

Chapter 19

Teaching the ABCs of Child Psychology

During an assembly in the Anand mandir, a small child had been running around and making noise for quite some time. A devotee collared the child and yelled, “Get out of here!”

Swamishri immediately said, “Don’t kick him out! Don’t kick him out! Bring him here. Have him sit in the front.”

The devotee brought the child to Swamishri. Swamishri said, “Please sit here. Fold your legs. Good, like that!” Swamishri continued his discourses. Soon, the child stood up and was walking off. Swamishri said, “Here, have some prasad. You can’t leave empty-handed!”

Swamishri gave him a small *magas* laddu. Taking the prasad, the child, of his own accord, took his seat before Swamishri. Swamishri said,

“Did you eat the prasad? You should finish it here.”

After the child finished eating the laddu, Swamishri said, “Now, you can go play!”

The child gleefully ran off. Swamishri told the devotee, “They are small children. They may throw a tantrum or make mischief, but he followed our command. He is a liberated soul! So, you should not yell at them. If you tell him with love, he will listen to you. You should never treat anyone with contempt...”

Swamishri was instructing the devotee with the wisdom of a psychologist. He had grasped the true nature of a child’s mind!