

SL Foundation – Lifetime Achievement Award [5th November 2005]

Acceptance speech, “2005 Lifetime Achievement award” by Prof. Sunil Wimalawansa at the Globe Theater, Universal Studio, LA, California, U.S.A



WIMALAWANSA
FOUNDATION
Opening Doors for Healthier Life

Ambassadors, Members and staff of the Sri Lanka Foundation, Friends, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great privilege for me to accept this unique and prestigious award from the Sri Lanka foundation. I am humbled and honored to be with you today at this annual Award ceremony in this beautiful arena. I would like to give the credit, for the achievements highlighted earlier, to a large group of people, including my friends, co-workers, patients, my parents and my family.

My father was the key person in my life who guided me with all his wisdom to develop me into what I am today. He was my role model in every aspect, shaping my personality as well as professional accomplishments. Besides these, he showed me the path to dedication to help those who are in need and stand up for the right.

My parents gave me the insight to become a physician, a healer, be compassionate. They gave me the courage to stand up against injustice, and inspired me to develop affinity for my philosophy, philanthropy and the country. And do the “Right Thing for the Right Reason”.

Challenges in life are relentless; if one float in a fantasy land for these to end before they begin contributing to the society, nothing will happen. Although this is a lifetime achievement award, let me assure you that my productivity and innovations will continue. I envisage that during the next 10 years I am going to be more productive than the past 20-years of my work as an academic physician, writer, a scientist and a social worker.

There are more oceans and mountains to concur, more discoveries to be made, and millions of helpless people to be help and empowered. This is my dream.

For the younger generation; accept who you are and stop pretending someone else. Especially with the technological advances, you have the great potential to achieve excellence and contributed significantly to the society, in the USA and alleviation of suffering in your homeland. Sky is the limit of what you could offer to them.

You are the most precious resource of the country. Develop your full potential with open-mindedness to provide the right leadership for the country and your organization, to enrich the lives of people and to protect and promote the rich cultural heritage. Together, you (we) can do it.

So don't waste your time ‘imitating’ someone else's life, like a sports icon or a movie star! Don't let such noises, opinions of others, and show blitz, drown out your own inner voice and the heart. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Do, what your heart sing. Ignore the noises, Listen to your Heart; it somehow know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary. There is no doubt that you can achieve whatever you rationally imagining: “aim high and do the best”. Procrastination would not help; time to start converting your good “thoughts,” to good “deeds.”

I would not have accomplished the things mentioned over the past three decades, during the kind introduction, without the full support of my family, friends and colleagues; and blessing and relentless support of my parents. This is especially true for my sons Sunishka and Dinushka, my daughter Shehani, and most importantly, my loving wife, Ranmali and their sacrifices.

Thank you to them, and the Sri Lanka foundation for the honor extended to me and my family.

Thank you all.

Sunil J. Wimalawansa [Professor of Medicine]