



## Kodai Kanal interview Q&A Satyam Sivam Sundaram Character Building Through Education

### Part 2

*We now take a short break with a musical interlude. That was an excerpt from a concert given in the Divine Presence by Mandolin Srinivas. Back now to Satyam Sivam Sundaram.*

*We are still on the subject of Kodai Kanal and before we leave it, we would like to briefly narrate a couple of anecdotes by way of highlighting certain aspects of Divine intimacy and compassion.*

Once in Kodai, Baba asked a student “Boy, are you grateful to Swami?” Naturally the student replied “Yes, Swami.” Swami continued “Will you do anything for Swami? And the student replied “Of course, Swami.” Swami then said “Very good. Go right now to the terrace and jump down from there.” The student was taken aback. Hesitantly he asked “Now Swami.” And Swami replied, “Yes now”. The student was greatly perplexed, but orders are orders and so hesitantly the student started going up the stairs towards the terrace. Baba then called out “ Boy! Come back.” The boy was of course relieved to hear that and he came back. Swami then smiled and said, “I did not really mean it. I was just testing you a bit. That is all.” Breakfast time the next morning, the boy who had been tested the previous day was now serving breakfast items. Swami was moving around, playing the host and making sure that the boys got enough to eat. Coming to this particular boy, Swami stood directly in front of him and gazed steadily into his eyes. He then asked the same question as before, “Boy, are you grateful to Swami?” Once again the same answer, “Yes, Swami.” Swami then said “Very good. Go now to that corner, sit down and eat all the rice in the vessel you’re holding in your hand.” Everyone present laughed, while the poor student stood perplexed. Hesitantly, he asked, “All that rice, Swami?” “Yes, all that rice.” “Now, Swami?” “Yes, right now.” Oh my God! What a test, the boy thought, but orders are orders and slowly the student made preparations to sit down to face the exacting test. Swami then patted the boy on the back and said, “Swami will never ask anyone to do anything unreasonable or that which causes pain and suffering. All I want from you is to be good and virtuous. Always help others and never hurt anyone. That is all.”

One more anecdote:

Once in Kodai, the boys and the guests had all sat down for lunch. In traditional Indian style, everyone was seated on the floor. Baba was moving around and supervising the serving. Swami was gliding along making kind inquires as usual. Brahmrapanam had not been chanted and no one was eating yet. A small boy leaned across and wiped the ground in front of him with his palm even as Swami was approaching him. Swami came to that boy and asked, “Boy, what did you do just now?” The boy replied, “Swami, there was some dust on the floor and I wiped it so the floor would be clean when you passed.” Swami said, “Good boy. Now go and wash your hands.” Bhagavan did not stop with that. He personally went with the boy and helped him to wash his hand. That is how considerate Bhagavan always is.

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