

Bringing children closer to God

Discussion

'These children are fresh charming saplings, who can be made, by care and love, to blossom into ideal citizens of this land, able to understand and practice the great disciplines laid down by the sages for their liberation, through self-realization. The mother and the father must bear a major share of the responsibility for the proper upbringing of children. The earliest years of life are the most crucial. The skills, the attitudes, the emotions, the impulses that make or mar the future are built into the Foundation of Life in those years. The parents can help or hinder the making of that foundation, strong and straight.'

Sathya Sai Baba, Rajamundry, 1 Jan 1969

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#9, Discourse 2

<http://www.sssbpt.info/ssspeaks/volume09/sss09-02.pdf>

'People talk about the spiritual life, but rarely practice it. They often act contrary to it. The reason is the lack of virtues. Without good qualities, all other attributes are useless. It is like pouring water in a pot full of holes. When the heart is oozing with bad thoughts and evil desires, how can you fill it with pure aspirations?'

Sathya Sai Baba, Brindavan, 5 Feb 1984

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#17, Discourse 3

<http://www.sssbpt.info/ssspeaks/volume17/sss17.pdf>

'The hearts of children are pure, they are drawn easily and naturally to the Feet of the Lord for they have no vishaya-vaasana (attachment to sense objects) preventing them from inhaling aright the Fragrance of the Divine Glory. The bliss that radiates from the faces of these children is evidence of their innate simplicity and sweetness.'

Sathya Sai Baba, Anantpur Basic Training For Girls, 18 Apr 1966

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#6, Discourse 12

<http://www.sssbpt.info/ssspeaks/volume06/sss06-12.pdf>

'Love is no merchandise. Do not bargain about its cost. Let it flow clear from the heart as a stream of truth, a river of wisdom. Let it not emanate from the head or from the tongue. Let it emerge full and free from the heart. This is the highest duty, the noblest godliness.'

Sathya Sai Baba, Rajamundry, Jan 1 1969

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#9, Discourse 2

<http://www.sssbpt.info/ssspeaks/volume09/sss09-02.pdf>

'Even as children, they must learn the glory of God who is their inner Reality; they must understand that they are not the body, but, they are the one dehi (indweller), who is the dehi in all. Through bhajan (singing devotional songs) and through shravana (listening to tales of God's Glory), these elevating truths can be handed over to them by teachers and parents who are themselves aware of these and practising them in daily life.'

Sathya Sai Baba, Rajamundry, Jan 1 1969

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol#9, Discourse 2

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Questions

1. Do you agree with Swami when He says that the earliest years of life are most crucial? Can you explain? How do you think parents help in making the foundation strong and straight and how according to you do they hinder the process?
2. Swami says that children are naturally drawn towards God and goodness. Can you share any instances when you experienced this? How have you tried bringing your children more closer to God ? Share successful experiences and the obstacles that you faced in the process.
3. Bhajans and stories of God's glory are two examples Swami gives. Have you used these techniques? How has it helped?