

SAICAST



Lights of Love
2019 SAI
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

'Hear Me Roar-Leaders Like Lions'

03



Dear reader,

Welcome to the third episode of SaiCast, a SWC pre-conference initiative that is part reading/reflection and part- podcast style conversation. We hope you enjoyed reading and listening to our first two episodes, 'Grace Under Pressure' and 'Inside out- spirituality, service and self.' In case you have missed them, please visit <https://sathyasai.us/swc2019/pre-conference-initiatives/saicast>.

Our third topic is '**Hear Me Roar-Leaders Like Lions.**' We have curated excerpts from divine discourses and from the book- Mahavakya on Leadership by Gen Chibber to facilitate a deeper contemplation on this topic. included are questions for reflection as an individual or group and real life scenarios to facilitate practice of these teachings in our daily lives. This episode will be aired on Tuesday June 4th, hosted by Anna Gurevich and Madhuri Manohar. As in the past two episodes, they will be joined by a very special guest, a veteran podcaster herself to reflect further on this topic. In the meanwhile, happy reading and may we all be inspired to be Sai leaders!

Love,
Team SaiCast

Excerpt from Sai Baba Inaugural Address to Students, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning Summer Course, 1992



I want you to be leaders to protect the world. Leaders like lions, self-reliant, courageous, majestic, and just. The lion is the king of animals and I want you to be a king among men

Sai Baba's Mahavakya on Leadership by Lt. Gen. (Retd) Dr. M.L. Chibber

Who can be a good leader?

Only a person, whose thoughts, words, and deeds are in harmony, can become a good and effective leader. His or her thoughts are pure; their source is not related to lust, anger, attachment, greed, egotism, or jealousy. Such leaders say what they think (there is no duplicity in them) and they do what they say (there is no insincerity or hypocrisy in their deeds). In brief, they are transparent and straightforward people in word and conduct... We trust a person, whose thoughts, words, and deeds are in harmony.

Selflessness: The Foundation of Leadership

Selflessness (call it unselfishness or sacrifice if you will) is based on an ideal or a vision an individual has as his or her goal in life. The higher the vision, the higher the degree of selflessness and thus, higher the potential for leadership: this is virtually a law.

Selfless people are neither greedy, nor looking for shortcuts to success; hence, their integrity never wavers. They seek no unfair advantage over others; hence, honesty comes naturally to them. They are not self-seekers; hence, their loyalty is steady and strong. When people have these virtues, then their thoughts, words, and deeds become well integrated. They say what they think and do what they say. There is no double think and double speak in their nature. That establishes their credibility and they are trusted. Trustworthy people alone can become leaders.

Ladies Day Divine Discourse 19 November 1995

As today is a sacred day dedicated to women, they should change themselves and help to change the men and the children. They should develop the qualities of sympathy, compassion, love and sacrifice. Study the lives of our great women, who were models of patience, fortitude, compassion and sacrifice. I desire that you should take up the reins of leadership and bring peace and prosperity to the nation by leading ideal lives.

Opening Address, Summer Showers 1976

You must be prepared to serve as servants for all your lives. Never think of being a leader. Without becoming a servant, you cannot become a leader. You must first learn to follow before becoming a leader. We find the world in an unfortunate state because, today, people become leaders without knowing how to become good followers. In that context you must be prepared to spend all your lives in the service of humanity. In the first instance, you must serve your own home, then you must serve your village, then your state, and then the country.

“Lead Your Life with Self-Confidence, Faith, And Devotion”, Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol 42, 2009

You should serve the world. Serve all, *bangaru* (precious like gold)! Considering yourself the servant of all, and develop the spirit of selfless service. Present-day leaders come and go. Once they become leaders, they forget their duties...Do not become like that. Only those who have self-confidence can become real leaders. Therefore, develop self-confidence and serve society. Develop compassion toward poor people and try to protect them. Offer food and clothes to them, and show them the right path. You need not do what is beyond your capacity. Whatever little you can afford to do, do it in such a way that it gives maximum results.



Develop Self-Confidence to Gain Success in Life (Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol 42) and Krishna And Balarama As Students (Summer Course 1995)

One who does not undergo a change; one whose faith in the Atma Principle (Self) is firm and steady. That is self-confidence. One who develops that self-confidence can find a place for himself permanently in the history of the world.

What is faith? You must believe in yourself! That is self-confidence. Self-confidence is the strong foundation of our lives. On this foundation build the wall of self-satisfaction. Lay the roof of self-sacrifice on this wall. Then you will earn the bliss of Self-realization.

First develop self-confidence, without which you will experience many troubles. Self-confidence is faith in God. One with such faith has no problems. First believe in yourselves! Faith in yourself and faith in God - this is the secret of greatness. Life will have no value if you do not have faith in yourself. You and God are not separate. Faith in yourself is the same as faith in God.

SELF-REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1) Swami defines a good leader as someone who is “transparent, straightforward,” someone whose “thoughts are pure,” and whose “thoughts, words and deeds are in harmony.” You are a leader at school/work/home/in the community.

- a. Do you possess the qualities of a good leader as described by Swami. Why or Why not?
- b. If no, what are ways in which you can further develop/refine these qualities within you so that they are in alignment with Swami’s definition.

2) We live in a world of competition and constant desire to keep “moving up the career ladder.” While striving for “leadership” type roles at work and in life, what are ways in which we can consciously continue to practice “selflessness” and keep our “thoughts, words and deeds well integrated?” Please write down examples from your life.

3) In the excerpt from *Lead Your Life with Self-Confidence*, Swami urges us to become “real leaders” by developing self-confidence and serving society.

- a. Referring to excerpts on self-confidence from Swami’s discourses, what are ways in which you maintain and nurture your self-confidence?
- b. How can we use faith in the self/God to regain self-confidence?
- c. Why does serving society or being a ‘servant’ make us a better leader?

IN REAL LIFE

- 1) At your Sai center you are leading a service project. You believe in having a detailed plan, making people accountable and tracking people on their progress as a must for the project’s success. You have created a google sheet and a WhatsApp group for the same.



Few of the members have been updating the sheet diligently with their progress but some of them haven't been doing it. You are upset that people are not following the process that was set by you. To insist the importance of this task, you send out the following message to the group "If members are not using the google sheet to report your progress, I don't think we should pursue this service project."

- Even though your intention is to pay attention to details and give your best to the service project, how can one do it in accordance with Swami's teaching of *"Only a person, whose thoughts, words, and deeds are in harmony, can become a good and effective leader. His or her thoughts are pure; their source is not related to lust, anger, attachment, greed, egotism, or jealousy"*?
 - As a leader, is it ok to rely more on technology and less on human interaction?
 - In this scenario, what could have caused the leader to act this way? What should one do to avoid such reactions?
 - As a follower, what should one do to help the leader in this situation? Can the follower take the initiative to reason out with the leader on what the team's challenges are in following the process?
- 2) In school, you are working on a group project and you are leading the team. You want your team to work towards getting an "A" but you feel that the other members of your team are not co-operative and their priorities are different. They are popular at school. They know that you are a smart and hard worker and feel that they can dump the entire project work on you. At every group discussion you feel that you are losing the battle and you are questioning your leadership skills. You are not sure if you should just do this all by yourself.
- a. As a leader, how would you stay motivated against all odds?
 - b. Is there a way to approach every team member without any prejudice or preconceived notion?
 - c. As a leader, how should we balance the expectations and interest of the team with the team members expectations, skills and interest?

