

Third Session of the Conference

The third session of the conference commenced on November 21, 2005 at 10:30 in the morning. Moderator Dr. David Gries stated that there would be only one speaker, with the rest of the time devoted to an interactive question and answer session.

Shitu Chudasama

Shitu Chudasama, who is the Youth Coordinator for UK, spoke on the subject of “Ideal Sai Youth.”

Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara – Speak truthfully, act righteously. This is the principle of the Avatar and the motto of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. As youth, it is our vision and mission to become exemplary Sai youth. How do we accomplish this? The Divine Indweller must become the Ruler of our being. Sai youth must contribute their enthusiasm, creativity and courage to the Organization. The youth must recognize that among the members and elders of the Sai Organization, they will find examples of selfless Love, profound wisdom and extensive spiritual knowledge.

All of us must remember that Swami pays little attention to chronological age. The main qualities of youth are: Purity, Sacredness and Courage. If a devotee has these then he or she is worthy to be called a Sai youth, regardless of chronological age. Elders must see themselves as they were at a younger age and youth must see the beauty and goodness that has resulted from many years of devotion to the spiritual life. This is the first step in transforming oneself into Ideal Sai Youth. Leaders of tomorrow must be participants of today.

Youth involvement in the Sai Organization should result in the deepening of our devotion to our Divine Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It should mean always striving to be aware of our own Divinity. It should also mean that we are consciously involved in selfless action and Love in the world. And it should mean that we have adopted a spiritual way of life enhanced by our organizational programs and activities, perpetuated by our faith, determination and self-confidence. These goals are the purpose of human life.

Before Purity and Divinity can manifest in our hearts we must strive for Unity. Swami says that we are One, regardless of our national origins; and although the world is haunted by suffering, unrest, disorder and agitations, any country filled with noble beings is bound to be peaceful and happy. Baba says that the absence of young men and women of noble character is the reason for the sad plight of our countries. Swami has also said that character is the basis for all our behavior, qualities and actions.

The golden rule for every youth in our Sai Organization is to uphold the sacred teachings and mission of our Lord. His likes and dislikes should become our sacred mantra. Before doing anything, we should ask ourselves, “Will Swami be happy?” Youth should note that the thing that most displeases Swami is boys mixing with girls in the activities of the Organization. The purpose of the Organization is to help us grow spiritually. It is not an outlet to socialize and meet new friends. We should bear in mind that wherever we go, people will be judging Swami from our actions and conduct.

When we respect and revere our parents, we will feel Bhagawan's Divine presence and He will shower us with His Grace and Love. Youth should emulate Pundarika's ideal and serve their parents. If we want to realize God, the first and foremost is we should Love and show devotion towards our parents.

Throughout my life I made Swami my best friend. He looks after my every need, wants and desires. People will let you down but Bhagawan will never let you down. Therefore, everyone should look to God as a faithful friend, one's only true friend in life. Swami says, “only those who are immersed in the Divine are dear to Me and are My dear friends. If you want to be dear friends of Swami, conduct yourself in the Divine manner. In such a case you do not need to come here. I will come to you, wherever you are. I'll come there wherever you stay. I am with you, in you, around you and behind you. I am not separate from you. You and I are one.”

Youth should have strong and unwavering faith without even a trace of doubt. There must be harmony in thought, word and deed.

Swami says that youth are generally very good but change their behavior due to environment. As Sai youth, we must make efforts to understand our true nature. The difference between God and man is very subtle. As long as we do not understand this, we will remain human beings. However, once we recognize this truth, we rise to the heights of Divinity.