A special Vidyasrambh will be held at Linga Bhairavi on Vijayadasa- mi on October 3. This special ritual introduces young children to the process of learning. Sadhguru explains why education should always be accompa- nied by a process that creates a sense of inclusion within a person, because empowerment without awareness can and has become disastrous for humanity.

Sadhguru: If a child grows up with- out assuming anything, if he lives without the influence of other people upon him, by his own natural intelligence, turning spiritual is a very natural pro- cess. Spirituality is a far away thing in most people’s lives only because most people are living by the education im- posed upon them and not by their nat- ural intelligence. If you are allowed to figure out things for yourself, when you start thinking about and looking at life, there is no other way but to turn in- ward to know things about life. Inward is naturally the only place to look.

Whether we are going to produce beautiful things on the planet, very destruc- tive bombs on the planet, or something else more destructive than that, simply depends on how well-coor- dinated a human being’s emotions and intelligence are. How well-coordinated a human being he is determines how well he will use his intelligence and that will ultimately decide what he will produce in the world.

The most intelligent people in the world have contributed to all the vio- lence on the planet. A certain segment of people have always been essentially violent. Initially, when he was a cave- man, he killed with stone, that is the Stone Age. Iron Age means he killed with iron; Bronze Age means he killed with bronze; Nuclear Age means he kills with nuclear weapons. Some people have always been essentially violent, but the scale of violence that can happen today has happened be- cause the best brains in the world have worked to create the most violent ways to kill humanity. If the intelligent in the world had not cooperated, a violent man would kill one or two, with a stick or a stone. But only because the intel- ligent in the world have cooperated, a violent man can kill in millions.

Intelligence twisted out against our own wellbeing is no intelligence. Inte- ligence is the biggest blessing that a human being has, but right now it has become a curse upon humanity simply because the human being is not com- ing out as a well-coordinated being. He has dislocated the human being within himself. This intelligence is dangerous.

In Indian culture, education always started only after certain initiations, because education is seen as a power. Before you start your education, you go through what is called Brahmapade- sha, where the basic mantra which was taught to the child was Aham Brah- masmi, which means “I am the Brah- man.” One way of looking at this is, when you say “I am the Brahman,” you are saying, “I am responsible for every- thing.” So in some experimental way, it is brought about in the child’s life that he feels for everything in the existence. Only then education is given.

The ritual of Vidyasrambh intro- duces young children into the world of knowledge, letters, and the process of learning. It is exclusively designed for children to begin their education and brings forth the wealth of true knowl- edge.

This Vijayadashami (October 3rd), following the culmination of the Navaratri festivities, a special Vidyasrambh ceremony will be held at Linga Bhairavi. This “Day of Victo- ry” is known to be an auspicious occa- sion to initiate children into education, and performed in the presence of Devi, it is all the more a unique opportunity for children to make a fresh beginning.

The color of any substance is not be- cause of what it is, it is what it rejects or what it gives away or reflects. Some- thing looks red not because it is red, but because it holds back everything that white light contains and reflects red. So red does not mean it is red. Red means it is not red! Whatever you give away, that will be your quality in the world also. So Devi’s color is red because she gives away red.

If you walk in the forest, it is all green but there will be one spot of red – somewhere one red flower blossoming – that draws your attention because in your perception, red is the most vibrant of all the colors. All other colors may be pretty and nice but red is vibrant.

Many things which are significant to you are red. Red is the color of your blood. Red is the color of the rising sun. In human consciousness, colors have a big impact upon how you feel, and red creates maximum vibration. Devi sig- nifies that vibration. Her energy is ab- solute vibration and passionate. Any- thing exuberant means red. You may have heard of “painting the town red.” Among the deities that you create, the feminine forms are the most exuber- ant. Because of that, Devi is red — not because she is red, because she is not red!

Chandiran Olyil Avaiil Kanden

The feminine has always been wor- shipped in Indian culture in various forms. This wonderful poem by the great Tamil poet, Mahakavi Bharathi- yar, is in praise of the goddess and her experience of her.

Lyrics

Chandiran olyil avaiil kanden
Sharamon endru puguthu konden
I saw her in the moonlight
And sought refuge in her
Endru neir_meendu venden sitten
Enadhanrauvi (enadha endra

occiya)
kondrumitten

I have controlled my senses
And destroyed the desire of mine’
Powan ennalai uzhakka sannal
She bade me to work unconcerned
about results

Bhakthi seyvhu pichakku sonnal
She bade me to live in devotion
Thayirallathalai seidhu vittal
Thus, she has removed all affection
Thambum ancham koyil vittal
She has rooted out all pain and suf- fering

Meenjal seiyum olyil seyvhal
She created starlight
Veeni nirum varaiyil seyvhal
She created the blooming whirlwind
Vangamulai olyil seyvhal
She Revives
Yosai nenjil koyilai seyvhal
She created joy in our hearts

Sadhguru J. Vasudev is a contempo- ray mystic rooted as strongly in worldly and pragmatic matters as he is in inner experience and wisdom. Named one of India’s 50 most influen- tial people, he has addressed promi- nent global forums on issues as diverse as socio-economic development, lead- ership and spirituality. He has served as delegate to the United Nations Mil- lennium Peace Summit and the World Peace Congress and has been a special invitee to the World Economic Forum (2006-2009), the Australian Leadership Retreat (2005) and TED (2009).

His interviews are featured in The New York Times, BBC, Bloomberg, CNNI and CNBC. He is the author of several books, the subject of four books and a co-author of the Amis Beesler’s “Midnights with the Mystic”. His pub- lic talks frequently draw crowds of over 300,000 people.

Sadhguru Vasudev is a realized master, yogi and mystic, who has founded the Isha Foundation, an international public service organization that strives for ultimate human well-being. For world-wide program information, visit www.ishafoundation.org.

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