ShikShavalli from Taittiriyopanishad

பிள்ளாலயங்காணத்திலிருந்து பார்வையில்லை

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Having taught the Veda, the Teacher instructs the Pupil.

Speak the Truth.

Practise Virtue.

Do not neglect your daily Study.

Offer to the Teacher whatever pleases him, do not cut off the line of progeny.

Do not neglect Truth.

Do not neglect Virtue.

Do not neglect Welfare.

Do not neglect Prosperity.

Do not neglect Study and Teaching.

Do not neglect your duty to the Gods and the Ancestors.

Regard the Mother as your God.

Regard the Father as your God.

Regard the Teacher as your God.

Regard the Guest as your God.

Whatever deeds are blameless, they are to be practised,

not others.

Whatever good practices are among us
Whatever Brahmins there are superior to us, should be honoured by you by offering a seat.

Give with Faith,
Give not without Faith;
Give in Plenty,
Give with Modesty,
Give with Awe,
Give with Sympathy.

Then if there is any doubt regarding any Deeds, or doubt concerning Conduct,

As the Brahmins who are competent to judge, adept in Duty, not led by others,
not harsh, not led by passion,
in the manner they would behave
thus should you behave. I:11:i

like the Brahmins who are adept at deliberation who are competent to judge, not directed by others
not harsh, not moved by passion,
as they would behave in such cases
thus should you behave.

This is the Command.
This is the Teaching.
This is the secret Doctrine of the Veda.
This is the Instruction.
Thus should one worship.
Thus indeed should one worship. I:11:iv
Ever since I read Radhakrishnan’s translation of the ‘Principal Upanishads,’ one of his comments has stuck to my mind. There is a passage in the Taittiriya Upanishad, which is an address by the Teacher to his students as they left the Gurukula, beginning with ‘satyam vada, dharma.n chara......’ Radhakrishnan noted that this is a convocation address by the Vice-Chancellor that is still observed at the Banaras Hindu University. (At one time he was its President, and I don’t know if in his modesty he did not say whether he introduced the practice.) This could be one of our pages to memorize.

Wherever I have been asked to say a few words at a graduation party, I have used this to keep my speech short !!

– Sunder

Encoded, proofread, translated by Sunder Hattangadi
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