

7. Imbibe Bhaarith's ideals

Do not be conceited because of your studies,

What is great about your learning?

The hall-mark of education is humility,

Realising that what is yet to be learnt is limitless.

Shed your ignorance and pride, O witless one!

Learn to be humble in pursuing knowledge.

STUDENTS! TEACHERS! Today men have invented many types of machinery by their experiments and researches. Science has been pursued with relentless energy. But, being unable to experience peace or happiness, they have become strangers to both. Despite his acquiring the sacred human birth, man is immersed in the pursuit of transient worldly pleasures, forgetting his Divine destiny. Concentrating on scientific investigations, inventing all kinds of mechanical gadgets, man is content to lead a proud but purposeless life.

To understand the basic purpose of life, you do not have the right type of education now. Mere worldly knowledge will not promote the cultivation of spiritual and moral values. This secular knowledge does not serve to reach you the secret of human life. If one wishes to bring down a tree he must attack the roots and not the branches. For man to attain his real destination and secure enduring peace and joy secular education is of no avail.

Greatness of Bhaaratheeya culture

Bhaaratheeyas in ancient times lived a life of morality and integrity and enjoyed peace and happiness. Students today, disregarding morality and their obligations to society, go astray and ruin their lives. Bhaaratheeyas have forgotten the essentials of their culture, based on morality and integrity. They cast away their great scriptural texts as trash. Western nations took these, learnt the profound truths contained in them and developed their technical and military skills and sought to give them back to Bhaaratheeyas. The weapons developed in Germany were based on the texts of the *Atharvana Vedha*.

Bhaaratheeyas today are cultivating a passion for exotic things, ignoring what is good in their own heritage. Students should strive to understand what is great in their own Bhaaratheeya culture and heritage. Ignoring their own cultural greatness, Bhaaratheeyas are going abroad to earn money as an end in itself. No doubt money is necessary, but, is it necessary to go abroad for this purpose? This cannot be the true aim of education.

Students should recognise the truth of the saying, "The mother and the Motherland are greater than heaven itself." One who does not believe in this cannot be called a truly educated person. Making use of the education acquired by you, you should serve your country in such a way that it stands out as an example to the world. What perversity is it to neglect one's own house and try to beautify your neighbour's house?

Students today are losing their love for the Motherland. The man who cannot proclaim that "This is my native land, this is my mother tongue," is a living corpse. He is no human being at all. People are giving up love for the Motherland and fostering greed for money.

Selfless unity is the message of the *Vedhas*

From ancient times, Bhaarith has held forth to the world great ideals. Spreading the message of spirituality to many countries, Bhaarith proclaimed the message-*Lokaas samasthaas Sukhino Bhavanthu* (May all people be happy). Bhaarith never permitted the concept of selfishness to prevail. Selfless unity was the message proclaimed in *the Vedhas*: "Let us live together; let us grow together. Let us share our knowledge with others, let us live in harmony and friendliness." Today in Bhaarith there is no spirit of harmony

In ancient India, students, together with secular knowledge, sought spiritual knowledge, regardless of the sacrifices involved, and led purposeful lives. They conducted many investigations to comprehend the mysteries of creation and the secret of human existence. All experiments today are based on *yanthras* (mechanical devices). But in the olden days, they conducted the enquires with the help of *manthras*. The truths which they discovered, they proclaimed to the world in strident terms.

"Less speech, more happiness"

It is the duty of Bhaarithheeyas today to learn something about the great spiritual heritage of Bhaarith. The ancients practised economy in speech. Students today tend to be loquacious. Excessive speech harms the mind. "Less speech, more happiness."

The ancients practised three kinds of silent penance to control speech. The first was *Vaak-mounam* (silence of the tongue, the second one was *Mario-mounam* (silence of the mind) and the third was *Mahaa-mounam* (Supreme Silence).

Vaak mounam (Silence in speech) meant confining one's speech to the limit and the needs of the occasion. By this discipline, excessive talk was avoided. As a result, the power of their speech was conserved and enhanced. Discipline in speech also resulted in truthfulness. Truth speaking served to purify their thoughts. By this means they acquired *Siddhi* (Realisation of truth) and *Jnaanasiddhi* (acquisition of the highest wisdom). Therefore purity in speech is vital. It has to be achieved by restraint in speech.

Then, there is *Mario mounam* (Silence of the mind). The mind is a bundle of thoughts and fancies. These thoughts have to be reduced gradually. When thoughts are reduced, the mind naturally comes under control, like a clock that is unwound. When the activity of the mind is reduced, the power of the *Aathma* manifests itself.

As a consequence *Buddhi* (intellect) becomes more active than the senses. When control of speech and control of the mind have been achieved, the state of *Mahaa-mounam* (Supreme Silence) is easily realised. Students should strive to reach the third stage by the disciplines of the first two stages.

I have often told you, "Talk less and study more." What is meant by "study?" Study or education is the process of divinising one's Self. This calls for the cultivation of values in education. This "Education (is) for life." "Life (is) for love." "Love for man." "Man is for Service." "Service for Society." "Society for nation." "Nation for world." "World for peace." Education is for life and not merely for earning a living. This life is for love. Love is God. Live in love. This love should be for all mankind. Today this love is absent. What passes for love is something artificial. Love should emanate from the heart.

Man exists for service

What is the purpose of being a man? It is not for leading an animal existence. Man exists for service. Every man has to return to society by way of service what he has received from it. That service should be rendered selflessly in a spirit of sacrifice. Service is thereby converted to spirituality.

Service is to society Society exists for the nation. The nation is a limb of the world. The world should strive for peace. That is the meaning of the benediction Om *Shaanthi! Shaanthy! Shaanthy!* Why is this *Shaanthi* (Peace) uttered only three times and not more times or less times? This refers to peace in three aspects. *Aadhibhouthika* (physical), *Aadhyaathmika* (mental) and *Aadhidhaivika* (spiritual). Peace relating to the body, the mind and the Self are invoked by this benediction. Such profound meanings are implicit in the pronouncements of Bhaarath's sages.

All these are designed to remind us of God and make us seek God-realisation. People imagine that God is an entity far beyond human conception and grasp. That is not true. Divinity is nearer than anything else in the world. If you consider It remote, It will appear distant, but if you regard It as near It will be near. As long as man is conscious of the body, he cannot comprehend a formless Divinity. Hence, he must adore the Divine in human form.

If, for instance, a buffalo or a fish thinks of God they can conceive of God only as a huge buffalo or a gigantic, fish. Man also conceives the form of God only in terms of his own human form and attributes. As long as man is attached to the body, he cannot realise God. Only when he sheds his attachment, can he experience the Divine.

Man must worship God in human form

As long as he thinks of his body and has human form, man cannot think of something which transcends form and body That is the reason why God incarnates in human form. To man He must appear as human. Only then relationships can be established between the Divine and human beings. If God comes in any other form, man cannot fix his thoughts on Him. Hence, you have to conceive of God in human form and worship Him.

Shri Raama, who was the embodiment of *Dharma*, incarnated in human form. Because the *Avathaars* (Divine advents) come in human form, human beings could have intimate relationships with them and adore them.

The Vedhas declared that the *Vedhaaham etham Purusham Mahaantham Aadithyavarnam thamasah parasthaath* (The Supreme Divine, with the effulgence of the sun, dwells beyond darkness). God is beyond *Thamas* (darkness). He is not outside. He is within you. You are He. While He is himself the Divine, man seeks the Divine in a forest or through meditation. What folly is this? The *Vedhas* deride man for failing to see God even while seeing Him. "*Pashyannapi na pashyanthi muudho*" (The fool fails to see even while he is seeing). When God comes in human form, moves freely amongst you, talks with you, jokes with you, eats with you and drinks with you, even then you fail to recognise God. You pursue your own types of devotion. This is not correct. You must worship the living Divinity, not the lifeless. Honour every human being who is in human form. See the Divine in every man.

Develop control of senses first

The cosmos is *Vishnu svaruupam* (a manifestation of the Divine). God is with you, in you, and around you. He is not elsewhere. Develop this firm conviction. It is a piece of self-deception to imagine that God is somewhere away from you.

At the outset, you have to develop control of your senses. This control in the form of *mounam* (silence) influences your speech. Jayadheva went into rapture over the power of the tongue to chant sweetly the name of the Lord. Sweetness in speech makes all the differences between one man and another. The supreme greatness of the Lord's name has been commended in the present Age of *Kali* (Discord). It is an abuse of the tongue to make it recite anything other than God's name.

Students should realise the supremacy of *Aathma-Vidhya* (the culture of the Self). It is the key to all knowledge. What is the use of all the secular knowledge which is concerned with acquiring a mess of potage?

The great scientist, Einstein, regretted in his last years that his scientific findings had led to the production of the atom bomb. Sir Isaac Newton ended his life in a hospital with a mental affliction. True knowledge must secure mental peace and enduring joy. For this contemplation of God is essential.

Academic education has its uses. But it is not the summom-bonum of life. Adore the light of the Divine within you. Each student is like a petromax light. This light has to be kept burning by pumping kerosene from time to time. The soot has to be cleaned by a pin now and then. It needs kerosene. Only when all the three are present, the light will burn brightly. Your *Shraddha* (earnest devotion) is the kerosene. Your love is the pin. Your spirit of sacrifice is the pump. In addition, a wick is needed. That wick is the Lord's name. With the aid of the three accessories, when you chant the Lord's name, your devotion will shine effulgently. This effulgence is the light of the Divine within you. You proceed from peacelessness to *Paramjyothi* (the light divine in the heart) through peace and an illumined mind. The heart of everyone is the seat of the Lord.

In this way students should cultivate the discriminating faculty through education, cherish humility and foster faith in the Divine. This is the royal road to realisation of oneness with the Divine.

Discourse at the Sai Institute Auditorium on 3-2-1994, after the distribution of prizes to winners in the sports and athletic events held for Secondary School students.