

## 1. Let Prema and Thyaaga be your ideals

*Uthsaaam, Saahasam, Dhairyam,*

*Buddhi, Shakthi, Paraakramam,*

*Shadaithe yathra thishtanthi,*

*Thathra Dheva-sahaayakritham.*

(Where the six qualities of zeal, determination, courage, intelligence, ability and heroism are present, there Divine help is manifest).

*STUDENTS! Embodiments of love!* In any field, at any time, for any man who is endowed with all these six precious qualities, success is assured. These qualities contribute to the all-round prosperity of a man. All success attends on one with these six qualities.

However, these qualities confront various difficulties from time to time. Just as a student has to face various tests, these qualities are also subject to trials. Such trials should be regarded as stepping stones to one's high achievements. These trials are in the form of losses, troubles, pains, sufferings and calumny. One has to overcome these troubles with courage and self-confidence and go ahead.

Students in particular have to develop self-confidence. Without self-confidence the six qualities cannot be acquired.

In fact, self-confidence should be the life-breath of every person. Unfortunately, students today lack self-confidence and have become a prey to peacelessness because of their involvement in sensual pleasures.

Students should develop self-confidence and embark on the journey of life with faith in God.

Vishvaamithra relying on his intelligence, physical strength and the power of his weapons, sought to wage a war with Vashishta, who relied upon the power of the Divine. Ultimately he realized the truth that his powers were of no avail against the power of the spiritual, and giving up his kingdom undertook a severe penance.

Physical prowess is no power at all. It is really a sign of weakness. All physical powers are indeed powerless. All worldly wealth is impermanent. Man today pursues these fleeting pleasures, forgetting his inherent divinity.

### **Cultivate self-confidence**

Students should cultivate self-confidence and manifest their divinity in their speech, their songs, their sports and all actions. However, occasionally the weakness in them may come out. For instance, when they succumb to troubles, are overcome by grief and are unable to face losses, they show their inner weakness.

Students should confront such situations with fortitude. Be fearless. When you face difficulties with courage, you are bound to succeed. Hence, have confidence in yourself and achieve success in all areas of life.

It may be asked: "What is the benefit one derives from these six good qualities?" The answer is that you will secure both worldly and spiritual benefits from these qualities.

### **Good qualities enable one to lead a good life**

Self-confidence is helpful to secure advancement of the individual, but it is not enough to promote the welfare of the society or the world. A whetstone is used for sharpening the razor and not for making the stone smoother. Similarly good qualities have to be fostered for refining one's nature. These qualities are essential like the different limbs in a body for its well-being as a whole. People should realize that human birth has been given to them to lead ideal lives. Good qualities enable one to lead a good life. But even for the good life a price has to be paid. That price is good conduct. This means that you derive the happiness that results from a good life only when you discharge your duties. Pleasures are of two kinds: temporary and lasting. Permanent happiness can be got only by performing your duties. First do your duty and then enjoy the fruits.

Today people do not discharge their duties but wish to enjoy the fruits thereof. This cannot give them happiness.

Everyone should realize that he is born to discharge various obligations and not to enjoy rewards for unrendered services.

Man should realize that he has no claim to rights. His role is to carry out his duties. When he performs his duties, he will reap the rewards in due course. People today do not discharge their duties but fight for their rights.

*Student's!* At the outset, realize your duties and carry them out. Duty is God. Work is worship.

It is foolish to expect rewards without performing one's duties. People are wasting their sacred human birth by neglecting their duties.

Students should realize that neither youth, nor wealth, nor wife and children are permanent. Only truth and righteousness are everlasting. You must base your lives on truth and righteousness and should be prepared to face any challenges with courage and confidence.

### **Five advisers in everyone's life**

Everyone has five advisers in life. They are who; when, where, what and how. Before undertaking any action, answers should be got for these five questions. When the correct answers are got, the actions based on them will be the right one. People today act without concern for these factors. In this matter everyone can rely on his own judgement using his powers of observation and discretion. All the instruments for this purpose are available to everyone in his organs of perception and action. In every limb and organ there is a divine power. This divine potency is called *Angirasa*. The name is derived from the fact that the Divine is present in every *Anga* (limb) as a *Rasa* (essence). There is no need to search for the Divine outside yourself. You are Divine. All your powers are Divine potencies.

Develop the conviction that whatever happens to you is for good. Education is not solely for a living. Essentially it is a process of Self-realization. Without understanding his own Self, how can one understand the world or achieve anything worthwhile? Without Self-knowledge what is the *Vijnaana* (scientific knowledge) he can acquire? What is the value of scientific knowledge without wisdom? Hence one should acquire, along with scientific knowledge, discriminatory wisdom and *Aathma-jnaana* (awareness of Self).

### **Significance of Bhaaratheeya festivals**

All Bhaaratheeya festivals have esoteric significance. They have a deep spiritual meaning. Today's holy festival is related to the beginning of the *Uttharaayana* (apparent northward movement of the sun). The sun moves every month from one house of the zodiac to the next. Today the sun enters the house of *Capricorn--Makara--and* hence it is known as *Makara Sankraanthi*. This auspicious day heralds the conferment of many worldly and spiritual blessings on man. The *Sankraanthi* day is a witness to the prospective successes of man in many fields. The advent of *Sankraanthi* is glorified in a song which describes how farmers greet the sun and celebrate the gathering of harvest and enjoy the fruits of their labours.

*Sankraanthi* day marks the arrival in the farmer's houses of the grains which are the fruits of their labours. *Sankraanthi* is a holy festival for a worldly achievement. It is also a cherished day of rest in the cool atmosphere. Man needs days of rest after a period of hard work. Only then he can enjoy peace of mind.

"*Samyak kraanthi ithi Sankraanthi*" *Sankraanthi* confers peace and heralds a welcome change. It brings out the inner joy in people. It effects a change in the life-style. It generates sacred thoughts.

People today do not recognize these sacred changes. They are all immersed in worldly acquisitions and have no regard for higher things. They should instead seek every opportunity to cultivate good qualities.

These good qualities are the six mentioned at the beginning of the discourse. When these qualities are present, there will be no room for any bad tendencies to develop. Today, students suffer from two bad qualities which are undermining their humanness. These are *asuuya* (envy) and *dhvesham* (hatred). These two are partners in evil. They are twin pests. A beautiful tree with rich foliage can be destroyed by a pest operating at its roots. Envy is such a pest. It converts even a happy, affluent person into a miserable being consumed by envy. In the Mahaabhaaratha, Krishna described to Arjuna how the Kauravas were consumed by envy towards the Paandavas even though they *were* enjoying the kingdom. The demon of envy had seized hold of a good royal family and was ruining it.

Students feel envious towards a boy scoring good marks. Envy rears its head when a boy is exceptionally intelligent. Some feel envious seeing a person who is well-off and happy. Some tend to be envious of those who appear to be cheerful and confident. Envy has no limits. Students should see that they give no room for envy. Envy is a self-consuming malady. It is incurable. One who is always blissful will overcome all difficulties. The courageous man can face death without fear.

### **Fill your hearts with selfless love**

*Students!* You must understand that the *Sankraanthi* festival has come to remind you of your latent potentialities. People look forward to many worldly benefits also from this sacred occasion. It is also celebrated as a day, when a sacred bull is taken from house to house, while the owner recites the Raamaayana story. The festival is also a joyous occasion for the young folk. The *Sankraanthi* festival is more important than any other festival because it is the day when the newly married son-in-law visits the home of his bride and is entertained lavishly.

From ancient times such festivals have been a source of joy to the people of Bharath. Alas! Such festivals have gone and the people have taken to purely worldly pleasures. Of what avail

are these pleasures? They are artificial. People have forgotten the heart and lost their peace in the bargain.

The whole world is ravaged by unrest and fear. Man is haunted by fear wherever he goes or stays. The only way out of this situation is for people to take refuge in God. The protective grace of the Divine will free men from fear. Where devotion and love exist together, there will be no room for fear. It is their absence that is the cause of fear everywhere.

*Students!* In whatever you do, either studies, or games, or singing or in the jobs you may take up, see that you invest them with sacredness and purity. In the songs you sing, if there is no joy for the listener, what is the use of your singing?

*Why sing if you cannot be melodious?*

*What is the use of education without humility?*

*Without a pure heart, why worship Shiva?*

*A heart without love is a block of stone. (Telugu Poem)*

Fill your hearts with love. That love should be pure and genuine. Today mutual courtesies have become artificial and insincere. Students should cultivate selfless love as one of the basic human values. Position, wealth and strength may come and go. Only divine love is permanent. Love is God. God is love. That is the truth irrespective of nationality, race or religion.

### **Develop self-confidence and spirit of oneness**

Education should be divorced from jobs. Its purpose should be the acquisition of *Vijnaana* (the highest knowledge). That is the concept upheld by Bhaaratheeya Culture. Students will be ideal citizens of the nation only when they develop self-confidence and the feeling of spiritual oneness. Develop the spirit of sacrifice and become defenders of the nation's integrity and honour. You must strive to promote the welfare of society. Eschew ideas of "me" and "mine". You will then become one with the Divine. When you identify yourself with all, you can derive infinite joy.

Once upon a time the demons were present in small numbers. But today it is difficult to tell who is a demon and who is a human being. Get rid of any trace of demonic qualities. Become human and then go towards divinity.

*Students!* You have received today prizes for your success in sports. In the same manner, you should score successes in your lives in the outside world.

### **Develop forgiveness, forbearance and detachment**

Develop the quality of *kshama* (forgiveness) and refrain from harshness in speech. Sai is the example for you in this regard. All sorts of people indulge in calumny and criticism. Svaami remains totally unaffected. Why should I follow their example? I must follow my own way. If I follow another I am a slave. Therefore, I never follow another's ways. I adhere firmly to what I deem as good.

You must realize that if you give up forbearance and forgiveness, you will have no peace. I am always at peace. What is the reason? Because I am always patient. You must also remain likewise. Whatever any one may do to you, do not bother about it. What is it you lose on account of their behaviour? If you resort to retaliation, you will worsen your condition. You have

no idea either of your strength or of your disability You must face boldly such attacks and not allow yourself to get agitated over them. Students should win by their forbearance. Forbearance should be your life-breath and your ideal. By your fearlessness set an example to the world.

It is an auspicious coincidence that today you have both the prize distribution function and holy festival of *Sankraanthi*. On this doubly blessed day you have to enjoy the sweetness of this combination, like the mixture of sugar and milk, and pledge yourselves to lead a dedicated life. The *Upanishaths* have described the Lord as verily sweetness *itself*--"*Raso vai sah*." You have *Karunaarasa* (the sweet essence of kindness) in you. You are also filled with compassion and peace. Luckily you are free from *Shokarasa* (grief). You are free from bad qualities. Do not let them in. Foster the spirit of kindness. Treat life as a great game and be victorious in it by leading an ideal life.

*Life is a game, play it!*

*Life is a challenge, meet it!*

*Life is a dream, realize it!*

*Life is love, enjoy it!*

This is what you have to achieve. Therein lies your true human worth. Human life does not consist in getting married, bringing forth children and being caught up in that endless round. They are the routine of worldly existence. There is nothing wrong in it, but it should, not be your ideal. Whatever you may do in your ordinary life, base your life on the ideal.

In the army, people are assigned different duties. But two things are common to everyone parade (drill) and use of the gum. Likewise, two things are essential for students: *prema* (love) and *thyaaga* (sacrifice). Adhere to these two ideals. Love all. Be prepared for any kind of sacrifice. Without the spirit of sacrifice life has no meaning. For the sake of helping others or for promoting the welfare of the society, you must be ready even to give up your lives. To realize God, continually yearn for Him. You must constantly pray for the opportunity to experience God. Raamakrishna Paramahansa used to feel sad if he did not have the vision of the Mother on any day. Pine for God at all times. When you get God's grace, all the planets will be in your favour. You must ceaselessly try to win God's grace. Never give up the search. Do your duty and God's grace will follow. Pray from the depth of your heart for the well-being of all people.

*Discourse on 14-1-1997.*