still, it appeared to him doubtful that it would become a University in the very second year of its existence.

Uniqueness of Prasanthi Nilayam University

This is the second year of the Prasanthi Nilayam College. Since Swami’s Will is the Almighty Will, the Government of India has agreed to the inauguration of a University by us here. Therefore, this very day, Vijayadashami, the College at Prasanthi Nilayam and the College at Anantapur are raised to the status of constituents of the new University.

This University will not be imparting in its Botany Course merely a knowledge of trees in Nature; we will spread the knowledge of the Tree of true living. It will not be imparting the knowledge merely of Economics; the knowledge of theistic ethics too will be included. It will not be merely teaching Chemistry (*Rasayana Shastra*); it will also unravel the mystery of “*Raso vai sah*,” the Supreme Embodiment of nectarine sweetness, the *Atma*. **It will teach not only the science of the material world (*padartha*); it will also teach the science of the non-material world (*parartha*). It will not differentiate the material from the non-material or treat the non-material as irrelevant to the material. We have decided that this shall be the uniqueness of the University.**

This will not, like other Universities, adopt a few faculties and burden their alumni with degrees, which they can present as begging bowls while clamouring for jobs. This university will confer on its alumni the courage and confidence, the knowledge and the skill, to shape their careers by their own efforts, standing on their own feet and relying on their own strength. So, we have proposed that spiritual education is to be integrated harmoniously with the teaching of ethical, physical and metaphysical sciences in this University.

Sai Sankalpa Is Based on Truth and for Truth

A few minutes before I came here, I performed the *Bhoomi Pooja* (consecration of the site) for the Administrative Building of the University. There, on top of the range of hills, commanding a beautiful vista of nature's charm, the imposing, attractive centre of University activities will come up soon. For the mind, *haayi* (calm comfort); for the body *reyi* (cool softness); for our life, *Sayi* – that is the Reality here. On the hill behind South Prasanthi your eyes can feast on the sight of a magnificent building next year, at this time.

Our construction schedules or schedules for other projects are not planned for five years or ten years. They are 'five-day' plans and 'ten-day' plans. Since we have to conform to the rules and limits set by the government, this delay is caused. Otherwise, they can happen in a moment because My resolves are based on Truth and are for Truth. Their purpose is the promotion of human well-being, the prosperity of the world. It is not tainted by either a sense of ownership or self-aggrandisement. So, there is no need at all to doubt. **Sai Will must fructify at the specified time.** May you all derive benefit and joy from these developments! •

Village Youth for Villages

Muddenahalli, November 6, 1981

*Assuming all forms; Shantham (Peace);
Assuming all names; Shivam (auspiciousness);
Sath-Chith-Ananda; the One;
Sathyam, Shivam, Sundaram.
Education confers humility;
Humility adds credentials;
Credentials ensure prosperity;
Prosperity assures right living;
Right living grants peace and joy
Both here and hereafter.*

This day, this Sathya Sai Grama (village) is blessed not by the dawn of the Sun, but by the dawn of *ananda*. Since the small hours of today until this moment, young and old, in large numbers have been busy preparing for this festival of joy and waiting with yearning eyes to welcome this delight. Such holy days are indeed very rare occasions for men.

*The day when devotees sing songs
In praise of the Lord and please the ear;
The day when sorrows of the poor are cured
And men move close as brothers born;
The day when servants of God are fed
With Love and care, in thankfulness;
The day when a Great One comes to us
And relates thrilling tales of God;
These indeed are the worthwhile days.*

The rest are like days dedicated to obsequies for the dead. The world now witnesses the devil-dance of injustice, anarchy, vice and wickedness. To end this and establish peace, tolerance, justice, joy and right living, we have to rely on the young, the students; they must become instruments for this transformation. This fact has to be recognised by all who desire a better world.

This Age Is Golden Age for Seekers of God

Of the four *Yugas*, the present *Kali Yuga* is far more congenial than the previous three (*Kritha*, *Thretha* and *Dwapara Yugas*) for the acquisition of wisdom and the cultivation of discrimination (*viveka*) for, we now have many simple paths available for liberating ourselves. The scriptures say, “No, no, dear sirs, no age is equal to the *Kali Age!*” **Through just *smarana* and *chinthana*, we can reach the goal. *Smarana* is the process of keeping the Lord ever in the memory and *chinthana* is the process of thinking of His glory all the time.** Many people are scared because they believe that the *Kali Yuga* in which we live will witness the ultimate deluge. Others call it the *Kalaha Yuga*, the Age of Conflict, for it is now well-nigh omnipresent. No, no. This age is the Golden Age for the seekers of God, for earning and learning *viveka*.

In the past, institutions imparting education were rare. There were only a few, centred round the preceptors. They were known as *Gurukulas*. Now, every street has a school established therein. Knowledge is available in enormous quantities. There are also millions of means through which money can be earned. In spite of this, man is denied peace and joy. Why? The behaviour pattern, the type of activity – these are responsible. Though a person has all the virtues, when his actions and attitudes do not reveal their influence on him, he has to encounter loss and grief. So, he must cultivate justice and rectitude.

Objectives of Sai Institutions

Educational institutions must adopt this royal road towards the good life. Education is losing its worth day by day because institutions seek distorted and devious roads and students are not loyal to the ideals of justice and rectitude. ***Vidya must confer vinaya – education must promote humility.*** Humility is totally absent today among students. Lessons on humility are found in the text books, but they are not reflected in behaviour, as precepts put into practice.

In the past, emotions and feelings were trained and directed towards the achievement of humility. Why are personages like Shankaracharya, Ramanujacharya, Madhwacharya, Buddha, Jesus, Zoroaster and other such religious pioneers, revered in human hearts until this day? Is their scholarship the reason? No. Their virtues and lives reflecting those virtues – these are the reasons.

Piles of books are now plentiful in bazaars. Schools abound; there is no dearth of teachers. But wholesome learning and sincere teaching are not to be seen. It is for this reason that these spiritually-oriented educational Sai Institutions are being established to impart teaching in proper ways, in order to preserve the hearts of students in pristine purity, stability and unselfishness, to develop them into workers dedicated to the progress of Bharat, intent on removing the anxiety and gloom that have spread all over the land and determined to revive the glory of *Bharatiya* culture. They are being established to fill the students of today with the courage and enthusiasm needed for this task.

There are now thousands and thousands of educational institutions in the world. But, there is a great difference between the rest and those founded by Sathya Sai. **The fundamental objectives of Sai Institutions are humility, adherence to discipline, and application of what is learned in daily life.** If what is learned is not put into practice, the student is like a cow that does not yield milk, a fruit lacking in taste, a book bereft of wisdom. It is not really man's task to stuff his head with transient knowledge and waste time in acquiring it. He should not engage in valueless activities and fritter away years of life. When man ruins himself thus, he descends to the level of the beast. **When man uplifts himself, he ascends to the level of God. Manava (man) can raise himself to Madhava (God).** We have therefore to promote educational methods by which the humanness of man can be maintained and sublimated into godliness.

Sai Sankalpa to Promote Advancement of Villages

The lion is the king of beasts. Yet, it turns round to watch the trail behind! It is afraid because it creates fear. Man too is nervous because he is intent on harming others. **Do not entangle yourselves in violence and anger. Give up the backward look, the past habits and attitudes. Move bravely into the future.** After joining the school and learning here, do not cling to old attitudes and prejudices. Watch your actions and ensure that they are right. Watch your qualities and modes of behaviour and ensure that they are also right. It is only when this is done that the true value of education and the sacredness of one's knowledge can be appreciated. The student has to pass this test in order to benefit from the education he absorbs.

It is for this purpose, to revive this pure educational process, that this day the foundation stone for a Junior College was laid in this Sathya Sai village. Very soon it will rise as a beautiful building and later, it will become a limb of the Puttaparthi University. I bless that through this college and its expansion, the Sathya Sai village will develop fast. I also wish that here, too, a Degree College be established.

Have *Yoga* as the Goal, Not *Udyoga* (Job)

Since the boys coming for education from the surrounding areas are all from villages, they find it very difficult to move into towns for higher studies. It is not within their means. This college at the Sathya Sai village serves boys from villages. They will have every facility needed for their educational progress, in this rural environment. We provide hostels for all of them.

My *Sankalpa* (resolve) is to promote the advancement of villages. The children who come from villages must spend their lives in their own villages in order to develop them in every way. That alone can make their lives worth-while. This is the Sai *Sankalpa* – to adopt methods by which they can improve their villages, to implement those methods and to instruct them how to succeed in this mission.

Since those born in villages are trekking into towns and settling there, villages are declining. But, towns cannot exist without villages. Villages have to be fostered first. The village is the heart of the town; without it, the town becomes lifeless. Krishna was born in a village; He grew up in the village and developed its prosperity. Its fame became worldwide, on account of Him. So, we should protect and promote the village to such an extent that its renown will spread in all the quarters.

Sai *Sankalpam* is this: children who come from a village must, after education, settle in the village itself, develop the village and purify the village atmosphere. Educated villagers now rush towards towns seeking *udyoga* (jobs) there. How can any one deserve an *udyoga* without first acquiring *yoga*? Your lives should have *yoga* as the goal, not *udyoga*! Engage in some profession in order to secure the means to live and let the society in which you live benefit by your services to your self, to society and to the country – these are the stages which should follow one another. Because people skip the earlier stages and enter the last one, the condition of the country has deteriorated so much.

Students should study well and attain a high level of education; they should serve their parents and make them happy. If you make them shed tears through your ingratitude, how can your own future be happy? Students must get the education that can inspire them to promote the happiness of their parents.

I wish that they imbibe through education the *Dharma* (virtue) that will shape them into heroes dedicated to the uplift of Bharat. Dear students! **Become aware of your truth, start living in the light of that awareness, be humble before your parents and render obedience to them.** Offer reverence to the elders of the village and speak politely to them, and be examples of moral living to the community. •

An Ideal University

Poornachandra Auditorium, November 22, 1981

Students! Embodiments of Divine Love! Educators! Promoters of Education! When we fall low in education or in knowledge, our parents feel great grief. When we fall low in morals and spiritual virtues, our motherland bemoans her fate ten times more sadly. We have to assuage the grief of the physical mother and the cultural mother, and promote the peace and prosperity of the motherland. Students alone have the enthusiasm and the skill necessary for this task. In this land revered as the treasure house of spiritual riches, *dharma* is declining day by day; unrighteousness, injustice, violence, anti-social acts, falsehood are running amok. They are indulging in their devil-dance unhindered. In this *Kali* era, students have to rise as lion cubs, re-establish peace and restore *dharma* in individual, social and national life.

Students! Remember that all those whom we are accepting now as leaders, whom we respect as holding positions of authority, whom we worship as elders, were some years ago students like you. Therefore, you in your turn will be the leaders, power-wielders and elders of tomorrow. Do not forget this destiny of yours.

The motherland is not a mere lump of earth. When we desire its progress, we have to promote the progress of the people who dwell therein. The skills needed for resuscitating and reforming man are found only in students. The reforming process involves the removal, in daily living, of bad conduct and bad habits and the practice of good conduct and good deeds. **A man's worth can be measured by his efforts to reform himself.** This day, the government has no capacity to reform the people and people have no authority to reform the government.

The Educational Process Is a Holy Endeavour

Students are the very foundation of the nation. When the foundation is strong, the building can be stable. To make the foundation strong, people, rulers, parents, teachers, and students – all have to co-ordinate their plans and efforts. **These five elements, these five vital forces, have to work together towards this end.**

The solution for the problem is just one; the Light of Truth has to be fostered and spread in the field of education. Students are proceeding along devious distorted paths, not because they are intrinsically bad, but because they are infected by the pollution rampant in all fields, social and national. The nation cannot advance through a reform of the educational system alone.

The educational process is basically a holy endeavour. We have many lessons to learn, many duties to fulfil, many points to note while trying to improve it. In ancient times, moral excellence was the goal of this endeavour. After gaining that excellence even today, students can roam free and fearless in the realm of education, like lions in the forest. They should not degrade themselves to the level of cunning, deceitful, marauding jackals or wolves. Today, there are no lions in the jungle of educational institutions. But wolves and sheep abound!

Acquaintance with the contents of a pile of books does not make one an educated person. Wherever there are students, the place must shine with the brilliance of peace and security; it must radiate the aura of sanctity. But have we peace and security in the campuses today? No. **Real education must be judged by the concern for others which it promotes.** Students should grow to be the guardians of the people. As the prospective protectors of the people, their future leaders and administrators, they should prepare themselves for national service. On the shoulders of students today rests the task of making India great. The educational system has to be shaped anew so that students can fulfil the task of brightening the future of this land.

Without Faith Man Is a Living Corpse

Embodiments of Love! Every man desires to acquire *ananda*. From where can *ananda* be acquired? **Faith alone can win *ananda*. Peace can be got only through faith; faith is the spring of joy.** But now, we see sorrow wherever we cast our eyes. Why does this happen? Because, man has lost faith. He has no faith in himself. How then can he acquire *ananda*? How can a person, who has not got faith enough to live happily for a few days, win the grace of God? This day, when education has achieved remarkable progress in many directions, man has lost faith in the highest and the supremest – God. He queries, “What exactly is God?” He argues, “Is there God? Well, I shall prove that there is no God.”

Seek the Truth and you are seeking God. Truth is God. Truth exists; so, God exists. God IS, because Truth is God. Does anyone argue that there is no Truth? Come. I shall show him Truth. He who denies the existence of Truth can never be a man. Can there be a God higher than Truth?

The human condition today is full of falsehood; it is sunk in wickedness. So, no one can understand the significance of Truth. Truth is generally understood to mean speaking exactly what has been heard by the ears. No; this is not the meaning of Truth. What has been heard undergoes change; Truth is changeless, it is the same in the past, present and future. Have faith that Truth exists thus and can be experienced. **Faith is the very breath of life. Without it, man is a living corpse.**

Education Must Broaden the Heart

Many carry swollen heads because of the degrees they have won through the study of books. But of what avail is that load when they do not fold their palms to adore God? Humility is the mark of scholarship. If this mark is absent, the scholar is an ignoramus. Humility is the product of *Atma Vidya*. Of course, the study of the material world is important. It should not be neglected. But, **the study of one's *Atmic* core is essential.** Other studies relate to the five elements, the energies, the composition of the objective world, the manipulation of Nature's forces for living more comfortably. How does the earth rotate and why? How far is the sun from the earth and the stars? How far do the rays of the sun reach? To what distance can they travel in a minute? By learning these facts, to what extent can man profit? More important items to study and watch are: How broad is your heart? How much benefit has society derived from you? What are the *sadhanas* that can make you better and more useful? How much are you aware of your inner principle? What exactly is the purpose and goal of your existence?

Bhagavantham has mastered the details about the world which I mentioned now. He has also taught them to many students of his and they in their turn have taught them to many others who were their students. That was all. He knew and he made others know that he knew. Those others knew and they passed on that knowledge to others. Thus it has spread from one set of people to another. Has this process furthered the peace and progress of the world? It has not helped in the least. As scholarship is accumulated, man is losing the compassion which urges him to love his neighbour, to discover the neighbour's troubles and anxieties so that he might give relief. He is turning more and more egoistic.

Embodiments of Love! Do not think otherwise. When truth is made known, one is apt to resent it. Educated persons today are all afflicted with selfishness. Why! They have been rendered so helpless by this disease that they do not pay attention even to the misery of their parents. This is no sign of education. **Education must broaden the heart; it must expand one's love.** Fortitude and equanimity belong to the Reality in man. One must reveal this fact in every act, also gratitude for kindness shown.

Students Should Strive to Earn Virtues

People forget those who helped them to advance in life; they repay kindness with injury. The very teachers who contribute to the progress of students in studies are hit on the head by their students. The teacher may have faults but the student has no authority to search for faults or expose them or retaliate. *Upanishad* means ‘sitting at the feet’ of the teacher. The *Guru* is the *Thath*; the *Sishya* is the *Thwam*. *Thath* speaks; *Thwam* listens. That is the lesson in humility which the *Upanishad* conveys.

Students strive in many ways to attain ‘ranks’; they do not strive to earn highly esteemable virtues. No, not even a thousandth part of that effort is spent for earning virtue. They are eager to collect marks; they do not try to avoid remarks and ensure a good reputation. Strive to earn a good life, good conduct, good thoughts and good opportunities.

Students! You are aware that there are now 108 universities in India. This University is the 109th, one more than that traditional total. *Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavanthu*. May all the universities succeed and serve the country well. But, this university must be distinct from the rest and attain a unique status. It must be the ideal for others. For this consummation, students, teachers, parents, rulers and the people must cooperate.

My Entire Property Consists of My Students

To have inaugurated a University cannot be a source of full satisfaction for me. It has to be fostered and made to fructify. It is like accepting the gift of an elephant; it brings with it the responsibility to feed it and utilise its potentialities beneficently. If some deviation occurs while managing it, the elephant might run amuck and destroy lives. Students and teachers are valuable assets to make the University an ideal one. Along with subjects related to worldly knowledge, this University will impart instruction in ethical, moral and spiritual codes and *sadhanas*. It has as its goal the cultivation of the student’s mind on these lines. **Virtues, purity of the mind, adherence to truth, dedication to the Supreme, discipline, devotion to duty – these qualities will be fostered and promoted in this University.** Such seats of learning were established in ancient times by the sages and seers of India and as a result of their self-sacrificing efforts, they have left for posterity the priceless heritage of *Bharatiya* culture. This culture has sprouted from the vision they had of God, in every atom in creation. “God resides,” it proclaims, “not only in the idol installed in the temple, but in every atom and cell, without exception.” *Bharatiyas* have allowed this all-inclusive, sublime, eternal culture to slip out of their lives, in the frantic pursuit of illusory, trivial tantalising cultures.

Students! Teachers! Devotees gathered here! Administrators! This is the inaugural day of our Institute. It has been planted today. The students are its roots. The tree will grow with branches on all sides; countless flowers will bloom; it will provide and promote peace and security to the world. In order that it may realise this result, students must as the roots do, remain firm and provide sustenance. I know that the roots have to be watered so that flowers and fruits may emerge. Students are My all. If you ask Me, what is My property, many expect the answer to be, “Oh! All these buildings, all this vast area of land.” But, **My answer is, “My entire property consists of My students.” I have offered Myself to them.**

Wish Happiness for Those Who Are Unhappy

But many are not aware of this fact. Some unfortunate people cannot believe the reality of this love, the love of a thousand mothers. Those who cannot gauge the depth of a single mother’s affection for her child, how can they ever understand the possibility and the presence of the love of a thousand mothers? “When disaster impends, reason is perverted” says the adage. They ruin themselves by denying the fact of such love. I know that all the thousand fruits that a tree bears do not ripen into tasty edible ones. Some are stolen; some rot

away, some are attacked by pests: only a few ripen and confer *ananda* on others. In running race, all do not win the first place. Many drop along the track. If at least a few students rise up to the high ideals we have set before us, I am confident this country can be prosperous and happy.

The chief characteristics of Sathya Sai are, let me tell you, equanimity, forbearance (*sahana*). There are many who are engaged in criticism and calumny. Many papers publish all types of writings. Many pamphlets are printed. All kinds of things happen in the world. My reply to all these is a smile. Such criticisms and distortions are the inevitable accompaniments of everything good and great. Only the fruit-laden tree is hit by stones thrown by greedy people. No one casts a stone on the tree that bears no fruit!

There are some others who suffer from sheer envy at the increasing number and phenomenal progress of Sathya Sai Seva Organisations and the Sathya Sai Educational Institutions and they try to invent falsehoods and cause agitation.

Embodiments of Love! Even if the entire world opposes Me unitedly, nothing can affect Me. My mission is essentially Mine. I am engaged in doing good. My heart is ever full of benediction. I have no ego. I do not own any thing. This is My truth. Those who have faith in this, My Truth, will not hesitate to dedicate themselves to it. Those who have doubts and defects react with anger and fear. But the person with no doubt and defect will not react so. I am aware of this and so I am always in *ananda, ananda, ananda* (bliss).

Many of the devotees from foreign lands wish Me “Happy Birthday!” I tell them “I am always happy. Wish happiness for those who are unhappy.” There is no need to wish that I may have *ananda* or happiness. I am happy at all times. **Cultivate faith in God and Love towards all beings.** And always, follow the directives I have been emphasising. •

Make Others Happy

**Benedictory Address to the Seventh Convocation of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, by Bhagavan Baba as Chancellor
November 22, 1988**

Education is an ornament for man. It is his secret wealth. It confers prosperity and fame. It is the teacher of teachers. It is one's unfailing kinsman in foreign travel. It secures the respect of rulers more than wealth.

Education is the basis for leading a purposeful life in the physical world, in the realm of the mind and in society. It equips one with the mental strength and steadiness to face the challenges in life. It enables one to understand the myriad manifestations in nature. It is only when one understands the powers of his mind that he can recognise the relationship between the world and the society. **Real education should enable one to realise that mankind is one family.** It should help one to experience the unifying forces in society.

Unfortunately, education today is not promoting these objectives. We have no lack of intelligent men in the world today; there are a large number of scientists. It is because the intelligentsia and the scientists have not been educated on the right lines that the world is plunged in chaos and disorder.

Unity Is Essential for Any Achievement

Education today is concerned mainly with satisfying the senses and developing intellectual skills. It ignores the development of virtuous qualities. Despite the committees and commissions set up by the government to suggest reforms in education, no resolute efforts have been made to affect the necessary reforms. The main reason for this failure is the lack of unity after achievement of freedom. All the ills the nation is suffering from are due to the absence of unity and the preoccupation of ephemeral objectives. **There is nothing that cannot be achieved through unity.**

Education should promote discrimination and humility. The quantitative explosion in the number of educational institutions – schools, colleges and universities – has been accompanied by a corresponding decline in the quality of education. To have no respect for your betters, to be ungrateful to those who have fostered you, to revile even the teacher who taught you, can this be called “progress” in education?

There is little evidence of morality in society. There is a general decline in character and conduct. *Bharatiya* culture, which laid emphasis on plain living and high thinking, has been almost forgotten. Can there be anything more unfortunate for the country? Bharat, which achieved great heights in every cultural sphere, is today unaware of the magnitude of its greatness. Most students are not aware of even the meaning of culture. Culture refines the human spirit and makes one a complete human being. Today no attempt is made to understand the truth relating to the body, the mind and the *Atma*.

The Culture of Bharat

Culture seeks to integrate the various aspects of daily life and develop a unified outlook. It should enable one to transcend the divisions of caste, creed and community and realise the divine unity that underlies the apparent diversity. Students should realise that *Bharatiya* culture is not meant only for Bharat, but is meant for all mankind to reveal to the world the path to the Divine.

Today one finds that the virtues exhibited by illiterate villagers and uneducated folk in the tribal areas are not to be seen among the educated urban population. In fact, wherever schools, courts and administrative offices have

multiplied, there we witness an increased corruption, injustice and wickedness. In seeking to lead a free and unrestrained life, people are falling prey to the desires of their senses. Educational institutions, which should be havens of peace and serenity, are haunted by fears of insecurity. The true aim of education is to prepare the student for a useful role in society with the help of the knowledge he has received for leading an ideal life.

Science and technology have made great advances in recent years and have a prominent place in education. It is true that science has helped to improve the conditions of living. But the harm it is doing outweighs the benefits. Man has lost peace of mind and the sense of security. The growth of videos, radios, television, cinemas and air travel has been stupendous.

Misuse of Science and Technology

But there is no sign in any growth in “Divine vision,” with the result that daily life is becoming more precarious. Morality and justice have declined. This must be ascribed mainly to the craze for acquiring modern scientific gadgets. Many middle class people, who have moderate incomes, wish to acquire motor vehicles, TV sets and the likes, which they cannot afford to buy from their regular incomes. This leads to corruption and bribery. Even education has become expensive and far beyond the means of middle class earners. In addition, there is a tendency to show off before others, to appear to be better off than one really is. This kind of ostentation is another cause of fall in moral standards among lawyers, doctors and other professional people. There is nothing wrong with science as such. It is the way it is used that produces bad consequences.

In the reform of the educational system, it is necessary to ensure that students learn about the right use of science. True education must enable one to gain *Atma Jnana* (realisation of the Self). Instead of emphasising this need, modern education creates many problems and difficulties for the students. Acquiring a small fragment of knowledge, a student gets inflated notions of himself. With this sort of conceit, he develops contempt for *Bharatiya* culture. This is not what true education should aim at. Education should be divorced from job-hunting. Its primary purpose should enable the educated person to lead an honourable and meaningful life in society. If one cannot command respect in society, of what value is his education? **Education should make a man recognise his obligations to his parents and others who have made him what he is. Gratitude is a supreme virtue. If one cannot be grateful to his parents, his education is a waste.**

Dear Students! In the pursuit of your studies, you must place the interests of the nation above your personal interests. If you wish to maintain the greatness of *Bharatiya* culture, you should fully understand its sacredness and sublimity. Bharat’s prosperity will last only as long as its culture is preserved. Bharat will cease to be Bharat if its culture is lost. Consider this hoary culture as your life-breath and as the blood flowing in your veins. The receiving of a degree is not the end of education. Your education will be worthwhile only when you lead exemplary lives in the service of society.

Duty of the Educated

In ancient days high value was attached to education and the students led simple lives. Their clothes and their manners were dignified. Today such simplicity and dignity are not to be seen among students or teachers generally. Discipline is at a discount. More than ever it is essential for educated persons today to conduct themselves as men of honour and integrity and raise the moral level of the society. Even in pursuing the spiritual path, the process should not be from Nature to Spirit or God but from Spirit or God to Nature. By seeking to master the forces of Nature through education, people tend to become subjects of nature. Live up to the Institution’s motto, “*Sathyam vada; Dharmam chara* (speak the Truth; be Righteous).” These injunctions are not

properly understood. Adhering to Truth means living up to transcendental Truth which is the eternal verity that is true for all time – past, present and future. “*Dharma*” does not mean living as you please.

The Aim of Education Should Be to Serve the Nation

The bonds of love that existed between the *gurus* and the disciples in the past do not exist today between teachers and students. The *guru* considered it his duty to teach the disciple what was most beneficial for the latter and the disciple loved to render service to the *guru* and carry out implicitly his commands. In those days the students were few and they received intensive instruction. Today the students are numerous and education is diluted. Far-reaching reforms are needed in the educational system today. The future progress and welfare of the nation depend upon how education is imparted. Students must be imbued with genuine patriotism. **Starting with love and reverence for the parents, students should cultivate love and reverence for the Motherland. All your education must be a preparation for serving the nation.**

Broaden your vision. Cultivate the spirit of love. Being endowed with the human form, you must strive to develop human values and not stray away from the path of righteousness. Fill your minds with sublime thoughts and your hearts with divine feelings. Consider the entire society as your home. Only then you will realise genuine unity with all. Redeem your lives by revering your parents, honouring your teachers and developing a loving faith in God. In this way you can lead dedicated lives in the spirit of the injunctions of the *Upanishad*. Be aware of the divinity that is inherent in every being. Thereby you will grow in your own self-esteem. **Fill your life with joy. •**

Be happy; Be happy

Make others happy

All will be happy

God will be happy.

Towards a Value-Based Education

Hill View Stadium, November 22, 1990

Students! Embodiments of Love! Teachers and Patrons of Education! **Education lends beauty to man. Education is man's most precious wealth. It confers happiness and renown on man. It is the teacher of teachers.** When a man travels abroad, education stands by him like a kinsman. Education is adored by rulers, not wealth. One without education is an animal.

Degrees alone do not signify education. Education that is confined to the physical sciences is a travesty of true education. Together with knowledge of the natural sciences, **one has to acquire humility, discipline and a good character.** Everyone should recognise this sacred character of education.

The student of today is concerned with acquiring wealth, strength and position, but not good qualities. **Education is meant to enable one to acquire what are good qualities.** Every student should take note of this. Education is not intended merely to stuff the brain with information. **It has to transform the heart and make it pure.** This sacred truth has been forgotten.

Educational Institutions Should Be Sacred

Formidable problems have cropped up in educational institutions today. Educational institutions, which should serve to promote wholesome and progressive tendencies among the citizens, are going in the wrong way. The discipline that should prevail in them has deteriorated. The sacred feelings that should inspire educational establishments have disappeared. Reverence and respect are not to be seen. Money has been elevated to the primary place. This means that in institutions in which Saraswathi, the Goddess of Knowledge, should reign supreme, Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth, has been installed. Knowledge that should be acquired by the heart is being garnered by money.

This is a great threat to society. It is only when a student is filled with sacred thoughts that he will be able to serve society properly and make himself a better human being. The country will prosper only when those occupying the seats of power understand these problems properly.

President Sri Venkataraman, in his Convocation address, explained in clear terms the implications of the **five values of Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa.** These five terms are like the five life-breaths for a man. Not only that, they are also the *Panchabhutas* (five basic elements). Without these values, humanness will be destroyed. All other accomplishments are worthless without these values. For the mansion of *Sanathana Dharma*, these values are the walls supporting the edifice.

Nine Gem-Like Qualities to Be Cultivated

The student today has to cultivate in this *Kali* Age nine gem-like qualities – the spirit of sacrifice, humility, the spirit of selfless service to society, friendliness, discipline, adherence to truth, non-violence and faith in God. The boys and girls who have these qualities alone will be the nation's treasure of virtue and ensure its future.

Dear Students! Without these sacred qualities, all education is valueless. Does literacy or degree constitute education? Without wisdom and virtue can one be termed an educated person? **True education is that which fosters the sense of oneness, draws out one's divine qualities and promotes the blossoming of human**

personality. The eternal verities are being given the go-by. Man is getting alienated from Nature. Good practices are giving place to bad habits. Education is reaching its nadir.

Man should be prepared to make any amount of effort in the pursuit of knowledge. Education today is concerned with worldly comforts, but it should seek to promote, in addition to worldly knowledge, concern for spiritual development. **Education has two important characteristics. One is exposition of facts relating to any subject. The other is the unfoldment of the individual's personality.** The first is concerned with matter. The second is with energy. Education is a combination of the two. It is a combination of worldly and spiritual knowledge. Education cannot be confined to stuffing the head. It has to melt the heart, refine it and turn it Godwards. It is not enough to make a man of the student. He has to be transformed into an ideal human being. He must be made compassionate. **Every effort should be made to utilise education for the purpose of divinising man.**

The Four Hallmarks of a True Student

Man should stand out as a seeker of truth. The student should practise the truths he has learnt and use them for the good of the society. Citizens may be interested in students' problems, but students should not get involved in the citizens' politics. **Students should aspire to promote the nation's well-being, its security and happiness. Selflessness, absence of egoism, unostentatiousness and true love should be the hallmarks of a true student.** A student's life should radiate light all around. *Vidya* means light. It is to make this illumination available to the world that students should pursue education. Students should desire to enjoy the bliss derived from *vidya* (education) and not the pleasures of *vishaya* (worldly objects). Students should aim at being masters of their senses and not their servants.

A man may be a great *Vedantin* (philosopher). He may explore many things. He may expound new theories. But he should really try to find out what he has accomplished as a human being. Without the cultivation of human values, all explorations and speculations are of no use.

Today the educational system, not only in India but in all countries, has taken the wrong turn. No single person is responsible for this situation. Parents have failed to bring up their children properly. The nation's leaders do not set them a good example. Even teachers have failed in their responsibilities. **When we have exemplary parents, exemplary leaders and ideal teachers, students will be ideal students.** Students, who are selfless, pure-hearted and innocent by nature, are being dragged into politics, their minds are getting filled with bitterness and hatred and their hearts are getting polluted. **Students in no circumstance should get into politics.** After completing your studies, if you take up a job or start a business, you may take to politics. **In entering politics you must do so to serve the nation and promote its welfare and integrity.**

Quality and Not Quantity Should Be Increased

Students today lack the capacity to discriminate between right and wrong. The authorities feel that education is progressing in the country. There are more educational institutions and more students seem to be receiving education. But no one seems to bother whether they are really getting educated at all. Mere increase in the number of educational institutions is not enough. **We must look at the quality of education. Standards have to be raised.** There are many reasons for deterioration in educational standards.

Only when education is treated as an autonomous and independent undertaking can the problem of standards be properly dealt with. Educational policies are changed with every change in the Education Ministry at the Centre or in the States. Frequent changes in educational policy are responsible for the fall in educational standards. Changes in the Ministry or the personnel at the top should not affect the core of education. It is

essential to separate education and place it under the control of experienced and dedicated educationists. Without this basic change, whatever may be done to increase educational institutions is a waste of money.

What is the progress that has been achieved in education? Crores are being spent on education. What is the return for all this expenditure? There is a general decline in character and students have no respect for teachers; gratitude is at a discount. This is the “progress” that is witnessed today.

How can the nation progress? Everything depends on the young students of today. **Education is not confined to school or college. It is a process that goes on all through one’s life. Students! Develop pure thoughts and see that you do not cause any difficulties to your fellow-students. Strive to please your parents. Gratitude is the foremost quality in a student. Show your gratitude to your parents to whom you owe everything in your life.**

Students Should Serve the Motherland First

Students! Human life is very precious and in it the days of youth are even more precious. **Every student must cultivate humility and reverence. He must understand the state of the country. You must love the Motherland.** Today there is a craze among students, whether they are engineers or doctors, to apply for jobs abroad as soon as they get their degrees. **Serve your Motherland first. Earn honour and respect here. Take a pledge to serve your Motherland.** Some people imagine that they can pursue their higher studies abroad. But what happens is that after going there, they forget even their parents. What is the use of such ungrateful persons going abroad? The students alone are not to blame for this. The government is also responsible. The government should realise that our students are being spoilt by being sent abroad and should restrict the number of passports issued to them. Are there not facilities for higher studies within India? Is there not enough science and technology here? The students claim that they are acquiring special knowledge. But all that they learn is pride and ostentation. **Sri Rama declared, “The mother and the Motherland are greater than Heaven itself.”** You must love your mother, whether she is beautiful or otherwise.

Realise the Greatness of Bharat

Students! Realise the greatness of Bharat. There is no need to disparage other countries. Only be prepared to sacrifice everything for your Motherland. Students today have no patriotic feelings. They only love themselves (their bodies). *Deha* (the body) and *Desa* (the country) are intimately related to each other. Recognise the unity of the two.

Realise at the outset the greatness of *Bharatiya* culture. It is an ideal to the world. It confers *Atma-anandam* (spiritual bliss). Without recognising this, all your education is worth nothing. You are acquiring book knowledge, but are not putting into practice what you have learnt.

It is most essential to practise unity in thought, word and deed – which is the mark of all great people. Recognising the all-embracing character of *Bharatiya* culture – which covers every aspect of life from the spiritual to the physical – you have to live up to its message. **Develop the spirit of love in your hearts.**

Students! Wherever you may go remember your Institute, and behave in a manner befitting its alumni. That is the gratitude you can show to the Institute. We do not ask from you anything. Our only desire is that you should become ideal students. Only then will your studies here be justified and you will be making your lives worthwhile. **Eschew selfishness. Only the spirit of sacrifice can confer immortality. Help ever, hurt never.**

Stern Discipline Is Needed at Every Stage

There is something wrong with our system of examinations and promotions. An examinee is “passed” if he gets 30 percent marks in a subject. This is improper. If a man is entrusted with a hundred tasks and if he fails in 70 of them, is he to be recognised as having performed well? A few mistakes may be excused, but if one commits 70 mistakes does he deserve to be passed? This is wrong. Even with regard to the 30 percent pass marks there appear to be a lot of manipulation. All kinds of “grace marks” are given. Why, then, should the student study at all? It is because of such practices that educational institutions have lost all credibility. What can you make of students who “pass” in this manner? What kind of national leaders will they be? Hence it is essential to reform the examination system and raise educational standards and performance.

There should be no room for compromises and relaxations in the educational fields. Education is called *Sikshana*. This term means that there should be stern discipline at every stage. Students should be properly corrected and encouraged to study well. **A teacher is one who teaches what is good and wholesome for the students. A real student is one who respects the teacher.** In days of yore, the most pure and sacred relations existed between preceptors and pupils. 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 with the result that students are getting conceited.

Dear Students! I wish that you should go out into the world as ideal students and serve the nation well. Securing degrees is not enough. You have to make your knowledge available to others. This is the purpose of education. **Remember God, love the nation and experience bliss. This should be your aim.**

The President of India, Sri Venkataraman, addressed you today and spoke about the sages and saints of India. You must pay heed to the words of elders and live up to them to the extent you can. **Eschew all differences of caste, creed and nationality and cultivate oneness of spirit. All are one; be alike to everyone. Realise the divinity within you and recognise that it is in one and all. •**

Adhere to Sathya and Dharma

Fifteenth Convocation of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

Poornachandra Auditorium, November 22, 1996

*This motherland of ours gave to the world
Noble souls renowned in all the continents;
It is the land which freed
The nation from Western rulers.
This Bharat is reputed for its scholarship.
It is the sacred land which stood forth
As the master in the realms of music,
Literature and sacred lore;
Born in the land of Bharat,
Noted for its fine arts and natural beauty,
It is your bounden duty to foster
The glory and prosperity of the Motherland.*

Bharat, which in the past was noted for its educational achievements in various spheres, is today confronted with a crisis in its educational system. The system attaches value only to the acquisition of degrees. Is it for earning a mess of potage that these degrees should be got? Or should they be acquired for rendering service to society? Or are they to be acquired for getting *Vijnana* (wisdom)? Neither students, nor the authorities, nor the parents appear to be bothered about these questions.

The Educational System of Today

Can an education which is not of use to society or the nation be called education at all? Every year the colleges are letting loose upon the world lakhs of degree-holders. What is their future? What is the goal of the educational system? When you pose these questions, the answer you get is that the educational system has become mechanic. In today's education you find no trace of character-building, respect for values and regard for tradition. Education is pursued for selfish purposes and not for serving society.

There are in Bharat today 200 universities, 90,000 colleges and nearly a crore undergraduate students. What is the outcome of all this prodigious educational effort? What is happening to these millions of students and how is the outside world affected by them? The educational institutions appear to be mainly factories turning out graduates. Even the educational authorities seem to be content with statistical progress rather than the real achievements of the educational system. Schools and colleges are mushrooming everywhere, with or without official sanction. There is pretence of acquiring education, without anyone being aware of what it really means.

Knowledge against Character

“Of what use is the acquisition of all kinds of knowledge if one has not good qualities and has no moral values?” says a Telugu Poem. What for is academic knowledge acquired? Is it for deceiving others? Is it for promoting one's selfish interests? Or is it for the selfish enjoyment of pleasures? Education today is being used

largely for these purposes than to promote the well-being of society or the nation. An education that serves no useful purpose in daily life is utterly worthless.

Education today promotes largely intellectual cleverness.

*What is the use if the head is filled with bad thoughts,
If the ears listen only to scandals,
If the eyes look enviously
And the mind is plotting misdeeds?*

(TELUGU POEM)

All that is noble in human life is being destroyed. The students of today are divorced from all that is ennobling.

Educated youth, instead of going to the relief of the suffering and the needy, are raising problems for society. But they are not to blame. The fault lies with the educational system. Governments in India set up many committees to report on the reform of the system. From the time of Morarji Desai till today these committees have been set up. No one knows what happened to the reports of these committees. There is no evidence that anyone in authority is concerned about training our young people to be useful and ideal citizens of the nation. In the place of high ideals, students today are cultivating high ambitions. What is required is not *Aasha* (desire) but the *Aashaya* (ideal).

Students have no awareness of the greatness of humanness. They do not understand the significance of unity in thought, word and deed. Instead of unity and harmony, you have only discord and division. All problems arise out of this discord.

Respect for Culture Undermined

What is important is *samskara* (culture) much more than mere knowledge.

*Occidental education has undermined
Respect for Indian culture,
Eclipsed Truth and Righteousness in daily life,
Encouraged fascination for foreign languages
And eroded the love for native languages,
Broken the norms of social behaviour,
And destroyed the respect for teachers.*

(TELUGU POEM)

The higher values of education are being eroded continuously.

Education is getting increasingly commercialised, especially in professional courses like engineering and medicine. I am unable to understand what joy the students derive from going through these excessively expensive courses.

Students should first of all know how to deal with the problems of daily life. They have to acquire general knowledge and common sense. Practical knowledge is more important than familiarity with books. It is this kind of bookish education that has led young people astray and made them lead worthless lives.

Serve the Motherland

Students! You are the children of Mother Bharat. You must cherish and foster the great culture of Bharat. Born in this motherland, you breathe her sacred air, drink her holy water and are sustained by her produce. Follow her sacred footsteps, engage yourselves in service to society in a spirit of dedication. **You have to transform**

yourselves in accordance with our ancient culture. Only then will your humanness be vindicated. Otherwise all your education will be like cultivating a barren land.

Your own conduct accounts for how you live. There is no need to blame anyone else. Begin with the purification of your minds. Then your thoughts, your looks and your behaviour will become pure.

Today men's actions are governed by selfishness and self-interest. Even when one appears to love another, it is only out of self-interest. Self-interest is bound to exist. But there should be a limit to it. As long as they remain as students, the young people appear well-behaved. But the moment they get out of colleges and enter the outside world, they get polluted.

Students! Wherever you may be, remain in good company. Entertain and do good deeds. Adhere to good conduct.

Inherently all students are good. But the social environment pollutes their minds. They are spoiled by bad associations. Hence they should take good care about the company they keep. They must bear in mind three vital maxims: One, "*Sarvabhootha hithe rathah*" (rejoice in the well-being of all living creatures). Two, "*Sarvajnaana samayukthah*" (have comprehensive knowledge of all things). Three, "*Sarvaguna samayukthah*" (develop all virtues.). When you develop these qualities, your life becomes exemplary.

Today the world is filled with violence and fear. The root cause of all this is selfishness. **Adhere to truth. Truth is your life breath. Truth transcends the categories of time. It is changeless. It is invincible.** "*Sathyameva Jayathe*" is our national motto. The Chinese, though different in culture from us, also adore Truth. **Truth is the basis of genuine prosperity.**

The Importance of Truth

There is a story relating to Prahlada. Once Indra secured from Prahlada the gift of his *Sheelam* (character). When character left Prahlada, the goddesses of Fame, Royal Prosperity and Prowess left him one after the other. Prahlada allowed them to go. But when *Sathya* (Truth) started to leave, Prahlada prayed to the goddess not to leave him. The moment Truth stayed with Prahlada, the other deities representing Fame, Prosperity, etc. also returned.

Students! In whatever situation you may be placed in your official careers, never give way to untruth. You must uphold *Dharma*, which means acting according to your conscience. Always follow the dictates of your conscience. This is the meaning of the *Upanishadic* dictum, "*Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara*" (speak the truth, follow righteousness). This was the advice given by the *Rishis* to their disciples when they completed their studies.

Students! This is a great opportunity in your lives. Esteem this day of the Convocation as a sacred day. Take to your hearts the good counsel given to you. **Dedicate your lives to righteous ways. Earn a good name for yourselves. That is all that I desire.** Bring a good name for your parents and for the Institute where you have studied.

Shed all fear except the fear of swerving from Truth. You should not be afraid because you are not an animal. You should not cause fear in others because you are not a wild beast. You are human beings. When you act upto this truth, you will benefit society.

I bless you all with the hope that you will not only lead good lives but make your friends and all others with whom you are associated lead worthy lives. •

The Educational Crisis and the Way Out

XVI Convocation of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

Poornachandra Auditorium, November 22, 1997

*Wealth has been apotheosised
Arrogance has become a creed
Peace has become remote from man
Egoistic boast is fashionable
Property has become an adornment
Selfishness is installed in the heart
Sense of self-respect has declined
Hypocrisy has become the hall-mark
Love and affection have become sickly
The heart is divorced from righteousness
Life has become a burden
People have lost their moorings.
What does the future hold?
Make education value-based
And ensure a future for Bharat!*

Students! Embodiments of Love! Educationists! Bharat, which has been the treasure-house of spirituality, is steadily going down in *Dharma* (righteousness). Injustice, dishonesty, immorality and other demonic qualities are having free play in the country. In this situation, students alone – both men and women – will be able to deal with these evil forces and establish peace.

Students! If your parents will feel unhappy if you are backward in your studies, how much more unhappy will Mother Bharat be feeling over the decline of moral values! Students must take a resolve at the outset to serve their mothers and the Motherland. They must strive for restoration of peace and order in the country.

A country does not mean a piece of earth. It is the people who make the country.

What is the meaning of transformation of people? **Transformation is not one specific object. It is the entire process of refinement by which people get rid of their bad thoughts and actions and cultivate good thoughts and do good acts in daily life.**

What is the meaning of *vidya* (education)? What is the kind of education suitable for young people today? What are the norms of right education? What kind of education will promote the elevation of man? What is the use of the present system of education? The one who examines and finds the right answers to these five questions will be a wise adviser for the nation. The value of a person is not derived from education alone. The cultural refinement of his life-style is also essential.

What is meant by culture? It is the realisation of the inherent divinity in man and making it manifest in one's way of life. A life without culture is like a house without light. A dark house is a home for foul-smelling bats and not for fragrant objects. A person without culture is like a stringless kite, which is tossed hither and thither. An education bereft of culture is worthless like a counterfeit coin. Hence **culture is most important, especially in relation to one's character.**

Education Is for Life, Not Merely for Living

In the sphere of education many revolutionary changes are needed. Since the attainment of freedom 50 years ago, many committees have been set up by the government to go into the problem of educational reform. These committees have recommended many reforms. There has been no implementation of these reforms.

Even now, no one is trying to restore the ancient ideals of education. As a result, the country is riddled with violence and disorder. Educational institutions have become centres of disorder.

Vidya means acquisition of knowledge. In the English language this is called “Education.” The term education is derived from the Latin term ‘educare,’ which means “drawing out.” The idea is to draw out what is latent. Acquisition of knowledge is a worldly aspect. But what has to be discerned is the divine feeling present in the human heart. One refers to living and the other to life itself. In addition to earning a living one has to understand the purpose of life.

Both these aspects are as essential as the two eyes for a person. Today there is too much concentration on one aspect – how to earn a living? Even here, there is a steady decline in moral standards.

No one makes a serious attempt to realise the divinity in man. No attempt is made to understand one’s true nature. That is the real purpose of life. **True education means trying to manifest the inner divinity in man.** How is this manifestation to be brought about?

Education is that which illumines the physical, the mental and the social environment of man. It is not confined to one specific sphere. **Education should illumine every aspect of life – the economic, the political, the moral, the spiritual and other spheres of life.**

Students consider book knowledge as education. This gives them only superficial knowledge. They need practical knowledge. This knowledge should enable them to lead righteous lives.

Today, people are worshipping wealth as divine. This is totally wrong. **Wealth can never give peace of mind.** It may provide physical comforts but not mental peace. Without understanding this, people and the government imagine that there is great progress in education.

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.

This is the progress achieved by education today.

(TELUGU POEM)

Education Must Be for the Well-Being of Society

Is this the mark of true education? No. Efforts must be made to eliminate such feelings. Moreover, all that is learnt must be utilised for promoting the well-being of society. All should work for the welfare of society.

“*Sarva loka hithe rathaah*” (let all rejoice in the well-being of all people in the world).

“*Sarve jnaana Sampannaah*” (let all possess wealth of all knowledge).

“*Sarve samhitha gunaihi*” (let all be endowed with good qualities).

These are three main pronouncements regarding the educated persons. This implies that every student, after completing his studies, should dedicate himself (or herself) to serving society. For this service, one should acquire all the necessary knowledge. **Students should have all good qualities. A good student should promote a calm atmosphere wherever he stays. He should be ever prepared to help others. These are the marks of a good student.** Unfortunately students today are not having any of these qualities. Who is to blame? Not the students.

Not the teachers. All in society are responsible. Students do not possess the requisite abilities to pursue the right path. Teachers also lack these abilities. They do not take up the task of moulding the character of students from an early age. To do so they have to train themselves to be ideal teachers.

When the teachers lead an exemplary life, the students will follow their example. There is no scrutiny of how teachers teach or how students study.

The government is spending over Rs. 2,000 crores a year on education. No one knows what the outcome of all this expenditure is. What transformation is taking place in the students? What is their future? No one seems to enquire into all this. Only money is spent endlessly.

It Is Not Greatness but Goodness That Matters

Nor is that all; politicians are invading the educational field and ruining the students. Students have, of course, to study political science. But the educational field should not be politicised. Today, students are entering the political field and not only spoiling their studies but ruining their entire future. Hence students should resolve to pursue their studies with devotion.

Parents also should encourage their children to pursue education in the right spirit. They should not desire so much that their children secure high ranks. **It is not greatness that matters but goodness.** They should, wish that their children should earn a good name rather than achieve purely academic excellence.

Make proper use of your education for the good of society. Be men of good character. That will make you shine before the public. True education will make you divine. Education is not mere knowledge of words. It should broaden the mind. The mere acquisition of degrees is valueless. **Character is more important and it can be developed only by taking to the spiritual path.** Of what use is an education that does not promote good qualities?

Humility Is the Hall-Mark of True Education

Students! Boys and Girls! Together with academic education you have to acquire wisdom and a sense of right and wrong. Knowledge without wisdom, scholarship without determination, music without melody, learning without humility, a society without discipline, friendship without gratitude, speech without truth – all these are utterly useless. Hence everyone should seek to follow the correct path.

There is no sense of respect for people in society. Gratitude is absent. Scholars are without discretion. The educated lack humility.

Humility is the hall-mark of true education. Humility does not mean moving about with a bowed head. It calls for respect to humanness. It is beastly to go about causing fear in others. **Humans should be free from fear. Both fear and frightening are animal qualities. Men must be fearless.** Today fear haunts every place. How does fear arise? When one is full of bad thoughts and bad feelings.

Educational institutions today are full of disorder and indiscipline. How different were the ancient abodes of learning! In ancient times education used to be offered free. In those days, the preceptors used to send the students to the forests. The students used to be examined periodically about their studies. For instance, the students would be asked, “What tree did you find useless in the forest you visited?” The replies of the students varied, each one saying that one particular tree was useless. The preceptor did not accept their answers. He told them that all trees were useful – each in its own way. Every tree had something or the other which had medicinal properties. If a tree did nothing else, it served to take in the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release the life-giving oxygen for the benefit of man. Every tree serves a useful purpose. Equally every human being is valuable.

Today education has become very expensive. Education should be made free. Then there would be no room for corrupt practices over admissions.

The Uniqueness of Sai Education

In the Sai Educational System, there are no problems of student unrest because education is free. Our students are happy. All of us are also happy.

Because of free education the students' behaviour is exemplary. All the students feel spontaneously, "Here we are getting free education. We must conduct ourselves well to show our gratitude to all concerned." Opportunities must be provided for students to develop such an attitude towards their alma mater. In our Institute fees are not charged for anything.

We must strive to revive the ancient system of free education. Today such a sacred approach to education is lacking among students, parents, teachers and the authorities. The change must come at the governmental level. Then the public at large will also change. There must be a change in the moral climate of the educational system. Only then the educational institutions can turn out young men and women of character.

Tribute to Sai Students

The first thing students have to learn today is moderation in speech. Talk less and study more. Although I do not speak about it often, I am immensely happy over the character of our students. They are inspired by high ideals. Some of the students even go to the extent of reforming their parents. With due humility and reverence they tell their parents to change their ways of living. Whenever I hear reports of such conduct by our students I rejoice in the fact that we have such students. I do not expect anything from the students. All that I desire is that they should earn a good name when they go out. Their behaviour should be beyond cavil. Ill-educated students are worse than illiterates.

Skepticism seems to grow with more and more education. The more intelligent the students are, the more doubts develop in them. Lacking self-confidence, ultimately they fail to reach Self-realisation.

Our Institute students are always happy. This happiness lends beauty to their lives. It is not physical beauty, but the spiritual beauty derived from good character.

Our Vice-President (in his Convocation address) dwelt at length on *Dharma*. Today *Sathya* and *Dharma* are not very much in evidence. *Dharma* seems to be fleeing from the people. *Sathya* and *Dharma* are declining among the people. The ancient sacred *Vedic* teachings are disappearing. It is essential to revive them.

Students should not be obsessed with earning *dhanam* (money). They must be keen on acquiring *gunas* (good qualities). Education without ethics is no education at all. Education must teach men to be sincere in thought, word and deed as the mark of humanness. The state of Indian education is such that it breeds all sorts of bad tendencies in the students. It encourages deception and dishonesty.

Education should result in the purification of the heart. Students need not be over-anxious to score high marks. It is more important to **cultivate a good heart. Revere your parents. Promote social improvement. Cooperate with your fellow-men. These are the things you should learn.**

Make Nature Your Teacher

Make Nature your teacher, instead of relying too much on books. The vast universe has many lessons to teach. **Make your heart your preceptor. Esteem God as your best friend. He will never fail you, unlike most friends in the world.**

I prefer to hear that you have earned a good name for your behaviour than praise for your scholarship. Do not calculate what money you can earn from your degrees.

You must ask yourselves, “What good can I do to my family? What help can I render to my fellow-men?” **Education is not for securing a job. It is for acquiring knowledge and wisdom.** It is unfortunate that education has been linked to jobs and earning money.

You must move among the people in a friendly and comradely spirit. Do not hate anyone. Follow the principle, “Help ever; hurt never.”

Today many occupy high positions and earn fabulous salaries. How many of them do work that can justify the salaries they are paid? Men who receive Rs. 20,000 a month do not do even Rs. 20 worth of honest work. This is treachery to the nation. An educated person must give proper return for the salary he receives. Students must bear this in mind when they enter service. They must give adequate return for the salary they receive. That will give you job satisfaction and soothe your conscience.

Our students are behaving in an exemplary manner. Whatever their background before joining the Institute, within a month the new students are transformed into ideal students. They develop commendable qualities.

Boys and girls! Wherever you may go and whatever institutions in which you may work, bring a good name to the Institute and earn a good name for yourselves. Girl students who may get married should serve their in-laws in such a way that the good name of the Institute is vindicated. The mother-in-law should be proud of a well-educated daughter-in-law coming from the Sai Institute.

I will rejoice when you really earn a good name. Do your duty wherever you may go. Earn the esteem of your employers. That will please Me. This is My message to you.

Students' Devotion to Swami

Students! Many of you have secured high ranks in the examinations. This year 150 students of the Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School appeared for the public examinations held by the Central Board. All of them passed in First class. In many States when one or two candidates get First class, they give publicity to it. I asked our students why they do not get their photos published in the papers when they have secured a First class. “We studied for the sake of Swami and not to get our photos published in the papers,” they replied. Those words delighted Me immensely. That such high sentiments are present among young children is known to very few. The children are full of fine qualities. They have the ability to develop the whole world. But they do not try to utilise it. Students should realise the integral relationship between them and the world. Hence they should, not hesitate to serve the world with determination. They can achieve anything they want to.

Students possess immense power, more than anybody else. **My students are My property. Earn a good name wherever you go – from the home to the nation. That will please Me more than anything else. When you earn a good name, your human birth is redeemed.** Shankaracharya has warned youth against being proud of wealth, progeny or youthhood. All these are transient. What are enduring are *Sathyam* and *Keerthi* (truth and fame). Never bother about success or defeat, loss or gain, happiness or sorrow. They are incidental to life in the world.

With the conviction that very soon our students will go out into the world, and set an example to everyone in whatever institutions they may work and usher in a new era, I bless one and all.

One more thing; **I do not mind whether you achieve high ranks or not. But do not get any “remarks” against you.** I am aware that nearly all of you are behaving well. But one or two may go astray. I desire that everyone should be exemplary. This is My benediction. •

True Education Fosters Human Values

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

Prasanthi Nilayam, August 10, 1998

*Daivaadheenam Jagathsarvam
Sathyaadheenamtu Daivatham
Tat Sathyam Uthamaadheenam
Uthamo Paradevatha*

(The whole world is under the control of God; God is subject to truth. Truth is subject to noble souls. Such noble people are the embodiments of Divinity.)

Students! Embodiments of Love! Teachers and Promoters of Education! Today, people have not understood Divinity, have not understood the meaning of God, and are wasting their bodies, their time, and all precious things in life. Human values do not depend on education alone. They depend more on culture. What do you mean by culture? **Culture means giving up one's bad conduct, bad behaviour, bad deeds and cultivating good thinking, fostering good sentiments that lead to good actions.**

The state of the whole world depends on human activity. When the actions of the people are noble, the country is equally noble. The people's behaviour and conduct depend on their thoughts. Thoughts depend on the mind. Good thoughts are the basis of human values.

Good Thoughts Yield Goodness

Because human values are not practised, the world is in a mess. The head and the heart are two important organs in every human being. Thoughts that arise in the head are worldly and fickle. They are influenced by external activities. **Reading, writing, eating and earning are all outward activities. They are the products of the head. All sacred feelings arise from the heart. Sacred qualities like compassion, love, sympathy, forbearance and truth emanate from the heart.** They are all called inward qualities. The world is nothing but a combination of external and internal tendencies. Just as a sapling grows into a huge tree giving you flowers and fruits, likewise thoughts that are sacred lead to actions that yield fruits of all goodness.

Man is combination of three entities: the body, the mind, and the *Atma* (spirit). First comes the body. It is the instrument of action. The mind thinks. The conscience is the *Atma* or spirit that exists as consciousness. So, **human life is a combination of these three aspects: action, thinking and consciousness.** If the body functions independently without consulting the mind and the spirit, the activity will be animal activity. If the mind acts independently without coordinating with the body and the spirit, the activity is likely to be demonic. If the spirit acts independently, the actions will transcend the body and the mind.

The true mark of a human being is goodness. Goodness is not a product of academic education. Can bookish knowledge be called true education? Without spiritual knowledge and wisdom, can a person be called educated?

Every Student Must Cultivate Human Values

Education must inculcate respect for human values like truth, righteousness, love and peace. Education is for life. Life is for man. Man is there for society. The society is there for science. And the science is meant

for spirituality. The spirituality is there for the nation. And the nation is part of the world and the world is for peace. Today everyone wants peace. In fact you can attain and acquire peace only out of human values. For peace and happiness human values are most important. **Bereft of human values, man can never be in peace.** Without understanding this principle man tries to acquire education. Man today considers that receiving information is education. It is not information that confers human values. Modern education makes man a machine, a computer. Greatness lies in becoming not a computer, but a composer. You have to acquire education to make your life ideal. Modern education tends to make men selfish. There should be a limit even for selfishness. Every student must necessarily cultivate human values. The government, by establishing educational institutions in every village and street, thinks that the education in the country has progressed.

What are the qualities of education? **Virtues, good intellect, adherence to truth, devotion, discipline and duty are essential qualities. Education must teach these values. Students have to learn these things.** What is the progress in modern education? In fact, students try to ruin those who feed them.. They harm those who help them. They make fun of those who teach them. This is the progress in ‘modern’ education. **Students have to foster obedience, humility and human values and attain Divinity. This is true education.** Modern students do not understand what true education is. As a result, society is polluted. Truth and other human qualities have been distorted and perverted altogether. Sanctity and sacred quality of human nature is fast disappearing. The practice of righteousness, compassion are viewed as bad practices. Do you call this ‘progress’ in education? No. **You should express human values by practising righteousness and cultivating compassion.**

The True Meaning of Education

*With good education, you will have culture,
When you have culture, that is true life.
If you have good education, you will be happy.
When you are happy, you will be peaceful.
When you have good education,
You will be in good company.
When you are in good company,
You will have good qualities.
When you have good education,
Your life will find fulfillment.
Thereby, you can attain liberation.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Students should adhere to the twin ideals of *Sathya* and *Dharma* (truth and righteousness). In this world, there is nothing greater than Truth. You should become embodiments of Truth. In your daily life you should follow the path of Truth and realise the Divine. You have to water a sapling to get fruit and seeds. Love, which is natural to human beings, should be watered with faith to sustain it. We should make an effort to attain peace in the true sense of the word. The peace that we get today is momentary. We cannot call it peace.

The History of Bharat Is One Long Saga of Sacrifice

In the modern world, Bharat stands for all that is sacred. Since ancient times, it has been a model and an ideal for the rest of the world. **There is Truth in the air of Bharat. There is *Dharma* in the dust of Bharat. There is love in the sands of Bharat. And there is compassion in the water of Bharat. Forbearance is the core of *Bharatiya* (Indian) culture.** In order to enjoy and experience these values, even foreigners have decided to come

and settle down in Bharat. In ancient times, *Bharatiyas* were determined to follow the principle of sacrifice. They were dedicated to righteousness and truth. Having been born in the sacred land of Bharat, you should not forget this important aspect. If you go through the history of this sacred land you will certainly understand that Bharat never tried to invade or conquer any country. They had to resist foreign invaders. ***Bharatiyas stand for selflessness.*** They were never selfish at any point of time. *Bharatiyas* never coveted the lands of others. **The history of Bharat is one long saga of sacrifice.**

Emperor Harischandra was prepared to give up everything for the sake of Truth. Emperor Sibi sacrificed his own flesh and blood to save a dove. Bharat has given birth to men and women who stood for sacrifice. Modern students are trying to change this land of sacrifice, from a land of spiritual practices into a land of pleasure seekers. But all pleasure is transient. **You should seek the bliss that is enduring by realising your inherent Divinity.**

Yesterday, an American boy came to Swami. Bhagavan asked him, “How old are you?” The boy replied, “Seven years.” Swami asked him, “How do you know?” He said, “My mother and father told me.” Swami said, “It is only one that has become seven. One plus one plus one... comes to seven.” Without one there cannot be seven. All numbers come out of one. **Truth is one; scholars call it by many names. Names and forms differ, but Divinity is one and the same in all. First, have faith in yourself. Without self-confidence, you cannot have faith in yourself.** Then how can you have faith in others? **Let this *Visvasa* (faith) become your *Svasa* (life-breath).** Let our education become true education. Education that is not practised is bookish knowledge. You should have love for your country also. Rama said, “Motherland is greater than heaven itself.” That spirit of patriotism is very important. •

Fuse Spirituality with Education

Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam, November 22, 1998

*Bharat has men who are capable of educating
Even the ancient sages about the essence of scriptures;
Men who sacrificed their lives for the uplift of society;
Men who have immense administrative capabilities.
Bharat has many such eminent personalities.
Alas! Of what use are such men in Bharat
If they have no awareness of the wail of the oppressed?
When will they respond to the heart-rending cries of the poor?*

(TELUGU POEM)

Students! Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached. The need of the hour is men who set an ideal by their valour and courage in the battle of life, and not men who pursue physical, ephemeral, fleeting pleasures.

Students! Investigate the concept of ideal education propagated by the ancient sages. They enthroned righteousness and welcomed truth. They enshrined valour and courage. You should emulate such people, who strove for the glow of Indian culture. In fact you are the true inheritors of the legacy of Indian culture. You should resolve to uphold *dharma* and work for the welfare of the country.

Absence of Human Values Leads to Decline in Spirituality

Science and technology has improved by leaps and bounds over the past 200 years, yet no sanctity has been attached to it. This has stimulated development in human civilisation, but not within man. **The absence of human values will lead to a decline in spirituality. Develop the strong faith that the body has been gifted to uphold human values.** Since ancient times, *Bharatiyas* (Indians) stood for peace, forbearance, and forgiveness. A study of the history of Bharat will reveal the fact that many invaded Bharat and plundered its wealth, but never has Bharat invaded any foreign land on its own. *Bharatiyas* have considered divinity and purity as their two eyes. In such a sacred land, justice and righteousness have been consigned to flames, resulting in trials and tribulations, turmoil and unrest on a large scale.

Education does not mean mere bookish knowledge. Acquired knowledge should be put into practice and shared with the rest of the community. Does the ability to read and write make one educated? Does securing college degrees make one educated? If education is for a living, are not birds and beasts living? There are millions of educated men and women all over the world, but what is the benefit accruing to their respective nations? None. They are utilising their education for selfishness and self-interest alone.

Embodiments of Love! Boys and girls! Eschew selfishness and self-interest and resolve to serve society.

*The eternal and long lasting values
have disappeared into thin air.
Good nature in men and women is on the decline.
Ancient Aryan wisdom is frittered away
Western education is on the rise.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Bharatiya education makes one ideal and self-reliant. It inculcates the sense of sacrifice in man. Having called yourselves children of Bharat, you should keep in mind the welfare of Bharat Matha. Modern education enhances the intelligence, but not broadmindedness. It makes the students stonehearted. **True education is one that instills compassion in you. Patriotism coupled with sacrifice; devotion coupled with love should become a part and parcel of your life. Education confers humility. Humility confers deservedness; deservedness secures for you wealth as well as divinity and devotion to God.**

*In this sacred land of Bharat,
Forbearance is our best wealth;
Of all forms of austerities, the highest is
The observance of truth and morality;
Of all the nectarean feelings
The greatest is maternal love.
Jettisoning the national ideal
That honour is greater than life itself,
What a pity people have fallen
prey to exotic practices.
What can I say about the plight of Bharat!
Like the elephant unaware of its strength,
Alas! Bharatiyas have become docile today.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Since ancient times, Bharat has stood as an ideal for the rest of the world. Unfortunately, we witness a different scenario today. We find educational institutions proliferating in every street, in every village. What is the gain there from? Absolutely nil.

*Humility, the hallmark of a true student, is not noticed.
Harm is done to those that help,
A sense of gratitude is lacking.
Teachers are made a laughing stock.
This is the progress of modern education.*

(TELUGU POEM)

To realise the purpose of education, serve society. Cleanse the country of all evils. True education is that which makes one a complete man. Only when one gets transformed into a complete human being is the purpose of education fulfilled.

Education Is Meant to Broaden the Mind

Students! Resolve to make the best use of the education that you have received. Respect and revere elders and set an ideal to humanity. Let your conduct befit the degrees you have acquired. There is no greatness in obtaining good marks; see that you do not invite bad remarks. In the modern system of education, a student is declared pass if he secures just 35% of marks. What about the balance 65%? If a person completes only 35 out of 100 tasks assigned to him, can you call him a successful one? One should secure 100% marks. That is true education. Attaining high marks is not the aim of education. **Education is meant to broaden the mind. Education and discrimination should go hand in hand.** The prosperity of the nation depends on the progress you make in the field of education.

*The future of the nation rests on the students.
Moral and ethical values are confined only to books.
Heart has become a dwelling place for evil qualities.
Actions have become completely self-centred.
This is the progress of modern education.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Education acquired should be translated into action. When you put your knowledge into practice, only then do you become an ideal person.

Students! As I have told you repeatedly, knowledge can be classified into five categories: bookish knowledge, superficial knowledge, general knowledge, discrimination knowledge, and practical knowledge. General knowledge and common sense are very much essential. You should set an ideal by exercising practical knowledge and following the four Fs. The first F is *Follow the Master*. Who is your master? Conscience is your master. So, follow your conscience. The second F is *Face the devil*. The third F is *Fight to the end*. The fourth F is *Finish the game*. Play the game of life in the true spirit of sportsmanship. Students lack self-confidence. Confidence in the Self is very essential. Lack of confidence in Self will lead to depression. Today, 90% of the people are afflicted with depression. Depression will lead to weakness of mind. **“Na ayamatma balahinena labhyah (a weak-minded one cannot realise the Atma.)”** If you have confidence in the Self, you will never be weak-minded.

Render Service to Others till Your Last Breath

Bharat has stocked plenty of wealth for you. What is this wealth? It is the spirit of sacrifice, which can be acquired through service to society. Do not waste time. *“Karmanubandeeni manushyaloke (human society is bound by action.)”* *“Sareeramadyam khalu dharma sadhanam (the body is gifted in order to undertake righteous actions, not to eat, drink, and make merry.)”* Render service to others till your last breath.

The essence of 18 *Puranas* can be summed up in one phrase, **“Paropakarah punyaya papaya parapeedanam.”** **Help ever; hurt never.** Set an ideal that is helpful and delightful to one and all.

Education Is for Life and Not for a Living

Students! *“Janthoonam narajanma durlabham (human birth is the rarest of all.)”* Human life should be one of character, good actions, and good qualities. It should be dedicated to the service of society, not for amassing wealth. Education is for life and not for a living. One need not strive for money. If education is properly utilised, money will come on its own. Today, educational institutions have become business centers.

*Money has become our God
Pride has become our creed
Selfishness sits supreme in the minds of men
Egotism has become our fashion
Greed has become our beauty
Dharma has come to naught
Compassion has sunk low
Morality forever is lost
Hypocrisy has become the light of our life
Love and kindness lie sick and diseased
Modern education has blinded men with lust
Life has become a burden*

*Minds have gone astray
Delay no more, for delay is disastrous
Fuse morality with education in sweet harmony
Live up to the reputation as children of Bharat.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Moral values should be the underlying current in each and every action of man. Only when you have moral and ethical values can you deserve to be called children of Bharat.

Embodiments of Love! Loka samastha sukhino bhavanthu (May all the worlds be happy) has been the motto of Bharat since ancient times. Resolve to revive and rejuvenate the pristine glory of Bharat. Propagate these noble ideals in every village, every street, and every house. **Observe unity in every activity of yours. Believe in the dictum, “Brotherhood of man and Fatherhood of God.” Do not feel jealous of anyone. Jealousy is an incurable disease.** Praise and censure are inevitable for man. Only the tree that bears fruit is stoned. Likewise, only the good face problems. Do not attach importance to these trials and tribulations. A tree welcomes stoning because it is aware of the fact that people have recognised its value. Similarly, man should not feel dejected when he is censured. **Treat dualities like pain and pleasure with equal-mindedness. Develop this broad-mindedness. Divinity blossoms in those with such a sacred attitude.**

All are the embodiments of God. Krishna declared, “*Mamaivamso jivaloke jivabhuta Sanathanah* (all are sparks of My divinity).” Do not consider yourselves as mere mortals. Have firm faith that you are divine. Only then will you be able to work for the emancipation of this country, and it will be restored to the status of teacher to the rest of the world.

Education Is the Very Form of God

The Vice Chancellor quoted from the *Taittiriya Upanishad*, “*Matrudevo bhava, Pitrudevo bhava, Acharyadevo bhava, Atithidevo bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor, and guest as God).” This was the teaching given to the students at the time of leaving the portals of *Gurukul (residential quarters for students)* in ancient times. This act of benediction is termed Convocation today.

Education is the very form of God. The word “education” originated from the root word “Educare,” meaning “to bring out” or “to elicit.” Educare has two aspects: that which relates to the head and that which relates to the heart. That which emerges from the head is *pravritti* (external); that from the heart is *nivritti* (internal). Unless the head is empty (free from evil) it cannot be stuffed with good. **Modern education relates to the head, but true education relates to the heart. Sacred qualities like compassion, truth, forbearance, and love originate from the heart.** Here is a small example. Physical features like height, weight, and complexion can be seen by the naked eye, whereas there are innumerable qualities like compassion, truth, and love that are unseen. Merely acquainting oneself with the physical features of an individual does not make one aware of one’s true personality.

Essence of Bharatiya Vidya

Hiranyakasipu’s scientific achievements far exceeded those of the modern scientists. He could even reach the Pole star, whereas modern scientists have traveled only up to the moon. Prahlada cautioned his father Hiranyakasipu, “Oh! Father, you have conquered all the worlds but not your senses and mind.” The same sentiment was expressed by the Prime Minister of England, Winston Churchill, “Man has conquered all, but he has not conquered himself.” On being questioned by a westerner as to why he was in a pensive mood, Gandhi replied that he was ruminating over the modern educational system, which was making man stone-hearted.

Education should fill one's heart with love and compassion. Two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen add up to make water. Greatness lies in sharing water equally, not in making it. Everyone has an equal right to water. Today, everyone is fighting for rights, but what about responsibility?

Students! You do not need to fight for rights. Discharge your responsibilities, and rights will follow. **Do your duty. Duty is God; work is worship.**

What is your right? **To make everybody happy is your right. Serve everybody and make everyone happy without expecting anything in return. Service is God. The best way to love God is to love all and serve all. Speak softly and sweetly. You cannot always oblige, but you can speak always obligingly. That is the essence of *Bharatiya vidya*.**

Education does not mean, "Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are." All this is artificial education. True *Bharatiya vidya* is one, that fosters spirituality and human values.

Our Institute Is Based on Sacrifice

Students! Propagate the ideals of true education in the four corners of the world. Sacrifice everything for the sake of truth, and tread along this sacred path. **Truth is God; Love is God; Live in Love; Live in Truth. Imbibe these principles. Once you are along the path of love and truth, you will gain all wealth and wisdom. Be steady, do not waver.** Students of our institutions live up to these ideals and bring a good name to the institute. There is no institution comparable to our institution in this country. Business has taken over education right from K.G. to P.G. in other institutions. But our institute is based on sacrifice. Foster this sacred quality of sacrifice. Offer education to your fellow beings free of cost. The *Vedas* declare, "***Na karmana, Na Prajaya Dhanena, Tyagenaike Amrutatwa Manasuh (immortality can be attained only through sacrifice and not through wealth, progeny, or action).***" Be prepared to sacrifice. True *yoga* lies in sacrifice. First and foremost, make your parents happy. Make everybody happy and be an ideal. The *Vedas* declare,

Sahanavavathu, Sahanau Bhunakthu,

Sahaveeryam Karavavahai

Tejaswi Navadheethamasthu

Maa Vidhvisaavahai.

(May the Lord protect and nourish us! May we grow in intelligence and valour working together! May we live in friendship without any conflict!)

I wish that you practise and propagate these sacred ideals. Blessing you, I bring this discourse to a close. •

Heart Is the Source of True Education

Valedictory Discourse of First Sri Sathya Sai Seminar on Values-Parenting

Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam, July 26, 1999

*Sadayam Hridayam Yasya Bhasitham Sathya Bhushitham,
Kayah Parahithe Yasya Kalisthasya Karothi Kim?*

(SANSKRIT VERSE)

(What can the evil effects of Kali Age do to a man whose heart is filled with compassion, whose every utterance is truth and whose body is dedicated for the service of others?)

Embodiments of Love! Man should fill his heart with compassion, should always speak the truth and dedicate his body to the welfare of society. **The thoughts, words and deeds of man should always be sacred. The heart unpolluted by desire and anger, the tongue untainted by untruth and the body unblemished by the acts of violence – these are the true human values.** It is because of lack of these human values that the country is facing hardships today. Bharat (India) has been the treasure house of spirituality since ancient times, but, today, it has lost both *sathya* (truth) and *dharma* (righteousness) and is enmeshed in unrighteousness, falsehood and injustice. It is therefore incumbent upon students to dedicate themselves to the task of restoring the ancient pristine glory of Bharat. Just as the parents are worried and sad if their children lag behind in studies, so also Mother India feels aggrieved on seeing its citizens lacking in moral and ethical values. You have to remember that all those whom you revere as ideal citizens and noble souls were once students themselves. Never forget that students of today are the future citizens and leaders of this country.

Take to Righteous Actions from an Early Age

The value of an individual depends on his or her culture. **The real significance of culture lies in giving up bad thoughts and bad actions and cultivating sacred thoughts and performing noble deeds.** The country is not a mere piece of land; it is an assemblage of citizens. For the country to progress, the citizens have to cultivate moral, ethical, and spiritual values. It is not possible for the citizens and the leaders to cultivate these values unless they practise them right from their childhood. Life becomes meaningless if one does not take to righteous actions from an early age.

Modern students are not able to refine their lives themselves. So, the parents and the teachers should play an active role in shaping the lives of the students. First and foremost, they have to enquire as to how the students can get rid of their evil tendencies. Just as a boulder becomes worthy of adoration and respect when it is carved into a beautiful idol by a sculptor, so also the students will become ideal citizens if they are brought up in the right environment. **The teachers and parents are responsible for the good and bad in students.** But, unfortunately, they have not understood their role in shaping and moulding the lives of the students.

Spiritual Education Is for Life

No doubt, the teachers teach the students in the class. But, what is '*vidya*'? It is derived from the root word '*vid*', meaning 'to know'. What is it that one should know? *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 imparts knowledge pertaining to the physical world. Spiritual education is essential, without which human life has little value. But, in the modern education system, spirituality

finds no place. Only worldly education is given prominence. Just as two wings are essential for a bird to soar high in the sky, two wheels for a cart to move, so also two types of education are needed for man to attain the goal of life. **Spiritual education is for life, whereas worldly education is for a living. Only when man is equipped with these two aspects of education can he be deserving of respect and adoration in society.** Possession of these two aspects of education will bring not only veneration and adulation, but also self-satisfaction.

Worldly education, which relates to the head, is ephemeral. Reading, writing, eking out a livelihood and attaining name and fame – all of these result from worldly education. **Worldly education makes man great, whereas spiritual education makes him good. Spiritual education relates to the heart, which is the origin of sacred qualities like compassion, truth, forbearance and love.** Today parents expect their children to go in for higher studies, amass wealth and become great, but very few want their children to be good. Goodness is long-lasting, whereas greatness is temporary. Goodness forms the basis for spiritual life. There are crores and crores of people who have become great, but what is their contribution to the welfare of society? Absolutely nil. You can earn good name only by serving others. Therefore, strive to be good, not great.

Man Should Become a Composer, Not a Computer

Modern students are going to various countries for material education without realising the fact that the heart, the source of true education, is within. True education is that which makes man ideal. **Parents are the first teachers.** They should show their children the way to goodness. Man cannot become good merely by being highly educated. Worldly education confers only *Artha* (wealth) and *Swartha* (selfishness). Such education is responsible for the downfall of man. **Worldly education is information-oriented, while spiritual education is transformation-oriented.** Information-oriented education makes man a computer, whereas transformation-oriented education makes man a composer. Man should become a composer, not a computer. Who made the computer? The composer made the computer. Man should therefore understand the meaning of real education.

Today, the moral, ethical and spiritual values are on the decline. Modern students have no trace of these values in them. They have no respect for their parents and society. In that case, how can they expect to be respected by their children? Our ancient culture exhorts, “*Mathru Devo Bhava, Pithru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava*” (revere your mother, father and teacher as God). Respect and be respected. Practise before you preach; only then you can become a composer.

In the *Mahabharatha*, there is a story of a king named Dushyantha. Having been born and brought up in a palace, he was inclined toward worldly and material pursuits. On the other hand, his son Bharata, who was born and brought up in *Kanvashram* (the hermitage of sage Kanva) was a repository of moral, spiritual and ethical values. *Ashram* education inculcates all noble values in man. Bharata became a paragon of all virtues because he received an ideal education right from his childhood. This enabled him to lead a life of peace and happiness. That is why it is said, “start early, drive slowly and reach safely.” Dushyantha had worldly and material wealth. He was a mighty emperor. What was the use of all that he possessed when he could not achieve spiritual growth? This clearly demonstrates the difference between urban education and *Ashram* education.

Values Are Our Life Principles

The five human values of *Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema* and *Ahimsa* (truth, right action, peace, love, and non-violence) can be compared to the five life principles of man, viz., *Prana, Apana, Vyana, Udana* and *Samana*. **A true human being is one who practises the five human values.** Today man does not speak truth, lest it bring him harm, and does not practise *Dharma* because he does not know what it really means.

Under no circumstances should you give up human values. Losing any of the five human values amounts to committing suicide. If you do not speak the truth, you lose one of your life principles. **Truth is your Atma. So, till your last breath, uphold truth.** The culture of Bharat (India) teaches *Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara* (speak truth and follow righteousness). These values are the same for one and all.

People all over the world are praying for peace. **How can peace be attained? It is only through the practice of Sathya and Dharma (truth and right action).** Today, man is leading a life bereft of *Sathya* and *Dharma*. This has resulted in lack of *Shanti* (peace), which in turn has led to the absence of *Prema* (love). How can *Ahimsa* (non-violence) exist in the absence of these four values? Violence is rampant everywhere, be it home, bazaar or factory. Man, bereft of these five principles, has become a living corpse. Life has to be infused into man today, for which faith in God is very essential. **Where there is faith there is love. Where there is love there is peace. Where there is peace there is truth. Where there is truth there is God. Where there is God there is bliss.** Human life has to begin with faith to achieve bliss.

Ancient Acharyas and Modern Teachers

Today, even the parents and the children, the husband and the wife lack faith in each other. The love they exhibit is only artificial. Under such circumstances how can love prevail? **One should have deep faith in order to experience true love. Whatever you do, do it whole-heartedly. Fill your heart with compassion. When the heart is filled with love, all actions will be suffused with love.**

Jumsai, in his talk, referred to EHV as 3HV. The first H stands for Heart, the second for Head, and the third for Hand. The harmony of heart, head and hand symbolises true human life. *Manasyekam Vachasyekam Karmanyekam Mahatmanam* (he is a noble soul whose thoughts, words, and deeds are in perfect harmony). *Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath Karmanyanyath Duratmanam* (he is a wicked one whose thoughts, words, and deeds are at variance). The very name of *Hridaya* (heart) – *Hri + Daya* – indicates compassion (*daya*). So, the heart should be filled with compassion. When there is love in the heart all that you utter will be truth. **Love in speech is truth. Love in action is dharma. Love in thought is peace. Love in understanding is ahimsa (non-violence). So, love is the underlying principle of truth, righteousness, peace and non-violence.**

In olden days, the teachers were called *Acharyas*, meaning those who practise what they preach. Today the teachers cannot be called *Acharyas* because they do not practise what they preach. The modern teachers are experts in giving platform speeches, whereas the *Acharyas* of ancient times were proficient in practical science.

Education Should Be Free

How can the students heed the advice of the teachers if the teachers themselves do not practise what they preach? If the cow is grazing in the field, can we expect the calf to remain a mere witness? The calf naturally follows the cow. The relationship between the teacher and the student should be like that of the cow and the calf. **It means the teachers should treat the students as their own children.** But, today one does not find such relationship between the teachers and the students. Both the teachers and students have become money-minded. As a result, the students do not respect the teachers and the teachers do not have love for the students.

In many educational institutions, seats are allotted to those who can pay large sums of money. This quota system has brought about all-round degeneration. As the government is also encouraging this trend, the education system has become totally bereft of values. To stop this unholy trend, education should be offered free of cost. Everyone has an equal right on education. **Education is the gift of God. No one has the right to sell it. Education should lead to elevation, not agitation.** But, today we find agitation everywhere.

The Real “Donation”

Today, money can buy admission, attendance, marks and even degrees for that matter. The medical seats are readily offered to candidates who pay a sum of twenty to thirty lakhs. In order to earn the money spent by them to secure the medical seat, the doctors charge exorbitant fees from the patients. The same is the case with engineering, too. Even for admission in first standard, some institutions are charging twenty to twenty-five thousand rupees.

Modern education has made man a beggar. One should be bigger, not a beggar. I am not saying this out of sense of pride, but Sathya Sai Institute is the only institution offering free education. Jumsai said that more and more institutions should be established. It is a matter of pleasure, but care has to be taken to see that education is offered totally free of cost. Only then can we shape the students into ideal citizens. Teachers should share all their knowledge with the students wholeheartedly. They must practise before they preach. This is what I expect from the teachers.

The education that is acquired by paying large amounts as donation is no education at all. Only people having black money resort to such illegal means to acquire degrees. ‘Do (for the) nation’ – that is the real donation. **Make use of your education for the welfare of the society and the nation.** Share your knowledge with others. It is not necessary that you should become a teacher to do so. There may be a few poor students in your locality. Conduct special classes for them in the evening. Today people struggle to earn money and property right from dawn to dusk. They take to corrupt ways to earn the rupee. One should not live just for the sake of money. It is better to die rather than to lead a life just for the sake of money. If you have money in excess, help others; provide free education and free medical care to the poor.

Sathya Sai School in Zambia

In Zambia, there is a devotee named Victor Kanu. He is here right now. He has established a Sathya Sai School in Zambia. Many poor children are studying there. Both he and his wife are teaching the children with all love and care. (At this juncture Bhagavan asked Mr. Victor Kanu, sitting nearby, as to how many children were studying in their school. Mr. Kanu informed that 520 children were studying there.) They are imparting Swami’s teachings and human values to all the children. It is going to become a college very soon.

There are many affluent people in the world. But they do not have the spirit of sacrifice to help such sacred institutions. Some of them who do contribute something, do it for name and fame. They expect their names to appear in letters of gold. Sathya Sai Institutions are not for name and fame. I would like to narrate a small incident in this regard. At a particular place, when I was about to give discourse, one person switched off the fan. I asked him, “Why did you switch off the fan? We need it now. It is very hot here.” That person replied that it was he who had donated the fan and his name was written on the blades of the fan; unless it was switched off, his name would not be visible.

Education Leads to Immortality

The culture of Bharat declares *“Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutatwa manasuh (immortality can be attained only through sacrifice; neither wealth nor progeny nor good deeds can confer it).”* All the activities and rituals you undertake must be for the welfare of the society. You must inspire your children to work for the progress of the country. **It is only sacrifice that confers immortality. Participate in every good work according to your capacity.** Select a few deserving students and give them free education.

Education is not for worldly progress. It is to set an ideal, experience happiness and share it with others. All the elders, the educationists, the rich and the students should come together and strive for progress in the field of

education. Just as a thread binds flowers of different hues to make a garland, likewise the feeling of love and sacrifice should bring you all together. Flowers are many, but the thread is one. The flowers may fade away, but the thread remains changeless. A bud changes to become a flower. Similarly, with the passage of time, the child becomes man, man becomes father and father becomes grandfather. **But, the feeling of love is changeless. It is true and eternal.**

Man should never lose any of the five values. Leaving the values amounts to committing suicide. But man today is no better than animals. The spirit of sacrifice that is found even in animals is not visible in man today. The cow partakes of grass and yields milk. But, man partakes of sacred milk and indulges in wicked deeds.

What is the use of all the education he has acquired if man cannot give up his evil qualities?

All the worldly education will only lead him to vain argumentation, but not total wisdom.

It cannot help him to escape from the clutches of death.

So, man should acquire that knowledge which will make him immortal.

(TELUGU POEM)

Education should enable us to cultivate sacred qualities. Worldly education is negative and spiritual education is positive. What is the use of having a bulb without electric current? Secular knowledge is like the bulb; spiritual knowledge, like the current. Both are essential for the progress of man and the world at large. Make proper use of the knowledge you have acquired. Parents should take active interest in the education of their children. Never desire that your son should become a great person; instead pray that he should become a good person, like Bharata. That is true human life.

The Good and the Great

If one goes through the sacred texts of the *Ramayana*, the *Bhagavata* and the *Mahabharata*, one understands the evil effects of *Kama* (desire), *Krodha* (anger), and *Lobha* (greed). In the *Ramayana*, Rama symbolised goodness, whereas Ravana, greatness. Though Rama and Ravana were equally proficient in all the forms of knowledge, Ravana could not make proper use of his knowledge as he had no control over his senses. On the other hand, Rama exercised control over his senses and sacrificed everything for the sake of truth. The *Ramayana* is known as *Ramacharita* (the story of Rama) and the story of Ravana is known as *Kamacharitra* (the story of desire). The *Bhagavata* tells about the consequences one has to face if one becomes a victim of anger. Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakasipu were all-powerful, but ultimately perished because of their anger toward God. Hiranyakasipu was a great scientist. Today man has traveled only up to the moon, whereas Hiranyakasipu could even reach the stars. But, he was ruined by his anger.

In the *Mahabharata*, the brothers Duryodhana and Dussasana symbolise greed, which is a negative power. On the other hand, the Pandavas stand for the positive power. They adhered to *dharma* under all circumstances. Similarly, in the *Bhagavata*, Hiranyakasipu symbolises negative power and Prahlada, the positive power. Thus you find that positive and negative, good and bad co-exist wherever you see. **Accept what is good and give up all that is bad and earn a good name. Then you are not merely great, you will be good also.**

Give Importance to Values, Not Money

Teachers! You have participated in this conference for the past three days. All of you have noble ideas, but you have to think of a proper way to implement them. Attach more importance to values than money and see that students make all-round progress.

Students! I want you to become ideal leaders. Make use of your education to serve the poor. Conduct free tuition classes for the poor children and share your books with them. Only then the feeling of brotherhood of man

and fatherhood of God will develop. As I have told you earlier, *Educare* has two aspects: one that comes out of the head is *Pravriddhi* (outward) and the other which comes from the heart is *Nivridhi* (inward). **God is *Hridayavasi* (Indweller). So, all that originates from the heart is essentially divine. Therefore, let all your thoughts, words and deeds originate from your heart. Do good, be good and see good. This is the way to God. Accept both pleasure and pain as gifts of God.**

In order to get cured of malaria, one has to take a bitter mixture. Likewise, one has to face hardships in order to attain happiness. That is why it is said, pleasure is an interval between two pains. Light has no value if there is no darkness. Similarly, pleasure has no value without pain.

Consider Every Good Work as God's Work

Students! To the extent possible, serve the society. Of course, you need to take up jobs and earn your livelihood. But, do not be avaricious. Be satisfied with what you get. Alexander conquered many kingdoms and amassed a lot of wealth. When his end approached, he realised that he could not take even a single penny with him. He asked his ministers to keep his hands out of the bier during his final journey, so that people would know that even the mighty emperor Alexander had to leave the world empty-handed. Likewise, everyone has to leave this world empty-handed. Even a millionaire has to partake of only food; he cannot eat gold. So, be satisfied with the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter.

Do your jobs properly and undertake service activities in your leisure time. Develop faith in God. If you do not have faith in God, you will not have fear of sin. Then you will become a demon. So, **fear of sin and love for God are very essential. If you have these two, you will be successful in all your endeavors. Consider every good work as God's work.**

Work for Your Motherland and Serve the Poor

Embodiments of Love! Stop hankering after foreign lands after you complete your studies. Serve your Motherland. Lord Rama said, *Janani Janmabhoomischa Swargadapi Gareeyasi* (mother and Motherland are greater than heaven). So, work for your Motherland and serve the poor. **The best way to love God is to love all and serve all.** Serve others when it is necessary. You are born to experience love. Your life is full of love. But, you are not able to understand this Principle of Love. **There is nothing greater than love in this world. Love is God, God is Love. So live in love. •**

Educare Is Human Values

Prasanthi Nilayam, September 26, 2000

True education is that which fosters pure feelings.

To have virtues is the true meaning of learning.

Only when man cultivates the feeling of love, can there be equality.

Good conduct is the hallmark of a true human being.

(TELUGU POEM)

Jumsai made a mention of **education** and **human values**. 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, namely, *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.

Our Ancient Sages Had the Vision of Truth

The *Vedas* call the life principle in man as '*Sathyam*' (Truth). Without this power of Truth, man cannot exist. Our ancients could have the vision of Truth by proper investigation and experimentation. **Truth is the direct manifestation of God for every human being.** Our ancient sages and seers understood this Truth, had the vision of Truth and realised that it is present uniformly in every being. **Truth is one and the same in all and That is God.**

Man is endowed with *Pancha Pranas* (five life-breaths), namely, *praana, apaana, vyaana, udaana* and *samaana*. These are the divine powers latent in man. The human values, namely, *Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema* and *Ahimsa* are nothing but the manifestations of these five life-breaths. But man is wasting his human birth, as he is unable to recognise these subtle principles. When truth is put into practice, it becomes righteousness. Truth is expressed in words, while righteousness is expressed in action. On this basis, the *Vedas* taught, *Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara* (speak truth, practise righteousness). Hence righteousness is based on truth. Without truth, there is no righteousness. That is why the *Vedas* say, *Sathyaannasthi Paro Dharmaha* (there is no *dharma* higher than adherence to Truth). Without the foundation of truth, the mansion of righteousness cannot be built. ***Sathyaacharana* (practice of truth) is true *dharma*. This *dharma* is uniform for all human beings. Peace is the reflection of *dharma*.** Man prays for peace and performs various spiritual practices aspiring for peace. But so long as he has desires, he can never attain peace, though he may undertake sacred rituals like *yagnas* and *yagas*. **Mind is the basis for desires. So, one has to control the mind in order to attain peace. When the mind is controlled, it remains silent. Such a state of thoughtlessness is true peace.**

The Nine Qualities of Love

The fourth human value is love. It has originated from the principle of *Atma*. **Love is the manifestation of Truth. It is pure, steady, effulgent, attributeless, formless, ancient, eternal, immortal and nectarous. These are the nine qualities of Love. Love hates none, unites all. *Ekatma Darshanam Prema* (experience of non-**

dualism is love). *Ahimsa* shines as the undercurrent of the remaining four values, namely, truth, righteousness, love and peace. That which leads to violence cannot be truth, righteousness, love or peace. These five values are verily the five life-breaths of man. One who considers human values as his life-breaths alone is a true human being. These five values are the fundamental powers of human life. Forgetting these fundamental powers, man relies more on worldly power. Our ancients realised that these five values were meant for the peace and prosperity of the world. Without understanding the significance of these values, one cannot understand humanness at all.

In *Treta Yuga*, Lord Rama incarnated in order to foster truth and righteousness. He spent 14 years in exile to uphold the promise given to his father. He dedicated His life for the establishment of *dharma*. In those days, there were only a few wicked people. Rama annihilated them to uphold truth and righteousness. In the *Dwapara Yuga*, Lord Krishna incarnated to foster peace and love. He protected all those who sought refuge in Him and developed love in them.

Thus, the Rama *Avatar* fostered *Sathya* and *dharma* and the Krishna *Avatar* fostered *Shanti* and *Prema*. But in this Age of *Kali*, God has given necessary strength to every human being to foster all the five values. **It is the command of God that man should uphold the human values and safeguard the world.** This is the inner significance of propagating the human values. Man need not wait for God to foster these values. He is endowed with the strength to do the same. **These five values are your properties. It is your responsibility to protect them.** Do not expect others to safeguard your property.

Manifestation of Latent Human Values Is 'Educare'

In those days, God incarnated and destroyed demons, as there were only a few of them. But today, we find demonic nature in everyone. One has to cultivate purity to subdue demonic qualities. But purity cannot be attained without unity. **Unity leads to purity, which in turn leads to divinity.** But today, there is no unity, no purity, no divinity. We find only enmity and community, which are nothing but man's own creation. **Once you install divinity in your heart, there will be no place for enmity because heart is a single chair, not a musical chair or a double sofa. In order to install divinity in the heart, you have to practise human values.** Manifestation of latent human values is known as 'Educare.' If a question is put, what is education? People say, it is the acquisition of knowledge. But it is not merely acquisition of knowledge; it must be in action. What is the end of education? **Character is the end of education.** What is the essence of education? **Concentration is the essence of education.** What is the aim of education? **The aim of education is not only cultivating human qualities, but attaining divinity. Education is meant for life, not for a living.** If education is meant for a living, don't we find birds and beasts, having no education whatsoever, doing the same? So, education should be for life. First of all, one should understand this truth.

'Educare' Confers Immortality

The word 'Educare' has a sacred inner meaning. That which is manifested by 'Educare' cannot be seen by the eyes, cannot be heard by the ears and cannot be felt by the mind. But all that education confers can be seen, heard and felt. **Education fosters desires and leads to rebirth, whereas 'Educare' confers immortality. There will be no rebirth.** The innate divine qualities like truth, righteousness, peace, patience, forbearance and love cannot be seen by the naked eye and they lead to no birth. Modern education is giving rise to desires, which form the basis for rebirth. **You need to develop detachment to control desires. Attachment leads to bondage and restlessness. The innate values alone can control the desires. Inner voice leads to detachment.** You have to enquire into the difference between attachment and detachment. To attain detachment, you must obtain release from worldly bondage. Here is a small example. When you insert the key into the lock and turn it to the right, the

lock opens; you turn it to left, it gets locked. **The heart is the lock, the mind is the key. You get attachment, when your mind is turned towards the world. When it is turned towards God, you attain liberation.** It is the same lock and the same key that are responsible for bondage and liberation. The mere change in the direction causes a change in the consequence, namely, bondage or liberation. **Liberation is not some specific location – an air-conditioned paradise. It is a state of supreme peace.** Where do you get the supreme peace? It is to be obtained in the realm of a pure heart. It is steady, sacred and utterly selfless. **To enjoy supreme peace, you should achieve a supreme state. Unity, Purity and Divinity, when these three principles are unified, it takes you to supreme state.** Take, for instance, Rama and Lakshmana. You know what kind of brothers they were? Lakshmana was totally loyal and followed the commands of his elder brother and thereby attained the supreme state. What is the condition of the Ramas and Lakshmanas today? Instead of attaining supreme state through unity, they go to Supreme Court to settle property disputes. Desires take you to Supreme Court. When there are no desires, no quarrels, there will be no Supreme Court. You will be in the constant state of supreme peace.

Conscience, Conscious and Consciousness

What is our need today? It is not merely education. Education is mere bookish knowledge. There are four kinds of knowledge. The first is bookish knowledge, i.e., **superficial knowledge**. The second is **general knowledge**, the third is **discriminatory knowledge**, and the fourth is **practical knowledge**. You have to arrive at the level of practical knowledge. But frequently, people fall into error even in discriminatory knowledge. **There is individual discrimination and fundamental discrimination.** Individual discrimination is based on selfish gains. It is not right. Fundamental discrimination is based on the well-being of all people. The marks that students get in the examination are not true marks. True marks arise from the heart. Your conscience should assert repeatedly and firmly what you are doing is right.

There are three terms to be discussed here. “**Conscience**” is one, the other is “**conscious**” and third is “**consciousness**.”

This consciousness is the all-encompassing Divinity. From this all-pervasive consciousness, conscience enters the body.

The *Atmic* principle in your body is conscience.

Conscious is the awareness related to the body and the senses.

Children play with balloons. These balloons keep blowing to larger and larger size until they burst and the air inside merges with the air outside. So long as the air is in the balloon, it is conscience. When it exceeds the limit of the wall of the balloon and merges with the air outside, it becomes consciousness. These days people are merely in the body conscious state. **The body is like a balloon, a water bubble. The mind is a mad monkey. Don't follow the body or the mind. Follow the dictates of the conscience.** Today people are attached more to the body and less to the *Atmic* principle. Absence of self-confidence is the main cause for all types of weakness. People depend on their wealth, possessions and power, but do not depend on the Self.

Self-Realisation through Self-Confidence

Embodiments of Love! Self-confidence is very essential. This is the foundation on which you must raise the walls of self-sacrifice. This mansion determines your life, i.e., self-realisation. You have to therefore lay, first of all, **the foundation of self-confidence and build the mansion of self-satisfaction and self-sacrifice. Then you ultimately attain self-realisation. For self-realisation, self-confidence is most important.** But people do not possess such steady self-confidence. What is the reason? Their mind is lost in worldly desires, dirty desires and useless desires. How long can the worldly things last? They come and go like passing clouds. Today students are

trained in such education which fosters desires. Along with this education, you must foster human values. Human values are not something that you need to acquire anew. They are born with you and are innate in you. As they are hidden within, you are unaware of them. Just as valuable ornaments are hidden in iron safe, within man's body lie the valuable jewels of human values. You must protect these properly. They are covered by the doors of the heart. You must earn the key of love for it. **When the safe vault of the heart is opened by the key of love, the valuable qualities of human values emerge.**

Love Is God, Live in Love

Students, Teachers, Patrons of education and Administrators! The point you have to notice is that all have to acquire this key of love that opens the doors of the heart. It is love that is the very form of purity. **Love is God, live in love.** This door of heart cannot be opened with any other key. To get this key of love, you have to have unity. **Hate none. You should be averse to none. Place love in your heart. Share it freely with others.** Realise that truth is the human life principle. From Truth emanates righteousness. The first child of righteousness is peace. The second child is love – so they say. But the greatest of all is love. Once you acquire this power of love, all other powers follow. Everything arises out of truth.

From Truth emanates all creation.

In truth everything dissolves.

There is no place where truth does not permeate, the unsullied primordial truth

(TELUGU POEM)

Truth is the origin, sustainer and annihilator. Take Truth as the basis and practise *Dharma*. Only then Peace and Love will emanate from within.

Values Are Obtained from a Sacred Heart

Embodiments of Love! These divine principles do not come to you from somewhere else. As Jumsai said the other day, we do not get human values from an air-conditioned room in a five-star hotel. Five-star or ten-star or a thousand-star – from nowhere do we get these values. These values are obtained from a sacred heart. Here you find pure, sacred and divine environment. Only in such a place can the human values blossom. Human values are not available in the market or in palaces or in hotels. These hotels provide comforts only to the body. Your body may be in an air-conditioned room but the mind will get heated if there are no sacred feelings. In order to develop sacred feelings, you should be in sacred places. **That is why it is said, good company confers detachment. Detachment leads to desirelessness, desirelessness confers steadiness. One who attains steadiness is verily liberated. Develop friendship with good company. Then alone can you attain peace and your heart will be purified.** Today we find pollution everywhere. Only in the Divine proximity, will you find absolute purity. First of all, man has to purify his heart. **Purity is Divinity.** Where there is divinity, there can be no enmity. Where there is no enmity, there you find supreme peace. Outside there is no peace, we find only pieces. Where is peace? You are the embodiment of peace. So, search within. Know yourself. Then you will know everything. **This is the teaching of Vedanta. Instead of questioning others, “who are you?” question yourself, “who am I?”** Then you will realise the truth. When I say, this is My handkerchief, the handkerchief is separate from Me. Similarly, when you say, this is my body, my mind, my *buddhi*, etc., you are separate from all these. Then, who are you? You are the embodiment of Peace. You are the embodiment of Truth. You are the embodiment of Love. You are the embodiment of Righteousness. You are the embodiment of non-violence. You are everything and everything

is within you. Develop this broad-mindedness. Have expansion of love, not contraction of love. **Unity can be achieved only through expansion of love.**

Embodiments of Love! **Develop love, give up hatred, reduce desires. Cultivate the spirit of sacrifice.** The *Vedas* say: *Na karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutatwa manasuh* (immortality can be attained only through sacrifice; neither action nor progeny nor wealth can confer it). **Happiness can be attained only through sacrifice.** After having partaken of food if you do not excrete the waste material, your stomach will get upset. Once you breathe in air, if you do not breathe out, your lungs will get damaged. Likewise, sacrifice the wealth you have earned, for the welfare of others. The modern education system lays emphasis on wealth, strength and friendship. Then what about character? **Character is three-fourths of life.** So, you have to develop character. Without character what for is wealth, strength and friendship? They come and go like passing clouds.

There are lots of things to be learnt. There are various ways to foster human values. I shall bring My discourse to a close as I don't want to cause any strain to you now. We shall discuss many more things later. •

Educare Is True Education

First Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Schools

Prasanthi Nilayam, November 20, 2001

*No harm can ever befall a person whose heart is full of compassion,
Whose words are adorned by Truth and
Whose body is dedicated to the welfare of others.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Embodiments of Love! First and foremost, we must investigate into ‘*panchatantra*’ or the five principal aspects of education. These are:

1. What is education?
2. What type of education should we pursue?
3. What is the main aim of education?
4. What is the uniqueness of education?
5. What are we gaining from present-day education?

Only when we recognise the inner significance of these *panchatantras*, can we know what is true education. What is education? It is of two types: The first type is collection of facts and knowledge about the external world and sharing them with students. The second type is Educare. **Educare involves the deep understanding of the knowledge that springs from within and imparting it to students.** But today’s education gives the students knowledge only about the external world. Only culture or refinement can develop good personality and not this type of education. So, both education and culture are important. Today’s education is devoid of culture and is like a counterfeit coin. Even a beggar does not accept a counterfeit coin. Then how can experienced and intelligent people accept such education? So, to satisfy everyone we must develop Educare. Education without refinement is like a dark room. Only bats can live in dark rooms; such rooms are filthy. So, by pursuing such education devoid of culture, our hearts have become dark rooms and hence many animal qualities find their way into it. **Education without culture is like a kite with a broken string.** No one knows where it will fall and what damage it will cause to others. Therefore, such education does not benefit anyone.

Proceed from Superficial to Practical Knowledge

Only if education is blended with culture, it will shine forth as true education. What is culture? It is the cultivation of discrimination between good and evil, sin and merit, and truth and untruth that we experience in our daily life. It is also removal of one’s evil thoughts, feelings and qualities, and cultivation of good thoughts, feelings and good qualities. Not only this, culture makes one broad-minded by getting rid of one’s narrow-mindedness. This morning, a song “I and you are one!” was sung. Even this is also a kind of narrow-mindedness. It will be better to say, “All are one!” A celestial voice told Jesus, “All are one, my dear son, be alike to everyone!” Educare develops such broad-mindedness. Today’s education comprises only bookish knowledge. It is only superficial knowledge and it changes every moment. So we must add ‘Educare’ to this bookish knowledge. **Educare is practical knowledge.** There are a few steps between the superficial knowledge and practical knowledge. From superficial knowledge we must proceed to general knowledge. After analysing this general knowledge one gains discrimination knowledge and knows the difference between good and evil. From this discrimination knowledge we proceed to practical knowledge. **This practical knowledge is**

changeless. True and eternal education never changes when the heart is filled with compassion; it becomes sacred and aspires for the welfare of one and all. An educated person should not have bad qualities and must not indulge in bad deeds. Today's education imparts only bookish knowledge, which really degrades a person. How long will this bookish knowledge last? It lasts as long as we keep it in our mind. It is not possible to put bookish knowledge into practice. We fill our heads with bookish knowledge, go to the examination hall, fill our answer paper with it and return with empty heads! In effect, the head always remains empty.

To acquire discrimination knowledge one requires general knowledge, which consists of ordinary cleverness and intelligence. Discrimination knowledge also has in it common sense. Both are essential for life in this world.

Students and Teachers! What we need today is not bookish knowledge though we require it to a certain extent to cope up with life in this world. **But what is essential to us is the knowledge of the *Atma*. *Spiritual education is the highest education, says the Bhagavad Gita.*** It starts with discrimination knowledge, which is like a perennial river. In perennial rivers the quantity of water may vary but not the quality. Thus students should understand that quality of education is more important than its quantity. Degrees are not important, but the knowledge accomplished out of education is important. What is the meaning of education? It is not just the accumulation of knowledge. 'Education is not mere knowledge, it includes action, too.' **Education which originates from within has a sound basis and is permanent. It is referred to as *Sathyam*.** A step higher than *Sathyam* is *Ritam* as proclaimed in the *Vedas*. What we normally refer to as truth in daily life is merely a fact.

Education Is for Life Not for Living

People mistake bookish knowledge to be true education. No one today bothers about the aim of education. ***Education is for life and not for living.*** Today's education is aimed at merely eking out a livelihood. If mere living is the purpose, then how do birds and beasts live without any education? Even ants and mosquitoes, which do not have any education live their lives. Is education for merely earning one's bread? What is the essence of education? **The essence of education is the concentration of the mind and not the collection of facts. Mere collection of facts will not serve any purpose.** For example, a washerman in a village goes from house to house collecting clothes for washing. In each household the number of clothes, which are given for washing, are noted down in a notebook. But the washerman does not have an account. By evening he returns the clothes to the respective houses. This is general knowledge. For acquiring this general knowledge education is not necessary. Even a washerman possesses it. Many educated men lack the acumen of even a washerman. **General knowledge cannot be acquired by mere study. It is learnt from the book of life.**

What is the end of education? People answer this question by saying there is no end to education. Definitely there is an end to what we study from books. ***The end of education is character. Education without character is useless.*** Earlier in *Gurukulas* the sages took the students along with them wherever they went and taught them without conforming to any time schedule. This education was a continuous learning process. But today in the schools and colleges education is limited to strict time schedules. Therefore, education has become limited. **But true education, which moulds character, has no limits. When we learn about that which is 'limitless' we attain the end of education. Our character is reflected in our words, behaviour and conduct in daily life. So we should speak pleasantly and not hurt others with our harsh words. It is true that we cannot always oblige but we can speak obligingly.**

While cooking, ladies select appropriate vessels according to the quantity of rice to be cooked. It does not make sense if a large vessel is chosen to cook a small quantity of rice. Discrimination should be used to select the vessel and the intensity of the flame required for cooking. In the same way, discrimination should be used to enrich one's character.

Fact, Truth and Absolute Truth

When elderly guests visit the house, even if one cannot offer them anything to eat, one should at least welcome them inside, speak affectionate words and make them happy. Instead, if one asks them rudely, “Why have you come?” it is not good. Even when the father is at home, one tells them that he is not there. This is not proper education. **Speak good words and tell the truth. There are three types of truth. They are fact, truth and absolute truth. To say as it is what you have seen is a fact.** Suppose I see you wearing a white dress and say that “you are wearing a white dress.” This becomes a fact. Later at home you might wear a blue shirt. Then what I had said earlier does not hold good anymore. Thus a fact is subject to change.

Truth, on the other hand, does not change with time. A person may change any number of dresses, but the person remains the same. Thus truth is the same at all times. **I often say that you are not one but three. The one you think you are: the physical body. The one others think you are: the mind. Mind is invisible. One’s happiness or misery is based on one’s actions. Ritam (absolute truth) transcends both good and evil. This is the one you really are, the Atma. You are a combination of body, mind, and Atma. Body is subject to change. It is Atma, which is eternal. This is referred to as Ritam in the Vedas. It is changeless and has no attributes. It is described as attributeless, pure, eternal highest abode, permanent and unsullied.** One may say that one has acquired three postgraduate degrees. But what are these degrees? These are mere certificates. Who is the one who has earned all these degrees? It is ‘I.’ This ‘I’ is the absolute truth. Only when you are awake you travel physically, see many sights, eat many dishes and experience many things. But in the dream state you create your own experience. You do your work and travel to far off places like Delhi, America, without even purchasing a plane ticket. In deep sleep state one does not go anywhere. It is a changeless and steady state, which remains a witness. The same ‘I’ experiences all these three states. In the deep sleep you enjoy bliss. In the dream state you create various scenes and experience them. But in the wakeful state you experience everything physically through the senses.

Adi Sankara has cautioned us about the truth of what we experience through the senses. Vagaries of the mind are many. In order to control them, Sankara introduced a practice in his *Ashram*. The disciples would walk from one end of the *Ashram* to the other repeating, “Be careful! Be careful!” Once a feeling arose in Sankara’s mind that he was the head of the *Ashram* with a large income. At that moment he heard the sentinels cautioning, “Be careful! Be careful!” This alerted him and brought about a change in his feelings.

Birth is a misery, old age is a misery, family is a misery, the last moments are full of sorrow, hence Be careful! Be careful!

(TELUGU POEM)

One might consider oneself to be great. As of now, one might be enjoying name and fame. But what will happen when one is faced with misery towards the end of one’s life? Sankara wondered who would come to one’s rescue at the fag-end of one’s life.

Neither mother, nor father, nor relatives, nor brothers, not even wealth or possessions will come to your rescue in the last moments. Hence be careful !

(TELUGU POEM)

In earlier days, this was taught in the *Gurukulas* to the students by the preceptors. This ancient educational system originated from absolute truth. This is what is **EDUCARE**. It is also reflected in the letters ABC as **ALWAYS BE CAREFUL**. Sankara preached the same principle. So, it is necessary to impart spiritual education along with secular education. General knowledge devoid of spiritual education is negative. **General knowledge is**

like the bulb and spiritual knowledge is like the current flowing through it. Only when positive and negative meet is darkness dispelled. So, we must develop positive along with negative.

It would be enough if we have only positive aspects. The divine power is latent in every being, which is positive. Man today accumulates negative aspects in excess. Birth, growth, sustenance and death are all negative.

He is the Eternal One with no birth and death,

*He who is the Primordial One does not have a beginning or an end, He is neither born, nor does He die,
nor is He slain by anyone.*

He is the Atma, which is the Eternal Witness.

(TELUGU POEM)

Spiritual Knowledge Is Foremost and Fundamental

Hence, the path of spirituality forms the basis for all forms of knowledge. The fundamental knowledge, which comprises spiritual knowledge, is greater than both practical knowledge and general knowledge. So, this should be imparted along with the secular education. How long can we lead a truthful and ideal life in the world without trying to discover the Absolute Truth (*Ritam*)?

We are making a mistake by identifying ourselves with the body. For example, a mother died leaving behind her fifteen-year-old son. The son was grief-stricken since there was none to look after him. The body of the mother was right in front of him; then why was he sad? It was because life had left the body of his mother. So, mother is not the body but the life principle. **Life principle has no death. Body is like the dress; death is like change of dress. Everything in this world undergoes change. But there is one thing that is changeless. That is the Fundamental Truth.** We should learn that fundamental education. Once you have mastered it, it follows you wherever you go. Gradually you should get rid of attachment to the body and develop *Atmic* consciousness.

You are pursuing different types of education in different countries. **But ultimately education should converge into Educare.** That can be achieved gradually. Therefore, mere acquaintance with books and what is written on the black-board cannot constitute education. **True education throws open the doors of the mind.** How can you enter a house with the doors closed? You desire many comforts and pleasures, and also aspire for virtues. For that you have to open the doors of your mind first. Only then absolute truth will manifest in us. This absolute truth is all pervasive.

In our organisation, we should not only wear a uniform dress, we should also develop uniform mind. The basic thing to be achieved is purity of mind.

Embodiments of Love! There are many aspects in modern educational system that we must understand. But we are not learning what we ought to. Instead we are gathering irrelevant information. Mere learning of the contents of a book constitutes secular education. **Education must be combined with Educare. Only then will you experience the bliss.** What is the difference between *Education* and *Educare*? Education is like insipid water, Educare is like sugar. Merely adding sugar to water does not make it sweet. It is only on stirring, does the sugar mix with the water making it sweet. **The heart is the tumbler, divinity is the sugar and secular education is tasteless water. With intelligence as the spoon and enquiry as the process of stirring, we experience the all-pervasive divinity. That is true wisdom, which enables us to recognise the unity of all creation.**

This is a cloth. It is not just cloth. It is a bundle of threads and more fundamentally it is cotton. The cotton, thread and cloth are one and the same. Without cotton, there is no thread and without thread there is no cloth. **Recognition of the unity in multiplicity is the ultimate goal of education.**

You should learn to face adversities boldly without blaming God. God would have planned to grant you some benefit through the hardship. You should accept both pain and pleasure as gifts of God, and develop the attitude, “whatever God does is for my own good!”

You will have many discussions in the conference. Let the discussions be filled with love and not with criticism. You should not criticise any religion, because it is the same God whom you worship, be it in a church, a temple or a mosque. **A true devotee of God will not criticise anyone. Share your love equally with everyone.** Tomorrow I shall answer any doubts or questions that may arise in your discussions today. •

Pari Prashna - The Divine Answers

Valedictory Address, First Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Schools

Prasanthi Nilayam, November 21, 2001

(Bhagavan answered the questions raised by the delegates of the conference.)

When things go wrong in ventures that one undertakes, if one is undeterred and unshaken and welcomes everything with a smile giving up all worry, the heart of such a one is filled with wisdom.

(TELUGU POEM)

Q1 What is the relation between religion, spirituality and Educare?

Embodiments of Love! It is surprising to me to note that you have been unable to recognise the relation between religion, spirituality and Educare. First and foremost understand what religion is – **‘Religion is realisation.’ Only when you realise the truth about yourself, will you understand what religion is.** Spirituality is not merely singing *bhajans*, performing worship, going to temples or on pilgrimages or undertaking any other good activity. **Spirituality is recognising oneness of all beings.** Here is an example. When we close our eyes we cannot see anybody. But the moment we open them we can see thousands of heads in this hall. Where have these heads come from? If you enquire into the truth, you will recognise that your eyes notice all heads. They have not come from anywhere outside.

To recognise unity in diversity is spirituality. The basic truth to be recognised is that there is only one *Atma* in all beings. The questions and doubts arise when you see multiplicity in unity. The entire creation has emerged from love. **Therefore, there is no difference between religion, spirituality and Educare.**

Religion is realisation of your Self. Spirituality also is discovering who you really are. For example you say, “This is my handkerchief, this is my plate, this is my hand and this is my body.” Then who are you? There must be someone to say that he owns the tumbler, plate, hand and the body. When you enquire into this truth you will realise that you are separate from all these and in fact, you are the master of all these. That master is the *Atma*.

The next aspect is Educare. How can you call yourselves educated if you do not understand what Educare is? **The word ‘education’ is derived from the Latin root ‘Educare.’ While education refers to collection of worldly facts, Educare is to bring out from within. Education is for a living while Educare is for life. Education is for ‘Jeevana Upadihi’ (livelihood). Educare is for ‘Jeevitha Paramavadhi’ (the ultimate goal of life).** It is easy for us to recognise things outside us and difficult to look within. There are many things inside us, which are not manifest. When you join the three letters G, O, D, we get the word GOD. When you look at the letters individually they have no meaning of their own. Our effort lies in putting together these letters to get the meaning. This is Educare. Educare means to bring out from within. The *Atma* is our innermost reality. That is what Educare should bring out. Therefore, there is actually no difference between the three – religion, spirituality and Educare.

Whatever we see in others is only a reflection of our own self. If we accuse somebody as bad, it is just that our feeling toward that person is bad. **Whatever impression we have about others is a reflection of our feeling towards them. Everything is just reflection, reaction and resound. Therefore, you should not find fault with others.** You do not have the right to find fault because your assessment of a person is limited to your experience

with him. There are so many aspects of the personality of that person you do not know. For example, you look at Anil Kumar, you will know only his dress, his complexion, his height and weight. But Anil Kumar is not merely what you see. There are so many qualities like love, compassion or anger, which are in him that you cannot see. Therefore, if you want to know a person completely you should investigate into all the aspects of his personality. In modern times, people go by the physical appearance and judge people based on their external actions. This is wrong. **Hence, defect lies in the vision and not in the creation.** When you put on red glasses everything appears red and when you put on blue glasses everything appears blue. Only those foolish people who fail to recognise this truth resort to criticism. Even in the case of an ordinary human being your assessment is wrong, then how can you assess God?

God has many invaluable things in His store. But you come and ask, “Swami, give me a locket.” You ask Him for a locket because you do not know what precious gifts He can bestow upon you. There is no dearth of anything in His store. Therefore, **you should not ask God for anything in specific. When time is ripe, He will give you. God knows and acts appropriately, based on the right time, place and situation.** That is why you find sometimes that He Himself comes and gives you things unasked. It is therefore very difficult to understand God. An ignoramus, who fails to understand this principle, often misinterprets it. But you should not fall prey to such calumny.

Thus Educare, spirituality and religion are not different from one another. Here is a ring, a chain and the earrings – all these are different forms of the same gold. If one realises this unifying truth then where is the scope for multiplicity? Therefore, God is One though He may appear to you in different forms. **The fundamental basis for everything is love. This is what you should aspire for. Do not worry about religion. There is only one religion, the religion of love. Educare means to bring out the divine love latent in man. That is why it is said, Love is God, Live in Love.** Then there would be no conflict in the world and all would live together happily. Only when there are differences, there is conflict. Push aside these differences and live with the feeling of oneness.

There is only one language, the language of the heart; there is only one religion, the religion of love; there is only one caste, the caste of humanity.

Religions are many but the path is only one and we need to discover this path. “O heroic sons of Bharat! No religion is bad for the one who has a good sense of understanding.” It is incorrect to see differences among religions. In our daily life, we need to realise the limitations of education. What you read for the first time may look new to you but when you read it again and again it is no more new. Here is an example. Once God wanted to grant liberation to a person and sent Yama, the God of death, to him. When Yama approached this devotee, he questioned whether the devotee knew him. But the devotee answered that he (Yama) was a stranger to him. Then Lord Yama told him that he would return to him only when he could recognise Yama. When Yama returned after three days the same question was posed to him. Now the devotee answered that Yama was no longer a stranger to him because he had already seen him. Everything appears strange and new before acquaintance. But once we acquaint ourselves we tend to shed differences.

Basically, **you have to get rid of the sense of differences and develop the sense of oneness. Then you will know that religion, Educare and spirituality are one and the same.**

Q2 What relationship should Sri Sathya Sai Schools have with government?

Sri Sathya Sai education and government education are two separate entities. Nevertheless, Sathya Sai Schools should have good relationship with the government. Sai belongs to everybody but government does not belong to everybody. **Sri Sathya Sai Schools should obey all rules of the government, but with Sai, the only**

rule is Love. In Sri Sathya Sai Schools we follow all rules of discipline with love. **The government enforces its rules, therefore it is ‘force’, but Sai’s method is from the ‘source.’** One can pursue Sri Sathya Sai education along with government education. Sri Sathya Sai education imparts human values. Follow these values, and at the same time pursue government education. But do not split them into artificial divisions. Everyday we have 24 hours at our disposal. At the most we spend 6 hours – 3 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the afternoon in schools. We still have 18 hours at our disposal. **Allocate 6 hours for your sleep, 6 hours for personal activities and the remaining 6 hours can be utilised for spiritual pursuits and developing human values.** Sri Sathya Sai education imparts practical knowledge while the government education teaches only bookish knowledge. But do not ignore bookish knowledge also, because the former grants us spiritual happiness and the latter, worldly happiness. **Government education gives us the means of livelihood whereas Sri Sathya Sai education leads us to the ultimate goal of life.** The two constitute the two sides of the same coin.

Q3 As teachers how can we understand the minds of students?

The teacher must first have a thorough understanding of his own mind before trying to understand the minds of the students. **If the teacher’s mind is good, the students will reflect it in their behaviour.** Since the teacher cannot see the student’s mind, he has to understand it only by observing the student’s behaviour with his parents, his friends and his fellow students. Basing on this, he will be able to lead the student on to the right path.

Sometimes, parents give too much freedom to the children and children in turn misuse this freedom to interact with their friends with laxity in behaviour. At school his freedom is curtailed. He must be taught to strike a balance between freedom and discipline. The teacher cannot interfere in the student’s family affairs, because, parents give freedom to their children out of their love. Nevertheless, the teachers must keep in touch with the student’s activities at home. But the sad plight of the modern age is that the **parents are ninety-nine percent responsible for their children getting into bad ways, by providing them with excess of money and freedom.** The parents are misguided by imagining that their children would be hurt if their freedom is curtailed. But they feel dejected if the child gets perverted and runs into bad ways. **The child must be groomed well right from the beginning itself.** Just as speed breakers control the speed of vehicles on the road to ensure safety, so too restrictions must be enforced upon children’s freedom for their safety. **The child should be given freedom in areas related to right conduct and must be punished when it errs.** When the parents give freedom to their children, they should watch carefully as to how the children behave. It is then that the child will tread the right path. The first responsibility rests with the mother for the child to tread on the right path. Generally, if the daughter in the family is spoiled, mother is responsible and if the son goes astray, father is responsible for it.

It is in order to ensure that unlimited freedom is not given to children that the institution called school has come into existence. It is here that teachers should strike a balance between freedom and restriction in student’s life. **The teacher must advise the student regularly that his conduct will be responsible for the name he earns for his parents and the school in which he studies.**

In some countries the concept of kindness and respect for elders is not stressed upon. The teachers of Sathya Sai Schools must advise the students in the right way. **The teacher must advise the student that he is born as a human, and that he is neither a ‘wild animal’ to strike terror in the hearts of people nor a ‘domestic animal’ (docile person) to be afraid of others. He has no cause to fear nor should he cause fear in others. In this manner, the teacher must lead the students on the right path.** Life is a long journey and must not be dismissed in a trivial manner. It must be spent in the most auspicious manner possible. **We should aspire for a divine life and not long life.** It is possible to bring about a change in students by such good advice.

You are *Acharya* and not merely a teacher. *Acharya* is one who first practises and then teaches the same to his students. So when you want to teach good principles to students, first you practise and then set an example. For example, if you smoke in the class, students will also emulate you and start smoking. If you try to correct them by saying, smoking is bad for health, the students will in turn ask you, “Sir, then why are you smoking?” **The true characteristic of good education is good teaching. Good teaching brings about transformation in students.** It will make students confess their mistakes before the teacher. I know this very well. Sometimes I punish My students for their mistakes and be strict towards them. Yet, I love them and give them what they need. This transforms their hearts. They come and pray to Me, “Swami please forgive us. It is our mistake that we did not conduct ourselves according to Your words. Now we have realised it. Swami, we will never repeat such mistakes again.” Words that come out of true repentance melt Swami’s heart and Swami forgives them by saying, “My dear son, whatever I do is for your good.” All teachers can learn to emulate this example.

Q4 What is the most important quality a good teacher must have?

This is a very important question. **Teachers should practise what is good and teach the same to students. Teachers should lead an exemplary life.** Here is an example; when I was studying in third Form in Kamalapuram, we had a teacher by name H. Iyengar. Students were very afraid of him and would often avoid meeting him. I had great respect for my teacher. One day Iyengar got angry because he observed Me going into a lane when he was coming from the opposite direction of the road. Next day, I went to the class. I was the class monitor and had to get a bundle of sticks with which he would punish students. When he came to the class he was angry with Me for not meeting him on the road. He asked Me, “Why did You not meet and greet me?” I replied, “Sir, I did not see you. I was going to My friend’s house to take My notebook from him.” He shouted, “So You did not see me!” I replied, “No I did not see you.” He threatened to punish Me. I told him, “Sir I am speaking the truth. If you wish to punish Me, you can do so.” This answer melted his heart and he shed tears. He called Me near and said, “Raju I knew that You would never commit such a mistake. It is my mistake to get angry with You. I have a request, would you please come to my house tomorrow evening?” As instructed by H. Iyengar, I went to his house. Iyengar had great love for Me. He gave *pakodas* in an aluminum plate. He said, “I made a mistake by thinking of punishing You. As an act of repentance, I want to cultivate friendship with You.” **Our goodness, our truthfulness and our sacred qualities will transform any person.** I said, “Sir your position is much higher than Mine. Friendship is possible only between equals.” He replied, “You may look at it that way. But, one’s age and education are not important, what is important is one’s heart. You have a good heart.” He further enquired whether I was studying well. I told him, “Yes Sir.” He cautioned Me that exams were fast approaching and wanted Me to study well. I appeared for the examination. The examination was for two hours duration, but I finished answering the paper within half an hour. I handed over the answer script to the Invigilator and came out. He kept watching Me. He quipped, “Raju! You don’t seem to have written anything!” I replied, “Sir! You will see it for yourself tomorrow. I have written everything correctly. I do not write or speak untruth.” Next day, from the pile of answer scripts, he picked up My answer script first. He checked My answers one by one and found that there were some answers which were not known even to him. So, he wrote very, very, very, very good on my paper. In those days, the teacher retained the answer scripts. The next day, he asked his wife to prepare some snacks and invited Me to his house. He told Me, “Raju! Have a cup of coffee.” I said, “Sir! I do not drink coffee. I don’t have that habit.” “At least have a *dosa*”, he requested. I replied, “But I do not have the habit of eating at odd times.” Please eat at least for my satisfaction,” he pleaded. To satisfy him, I partook of it. Likewise, students have many opportunities to make their teachers happy. Though the students were afraid of our teachers, I was not. The reason was that I never committed any mistakes. I used to talk very sweetly. Because of this, my English teacher,

Mahboob Khan, was very eager to come to My class. If any other teacher continued to be in the class even after the bell, he would ask him to leave. In the class, all other students would tease Me by saying, “Raju, go to the front!” Mahboob Khan loved Me very much. He used to caress My hair, fondle Me and pinch My cheeks. He was 50 years old and had no children.

He would ask Me to visit his house frequently. He was very devoted to Me. At the age of 11, I left that school. Till that time, I used to lead the prayers at the school. Mahboob Khan was looking after the prayer arrangements and he asked Me to lead the prayers saying, “Your prayers melt our hearts. You compose a prayer song and sing it.” “How can I compose a prayer song?” I asked. He said, “You can do it!” I composed a song and sang at the prayer meetings. **In that song I had incorporated the idea of unity of religions even at that age.**

After listening to that song, all were surprised. After sometime, I left the school, declaring, **“I am Sai. No one however great can ever understand Me. Give up your attempts to retain Me with you. I belong to the whole world!”**

All were bewildered. They came behind Me crying, “Raju! Raju.” Without answering anybody, I went straight to Anjaneyulu’s garden. I sat on a rock there and started preaching, ***Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam Dustara Bhava Sagara Taranam (contemplate on the feet of the Divine Master who alone can help you to cross over the ocean of life and death).*** The next day, the *Telugu* teacher and also Mahboob Khan resigned from their teaching posts. They loved Me so much that they did not want to teach in the school without Me. Many other teachers followed their example. A Muslim boy was asked to go on the stage to lead the prayers. After coming on to the stage, he broke down thinking of Me. He could not sing the prayer. Others also started crying. From that day onward, prayers were stopped.

There is a bond of pure love between teachers and students. Students can win over any teacher’s heart and a teacher can win over students’ hearts. **If you want to be loved, you have to love others first.** First and foremost, we should aspire for truth. The basis of Indian culture is, “Speak truth, practise right conduct.” I was always very humble. Now also, I teach the same thing to students. ***You cannot always oblige, but you can speak always obligingly!*** But sometimes, one needs to be strict. That is what I do. **I can be harder than diamond when the situation demands. Otherwise, I am softer than butter.** Teachers understood this nature of Mine. Teachers! If you want to take students into your confidence, you have to approach them with love. You have to point out their mistakes and lead them on the right path. Only then will they follow the right path and accept their mistakes. For the progress and prosperity of the nation, teachers should develop love for students and mould their character. Then the society will get many good citizens.

Q5 How to implement Educare in the case of children from slum areas?

In order to mould the character of such children through Educare programme, we have to visit their houses and **help the people living there by taking up social service projects like cleaning and sanitation.** Then they would develop the sense of cleanliness and keep their places clean. You can also take the help of Seva Dal members in such service projects.

Even students from schools can be taken to those areas and told to involve in service activities. Thereby the students would develop a liking for service activities.

Q6 How do you motivate children in the Educare programme?

It is not possible to make small children understand the essence of Educare. They are too young to understand it. It can be introduced at the college level. **However, at school level, we can cultivate good thoughts and good habits among students.** We can also inspire their young hearts by narrating the stories of great persons of their

respective lands, and exhorting them to follow the ideals set by them. For example, the life of Harischandra is a great ideal in adherence to truth.

Q7 How can we attract children of non-devotees to Sathya Sai schools?

This is a very important question. Our students are our spokesmen. We have to reform the students so that they will attract the attention of their parents and bring about a good change in them. The parents may not know about Sai Baba. But when they see the good behaviour of their children because of the practising of the principles of Sai Baba, they will naturally change their minds. **Students can also tell their parents that all their good behaviour is because of their joining the Sathya Sai Schools. This will also attract other children to the Sathya Sai Schools.**

Let us take for example the good practice of the students chanting *Brahmarpanam* before partaking of food. Even the parents will be surprised at their devotion to God. If children explain to the parents the meaning of the prayer saying, "Food is given to us by God. Therefore, we must offer it to Him before partaking of it. Then the food becomes *Prasadam* and will not be tainted by impurities." Thus even the parents will learn to pray. This is the way to bring the parents on the right path through their children. Whatever we do, we must do it properly. If any guests visit our house, we must speak to them courteously. We must offer them seats, make them comfortable and tell them, "Please be seated. Father will meet you in a few moments." Such behaviour will make the guests happy and will naturally appeal to the good sense of the guests, whether they are devotees or not. This is how we have to train our students so that they will attract others and be examples to them.

Q8 How do we deal with parents who do not follow Sai's teachings?

We must bring about a change in the parents through their children studying in our schools. For example, the parents of a student may be non-vegetarians. When the student goes home for vacation, he can bring about a change in his parents by narrating to them with humility the sanctity of eating vegetarian food. The student can tell his parent, "Mother, I cannot feed myself by killing another being. This is not good for me. This body, which is made up of flesh, should not be fed with flesh. Our body must be fed with nectar and not with flesh. Eating of flesh will induce in me animal feelings. We should eat only vegetarian food which God has provided for us." Thus, we can teach parents through students. And in course of time even the parents will stop eating non-vegetarian food. Many families have stopped eating non-vegetarian food after their children joined our institutions. Thus, it is easy to bring about transformation in the parents through students.

Q9 How to actively involve parents in Educare programme?

It is very difficult to directly involve parents in the Educare programme. Hence, **Educare must be taught to the parents through their children.** Parents do not know what Educare is. What will they understand if you speak about Educare to them. Since you understand what Educare is, you should teach them about it through your actions.

Q10 What is the role of technology like computers in education?

For Me technology appears to be 'Trick-knowledge.' I don't have any computers. Swami has been saying this for the past five years. Now computers are also getting virus attacks like human beings. **You should become a 'composer' and not a 'computer.'** When does a computer get spoiled? It happens when something goes wrong in the head of the composer. You may use this technology to develop science. Firstly, set right the computer that God has given you. That is your head itself. Today, one uses computer for every small calculation. It looks ridiculous. God has given us a better calculator, our brain. Make use of its services. Of course, there are certain

benefits accruing from computers. I do not deny it. You should use it depending on the need. You are all fascinated by the computer because of its novelty. But what has computer done to our society? It has developed easy-going nature in us and has caused unemployment. Unemployment leads to rise in crimes. Therefore, we should discard such machinery, which render many people jobless. Instead of that, you should encourage domestic industries, which will provide jobs to people in the home itself.

Q11 How to go about starting the first Sri Sathya Sai School in a country?

It is not possible for all to start schools, as all may not have the resources to do so. But they can start imparting Educare through the Bal Vikas programme. Gradually, it can be upgraded into a school. Here I have an important point to make. The good work done by women in this field is highly appreciable. Men lag far behind in this aspect. Women are somehow finding time for Bal Vikas in spite of their daily chores. In this *Kali* Age, it is a good blessing for both women and children. Men too should come forward to participate in such work. Only then can the nation progress. Big schools and buildings can land us in worries when we lack resources. Let it be in a small scale.

Q12 What is Sai Baba's vision of the future of Sri Sathya Sai Schools around the world?

There is no need to worry about what awaits us in future. Do whatever you are supposed to, in the best way you can. This will lead you to a brighter future. **Future is not sure; it is not in our hands. Present is important. Present is not ordinary present; it is omnipresent. Take care of the present, the future will take care of itself.** Did you ever think in the past that you could grow to the present state of attending the conference? **When you do good work that itself will bestow upon you a good future.**

Q13 Can the children be recruited to higher classes in Sri Sathya Sai Schools directly or should they be admitted to only kindergarten classes?

There is no hard and fast rule that children should be admitted only to the lowest class. Depending on the situation you can even admit them to a higher class. There is nothing wrong about it.

Q14 Should *Gayatri Mantra* be chanted in Western Sathya Sai Schools?

You can do as per the dictates of your heart. If you feel its chanting bestows upon you benefits, 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 represents the three aspects of materialisation, vibration and radiation. These three are present in everyone irrespective of one's country and religion. **In this *Mantra*, one prays for inspiration and stimulation of one's intelligence. I do not force anyone either to chant it or not to chant it. Mine is not 'force' but only 'source.'** You can do whatever gives you joy.

I have answered your questions in brief. **Purify your hearts and follow the Divine command.** You can pray to God – Allah, Jesus, Krishna or Zoroastra. It does not make any difference. Develop virtues and get rid of vices. Sathya Sai is absolutely selfless; **whatever I say, follow it implicitly. It will be good for you. Attain happiness and share it with others. •**

Humility and Character Are the Hallmarks of True Education

**Benedictory Address, 20th Convocation of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning
Prasanthi Nilayam, November 22, 2001**

He alone is truly educated who is engaged in the service of all beings, who is the master of all forms of knowledge and who is the paragon of all virtues.

(SANSKRIT SLOKA)

Embodiments of Love! Education which is not used for the welfare of society is no education at all. You can be called truly educated only when your education benefits people at large and you become recipient of their love. It is not enough if you merely acquire bookish knowledge. You should attain supreme wisdom and cultivate virtues. **True education is that which bestows on man the wealth of morality, spirituality and character.** The purpose of education is not merely to sustain the body; it should broaden man's mind and make him an ideal and virtuous person.

Character-Need of the Hour

If one enquires deeply, one will find a lot of confusion in the modern system of education. Under these circumstances, students have to understand the purpose of education, put their knowledge into practice and experience bliss therefrom. Man today has made great progress in the field of science but that should not make him egoistic. Science is related to worldly education. What man needs is good character. Worldly education cannot foster virtues in man. One who sets an ideal to society by his virtues and conduct alone is truly educated. Modern students are trying to master various forms of knowledge but they are unable to understand the nature of their body and the mind. The same was said by Winston Churchill once who said, "Man has conquered all, but he has not conquered himself." Modern man knows everything except himself. **To know one's own self is positive and to know about the world is negative.** It is not the quality of a true student to acquire degrees merely to seek a job. A true student is one who shares his knowledge with his fellow beings and leads an exemplary life.

*One may master all forms of knowledge,
One may vanquish one's adversaries in debate,
One may fight with valour and courage in the battlefield,
One may be an emperor reigning over vast kingdoms,
One may offer cows and gold as an act of charity,
One may count the countless stars in the sky,
One may tell the names of different living creatures on the earth,
But it is impossible to control the body, mind and senses.
Turn the vision inward and achieve the supreme state of equanimity of the mind.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Man has traveled lakhs of miles into space and reached the moon but he is yet to travel even half an inch inward. An educated person should investigate into his true nature. Ravana was in no way inferior to Rama in

terms of knowledge but sage Valmiki, the composer of *Ramayana*, described Ravana as a fool and extolled Rama as one of wisdom. The reason was that Rama put His knowledge into practice and led an exemplary life. On the other hand, Ravana did not practise the knowledge he acquired, became a slave to his senses and thus ruined himself, his kingdom, and his entire clan. **Education is meant not to satisfy the senses but to make one transcend the senses and set an ideal to society.** This is most essential for modern students. Our country can attain its pristine glory only when we have such ideal students. But alas! The students today do not think on these sacred lines.

All the ancient and eternal teachings are being misinterpreted.

Sacred qualities are fast disappearing among people.

Righteousness and compassion are no longer practised.

The sacred teachings of the Vedas are forgotten and wickedness is on the rise.

(TELUGU POEM)

This is the appalling state of affairs today. All the remedial measures that are being undertaken are only making matters worse. **True education is that which destroys narrow-mindedness, develops equality and ultimately leads to world peace.** Students should acquire such education and serve the country. People say that they are serving the country, but most of them are craving for their own selfish gains. Man today is immersed in selfishness and is wasting his life in futile pursuits. He wants to possess everything in this world. His craving for more and more things is to satisfy his unlimited desires and not to fulfil his real needs. In this manner, man is getting immersed in sensual pleasures. He has become a slave of his senses. **He can be called truly educated only when he controls his senses.** Modern students behave and act as they please. What are the qualities that are expected of a student?

Students should pursue such education which confers on them the sacred qualities

Like good character, adherence to truth, devotion, discipline and duty.

(TELUGU POEM.)

This is what we have to learn today.

Practical Knowledge Leads to the Understanding of the Atma

Embodiments of Love! You are all very virtuous and intelligent. You are endowed with a sacred heart. Fill your heart with love and compassion. That which is filled with *Daya* (compassion) is *Hridaya* (heart). However, today love and compassion find no place in human heart. Consequently, wicked qualities are finding their way into it. **Whatever you experience outside is nothing but the reflection, reaction and resound of what is in your heart.** Today negative qualities are prevalent in the world. What is the reason? The reason is that man's heart today is full of negative feelings. All that is witnessed in the world is the reflection of man's heart. **Man should purify his heart to receive divine grace.**

A deep enquiry into the principles of science and spirituality will reveal that atom is the basis of everything in this world. This flower and this cloth are nothing but different combinations of atoms. Even the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, are all constituted by atoms. In fact, all objects are constituted by atoms. But there is something more subtle and fundamental than even atom. Everything has originated from fundamental principle. Instead of trying to know the fundamental principle, man is getting carried away by trivialities.

Subtler than the atom,

vaster than the cosmos,

Divinity is present all over as the eternal witness.

(TELUGU POEM)

Try to experience the principle of the *Atma* which transcends everything. In order to experience the *Atma*, you should pursue spiritual education along with secular education. Worldly education imparts only bookish knowledge. What we require is not superficial knowledge but practical knowledge. Can you know the taste of sweets like Laddu, Jilebi, etc., by merely reading their names in books? Only when you put them on your tongue will you experience their sweetness. Likewise, you can experience bliss only by practising what you have learnt. That is practical knowledge. The modern system of education is based only on bookish knowledge. There are many so-called educated people in our country. What is the help they are rendering to the country? Are they involving themselves in any activity that would benefit society and make people happy? No. They are leading such miserable lives that neither they are happy nor do they make others happy. Then, of what use is their education?

In spite of his education and intelligence,

a foolish man will not know his true Self

And a mean-minded person will not give up his wicked qualities.

Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom.

What is the use of acquiring worldly education if it cannot lead you to immortality?

Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal.

(TELUGU POEM)

You should pursue such education which will benefit you and also society at large. **There are numerous unfortunate people who are suffering. Enquire whether you are making any effort to alleviate the suffering of at least one of them. Your education is meaningless if it does not confer happiness to you and your fellow beings.**

Today students are acquiring various degrees like M.Sc., M.B.A., Ph.D., etc. But are they using their education for the welfare of society? They merely fill their heads with bookish knowledge, go to the examination hall and empty their heads. No one is making any effort to know the purpose of education and its inner significance. No doubt, the students are intelligent and noble-hearted. But they are taking to wrong ways for lack of proper guidance. It is the duty of the parents as well as the teachers to show them the correct path. Some parents may not be educated so as to guide the students on the right path. What about the teachers in school? They concentrate on imparting bookish knowledge and do not make any effort to foster purity among the students. We should therefore understand the essence of education, put it into practice and experience bliss.

Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar showed how education should be utilised for the service of others. Born in a village near Kolkata in a poor family, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar acquired knowledge by dint of his hard work. True to his name, he was an ocean of knowledge. In his school days, he studied under street lights at night as there was no electricity in his home. His mother used to shed tears seeing her son's ordeals. He would console her, saying, "Mother, if I work today, I will be happy later." ***Na Sukhat Labhyate Sukham (one cannot derive happiness out of happiness). It is only out of difficulties that one can derive happiness.*** He worked hard and completed his education. As he was reputed for his oratorical skill, people would gather in large numbers to listen to his speeches. All that he spoke had a great impact on the people because he had a pure and compassionate heart.

Once he was invited to make a speech in a college. An I.C.S. officer was also traveling. Both of them got down at the same station. The officer started looking for a coolie to carry his suitcase. Seeing this, Vidyasagar volunteered to carry it. The officer handed over his suitcase to him. Vidyasagar was happy that he got an

opportunity to serve. He asked him, “Sir, where should we go?” The officer replied, “Take me to the place where Vidyasagar is going to address a meeting today. I have come all the way to listen to him.” Hearing this, Vidyasagar smiled and took him to the meeting place. The officer offered him some money but Vidyasagar politely refused, saying, “Sir, I have carried your suitcase only to help you, not for money.” The meeting was about to commence. Everybody was eagerly awaiting Vidyasagar’s arrival. As soon as Vidyasagar arrived, he was garlanded and was given a grand welcome. The I.C.S. officer instantly recognised Vidyasagar as the one who had carried his suitcase. He repented and thought to himself, “Though he is highly educated, how simple and humble he is!”

One who has ego will not be respected even by his own wife and children. Vidyasagar had no trace of ego in him. He held the audience spellbound with his speech. Time and again they clapped and expressed their appreciation. He did not exhibit his scholarship. He spoke from the depths of his heart that made a lasting impression on the people. His speech was based on his experiences in daily life and not on bookish knowledge.

Students Should Revive the Ancient Glory of Bharat

Even today there are many such noble personalities. Bharat is a very sacred land but, unfortunately, the *Bharatiyas* themselves are not able to understand and appreciate the greatness of Bharat.

*Due to the absence of fear of sin and love for God, humanness has declined in human beings.
This is detrimental to universal peace.*

(TELUGU POEM)

*Forbearance is the real beauty in this sacred land of Bharat.
Of all the austerities, adherence to truth is the greatest penance.
Of the nectarean feelings in this country the feeling of motherhood is sweeter than any other feeling.
Character is valued far higher than the very life itself.
People have forgotten the basic principles of this great culture and are imitating Western culture today.
Alas! What has happened to this country?*

(TELUGU POEM)

What an ideal and sacred country our Bharat is! But today it is facing hardships as the *Bharatiyas* themselves have not understood their culture and are unable to adhere to its principles.

Students! Boys and Girls! Remember the glorious history of Bharat and its rich cultural heritage. People from other lands visited this sacred land in the past and admired its greatness.

Fill your hearts with compassion. Spare no effort to alleviate the suffering of your fellow beings. You may not be in a position to help everybody but alleviate the suffering of at least a few and experience bliss. If you have ten rupees in your pocket, give at least one rupee to the needy. The culture of Bharat teaches: ***Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena, Thyagenaike Amrutatwa manasuh*** (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice). **Help everyone to the extent possible.** Charity is the true ornament for the hand, truth is the true necklace. These are the true ornaments that one should aspire to possess. When you become the possessors of these precious jewels, there is no need for any other jewels.

Develop compassion and spirit of sacrifice and earn a good name. Do away with all evil qualities like anger, pride, hatred and jealousy. **Any act of charity or service that you may undertake will prove futile if you do not give up bad qualities. Develop love, share it with others and make them happy. Only then will your education become meaningful.** This is the service that you are expected to render to your motherland. You don’t

need to undertake gigantic service projects or construct big schools. Serve society as per your capacity. **Whatever activity you undertake, let it be suffused with love. There is no wealth greater than love. •**

Character - End of True Education

Prasanthi Nilayam, November 20, 2002

*No trace of peace anywhere;
Truth has become equally scarce;
Fearsome weapons are stocked up galore;
Others abound who cover with dread;
Self love, the cause for this wicked furore;
Such is the truth of Sai's word.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Embodiments of Love! Education is increasing day by day, but there is no commensurate transformation in human behaviour as a result. What is the kind of education do we need? Today, academic excellence in education has increased, but its salutary effect in human behaviour is decreasing.

A Harmonious Blend of Secular and Spiritual Education Is the Need of the Hour

Dear Students! Today, the education being pursued by you is only secular (i.e., value- neutral). Mere secular education is not enough. It must be supplemented by spiritual education. **You must develop the principle of love. You must follow the path of truth. True education is that which is suffused with truth and love. Without truth, love is ineffective and devoid of value. Secular education is for making a living, whereas spiritual education is for reaching the goal of life.** Therefore, it is the duty of students as well as educators to harmonise the secular education with spiritual education. Today, the world has recognised the importance of harmonious relationship between secular and spiritual education.

The whole world has started imparting spiritual education along with conventional curricula. People have realised the truth that spirituality is not a modern discovery, but ancient wisdom. However, the importance of this principle has been confined to only propounding and teaching of spirituality. Actually, there is a decline in the practice of spirituality in daily life. Therefore, practical education is most important today. **Education without practice would lead to unrest.** Modern studies in institutions is referred to as education. But, **spiritual education that has its effect on one's heart, is 'Educare.'** 'Educare' means bringing out the latent divinity in a human being and establishing it as an ideal to the whole world. Modern education ends with mere bookish knowledge. It is confined to what is contained in the books. Educare, however, is not related to the books. It is related to teaching about the source of all knowledge, that is latent in the heart of a human being. Therefore, underlying such type of education is the prime necessity, today. People are pursuing higher education in the secular field. That is not enough. They have also to pursue spiritual education which teaches human values like truth, righteous conduct, love, etc., which bring about a transformation of the heart.

A harmonious blend of secular and spiritual education is ideally suited to the present-day world. One is an inner awakening and the other is an external teaching. Secular teachings are related to the physical world. They are the negative aspect; whereas teachings related to the inner awakening are positive. Take for example, love. Who can define the form of love? The best way to define love is to love others and be loved by others and thereby experience the bliss of love. Such teachings related to the inner awakening are the urgent need of the hour. **Educare is that which establishes love and kinship between human beings.** Today, nobody knows

what is there in the mind of another individual; not to speak of the individual whose thought, word and deed are not in harmony. He thinks something, speaks something else and does something that is totally different. This is not the characteristic of true education. What you think, you speak; what you utter, you perform in action. Since there is no unity between thought, word and deed, man today is not rising to the level of a *mahatma* (noble soul). He is becoming a *duratma* (wicked person). It is said:

Manasyekam Vachasyekam

Karmanyekam Mahatmanam

Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath Karmanyanyath Duratmanam

(Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in complete harmony are noble ones; those with whom they are at variance are wicked ones.)

Villages Foster Love and Kinship

It is the so-called 'educated elite' who are the greater criminals than the unlettered masses. It is they who are causing great damage to the country. The uneducated villagers are leading respectable lives and are setting examples to others. For instance, those who are educated and considered to be great intellectuals are leading luxurious lives in cities. On the other hand, those considered to be rustics and unlettered simpletons are living in the villages. They are leading a very simple, happy and contented life. Today, you will find that several schools, colleges and universities are established in cities. You will also find constant unrest and agitations in the campuses of these educational institutions. On the other hand, there are hardly any such agitations in the villages, where such institutions of higher education are non-existent. What could be the reason for this situation? More of this so-called modern education!

You go to villages and observe. The moment you enter a village, the simple villagers enquire, "Oh brother! Where do you come from? What is your country, etc.?" They talk to you with respect and reverence and enquire after your welfare. But, in the towns and cities, even a father and son do not enquire the welfare of each other. They go about their daily routine in a most mechanical way, with no concern for each other. The reason for this situation is modern education. It is said, "***The end of education is character.***" Since people have lost their character nowadays, respect and reverence have also declined. Even parents contribute to this situation. Parents in villages send their children to cities for education. They expect their children to pursue higher education and earn degrees. Their intentions are, no doubt, good. But, the children take to bad ways, while in cities. While they were in villages, they used to respect elders and were obedient to their parents. Once they entered cities in pursuit of higher education, they lost all the good qualities of respect, reverence, character and humility acquired at home. Students have now forgotten the value of a life of sanctity. They do not hesitate to smoke in front of even their parents. Bad habits are on the increase. But, the situation is somewhat different in the villages. The children in the villages behave with restraint in the presence of elders and parents. The healthy parental control is still surviving in the villages. No such control, however, exists in towns and cities. Youths smoke and offer cigarettes to their friends, they go to cinemas and indulge in ever so many bad habits. There is none to restrain them and wean them away from bad habits. What is the reason for this behaviour? Modern education. They have no respect for elders, parents and society. When someone points out their mistakes, they begin to argue saying, "Why should I fear? It is my will, I smoke *my* cigarette."

Education Sans Good Behaviour Is Useless

A small example. Once, an Indian and a foreigner were travelling together in a railway compartment. The Indian was a chain-smoker. Not only that, he was puffing the smoke on the face of the foreigner. The foreigner

tolerated it for sometime and when he could not bear it anymore, he told the Indian, “My dear son! I am not feeling well. I cannot bear cigarette smoking. If you want to smoke, please go to the toilet.” The Indian who was brought up with modern education replied, “If you cannot tolerate my smoking a cigarette, you may go to the toilet. I have bought the cigarette and I will smoke freely. I am at liberty to smoke and puff the smoke as I please.” Thus, he began quarrelling with the foreigner. The foreigner was helpless. After sometime, he went to the toilet and returned. In the meanwhile, the Indian student threw out the foreigner’s shoes from the compartment. The foreigner saw this but thought that it was unwise to argue with this arrogant boy, and went up to the upper berth and stretched himself. Now it was the turn of the Indian boy. He went to the toilet. Before he returned, the foreigner threw away the coat of the Indian boy, to teach him a lesson. The boy returned from the toilet and enquired where his coat was. The foreigner replied that it had gone in search of his shoes, which were thrown out of the compartment by the boy. Then the boy realised his mistake. As you are aware, for everything, there will be reaction, resound and reflection in this *Kali* Age. **When you speak softly and sweetly to others, you will receive the same in return. If you are rude to others, others will also be rude towards you. Every individual, irrespective of his age and country, must, therefore, speak softly and sweetly. Whether one is educated or illiterate, one must speak softly and sweetly. He must have humility.**

What Is Education?

*Hear ye the word true of Sai.
Culture, conduct, truth, faith, devotion and discipline
These are education true,
All else is trash.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Man does not consider himself duty-bound today. Performance of one’s own duty is discipline. What is the use of education without discipline? **Education without knowledge is useless and knowledge without education is foolishness.** Therefore, no purpose is served by pursuing such foolish and useless education. One must cultivate good behaviour also with high education. But, what we find today is high academics and degenerated behaviour. Therefore, you must acquire high education, but lead a simple life. That is true education. Once, Mahatma Gandhi was shedding tears while holding a book. He had read that book and found it to be trash. Meanwhile, a Britisher came there and enquired from Gandhiji why he was shedding tears. Gandhi replied that the book he was holding did not promote character building, which he believed was the heart of education. There is a vast difference between modern education and ancient wisdom. The time in which you are pursuing your education may be modern, but your behaviour should always be in accordance with the ancient wisdom. Only then will your education command respect.

You must respect your parents. If an elderly gentleman visits your house, welcome him with reverence and respect. Speak to him sweetly and softly. When that gentleman enquires the whereabouts of your father, do not brush him aside saying, “Go and find out.” That is not the reply you have to give. Politely tell him, “Sir! My father is in the drawing room, I shall call him.” When you thus speak sweetly and softly, the visitor will have a good opinion about you. He would think that you are the worthy son of a worthy father. **You must protect the honour and prestige of your father. How? – With your good behaviour and sweet and soft words.** Otherwise, the visitors would form opinion, “The father is a good and respectable person, but this son of that father is a bad fellow. He is rude and arrogant. He is not a worthy son.” Therefore, what we have to learn today is to cultivate humility, in spite of our modern education and living in a modern age.

Who is a student? **A student is one who is acquiring education and who conducts himself with humility, obedience and discipline.** He, who has no obedience and discipline is not a student, but a stupid one. There must be calm and serene atmosphere in campuses where a number of students pursue their education. Today, elders hesitate to go to places where there are students; the reason is, the elders are afraid that these students might create trouble. This was not the situation in earlier days. The students of those days used to conduct themselves with humility. They had a sense of discrimination, acquired through education. In modern education, honesty and integrity, duty, discipline and devotion are woefully lacking. What is the use of such education? In olden days, a student used to be initiated into learning with a sacred prayer to God, “*Om Namah Sivaya! Om Namo Narayanaya!*” The elders in the neighbourhood were invited for the ceremony and their blessings for the child obtained. In contrast, today, a child is initiated into learning with a nursery rhyme, “Ba Ba blacksheep”, with the result he would ultimately become a black sheep in society.

Keep a Watch on Your Words

Dear Students! You are pursuing your education in a sacred atmosphere. You must continue to develop this atmosphere later in your life. Modern science is, of course, great. But, your senses are at a low level. Along with science, the senses must also be raised to a higher level. Today, we are leading a high-level life, keeping our senses at low level. This should not be what is meant by ‘Educare.’ **Educare is bringing out the latent divinity in a human being.** Whatever words you speak, you must watch whether they are the result of your education or Educare. Today, nobody is keeping this watch. I often refer to the spelling of the word, WATCH. The spelling consists of five letters, namely, W A T C H. These letters stand for:

W - Watch your Words

A - Watch your Actions

T - Watch your Thoughts

C - Watch you Character

H - Watch your Heart

When you thus keep a watch on your words, actions, thoughts, character, and heart, that is the real watch; not the one you tie to your wrist. The wrist-watch may go for repair, but the word ‘watch’ will never get spoiled. It will always bring purity of thought, word and deed. How great these words are! Education in the olden days contributed to making man a noble and ideal human being.

Then, about cleanliness and purity; these two are most important aspects of education. Students must take good care in respect of personal hygiene, involving regular bath, neat and clean dress, etc. **“Cleanliness is godliness.” Therefore, be clean and pure. Lead a happy and contented life. Always help others. Help Ever, Hurt Never.** Surely, you can pursue modern education. But, along with it, you must also learn ancient wisdom. There must be a harmonious blend of these two. Pursuit of scientific knowledge is, of course, necessary. But, today, we are understanding science in a perverted way. Science starts at a particular point and ends at a different point. It is not a full circle; whereas, spirituality is a full circle, ending at the point of origin. That is why it is said,

Poornamadah Poornamidam

Poornat Poornamudachyate

Poornasya Poornamadaya

Poornameva Avashishyate

(That is full, this is full. When the full is taken out of the full, what remains is again the full.)

Rise to the Level Beyond the Senses

Science starts with an enquiry. “What is this? What is this? On the other hand, spirituality begins its quest with the enquiry “What is that? What is that?” The enquiry “What is this?” indicates nearness, nearness to the senses. This is science. In contrast to this, the enquiry “What is that?” indicates distance, i.e., distance from senses. That is spirituality.

A small example. You all have come here from far-off places like Zambia, East Africa, etc., to have the *darshan* of Sai Baba. Since you are living at such distant places, you develop great love for Sai Baba and yearn to have His *darshan*. The same eagerness will not be there to see a person in a neighbouring village. It is natural to develop interest in an object that is far away. What is that “that”? “That” means, that which is beyond the senses, namely, spirituality. “Below senses” is dirty. We should not aspire for that. **We must rise to the level of beyond senses. Only then can we lead a sacred life.** Today, students are below the senses. They are becoming slaves to the senses. This is not proper education. **You must become a “Master of Senses” and not merely a “Master of Science.” You must make the senses your servants. You should not become a servant of the senses.**

You all know about Queen Kaikeyi in *Ramayana*. She was an adept in *asthras* and *Sasthras* (all kinds of weapons and sciences). She was the daughter of the king of Kekaya kingdom. She was the youngest and dearest queen of King Dasaratha. She brought along with her, a servant called Manthara to serve her in the palace. But, in course of time, she allowed Manthara to become her mentor and she became her servant. Ultimately, she yielded herself to Manthara’s advice and made her life most miserable. She lost her husband, King Dasaratha, who died unable to bear the pangs of separation from his beloved son, Sri Rama. She had also to face the anger of her own son, Bharatha, who did not like the idea of Rama being sent to the forest and his becoming king in Rama’s place. Everyone in the kingdom hated her for sending Rama and Sita to the forest. That is why, it is said that a servant should be kept as a servant and a master should remain a master. **You are the master and your senses are the servants.**

Follow the Principle of Simple Living and High Thinking

“Master the mind and be a mastermind.” That is the quality of a student. Only then can you acquire true higher education and share it with others too. I can teach you at great length about education, but time is a constraint. **What I teach the students centers round the principle of “simple living and high thinking.” I Myself follow this principle. It is not education in terms of degrees that is important; culture is important. If we develop culture, we can acquire any amount of purity and sacredness in our life.** The aim of all this training being given to you, is to make you self-reliant. **You must attend to all your personal chores yourself.** For example, you must clean your dinner plates, wash your clothes, etc., by yourself. This is the duty of a real student. If you cultivate such good habits, what more is required? This is simple living and high thinking. You must lead a noble life, based on this principle.

I am also advising Jumsai that this principle of self-help must be implemented in all the schools run by the Institute of Human Values. **Students of the Institute must become self-reliant.** The place of their study, the place of their stay, the book racks, etc., must always be kept clean by the students themselves. No separate servants must be engaged for this purpose. I often tell the students a joke – “The vegetable purchased is worth two annas; but the charges paid to the porter for carrying the vegetables are four annas.” Will you ever pay a higher amount towards porter charges, than the cost of the vegetable itself? You should not waste your money in such ways. **Misuse of money is evil.** The money you are spending in your student life is contributed by your parents. They earned it by their sweat and blood. Each rupee of such amount must be treated as a drop of their blood. Curtail your expenditure and pursue higher education.

Today, several students wish to go to foreign countries for higher education. How much money is required for this purpose! What do you do, after reaching the foreign country, spending such a huge amount? You are not concentrating on your studies. On the other hand, you spend your time in ever so many activities, wasting your valuable money. If you are short of money as a result of this wasteful expenditure, you resort to cleaning of cups and plates in a restaurant, to supplement your income. Instead of cleaning cups and plates in a foreign country, why don't you do it in your own country and in your own home? By doing so, you will be helpful to your parents. Your parents will feel happy. **Dear students! Make your parents happy. Make your teachers happy. You serve them. Only then, will you be able to receive good education from the teachers.**

Embodiments of Love! **Realise the truth that real education is that which teaches humility. It is only when you cultivate this quality of humility, can you become ideal students and serve your country well.** You must keep yourself away from places of violence, for, if you go there, you will also receive injuries to your body. If you can, try to control such violent incidents, otherwise, keep yourself away from them. Try to establish a peaceful atmosphere everywhere.

Dear Students! You are full of noble qualities. You are strong in body and mind. Along with that, try also to develop good character. **There is no use developing friends' circle, wealth and strength, without developing character.** You become ideal students and propagate the principles of Sathya Sai Education in the world and earn respect from the world. •

Character Is the Goal of Education

Sankranti Message

Prasanthi Nilayam, January 15, 2004

Students, Boys and Girls! The present Vice Chancellor, the former Vice Chancellor, the Secretary of the Central Trust and two students have made excellent speeches in beautiful vocabulary. In this vast world, wherever you see, you find most wonderful and joyful events that awaken your inner being and fill your heart with immense bliss. Our students also have developed great skill, intelligence and expertise in the fields of sports, games and music and demonstrated their talents giving joy to one and all. Whatever be the activity they undertake, they do it to please Swami and not for temporary happiness.

Education Must Develop Inner Vision

Right from the time of birth, all activities of man are centred round the process of learning and acquiring wisdom. It is absolutely necessary to teach the spirit of idealism to our students so that they fill their hearts with love and give happiness to one and all. Today, there are a number of educational institutions all over the world, but, nobody seems to have understood what education really means. Students fill their heads with mere bookish knowledge, write examinations, secure pass marks and claim that they are educated.

In spite of his education and intelligence, a foolish man will not know his true Self and a mean-minded person will not give up his evil qualities.

(TELUGU POEM)

*Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom. What is the use of acquiring education which cannot lead you to immortality? **Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal.***

(TELUGU POEM)

Vidya means *Jnana* (wisdom). *Jnana* does not mean worldly intelligence. **True education is that which develops inner vision and makes you experience everlasting bliss.** In what way are the students benefited by the present educational system? They are merely acquiring degrees and earning the appreciation of the authorities, but they do not understand the real significance of education. Modern students are unable to realise the true spirit behind their participating in sports and cultural events. In all events of sports and games, you have a winner and also a loser. People are interested only in the outcome of the events and not in enjoying the spirit of sports. The aim of sports and games is not to produce a decisive result but to inculcate the spirit of sportsmanship in the participants. ***Life is a game, play it. Life is a dream, realise it. Life is love, enjoy it. It is only he who understands the import of these statements and realises them in his daily life is a true student.***

Modern system of education, instead of developing the power of discrimination in students, is making them narrow-minded. It neither bestows true wisdom nor does it help them to become broad-minded. The present-day education has become meaningless. The textbooks that are prescribed for students do not contain the essence of true education. I wonder why the government promotes such meaningless textbooks! Maybe, even the government is unaware of the realities. It appears as though someone at some low level is taking these decisions without consulting the higher authorities. It is bringing a bad name to the government, but nobody seems to be concerned about it. Such an unhealthy trend is on the rise.

Nobody is making efforts to understand the sacredness associated with the ancient system of education. Students are interested only in bookish knowledge, not in the essence of education. Only their textual knowledge is tested, but not practical knowledge. Students think that degrees are meant to earn a livelihood. ***Education is for life, not for a living.***

But neither the students nor the parents realise this truth. Parents are happy if their children score high marks in their examinations. They are not bothered about the heap of bad remarks their children get. If only they care to look into the remarks, they will truly understand the type of education that their children are receiving. Due to the advancement in modern education, the study of *Vedas* and *Sastras* has declined. In this situation, how can the present education confer true wisdom on you?

Parents and Teacher Should Be More Responsible

Students! You should acquire such education which will be beneficial to the society and the world at large. What is the present state of society? In what way can we make it ideal? How should one work for the advancement of the society? Nobody seems to think on these lines. Even the present system of education does not lay emphasis on service to society. If someone talks about reforms in the system of education, the students just brush it aside. They think that textual knowledge is the be-all and end-all of education. The elders should take up the responsibility to give proper education to students. Students should uphold the honour of the society. We should follow the teachings of our ancient sages and seers who have given us the true meaning of education. It is a sign of foolishness to become egoistic by merely acquiring a few degrees. You should understand the needs of society and utilise your education for its progress. People say they are serving the society, but without really understanding what the requirements of the society are. Such service is not *samaja seva* (social service), but *samadhi seva*, meaning a lifeless, mechanical activity. Society will progress only when the system of education is set right. As the craze for Western education has increased, the study of *Vedic* texts is being neglected. Parents should teach their children what is good and what is bad from their very childhood. They should not be satisfied merely by securing admission in a college and acquiring a degree by their children. They should ensure that their children utilise their education to serve the nation. The government may not be able to do much in this regard; it is the responsibility of the parents to guide their children on proper lines. They should encourage the children to work for the progress of the nation. But nowadays, parents do not have such broad-mindedness. Even teachers are not interested in the welfare of the nation. They feel that their responsibility ends with imparting bookish knowledge to students. They do not even enquire whether the information contained in the textbooks is beneficial to society or not. They do not take up the matter with the government. Even if they do take it up, the government is not responsive. They are changing educational institutions into factories which produce degree holders. Students alone are not to be blamed for this state of affairs. Parents, teachers and the government are equally responsible for this dismal state of affairs. **It is not enough if students secure high ranks in the class and earn a good name. They should work for the progress of the society and the nation and thus bring a good name to parents. Parents should monitor the progress of their children from time to time, inculcate virtues in them and mould them into responsible citizens. They should not rest satisfied if their children get good marks.** They should also observe what type of books they read at home. Some students read meaningless novels. But the parents do not bother to correct them. On the other hand, they say, “What is wrong in reading novels? It is enough if they are happy.” In this manner, they spoil their own children. They do not care to observe how their children behave in their absence. **There is no point in merely educating the children without correcting their behaviour. Parents should emulate the ideals of our forefathers who brought up their children in the most ideal way.**

Students Should Be Provided a Blend of Secular and Spiritual Education

Embodiments of Love! The modern system of education needs reforms. Parents today take pride that their children are studying in English medium schools and are able to recite English poems. They fail to understand what type of impact and influence this modern education has on their children. The tiny tots in kindergarten are taught nursery rhymes like “Ba ... Ba ... Black Sheep.” Because of such education, the children are ultimately becoming black sheep themselves. I am really pained and disgusted watching the present-day system of education which is totally spoiling the lives of students. That is why I have established educational institutions spending crores of rupees to mould the character of students. I am providing even textbooks free of cost to the students. In the present-day world, the situation is so bad that even for admission to a primary school one has to register well in advance paying thousands of rupees as donation. Parents are happy if their wards get admission in what they consider good schools, but they do not bother about the benefit that would accrue on account of such an educational system. The children do not appreciate the privations the parents have to undergo for educating them. Parents take loans and even forgo proper food and sleep to educate their children. Ultimately, the children do not benefit out of this system of education. They are unable to understand what is good and what is bad for them. Today when the quality of education has become so ‘cheap’ how can such education make one a ‘chief?’ Neither the parents nor the teachers nor the students are able to understand how the society and the nation are benefited by the present system of education. Therefore, all of them should join hands and work unitedly to bring about a complete transformation in the society. At present students’ agitation is on the increase. However, it is not their fault. They are in themselves very good-natured. **Fault lies with the teachers, elders and the government.** It is a well recognised fact that the present system of education is not designed to mould the character of the students. There are many good students, but parents, teachers and textbooks do not guide them properly. It is high time that the parents opened their eyes and seen the real state of affairs. They should see to it that their children come up in their life by acquiring proper education. They should encourage their children to pursue such type of education which will lead them to immortality. Of course, secular education is also necessary. But, **secular education should be harmonised with spiritual education to mould the character of the students and make them better citizens of the country.**

The End of Education Should Be Character

Students! Do not feel proud that you are pursuing higher education. **Along with higher education, you should cultivate noble qualities. Education bereft of virtues is useless. The end of education is character.** Today many students read useless, even immoral fictions. The authorities should ensure that such books are not sold in the market. Students should read only such books which can improve their character. They should participate in sports and games in the true spirit. This advice would equally apply to the girl students as well. They question, “When boys ride motor bikes, why can’t we do the same?” In this way they argue and waste their time. Nobody says that girls should not ride motor bikes. But one should act according to the time and circumstances. The number of fatal accidents of young people involved in two wheelers is on the increase. Parents make many sacrifices to bring up their children. But, if the precious lives of students are lost in motor cycle accidents, I can understand their agony.

Today, girls want to compete with boys in every field. They also aspire for name and fame. Their argument is, “In what way are we inferior to boys? Why can’t we acquire the same type of education as boys?” However, **each one should acquire such type of education that is appropriate and suitable to them. It is essential for women to look after their families well and shape the character of their children in an ideal manner. Along with inculcating virtues in children, they should also be given proper education.** The present-day education is

leading students in the wrong direction. Parents are to be partly blamed for this. They want their children to acquire high qualifications and get married to another highly qualified person. Some parents while trying to fix up marriage alliance ask, “My daughter has completed her postgraduation. She is good looking. What about your son? Has he completed his postgraduation? Is he handsome?” **In fact, beauty is related to character, not to the physical appearance. Beauty of character is what one should aspire for.** Is it always possible to get a postgraduate bridegroom for a postgraduate bride? The present-day education is leading to unhealthy competition and conflicts. I do not say that girls should not pursue higher education. If I am against women’s education, why should I establish women’s colleges? **I have established various educational institutions with the sole purpose of inculcating virtues in students. I am providing education free of cost. There are no examination fees even. My only aim is that students should acquire proper education, become ideal citizens and give happiness to their parents.**

Students! Do not misunderstand My words. I am telling you all this for your own welfare and progress. **You should acquire such education which will bring a good name to you and uphold the reputation of your family. Do not become egoistic and take to wrong ways in the name of freedom.** I quite often caution the boys not to look here and there while walking on the road. Some boys, while speeding on their motor bikes, keep looking at girls who are passing by. Their attention is diverted and they end up in accidents. **If your character is good, you will always be protected. You should always keep your senses under control. You should always have a check on your vision, listening and speech.** Buddha undertook various spiritual practices with a view to have mastery over his senses.

Why are the eyes given to you?

Is it to look here and there? No.

The eyes are meant to see the beautiful form of the Lord.

Why are the ears given to you? Is it to listen to vain gossip? No.

The ears are meant to hear the glories of the Lord.

(TELUGU POEM)

The ears are given for hearing good words and putting them into practice and thereby lead a virtuous life. Having realised that God has given the sense organs for the purpose of leading a virtuous life, Buddha discarded all ritualised spiritual practices and put his senses to sacred use. He assured himself that what he had to achieve in life was virtues, and not sensual pleasures. **He realised that conscience was his true guru and made efforts to control his sense organs like eyes and tongue. If these two sense organs are controlled, all the other organs would automatically come under control.** Having thus set a goal for himself in life, Buddha entered the wide world, after renouncing his wife and only child. I am not, however, advising you to leave your wife and children and go to the forest like Buddha. You look after them well and fulfil your responsibilities towards them. Teach your children noble qualities and bring them up in life. Lead a life of virtue. This is what Buddha taught. **If you cultivate *samyak drishti* (right vision) like the Buddha, the whole world will be under your control.**

Strive for a Virtuous Life

Do not pay heed to the wrong advice of others. Foster noble qualities. If you can control your senses, that itself amounts to realising the essence of the epic, *Bhagavata*. The study of the epic *Bhagavata* is meant to transform you into a man of virtue. Hence, control your senses and become a master of the world. This is what you have to strive for, today. Explain to your parents also about your priorities in life. Tell them, “Mother! You expect me to go for a job which offers a fat salary. But, high salaries are not as important as a virtuous life. If we

give preference to money instead of a noble life, our life itself will be ruined.” **When you keep your senses under control, you will become a person of noble qualities. You will also gain the strength of character.** Hanuman, the illustrious servant of Lord Rama is an example of such noble qualities. He was extolled as ‘*shanthudu*,’ ‘*gunavantudu*’ and ‘*balavantudu*’ (calm and serene, one of virtues, one of mighty strength). He became a great *guru* because of his noble qualities. We should emulate his noble qualities.

Dear Students! You are like pure gold. You are people of noble qualities. **You are precious. But, some of you are misguided by bad elements. Even if others try to mislead you, do not deviate from your chosen path. Stand firm. Only then will you acquire name and fame. This is My advice to the students.** In today’s education you are taught skills which will enable you to rise up in your career, but, nobody teaches moral education. **Morality is the most important aspect of education. Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows.** Therefore, cultivate morality. That will earn you respect from society.

God is your sole refuge wherever you may be, be it in a forest or in the sky or in a city or in a village or on the top of a mountain or in the middle of a deep sea.

(TELUGU POEM)

Cultivate noble qualities. I shall give you everything. Nay, I shall give Myself to those who cultivate noble qualities and also to those who teach them. In fact, I am living only for their sake. I do not seek anything in return from them. Lead a life of character and nobility. Bring good name to your parents, your institution and to Swami.

Dear Students! You are all men of noble qualities, but you are influenced by the contemporary society to a certain extent. Therefore, do not succumb to distracting influences. First and foremost, make proper use of your senses. Any elders you come across revere them as your father and mother. Earn good name for yourself by your thoughts, words and deeds.

Join good company, speak good words, cultivate *samyak drishti* and pursue good education that will build your character – this is what I expect from you, students.

In fact, this is what your parents also wish for. No father or mother will expect their children to be spoiled. But, they are unable to advise the children properly and put them in order, out of some sort of inhibition. Of course, I have no such qualms. Therefore, **I am advising you, with all the emphasis at My command, to see good, be good and do good. Cultivate noble qualities.** *Thyaga* (sacrifice) is the noblest of all qualities, not *bhoga* (indulgence). In fact, *bhoga* will lead you to *roga* (disease). The *Veda* has proclaimed *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutathwa Manasuh* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice). Hence, **Bangaru! (My dear golden students) cultivate such noble qualities as *thyaga*. I am prepared to sacrifice everything for you. But, you must also be in a position to receive My grace. I am yours and you are Mine. That should be the relationship between us. Try to understand Swami’s love. All this is meant to advise you to tread the right path. Do not go against the wishes of your parents.** If, by any chance, you have to differ from their views, explain to them lovingly your viewpoint. They will also feel happy that you have respected their feelings. The *Veda* has declared, *Matru devo bhava, Pitru devo bhava, Acharya devo bhava, Atithi devo bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). Speak sweetly and softly to your parents. Convince them, if necessary. I am prepared to sacrifice anything for the sake of such students. Several students join our educational institutions. Some of them may not be in a position to pay fees. Therefore, we have decided that all education in Sathya Sai institutions should be totally free and no fees be collected from the students. You should be free from all anxieties and enjoy peace. **By conforming to good behaviour only peace can be obtained.** Several students today wish to enjoy good things in

life, but are following wrong methods. They wish to partake of sugar, but consume bitter pills. They say one thing and do another. That is why it is said:

Manasyekam Vachasyekam Karmanyekam Mahatmanam

Manasyanyat Vachasyanyath Karmanyanyath duratmanam

(Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones; those who lack harmony of these are wicked.)

I like such students whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect accord. I am prepared to sacrifice anything for them; nay, I will give away Myself to such people.

Dear Students! Knowingly or unknowingly you might have committed mistakes in the past. But, at least in the future, cultivate good qualities and try to keep your parents and Swami always happy. •

Love Is the Royal Path to Realise God

Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Institutions (Alike and Muddenahalli)

Prasanthi Nilayam, January 27, 2004

The sacred feet of the Lord are as vast as the cosmos, as pervasive as the sky. They reach even Patala Loka (lower world). His sacred crown lies beyond Bhrahmanda (cosmos). He is inaccessible, imperceptible and incomparable.

(KANNADA POEM)

Embodiments of Love! Students, Teachers and Educators! I find it difficult to deliver a speech in Kannada language. It requires regular practice. If you do an activity regularly, you become adept in it. I get a chance to speak in Kannada very rarely, not always. N. Kasturi stayed at Prasanthi Nilayam for about 30 years and he was always with Me. He made good use of this golden opportunity for *Seva Sadhana (Selfless-Service)*. Kasturi was a well-known creative writer in Kannada. He was popularly known as “Kannada Kasturi.” He was very pure and sacred. Just by looking at his respectable personality one could make out the fragrance and sacredness of Kannada language. It is likely that I may make some mistakes here and there while speaking such an extremely fragrant language.

Pioneering Efforts of Narayana Bhat

Narayana Bhat established two schools in Karnataka – one at Alike in Dakshina Kannada district and another at Muddenahalli in Kolar district. Following Sathya Sai educational principles, he worked very hard for a long period of time to develop them into model schools. In order to develop the schools, he had to take loan from various sources and also from a large number of his well-wishers. But he had to struggle hard to pay off the loan. He and his mother went to so many villages and towns and approached several persons for raising money. But the debts went on increasing and never showed any sign of coming down. On one occasion, Narayana Bhat approached Me and briefly explained how those outstanding debts were causing him a lot of worry. He prayed to Me, “Swami, *Anyatha sharanam nasti, Twameva sharanam mama, Tasmad karunyabhavena....* (I have no other refuge except You. You are my saviour. Show mercy on me and protect me.) Swami, I beg and plead with You, please take over these two schools and put new life into them.” Then I said to him, “Narayana Bhat! Health and education are essential for all. I know that. But right now, don’t give them to Me. You look after them as long as you can.” I encouraged him to go ahead with his service activities.

I blessed him and said, “Be happy. Carry on teaching spiritual truths.” Later on, Narayana Bhat worked with much more zeal and vigour. These institutions made rapid progress. They were hailed as model schools. He was indeed a beacon light for all spiritual-seekers and service-minded persons. ***Yad bhavam tad bhavathi (as is the feeling, so is the result)***. Soon many good teachers joined him. They were all men of character, intelligence and sacrifice. They renounced everything and stood by him steadfastly. Presently, all those dedicated teachers together are running the institutions very efficiently.

Noble Ideals Set by Alike and Muddenahalli Institutions

Narayana Bhat carried on his mission and worked tirelessly day in and day out. But his time was drawing near. This body goes with time.

*Kalaya Namah, Kala Kalaya Namah, Kaladarpa Damanaya Namah,
Kalatheethaya Namah, Kalaswarupaya Namah, Kalaniyamtaya namah*
(Salutations to time, to the one who is beyond time, to the one who has conquered time, to the one who transcends time, to the one who is the embodiment of time, and to the one who ordains time)

Time is supreme. Everyone has to bow down to time. As time moved on, all of a sudden, Narayana Bhat met with a car accident in 1978. The accident proved fatal and he left his mortal coil at once. The organisation lost its mother. It was orphaned. Then Gangadhara Bhat, Narayana Rao, Narasimha Murthy and others came to Me and said, “Swami, that day You made a promise that You would look after these institutions. Kindly take over these schools and protect us all.” They intensely prayed and pleaded with Me.

My intention is to give proper direction to the present educational system. I always encourage any good move in this direction. *Vidya* has an important role in the life of man. Life without *vidya* is useless. One has to learn real *vidya* and share it with others to lead them on the righteous path. That is what I intend to do in the field of education. If I took Alike and Muddenahalli institutions, I had to bear the burden of those debts standing against them. It was not a meagre sum. It was ten lakh rupees of those days! But all the teachers were praying, “Swami, You are our Lord, You are our saviour. You have to save us.” My heart melted at their sincere prayer. Instantaneously, I took over those institutions and cleared all their outstanding debts once and for all.

From then onwards, I used to visit Muddenahalli while travelling between Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan. I would talk to those dear children and enthuse them. ***Darshanam papa nashanam, Sparshanam karma vimochanam, Sambhashanam sankata nashanam (sight of the Lord destroys all sins, His touch frees from Karmic consequences, conversation with Him destroys all sufferings)***. Thus, I gave them *Darshan, Sparshan* and *Sambhashan*. The teachers too felt encouraged and happy. Being free from all worries and problems, the teachers worked with relaxed mind and brought the institutions to this level. Now the institutions do not have the burden of debt. The schools have made a considerable progress attracting the attention of the world. The teachers are very good. They recognise the good qualities in each other and adopt them in their lives and thereby raise their moral and spiritual levels.

They do not get into bad and demeaning company. **You are judged by the company you keep. Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.** Association plays crucial role in one’s spiritual life. Teachers should always relish the company of the good and thereby work for the growth of the institution. The teachers of Alike and Muddenahalli are doing it. They are developing the inner strength of the schools. The schools have been showing excellent progress. They have now reached college stage. They have already won a lot of fame. People call them Sathya Sai Loka Seva Colleges. They will become full-fledged colleges in a few years. To reach the same standard, the remaining institutions of the Sai Organisation will have to put in a lot of effort.

The day-scholars in these institutions come from distant places. Some students walk some distance and then catch a bus and reach the schools. The heads of the schools and teachers co-operate with each other and help each other to make good progress, and march towards perfection. The students there have a high moral and spiritual standard. **Students should totally avoid bad company. You should always associate with the good. You should always join the group of students who are good in their speech, behaviour and actions. By doing so, you will reach the height of eminence.** In *Treta Yuga*, Lakshmana closely observed Hanuman and reported to Rama, “Swami, Hanuman is virtuous and mighty. He serves Sugriva very competently. It is Sugriva’s good fortune to have the *satsanga* of Hanuman. The company of Hanuman will help Sugriva and remove all his sufferings.” In the same way, students should become good by associating themselves with good company. Going to Muddenahalli is what I always like. In the past, I frequently went there and saw those children and guided the

teachers with timely advice. But the times have changed. Under these changed circumstances, I cannot go there as easily as I was doing in the past. Now hundreds of vehicles follow Me. It is very difficult to provide even a minimum hospitality to so many people. Why should I put those teachers to trouble unnecessarily? That is why I have reduced the number of these visits.

Dedication and Devotion of Gangadhara Bhat

Let us talk about Alike now. Alike was also handed over to Me along with Muddenahalli school. It is not near but far from here. It is not possible to personally go there quite often. That does not mean that I don't like to go there. They have been praying for My going to Alike for so many years. Especially on one particular occasion, Gangadhara Bhat pressed Me so much that I had no option but to yield to his intense prayers. He, in fact, said, "Swami, we are getting old. Once at least You should come to our village. You are our Redeemer. You have to grant us salvation." He prostrated and intensely prayed to Me. I finally yielded to his feelings and emotions. At once I rented a helicopter and went there. You must know why I had to hurry to Alike. Gangadhara Bhat's prayer came straight from his heart.

Even now, except Gangadhara Bhat, there is no one who can shoulder that great responsibility and lead the institution towards progress. That is why I said to him, "Gangadhara Bhat, you must stay there only. You remain there as My reflection. For every action, there is a reflection, reaction and resound. You have to conduct yourself in such a way that your words should reflect My views. You must have a feeling that the places you go about are the ones Swami has already trodden. While carrying out your duty, do it with a feeling that it is in fact Swami personally doing it. You must not leave the institution." After I told him firmly, Gangadhara Bhat took up the assignment as per Swami's command and marched along by putting his heart and soul in all the duties he performed. Right now both the institutions are making good progress. Seeing them itself gives Me great pleasure and happiness. Now they are developing at a quick pace. What you saw there yesterday, you will not see it now. Growth is rapid there. It has become possible because of the efforts of the dedicated teachers.

Understand the Real Meaning of Educare

Our schools and colleges (Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan, Anantapur) have also shown considerable progress. As the growth is inward, it is not possible for all to recognise it. This inner growth is Educare. **Educare brings out our latent sacred values. Values are not to be taught but manifested. Mere accumulation of information from various books is not Educare; it is education. Educare is the blossoming of the Divine Lotus in our heart.**

Educare enables us to be not just receptors but vibrators and radiators of values to all creation. **Values are to be translated into action. That means, both precept and practice are equally important.** How to put the principles of Educare into practice? Many modern boys and girls have no knowledge about these principles. It is absolutely necessary that every student should know all about Educare and its importance. The latent powers in each student have to be brought out. These powers must play their part in all his activities as reflection, reaction and resound. Thus, the process of education has to work in such a way as to transform the students into reflections of their latent powers. They are to be moulded properly and shaped beautifully. Our institutions bring out ideal students and present them to the world.

Sathyannasti paro dharma. (There is no *Dharma* greater than adherence to truth.) "You shall not tell anything but truth. What has happened should be reported truthfully. What all you have done, you should say it exactly." This is what most people say and believe when they give the meaning of truth. But this is only one dimension of the vast interpretation of truth. Similarly, you must understand that Educare has much deeper meaning. In fact,

Sathya (truth) is Educare; Dharma (righteousness) is Educare. It is truth and righteousness which protected India from all dangers. *Sathya* and *Dharma* do not come from outside. All that comes from outside is not permanent. Today it comes, tomorrow it goes. But what comes out from one's heart is permanent. **Educare comes from the heart and it has to go to other hearts only.**

Recently, Vice Chancellors of 25 famous universities of India came to our Institute to take part in a Seminar on Value Education. They were all very eager to know about Educare. They also wanted to know the workable method for introducing it into their curriculum. "*Vidyannasti parodharma.*" (There is no *Dharma* greater than *Vidya*.) Therefore, one has to acquire real *Vidya*. Heart is the source of real *Vidya*. Mere accumulation of information is not *Vidya*. *Vidya* is eternal bliss. Real *Vidya* is Educare. But head is the source of education. **Educare starts from the source of the heart and comes out through *buddhi* (intellect) whereas education is merely bookish knowledge emerging from the mind. Educare is *Buddhigrahya mateendriyam* (Educare transcends the senses and can be grasped only by the intellect).**

Saturate All Your Actions with Love

Whatever activities you do, love should be their foundation. There is no *Prana* (life) without love. Life without love is of no use at all. Education system should be so transformed as to develop love principle in one's heart. *Sathya* (truth) and *Dharma* (righteousness) are the reflections of *Prema* (love). They give you the much desired *Prasanthi* (supreme peace). If love springs out from your heart, it is enough. It will give you salvation. In *Dwapara Yuga*, *Gopikas* said to Krishna:

"Lord! Kindly pour down the nectar of love on our barren hearts. Sow the seeds of love. May the flood of love flow from our hearts!"

(KANNADA POEM)

They earnestly prayed to Krishna to fulfil their heart's yearnings. If the world is to prosper, the rain of love should pour on it. The sacred land of Bharat has been laying great emphasis on the importance of devotion and surrender since ancient times. It has set lofty ideals for mankind in all spheres of life.

Every being has love in his heart. If we do not have love, we are not human. Love is with us from our birth. We have got this body because of the merits of our previous births. The body becomes sacred only if it is saturated with love. So, you must cultivate love principle. Then your life becomes holy. **You must cultivate love towards all beings regardless of what they are or what they do.** It is natural for children to show love towards their parents. But it is important that they should be so moulded that they develop love for the entire mankind. **Love comprises all aspects of *Vidya*.**

The knowledge that the students acquire in schools and colleges is only information-oriented. Mere bookish knowledge is not of great importance. **Expansion of love is very important. Your thoughts have to be purified. Only pure hearts comprehend God. Intellectual reasoning does not help you to realise God. Pure thought is another name for pure life. Love is God. God has no form except love. I wish that you all install love principle in the deep recesses of your heart.**

Love is your *Prana* (life). It is enough if you have love. Love redeems all. Love wards off all suffering, hardships, pains and agonies. Love is nectarous in form. "*Srunvantu viswe amrutasya putrah* (Oh, the children of immortality! Listen)." You are *amritaputra* (children of immortality), not *anritaputra* (sons of untruth). Do not weaken yourself by considering yourself as sons of untruth. **Feel that you are *amritaputra*. Then the tree of love will grow in your heart and give you the fruit of *Atmic* bliss.**

Do not be attached to the body. Get rid of body attachment. You have to realise the *Atmic* principle. Immerse yourself in the ocean of *Atmic* consciousness. As long as you have body attachment, you will not

understand the *Atmic* principle. You have to do self-inquiry, “Who am I? From where have I come? Whither am I going? How long will I be here?” The entire spiritual inquiry begins with these questions. When you feel that you are the *Atma*, you start contemplating on the *Atmic* principle. “What is *Atma*, what is *Atma*?” You think seriously about it. By making such an inquiry, you will understand the *Atmic* principle.

All objects have both name and form. But the *Atma* has no name or form. If you understand the *Atmic* principle, you will understand the *Paramatma* principle. That is *parama thriпти* (supreme satisfaction), *parama asha* (supreme hope), *parama gamya* (supreme goal), *parama sathya* (supreme truth). **In order to realise *amrutwa* (immortality), you have to become the embodiment of love. You have to radiate love. You have to treat everyone as your brother and sister.** Whether others talk to you or not, you have to consider them as your own brother. If you are able to put it into practice in all walks of life, love will grow in your heart. You may have some enemies. You think that they hate you. Don’t consider them as your enemies. Don’t hate them. Instead whenever you happen to meet them talk to them lovingly and ask, “How are you, brother?” Then their feeling of enmity will suffer defeat in an instant. Their extreme dislike towards you will vanish and love will spring forth from their heart. Naturally, you will become friends. **When love occupies your heart, jealousy, hatred, etc., cannot enter it. You will get absolute peace.** People say, “We want peace, we want peace.” Peace does not fall from heaven. It has to come from love. **Love is the royal path to realise God.**

What is the purpose of your birth as a human being? It is not just eating, loitering and merry-making. **You must understand that you are born to realise the love principle. If love blossoms in your heart, you yourself will become *Paramatma* (God).** You need not look for God here and there. He is in you. He is in the form of love. **There is no escape from dualism as long as man does not recognise his inherent divinity. You should expand your love. Live in love.**

Selfless Service Is Real Penance

At this juncture, I would like to say something more about Gangadhara Bhat. He was Narayana Bhat’s trusted follower and a dependable person. He was verily his right hand. Once Narayana Bhat said to him, “Gangadhara Bhat! Serve sincerely for the well-being of the institution. Whenever you run into a difficulty, pray to Bhagavan Sathya Sai. Then He will personally take care of you all.” From that day onwards till today Gangadhara Bhat has fully depended on Swami. He has unshakeable faith in Swami. Swami is his *Paramatma*. He firmly believes that Sai *Paramatma* will lead him. He has such a feeling of surrender. He performs his duties with devotion and dedication. He is working sincerely for the progress of both Alike and Muddenahalli institutions. In fact, they have flourished under his honest leadership. I went to Alike two years ago (in 2002). I was wonderstruck on seeing the total transformation of Alike. When I went to Alike for the first time in 1979, there were only a few small buildings. Now Alike has become a town. That itself is not greatness. Its greatness lies in its inner strength. Mere buildings will not suffice. People construct expensive houses and tall buildings in towns and cities. They consider their houses as everything. They don’t have purity of heart. Their hearts brim with evil thoughts and evil schemes. Such men do not understand the love principle. **Purity in thought, word and deed is a basic requisite for man.**

Thus, Gangadhara Bhat has been running the organisation braving all hardships and unpleasant situations. Once he said to Me, “Swami, it is not possible for me to manage all the affairs effectively; I am getting old. It requires both physical and mental strength. Swami, I request You earnestly to appoint any good person who will manage everything very well.” As a matter of fact, all are good in My view. **No one is bad. People think that they are bad. That is all. It is their feeling only. Badness exists in our thoughts. As love is in everyone, all**

are good. I said to Gangadhara Bhat, “Don’t leave your post. You remain in the same position. Do not worry. I will always help you and lead you. I will look after everything.”

My words gave him courage and confidence. He has been continuing his work with enthusiasm. Where can he go if he relinquishes the post? He will have to go somewhere else and do *Thapas* (penance). What is penance? Simply spending time, doing nothing is not penance. Simply sitting at a place and reciting “Rama, Rama, Krishna, Krishna” is also not penance. **Real penance lies in doing good work constantly, having good thoughts always and developing good qualities in oneself.** Leaving one’s home, going to forest, doing *shirshasana* (standing on one’s head) and publicising, “I am doing penance,” is not at all penance. It is indeed false penance. **Foster love in your heart; talk lovingly; do all work with love. Be in love. This is real penance.** The teachers of Alike and Muddenahalli are doing real penance. This is how these schools produce students with purity of heart. I am happy to see all these students who have come here for the function. Today small children came to the dais and spoke beautifully. They gave a beautiful description of the *Atma*. Especially one high school boy spoke with heart full of love. What a sincere feeling he has! I am really delighted. That is real *Vidya*. I often tell the authorities of our Institute to give topmost priority to the boys of Alike and Muddenahalli while making selection for our colleges. Sometimes, these students may lag behind a little in *Jagath Sathya* (worldly knowledge). But they know *Atma Sathya* (*Atmic* knowledge) very well. I am always telling everyone here not to leave them. Here, a little boy spoke with feeling of love. He expressed his love for Me in beautiful words. I am very much pleased. It is what I want. I do not want that you come forward to offer the whole world to Me. **I want your love. Give me your love. This is enough for Me. The seed of love should sprout in the field of your heart.** Later on, it will grow into a *kalpavriksha* (wish-fulfilling tree). Then the world will flourish.

Students! You have to follow the instructions of your parents. Mathru devo bhava, Pithru devo bhava (revere your mother and father as God). You have come from your parents. Mother is the maker of your fortune. She is responsible for your progress. Don’t act against her wishes. Don’t oppose her words. Treat your mother with love. Then you will get your mother’s grace. Mother is *Lokamatha* (mother of the universe), *Jaganmatha* (mother of the world). Don’t think that she is related to your body only. She is the *Jaganmatha* who has come in the form of your mother. Gangadhara Bhat served his mother tenderly and lovingly. As a result of his sincere service to his mother, he got Swami. That is why Swami has kept him so near and dear.

Our Narasimha Murthy (now Warden, Brindavan) came to Prasanthi Nilayam and took charge as Warden. One day, he came to Me and said, “Swami, my mother is serious. She has cancer.” I asked him, “Foolish boy! You are telling me, mother is serious. Which mother? That is your body’s mother. Body’s mother is not permanent. You take hold of the permanent mother, eternal mother.” After some days, he came to Me again and said, “Swami, mother passed away.” I comforted Narasimha Murthy and said, “Narasimha Murthy, stay here itself. Don’t leave Puttaparthi. This is your birthplace. Swami is your mother. I will look after everything.” Narasimha Murthy’s mother was a noble soul. She would often say, “Narasimha Murthy, even in adverse situations, don’t go away from Swami; stay with Him always.” **All mothers are suffused with love principle. They pray to so many gods and goddesses for the well-being and progress of their children. Try to understand your mother’s selfless love. All should look after their mothers lovingly. •**

Humility Is the Hallmark of Education

Prasanthi Nilayam , March 16, 2005

*The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth. Is there a place in the cosmos where truth is not?
Visualise this pure and unsullied truth.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Embodiments of Love! Students! You have joined this institution to pursue your education. Firstly, make efforts to understand the true meaning of education. **Humility and character are the mark of education.** But, today students do not develop humility. They are interested only in acquiring degrees. However, our educational institution is an exception in this regard. Few students come here with the sole objective of acquiring degrees. Most of them come here with the single aim of pleasing Swami by striving to follow Swami's ideals and attain exalted position in life. They give happiness to their parents by their good conduct.

Understand the Meaning of True Education

Students! Education does not mean mere acquisition of degrees.

Oh man! Examine and enquire for yourself what great happiness you have achieved by spending all the time from dawn to dusk in acquiring knowledge and earning wealth unmindful of God.

(TELUGU POEM)

*One may acquire a high academic qualification such as M.A. and B.A. and attain exalted position;
One may amass wealth, perform acts of charity and attain name and fame;
One may have physical strength and enjoy a long and healthy life;
One may be a great scholar studying and preaching the Vedas,
But none can equal a true devotee of the Lord.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Having entered the portals of this educational institution, you should try to understand the value and true meaning of education. Only when you understand these aspects, can you be called truly educated. There is a lot of knowledge in *pustakas* (books), but what is the use if the *mastaka* (head) is filled with 'mud?' Once you fill your *mastaka* with knowledge, you need not refer to *pustakas* any more.

Elders should evince interest in the education of their children. They should enquire as to what the children are learning in the educational institution and constantly monitor their progress. Modern students react to the queries of elders in a discourteous manner. They indulge in mere verbosity and confuse the elders.

Students should earn a good name in society and uphold the reputation and prestige of the institution in which they study. An educational institution is like a gigantic tree. Different subjects are like its branches and sub-branches. **Virtues are like the fragrant flowers that you find on the tree. Faith is like the roots. When you water the roots of faith, you get the fruit of *ananda*.**

At present, all educational institutions have begun to feel that character is very important for a student. **The end of education is character. Character does not mean good conduct alone. One should consider the fellow human beings as one's own brothers and sisters. One should develop *bhava shuddhi* (purity in feelings), which will ultimately lead to *jnana siddhi* (attainment of wisdom).**

Institutions Must Produce Virtuous Men and Women

Our students are highly virtuous. I repeatedly say that they are My property. When I have such a property with Me, why should I worry about anything? I asked the boys who appeared for the GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test for Engineering) examination, “My dear ones! How did you write the exam?” They said, “Swami, with Your grace and blessings we have done well. You say that students are Your property. Having been blessed with the opportunity of being Your students, our only aim is to live up to Your ideals and bring a good name to the Institute.” I was very pleased and deeply touched by their answer. It is heartening to note that there are such ideal students in our Institute. It is because of such noble students that the country has progressed and prospered. If there are no men and women of virtues, how can the world shine with all its brilliance?

Our students do not indulge in empty rhetoric; they are men of action. Their sincerity makes Me happy. I have come to impart such ideal education to the students and inculcate virtues in them.

In spite of his education and intelligence, a foolish man will not know his true Self and a mean-minded person will not give up his evil qualities.

(TELUGU POEM)

Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom. What is the use of acquiring education which cannot lead you to immortality? Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal.

(TELUGU POEM)

Once you acquire the knowledge of the Self, you would have acquired everything else. These words of wisdom are imprinted in the hearts of our students.

Embodiments of Love! Students! You have proved your worth among lakhs of students and secured high ranks in the GATE examination. The examiners were highly impressed with the intelligence and behaviour of our students. They wanted to know whether our students came from East or West, North or South. Our students replied, “Sir, we are neither from East nor from West, neither from South nor from North, we are the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.”

They are not satisfied with what they have achieved. They are striving hard to bring more and more laurels to our Institute. Wherever you go, you find our students leading exemplary lives propagating the ideals of our educational institutions.

Once someone asked our students what type of food they like to take, vegetarian or non-vegetarian. They replied in one voice, “Non-vegetarian food gives rise to evil thoughts and feelings; hence we would never touch non-vegetarian food.” They are 100% vegetarians. Even the students who used to eat non-vegetarian food earlier became vegetarians once they joined our Institute. Once someone tried to persuade one of our students to take non-vegetarian food, saying it contained a lot of good nutrients. But, he did not budge from his stand. He said, “I don’t want such vitamins and proteins. Even vegetarian food has all the vitamins and proteins that I need. I want to tread the path of truth and non-vegetarian food is not at all conducive for spiritual progress. Along with secular education, I want to acquire spiritual education and propagate it to the world.” There are many such students who are firm in their resolve to spread the *Sai* ideals. It is because of such noble students that our institution has attained worldwide fame.

Cultivate Healthy Habits Right from Childhood

Students should develop good habits right from their childhood to enjoy good health and happiness. In this context, there is a poem which reads as follows:

*Get up early in the morning at the crowing of the cock,
Have a bath after your morning ablutions,
Wear a proper dress.
Eat properly and moderately.
Go to school and study diligently.
Earn a good name.
Don't move out when it is raining,
And never go near the murky pools.
Take part in games,
Run and play.
If you abide by all these rules,
You will have both health and wealth.*

(TELUGU POEM)

Students should exercise restraint over their food habits. Even birds, beasts and animals observe certain regulations in this regard. Born as human beings and having acquired education, is it not expected of you to follow proper discipline with regard to food? Students who eat non-vegetarian food right from their childhood give up that habit when they join our institution. Even their parents are surprised at their transformation. When one of our students went home during vacation, his mother tried to serve him non-vegetarian food. He refused to touch it and requested his mother not to prepare non-vegetarian items in future. He explained to his parents the ill effects of consuming non-vegetarian food.

Non-vegetarian food is the cause of several diseases like cancer. You might have read in journals and newspapers that most of the people in Singapore eat fish. Consequently, they are infected by several harmful micro-organisms. Similar instances were reported from various parts of Bharat. **It is because of unhealthy food that people suffer from diseases.** Many are under the mistaken notion that non-vegetarian food gives them strength, but in reality it makes them weak. Once you spoil your health by partaking of non-vegetarian food, you will never be able to regain your health even if you spend the rest of your life in forests eating fruits and tubers.

These were the answers given by our students when they were asked questions about their food habits. The explanation given by our students made such an impact on the audience that many of them became total vegetarians. **As is the food so is the mind. As is the mind so is the man. Hence, one must necessarily partake of sacred and satwic food to lead a happy and healthy life.** Of late, there is a growing awareness among the *Bharathiyas* about the influence of food on one's mind. Consequently, people are changing their food habits for the better. Our body is made up of flesh. Why should you feed it again with flesh? Such unsacred food gives rise to unsacred thoughts.

Students! It is not enough if you observe regulations with regard to food alone; you should cultivate good habits also. You should participate in sports and games regularly. Take part in such games which will help in the blossoming of your physical and mental faculties. **Healthy food and good habits will take you to exalted position in life.**

Dear Bangaru Students! Truly, you are like gold. It is not possible to describe your sacred feelings. You speak from the depths of your hearts. The language you speak is not ordinary. It is *Atma Bhasha* (language of the spirit). You are leading your lives with sacred feelings. However, keep away from bad company. **It is said, "Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are." "As is your company, so you become."** Hence, always keep good company. **Be in the company of those who speak good words. Never utter harsh and unsacred words.** If you use unkind words, people will treat you like an enemy. If you speak softly and sweetly, people would enjoy

your company and talk to you for any length of time. When you are in the company of others, make sure that your body is clean and your mouth does not emit bad smell. You should take proper care of your health in every possible way. **When your body is clean and healthy and when your thoughts, words and deeds are pure, you will be loved by one and all.**

Students! Wherever you may go, ensure that you are presentable and acceptable in every way. Only then will you earn the respect of others. Always keep your mouth clean. Bad breath leads to various diseases. Not merely that, it will cause inconvenience to others. If your mouth emits foul smell, people will try to avoid you. Hence, the moment you get up from bed in the morning, you should brush your teeth and clean your tongue thoroughly. **When you keep your mouth fresh and clean, you will enjoy good health.** Though I don't sleep in the night, I brush My teeth before going to bed. I brush My teeth at regular intervals so as to keep My mouth fresh and clean. That is why I don't have any health problem. I don't have any pain whatsoever.

You should take care that no food particle sticks between your teeth. Some people use a hard brush to clean their teeth. As a result, their gums start bleeding. But I use a very soft brush. Even now My teeth are so strong that I can crack a betel nut. My students are struck with awe and wonder when they witness My physical power.

Students! It will be a matter of shame that you spoil your health and submit yourself to the hands of a doctor. Hence, each one has to take care of one's own health. **One should never be dependent on others.** This is what I teach to My students quite often. **Get up early in the morning, do some jogging and exercise so as to keep your body fit.** During examination time, students try to keep themselves awake in the night even during late hours to study. They keep dozing with books in front of them. Such studies will take you nowhere. Do not force yourself to study when you feel sleepy. Keep the books aside and go to bed peacefully. **You should study only when your mind is fresh and attentive.**

Oh man! Do not feel proud of your education and scholarship. If you do not offer your salutations to God and not contemplate on Him with devotion, of what use is all your education?

(TELUGU POEM)

Education and Educare Must Go Hand in Hand

Students! First and foremost, take care of your health. Your education will prove a mere waste if you do not maintain proper health. Do not rest content with secular education. You should also acquire Educare. **Education is related to gathering outside information, whereas Educare relates to inward transformation. Educare is that which makes the human values blossom from within.** Whether you have acquired Educare or mere education will become evident in your speech. A word of caution in this regard – you should not talk loosely; especially when you speak to elders, you should carefully frame your sentences and speak with all humility and respect. True education is not limited to textual knowledge. **You should manifest the human values of truth, righteousness, love, peace and non-violence. Truth should not be confined to mere words. It should be translated into deeds.**

Students! Having come here and acquired education of the highest standard, lead a life of virtues. Share your knowledge with others.

*Let us all move together, let us all grow together,
Let us all stay united and share our knowledge,
Let us live together with friendship and harmony.*

(TELUGU POEM)

This is what you have to learn today. **Always have a smiling countenance and be a good friend to others. A good friend is one who always has good thoughts, speaks good words and performs good deeds.** When you lead your life in such a manner, you will be an ideal person and a source of inspiration to others. •

Put Human Values into Practice

Divine Benedictory Address in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports

Prasanthi Nilayam, November 22, 2006

Man today feels proud that he has mastered many branches of knowledge and studied a number of texts. But he does not try to understand the essence of education. Nowadays, learning is limited only to physical and worldly aspects; moral, ethical and spiritual aspects are left out.

A Test of Intelligence

Today the parents make strenuous efforts to provide education to their children. But nobody is trying to know the real meaning of education. People think that those who can speak eloquently and have studied a number of books are highly educated. But the fact is that it shows just the knowledge of the alphabet and nothing else. Mere knowledge of the alphabet cannot be called education. Besides knowing the letters, one has to know the meaning of the words and the sentences constituted by them. Having realised this truth, King Krishnadevaraya convened a big assembly. He posed a question to all the assembled poets and scholars. Also present in this assembly were eight renowned poets of his court known as *Ashta Diggajas* (eight eminent scholars). They were: Allasani Peddana, Nandi Thimmana, Madayyagari Mallana, Dhurjati, Ayyalaraju Ramabhadru, Pingali Surana, Ramarajabhushanudu and Tenali Ramakrishna. Krishnadevaraya wanted to know who was best among them. He wanted them to frame a meaningful sentence consisting of five words, each word having the same meaning in five different languages. “Whoever comes out with an answer to this question by tomorrow morning will be suitably rewarded,” he declared.

Since his house was far away, Tenali Ramakrishna decided to spend the night in his brother-in-law’s house. When he was provided with a comfortable bed for the night, Ramakrishna refused to sleep on it. He said, “I have to think of an answer to a question put by the king by tomorrow morning. A bed like this is sure to put me to sleep in no time. So, provide a cot for me in the cowshed.” As he was lying on the cot, at one o’clock in the night, one of the cows in the shed gave birth to a calf. Ramakrishna called out to inform his brother-in-law about this. His brother-in-law wanted to know which cow it was since he had given different names to his cows like Lakshmi, Saraswati, Radha, etc. He asked Ramakrishna, “Ye Aav Ra Bava” (Oh brother-in-law! Which cow is that?). When Ramakrishna heard this, his joy knew no bounds since he had found an answer to the king’s question. So, he repeated the phrase again and again. His brother-in-law thought that Ramakrishna was behaving in this strange manner due to lack of sleep.

Next morning, Ramakrishna went to the royal court and found that no one else had the answer to the question. All others were convinced that it was not possible to frame such a sentence. “Ye Aav Ra Ba Va. This is the answer,” he said. Everyone was intrigued. Then he explained, ‘Ye’ in Marathi, ‘Aav’ in Hindi, ‘Ra’ in Telugu, ‘Ba’ in Kannada and ‘Va’ in Tamil convey the same meaning, i.e., ‘come.’ All the five languages were represented in this sentence.

In this manner, one should know the meaning of every letter. People today read many books without knowing the real meaning of the words. But in ancient times, people knew the meaning of every letter that they studied. Pleased with the answer of Tenali Ramakrishna, Krishnadevaraya presented a bundle of gold coins and precious diamonds to him. Ramakrishna was happy to receive the precious gift from the king, but he was worried

how he should safeguard it. Therefore, he requested the king to provide him with two bodyguards to enable him to carry the bundle safely to his house. Accompanied by the bodyguards, he carried the bundle safely to his house. On reaching there, the thought of keeping the bundle safe in the house caused him a lot of worry since he did not have any iron safe. His wife came near him and saw the bundle. At that time, Tenali Ramakrishna noticed two thieves who had followed him all the way and were now hiding in the backyard of his house. Then he told his wife that he was going to drop the bundle of gold coins and precious gems into the well in the backyard of his house for its safety. He spoke loudly so that the thieves could overhear him. Instead of putting the bundle of precious gems in the well, he actually put a bag of stones in it. All through the night, the thieves kept on drawing water out of the well in expectation of getting the bundle of gold coins and precious gems. All their attempts proved futile. They left the place at daybreak. Tenali Ramakrishna was happy that he could save the precious bundle from the clutches of thieves and in the process his garden was adequately irrigated.

One who knows the meaning of every letter, every word and every sentence is a true poet. Tenali Ramakrishna was one such great poet.

*Kavim Puranamanushasitaram Anoraniyamsamanusmarenya,
Sarvasya Dhataramachintyarupam Adityavarnam Tamasa Parastat.
(He who contemplates on the all-wise, ageless Being, the ruler of all, subtler than the subtle, the universal sustainer, possessing a form beyond human conception, refulgent like the sun and far beyond the darkness of ignorance, he reaches verily that supreme divine Purusha (God).*

Acquire the Knowledge that Makes One Immortal

Today people try to know the meaning of sentences without trying to know the meaning of letters and words that constitute the sentences. Even the preceptors today give only the worldly meaning of the sentences, but none gives the moral, ethical and spiritual import of the sentences. **It is the responsibility of teachers to disseminate the knowledge pertaining to moral, ethical and spiritual principles. That is true education.** Today the students pursue their studies, but if you ask them what they are doing, they reply, “*Chaduvu-Kontunnamu,*” which also means, “We are buying education.” That is no education at all. We have to know the meaning of every letter, every word and every sentence and act accordingly. Despite acquiring all this worldly knowledge, one has to meet one’s end which is inevitable. **One should acquire that knowledge which makes one immortal. It is the knowledge of five human values, namely, Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa.**

The first one is *Sathya* (truth). Truth is deathless. Truth is one, not two. *Dharma* (righteousness) is eternal. *Shanti* (peace) is the source of bliss. Next is *Prema* (love). Right from a child to an old person at the verge of death, everyone is endowed with love. But love has no death. The last, but not the least is *Ahimsa* (non-violence). Where is the death for *Ahimsa*? Buddha propagated this principle. He declared: *Ahimsa Paramo Dharma* (non-violence is the highest *Dharma*). **Knowledge and practice of these five principles is real education. Speak truth, follow the path of righteousness and experience peace. Share your love happily with all and lead your life with non-violence. This is the essence of education. These are the five main human values which should be propagated in the world. They are eternal and immortal.** Today we run after all that is perishable, ignoring that which is immortal. The President of India has told you many important things. You can achieve great heights if you put his teachings into practice. **Every human being is endowed with these five human values. If we promote these five human values, we become God. The Vedas declare: *Tat Twam Asi* (That Thou Art). This profound statement of the Vedas contains the essence of all knowledge. Therefore these five human values have to be inculcated in everyone right from childhood.**

When you rely on truth, you can achieve anything in life. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in human form). God is not separate from man. All are the embodiments of Divinity. The same principle of the *Atma* is present in all. But it assumes many names. Develop self-confidence. Face all difficulties with self-confidence. Whomsoever you see, consider him as your own reflection. God is beyond all attributes and actions.

Develop the spirit of sacrifice. *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutathwa Manasuh* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice). You should be prepared to make any sacrifice. **Have the firm conviction that you are God and God is not separate from you. Wherever you see, God is there. There is nothing else except God. Names and forms may be different, but the same principle of the *Atma* is present in all.**

Practice of Human Values Promotes Unity and Harmony

All that man experiences is the result of his actions. It is already very late now. I do not want to cause inconvenience to you by speaking at length. It is enough if you know these five principles and put them into practice in your daily life. It is only by practicing these five principles that you can know them, not merely by reading or writing about them. **Any knowledge that is not put into practice is no knowledge at all. Put into practice at least one or two principles in your life out of all that you have learnt.** Then only will your life be redeemed and you will acquire merit. Then you would have followed the right path. You have heard many things from Me and Kalam. What is the use of all your listening if you do not put anything into practice? It is your rare fortune that you have got the opportunity of listening to such sacred talks. Make the best use of the opportunity and attain the goal of your life.

Lord Krishna declared in the *Bhagavad Gita: Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal *Atma* in all beings is a part of My Being). You are all sparks of Divinity. You are not mere mortals. You are not separate from Me. Being an aspect of My Divinity, you should conduct yourself accordingly. Do not waste your time in vain gossip. These five values have originated from God. Wherever you see, there is the principle of unity. You and I are one. Many people ask Me about My true identity. I tell them, **“You and I are one. You are not separate from Me.”** Consider all your fellowmen as your brothers and sisters and strengthen the bond of love with them. You should all stand united. **Never give room for evil qualities like anger, hatred and jealousy. These qualities will create only differences. We should develop these five human values which will promote harmony and unity in the world. We should develop those qualities which will bring us closer to each other and not the ones which will distance us from each other. Leave the burden of all your responsibilities to God. This is My Message to you today. •**