

7(I). EDUCARE

If I ask you, who you are, you may reply, "We are teachers", or some of you may even say, "We are students". But, both statements are not true! You are Sadhaks; that is the real fact. You have brought me among you, as a result of your sincerity and enthusiasm. I must say, you have taught the children good lessons in a spirit of love.

I find you are instructing them in Bhajan, story telling and writing stories and essays. The stories they recite or write are culled from the epics and Upanishads. Good. But, instruct them in meditation too, for a short while, each day. Let that habit be inculcated even at this age. Five minutes of Prayers and another five minutes of Dhyana will be a good exercise; it will persuade the children to make it a habit. The tender mind has to be fed, with tenderness.

The children of the Sathya Sai Vidhya Vihar must know the Sathya Sai that is residing in their hearts. Teachers also must take it as a Puja of Sai Rama. How to reveal the Sai Ram residing in their hearts to the children? That is the problem that must be directing your work. Sai Ram has to move about in the jungles of your heart; so, tender the tracks, wide smooth, free from thorn and pebble. The Sadhana that Sabari did to earn the bliss of servicing Rama, you do, when you serve Sai Rama in these children.



The World Teacher in a Primory Classroom interacting with the children of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyamandir, Dharmakshetra, 1971

Bhakti yoga alone, as laid down and practised through the centuries, can save and sustain.

You are both teachers and students, remember; for, you teach these children and you learn from Me. You must not have the consciousness that they are children belonging to others. Treat them as your own. When you relate stories to the children, select such stories as have some reference to the background of the children's home life. Tell them stories which will implant in the mind, genuine disgust for evil sights, evil entertainments, evil deeds and evil habits. Tell them how they must forget the wrong done to them by others and the good that they do to others. Make them take up some positive task and the negative attitudes will fall off. Good habits will drive out bad ones.

This is no imposition from above; it is an inspiration from within ! Make yourselves holy by this consecrated service. This will bring you the saving Grace. By shaping these children in Divine Form you are helping their parents too to set their minds right; you are brightening and cleansing the homes of the pupils.

You have read of Prahlad, Dhruva and other children filled with devotion to God: they lived in ages that have gone by. Such children are here, in this age too; I am sure they will reform and transmute many Hiranyakasipus (unbelieving fathers) by their unflinching devotion and transparent dedication.

Dharmakshetra: 3-1-1971



District President addressing Teachers of adopted Schools in Divine Presence

Love, respect, tolerance, mutual co-operation, forbearance must flow from the heart of each to all.