

39. Thou and That

EVERYONE engaged in teaching or learning or administering this institution where these three processes are carried on must try to know for what purpose they should be done and how best they can be done. After years of steady and impartial research, the sages of India have said that education has as its goal the realization of the *Aathma* (divine Self) and the manifestation of its inherent attributes of *Sath-Chith-Aanandha* (Being, awareness and bliss). Apart from instincts, impulses, emotions and passions which man shares with the beasts, he has some unique attributes like the urge to renounce and to serve, to attach himself to Truth, and to cultivate the qualities of tolerance, and forbearance. The Sathya Sai Colleges are endeavouring to encourage the manifestation of those and related traits of the higher character, and thereby to re-establish the spiritual renown of India.

The very endeavour gives these young men a sense of joy and happy enthusiasm. You heard Satish of the Second year B.Com. class speak from his heart on the equanimity, peace and calm that the practice of the *Saadhana* of the constant Presence of God has given him. The *Aanandha* the boys have will certainly inspire their parents, their kith and kin and others. The youth of India will turn towards the path leading to *Aanandha* with as much alacrity (or even more) as they are now evincing in moving along the path leading to anxiety, fear and destruction. Therefore, there is no room for despondency. When these students become teachers, the number who can voyage happily on an even keel through the turbulent sea of life will increase. Injustice, untruth, unrighteousness will all be recognised as disgraceful, demeaning Social evils, instead of being tolerated as necessary evils. Truth, Justice, Love and Peace shall soon return to earth.

The first step in the life-long pilgrimage

The reorganisation of education is one of the many means towards this end. The Foundation Stone for the College Buildings that was laid now by the Governor of Mysore State is a step in this process, during which Colleges engaged in preparing the new generation, on proper lines will come up in every State of India. This Day is celebrated as *Yugaadhi* (Telugu New Year day); the beginning of a New era. Every Era or span of time is called *Yuga*. The first *Yuga* according to the *Puraanas* was *Kritha*, when Truth reigned supreme. Next the *Thretha* Age or *Yuga* appeared---when the ideals of Righteous Living were upheld. In the *Dwaapara Yuga* that followed, the cleansing and sharpening of the intellect (*Jnaanadheva thu Kaivalyam*) in order to realize the Reality was propagated as the means to save mankind. In this *Kali Yuga*, the paths of devotion, of righteous deeds and of the acquisition of wisdom are all declared equally effective, so that people of different dispositions and temperaments can have the fortunate chance of the Truth being revealed to them.

Education must open these paths before the children. When the child is first initiated into the alphabet, this ceremony is called *Akshara-abhyaasa*--Practice of the indestructible! *Kshara* is the material, objective, created, seen, experienced. *A-kshara* is the non-material, subjective, creator, witness, experiencer. The letter A is the first step in this life-long pilgrimage to the source of life, Light and Love, the Divine, the Truth. It is a pilgrimage that ends when the emerged is merged in that from which it has emerged, when *Thou* realize that it is *That*, when *Thwam* knows that it is *Thath*. The stow of billions of births and deaths is summarised in the three words *Thath Thwam Asi*.

The true *Guru* is *Thath* (That) and he reveals to *Thwam* (Thou), the fact of *Asi* (art). The true pupil is he *Thwam* thirsty for *Tath* and anxious to acquire the *Asi* wisdom.

Brindhaavan, 16-3-1972

Love is no merchandise; do not bargain about its cost. Let it flow clear from the heart, as a stream of Truth, a river of wisdom. Let it not emanate from the head, nor from the tongue. Let it emerge, full and free, from the heart. This is the highest duty, the noblest Godliness.

Sri Sathya Sai