

INTRODUCING RUDOLF DREIKURS, M.D.,
CONFERENCE HONOREE

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Introducing the honored guest of this conference, Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs, who is director of the Alfred Adler Institute of Chicago, is rather difficult. How does one introduce a man about whom there is so much to say? It is impossible to condense so much of what can be said.

Dr. Dreikurs is a person who is not too easily dismissed as an individual by a few words. He is something of a controversial figure. He has been both loved and somewhat rejected: loved by many, and rejected by some. He is a person who has always, however, stirred people to action, never one who can be passively received. He has always been able to vocalize with clarity and with force that which he wished to express about his favorite viewpoints relevant to psychiatric care in the educational field. He is a man with a tremendous amount of persistence. I think a less persistent man might have been crushed under the kind of adverse and negative reception that was sometimes part of his experience, especially in the earlier years of the development of dynamic psychiatry viewpoints.

Those who know Dr. Dreikurs, know that he is a man of erudition and creativeness. He is a well-read scholar and certainly an author who has produced many, many works, an author who has also been a real innovator. He is a person who is somewhat catholic in his viewpoints and in his interests in medicine and psychiatry. He is a person who has exhibited considerable interest in art and music and those of the humanities which make for a well-rounded human being.

Dr. Dreikurs was born in Vienna in 1897, attended the university there, and graduated in 1923. He came to the United States in 1937, after having begun his practice of medicine in Vienna where he had organized mental hygiene clinics and social work activities to a large degree, and was director of clinics for child guidance, for alcoholics, and psychopaths. Of course his long, collaborative involvement with Alfred Adler, beginning in 1923, had a profound effect on what he was later to do and say.

Dr. Dreikurs became a professor of psychiatry at the Chicago Medical School in 1942, during the war years, and I became ac-

quainted with him after I returned from the service and became a member of the Chicago Medical School staff and the chairman of that department. Dr. Dreikurs and I were together for some time at the Chicago Medical School where he is now with us as professor emeritus.

Dr. Dreikurs was a founder of the Alfred Adler Institutes of Chicago and Tel Aviv; visiting professor at the University of Rio de Janiero, Northwestern University and University of Oregon. He has lectured at the Indiana University's Gary Extension School, Loyola and Roosevelt Universities, and others. So it is quite obvious he has spread his influence over many areas—north, south, east, and west—in the United States and abroad. He was a founder of the Community Child Guidance Centers of Chicago and, as Dr. Levitt pointed out, he was doing what was called "outreach psychiatry" before such words were generally received with favor. He is a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He has been president of the American Society of Group Therapy and Psychodrama, the American Society of Adlerian Psychology, the Illinois Society for Personality Study, and honorary president of the Society for Individual Psychology of Rio de Janiero. He has been vice-president of the International Association of Individual Psychology and of the American Humanist Association.

He is the author of many books, of which I can cite only a few: *The Challenge of Marriage*, *The Challenge of Parenthood*, *Fundamentals of Adlerian Psychology*, *Psychology in the Classroom*, *Encouraging Children to Learn* with Dr. Dinkmeyer, and *Children: the Challenge* with Vicki Soltz. He certainly has written many articles—for psychiatry and education.

It is quite obvious then that when I said he was an author and an innovator, that I was saying something about him that cannot be completely detailed here. I cannot tell you everything about Dr. Dreikurs without taking away time from his involvement in some of his discussion today. So, with this introduction, I invite you to listen to Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs.