



"Reading is not completion of the journey. It is only the first step. Read for the sake of practising; not for reading's sake."

Sri Sathya Sai Baba on May 18, 1968



ABOUT THE DISCOURSE #2

Swami visited B.Z High school in Chittoor on March 3, 1958. In response to prayers of the devotees, Swami addressed the gathering of students, teachers and patrons of education on Courage. This is one of the first documented public discourses.



Cultivation Of Virtues Is Very Important

Never lose courage in the examination hall or outside. Courage is the fertilizer that will make the plant of scholarship grow. The field may be good, but manuring is also necessary. You must all become heroes, adventurous and bold; prepare for that role from now on. Man has inside him a whole set of animals: the dog, the fox, the ass, the wolf. But he must suppress the tendencies of all these animals and encourage the human qualities of love and friendship to shine forth. Friendship that is cultivated from childhood onward is more lasting, so try to cultivate real friends now.

Above all, begin the cultivation of virtues; that is more important and beneficial than mere book learning. That gives real bliss (ananda); that is the essence of all knowledge, the culmination of all learning. Treat everyone as your own people and, even if you cannot do them any good, desist from causing them any injury. Burn the lamp of love inside the niche of your heart, and the nocturnal birds of greed and envy will fly away, unable to bear the light. Love (Prema) makes you humble; it makes you bend and bow when you see greatness and glory. An unbending person is infected with egoism of the worst type; remember man is the only animal that can recognise and revere the great and the glorious. Use that capacity and derive the best advantage out of it.

Just as two wires, the positive and the negative, are brought together to produce illumination, similarly, the Supreme Self (Paramatma) and the spiritual aspirant have to come together in yoga, to grant illumination. So, go to the holy men and holy places and keep company with pious men. A magnet attracts only iron; a student attracts toward him only those who will help his study, only such things as will give him joy and daring (ananda and dhairya).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the practical ways we can overcome our animal tendencies and move towards divinity?
2. What can the teachers do to continue to be courageous in the examination of life even if the tests are difficult?
3. Swami says "Love (Prema) makes you humble; it makes you bend and bow when you see greatness and glory". How can gurus practice this teaching to recognize and remove their own ego?

LIFE APPLICATION- Choose any or all of the following to practice consistently to experience "Ananda."

- A - Avoid Bad Company (thoughts, words, actions)
- N - Never lose courage
- A - Always be loving and humble
- N - Nurture your virtues
- D - Desist causing harm to others (thoughts, words, actions)
- A - Attract what gives you joy and courage



We would love to hear from about your study circle experiences, any interesting questions/ insights that you would like to share, please send an email to saispiritualeducation@sathyasai.us

