

Rendezvous

Suresh Reddy, Speaker, AP Legislative Assembly

A perspective that has been nurtured over the years, beliefs that are well rooted and patriotism like that of a true Indian, Suresh Reddy, speaker of the AP Legislative Assembly and President of AP branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary, addresses the youth of India and gets candid while expressing his views on taking up politics as a career and more..

India at this point of time needs leaders with a vision and Mr. Suresh Reddy fits in perfectly. He believes that politics fundamentally is not only a career but a responsibility towards the nation. He continues saying that this profession is not as murky as it seems; in fact is the best platform to translate ideas into programs and serve the deserving poor. He believes that the Youth of India has tremendous amount of energy and is capable of channelising this energy into good actions. India right now craves for principled and dedicated leaders. Mr. Reddy says, "It is because of the youth that we got independence. It was the initiative of Gandhi that millions of youth followed his path. And here we are with India 61 years old and all independent." He urges the youth and continues saying that it is now the responsibility of the youth again to rebuild the country.

The majority of India is the youth so they have every right to rule. We asked Mr. Reddy as to what he has to say about himself as a youth, 25 years back. He says he was young and very enthusiastic back then. There is a lot of difference between the youth back then and the youth of today. Today opportunities are many but the competition is very grim. Survival of the fittest is what today's conditions demands.

The best way to learn in life is from experiences though it is also one of the hardest ways. We asked Mr. Reddy as to what was it that changed his perspective to look at things that made him get into this field. The hard life that he had lived showed clearly in his eyes as he explained that in spite of him coming from a political family, one instance that really moved him was the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi following which Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had to go on to become the prime minister of India and urged the Youth of India back then to support him in his efforts to rebuild the country. He proudly says he was one amongst the million people to support him back then.

"Some people look at things the way they are and say 'why' and some people look at things they should be and ask 'why not?', is what Mr. Reddy strongly believes in. Probably this is why some people win and the others lose. We asked Mr. Reddy if there was anything that he would like to change in India as an individual. He replies plainly yet convincingly saying that it was mind set of the people here that he is not happy with. He continues saying that for a person to accomplish anything in life, he should first believe in the fact that he can do it. Most of us give up at the 90 percent; the last ten percent which he calls 'the lack of finishing power' needs to be greatly be worked on.

When life is lived as a journey, you learn to value the little experiences and tend to learn from them. The journey was Mr. Reddy so far has not been easy but very tough and challenging. He was not totally rural. In fact in his college days he was called the urban cowboy. As a normal urban Kid, the challenge to serve the rural was very demanding emotionally and physically, but one thing that kept him moving closer to his destination in spite of the blocks and hurdles was the acknowledgement, appreciation and blessing that the people showed whenever he put even the slightest of efforts to help them.

Mr. Reddy is very close to his family. With kids growing up, he says it will further expand. Mr. Reddy is totally in when it comes to freedom of speech and expression. He totally respects his children's views

and gives them all the necessary freedom. He guides them whenever needed and makes sure that they remain rooted to the culture and traditions that they have grown in all these years. With his guidance he believes that they will turn out to be good citizens. We asked him further if he anticipates his children taking him as their role model and decide on taking up a career in politics. He says quite modestly, "I don't know if I am that motivating to my children but yes, they can get motivated but not overwhelmed. Their creativity should not be affected."

We were very curious to know that what is it that drives Mr. Reddy to work harder as each day passes by and so we asked him about it. He replies with the same zeal that he probably had 25 years back when he had first started his career, "Every win in the election drives me to work harder as each day passes by. It doesn't make me complacent; it makes me all the more competitive. I have won four elections till date. It was very tough. Doing better motivates me to move further and makes me all the more competitive."

- *as shared with Surya Adavi*