



Public Speaking

Sample Speech: Dare To Be Different

Esteemed judges, my dear friends,
a very good morning to you.
Yes, I believe in daring to be different.

What does it mean? Let me explain to you what I mean by 'daring to be different'. There are many ways to look at this topic. From one angle, it means that one should have the courage to stand up for what one believes in, even if the rest of the world is against you. That is, not just following what everyone believes or how everyone acts, if you feel different. This is the meaning that I would like to take up for my speech today.

Have you ever heard about 'peer group pressure'? 'Peer group pressure' means the influence of your friends on you. If your friends have the habit of being careless in their dressing, or in being distracted in class, do you also behave like them? Or do you dare to be different from them and dress neatly and pay attention in class? Suppose your friends tell you that if you are not behaving like



them, they won't let you be their friend. Even then, yes, even then, you should have the courage to tell them – 'sorry, but this is what I want to do. Let me do it.' That is how you 'dare to be different'. If you have the courage to be different, if you have the courage to stand up for what you think is right, then nobody can lead you in the wrong way. this is the quality that will make you say a firm 'no' if your friends encourage you to smoke. It is the same quality that will help you achieve great heights in life.

Daring to be different does not only mean 'having the courage to say no'. it also means having the courage to say 'yes' when you think you have to say yes, because of what you believe in. suppose you walk along the road and see an old man fall down. Other people are just walking by without helping him to get up, because everyone is in a hurry. If you also walk by just because others are doing that, even when you know that you should be helping the old man to get up, then you are not daring to be different.

But it is not easy. When you swim in a river, it is very easy to swim with the current. But it is not easy to swim against the current. It takes a special effort and will if you really have to swim against the current. The same here. It is very easy to go along with everybody else and do what everybody else does. It is not easy to do things that everybody does not do. It is difficult. It is difficult to be different.

My dear friends, do you dare to be different?



Great people of the world, leaders like Abraham Lincoln who worked for the abolishment of racial discrimination in America, Nelson Mandela who led the campaign for the freedom of the African people in South Africa, Mother Teresa who spent her whole life in the service of poor people – all these people became great because they believed in a noble cause and were even ready to give up their life to work for it. Many people did not agree with them. Many people were ready to kill them for doing what they did – still they stood firm in their belief and did not let outside pressure change their mind.

Before I conclude let me ask you, friends,
Do you dare to be different?

Thank you.