

14. The foundation stone

What exactly is the underlying cause of all the conflicts and confusions that afflict the world today? The institutions imparting learning have succeeded in equipping man with fantastic skills. Look at the field of atomic engineering or of spatial exploration and conquest. Man has achieved astounding feats. But in actual daily life, these feats have not resulted in peace, happiness and harmony. Castes, races and classes clash with each other with unremitting hate. Even students and the youth have taken to this dangerous course. The situation is fast becoming beyond control.

The number of students in schools and college is sky-rocketing. We proclaim that formal education, which was for long the privilege of a few scholars and the sons of the rich, is now provided at the very doors of everyone. But, those who expand the facilities for education must examine how far these goals are realised.

We rejoice when schools and colleges rise up more and more in every country of the world, without realising that what is happening through them is the worsening of the sickness of the community. Unrest, fear and anxiety are increasing as a result of improper and incomplete education. Education can yield peace and prosperity only when, along with technical skills and objective information, students are equipped with moral ideals, righteous living and spiritual insight. Now, the educational process does not involve itself in these values. It works even counter to them. It is quite unwilling to emphasise *dharmic* (virtuous) living. It lays no stress on morals.

Educated persons must serve the people

As a consequence, products of this process, who have no sense of values, gradually enter the professions and positions of authority in administrations of nations and rise up in time to higher levels. The world has come to the brink of disaster as a result.

Bhaarath shone among nations as the land of Forbearance, Self-control and Service.. Now, it is being fast converted into a land pursuing pleasure. Each one desires, to loll on sofas in air-conditioned office rooms. Can this be named "pleasure"? Can this be ideal for educated person? No. This state will breed physical and mental illness.

How can a student be regarded as a success if, at the end of the course, he knocks at the door of every office exhibiting the diploma he has secured, and clamouring like a beggar asking for jobs? Education has been conferred on him this disgraceful role. Can it claim that. it has done its duty? No. The educated person must serve the people, through sweat and toil. Education has to inspire youth to offer service, to sacrifice and to help. It must not inspire youth to amass money as its goal, and to travel farther and farther to earn more and more of it. For, accumulated money brings arrogance and arrogance brings in its train many other vices.

The educational institutions do not at present instruct pupils on these lines and inspire them to practise these ideals. They do not strengthen and sublimate material and secular instruction into moral and spiritual training. Only when this is done can man evolve into God who is his reality. It is for this reason and with this purpose in view that this Foundation Stone is being laid by Me for this Home for Students (*Vidhya Vihaar*) here. When such institutions spread more and more, there can be no doubt that the ancient invaluable culture of Bhaarath will renovate dharma and establish *shaanthy* (peace).

Hyderabad, 8-3-1981

This is the bedrock on which you can build the mansion of happiness, this recognition of the Divine, that motivates you from within.

You claim to be devotees, with hearts full of love and devotion; you roll rosaries over your fingers, and roll the Name over your tongues; you indulge in breathing exercises or contortional feats, but, unless you revere all and worship all in the abandon of selfless Love, you only insult the unique tradition of this land.

Passion, agitation, anxiety---these degrade human nature. They are born out of hatred, malice or envy, which Love alone can counteract.

When you have here the very Embodiment of Love, as your dearest Treasure, why welcome into your hearts the waves of hatred, faction, fear and doubt?

Sathya Sai Baaba