

ARTICLES - 6

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1. I WILL FIND A WAY OR MAKE ONE

“I WILL FIND A WAY OR MAKE ONE,” is the inspiring and uplifting motto inscribed on the monument of the Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, the discoverer of the North Pole, in Arlington National Cemetery, America.

His discovery was considered as a great achievement of courage, fortitude and tenacity of purpose; and it will stand forever as an eminent example of conquest of spirit over matter.

As I repeat this wonderful statement, “*I will find a way or make one*,” what great strength it gives me. As man is the master of his own destiny, he will certainly find a way or make one with his steering thought, fixed purpose and one-pointed determination.

It was Christ that said, “I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.” If we understand by the word, WAY that it is Absolute Truth then there is no need of groping in the dark to find a way or make one. As Truth, is all-pervading we are already filled and surrounded by its glory within and without. Wherever we are, we are already in the WAY-eternally centered in Truth.

If we understand by the word way, a means to reach the goal of one's ambitions, one should certainly work hard to find a way or make one. What is the goal or the object for which we are to work hard to find a way? Your object may be quite different from mine. Each may have a different ideal in life. One may be aspiring to become the richest man in the world; another to become the most learned man, and some other to reach the heights of spiritual consciousness. Whatever may be the object of our desires, the determination should be fixed in finding a way or making one.

The poorest man has become the richest, through his one-pointed ambition to amass money. The most illiterate has become the most learned by his tenacity of purpose. Even the weak and sinful have struggled hard to master their defects and to shine as emblems of purity, strength and knowledge. The beggars of yesterday have become the kings of today. The rouses of the past have become the saints of the present. There has been many a Magdalene raised to the pinnacle of glory and honor by His divine touch.

Is there anything impossible for man in this finite world? Is not man the image of God having infinite strength at his beck and call? “Impossible! Is a word to be found in the dictionary of fools,” said Napoleon the great. Impossible things have been made possible in every clime,

with the genius, power and deep intuition of man. The buds of yesterday are the blooming flowers of today. There is nothing like failure to a person dedicated to a holy purpose, with a sincere and earnest resolution to reach the goal of his aspiration.

Christ made the way into the Kingdom of Heaven thru the cross. Buddha, having renounced the mighty throne, made his way into *Nirvana*. Krishna made his way into the battle field of Kurukshetra and gave out His Song Celestial—a song that can be heard even now by seekers of Truth in the stillness of their hearts. History gives us numberless examples of great souls that have found their way or made one for themselves to reach their destined heights.

Dear readers of “Peace magazine,” let us be no more lukewarm wasting our precious time in doing the same things again and again. Let us find a way or make one to reach the goal of our existence in this human life. What is your goal, dear beloved ones?

Merge within. Examine your thoughts and cravings and know definitely your one ambition in this life and then begin to work hard to realize it. Determine to find a way or make one.

Often and often I too tried to examine myself and know my one aspiration in this life. Do I need selfish freedom, forgetting and neglecting others? I want freedom for your sake, to share it with you. I do not want freedom that cannot be shared and enjoyed with my fellow sisters and brothers. What a privilege it is to live for others who are no other than our own Indivisible Self!

Once a man belonging to a big spiritual organization approached and asked me to tell him my spiritual experiences. After listening to me he said, “Is that all?” Then I asked him to tell me his experiences, if he has anything more. But he said that he cannot tell me unless and until I join his organization. When I asked him whether I could share with others what he teaches, he said that it depends only on his Master’s decision. I smiled and silently replied, “Dear brother, the teachings or Illumination that I cannot share with others I do not need for myself. Keep them safe with you.”

It has been my one dream to find a way or make one, to enter the blessed hearts of all His children with my message of Peace and Love. I want to spread this simple message of Peace and Good-will among all the sisters and brothers of every nation and religion. Someday I will find a way or make one to enter into the hearts of all of you.

In the meantime may I request you to help me by filling your hearts with that Infinite Peace and Universal Love! Pray! Lend me your loving sympathy to spread peace and love far and near remembering always that it is the individual peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace.

O! To establish that great peace in our hearts and to stretch our arms to embrace the whole of humanity with our sacred love is the only worth-living life. Let us find a way or make one to realize this life of Peace and to share it with our fellow pilgrims in the mystic path.

O Adorable One! Thou, who art the soul of our aspirations and goal of our ambitions. Thou, who art never away or separate from us, bless us to taste Thy inexpressible sweetness in the stillness of our hearts and to express and manifest the same in our daily lives. At this hour of sacred stillness with all sanctity, we promise Thee, to find a way or make one, to enter into Thy Universal Heart of Infinite Love and Eternal Peace and thus be a blessing both to ourselves and the world at large.

May the very cells in us proclaim Thy incomprehensible splendour as we work, live and breathe ever having our beings in Thee.

May nothing but floods of peace, rivers of bliss and oceans of love flow from us in each and every moment of our lives towards the whole of humanity is our constant prayer.

Hari Om Tat Sat

(Peace Jan 1934)

2. I WILL SPEND MY HEAVEN DOING GOOD UPON EARTH

I WILL SPEND MY HEAVEN DOING GOOD UPON EARTH, are the sublime words of Saint Therese, one of the sweetest and most fragrant flowers in the Paradise of Allah, the loving God of the Universe.

Saint Therese's earthly life was very short, for she lived only twenty-four years. But in those twenty-four short years she expressed the love of centuries, and thus set an example to all the children of God both in East and West, for centuries to come.

I shall not engage myself now, in giving the sacred life of St. Therese, although her simple and humble life of self-surrender. Childlike innocence, spotless purity, selfless sacrifice, ecstatic love and compassionate service are stepping stones and beacon lights, to all aspiring souls in every religion.

Our theme now is I WILL SPEND MY HEAVEN DOING GOOD UPON EARTH. This statement or theme can be divided into two sections:

- I. Realization of the Heaven within one's Self.
- II. Then spending this realization of Heavenly Peace or Love in doing good upon earth.

But alas! How restlessly busy are the people in doing good on earth, without realizing or fulfilling the first part or section of our statement, namely the realization of Heaven. It is only

after realizing or completing the first part, that we have a right, to be the worthy labourers of God, in His Vineyard.

How true are the words that the harvest is great and the labourers are few! Even the few teachers whom we are listening to in the world as they speak from their pulpits and synagogues are often dissembling the Peace of humanity leading flocks astray and creating more differences in creeds and confusion in faiths- in the one divine family of God, instead of welding the bonds of Universal Peace and Brotherhood, by their sermons, deeds and ideal lives.

The world does not need people who are busy in attempting to lay over the roof, without digging the very foundation and neglecting to construct the solid walls or the firm structure on which this roof is to be laid. It does not need beggars who are themselves famishing for a morsel of food or a crust of bread, to advertise to feed the flocks with fish and loaves or to try to give grand dinners and sumptuous feasts.

This state reminds one of the helpless condition of a blindman leading all the blind people and in the end, all of them together falling into the ditch of deep ignorance. The world needs those rare and blessed souls who have realized the Kingdom of Heaven within themselves. It is in need of Christs who have realized Heaven and Buddhas who have attained *nirvan* and Mohammeds who have reached Paradise and Krishnas who have entered into *samadhi*, and other blessed souls of realization, to spend their days in doing good upon earth by sharing their personal experiences of established inner heavenly bliss with the devout pilgrims or way farers on earth.

Ah! The very repetition of the sublime words, I WILL SPEND MY HEAVEN DOING GOOD UPON EARTH, inspires all of us with ecstatic joy and divine strength. Many are willing to repeat these words of St. Therese, but how many are ready to live the most self-sacrificing life of infinite love and limitless patience like St. Therese?

How narrow and rugged is the path of Truth! How very difficult it is to walk even in the footprints of saints! How nearly impossible it is to crush and crucify the little self, the selfish ego and to serve and glorify the Lord in Cold and Hunger.

My subject will be incomplete if I fail to relate here a few of the many inner struggles and victories of St. Therese in her own words, where infinite patience and long endurance and great sacrifice were needed to triumph over all her endless tests and severe trials.

“For a long time my place at meditation was near a Sister who fidgeted incessantly, either with her rosary or with something else. Possibly I alone heard her because of my very sensitive ear, but I cannot tell you to what an extent I was tried by the irritating noise. There was a strong temptation to turn round and with one glance to silence the offender; yet in my heart I knew I ought to bear with her patiently, for the love of God first of all, and also to avoid causing her pain. I therefore remained quiet, but the effort cost me so much that sometimes I was bathed

inperspiration and my meditation consisted merely in the prayer of suffering. Finally I sought a way of gaining peace, in my inmost heart atleast, and so I tried to find pleasure in the disagreeable noise. Instead of vainly attempting not to hear it, I set myself to listen attentively as though it were delightful music, and my meditation which was not the prayer of “quiet”- was passed in offering this music to our Lord.

On another occasion when I was engaged in the laundry, the Sister opposite to me, who was washing handkerchiefs, kept splashing me continually with dirty water. My first impulse was to draw back and wipe my face in order to show her that I wanted her to be more careful. The next moment, however, I saw the folly of refusing treasures thus generously offered, and I carefully refrained from betraying any annoyance. On the contrary I made such efforts to welcome the shower of dirty water that at the end of half an hour I had taken quite a fancy to the novel kind of aspersion, and resolved to return as often as possible to the place where such precious treasures were freely bestowed.

Thus we see that the path of all spiritual souls has never been strewn with roses. They worked ceaselessly both day and night facing many a tribulation with a sweet and forbearing smile, in the name of God. They converted the stumbling blocks into stepping stones as illustrated above in the life of our sister St. Therese. Verily St. Therese has been an ardent Apostle of prayer, a sweet canticle of love, a spouse and handmaid of God, and a blessing to millions of thirsting souls in the path of self-surrender and Holy Love.

To make our subject complete and comprehensive, we must understand now what that Heaven is to spend it in doing good upon earth. Some people think, that Heaven is a place with dimensions somewhere in the sky or ethereal regions where all good and spiritual souls live enjoying great Peace.

Some others say, that heaven and hell are only here on the earth, and not in any imaginary ethereal worlds. When one is selfless, he is centered in heaven and when one is selfish he is steeped in hell. Heaven is in peace and unity and hell is in ignorance and separation. It is the man that creates heaven or hell by his own thoughts.

Where one sees everything as God and hears everything as Truth, feels everything as Reality, recognizes every one as divinity and cognizes the whole of the manifested world as a spark of the unmanifested glory where all is ONE WITHOUT A SECOND--that state of oneness has been described by scriptures as well as sages, as the highest condition of Bliss or Heaven.

Deep thinkers in East and West, profound philosophers and all souls of realization have repeated in one voice that Heaven is a blessed state of Infinite Peace, Eternal Happiness and Supreme Silence. As it is a state beyond the senses, it is called Super-sensuous or Super-conscious state or Cosmic-consciousness.

Whatever name we may be pleased to give it, that Truth or Divinity, is beyond all words, thoughts, imaginations and comprehensions. All the votaries of different religions on the face of earth, admit, the existence of one Reality or Substance or Over soul and the conscious realization of it is the realization of Heaven in one's very life.

Peace that passeth all understanding belongs only to those blessed souls, who have realized the Heaven, within themselves for "The kingdom of Heaven is within alone". Such privileged souls alone, can be Truth Teachers and Leaders to the hungry and thirsty souls who are seeking Heaven without --here, there and everywhere--except within themselves.

Dear loving readers of Peace magazine! LIVE IN GOD AND HELP OTHERS TO LIVE IN HIM, has been the central motto of your own Santi Ashram. This is nothing but the same thought of our present message expressed in different words. Let us focus and concentrate all the strength of our mind, heart and soul in living in God or realizing the Heaven within and then we can help others or spend our Heaven doing good upon earth.

Have you tasted the Heavenly peace, the Nectar of Immortality in the stillness of your hearts, if so your lives are a blessing to mother earth! If you have not yet tasted fully, pray tarry no longer, waste no more your precious time with idle thoughts empty words and selfish deeds.

Let us realize now and here the Kingdom of Heaven within ourselves and join our sacred sister St. Therese in repeating I WILL SPEND MY HEAVEN DOING GOOD UPON EARTH.

May Peace be unto all.
Om OmOm.

(Peace Sept 1935)

3. IN THE SPLINT

The law of evolution is ever based on silent and steady progress. Without progress there is no life. It has therefore been said, that stagnation is death and progress is life.

Everything changes in the world of forms and names. The old order of things are replaced by the new. Thus my Cast was replaced by a brand new SPLINT. As they did not have a spare splint in the hospital, we had to get a new one made to order. Even the mechanic who made it said, he would not charge anything more than the cost of the materials, as it was intended for a Swamiyar. How good is God! He comes to help us in so many forms and ways. When the big, heavy, hideous cross-like Splint was brought into my room I was both shocked and loathe to see it. I thought I would be better off continuing to remain in the old cast rather than changing into that heavy iron splint. But Dr. Kini assured me I would be a hundred percent more

comfortable and free in the splint than in the cast. But the sight of it made me, doubt its efficacy, and it reminded me of the cross of the blessed Christ.

The Splint has two long projections in which are placed the two legs; under the arms it has, two iron spike-like rods on either side of the chest, to hold me in place. I cannot even lie down flat on my back, but have to be propped up with plenty of pillows. Thus I have to lie flat, both day and night without moving either to the right or left. Even if tempted to turn either to left or right there are two spike-like iron rods glaring at me. So I have to resign myself meekly.

At last the day of my installation into the splint came. Dr. Mahadevan the patient and efficient assistant of Dr. Kini came to remove the cast bringing a lot of instruments, to cut and remove the cast. It was quite a hard task to cut and remove it. When once it was removed, my left leg saw the light of the day after an imprisonment of nearly forty days in the cast. Sister Sushila Devi was busily engaged in washing and bathing the whole leg with soap and warm water.

Then came Dr. Kini and examined the leg, asking me to lift my knee a little and when I lifted without the least strain, as if the leg was never encased in cast he felt happy and satisfied.

Then I was lifted and put in the new heavy splint, to enjoy its company for a month. Now nearly twenty five happy days of peace have silently passed away and Dr. Kini announced the happy news yesterday evening that he would remove the splint today, hence I hastened to write this message, lying in my comfortable splint. I will be doing an injustice if I fail to write something about my splint, more so since I have written a message "In the Cast".

Dear Beloved Readers! You have to trust in my word, if I mention that the days in the splint have been the happiest days in all my life. I was no longer confined to the four walls of the special ward in the Hospital. I am now at the beach side facing the blue Bay of Bengal, in the spacious mansion of the late Babu Govindasji, a spiritual soul and an ardent lover of God. The bungalow is called by the name of "PANCHVATI" after the Hermitage of five Banyan trees, where Rama of sacred memory was said to have lived in prayer and meditation when he was exiled. I look and look at the blue ocean and spacious sky never feeling tired. I listen to the sweet music of the never tiring rolling waves attuning myself with their universal chant of the sacred syllable *OM*.

I am privileged now to be up above the world, more so as our bungalow is on an elevated spot of land. I almost feel that I can reach the stars in the sky with my arms.

In the stillness of the night I often speak with the self-shining stars trying to commune with the Indweller of their hearts. Often and often the nights are passing away without a wink of sleep for the stillness is so deep and His Presence so intense that I sit and sit looking into the soul of the Infinite Space. How close is God, when one is surrounded with nature's beauty and glory! As God and Nature are not two but One, hence comes the inspiration.

Nearly a dozen chipmunks have been our constant companions. Sister Sushila and myself take joy in feeding them, regularly and watching their pretty ways of life and movements. Even as I am writing this message two chipmunks are looking at me.

As our garden is fairly isolated and far away from town, we are enriched in every way with nature's beauty and deep silence. Birds of different plumage often play and sing for us. Many a tall cocoa palm, and pine trees are adding to the beauty of our place in all grace and sublimity.

As the time of bidding adieu to my splint is nearing, I want to express my gratitude both to the cast and the splint. Both of them have helped me serving well their purpose. Anything or anyone that we love becomes dear and near to us. Anything or anyone that we dislike becomes a cross to us. Such is the unalterable law.

Christ loved the cross and made it a sacred relic and a blessing to the world. It is love that converts stumbling blocks into stepping stones. I tried to love in my own way, both the cast and the splint and they have been my friends and silent helpers, instrumental to the growth and formation, of my reset hip bone.

It is not my intention to weary my patient readers by writing too much about personal things. Therefore I long to end my message by giving a last thought that I enjoyed all through the stay in the splint while gazing into the heart of the expansive ocean.

Question: Why does the great ocean ceaselessly break into waves and ripples?

Answer: It is because of the vastness of its waters. The ocean is almost limitless, full and complete so, out of the fullness of its fathomless heart in a most natural way it breaks forth into waves, ripples and eddies etc. You cannot expect waves and ripples from a mud puddle. You can expect from it only miasma and bad odour.

Similarly those that are like mud puddles confined to flesh and blood filled with selfishness and egoism, running after a little name and fame are giving out nothing but weakness, strife, hatred, jealousy, anger and other forms of ignorance. And those blessed souls whose lives are like that of the ocean, ever full and complete who have risen, entirely above the little passing forms of name and fame to the perishable body and changing world are the true images of God, ever giving out unconsciously life, light and love to the whole world.

Dear loving readers, let us meditate now on the beautiful calm and limitless, living waters of the wide ocean, allowing the little ego to lose itself in the glory of glories!

Let us center ourselves in that ever full and complete Light of lights, so that we too may break forth like the ocean, into waves of Peace, Poise, Love, Service and Blessedness, for the good of ourselves as well as the world at large, is my earnest prayer from the splint.

May Peace and Good-will abide on earth as in Heaven.

May Peace be unto all.
Om OmOm

(Peace July & Aug 1936)

4. IN THE BODY

I am no longer either in the Cast or in the Splint, but in the Body. The days of my plaster cast were finished a long time ago, and the days of the splint also silently passed away, and these are the happy days of freedom in the body.

How wonderful it feels to be free from the cast and splint and to enjoy the blessedness of full physical health! Who can adequately describe the blessedness of perfect health! What words can portray the glory of a simple natural life in a sound body!

Indeed the temple of the body must be perfect, to realize the Indwelling Presence in the sacred sanctuary of one's purified heart. Yet from the early history of the world to this day, especially in the lives of sages and saints, are not wanting illustrations relating that even through sickness, pain and suffering, exalted souls like Jesus Christ, St. Francis, St. Theresa, Lord Buddha and Sri Ramakrishna reached the heights, in spite of their so-called sufferings, and passing clouds of pain.

It has been said in general, that the average man forgets God, when all is well, self-satisfied in his wealth and health; and only tries to think of Him, when facing suffering, or calamity. In pain or sickness one remembers God unconsciously, without the least force or adventitious admonition. Whereas in happiness and health, a seeker of Truth—a spiritual soul, spontaneously and consciously feels the Presence of God, in a most natural manner.

Pain and pleasure, sickness and health, poverty and prosperity, weakness and strength, all have their part to play in the progression of the aspiring soul, as here reaches the summits of God-realization through the various phases of multifarious experiences.

Although I enjoyed my days both in the cast and in the splint, I feel so deeply grateful now to the Almighty, for blessing me with this freedom in body. The cast does not exist any longer. The splint does not exist anymore. Only the body of flesh and blood, of form and name exists to me, as well as to all the doctors, nurses and other friends that look at this form everyday.

How my heart craves to repeat: not only the cast and the splint, but even the body does not exist, to me! Only the soul exists—the Soul which is the life and source of all that is manifest and unmanifest.

The temple of form and name is transitory, but the formless and nameless One, the Indweller of our temple is eternal. He pervades and permeates all temples. The Universe is His wide temple, wherein, He throbs in the tiny heart of an insect as well as in the mighty heart of a big planet.

Undoubtedly there have been many precious moments, the moments of blessedness and peace wherein I was no longer conscious of the body-temple, but only of the Abiding Presence. The presence is so stupendous and limitless, that it makes one forget not only one's own temple, but all other temples. Where He exists, nothing else can exist, for, He is One without a second.

But how much more infinitely blessed are those happy days when one feels and recognizes His Presence not now and then but always, under all conditions, perpetually! That eternal and unchanging state of Peace alone is freedom, liberation or perfection.

Hence, through the help of the temple or body, one should strive to realize the Indwelling Presence of the universe. After all, how can anyone crib, cabin and confine the Almighty God, the Infinite Presence or Light to any one temple or body? He is above temples and shrines. He is beyond forms and names, all dimensions and limitations.

Those deluded souls who cling to their physical temples considering them as the be-all and end-all of life are ever groping in a wild forest like the one, Dante found himself in. They can never reach the Heights of Realization, in this state, for, the self of name and form, prevents them from realizing the Universal, Omnipresent Self. Body consciousness hangs like a thick veil between them and their Bliss. Where body is no body, mind is no mind, and self is no self, but only the One Indivisible Truth exists, that is Bliss indeed!

The body is compared to a boat that is intended to take one to the other side of the river of life or ocean of *samsara*, the life of worldliness. Shall we then cling to the body forgetting the Goal? Shall we worship the boat ignoring the Harbour? Shall we center ourselves in the prison house of flesh and blood, denying the Infinite Light, our only real Heritage?

It is not enough to get rid of the body idea for the attainment of liberation. It is easy to forget the physical body, with a little practice, but all the ordeal begins when one attempts to forget or to control the mental and subtle bodies or sheaths.

The physical body is composed of flesh, blood etc. The mental body is composed of mind, intellect etc. But the astral body, or causal body, is composed of all the finest impressions or *vasanas* of this birth, as well as that of numberless past births.

Blessed are those who are the masters of all the three bodies *sthoola*, *sukshma*, *karana* the gross or physical, fine and causal. How rare and precious are those who are the controllers of all the three bodies! They alone are free, rising not only above flesh and blood, mind and intellect, but above all subtle or latent impressions. They are the *jivanmuktas*, the liberated ones in life.

Hence it is not enough to be without cast, splint or physical body but one must assiduously struggle and strive to be free from the mental as well as the subtle body of latent

impressions. Perfection belongs to the impressionless ones, those who are free from all impressions, be they good or bad.

Thus we realize that it is not enough to possess merely a healthy and strong body but one should strive, with the help of the healthy body, to master all the restless impressions of the fickle and frail mind, and to be free from all the propensities or impressions of every form.

Men of realization both in East and West, proclaimed in one voice from, their personal experience that *sankalpa*—volition or imagination is the root cause of all bondage in every form and cessation of *sankalpa* or imagination results in the natural outcome of God-consciousness or Universal Love or Infinite Peace or Supreme Silence.

Dear readers of Peace magazine, let us join and draw near to the Almighty for blessing us with healthy and, well-controlled bodies, dedicating these temples to His service and silent worship. Let us meditate on the beauty of the effulgent ever shining Light of lights, glorifying Him, both within and without, in the manifested and unmanifested. Let us center ourselves on those sublime heights wherein the mind breaks not into waves of pain, sorrow, sickness, worry, fear or duality of any kind, and where it dissolves like a bubble in the Infinite and Eternal Ocean of Existence—Knowledge—Bliss—Absolute.

May this blessed state of *Nirvana* or Bliss, the Peace that passeth all understanding, ever abide with us, and may peace be unto all!

Om OmOm

(Peace Sept & Oct 1936)

5. IN THE SOUL

This message IN THE SOUL is the last message of a series of essays written about my hospital experiences beginning with: IN THE CAST, followed by IN THE SPLINT, IN THE BODY and now ending finally with, IN THE SOUL.

Dear loving reader! As I am writing this message now, centered in the soul, surrounded and saturated by the soul of all souls, may I request you also, to read these lines, knowing and feeling consciously, that you too, are filled and surrounded, by the presence of the One Indivisible, All-pervading Soul or Cosmic Spirit.

The word soul is not used here, in the sense of *jivatma*, individual soul or finite self. It is used in the sense of *paramatma*—the Universal Self, the Over Soul the only Infinite Reality. There is but One Reality and that Reality is the One immutable and indefinable Soul.

O! What joy, strength and inspiration it gives one, just to realize the truth that the Soul is One without a second! Hence, all are engaged in doing their respective duties both consciously and unconsciously centered in the Soul, wherever they may be in East or West. All beings are floating in the same eternal silence of the One Soul. All of us have the same back ground, the same basis, the same spiritual foundation, namely the Divine Heritage—the *para brahma*—the Soul.

Although it is impossible to describe what the Soul is, in finite words, yet the conception of the Soul as far as intellect can grasp or comprehend will be helpful for our present theme. Sages—the emancipated souls, repeated in one voice—that the Soul is *akhandastchidanandam*. It is Existence Absolute, Knowledge Absolute and Bliss Absolute. These three are the divine attributes of the Soul, expressed from the heights of realization.

As the Soul is Existence Absolute—existing everywhere, let us recognize our oneness with all existence. As it is Knowledge Absolute knowing everything, let us attune ourselves with the knowledge which is our Divine Birthright. As the Soul is Bliss Absolute, the source of all bliss, let us center ourselves in the Infinite Bliss which is the only Reality. Wherever we are, whoever we are, we all have common existence in the Soul; we are all the sparks of the same Divine Flame of knowledge and children of the One Immortal Bliss.

In these days, as I engaged meditatively, in writing this message my one song always has been, consciously and unconsciously, both in work and rest, I AM IN THE SOUL. How thrilling it is to feel that we are always, abiding eternally in the Soul whether we are, bathing or eating, walking or sleeping, and alone or in a crowd! We are ever centered and saturated by the Soul.

It is not enough to repeat with the lips or mentally statements such as, “I perceive the Soul, I am in the Soul or I am the Soul.” No amount of repetition helps us, if it is not accompanied by realization and recognition of the Soul. We must try to feel the presence—the existence of the Soul consciously, not with the senses but by rising above the senses. Then alone our life will be complete and blessed. Those that are blessed with the vision of the Spirit are the freed souls. A beatific vision is not mere seeing or hearing something of name or form. The real beatific or cosmic vision is to lose the finite in the Infinite, to merge and dissolve the little self in the Universal Self, identifying with the One Indivisible Truth.

In the stillness of a silent evening I was meditating alone on a terrace in the Ashram looking into the soul of the stars, and luminous moon. Unconsciously I was repeating looking at them, “O moon stars and planets, you are never separate from me, for WE ARE ALL ONE, living in the same Indivisible Soul. Although I cannot reach you with my hand, yet you are eternally related to me, for we are all one in the Supreme Soul.”

What a sublime and glorious word is Indivisible! The Soul is Indivisible. It cannot be divided, separated, bisected, or lessened or increased. It unites us all irrespective of castes, creeds, colours or nations. As a body of flesh and blood, I am different and separate from minerals,

plants, our dumb animal friends and the rest of creation. But as a Soul I am related with one and all, silent in the rocks, blooming in the flowers, growing in the plants, singing in the birds, sparkling in the dewdrops, shining in the stars, roaring in the lions, loving and serving in men, the images of God, or the sparks of the One Soul.

Where the Soul exists nothing else can exist. As we meditate on the Soul, centering ourselves in the Soul, we forget all forms and names and the senses are overcome or controlled, as they merge in the mind, and the mind merges in the intellect and the intellect in the ego or the little self, and finally the little self merges in the Universal Self. The bubble bursts itself in the Infinite Ocean of Bliss. The one stupendous, radiant spirit the self-shining effulgent Soul alone exists.

Silence, calm silence, supreme silence! There is nothing to see, nothing to hear, and nothing to think or imagine. Even the breath stops and throbbing of the heart becomes still.

THE SOUL ALONE EXISTS, and nothing else exists besides the Soul, and we are the Soul!

May silent adorations be unto the Soul which is the life and heart of the whole Cosmos. May we ever abide in the Soul, identifying ourselves with the Soul.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!
OM TAT SAT OM.

(Peace Nov & Dec 1936)

6. IN MY TINY KINGDOM

Indeed, my kingdom is very small insignificant and infinitesimal when compared to the infinite kingdom of God. But I am happy and contented to establish peace in my own little kingdom in my humble way. I am longing now to share the thoughts of the little kingdom with my readers of Peace magazine, so that they too can establish peace similarly in their own kingdoms.

First there is the life, the God-given life. As we recognize the life in the kingdom of body, Light follows the Life, for Life and Light are not separate but akin to each other. Wherever there is Life, there is Light also. Where there are Life and Light, what else will naturally follow? It is Love. The finite Love grows to be Infinite Love, and becomes the Love that expects not any reward, the Love that embraces all, excluding none. Now, in the kingdom of our body so far we have established the God-given life, light and love. Wherever there is Life, Light and Love the resultant factor is Illumination. One is then blessed with the peace that passeth all understanding.

My friend, simple as it may sound this is the direct way, easy way, and simple way, to establish peace in your heart and spread it far and near, thus to help to greater Peace or world Peace. It is not yet too late. Recognize even now the blessed kingdom of God first within your God-given body. There is Life from the very toes of the top of the head. If Life is absent, you would not be existing in this form. Recognize Light and Love along with the Life. Along with Life, Light and Love, Peace follows automatically.

If we use what we have, what we have will grow. This thought has a world of meaning. Thus, I am never tired of repeating times out of number, that it is the individual Peace that paves the way to Universal Peace. If we use the Peace that we have within, which means if we establish Peace first within ourselves, it will grow and spread through the heart, home, community and nation towards the wide world.

My Loving Reader, whether you are in East or West, let us establish Peace and Harmony first, now in the tiny kingdom of body, remembering that the whole world is our Home and all people in it are our Sisters and Brothers. Then alone we can share all that we have with others, not only wheat or sugar, the goods of the world, but also life or soul itself, the Treasures of Heaven. For as the Lord says: "In serving any of the least of His children, we are only serving Him."

As your Peace is my Peace magazine, my loving reader, won't you help me now by establishing Peace in the kingdom of your body, mind, heart and soul? Let us close our eyes and meditate on the Glory of God, so that His Infinite Kingdom may reflect on our tiny kingdom and overwhelm us with the splendour of Millions of Suns.

Verily, the bubble like, finite kingdom, is getting filled, flooded and saturated with the fathomless Waters of the Ocean of the kingdom of God. May the Infinite Light bless all the finite kingdoms with wisdom and illumination!

May Peace be unto all!

(Peace June 1951)

7. INTROSPECTION

A devoted friend from the distant south has written me to help him, by teaching how to introspect. I have replied him that I would introspect deeply more than ever and would write my thoughts leisurely. This message is the outcome of this introspection. The Dictionary meaning of the word Introspection is; the act of looking within, or self-examination. Verily, practical religion begins with the act of looking within or with self-examination. But alas, the learned man of the world, looks without but not within. He is being drawn by the alluring and bewitching objects ever looking without and the results are many helpful inventions, from a needle to an atom bomb. Similarly, what is the result attained by the sages and seers by looking within during their

sacred moments of concentration, contemplation and meditation? It is waveless Peace, Supreme Silence-the Splendour of Millions of Suns.

There are the two paths mentioned in the Scriptures the *pravritti* the outer and *nivritti* the inner path. Sweet and inviting is the outer path while narrow and rugged is the inner path. Hence, we find thousands, nay, millions taking to the path of outer life, feasting with music and dancing. But whereas, in the inner path, there is hardly a lonely, soul here and there trudging in the Path of Truth. Yet, the Law is, what one sows the same he reaps, whether it is focusing outside on form and name or introspecting inside on the formless and nameless Truth.

It is proved beyond doubt and endorsed by all sages in East and West, that introspection is most essential especially in the spiritual life. But the question is: how to introspect and on what are we to introspect? As there is only One Truth and Reality underlying all the phenomena in the changing world of names and forms, naturally for the Peace of the Soul, one has to introspect only on that which is Eternal, Infinite and Indivisible. In a way, the inner search begins, when man uses his discrimination and ceases from his outer search, running after the fleeting shadows in the world.

It is only after mastering the essential stages of *sadhanachustayam*, the Four Means of Attainment one is really fit to introspect.

- I. Discrimination of the Real from the unreal.
- II. Renunciation of even the Rulership of the world.
- III. Realization of the group of Six Attributes.
 - (1) Calmness
 - (2) Self-control
 - (3) Self-withdrawal
 - (4) Forbearance
 - (5) Faith and
 - (6) Self-establishment

IV. Yearning for freedom, a burning desire for God-realization now and here. If one is blessed to pass through all these preparatory stages, the rudiments, the essential requisites of spiritual life, then he can begin his introspection with the very form in which he is living, beginning with the body itself.

Q: -Am I the body?

A: - How can I be the perishable body that has a beginning and end?

Q: -Am I the senses?

A: -How can I be the restless senses that change every moment?

Q: -Am I the mind, intellect or ego?

A: -How can I be any of these that are fickle, changing and ever moving and fluctuating?

Q: - Then what am I? Am I the breath?

A: - I am not the finite visible breath.

Q: - If I am not even the breath, what am I then?

A: -Verily, I am the Breath of the breath, the Soul of the souls which is the source of the very Breath and the Life. I am Existence-Absolute, Knowledge-Absolute and Bliss-Absolute. *Sivoham-Soham*.

Here, it is helpful for the aspiring soul, to introspect no longer with questions or words, but to simply follow one's own breath, allowing the mind to dissolve in the Infinite. If one takes an onion and tries to find out the kernel in it, the more one peels the more they come, until finally one reaches that state where there is nothing left but the smell of the onion. Similarly, in introspection also, when all forms and names are left behind one after another, with the help of the “*netineti*”- ‘not this,’ ‘not this’, introspective, self-scrutinizing consciousness, one reaches that blessed state of Peace, where the aroma of the sweet fragrance of the transcendental bliss pervades and permeates one's being and the whole universe. The residuum of all this is Brahman is left now as a result of deep introspection.

It is by introspection that the sage draws all his senses within himself like the tortoise that draws its limbs within. Practice, practice daily practice and unceasing practice to reach the Heights with true discrimination is most essential. Practicing the inner gaze feeling His presence in each and every moment of one's ultimately lead the aspirant to God-realization. Introspection begins in a devoted, pure and earnest heart and it ends in a desireless heart of dedication and illumination.

May all Homage be unto the Sages of Freedom, the living Saints of Introspection!

(Peace Oct 1951)

8. INNER GAZE

In the Sanskrit language there are two beautiful words and if one can understand the deep significance and meaning of those two words unto him salvation or freedom will be near at hand, within himself.

I. *Pravritti* and II. *Nivritti*

I. *Pravritti* is the outer gaze –the life of outgoing senses where everything is duality, where one often sees another, hears of another and thinks of another. Ego is the Lord and the master in this kingdom of duality and where self and selfish interests occupy prominent place.

II. *Nivritti* is the inner gaze—the life of the withdrawn senses, where everything is One without a second. Here, one sees not of another, hears not of another and thinks not of another, for all is the emanation of the One—*akhandasatchidanandam*, where the Existence, Knowledge and Bliss is realized in this world of Infinite and Eternal Light.

Here, the Self-effulgent light alone is the Lord and Master. Selfless or universal love occupies the most prominent place in this world of God-consciousness. When a man gets tired of the life of *pravritti* in the outer world, he is drawn towards the life of *nivritti* in the inner world. He gazes no longer outwardly towards the bewitching forms and names. He is weary, tired, disgusted and disappointed with the finite life of senses. Hence, the aspirant then begins the life of *nivritti* drawing his senses inward, like a tortoise, its limbs.

The sacred scriptures compare a man of Inner Gaze to the tortoise that draws all its limbs inwardly. One who is a master of Inner Gaze although engaged in multifarious activities, he withdraws his mind, senses and ego inwards towards that great centre, which is All Light, the Self-effulgent Light, the Splendour of the millions of suns. Broad, wide and alluring is the path of *pravritti*, the life of outer Gaze. Many people walk in it, nay it is always overcrowded like Cinema Halls.

But whereas, the path of *nivritti*, of the inner gaze is narrow and rugged. Rarely do we see an aspiring soul walking in its steep path which reminds us of many a lonely deserted temple. The path of Inner Gaze though rugged and steep with full of stones and thorns, as one walks in it with faith and patience, becomes broad and wide, leading to the Heaven of Peace. In the Outer Gaze, man is engaged in the worship of self or ego, with keen competition and ruthless cruelty, inventing atom bombs and hydrogen bombs. He has no respect for life. Life means nothing to him. Death of millions of people is a play to him. Whereas in the life of inner gaze, one is serving the humanity with all love and respect to life. His tiny life is a sacrifice to help, serve all God's little creatures on earth.

He is established in Soul Force, creating atomic bombs, within himself in waveless silence, ignoring the outer danger and havoc of atom bombs, for the Soul—the *atman* is indestructible and imperishable, and it cannot be touched even by a million atom bombs. Such is the ineffable glory of Inner Gaze, the Life of Illumination within oneself.

My Friend, enough of words. Now let me lead you to Inner Gaze, in the holy path of *nivritti*. Pray, close your eyes. Relax your body. Be free from strain of every kind, both in body and mind. You are centered now in God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. Feel, feel His Presence within and without. When you can feel Him within, you can feel Him without very easily. So try to be perfect in your inner gaze. Begin with the soles of your feet. It is Light in the very cells of your being. Recognize the light in the soles of the feet, then in the knees, in the thighs, in the shoulders, in both the hands and palms. Blessed is the one whose gaze is permanently fixed on this Highest Centre, *sahasrara*—the Thousand-petalled lotus where it is all light, the Self-Effulgent Light.

Now, turn your gaze towards the heart. It is the Self-shining light in the heart. It is the same light in the very eyes, ears, nose, and mouth, above all, in the mind and breath, inhale and exhale peace with each and every breath. It is Peace within, without, above, below and all around. Pray, abide in this peace profound that passeth all understanding floating in this Self-effulgent light, the splendor of millions of suns. This *brahmic* splendour alone is your divine birthright.

The life of the man of outer gaze functions with the help of the outer sun. Whereas the life of the man of inner gaze functions with the help of the Sun of suns, the inherent Eternal Light within.

May you recognize the Infinite and Eternal Light in the very cells of your being within, in all silence and then as you open your eyes, may you behold the same light, in the outer world, for the outer is the reflection of the inner world of illumination.

May peace abide in all hearts and goodwill express and shine among nations all over the world!

May Peace be unto all!
Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Aug 1954)

9. In the Holy Company of Krishna, Christ Buddha and Gandhiji

In memory of the Diamond Jubilee—the *shastipoorthi*, the four life-size statues of Sri Krishna, Lord Christ, Bhagavan Buddha and Mahatma Gandhiji have been the gift of our ideal devotee brother Ratnam, who has been a precious jewel among all devotees. As I sit on the terrace of the Nirvana Mandir at the foot of the hill, in the Nirvana Ashram, facing all around hills, and as I look at the holy statues, often the thought comes: What are you learning from these avatars?

I. As I look at Sri Krishna, he teaches me to do action in inaction and inaction in action. He tells me to do duty, for the sake of duty. I have only the right, to do service, but never to expect any reward in any form. As I enter into the heart of Sri Krishna. He seems to be repeating the following words:

‘He who seeth inaction in action and action in inaction, he is wise among men, he is harmonious, even while performing all action.’

Thus, 'Thy business is with action only, never with its fruits: so let not the fruit of action be thy motive, nor be thou to inaction attached.'

II. As I turn my gaze towards Lord Christ, I almost listen to his sacred words "Come unto me." All ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Crucifixion is his highest and deepest message. Crucify the little self, for the good of others. Be dead, that ye may live and thus be a blessing to the world. I almost hear Him repeating. What is the use of gaining the whole world, losing thy soul?

III. As I look at Buddha and ask: What is your message Bhagavan Buddha? I see enlightenment in his face, His message has been summed up in two simple words: Annihilate desire. Desire is the root cause of all sorrow and misery. Blessed are they who are desireless.

OM Mani Padmiham.

The Jewel is in the Lotus of Thy heart.

IV. Now Mahatma Gandhiji is there, with his clarion call, with the living message of Truth and non-violence. Blessed are they who are Truthful in thought, word and deed! If you wish to be the conqueror of the world, here is the unfailing weapon of Sri Gandhiji: Nonviolence. When all compulsion and force fails, it is Truth and non-violence that conquer the world.

Strange as it may sound to some of my readers, sometimes as I look suddenly through the window I feel as Gandhiji is standing and looking at me, as if to step in, inside my room. Gandhiji is alive. He is alive now more than ever. Similarly, I feel the same way as I look at the loving statues of Sri Krishna, Sri Christ and Sri Buddha. How blessed it is to feel the presence of these *avatars* in stillness and silence, as well as in work and activity! Indeed to me, they are all alive, now and always - eternally.

Blessed are they who have eyes to see, ears to listen, - minds to comprehend and hearts to feel and merge in the Infinite, Eternal and Self-effulgent light, which is our divine heritage and the common birthright of all

May the blessings of Sri Krishna, Sri Christ, Sri Buddha and Sri Gandhi and all the other *avatars*, sages and saints of the East and the West of past, present and future, be upon all the readers of Peace magazine, and nay upon all the children of God, all over the world.

May all homage be unto all the loving and living *avatars*!

OmOmOm

(Peace June & July 1956)

10. I AM IN THE LIGHT

During the days of Silence, often one thought has been prominent in me, I am expressing it now, with a longing to share it, with all the seekers of Light.

I AM IN THE LIGHT

Not only am I in the Light, you are also in the Light. All are in the light. The manifested world, with all its big dimensions and great planets, is only a mere bubble in the ocean of light. All the world is only a ray of the Sun of suns. Light is the only reality. Where is the moment when you are aloof or separate from that stupendous light, where is the moment when you are not in the Self- effulgent light?

You are always in the Light
In the past you have been in the Light
In the present you are in the Light
In the future you are bound to be in the Light
You are eternally in the Light
That which exists is One.

As repeated by all sages and everybody often and It is called by various names, whether we call it by the name God, Peace, Life, Light and Love, Bliss or Silence, it is all the same to God. What makes all the difference is whether we are feeling consciously the nearness, the closeness, the inseparable oneness with that only Reality, which is ever the same, being changeless. With the awareness of the Light or presence or God we are everything. By forgetting or denying Him, we are lifeless and soulless mere zeros and a burden to mother earth.

Live in God and help others to live in Him, has been the ideal and motto Santi Ashram, since its establishment. Now at the end of these six long years of silence my heart longs more than ever to make everyone, rather to serve all the seekers of Truth, by helping them to help themselves, to feel God's interpenetrating presence consciously.

Is it possible? Why not? It is more than possible to share with others, if we have something within ourselves in the first place. A man who is blind cannot lead the blind but a man who sees, can make others also see. Suppose, I take you for a bath, to the ocean. I take you knee-deep, nay neck-deep. You will be in the water as far as the neck, except the head. Then I will ask you: Can you feel the water? If you still fail to feel the water, something must be wrong with your brain. To make the water real and sure I will make you keep your head also under the water. Then you cannot help but feel the touch of water above, below, all around and on every side. In winter season you even feel chilly by staying in the water.

Similarly if I keep you facing the sun at the midday hour and ask you: Are you feeling the light the warmth of the Sun? You cannot help but feel the warmth. In the same way, I wish to make all the aspiring souls, feel God's presence, for He is interpenetrating the very cells of our beings.

God is here, there and everywhere. As He is Omnipresent, We are to face Him everywhere in everyone in all the world. As He is Omnipotent, we are to express Him in all our deeds, words and thoughts. As He is Omniscient we are to recognize and worship Him in silence, with waveless silence.

How true are the words, that God is silent in the hills? He is growing in the moss on vegetable and moving in the animals and talking in men and women, who are His images! Not only are we all God's living images, we are also blessed to be always to live, breathe and work, moving in His Presence or Light.

I AM IN THE LIGHT
YOU ARE IN THE LIGHT
ALL ARE IN THE LIGHT

Adorations be unto the Infinite, Eternal, Indivisible and Self- effulgent Light which is ever shining in all of us!

Om OmOm

(Peace March 1957)

11. IS GOD DEAD?

The very name of my present theme appears shocking to some of the ardent devotees of God. No doubt, it sounds harsh to the outer ears of the worldly minded devotees, but if we examine and analyse the lives of the very people to whom the heading sounds harsh and shocking, they alone are leading unhappy lives in misery as if God were dead! If God, the Effulgent Light of the Sun of suns, is alive—if average man believes in His Omnipresence or Existence, why should he be miserable steeped in ignorance and darkness. When the Sun is shining, where is darkness in the Sun?

When God is Omnipresent, pervading and permeating the very calls of one's body as well as the whole universe, what is the need of man, to be arrogant and selfish? The ignorant man does all sorts of sneaky and selfish things, as if God were dead, even though he takes joy in speaking of God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience etc., It is easy to talk bagful of empty words, but difficult to feel and express Him in a practical way recognizing God, both in work and in silence. If man believes practically in God's existence or His Omnipresence, there is not the least need for any kind of worry in the name of anything.

God is our Holy shepherd. He looks after the needs of His children. Those who trust Him are ever happy. All their wants are fulfilled. To the selfish man, even though he repeats his prayers regularly and attends all the temples and churches in the world, God is dead. If God is alive how can he ever be selfish, weak or ignorant? Is God Dead? How can God ever die! God is the Infinite, Eternal and the One Interpenetrating Presence. Anything can die, anyone can pass away from the elements to the mighty planets, but not God, the Imperishable Truth - the Divine

principle. He is called God because of His Immortality, His Imperishable Divine Nature. If God dies, where are you, where am I, where are the manifested and unmanifested worlds?

God exists eternally. Because of Him you and I, and all the humanity exist. If He dies, no one can exist. All the worlds cease to exist. It will be *pralayam*—the wholesale destruction of all that lives and exists. God exists. Because of His existence, all the worlds exist. Because of God, we are seeing, hearing, moving, thinking and working, ever having our beings in Him, whether we are aware of His existence consciously or not. It was Hiranyakasipu, the powerful demon, who asked Prahlada his son, the ideal *bhakta*, to show him the place where God resides. ‘Where is Vishnu, the God whom you worship so much day and night,’ was the query of demon king.

Prahlada, the great devotee, endures all tribulations calmly and passes through all his death-like tests and trials having implicit faith in God and replies to his demon father Hiranyakasipu. “Never doubt, thinking that God is here and that He is not there, wherever you see and search for Him, you will find Him there.”

There is not a needle point of space where God exists not. Being Omnipresent, He is everywhere. Where is the place either below or above on earth or in heaven where God exists not? Where is the moment of time, when God does not exist either in the past, present or future? Indeed, God is above time, space and causation. It is mere childishness, to judge Him even to try to grasp or comprehend Him, with the finite senses or tiny intellect. Since God exists always, since He exists in you, in me, in all the world, in all the people of all religions and nations, there is not the least need to be selfish or cruel, ignorant or weak.

The man who denies God is like a sheep forever bleating with fear and apprehension. The man who affirms and believes in God’s existence is like the mighty lion roaring with fearlessness and joy. In spite of all the big talk of God’s Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience and God’s great mercy and compassion, somehow the deep delusion, *maya*, makes man forget Him and quiver and shake with many a fear of sickness and weakness.

Did you ever hear the funny story of the man who bemoans the widowhood of his own wife that was narrated by Swami Rama? The man was a good man, but a simpleton, believing in the words of others, without going deep into the meaning of words or the essence of life. Some people wanted to make fun of this simple man and approached him with mournful faces and began to weep before him. He asked them the cause of their sorrow, feeling deep concern. They all told him that his wife had become a widow and that they have just now come from her place. Seeing them all weep so piteously our simpleton also began to weep over the widowhood of his own wife.

He never gave a thought of discretion, as to how his wife could have become a widow, while he was alive. This story sounds funny, we all laugh over the foolishness of this ignorant man. But if we analyze our own lives, are we not all acting worse than this simpleton – bemoaning the death of the *atman*, the Universal and Imperishable Spirit. God is not yet dead.

When He is alive, when He is throbbing in our hearts, sparkling in our eyes and flowing in our breath, why should we bemoan His death and live like lifeless corpses, denying God's interpenetrating presence and His holy attributes of *sat chitanandam*—the Existence, Knowledge and Bliss Absolute! It is high time to wake up from our long slumbers and day dreams, running after the passing clouds of fame and name, forgetting the Pearl of Great Price the Indwelling Light within. 'Is God dead?' How can He ever die? You and I and all the mighty Dictators, Presidents and Monarchs may die. Everything of the world, may pass away in the twinkling of an eye, including the atom and hydrogen bombs and their inventors but none of the things of the world can ever touch God--the only changeless and eternal reality, the substratum of all the manifested and unmanifested worlds! God exists. He exists always. He exists eternally!

These days I take joy in probing within myself, entering into the secret place of the Most High to see whether there is any place where God does not exist. I seek and search to see whether there is any time, the tiniest moment, even a millionth fraction of a second, when God is absent. But alas, all my searches are in vain. I face Him, within, without, above, below and all around. What can I say of Him, who is ever complete and incomprehensible, except remain in dumb silence, facing His glory on every side? God is all that is perceived to exist. He is the one and only Reality that exists. All is God. Anything that is not God is an illusion.

God is the Light of lights, Let us listen now what the *Upanishads* sing about God--the Cosmic Light: The Sun does not shine there, nor the moon nor the stars, nor these lightning's and much less this fire. When He shines, everything shines after Him; by His Light all this is lit up.

KNOWING THAT, THEY MELT IN SILENCE.

OFFERED

Unto all those rare and precious souls in whom the Light of God is never extinguished but which is ever perpetually shining for the Peace of all!

Om Santi Santi Santi

(Peace Dec 1957)

12. INHALE AND EXHALE PEACE THY BIRTHRIGHT

It was since two and half decades our Peacejournal, was first sent out on its Mission of Peace with the inspiring motto, Inhale and Exhale Peace Thy Birthright, on its cover.

Dear Readers, how many of you, have been inhaling and exhaling peace, your birthright, all these long years? Truth is simple and plain. What is more, it is open and face to face with us. However we make it complex by our complicated lives. We ignore the Truth that is near us and run after the shadowy forms of ignorance, as one who picks and pecks about on the surface of a nut, instead of breaking through it, to eat the luscious kernel.

It was our Sister Sushila Devi who has drawn my attention to the practical side of our present subject, “Inhale and Exhale Peace,” working silently ever, for the welfare of the Ashram, and for the improvement of the magazine day by day in every way, she casually repeated the following words.

“Do you know Swamiji that I received all that is to be received, even before opening the pages of our peace journal, just by glancing at the front cover, when it came into my hands?”

When I asked her to further explain, she continued,

“In a moment of intense craving for a glimpse of His flying garment, I received the magazine and read the powerful *mantram*, “Inhale and Exhale Peace, Thy Birthright”, and I took it literally, and began to inhale Peace and exhale Peace with each and every breath, not only as I sat in meditation, but even as I engaged myself with the activities of life. The result was a high and blessed glimpse of Reality, and a deep sense of Peace, Immortality, and safety, as under the wings of the Almighty. The simple miracle was wrought. Behold here, I am bathing myself in Peace, in our Abode of Peace, physically, mentally and spiritually! What else do I need? Is not this enough for my final realization and emancipation?”

Thus the Truth often comes even in the form of written word that speaks the message of Peace, in cosmic tones, in the open temple of a pure and receptive heart. The message that makes the children of men divinely beautiful sons, and daughters—equally of God.

Beloved Readers of “Peace magazine,” I want you to examine your lives, to see for yourselves whether you are Inhaling and Exhaling peace, like our devoted Sister Sushila Devi. If not, start this moment, considering this thought as your Initiation. This is a most practical exercise for self-improvement. If we make this exercise practical, in every moment of our lives, it blesses us, not only with spiritual health but with physical and mental health as well.

Having Peace as our birthright, how sad it is to see people inhaling and exhaling bitterness and hatred. How long shall we inhale the poison of duality? How long shall we imbibe the odours of differences? How long shall we be satisfied with the mire of ignorance, inhaling its vapours of selfishness?

My friends, if you love peace, if you want peace with each and every breath, continue inhaling and exhaling peace, in all the trying conditions of your daily lives. When you are tired with the day's duties, as you reach your beds, pray inhale and exhale Peace, for peace alone, is filling your beings within and without. Thus, sleep in peace relaxed and calm, inhaling peace unconsciously.

As you wake up again, with the first glimpses of dawn, take up your exercise of inhalation and exhalation of peace again. Be simple and natural. There is nothing to strain or grasp for, without, everything is already there, within you. Only assert and manifest it, with feelings.

For—*'There is an inmost center in us all, where Truth abides in fullness and around, wall upon wall, the gross flesh hems us in, this perfect, clear perception which is Truth, A baffling and perverting carnal mesh, blinds it and makes all error; and to know, consists rather in opening out a way whence the imprisoned splendor may escape, than in effecting entry for a light supposed to be without.'*

Some may raise the question saying, "It is very well to inhale Peace but why not exhale hatred or ignorance." I repeat that it is wrong and needless. Why should you admit the existence of anything other than Peace in your beings? Hatred, bitterness, envy, vain-glory, selfishness of every kind, and ignorance of every sort, are only passing clouds. They are of your own imaginations. They are not the reality of your lives. There is only one Reality and that is Truth, Peace or Love. Call it by any name or by various names, it makes no difference. However, all the difference and loss, comes in not adhering to it, or recognizing It, the living vibrating Truth of your sacred hearts.

Hence let us not recognize anything other than peace, either in ourselves or in others and strive sincerely to inhale and exhale Peace.

It has been affirmed that man breathes in and out 21600 times in a day. If we could only recognize Peace in our *Prana* or vital breath, even for a single day, never allowing a single breath to pass by without taking in Peace, what a marvelous God-intoxicated life would be ours! Let us try this even on our *sabbath* days, and other sacred days. Instead of peace, we can substitute and repeat the sacred syllable '*AUM*', or the name of one's own favourite deity in each and every breath.

It is not so easy to breathe Peace in and out often and always, not to speak of feeling and recognizing it 21600 times a day. One must be very careful with all alertness in practicing this life giving exercise, making repeated determinations again and again not to forget it, but to abide by it always.

The mind is so mischievous and uncontrollable, that it leads even the most devoted souls astray with its subtle imaginations. The alertness of a frog in the mouth of a snake, or of the man who tries to sleep in a room where there is a snake, or of a mariner steering his ship over reef-bound waters, or in facing the angry and boisterous waves of a sea-storm, is needed to still the wandering and restless mind, and thus attune ourselves with the breath of Peace.

The most wonderful and Soul-awakening fact in our exercise is that our breath is not in any way different from the breath or *Prana* of others. There is only One Big Breath or Universal Breath of *soham* pervading and permeating the whole of the manifested world. As you breathe or inhale, you are breathing the *Prana* of the whole world. What a strength-giving and ennobling thought it is that we are inhaling the peace and energy of the whole world with each and every breath.

The silent breath of minerals, vegetables, animals, human beings of every race and creed and the planets such as stars, moon and sun, is all included in the one divine breath or sacred energy. What a glorious conception of Truth! Just to feel that we are inhaling and exhaling this Peace, tremendous Peace, profound Peace, makes life worth-living. It is life-giving and Soul-awakening to meditate on this divine fact. Glory! Glory!! Glory!!!

Arise and awake, O! My precious readers of Peace magazine, to this simple but startling Truth. This is the only direct and natural initiation for all seekers of Truth. Do not seek for Truth outside of yourselves. Seek it within. Seek it in the very breath, inhaling and exhaling Peace. As you walk in the streets or in your gardens or houses, you can practice this great *mantram* of *mantras*, breathing in and out, floods of Peace, rivers of Peace and oceans of Peace. What else do you need to know; what else can I say or can anyone else say?

I stress again and again to practice. All that we need is only practice. If you cannot practice in your homes filled and surrounded as you are with the manifold duties and responsibilities, we extend to you one and all, a hearty welcome to come to our abode of Peace, your abode of Peace. In these hills of silence and in the company of those who love you, wishing your interest and welfare, pray! Come and stay even a month or fifteen days to realize your divine heritage: If you cannot spare so much time for God or Truth, at least spend three days or even less, practicing this *mantram* of Infinite Peace and Eternal Life. It has been said, in this Iron Age, even three days are enough to realize God. Why not set apart three days once in a while, to reach the goal of your lives and thus be established in your divine glory, ever drinking the Nectar of Immortality!

I do not want to waste anymore of your precious time or my own, with these outer words of theory. Let us draw the restless senses within, and still the unruly mind, focusing its gaze on the One divine vibration which is ceaselessly flowing in and out, whether it is day or night. Know the Truth by God-Realization and the Truth shall liberate you.

O Blessed ones in the East and the West, pray come and join me even as you meditate inhaling Peace and exhaling Peace! Let us inhale the whole of the manifested world, with one

breath and beestablished in the splendour of Sun of suns. May thepeace that we are feeling and recognizing now, inour breath, be the *mantram* of our lives, and maynothing but this Profound Peace, flow from usunceasingly in an unceasing currentof cosmic vibration with each and every breath, towards the whole of humanity. This is my earnest prayer!

May Peace be unto all!
Om Tat Sat Om!

(Peace March & April 1959)

13. In the Rain with the Ashram Plants

These are rainy days in the Totapalli Hills. I feel so happy whenever it rains. The lure is so tempting, I go out into the rain, leaving my present work and enjoy oneness with the very rain-drops. Someone said when it rains. Heaven and Earth are united. Blessed Rain quenches the thirst of the dry earth, giving life to each and every plant and bush or creeper on the earth. Had it not been for the blessed rain how could we have any trees, plants or foliage on the earth? Rain keeps not only the trees and plants but also even the human kingdom as well as animal kingdom with life. It is because of the rainwe have water, in the wells, tanks and rivers.

Heavy rain sometimes creates flood, causing havoc and death to the poor people and dumb animals too. We are concerned now only with the bright side of the rain. To me, every rain drop is a living message of Life, Light and Love. Rain drops are praying blessing the earth with life. O man are you praying also? Where are your prayers? In what way your prayers are helping to the life andprogress of the world! You can never live for yourself always. Come out of the cage like body of blood, flesh and bones. There is changeless joy, the mine of happiness only in the Infinite, but never in the finite and changing. Cling not to the form and name, to the perishable body. Cling to the Formless and Nameless to the Imperishable Truth or the Light within you. Look at the blessed rain drops. How they come from the heights to the depths, blessing all the earth and disappear so suddenly. They do their part and disappear leaving the results to God!How blessed it is to do our part, to the best of our ability withoutexpecting any reward except the reward of the blessed privilege of rendering selfless service to God's children.

Selfless service itself is the highest reward. When I bathe in the rain I am no longer earth-bound, I am lifted to the heights. I sing unconsciously His name, the sacred syllable Om, joining every rain drop in their heavenly music. Thus I went to GowardhanaGiri—the Abode of God's especially of Lord Sri Krishna during the recent rain. There I sat in the pouring rain feeling His presence in every rain drop. Even in the very falling or touch of the rain drops descending from heavens there is silence. It is a blessed moment of ecstasy that cannot be described in finite words but to be experienced only by lovers of silence in nature. Even the leaves of the trees and the flowers of the tender plants are extending a hearty welcome to you. Hearken, to their sweet voice both in sound and silence! Glory! Glory! Glory!

It is His presence all around, both in silence and sound. The outer rain quenches the physical thirst. The inner rain of Love quenches the spiritual thirst of all the seekers of Truth, be they of the East or of the West. Pray my friends! Do come and join me in the Spiritual Feast, the divine communion, when Heaven and Earth are becoming One, through the blessed rain! This is the time for us to meditate entering into the heart of the rain drops, in all silence forgetting or surrendering our little selves, the restless and troublesome egos.

Ego is not real, but only transitory and illusory. Why cling to the delusion of imagination in ignorance? Cling to the Light of lights, to the Indwelling Light which is the only Changeless Reality, which is the soul and goal of the precious human birth. My heart goes out, when I see some of the neglected plants, that were planted recently. They almost appear to be speaking to me in their inaudible voice. Some of them seem to say by opening their silent tongues or mouths: Look at us, how we have been long-neglected, even without water. Some others say: Look at us, how we are bruised, and our branches broken ruthlessly. Some plants seem to say: Look at us, how leaves were eaten away by the cattle. Some other neglected plants seem to say: Although water was not poured or given to us, our branches were broken while the heartless man was ploughing the land and cattle were allowed to devour us we are still keeping alive for your return for a touch of your love.

The ignorant and cruel man with his neglect and forgetfulness although tried to kill and destroy us, we are keeping alive for the sake of Truth, trying to contribute our quota of love towards the cause of peace, for the peace of all! How true and pathetic are the words, that a rose even though crushed under the foot, gives only sweet fragrance! How blessed and noble it is to bless the one, who crushes us and neglects us in ignorance! It is blessed to see the Infinite, nay to feel the Infinite in each and every tiny rain drop. Verily, the Infinite exists in the finite. During the rain, when I sing the name of Rama, Rama, Rama, the rain drops appear to join me chanting Rama's name. When I sing Krishna's name, they sing the same name. When I sing the name of Jesus or Allah, they join me in chanting the same name in all ecstasy. How blessed it is to recognize His Voice in all voices or sounds. Blessed are they, who can face Him within, without, above, below and all around in both sound and silence!

Peace that passeth all understanding belongs only to the One who faces the Infinite in all forms and names, for all is God and nothing exists besides Him. Some sage sang: It is not raining rain to me. It is raining roses and daffodils. Let us also sing now. It is not raining rain now but it is raining Peace and Love. It is raining Harmony and Goodwill. It is raining understanding and sympathy among individuals and nations. Verily, it is raining Peace, the Infinite Peace, the Eternal Peace, the Universal Peace, on one and all, in the East and the West, the North and the South, for all are the children of the One Indivisible God of Light, Life and Love.

May all homage be unto Him, Who is the heart of the rain drop, as well as of man, the Image of God! May there be Peace in the heaven, sky, water, earth. May Peace flow from the herbs, plants and trees!

May Peace be unto all!
OM OMOM

(Peace Oct & Nov 1961)

14. I AM PAID, FOR MY WORK

We were all happy and contented by staying in our Lakshmi Villa, Peace Centre serving God's children day and night. We did not go out anywhere for a fortnight leaving our Peace Centre. When we heard the news that our ideal devotee, Sri Subbarayudu, was coming from Pithapuram and arriving at Mettupalayam on Monday, we were all anxious, including our Peace van to go down the hills to receive him at the Station.

While the children and other members were singing the name of God, doing *bhajan*, the worship, while going down the hills, feeling His presence mile after mile getting down, the height of 6500 feet, the coolness was leaving us and we were feeling warmth as we reached the Mettupalayam Rly. Station. Sri K.S.R., was there waiting for us with a beaming face. We gave him the front seat and were returning back to Kotagiri, to our Nilgiri Peace Centre with all contentment and happiness, sowing seeds of peace and love, all along the way, wherever our Peace van stopped. At the outskirts of Mettupalayam, we have a devoted friend and well-wisher, in the form of a retired Agricultural Demonstrator, Bro. Thangavelu, who is working now for a Muslim *sait* looking after his garden. He was an elderly man not only in age, but in devotion too. He is so devoted and interested in the progress and welfare of the Peace Centre, that he sends every month unasked, from his slender resources rupees five regularly for the upkeep of Lakshmi Villa, Peace Centre. As we did not want to pass by the side of such a devotee without seeing him, we stopped our van at the gate of the garden of the Muslim *sait*.

Our Rajaji went into the garden to see whether our devotee was in, at that midday hour. What was our surprise when we saw the devoted demonstrator working with a spade in his hand in that hot sun, along with his coolies! When asked why he was working so hard in that burning heat, he simply said "I AM PAID FOR MY WORK." He is paid for the work, he is doing. These are the golden words to be written in the annals of history for the good of man and the progress of the world.

If the manager sleeps on his soft bed, while the coolies are working only very poor work is turned out. When he is with them standing and looking on, some work can be done, but when he also, takes a spade and works along with them, hundred percent of work is done, as in the case of the manager of the Muslim *sait*, Br. Thangavelu, the friend and the devotee of Santi Ashram.

In our Totapalli Ashram, when I see thegurukula children sweeping and cleaning the grounds while doing garden work, when the school teacher stands by them with a cane in his hand, only half the work or less than that is being done. But when the master himself takes a broom, and begins to work along with the boys, full 100% of work is cheerfully accomplished. We are all paid to do our work here for He Who Does Not Work HasNo Right to Eat. Alas, how sad it is to see the world filled with lazy, selfish and self-interested people in all the walks of life, be they merchants or doctors or teachers or government servants etc.

During the recent visit to our Peace Centre, SriRani Sahebaof Bobbili brought us two big sized honey bottles along with her other gifts. As I was having a little cough, I was happy to see the honey bottles, packed by a well-known company. Alas, when we opened one of the bottles and began to use the honey, it was found to be full of sugar. In the name of making a few rupees, is not the unwise merchantduping and deceiving his customers, as well as himself? Will anyone who saw the sediment at the bottom of the bottles of honey, ever go again to the same shop?Such merchants are digging their own graves withtheir own hands. Take again the case of a doctor who gets a fat monthly salary, besides a lot of money from his patients, not even treating a few cases a day and being absent day after day! Is he not also paid for his work? Or take the case of a veterinary doctor getting a good salary every month, not treating even one sick cow or bull in a day. Here one is reminded of the helpful verse:--

*Ma. Manujundipasuvautakamtibasujanmambechu, nivetludha
Ninibuttinchithivatlucheyunadhi: ha! Nirbhagyatanjnana me
Llanuvyathyasthamujesi, niividhulannullaginchedhannenu: dham
Dana karhundanu, brovavenanudhayan: sadbakhachinthamani*

To such a man, indeed, animal birth is betterthan human birth. He is misusing the God—given opportunities and living for himself instead of serving the poor, the sick and the helpless who are all God's children, be they, in the human or animal kingdoms of life. Such people deserve to be punished by God, but God is full of Love. Hence, who will punish them? No need of God or anyone punishing them, for they are reaping what they have sown, digging their own graves, with their own hands.

We may be able to dupe and deceive the finite man, those who are paying and trusting us, but we can never dupe or deceive the Indwelling Light, the All-knowing One, and the One who is the Witness of all our thoughts, words and deeds. It is high time, to wake up and realize that each one of us, whether we are house-holders or *sanyasins*, that we are paid here, not to be lazy and selfish, but to be active and selfless, to play our part to the best of our ability.

Indeed, the world is a stage and all of us are theactors in it. And we are here to play our part cheerfully and selflessly and thus be a blessing to mother earth and to the creator, but never to be a burden and curse to the world of humanity. Let us not live in such a selfish and self-centered way, making our creator to feel abashed of creating us as human beings by His heedlessness. Verily, we are paid for our work. A *sanyasin* is expected to meditate deeply, forgetting body, mind and world, running no longer after the fleeting clouds of name and fame.

A house-holder, be he a Maharaja or peasant is paid here to work, live and breathe for others, remembering always that SERVICE OF MAN IS SERVICE OF GOD. May God bless our Br. Thangavelu, the ideal devotee of God, who is blessed with the highest vision, THAT HE IS PAID, FOR HIS WORK; with health, peace and longest life of selfless service!

May the ideal life of Br. Thangavelu be an example to all the other children of God and may every precious moment of all of us be best utilized in deep meditation or in selfless service for the peace of all His children, in the East and the West!

AN OFFERING

An offering to the active and lazy to the selfless, as well as to the selfish, wishing the Peace of all!

My Peace be unto all !
Om Shanti Shanti Shanti
Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace July & Aug 1962)

15. IMPOSSIBLE

IMPOSSIBLE is a word found only in fool's dictionary. Thus said the mighty Nepolian. What can we find in fools dictionary? We find in it LAZINESS, SELFISHNESS, GOSSIPING,, too much talking- TALKATIVENESS and all other such negative words. The dictionary meaning of the word IMPOSSIBLE is: Not possible, Impracticable, Hopelessly objectionable.

Thus, the word IMPOSSIBLE is never found in the wise man's dictionary. You will find in the wise man's dictionary; CENT PERCENT POSSIBLE. All things are possible for those who love God, and who trust in Him completely. Complete self-surrender is what is needed, for the realization of success in any line, whatever line or work it may be. When the self, the ego is dead, the LIGHT shines in full splendour. Is it impossible to crush the "I", to annihilate the "ego"? If it is not possible there would not have been the advent of any sage or saint in the annals of history of the world. By persistent effort, complete trust and confidence in the power of God and relying on the Indwelling Light, all things are possible and the so called impossible things are made possible. Your birthright is success but not failure. It is not weakness but strength.

Your divine heritage is not body-consciousness but it is God- Consciousness. You are the lion, but never a sheep. O wake up sleeping lion! Assert and manifest your latent divine energy, the splendour of Millions of Suns. Why bleat any more with imaginary fears and negative and weak thoughts of failure? Begin to roar with the thoughts of Omnipresence, Omnipotence, and

Omniscience. Fearlessness is your birthright. Why quake any more with the negative and weak thoughts of fear and sickness? Even in the depths, you are in the presence of God, for He pervades and permeates, not only your body but also the whole universe. How consoling are the words:

WHEN I STUMBLE, I STUMBLE INTO THE LAP OF GOD

All this world is the lap of God. All this is filled by God's presence. Where is the place, where God does not exist? Where is the existence of time, even for the millionth fraction of a second without His Presence! Feel, feel, by merging within, in the All-Light which is the only reality.

God alone exists. In Him there is no darkness or failure. To the man of Iron Will, all things are possible. He repeats cheerfully; "I WILL FIND A WAY OR MAKE ONE. Man is the creator of his own destiny. As he thinks he becomes, for THOUGHTS ARE THINGS. Impossible: -I laugh at the very word which can be found only in the dictionary of Fools. Was it impossible for Christ to drive away Satan? Was it impossible to Buddha to conquer Mara? Was it not possible for Krishna to destroy the evil Kamsa? Was it not possible for Rama to kill the demon Ravana?

Is it impossible to control anger which is changing the blood into poison? Is it impossible to conquer lust, which is making a wreck of the Spiritual Life? Is it impossible to conquer Desire, the root cause of all maladies?

Above all, is it impossible to kill, destroy, annihilate the ego, the source of all agony and misery? Yes, it is impossible for the man of the world who is playing the part of a fool, forgetting his Inherent Divinity, but it is possible for the wise-man, the man of God.

Mrs. Hayward -Jnana Devi says in "Christ Appears"

There is nothing that Jesus did, that we cannot of oneness with the God Love, the Omnipresent Power do also, if we but live the Inner Life of perfection. Strive, make a brave fight for Perfection, for complete control of our thought-power and of our thinking day by day. Be like the man:-

*"Who never turned his back but marched breast forward.
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph.
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better, sleep to wake"*

We must build the house of our life on an unshakable foundation of solid principles, the God principles, which we can learn and keep for our own, by studying the words of Lord Jesus.

It is helpful to think of what Ruskin said: “Donot think of your faults; still less of others faults; look for what is good and strong; and try to imbibe it; your faults will drop off like dead leaves when their time comes”.

All things are possible to the God-men, for souls of God-realization or Self-reliance. Trust in God and do your part to the best of your ability, and success will be the result. Ask, it shall be given, knock, it shall be opened. You get what you deserve. Deserve And No Need Of Desiring. If you are lazy and selfish wasting your precious time in gossiping or talking ill of others, even though you desire and desire day and night, you will never get it and you are far away from success. Your life is an utter failure if you desire without DESERVING. In the fundless state of our Ashram, when there is no food to feed the children of the GURUKULA, I repose my implicit trust in God, relying fully on Him keeping in mind: All the Wealth in the World Belongs to Me, As All Hands Belong to God. Somewhere, from someone, be it near or far, known or unknown place, from some unexpected source, help comes in a most mysterious way, quiet inexplicably making us to exclaim in wonder and gratitude.

How good is God! How unfailing is His Love? God alone never disappoints or fails us, in spite of a million tests and trials, the passing clouds, in the mirage-like world.

It is with you to be a Dr. JYKAL or Mr. HIDE. Dr. JYKAL—the positive force leads you towards the Heights. Mr. HIDE—the negative and weak force leads you towards the depths of the hell. In man these are the two forces that push towards the highest and the lowest depths. We are here in the world of duality to assert the best and the highest. LIVE IN GOD AND HELP OTHERS TO LIVE IN HIM! What a sublime ideal and aspiration! This has been the only ideal of Sri Santi Ashram, the Mission of Peace from the very inception of it.

O! IMMORTAL CHILDREN OF GOD, INHERITORS OF COSMIC LIGHT! Pray! Visit, your Santi Ashram, for it is your own! Come! To the Abode of Peace, to take hold of your DIVINE BIRTHRIGHT, to live in God and help others to live in Him. This is the only truth, real and highest ideal of man, the living image of God. No more impossibilities for the man of God. You will always be successful. How life-giving and soul-awakening is the thought, in the following words:-

*I am success though hungry, cold, ill-clad,
I wander for a while, I smile and say;
It is but for a time -I shall be glad
Tomorrow, for good fortune comes my way.
God is my Father, He has wealth untold;
His wealth is mine, health, happiness and gold.*

TROUBLES ARE GOD’S RAIN ON EARTH. I take joy in repeating, never TROUBLE the TROUBLE, until TROUBLE, TROUBLES YOU. LIGHT alone is your birthright. It is Light within, without, above, below and all around. May within, without, above, below and all around. May all Homage be unto the Indwelling Light, which is One without a

second, in which the passing clouds of impossibilities never exist! Where are the passing clouds in the splendour of Sun of suns?

RECOGNIZE THE SPLENDOUR AND BESILENT! Verily, the *atman* is for the brave, never for the weak and faint-hearted.

Glory! Glory!! Glory!!!
Supreme Silence, Infinite Power, Waveless Peace
OM OMOM

(Peace Oct 1962)

16. I WEEP FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT WEEP FOR GOD!

Blessed are they, who weep for God! Such souls are very few, rare and precious. They weep not only for God, but also they weep for all those who do not weep for God. The world is full of people who are weeping for the passing goods of the world. They weep over sickness, over their children, over the loss of wealth. They weep for name and fame—the passing clouds of the world. Where are the people who weep for God, for the Real, the only Changeless Reality?

Children weep over childish things. The grown-ups weep for the toys of the world. Somehow *maya*-delusion, binds and makes one and all weep over something or other, rather than over God—the only Reality. Knowing the preciousness of Time, every moment of it, when I had to waste not moments but hours with the materialistic people, with discussions and arguments, I too begin to weep over the needless waste of the priceless time. Silently and unconsciously, I utter a prayer to the indwelling presence of my heart thus:

O God! Protect me from these talking machines who do not know the value of the precious Time or the Glory of Silence.

Often as if God listens to my silent prayers the cultured and educated, visitors, look at their wristwatches and as if feeling that they too are wasting their time in the Ashram, they rise from their seats and depart cheerfully. For the man of the world, the Ashram life, the silent life of Peace is like the life of fish on dry land. Whereas, for men of God, this Life of Silence is the real life, like the life of fish in water.

Verily, weeping and laughing are the dual states of the restless mind. In God, the Indwelling LIGHT, there is neither weeping nor laughing. It is all light within, without, above, below and all around from the beginning to the end.

I weep for those who do not weep for God! This is one of the inspiring signs in the Ashram, which touches my heart, whenever I see it. There is another inspiring and touching

Motto: The heart devoid of love is a cemetery. Without love in the heart, what is the use of doing all the *pujas* and worships?

As God is Love and Love is God, let the center first be in God—love. Verily, where love is there is God. If we have love in our hearts, if we feel His presence now, there is no need of any more *pujas* and penances, for Love is the God of all austerities and spiritual *sadhanas* - practices. Love and be loved in return, Live as love. Then there is no need to love anyone more or less, for when you live as love, your love includes all. Live in God and help others to live in Him has been the only Ideal of Santi Ashram, the Mission of Peace, since it was established in the year 1917. The teachings that we cannot practice in our own lives are mere waste, even if we teach and preach to others both day and night.

As repeated by Swami Ram: Wanted reformers, not to reform others, but to reform themselves.

Let charity begin at home!

Blessed are they in whose lives self-reformation begins within themselves. As all are the children of God, we cannot help but feel for the welfare of others who are a part and parcel of the One Indivisible Self, the *Paramatma*. Thus, a God – man naturally and unconsciously weeps for those who do not weep for God, digging their own graves with their own hands, steeped in selfishness.

SELFISHNESS LEADS TO HELL.

SELFLESSNESS LEADS TO HEAVEN.

Enough of words. One word is enough for the wise.

Dear God! Lead us from the unreal to the Real, from darkness to Light and from the mortality to Immortality.

May Peace be unto all.

A LOVING OFFERING

A Loving offering to DR. CHANNA REDDY and SISTER SAVITRI DEVI wishing their Peace.

OM OMOM

(Peace Oct 1963)

17. IN THE TEMPEST OF FEVER

Where is the sky without a cloud? Where is the world without its tempests and storms? Each day of sunshine is succeeded by a night of darkness and the night again with a day of sunshine. Thus tests and trials, tempests and storms, sorrows and joys, sickness and health, poverty and riches, all seem to be the obverse and reverse of the same coin in the life of the dual world. Blessed are they, who are same either in tempests, storms on the heights or the depths! Laws of nature are same to one and all, to the *yogies*, *swamies* or house-holders or to anyone else, be they rich or poor, learned or ignorant, the inexorable law of sowing and reaping operates on one and all exactly without any partiality, be they kings or peasants, sages or sinners.

Due to many visitors and heavy work in the Ashram, there has been too much strain with late meals, midnight work and night vigils all ended naturally, in physical prostration. It was midday on 4th and I was working until then, without even the thought of any refreshment or rest, as it was the day of mailing of our Santi Journal. When I was about to retire to bathe and rest, another bundle of 300 copies of the journal was brought for verification before posting. The work should be done only by me, for I alone know all the old and new devotees of the Ashram. Who is who! In spite of the repeated requests of Chy. Jnaneswari, that I should stop work and bathe - I continued to verify the journals and found some of the subscribers were even dead, left this plane of earth. Yet, it is a consolation that our Santi Journal is pursuing them even in death - although their addresses in heaven are unknown to us. Anyway our intentions are good and many of our devotees of the Ashram whether they send money or not, whether they are dead or alive, still receive our Message of Peace. By the time I verified the last copy of Santi Journal, I too felt like a dead person, so exhausted, hence rose and silently reached the bed to rest and relax.

I did not have even the energy to bathe or to eat food. The breakfast was forgotten in the heavy work. Unable to partake even lunch at this late hour due to heavy exhaustion. Several hours passed away, thus I was in a Coma and by the time I woke up there was severe fever. There was neither thirst nor hunger. The whole of the next day 5th, too passed away with unconsciousness and high fever. On the 6th day, the tempest was calm and the fever was lessened. After the storm, there is always peace.

I was ashamed to hear, when I was unconscious with high fever, I was moaning. Why was I not silent? Repeating the life-giving and soul-awakening peace prayer? These are all, later thoughts with repentance. May be, I was repeating His name, feeling His presence even in unconsciousness. Is not God - the unbidden guest, ever sitting in the chambers of my heart? May I ever recognize Him and be silent eternally. Om! Om! Om!

In spite of the sickness, ill-health I am always grateful to God. I do not get sick often, but when I get it, I get very seriously. There was 104 degrees temperature with splitting headache and severe cold, also pain in the chest, besides the general weakness that has made me lifeless. On the first day in my unconsciousness, I was unable to move a step but to be carried by two persons, on the next day with the help of one person I was able to take a few steps. On the third day, I was able

to go into the bath room with faltering steps. On the 4th day I am myself again. I went in the morning towards Sri Krishna Mandir, in the evening towards the *Soham Tapovan*, glorifying God, on every side, in the very hills, in the cool breeze and in the balmy sunshine itself. I was taking fruit juice praising God even for the fruits and for all His richest blessings, without the least thought of a complaint over the passing sickness. I was like a new born baby with new strength now, for all the sickness and foreign matter has left me in the form of phlegm, fever etc., I felt so refreshed new born or re-born with health and peace too. Then in the great joy of praising God, I was unable to sleep glorifying Him on every side and in every sound. All others slept, weary and tired with day and night vigils over my welfare. I was alone with God feeling His Presence, unwilling to be disturbed, unconsciously repeating with tears of ecstasy: -How Good is God; He has been always too good.

I heard silent footsteps and whispers outside the door. Who was it now that knocks at the door of my room, when I was alone with God feeling His presence in the sacred sanctuary of my heart? It was, a late hour and a night of darkness. Unwillingly I opened the door. Lo! And behold it is God who comes to us in so many forms. What is the result of this rising tempest with the high fever? Friday the 6th, is a memorable day in the life of Santi Ashram.

Now let us not keep the loving devotees, the well-wishers of the Ashram outside the door, but receive them, for as it is God, who comes to us through so many forms. We had the blessed Pilgrim *Agastya Bhadrachalam* recently and the visit to the holy place and the legends connected with it are still fresh and hovering in my mind, especially the marvelous incident how Lord Rama and Lakshmana carried all the wealth, the dues to the Muslim Raj and relieved of all the debts of Ramdas, the ideal devotee of Sri Rama. Now here is our friend, the ideal devotee of the Ashram, thereal well-wisher with rupees fifteen thousand-Rs. 15000/- hard cash. A free love-offering to be used in the service of God for the good of all, to create more light, if it is His will to electrify the Ashram. Not my will, but may His will be done, for the benefit of all. It is not one rupee or two rupees, not a hundred or thousand rupees! Imagine Rs. 15000/- hard cash. In the Ashram, where we do not know from where the next meal for our 60 orphan children and the remaining 100 members and workers, can be procured, often one wonders whether what I am writing is real or a mere dream? If it is not for the hard cash, one can touch, feel and see it, one may think, it is all a day dream. I only repeat: How good art Thou, dear God. Every little experience, be it, bitter or sweet takes me, more and more into the heart of God. I feel His presence deeply and intensely now more than ever.

It is the ardent wish of our silent friend who has so generously donated such a big sum that the Ashram should have electricity to help in the Press and Agriculture and also to be helpful to the foreign visitors who stay here, more so as we are expecting now a devoted sister from Switzerland. We are only His instruments and whatever is to be done is done by Him for the good of all, as well as for the progress of the Ashram. Our duty is only to trust in Him more than ever, completely relying on Him ever repeating: -NOT MY WILL BUT MAY THY WILL BE DONE NOW AND ALWAYS!

Many miracles have happened in this life by His grace. This has been one of the happiest miracles happened so suddenly and unexpectedly. Unconsciously out of the fullness of heart, I praise God with gratitude and beg Him, to make this instrument more and more worthy of all His blessings. I love to share with another miracle that has touched me deeply and made me the happiest man in all the world, marveling at the unbounded mercy of God. While we were returning from our Nilgiri Peace Centre in one village an elderly lady, approached our Jnaneswari and put Rs. 1000/- into her hands and said.

Dear child, this is for Sri Swamiji's use, even after I am gone, please do not use the Principal amount and use only the interest that you get on it to buy fruits or a cloth for the need of Sri Swamiji on his Birthday Jan. 21st every year.

How can I express my grateful thanks in these few words to the Almighty, who has entered into the dedicated heart of Mother Annapurnamma and rendered this permanent good deed setting an example for all the Mothers in the East and the West. During my stay in U. S. A., in Philadelphia another Mother also has set apart some money in her WILL saying.

“My child, I never want to see you in need, even after I am gone.”

I feel so deeply touched and immensely grateful to all these big hearted Mothers of the East and the West, who go out of the way to take such great care of me, not only while this body is alive but also after it has gone from this world. I take joy in repeating: -If we do God's work, God will do our work. If we love him unselfishly, He will take care of us ceaselessly, protecting us always like a tender, doting Mother with the Heart of a Universal Mother, who loves all Her children, knowing the particular needs of each and every child. How true are the wise words:

DESERVE AND NO NEED OF DESIRING

Everything passes away in this world, except the moments of God-consciousness, the sacred moments that we spend alone with God. This RISING FEVER in the raging TEMPEST brought God, more and more, nearer and dearer to my heart. May every experience, be it severe or mild, lead me towards Him, may help me to forget myself in His indescribable love and Infinite Blessings. May I be eternally centered in Him forgetting the tempests of fevers, the clouds in the world of duality.

Above all, my grateful thanks to all those who took such tender care of me, in the hours of my unconsciousness and to the silent friend of the Ashram, who has brought light in the darkness, permanently helping the Ashram in its great need with electricity. May God's richest blessings ever be upon our HOLY SHADOW, who longs to be unknown and on all the selfless and dedicated souls who are contributing to the upkeep and progress of the Ashram. Above all, dear loving readers of Peace magazine in the East and the West, pray, join me now in a deep meditation, glorifying God for all His richest blessings for His ever present Omnipresent protection. Where is the moment when He is absent from us? Now let us merge in Him, repeating the following holy statements.

In the Past I have been one with Thee. Om! Om! Om!
In the Present I am one with Thee. Om! Om! Om!
In the future I am bound to be one with Thee Om ! Om! Om!
I have been eternally one with Thee. Om !Om ! Om!

Glory GloryGlory

(Peace Dec 1963)

18. INHALE AND EXHALE PEACE THY BIRTHRIGHT

My Living Image of the adorable Light!
GREETINGS OF PEACE AND LOVE.

God has given me a new lease of life– aRebirth, out of His mercy without, taking menow, from this world, in the recent HeartMalady. As I love to be grateful to God, forHis great blessings of this New life, my heartlongs, even from the sick bed to make best useof not only my remaining days, but also each andevery moment of my life Now, in serving youall, more than ever. What can I do for you now?Can I serve you in any way?

Besides the TEMPLEOF ALL RELIGIONS, WITH THEIR RESPECTIVELIBRARIES AND THE SHRINE OF SILENCE ON THE SECOND STORY, in Waltair Ashramby the beach-side, my dream nowis, to start Sri Rama Tirtha college of Peace, on the hill in the lovely Kailas Ashram, facing the ocean, forthe benefit of all.

As you have been a close friend and well-wisher of the Ashram and an advocate of Peace,wishing world Peace, I am sending now the roughout-lines of my ideas and thoughts for your kindperusal, sympathy and wise suggestions. I amrelying on your prayers to realize my dream, forthe Peace of all.

May SRI RAMATIRTHA COLLEGE OF PEACE be my humble offering to the aspiring children ofGod, who are blessed with Hearts of Universality. Blessed are they who consider the Wide World as their Home and its people as sistersand brothers and to love and serve them as thehighest religion.

There is tremendous energy—Infinite Power within me now that longs to descend on the troubled world. First allow me to share it with you. As the wise say, TODAY MAN IS AND TOMORROW HE IS NOT and as Life is frail and uncertain, in case the CALL comes to me from the GREAT BEYOND GOD, may I count on your sympathy and prayers in realising my dream for the Peace of all.

May Peace abide with you and may your Peace lead to the Peace of the community, nation and the mankind. This is the prayer of your Brother Omkar.

(Peace April 1964)

19. IF I HAD THE POWER.

There is Infinite power inherent in everyone, for we are the children of Infinite God. The Infinite Potential Inherent power is only to be recognized, touched and awakened, for manifesting it in the world of activity especially when there is destruction and death everywhere. Yoga gives power and poise. It checks the wandering faculties of the restless mind, creating new strength, power and peace. It seems once a *yogi* was meditating practicing yoga under the shade of a tree and suddenly something fell on his head. It was the excretion of a bird. He was so annoyed and angry that he looked up at the bird and the poor bird fell down dead. The *yogi* felt happy at the marvelous powers of consuming or burning away the bird and in self-pride he went into the village and tried to turn his gaze when a chaste woman, delayed in giving him food. Then the lady said that she was not the helpless bird to be burnt by his yogic powers. Then it seems our *yogi* felt ashamed of his tiny powers and ignorance. Thus there are many *yogis* whose lives are dedicated to realize God, the goal of precious human birth. There are some genuine *mahatmas* and *avatars* who are full of compassion and power. Some of them claim that they can do anything and everything for the good of the world even rising the death.

In these dreadful times of cruel death and needless carnage in the motherland, my mind turns towards all the *mahatmas* and *avatars* of the East and the West to use their powers to stop this heart-rending death and destruction of the innocent, poor and sick. When the hospitals, schools, mosques, churches and temples, the houses of Prayer are getting bombed and destroyed and the innocent are dying, suddenly with excruciating sufferings, is it not the time for all the *yogies*, *sadhus* and *mahatmas* to do something practical to stop this carnage and destruction!

On the other day, Santi Ashram was blessed with the loving visit of Sri Swami Anandaji Maharaj of Delhi, the Secretary of Bharat Sadhu Samaj, in connection with the starting of Rama Tirtha Institute of Peace here in Totapalli Hills. He was telling that he had Ten

Thousand genuine *sadhus* – who are working for the good of the country and Peace of the world. It was Swami Rama who had said: Let one man alone live in God and the whole nation can be united through him. What is there then that ten thousand *sadhu mahatmas* cannot do in this critical and helpless state of the Motherland-the holy land that has given birth to all the *avatars* and *mahatmas*.

Pujya Swami Ramananda Tirthaji tells me, that there are fifty five lakhs of *sadhus, mahatmas, yogies* and *avatars* of every kind in the Holy Bharat. Imagine the great service that all those 55 lacs of *sadhus* can render to establish Peace on earth and good-will among nations, if they could only concentrate and meditate to stop carnage, death and destruction, in the present crisis of the Motherland. Now coming to the practical side of my theme, in my musings, the thought comes what will you do if the power is given to you to stop the war. I will certainly stop the bitterness, hatred, vengeance and ill-feelings in man and create harmony, understanding, love and peace among the nations. I will make the cease-fire, real and permanent. I will mobilize and direct all the evil and harmful forces, for the welfare and peace of the world.

Going deeper within, I was musing once even if I had the power of consuming the evil burning away selfish people, the war-mongers to whom the death of the innocent millions is nothing, I will not use it on the Presidents and leaders of Pakistan or China or on the wire-puller sitting behind the scene causing harm in a subtle and cunning way to the innocent people. It is God's work to punish the wicked and selfish and to reward the pious and selfless.

Evil destroys itself. The man who takes up the sword gets killed by the sword only. Let the power that we have within be used only to destroy the ego within. Let it be used for more self-purification for the peace of all in the worlds of Sri Vinobhaji what the individuals and nations need is more self-purification both within and without for the establishment of Peace on Earth and Heaven. How life-giving and soul-awakening is our Peace Chant.

AN OFFERING

An offering to all His children, especially to all the 55 lacs of *sadhus, mahatmas* invoking God's richest blessings for World Peace.

(Peace Jan 1966)

20. IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET GOD

SOUL-AWAKENING THEME

This is the most life giving and soul-awakening theme that cannot be understood and comprehended by the lay-man especially by the man of the world. But this vital message, can not only be understood and comprehended by the wiseman, the man of God, but it gives him added strength and great inspiration. If there is anything impossible in this world, there is only one thing. That thing is, man of God can never forget the Indwelling Light. You can forget anything and everything but not the Indwelling Presence, the Interpenetrating Light.

How can you forget IT, when IT is working in you ceaselessly? It is in you from the beginning to end. There has never been a single moment, when God or the Light is absent from you. Verily, you are working, moving, thinking and breathing in that Light, for, it is within, without, above, below and all around. When once you understand personally, from your meditation that God - the Indwelling Presence - the Adorable Light is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient, you are ever centered in Him either in the past, present or future, both in work and silence.

If you are walking, you are walking towards Him, nay - that which walks in you is He. Because of His presence you are able to move and walk. If you are thinking, it is because of His presence, you are thinking. Even when you are silent - not moving or thinking, He is in you, in the form of *soham* in your very breath, inhaling and exhaling Light, with each and every breath. How can you ever forget Him? It is impossible to forget Him. It is most essential that you should have the true conception of God - the highest conception of God - then alone you can express Him in thought, word and deed ceaselessly. If you are seeing, you are seeing Him, for, all the world is filled with the Presence of *Iswara* - the Light of the manifested world. As I am writing now, I hear the rising waves of the ocean, singing His name - offering their constant prayers. Every wave is a prayer. Let every thought be a prayer to God. Every sound comes from Him. The manifested world is an emanation of God. All is God within and without.

What need is there of any more words! God is Silence - Waveless Silence, Supreme Silence. Knowing Him, the sages melt in that incomprehensible Silence. It is from that stupendous Silence, Souls are created. Illuminating flashes and thunders come out of that great silence, the Silence of the great Beyond. Now, let us meditate on the Glory of this Self-effulgent Light, the Soul of the Waveless Silence, allowing the senses to merge in the mind and the mind in the intellect and the intellect in the ego and the ego in the *mahat* - the Primal Energy - the Unknown Substance - the Splendour of Millions of suns.

May this life-giving and Soul-awakening message bless us all with added strength - above all, with Peace that passeth all understanding.

YOU ARE IN THE LIGHT,
THE LIGHT IS IN YOU,

YOU ARE THE LIGHT.
TAT TWAM ASI, THAT THOU ART,

May Peace be unto all !Om !Om ! Om!

DEDICATION

Dedicated to Sri B. S. Murthy, the oldest friend and well- wisher of the Ashram, in memory of his loving visit to the Ashram-the Mission of Peace on 10th October 66.

(Peace Nov 1966)

21. Inspired Utterance

Once again I am not only happy to see you all but grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to see you all and share with you my latest thoughts. As you know I never give quotations from the Vedas or Bible, for, my daily personal experiences are my Bible, the Book of Daily Life. Today there are not many people here but it doesn't matter or make any difference to God, for, He is equally present whether there are thousands or even only one.

As I listened to the music and the readings from Cosmic Flashes and in the Hours of Silence I looked at our white kitten playing and romping, jumping about and following so carefully a lizard. The kitten's attention, concentration upon the lizard was so intense that he never paid any attention to any of us or to the music or his surroundings. His only intention was to capture the lizard, his food and eat it. When I see the concentration of that kitten I think that, that is how we should be in our longing for God. We must pine for God without being distracted by anything in the outer world, consume our ego or little self in the fire of God-consciousness.

My heart is burning to live and breathe only for Him and to express only Him always; and to love and serve all of you ever in every possible way.

Today, late in the afternoon a visitor came. I wanted to take rest in God after rising in the early hours of 2 or 3 A. M. and working, writing letters and attending to the affairs of the Ashram all day. Fortunately this visitor didn't stay long and also he was a talking machine. There was no need to wind him or listen to him. I could just sit back and feel the Presence of God while he talked on and on. It seems he had come across a certain book and caught hold of it, a highly spiritual book but he said that this book contains everything whatsoever and henceforth there was no need for him to look at any other book. He also said that whoever read this book should not bother with any other books.

This reminded me of an incident which happened many years ago, although I don't remember whether it was here or in America or some other foreign land. A missionary came to me

with a Bible and said that it contained the sum of all spiritual wisdom and that all who accepted it, would reach heaven whereas those, who did not recognize the Bible, were doomed to hell. There is nothing wrong with the Bible or any other book but to confine oneself to one religion, to one testament, to sell one's soul and say that all those who do not read your particular spiritual book will go to hell is to deny God and His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience.

It made me sad to hear the visitor say such things of his book and it reminded me of the incident with the missionary so many years ago but it made me sad to remember the words that the ones who do not read his particular book will go to hell. When I hear such words I take comfort in repeating the helpful *mantram* 'This too shall pass away'. During the tests and trials of Ashram life, and when my heart becomes sad and heavy thinking of the long pilgrimage and the great responsibilities ahead to help the devotees with Peace then the thought comes 'This is too shall pass away and I feel better.

But the greatest responsibility and burden ahead is to give something worthwhile, to help those who seek and aspire to God, the Light within. What I worry about is how to help them and give something practical and new. Thus I go deeper and deeper within and spend more time in the *jnana guha*, the cave, but as I go deeper it seems the Ashram troubles, tests and trials come thicker and stronger. Yet, every wave that goes down must rise again. 'Out of the depths, fresh strength'. This has been my sole consolation.

Our Chanti has a big responsibility; he has to keep the van ready for our trip, make sure that our journey is safe. But Chanti doesn't worry about the lectures to be given; he works day and night to get ready the van. The whole pilgrimage is centered on him.

Some devotees whom we will be seeing along the way, wrote and said it is the custom of their place, whenever a Swami comes, to take him in a procession through the village. But I said that they might take me in procession only after the Light has gone from this body, after its death. So long as this body is alive and there is any Light, let me share it with all seekers of Truth and not parade it through the streets and towns. Our Mandayya's disciples write and say that we should come at the time of the Sri Rama Navami when there will be great crowds of people. But the mere thought of crowds of people gives me fever. Let us all ever seek the Light within in Silence and not the hustle and bustle of the restless crowds!

As it was getting late I went to see the work that our Mandayya has been doing in constructing platforms for the statues that our Rama Devi of Bangalore has so kindly offered from her late father's home in Madras, which he named Santi Ashram and made into a Santi Kendra. After seeing the work there I went to Sivalayam and on the way our Bada Rami fell on one of the workers and almost bit her. I had to use a stick and beat the Rami away. It made me sad that the Rami attacked someone and it made me sadder that I had to use a stick and hit Rami. I felt sad until I apologized to Bada Rami. Thus, whatever happens we must uphold our principles and ideals of Oneness with all living beings, on both sides.

Then, as there were so many bushes and thorns which had been cleared away the workers made a big fire and burned them, As I watched that blazing fire it gave me the greatest inspiration, for, I felt that the fire was a cosmic flame burning away the ego, the *ahamkara* and I went into ecstasy to feel that my ego was being burnt away.

It was getting dark, I went with the Ramis to Shiva and rang the bell four times wishing Peace to all the four quarters. Then I flashed the light on Shiva who was absorbed in meditation and asked Lord Shiva, 'O Lord, what is Your Message?' Shiva said, 'Be like me'. And then I asked, 'What is the most simple and direct way to be like you?' He said: 'Follow *SOHAM*'. And I felt happy to have that initiation directly from Him, from Lord Shiva and to bring it to you. So the essence of today's message is:

Follow *SOHAM* ceaselessly, for, It alone shall take you in a simple and direct way to the Light which is within your own purified hearts.

OmOmOm

(Peace June 1971)

22. Realize the God in Stillness

(Tape Recorded on Sunday, 23rd May at Kotagiri Peace Centre)

Hearty Welcome to Sri Swami Vimalanandaji, KYN Y Babu, Joy and Shakti Folger of California, Savitri Devi of Germany, to our Bobjee and to all the old and new devotees from near and far, I'm very happy to welcome you all into the Presence of God; but if you believe that God is Omnipresent Omnipotent and Omniscient then you are all in His Presence right now.

It has been said that to be happy one needs only to make others happy. Now, today our Brother Bobjee is the happiest man, for, he has brought a tape recorder all the way from Madras and Ooty and is making you all happy by playing the beautiful *harikatha* in Tamil.

Yesterday, all the people were rushing to the Flower Show in Ooty, but only wanted to come to our Peace Centre and see the real Flower within, in the *Sahasrara*. So he has come here and is spending all his time in prayer and meditation in our Lakshmi Vihar.

In spite of all the work here, it makes me sad that so many people are rushing after the outer things of the world. For example, the cinemas are crowded, so many people attend football matches and other games. Thus the mind is running after the things of the world. We say that God is real but yet we run after the unreal things of the world. It has been said by sages that there are two kinds of people in the world. One kind, even though they may be dead, physically no

more, are still alive, for, they are selfless living and breathing for others. The other kind, although they may be strong and healthy on the outside, are dead inside, for, they are selfish and live only for themselves. The 'I', 'I', 'I', is prominent. I leave it to each of you to examine your hearts, minds and desires to see whether you are alive or dead. You are dead if you are thinking only of yourself and alive if you are living for others and pining for God.

As selfless people are ever alive, one cannot help but think of them. For example, our Sarojini, Brother Bobjee's wife, who is no more physically has always had a big heart of love and generosity, always thinking of the comfort and well-being of others and never of herself, so I feel that she is still alive. When I saw the car that Sri Bobjee came in and he told me that it was Sarojini's car I felt Sarojini's Presence. When I heard the music on the tape recorder which Brother Bobjee has brought, I felt it was Sarojini's voice singing and broadcasting her love and God's blessings to all. So may all our Prayers ever be with our Sarojini, for, she is more alive than ever in our devoted Bobjee's heart.

These days, my heart longs to help and serve all of you in a practical way. I do want anyone to come to the Peace Centre without being benefitted in a practical manner. I feel I am in a heaven of my own when I see so many of you here, coming from faraway places such as America, Germany and all parts of India. If there is heaven anywhere it is here, where all people are gathered in His name.

These days, I speak unwillingly, for, I realise the preciousness of every moment. Someone once said that if you must speak, speak only what will be helpful to 20,000 people. So let me speak only a few words and let them be helpful to all. I always try to feel the Presence of God, to get something practical from every little experience. Now, as I look up I see a motto over the door of our Prayer Hall: FORGETFULNESS OF GOD IS DEATH. To be alive is to remember God, to forget Him is death. But we all forget Him almost all the time, when we eat and drink, when we fight and quarrel with our neighbours etc. There is no need for you to come here and listen to me or these words. You don't need anything from me or from any other *Swami* or *Yogi*; all that you need is to only be aware of the Light shining within you. I or that, you need only to practice, practice, and practice.

Then we come to the motto: SILENCE CREATES SOULS. But we are not silent, we do not listen, for, we are all busy talking, hustling, and bustling to listen to God in Silence over the first window are the words: LORD! SPEAK, THY SERVANT HEARETH. But we don't give a chance to the Lord to speak. We don't listen. Then comes the next motto: which is the very basis of our Peace Centre: GOD IS ONE, WORSHIP HIM UNIVERSALLY. So, God is in each and every one of you. Our salvation lies not in teaching and preaching, but in recognising the Presence of God in each and every man, woman and child.

As one word is enough for the wise, I do not want to weary you with too many words. This day is ours and not the next. So let us realise Him today alone and then we'll realise that the God for whom we have been seeking in temples and churches' in all the outer forms of worship, is

waiting patiently within the stillness of our own purified hearts, So, now is the time to realise Him; merge with and realise Him in stillness.

I never teach anything from the *Vedas* or Bible or from any other books, but only from the inner book, personal experience. Today a party of devotees came and asked me to bless them; the bride, her father and all their family on the forthcoming marriage this week so I told them that God has already blessed them; He is in their devoted hearts. I asked them to memorise and repeat the Peace Prayer. As your hunger cannot be satisfied by my eating your food, so I cannot repeat the Prayer for you. You have to do it for yourself. Furthermore, the Peace Prayer unites one with God. I asked the bride, her father and their relations to repeat the Peace Prayer as often as possible, for, it is the connecting link between the individual and God.

So I ask all of you now not only to repeat the Peace Prayer but to share it with others. You may repeat it thousands of times but you will have no real happiness unless you share it with others. Make your families and friends repeat it, spread Peace to others, in your home, community and nation, and thus help for the foundation of Universal Peace. This is the message of our Peace Centre. First, with the repetition of the inspiring Peace Prayer establish Peace in your own hearts and then share it with your family and friends. Spread Peace throughout your whole community and nation and thus establish Universal Peace.

My heart longs to offer my thanks to each and every one of you for coming to our *satsang* and giving up some of your outer activities, your precious time. Now I long to help you all practically to feel God's Presence by the repetition of the Peace Prayer.

(Peace July 1971)

23. I AM GOING

(Are you coming with me?)

I am going

Q: - Where are you going?

A: - I am going to God—from whom I have come. I am going to the place from where I have come.

I am going to the Abode of Peace from where I have come. It is the Source, Soul and Goal of my Life.

You may be willing to follow me to Mounashram or to the Branch Ashram in Kakinada or to Waltair Ashram by the Rishikonda Beach, having Nirvana Ashram by the side of the lovely beach and even to Kailash Ashram on the top of the hill facing ocean on the three sides, where the Ocean is Praying ceaselessly, making every wave an offering, a Prayer to God - the Omnipresent God, the Omnipotent God and the Omniscient God, Who is the soul and goal of our lives - this precious human birth. You may be anxious to follow me to our Kotagiri Peace Centre in the lovely cool Nilagiri Hills - the queen of all the hill stations.

But I feel sure; you are not ready to follow me where I am going to be formless and nameless, nay to die to the world of all forms and names. BE DEAD THAT YE MAY LIVE is the vital message. It is the greatest Truth, the Soul and Goal of our rare precious human birth.

Now let us merge within, introspect our lives closely and clearly, just to know where we are now our present state of things of our complicated lives. Many of us, want everything in this world except God, who is our lives, precious Soul and Goal of our human births!

(1) WHAT IS THE USE OF GAINING THE WHOLE WORLD LOSING YOUR OWN SOUL.

(2) WHAT IS THAT THING BY KNOWING WHICH EVERYTHING IS KNOWN?

(3) KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE.

(4) YOU CAN COUNT THE WAVES ON THE SLEEPLESS SEA BUT NOT YOUR ENDLESS DESIRES.

(5) O Man Know this simple Truth - the only highest TRUTH: DESIRE BINDS, and thus be free, once for all.

Now be alive in memory of this vital important message.

How true are the wise words of sages: that one can count even the waves on the sleepless Ocean, but not the endless desires in one's own mind. How vicious, and dangerous and contagious are some of the desires? In the beginning these simple desires look so simple, but in the end they become most dangerous and vicious too.

One who wants to follow me must give up, renounce all their dangerous desires. One must be pure like an unborn baby. One must be selfless, free from egoism 100 percent to follow me, where I am longing to go. I myself feel sometimes that I am not yet ready fully to follow in the path of Truth, for, the desires within are so latent - subtle desires that are so *tamasic* dangerous that cannot be seen with physical eyes, but can be known only through introspection by the devoted and dedicated souls the aspirants of Truth.

For everything, be it little or big - there is a price to be paid. Similarly if you wish to follow me you must be ready to die to the World. This Truth sounds unpalatable and fearful. Yet this is the simple Truth, highest Truth given in simple words, given in immortal words of Truth.

Let us listen to the clarion call of Blessed Christ, His life giving and Soul awakening words: COME UNTO ME.

As TODAY ALONE IS OURS AND NOT TOMORROW, let us have the strength to follow Him, to merge and dissolve in Him, forgetting all forms and names the toys of the world.

My Dear loving readers I do not wish to weary you with any more words. I am sorry for all these finite words, for, for the wise one word is enough. If your heart, mind and soul are

pinning for God just follow me repeating the sacred symbol AUM, OMOMOM for every step with every breath. Let each step lead you towards God! Let each breath lead you within towards God!

Let the finite Soham Breath lead you towards the Universal Soham Breath - the One Indivisible, Universal Breath, the Soul and Goal of not only our births but of all the Humanity.

Less words and more Silence, SUPREME SILENCE, WAVELESS SILENCE, TRANSCENDENTAL SILENCE.

GLORY GLORY GLORY
HARI OM TAT SAT OM

AN OFFERING

To the rare and few Souls who are ready to follow ME.

Om Om Om

(Peace March 1978)

24. I FEEL

When I have spoken any word
A friend's faith to refute,
I feel that somewhere in the world
A Bird falls mute,
When I on children's mirth have turned,
Unsympathetic eyes,
I feel that somewhere in the sun
A flower dies.
When I have done a thoughtless thing
That leaves my love in doubt,
I feel that somewhere in the sky
A star goes out.

The above poem has been the inspiration of my life. Verily birds, flowers and stars have been a part and parcel of my life, since long I have longed to do more thought to the above three thoughts of---

Harsh words.
Unsympathetic eyes.
Thoughtless things or deeds
Refused Peace and Santi Journals.

Whenever I receive a letter especially from the oldest devotees of the Ashram, saying that they do not want Peace and more-I feel a Soul is lost and fallen into oblivion-along with the bird,

flower and starPeace is the Voice of God, I feel sad when “Refused” Peace and Santi Journals come back to us, more so when they are offered Free, for the poor and deservingThere is a Divine Law that *prarabdhakarma*— the seeds that we have sown, must be reaped at any cost.

Though God’s grace showers on all, like the sun-shine of the effulgent sun, only the bright objects such as mirrors and white objects can reflect its brightness or sunshine, but not the cow-dung or black charcoal. Blessed are the people who feel for birds, flowers, stars and the lost souls who are happy contented in the mire of outer life running after the toys of the world, the passing clouds of name and fame. They have time for everything unreal and temporary, except for the Real and permanent Peace, the Voice of God! May Peace be unto all!

(Peace Nov 1987)

25. JHANSI RANI LAKSHMI BAI

Our Sushila Peace Van took us to Jhansi on the 8th December 1959, during our Peace Tour in the North.

People say, that there is only one thing to be seen in Jhansi. It is the Fort of Jhansi. But the real thing to be seen and felt is the spirit of Jhansi-the great valour and deep devotion that fills and pervades the fort even now.

At the very outset, there is the big Fort with big walls so imposing, striking awe into the hearts of the visitors. Outside the Fort, the Government have constructed the statue of Rani Lakshmi Bai, riding a horse, carrying also her adopted son - Damodar, on her back, even during the fighting.

In memory of Jhansi Rani, the ideal devotee of Shiva my heart longs to pay my homage not only to the Jhansi town and Jhansi Fort, where she lived, but also to the small Temple of *Shiva*, especially where Jhansi Lakshmi used to perform Puja,offering her prayers in the little temple.

We were privileged to be in the ShivaMandirof Jnansi Rani feeling her presence even now, where she used to worship God Shiva. All the members of the Peace Tour, sat in the Temple for a little while repeating Peace Prayer, wishing the Peace of all, and paying homage to the unconquerable Spirit of Jhansi Rani.

Q: Is Jhansi Rani dead?

A: No, she is alive eternally.

Her Great Spirit of valour, deep devotion and love of Motherland, her selfless service to the helpless—be they even of different race and nation, are praise-worthy qualities that remain forever, until the end of the creation itself setting a high example to others to follow in all respect and reverence, in her foot-prints.

Rani Jhansi Lakshmi Bai's short span of life, from birth to death, was all over within 23 years, covering her education in archery and fighting, her marriage—the struggle to defend the Fort, the valiant fighting, on her faithful horse, carrying her son on her back, even amidst the fierce fighting and her patriotic end—all were crowded and completed within those 23 years.

Rani Lakshmi Bai was born on 19th November, 1835, in Bithur, near Kanpur, which is at a distance of 15 miles, where we had the opportunity of going to pay our respects to the Rani of Jhansi, on our Peace Van. There we saw also the place where little Dhruva meditated and also the Valmiki Ashram, where Valmiki wrote his famous Epic the Ramayana.

We were shown also another holy and historical spot, where it seems Brahma started his creation, by the side of the Holy River Ganges. This is what our guide has been telling the members of the Peace Party.

Now from Brahma, let us come to Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, who must have been created also by Brahma, destined to have such a short, sad and valiant life at such a young age!

The Rani of Jhansi was married to Sri Gangadhar Rao, the Rajah of Jhansi in 1850. After the demise of the Rajah Gangadhar Rao, she took charge of the Estate as well as the Fort and its defense in 1857 and passed on 18th June, 1858, during a fierce battle near Gwalior. She kept on fighting although fatally wounded, until end came. We were told that she was cremated by one of her faithful followers in the field, unwept and unsung. May her great soul of valour rest in Peace, in God eternally!

Om! Om! Om!

While the Rani of Jhansi was defending the Fort, we were shown the place where she had to jump with her horse from one of the high walls, to protect herself from the enemies. The faithful horse died after taking the Rani some distance, from where it seems, she took another horse and reached the destination safely. At the place where the first horse died, we were glad to see the monument of the dead faithful horse - a statue of a horse on its grave.

The world is filled now as well as before in the days of the Rani of Jhansi by faithful as well as treacherous people, who sell their souls for a mess of pottage. Christ was sold for 30 pieces of silver by Judas.

Rani Lakshmi Bai's valiant life and sad end remind one of the Great Spirits and sad end of Joan of Arc also. How Joan of Arc fought and raised her country out of nothing into a

monarchy, installing the king, but finally her lot was the saddest end, more heart rending than the end of Jhansi Rani. She was burnt alive by the cruel and hard-hearted people on a stake, without the least mercy. How pathetic and heart rending! But now Joan of Arc is worshipped by all the Christian world as one of the greatest souls. Blessed and innocent Christ too was crucified mercilessly and now he is worshipped all over the world. Such has been the fate of many a sage and saviour. While alive, the ignorant world condemns and crucifies, and after death they are being worshipped and canonized.

How sad and ignorant is the mentality of the world!

Even though I left Jhansi town, Jhansi Fort and Jhansi's Shiva Mandir, often and often my mind goes back to that silent retreat within the Fort, almost in the underground, to the holy temple of Jhansi Rani, where she worshipped her chosen God—SHIVA.

Often my mind dwells with awe and wonder at the vital moments of her devoted life—when the cruel soldiers were besieging the Fort! I still see Jhansi Devi on her knees worshipping SHIVA, invoking His blessings, in the little holy temple, for the Peace of all.

Q: Where is the strength, greatness and the Soul of Jhansi Rani?

A: It is in her great love and deep devotion to God.

Jhansi Lakshmi's Soul is in the little Shiva Mandir and her devoted heart is with Shiva. She was no longer dead. She had become one with her God—the heart of her consecrated life. What a sacred and noble example is our Rani Jhansi's dedicated life, not only to the Sisters and Mothers in the Bharat *Bhumi*- India, the Motherland but to all the Mothers and the Sisters in the West also to be brave, to work and live for an ideal and finally to sacrifice the finite life in defending the Honour as well as an Holy Ideal!

May the Holy Spirit of Rani of Jhansi live long- nay forever eternally, as an inspiration to all the Sisters and Mothers all over the world is my Prayer.

OM OMOM

(Peace April 1960)

26. LAZINESS

Leprosy is considered as the most dreadful and contagious disease by worldly men. But spiritual souls do not consider it so dreadful, for it is only a physical ailment. There is another terrible disease that great souls consider as not only dreadful and contagious but as the most harmful one. It is laziness. Leprosy attacks only the physical body whereas laziness attacks the physical, mental and spiritual bodies. Hence, seekers of Truth should be very careful of this dreadful disease and try to avoid those people that are slaves of this mental disease, for it is very contagious and spreads in no time making a wreck of one's spiritual life.

Unfortunately, laziness is respected and worshipped, mistaking it for spirituality. One needs a very keen sense of discrimination to distinguish laziness from spirituality. There is the common belief that when a man becomes a *Sadhu* or *Swami*, he need not work anymore; he can easily spend the rest of his life in laziness or in doing nothing.

“Doing nothing,” is the highest state of doing everything, only in the spiritual sense of the highest. We are not speaking of those rare and precious souls whose lives are consecrated to the highest form of worship and deep contemplation, where the little self is completely dead and buried. We are concerned here with only those who are restlessly busy in struggling to get fame and name for the little “I” in this bubble-like world of self-delusion.

Forgetfulness of God is laziness. One who is conscious of this body, ever clinging to the little self, is the laziest man.

True spirituality is the highest form of activity. It can never be compared to the lowest state of laziness. It is all consciousness or Cosmic consciousness—the undying flame of God's Cosmic light.

If ever I feel sad for any, it is only for the lazy people; for they are killing the most precious God-given time. Time is precious, more precious than wealth, learning and life itself, for, with the right use of time we can buy all these—wealth and learning, nay, even God Himself can be bought or realized.

Some people say that they are relaxing and not lazy. In laziness there is drowsiness and in relaxation there is rest and Peace. So long as you are feeling His presence, it is all right for you, and it makes no difference whether you are working or relaxing.

Laziness and talkativeness are twins. They often go hand in hand. There are some cases of extreme laziness when a man does not care even to talk. He can be compared to a big snake such as a python that swallows a pig or some other prey and then can hardly move for days.

We have all known people who spend their precious time in doing nothing from morning till evening. Are they not to be pitied? Sometimes people come to our Ashram saying that they

want to meditate all the day long, but they cannot sit still even for ten minutes. When we ask them to help us in the activities of the Ashram, they say, "Have we come here to work, if it is work, we could do it in our homes."

There are some other kind of people who are slaves of talking. As a panther will be waiting to pounce upon its prey these people will be waiting to get their victim so that they could talk with him unceasingly. How harmful are these people that not only waste their time and vitality but of other's precious moments also!

By forgetfulness and your misfortune, if you ask one of these people to explain the meaning of anything or clear any of your doubts, he will take not less than two or three hours to clear your doubt with mere foolish talk and make you almost crazy. Neither will he allow you to go away nor will you be in a position to leave him, for fear of being unmannerly or out of etiquette. So you have to suffer patiently and silently not being inclined to listen to his vain talk but only with the sole desire of getting rid of the man or running away from him. You will feel sad and repent for having sought his help to clear your doubts. You will be only praying to God to listen to your prayer and to make him stop from any more talking.

Dear readers of Peace magazine, I know you too have come across such people in your life; may be some of them are your friends. But beware of them in the name of precious time. It is nothing but laziness that makes them to forget the Presence and to engage themselves in vain talk. It is nothing but waste of time and breath to teach such people the blessedness of silence. They cannot understand, for their lives are centered in the plane of senses. Talk is their very life and food.

Blessed ones, you may be great men engaged in the manifold activities of the world or humble peasants tilling the land, but if you analyze your lives, you will be astonished to find that there is any amount of scope for improvement. There are many precious moments slipping by unconsciously; by utilizing them in His worship, you can make your lives more useful and peaceful. Save your spare moments for longevity and expression of your soul.

Beware of your dear and near friends who are visiting you every day to rob your most precious gift of time. Men are made only by the right use of these spare moments, Refuse to be lazy, for it is death. Either work or meditate. Occupy yourselves in every moment with some useful work or other, trying to grow silently and steadily day by day. Thus the Kingdom of Heaven will not be far or outside of you, but within you.

You can, be the richest man even now by making best use of your time, every moment of it. Remember that a day consists of twenty-four hours. Each hour consists of sixty precious minutes, and each minute in turn consists of sixty valuable seconds. How precious these seconds are!

I have a motto card on my table which reads, “MY WEALTH IS MY TIME”. So do not squander your precious wealth either in laziness or talkativeness. My homage goes out to the great ones who have recognized the true nature of these mighty seconds.

Dear loving readers, out of my love for you I bequeath this mighty wealth of these precious moments with a fervent prayer that you should make the best use of these sacred moments. Will you join me in offering the following prayer to the indweller of our hearts?

PRAYER

O Indivisible Presence! Thou, Who art present in this tiny living moment bless us to recognize Thee, now and here in this very moment alone, for Thou art here, now.

Help us not to waste another moment either in laziness or talkativeness, even by forgetfulness.

May this moment of At-one-ment with Thee lead us into eternity, where Thou art timeless, spaceless and causeless.

Silent adorations be unto Thee now, in this living moment and forever.

May Peace be unto all.

OM SANTI OM

(Peace Aug & Sept 1934)

27. LETTER WRITING

(How to write sweet, short but inspiring letters?)

Letter writing is an art. We can as well say, it is a gift from God or Providence. But gifts do not come to the unworthy and undeserving. They come to the patient, forbearing and to the hard-working. Practice makes perfect, is a great saying whether it is in writing letters or doing meditation. On the average, I often write ten letters a day, That means in a year 3600 letters. Imagine, so many letters going all over the world as silent messengers, consoling the bereaved, comforting the sick, helping the seekers of Truth and giving inspiration to the aspiring souls in the East and the West!

Sometimes I feel that every letter is my child, for it comes from within myself and goes to bless someone. I feel also that letters are like the rays of the sun, they go forth to fill the world with Life, Light and Love. But how to write sweet, short and inspiring letters is the question now.

Some people write page after page without coming to the point with a lot of husk and no grain. Some people write to the point, expressing all that they have to say in as few words as possible. Some people are very harsh in their words and some are very sweet. One is afraid of reading some letters from people of the world who are the worshippers of self or Mammon. They have nothing good to see in anyone. They are always picking and pecking, harping on the weak side, sounding the wrong note, hurting the feelings of others.

Some people see the best in others and their letters are always helpful, constructive and inspiring.

At the same time we should not be slaves to flattery. One should call a spade but not a sword. Flattery is weakness, ignorance and it is falsehood too. If you can see anything good, please write and express it and make someone happy and good. If you cannot see any good, please try to be silent, minding your own business of God-realization, which is the only real concern for all seekers of Truth in every religion and nation.

How welcome are the letters of Love, harmony understanding and sympathy! Such letters make us to forget all our troubles and help us to keep in Tune with the Infinite. If one has to write a letter, one should practice only to write such constructive and inspiring letters, be they to our friends or strangers.

Written words are the potential seeds sown in the fertile soil of the hearts of the aspiring souls. Whenever I send to the aspiring souls a copy of the Cosmic Flashes, I feel that am connecting myself with them eternally. The written words of Cosmic Flashes, go forth into the world, with their silent messages of hope, strength and illumination. One who receives the Cosmic Flashes and makes good use of it, is eternally connected with the Cosmic Source. How blessed it is to pour out Love -Love Universal, Love infinite and eternal on friends and foes, on one and all ceaselessly.

My loving readers, the manifested words come from the unmanifested, so every word is a Message from the Indwelling Presence of your hearts, as well as of the Universe. Pray, close your eyes for a while. Now, draw closer to the Self-effulgent Light within. Let us be silent Now, recognizing the Light of lights within in the stillness of our purified hearts!

May the Interpenetrating Light bless you all with Peace, Power and Poise and may you express It in all your thoughts, words and deeds is the prayer of your brother Omkar.

May Peace be unto all!

Om OmOm

(Peace April 1955)

28. Leaky Ink Bottles

(Waste of Labour)

Sri Dadabhai, B.A.,B.Com, L.L.B., of the Ashram brought his empty ink bottle to me to be filled with ink I took the bottle from him and tried to fill it from my bottle.

I took the two bottles outside, lest ink should spill in the room. Sri Dadaji's bottle was not full even after I poured all the ink in my bottle into it. A large quantity of ink flowed down.

Imagining that the ink was flowing down on account of the width of the mouth of my bottle I brought a big ink bottle with a narrow mouth and poured ink into Sri Dadabhai's bottle. Even then the ink flowed down.

I gave the bottles to Sri Dadabhai and asked him to try it. Even then the ink did not cease to flow. I took his bottle and examined its base and lo! there was a big hole underneath ! I never thought that Sri Dadabhai would bring a bottle with a hole, I was very sorry that so much ink was wasted.

I was amused to get a nice experience from this small incident. I began to think deeply in how many leaky bottles I might have put ink i.e., the nectar of the Self. I thought that lives of worldly minded people, full of *samskaras* and desires would be like leaky ink bottles. However much one may teach them or try to reform them, all the teachings flow out of the holes of selfishness and egoism. It is waste of labour without benefit to anybody.

May the Lord save us from putting ink into leaky bottles!

May all worlds be happy!

Om Santi Santi Santi

(Peace June & July 1956)

29. LIFE IS SWEET

Is not life sweet to each and every one, even to the tiny ant or any insect? No one wants to die! Everyone longs to live forever. Life is more sweet when one lives a useful life serving others. It is a burden to mother earth, when one lives for himself- more so selfishly-sucking the blood of the innocent. It is blessed to live for others, knowing that in serving others we are serving His children, for all are the children of the One indivisible God. We are happy now to be in Nilgiri, which is considered as the Queen of all the Hill Stations. Tourists who have travelled all over the world compared Nilgiri to the California of America, as it is considered the healthiest place in all the world. Kotagiri is considered as the Brighton of the East.

Not a blade of grass moves without His will. God brings us wherever we are wanted. After the recent heart malady, all my friends and doctors are unwilling that I should come from the plains to the heights. Yet, saying that the Doctor of doctors, who is ever abiding in my heart

has been calling me towards the heights, I came here and by His grace I am feeling wonderful. On our way in Madras I was sneezing and feeling cold and cough. My friends were more afraid of my proceeding towards the Hills. Chy. Jnaneswari and Santi wanted me to turn back to return to the Ashram. But I said, never to look back after keeping the hand on the plough, always to go ahead towards the heights trusting on the good Lord. Miracles of miracles! How good is God! As soon as I reached our Peace Centre in Kotagiri, the cold and cough disappeared. I am healthy, happy, contented and ever grateful to God, the silent witness of all-life and the Protector of all His children, who completely trust in Him.

Now, I ponder on the sweet life in the Nilgiri Hills. When I was here before in Nilgiri Hills, I used to repeat the following words, often writing them to the friends and devotees of the Ashram.

If you want to be free of sickness, healthy and happy and live long, Kotagiri is the place for you. How blessed it is to live long, without any sickness or malady, ever feeling His Presence!

I was telling to Jnaneswari that there is something wonderful in the very balmy rays of the Sun in Nilgiris.

Then she said: Is not the Sun same in both Totapalli and Nilgiris?

I replied: It is the same sun undoubtedly, but in Totapalli the rays of the sun are dry and warm and here in the Nilgiris, the rays are balmy and soothing with helpful vibrations.

I further said, look at those tall eucalyptus trees and other pine trees and see how the violet rays are coming through those lovely trees and falling on us! Sitting in the sun-shine even a single day of warmth, makes me to feel that I am prolonging my life unconsciously. As the balmy vital rays fall on the body and as they permeate into the very skin, I feel such a glow of Life, Light and love. It is Divine life within, without, above, below and all around. Sun is my Living Guru. His rays are my loving messages, vibrating with sweet LIFE OF LIVE. Here, in Nilgiris I feel, some of them do not have any age at all. I have a Muslim friend a Mullah in the Mosque who is more than 90 years, who does his own work, never relying on others, who is happy and contented setting an example of ideal life of service. We have another Christian friend, a devoted Sister who has visited our Totapalli Ashram also, who is more than 80 years walking like a young girl and climbing the hills, cheerfully without fatigue. We have our Santi Devi always enjoying out-door life, making youngsters feel ashamed of their laziness and lukewarmness, ever serving plants and animals, going all around the town, radiating health and Peace.

My heart rejoices to hear that there are many people who are more than one hundred years living cheerfully healthy lives in Nilgiris, forgetting the age. Our Chy Jnaneswari is so selfless always living for others, never thinking of herself and I feel sure, if she is allowed to stay here in the lovely Nilgiris, she will surely live a happy, healthy and contented life of service for

more than hundred years, always looking young and ageless. May all Glory be unto God, the Bestower of Health and all gifts. He knows what is best for each and every one of us. As we deserve, He blesses us, for His Love is same towards all His children. How true are the words: DESERVE AND NO NEED OF DESIRING.

Dear Friends of Peace magazine! The Peace Centre in Kotagiri extends you a hearty welcome to live long with Health and Peace, without the need of any malady or sickness, physically or mentally. Here is radiant health for you. It is with you to make best use of the Queen of Hill Stations and its life-giving and soul-awakening, balmy rays of the Sun. Every day is a life, new born. Let us be born now to Life Eternal, to live in Him, to breathe, work and move in Him.

We are centered in His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. Where is the moment, when we are separate from God! Life is too sweet, when we are in tune with Him. We are in God and God is in us, from the beginning to end. Thou art that *tat-twamasi*. Nilgiri is calling you. Kotagiri is inviting you. The Peace Centre which is the common property of all the aspiring souls in every religion is extending you a hearty welcome.

May you live long, forgetting the age, for God is ageless, and above time, space and causation. Blessed are they, who live in God and help others to live in Him. This is the time to wake up from lethargy to the light of the Sun. Today alone is ours and not tomorrow. Let me conclude my message with the wise words of a wise man.

Defer not till Tomorrow to be wise, Tomorrow's Sun to Thee May Never Rise.

Here is another Life-Giving Thought:

LIFE'S TRIALS MAY BE HARD TO BEAR.
BUT PATIENCE CAN OUTLINE THEM;
TO-MORROW VICTORY SHALL CROWN
THE CONFLICTS OF TO-DAY.

Arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached. Thy goal is Radiant Health and not sickness. Thy God is Immortality and not death. Thy GOAL or SOUL is agelessness, the splendour of Millions of Suns. May you be centered, nay filled and saturated in the Light of the Sun of suns, the only real Birthright, Now and always! This is the prayer of the one who loves you, wishing your welfare and Peace.

May Peace be unto all!

Om OmOm

An Offering

An Offering to all His Children with prayers, wishing SWEET LIFE of Health and Peace.

(Peace Oct 1964)

30. LIFE BEGINS AT SEVENTY TWO

Glory be to the Golden Jubilee and to the God-the Source of Santi Ashram and the Bestower of all Blessings. I feel with the dawn of the Golden Jubilee, my real life has begun. I am reborn. It is with me now, to make best use of every sacred moment of my life. We can make this moment sacred by our selflessness and make it unholy by selfishness. Blessed is the one, who lives for others--who is dead for the finite life of little self.

How blessed it is to live in God and help others to live in Him. This has been the simple motto—holy ideal of Sri Santi Ashram, since the day of its establishment—fifty years ago. I bow down my head to the Bestower of all Blessings once again for all His Infinite Blessings and protection. My heart longs now—more than ever, to touch the hearts of all known and unknown, those who are near and far with His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience without excluding even the tiniest atom.

Here are our faithful Rammy and the affectionate kitten Sabhari looking at me, as it requesting to include in my LOVE which excludes none, all the kind—the dumb animals in the world. How Blessed it is to live in the present moment, feeling His, Life, Light and Love, forgetting or burying the dead past and ignoring the uncertain, dim future! The present moment contains in its tiny bosom, God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. Moment by moment, I long to serve you all, with His Presence and Love in this new birth, helping you to feel His Presence. I long to run, nay, fly in the sky with this new Birth of Glory and Peace.

One devoted Engineer from the north, with his aged parents came to see me on the other day. After *Bhajan*, Prayers etc., he asked me hesitatingly my age—the age of this body. I requested him first, to tell me his impression of my age. He looked at me intently and said. “Swamiji! Your age must be 45 years and anyway, not more than 50 years.” I felt happy at his remarks and as he was waiting to hear from me about the age of this body I said, I am not yet born at all, nay, with the dawn of the Golden Jubilee of the Ashram, I feel that I am reborn recently. When someone said, that I had recently seen the Seventy Second Birthday, the Engineer and his devoted parents were astounded. May all Glory be to God—the Giver of all life, Eternal life.

Everyday as I take my bath, as I pour water on my head, I feel the old birth is finished and the new birth has begun and I was born just then. As I am really born on the HAPPY DAY of the Golden jubilee I feel that I am now only a mere baby. My only wish in this long life is that I long to be aloof and away from all the talking machines from all those people, who do not know the value of the precious time.

My heart longs to be near, to the rare and precious Souls who are selfless, God—intoxicated and saturated and steeped in Silence. I long to be in the embrace of Lovers of Silence, knowing THAT the Wise melt in Silence. Verily, Silence creates souls. I love to close

my latest messagewishing all my loving readers and well-wishers of Santi Ashram:-Happy New Birth, repeating the following inspiring poem.

Everyday is a fresh beginning
Every morn is the world made new.
Ye, who are weary of sorrow and sinning
Here is a beautiful hope for you
A hope for me and a hope for all!

My Loving Readers of Peace magazine, may I request you kindly to join me in a running race, towards the heavens! Let us fly towards the Sun of suns, the splendour of Millions of Suns, which is the Soul and Goal of all of us!

An offering

An offering to all those who wish to be reborn with a new life, of strength and Illumination!

May Peace be unto all! Om! Om! Om!

(peace march 1967)

31. LOOKING WITHIN

(To Find Our Own Faults Or Weaknesses)

Now a days I am not encouraging to find faults or mistakes of others, for in the first place, all are the living images of the ONE INDIVISIBLE GOD. It has been said also, what one has within himself, the same he beholds in others, further, in what way does it help you, to see the mistakes of others and to find fault with them. Look into the best in all and bad within yourself. It is a mere waste of time to see the faults in others. You cannot easily change others; but you can change yourself if you are serious about it. So, concentrate your mind with heart and soul, looking always within and trying to eradicate your own faults by overcoming them.

Is it not forgetting God, the Light within, even for a moment, on the plea of your endless busy work, the greatest fault or impediment in the progress of your life. Try to be aware of His Presence, ceaselessly both in work and rest- which alone is the goal of the precious human birth. Look within and see for yourself whether your weakness is, over talking unnecessarily or over eating. Do not try to entertain visitors with too many words, however useful they appear to be, just to keep up formalities, especially when they are not sincere or eager to hear you wholeheartedly and with devotion.

Speak only when your words are useful and helpful atleast to a few deserving people, though not to hundredsand thousands of people who are not serious minded. Similarly eat only to live, but do not live to eat. Remember always that moderation, be it is anything, is the keynote of success in life. Simple, natural diet in moderation and at regular hours, paves the way not only to good health and long-life; but even to the Peace of Mind.

“*Pravrithi*” -looking without always out-worldly makes you weary tired and restless in the long-run whereas ‘*nivrithi*’ looking keenly within, gives you joy, strength and Peace of Mind. Try therefore to practice always LOOKING WITHIN- “*nivrithi*” - which alone helps to pave the way God-realization. “*pravrithi*” leads you down to hades whereas “*nivrithi*” draws you to Heaven within. But whatwe all need is to practice and practice always to feel the INDWEILLNG LIGHT, for constant practice alone makes us all perfect. How true are the words: “If we use what we havewhat we have will grow.” The time to practice to LOOK WITHIN is now, wherever you may be, whatever even as you may be, you read this message.

May His richest blessings ever be upon you and may Peace be unto all those who always look within, following the path of “*nivrithi*” This is the prayer of your brother OMKAR.

May Peace be unto all!
OM TAT SAT

(Peace Nov 1968)

32. LET NOT THE THINGS OF THE WORLD AFFECT YOU

Every change in the finite world effects, touches and changes the ordinary man. But none of the changes in the world, can ever affect the MAN, who has clung to the CHANGELESS, who has caught hold of the Hem of His Garment, who has realized God in Silence. Personal experience of God is what is most essential. But how few, rare and precious are such God-realized souls, having equanimity and God-consciousness? Rabbits are afraid even of the sound of palm leaves. Lions are unafraid at the howlings of a thousand jackals or wolves.

Change is inevitable in duality. Only in God - in Truth, there is no change - for TRUTH is Eternal and Changeless. Mere study of various scriptures, preaching and teaching to others is one thing. When tests and trials come suddenly and unexpectedly, to bear them cheerfully unperturbed and to express the sameness or calmness in one’s life is another thing. Unless the unexpected blows are received and experienced by us. How can we know our mettle and strength? Only a soul of God-realization who is blessed with Personal Experienceof God-consciousness can smile, before a world of calumny, disgrace and any kind of crucifixion.

To him, they are mere passing clouds. Everything passes away in this world - expect the Self-effulgent Light - the only Changeless light, in this ephemeral world of endless changes, which is the eternal witness. Blessed are the precious souls that will not allow anything in this world of duality, touch or affect them! The SOUL, the real ATMAN within, is ever untouched by any passing clouds. Peace that passeth all understanding belongs only to such rare souls of illumination. They are the Living, Blessed Krishnas, Loving *Christs*, Compassionate Buddhas, and other sages and saints of the East and the West, always setting an example to others to follow in their foot-prints.

Narrow and rugged is the way that leads to heaven and broad and wide is the way that leads to hades. Many are the people who are walking on the broad and wide path. Very rare are the souls who are walking on the rugged and narrow path, never allowing the things of the world, the passing clouds to touch them, under any critical conditions. The darkest and thickest clouds can never touch the effulgent sun, much less the Sun of suns is of the splendour of Millions of Suns. What is most essential is the complete identification with the Light of lights, in thought, word and deed, in each and every moment of one's life.

The very repetition of the following life-giving words "NONE OF THE THINGS OF THE WORLD CAN EVER DARE TOUCH MY SOUL - THE ATMAN" gives joy, inspiration and strength. But the reliance on the finite man, gives us jolts and disappointments, for man may disappoint at any time, but GOD ALONE NEVER DISAPPOINTS, His ardent devotees.

To be untouched by the tests, trials and tribulation in the world of changes, let us try to lead ideal, pure lives always and make the CHANGELESS ONE—the INDWELLING LIGHT, our Life, Soul, Goal and our All in All. How can we achieve our goal without paying the price? Let us therefore have the fervour, devotion and purity of heart, strength to follow, the simple, direct and ever-present *SOHAM* the *Mantram* of *mantrams* - the *AJAPAGAYATRI*, faithfully, concentratedly and ceaselessly, with each and every breath, until It leads us into the Splendour of Millions of Suns.

SOHAM BHAVENA PUJAYAT

Let us worship HIM with *SOHAM* consciousness ceaselessly.

May Peace be unto all!

OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace July - Aug 1969)

33. LOG BOOK OF GOD-REALISED SOULS

(The Names of the People who are ALIVE in the World.)

Dear People everywhere
I LOVE YOU ALL
I love you and pray
That you may be DIVINELY BLESSED
With the Joy of Heaven
And the PEACE OF GOD

Dear Friends of Peace, this is my constant prayer from Kailas, wishing the welfare of you all.

KAILAS IS CALLING YOU. If you have not yet read the CALL OF KAILAS, please read it. Somebody, a devotee of the Ashram presented me with a LOG BOOK, a Big Bound Book for my use in Kailas. What shall I do with it? How best can I make good use of it are my first thoughts.

At first I felt from within that I should write the names of all the dead people in the world. As the world is filled with dead people in all religions and nations, people who are leading outer lives with self-interests, one Log Book, however big it may be will not be enough to write the names of all the dead people, the selfish people in the East and the West. I may need a hundred books, nay, thousands of books to write the names of all the dead people, and still it will not be enough. Hence, with disappointment the next thought came:

Why not write the names of the Living People, who are alive for God, LOVING THEIR NEIGHBOURS as themselves, practicing the Golden Rule.

DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD
HAVE OTHERS DO UNTO YOU

My heart rejoices over this wonderful new idea and I started the LOG BOOK immediately. I am one of those who believe in the PRESENT MOMENT! Further, Good Deeds must be done, started, immediately.

I search all over the world for Good People, allowing the mind to wander everywhere in every religion and nation. But alas! I found only very few people so far who are alive to God, the Living Truth and deed to the world, running no longer after the fleeting clouds of fame and name, loving all His children, facing God in everyone. I am in a great dilemma now. I do not want to spoil my LOG BOOK by filling it with trash. I want only genuine souls, the Souls of GOD CONSCIOUSNESS, UNIVERSAL LOVE and Selfless Service; those who consider the WIDE WORLD AS THEIR HOME and its people as their Sisters and Brothers and to love and serve them as their real Religion.

But how to know who are the living people who are really alive, no longer slaves of forms and names in the bubble-like world is the next problem Lord Krishna in the Holy Gita tells us in simple and direct words: Only *asthithaprajnais* really living and not dead.

In conclusion, my heart longs to request the help of all of my Readers of Peace magazine and Santi magazine and all the friends, well-wishers and sympathizers of the Mission of Peace, in all the world to help me by sending the names of those ideal simple people whom you have personally known. Kindly see in your own village or town all the selfish people who are dead, even though alive physically.

Only those few rare and blessed souls who are alive, feeling God's presence within and without, facing Him in each and every one are to be really counted, ignoring the outer differences of caste, creed, colour or nationality. He who controls himself controls the whole world. We want those Masters of sensed mind, and intellect. Freedom belongs to see Masters of the senses and mind and to none else.

Blessed are they in whom the tenacious ego is dead and buried, burnt away with root and branch. My homage unto all such blessed souls who are harbingers of Peace and Saviours of Humanity.

Dear Loving Reader, if you really love me, please help me in my humble attempt to write down the noble names of the selfless, devoted, dedicated and consecrated souls in the East and the West. Kindly spare some of your precious time to become interested in knowing WHO IS WHO and help me by sending their Holy Names. This is all that I ask of you in memory of the 77th Birthday.

Let some of the loving names that you are sending me, be your Birthday Offering to me. This is all that I ask of you in the name of GOD, TRUTH or LIGHT, or LOVE, which is our life's Soul and Goal, ever surrounding us, pervading and permeating the very cells of our beings.

May the blessings of all the Living People ever be upon us, so that we too can walk in their foot-prints, not being a burden to Mother Earth but a blessing to the CREATOR who created us all in His Image.

LokaSamastaSukhinoBhavanthu!

May Peace be unto all!

Om OmOm

(Peace Jan 1971)

34. LOVE- GOD'S SILENT FORCE

LIVE AS LOVE:

Love performs miracles, for Love is no other than God, the greatest Force in the Universe.

The Spiritual Motto. DO NOT MERELY LOVE but LIVE AS LOVE, has the greatest significance and meaning for the Truth seeker. A man of the world loves a few friends and hates or dislikes other folks. A man of God loves all. In his dictionary, the words like 'hatred' or 'dislike' do not exist, He is ALL LOVE, for he is an embodiment of Love, which is Universal and Eternal.

Man should learn whether it is today or tomorrow, to live as Love for the Peace of his own immortal soul, as well as for that of the universe. For, in Love alone lies the infallible panacea for all ills and delusions of life.

When a man lives as Love, he includes all beings and excludes none, for Love is all-embracing, universal and One without a second!

What the sad world needs is more of that Love. No more of separate sects and creeds, cant lectures and eloquent talks, but a little bit of selfless love that expects not the least reward, but just loves, because it cannot help loving. The love which is contented to live as Love, because its own intrinsic nature is to do so, is the only true Love. Those who are emblems of Love are perfect images of God. With Love, all things are possible. Verily, it is said: WHERE THERE IS LOVE, THERE IS GOD!

When we love our work, it is no longer drudgery, but pleasure. When we love a person, he is no longer a burden to us, but a spiritual companion walking hand in hand towards the throne of God. When we have that Infinite Love, we can experience, that even the so-called poisonous or venomous insects, reptiles and fierce wild beasts become harmless and friendly. How God expresses and manifests Himself in a million forms in all the Kingdoms of Life, to teach us the great and limitless Law of Love! It is a true saying that when everything fails, it is Love alone that wins.

Even fasting is possible only when there is the inspiration of Love. If Love were to be absent, this fasting would merely be a starvation. With Love of God one can fast indefinitely. May our thoughts, words and deeds be filled and saturated with the divine fervour of unselfish Love!

GOD, THE SUSTAINER:

The other day, in the early hours of the dawn. I went up to the terrace to enjoy the fresh glory and beauty of the rising sun. The trees were all sparkling with dew, they were drinking the fresh dew; God-given nectar, gratefully and silently. They were watered regularly almost on

alternate days, when the trees were young and newly planted. When they became large, we gave up watering them, as they did not require any nourishment from us, for their roots were so deep now, penetrating into the heart of the Mother Earth directly.

I look at the beautiful hills, blue in the distance and think, that their tangled forests also flourish without food. I look up into the vast sky, into the sole of stars and they too do not need food. The cool breeze and the sunshine and the moisture in the earth are all helping the trees to grow and yield fruits for the use of man. When these creations are so well taken care of by God, from tender lives of the field to the mighty planets, why should man alone worry himself to death day and night over the food question?

How beautiful are the blades of grass and the lilies in the field? As said in the Bible, when the Lord is taking such care of all these subhuman things, does He not also take even better care of man whom He created in His own image? Alas! The faithlessness of man instead of trusting in God, he trusts in his own little mortal mind and the result is confusion and distress! All Scriptures declare that the God who created man, also created food to sustain him.

What we need to take care for, is not food and raiment, but the remembrance and recognition of God, the Giver of all our blessings! If we do His work trusting Him like little children, He will supply our wants, looking after all our needs and affairs.

DIP DOWN YOUR BUCKETS:

His Love is surrounding us on every side, at all times, but we are blind, dying of thirst like a certain crew on a ship which was journeying on the ocean. Their water supply was low, so in their fear of drought, they saw another ship and signaled frantically for help, begging for a little water with which to save their lives.

The answer they received was: "Dip down your buckets." But they thought in ignorance that it was salt water; still when they followed the signaled instructions of the other ship, lo! it was indeed sweetwater, that could abundantly quench their thirst. It seemed there was a large swift river there, flowing into the ocean with such great force, that for several miles, it filled the sea with its sweet waters. The crew of the first vessel being ignorant of the fact, was almost dying of thirst, while there was sweet water near at hand.

Such is the life of the ignorant, everywhere in the world. God is above, below, within and without. Instead of dipping our buckets down into the Ocean of Glory, we are famishing of thirst, looking about frantically for a little drop of water. It is time for all of us to recognize God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience and be sanctified by dipping our buckets down, even now, to drink of and bathe in His sacred Love, ever flowing like a sweet river of immortal life in the midst of the ocean of existence.

May Peace be unto all!

Om OmOm

(Peace March 1985)

35. MAKE YOUR HIGHEST MOMENT PERMANENT

“Dear friend! What is the Highest Moment of all the days of your past life? Whoever you may be and whatsoever walk of life you may be leading: the retired vocation of a monk, or the busy life of a businessman and a house holder. I am confident that you have had some gracious, beautiful moment—the happiest Moment of your life.

That precious moment of ecstasy may have dawned on you, when you were alone with your loved ones, or when alone with the Indwelling Presence of your heart!

You may have been blessed with that sacred moment when watching the rising sun, or when meditating on the setting sun, or when alone in the heart of nature in the wilderness, facing the tranquility of nature all around you.

Some are blessed with that Highest Moment in the quiet times of their silent meditations and a few others in the busy hours of their active life of service and study.

The fragrance of a flower, the sweet song of a bird, the twinkle of a star, the innocent smile of a baby or the selfless service of a dedicated soul, may have been the source of inspiration leading to that taste, of the Highest Moment in the lives of respective persons in the world.

Our point now is not the question when and where you have been blessed with the Highest Moment of your life. What we want to dwell upon now, is the memory of that Highest Moment of all your life.

Dear Reader, merge within. Go back into the happy days of your life. Analyze yourself carefully, remembering your spiritual experiences. Pick out your Highest Moment from all these personal experiences. Hold on to those blessed moments of Divine Ecstasy. I want you to stretch them as long as you can. Make those precious moments permanent, thus you have reached the goal of your precious human birth.

In the sphere of the so-called people of the world, there is the best, ever shining, but to be expressed, waiting for an opportunity to manifest Itself. When once the Truth expresses or manifests itself, it needs only to be made permanent and nothing more.

Unfortunately many people instead of dwelling on the Highest Moments of their lives, take joy in dwelling on their weakest and darkest moments of life, giving way to sorrow, depression and discouragement; and then they are lost forever, being slaves of their own dark

imaginations. The shadows their weak moments overcloud the present with their hope and promise.

What joy and ecstasy it gives one, just to dwell and meditate on the Highest Moment of one's life and to resolve to cling to that Highest Moment through thick and thin, making it one's life, soul and goal. If we meditate on the Highest, we are led towards Perfection. If we meditate on the lowest, we are led towards darkness and ignorance. As we think, so we will become, for thoughts are things.

It is needless to mention that the Highest Moment is the moment of God-consciousness—the moment of Christ's Love, Buddha's Compassion and Krishna's Wisdom coming to take possession of one's heart and being.

Dear friend, I do not want to take any more of your time with mere words. My soul longs to help you to remember your Highest Moment from your own personal experience. This is the experience that counts. Cling to it. Contemplate and meditate on that sacred moment of ecstasy until it becomes a part and parcel of your very life. Make your Highest Moment permanent, if you are seeking permanent joy and freedom.

Pray, let us close our eyes for a moment and fix our minds on the Highest Moment of our lives, that Moment when the Presence is so near and One with us.

Let us be centered on that Light of lights which is the only Reality--the Highest Moment not only in our lives, but in all the lives of sages and saints of East and West.

May silent adorations be unto all those precious souls—the Saviours of Humanity, who have seen the VISION UNIVERSAL!

May our finite minds rest and dissolve in the Infinite, ever meditating on the Highest Moment of our lives is my prayer!

Om Tat Sat Om!

(Peace Dec 1939)

36. MY ALTAR

An altar is a sacred place where one receives inspiration, and where one feels the nearness of the presence of God.

The whole universe is an altar for men of realization. The sacred sanctuary of one's own purified heart also has been the Holy Altar for many an aspirant.

We are all familiar with the man-made altars, where Christ, Krishna, Buddha and other saviours of humanity are worshipped every day and in every country.

There are also God-made altars that are in the form of lofty hills, awe-inspiring scenes, such as, the effulgent rising sun and the beautiful setting sun, waterfalls and a thousand other natural beauties.

During my visit recently to our Totapalli Ashram, I was privileged to come across a new kind of altar, which was not only unique, but also soul-inspiring.

This altar was only a sweet orange tree. It was dry and withered, without even a single green leaf on any of its branches. The whole tree looked so dry, as if the wood could be used only for fuel.

It seemed almost unbelievable, that it had on its dry branches, a dozen juicy, yellow oranges.

How can there be any fruits on a tree without greenness or life? Apparently it looked dry and dead, but inside there must be greenness and lingering life.

What a noble lesson this withered orange tree, my new Altar, gives to those who have eyes to see, and open hearts to learn!

It had been sick since a long time, being attacked by white ants outside and worms inside. Yet, with its last lingering breath, it was giving a dozen juicy, sweet oranges to the workers of the Ashram, before its demise from this world of changes.

What a great lesson this noble orange tree, gives in spite of its sickness and dryness, to all aspiring souls who are tested and tried with many ordeals in the life of world; teaching them to give also only the best and the highest even with the last breath!

As I gaze into the soul of this dry tree, the tree disappears and I only see the Holy Cross and the outstretched, forgiving hands of Blessed Christ, giving out His last offering from the Cross in the form of His memorable words: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Every time I happened to pass by the side of this new Altar, unconsciously I stopped before the tree and bowed my head in homage, and murmured a silent prayer:

O Blessed Tree, Blessed is Thy Life of Giving! Bless us like thee, so that we too can bless and give; the fruits of love and experience for the benefit of others!

Whether it is in sickness or health, in life or death, let us also extend our hands, never to strike or harm, but only to give and bless, sharing the sweet fruits of Love and Forgiveness even with our last breath!

As thou hast lived a life of service setting an example for us in the Ashram, so may you continue the same life of sharing and blessing in your future manifestations also and thus be a blessing to all is our prayer.

May Peace be unto all!
Om OmOm

(Peace Oct, Nov, Dec 1941)

37. *MOUNAM*—SILENCE

MOUNAM, is more than mere speechlessness. It is SILENCE both within and without. One can be a *mouni*, because of ignorance, as well as knowledge also. The scientist proclaims that extremes of light are alike or same. Only they look same apparently; but what a great gulf of difference lies between darkness and light! An ignorant man is silent, because he has nothing to say. A wise man is silent because he is complete in himself.

Reflection on Truth or on Himself, leads one to silence. Each one should reflect on the goal of his life and the soul of his existence and thus try to reach the Highest, before the light goes out and death overtakes him unprepared. A novice need not be afraid of *mounam*. He can practice it once in a week or even on *ekadasi* or on full moon day and gradually increase the duration according to his convenience, for, where there is a will there will be a way.

One cannot save the world; but one can save himself through *viveka*, the discrimination of the *nitya* the Real, from the *anitya*, the unreal. Mere vain talk leads one nowhere. It leads one into the mire of outer life, more than ever. All men of mere talk are compared to empty vessels that produce a lot of sound.

Whereas men of silence have been always the pioneers of good deeds setting an example to others to follow in their foot-prints. Look at Buddha, Christ and Sri Mahatma Gandhijee. They

were all souls given to prayer, meditation and silence, year after year before they became the saviours of the world.

Where is silence—speechlessness in the average man of the world, now-a-days? He talks and talks, from dawn to dusk. He talks from birth to death. There is silence only in the physical change, in the so-called death. The worldly man hurts the real man, the innocent, with harsh and cruel words and wastes his precious time with vain talk, empty, lifeless and soulless words and false praises.

If you do not like a certain man, strange as it may sound, you can, hunt him with words, for words are thoughts and thoughts are silent forces. The, latent thought, forms into a word and the potent word turns into a deed, be it good or bad. Blessed is the one who is the master of the inherent thought, in its very embryo before its birth. Such a one controls not only himself but also even the world and its destinies to a great extent. Such is the power and glory of speechlessness, the sublime silence within and without. Verily, it is in WISE SILENCE, SOULS are illuminated.

My stay in the hospital, long confinement in the bed with my leg in the Plaster Cast, has been a great blessing in disguise leading me within, into the spheres of deep introspection of the Soul, thus creating in me a burning desire towards the portals of Transcendental Silence. In the moments of deep silence, I have experienced the Vision Beautiful, where there is nothing else to see hear, talk or even to think.

The SOUL is *POORNAM*—COMPLETE. It cannot move. It has no place even to move, for It is Omnipresent Omnipotent and Omniscient. Only the wise seers KNOWING THAT, THEY MELT INTO WISE SILENCE. How wonderful, nay, incomprehensible too is the TRUTH to the lay man, to his finite intellect! In the VISION UNIVERSAL everything is Complete, no more battles to fight, no more enemies to conquer, no more causes to defend, no more deeds to perform, no more sermons to be delivered with spoken word, nay no more thoughts to think, for It is all One Stupendous and Self-effulgent Light of lights, the One without a second—*ekamevaadviteeyam*.

My Loving Reader, I am privileged now to be in Kailas, still with the bandages on the leg, but my soul is filled, enshrouded and saturated with SILENCE. Adieu to all worldly men and to their childish prattle, in the name of self and service. There is only one service, the lasting, service, the highest service, the service of *MOUNAM*, *POORNAM* speechlessness both within and without, COMPLETENESS, everywhere, from where LOVE flows ceaselessly, blessing one and all !

Welcome, welcome, ye inheritors of Immortality, to taste the nectar of *mounam*, the Wise Silence, the Goal of our human birth in the blessed solitude of Mt. Kailas! When everything fails, it is the Wise Silence that succeeds. Let men learn to live in Silence, so that the nations, nay the whole world someday would realize through the Transcendental Silence of the SOUL, the

parmatman, Let us offer our homage now unto the Wise Silence by becoming silent within and without.

May Peace be unto all.
OM! OM! OM

(Peace Feb 1951)

38. MENDING THE WORLD

Someone said: GOD DID NOT MAKE THE WORLD FOR MAN TO MEND. Yet, the restless man is always busy in trying to reform the world. He wants to reform everybody except himself. He starts his mending work from the wrong end, putting the cart before the horse. Many a man is working unconsciously, both day and nightlike a machine goaded by past impressions. He is engaging himself in many restless pursuits, not like a master but only as a slave. Alas, man is hanging, holding the tail of the horse instead of sitting in the carriage, keeping the horse in front of it.

Q: - What is the inevitable result of this wrong procedure?

A: - Tests and trials, hurts and heartaches.

Q: - Then what should man, the sensible man, do?

A: - He should begin the reformation with himself. What he is trying to teach others, should be applied first to himself, to his own life.

As said by Swami Rama Tirtha: REFORMERS ARE WANTED, NOT OF OTHERS BUT OF THEMSELVES. Someone else said: IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CHANGE NATURE, THE INHERENT NATURE OF MAN. Each one is working and living according to his propensities. But the one consolation is, that though we may not change others, we can at least change ourselves by the Grace of God and ceaseless effort in the field of Self-reflection. When a river is flowing from the lofty heights of a hill, can anyone turn its flow back to its source? We cannot turn back its flow, but we can make the best use of its waters, by constructing dams, reservoirs etc.

World Saviours have come and gone, yet the world remains the same as ever, with pain, agony and suffering. It is like the tail of a dog. So long as we hold the dog's tail, it remains straight. As soon as we let it go, it resumes its original bent-state. Such is the nature of the world and its creatures.

I do not wish to throw cold water on the zeal and fervour of the reformers and others who are engaged in service of mankind. We are to serve humanity but with the idea of not mending and reforming the world, but for our own emancipation, The restless monkey-like mind should

always be given some work or other, otherwise it will lead a man to the downward path of selfishness, laziness and lethargy.

We must do selfless service. It is indispensable for the purification of our souls. Blessed are the selfless souls who live for ALL!

May all Homage be unto the selfless workers in the vineyard of the world!

My Peace be unto all!

Om OmOm

(Peace Nov 1952)

39. MY ASPIRATION OR YEARNING

In these days of Silence, I am much troubled at heart, to ask anybody for anything, any small help, even in the name of the Ashram. The Divine looks after the Ashram. The Divine helps Divine work.

Silence is the means to all ends. Though silence is the means to attain everything perfect silence implies being constantly filled with the spirit of *brahman*!

To the one existence without a second, to the self of all things, there is indeed nothing other than that or different from that which can be desired. Even if we want to wish for anything since there is nothing other than the Self, this mind always wishes the Peace and welfare of all worlds and all people.

But in these days of my silence one small thing worries me. I am troubled at heart, if people who came to visit me, depart from me without any spiritual progress, even after wasting my time and their time. Is not a life without progress, a burden to the earth? What is the use of people coming to the Ashram, incurring great trouble and expenditure, and going away after spending their time questioning about mutual welfare and in useless conversation? How are the Ashramites benefited? I feel sorry for the result, waste of precious time without any progress. Can we get back tomorrow, the wasted today? Only today is ours and not tomorrow. How can we even be sure of clinging permanently to these clods of earth and these skeletons? I am troubled to see people without any yearning for God, even after attaining this rare human birth wishing their welfare, I weep for their unfortunate state.

I never entertain in my mind any idea of what the visitors and devotees of the Ashram would give me. On the other hand the thought about what I can give them, troubles me. I wish to live without any desires, in a state in which I do not require any thing from anybody. What I want is that all of you should progress day by day filled with the love for the Divine and cross this ocean of existence. I want the visitors, at least to chant the Peace Prayer in the Ashram and constantly remember the same afterwards, in memory of their visit to the Ashram, your progress is my delight. Your release is my goal.

I often say that those who waste seconds waste their entire lives. If, at least during your stay in the Ashram, you chant the Peace Prayer and remember the Divine and show better progress in every direction at the time of your departure from the Ashram than at the time of your coming, it will be a great delight to you and to me also. May the all merciful Lord bless the visitors of the Ashram, with health and longevity, devotion and love and perfect Peace! May all worlds be happy.

Om Santi SantiSanti

(Peace May 1956)

40. MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT

It has been said by sages, that God comes to us in the form of sick and poor. He comes to us even in the form of a stray dog or a hungry kitten. Indeed, as God is Omnipresent, all forms belong to Him. God alone is throbbing in all hearts, sparkling in all eyes, expressing Himself in all creation. Hence it has been said, He Prayeth Best, who Lovethwell, Bird Beast and Man. How true are the words, Every Being is a Moving Temple of God! Blessed are they who can see Him in every face!

Yes! God comes to us in all these various forms and He is pervading and permeating the very cells of our beings as well as the whole universe. Where is the place or space where God does not, exist? Blessed are they who can serve God, when He comes to them in the form of sick and poor. When the sick and poor does not come to us, how immensely blessed it is, to go to them, to serve them in cold and hunger in sickness and poverty, helping them in their physical needs as well as serving them with Spiritual Food! Of all the gifts, we read in the scriptures, the gift of Spirituality is the highest. If we feed a man, he will be hungry next day, when we clothe a man, after a time, he needs new, clothes again, if we nurse a man to health, he may get sick again. Even if we educate him in a collage, it will not lead to emancipation or birthlessness? The education of these days makes a man, often arrogant lifeless and soulless, denying the Indwelling Light within.

Atmavidya that which helps to the Soul-culture is the Highest Education. He who helps a man to realize God by rising from life of senses to the supreme state of super-conscious Life is the greatest educator. Hence, God-consciousness is the Richest Gift, as it makes human into divine. It was Emerson who said Every Man is a God, playing a fool. The spiritual education makes a man a God. Education, devoid of spirituality, makes a man often a beast or a machine, for it is without a basis or foundation. As every bud is bound to bloom, in its own time, so are our selfless aspirations. It has been my aspiration since many long years to get a selfless, dedicated and God-imbued doctor to serve the poor and sick in all the surrounding villages of Totapalli Ashram.

God in His Infinite mercy, has sent to us now a friend and well-wisher of the Ashram, as well as to the sick and poor, in the form of our Dr. Madhava Rao from Hyderabad, who has retired only last month. We are grateful to him for offering his efficient services, freely to serve the sick and poor in the neighbouring villages, where the medical aid has been totally absent. We are thankful to Captain Markandeya also for his free and selfless services. How to reach these villages as they are far and near has been our problem always. God does everything. He grants any of the least of the desires of His children. The Government—the Social Welfare Board Members have visited the Ashram and were pleased with its silent work, and promised to help the Ashram with a van, to begin with. My heart is in ecstasy to begin this long-neglected and much needed important service in these villages.

As I have already said, any service or education to be helpful and lasting must be based on the Rocky foundations of spirituality. It is only when we realize that God is One and all this is *Brahman*; we take joy in serving Him in all His forms. Then only work becomes worship and we can say that the service of man is the service of God. If not, for every little thing we do, we expect reward. We hesitate to give even a pill or a dose of medicine to a suffering man, unless we get money for it. Complete selfless service is possible only, where there is Universal Love. Universal Love is the outcome of God-realization.

Now let us come to the Mobile Medical Unit.

How do we wish to operate it? We are longing to fix our Van, with a stretcher to serve the helpless patients and also with a loud speaker. The Van will visit the villages singing God's name. The loud speaker will draw all the men, women and children towards us. Then we will teach them the basic rules of Sanitation, Health, Cleanliness, side by side practically demonstrating the same. We request them, not to bleat like sheep with fear, but roar like lions, as they are the children of God. As God is Omnipresent and as He is abiding in all hearts, they should love each other, helping each other with love, unity and understanding. Each man should not live for himself. Each is for all and all are for each. This should be the ideal of the people in the villages as well as in the towns.

After the spiritual message, making them all repeat the Peace Prayer, requesting them to memorize it also, our Music Teacher will make them all chant *raghupathiraghavarajaram* in chorus. Then our Doctor will invite all the sick people and will treat their cases individually. The nurse also will attend to the sick children etc., in washing their eyes, ears, etc., as their cases require. If there is any serious case the patient will be taken to the Ashram on the Van, and will be admitted in the Indoor Hospital of Santi Ashram, where he will be tenderly nursed and fed until he gets well. When he gets well, if he is poor, he will be given clothes too and on the same van, he will be taken back to his village. Such patients having spiritual training also in the Ashram, will be of great help to their villages. How blessed it is to extend such noble service, in a silent way to all the villages without expecting any reward. We are rendering this silent service not expecting any name, fame reward or even recognition. We are trying to do it for the Peace of our Souls and for the sake of our freedom and emancipation, for in serving any of the least of His children we are only serving God. The Basis and Ideal of Santi Ashram has been always that it is

the Individual Peace that paves the way to Universal Peace. Let Peace spread now from heart to heart, from home to the community, from village to village until it pervades the wide world. Of course in the wide Vineyard of God, our little work is insignificant, but we believe our humble work, though little should be clean, neat and spotless in God's Garden of Peace. By ourselves, we cannot move even a blade of grass without God's Will. We can do nothing by ourselves with egoism, steeped in ignorance, clinging to the body, running after the fleeting clouds of fame and name in the mirage of the world.

May all Glory and Homage be unto Him, the Light of our hearts, the One who has planted the seed of Service in our hearts and who has given us now the Mobile Medical Unit to serve His children. May He be our prop and strength, life, soul and goal to realize our aspirations without expecting the least of the reward in any form except His blessings, which are ever plentiful, as we are all always in His ever out-stretched wide, warm embrace of Infinite and Eternal Love, where no one is excluded, but all are included.

In conclusion may I close my message now seeking the prayers of our loving Readers of 'Peace' for the progress of the Ashram as well as for the Peace of the World, sharing the beautiful little Poem on Service.

SERVICE

Do all the Good you can
By all the Means you can
In all the Ways you can
In all the Places you can
At all the Times you can
To all the People you can
As Long as Ever you can
--J.W.

May God's richest blessings ever be upon all His children in the East and the West!

Offered.

To all the Aspiring souls of service in the East and the West.

(Peace June & July 1956)

41. MY HURRICANE LANTERN

My hurricane lantern served me as my Teacher. There are about twenty lights in the Ashram. I was glad they gave me a new lantern. Though it was new it was leaking to my vexation. Tables and papers were filled with kerosene smell. When I saw it, I was led to think that human lives with holes would be just like this. Human life is full of leaks. Precious time is wasted through leaks. It is a pity people attracted by the senses and being worldly minded are not able to understand the value of the nectar – like energy which is incessantly flowing from them.

When my lantern stops leaking, it flickers for several minutes. Sometimes it goes out after flickering four or five times.

I observe the flickering and think that human life is also a sort of flickering. When after flickering, the light goes out, I think one life has closed. As life is firmly attached to their bodies, in some people it does not go out soon, even though messengers of death come and knock at the door. Similarly, sometimes the light in the lantern goes on flickering for several minutes, making a sound. It does not cease to make the sound either. Such are the unfortunate human lives which are in an uncertain state. Though the Ashramites offer me another lantern which does not leak and which does not flicker, I prefer the one which leaks, flickers and makes a sound and to learn all the lessons it teaches, to another without any leak, which is unnecessary waste of time. I enjoy bliss within myself, meditating on the Light which is beyond all sounds and which never goes out.

May all worlds be happy!
Om Santi Santi Santi

(Peace June & July 1956)

42. MY PRAYER TO THE OCEAN

Swami Ram used to feel the separation of the Ganges, whenever he was away from it. Similarly I feel the separation of the ocean, whenever I am away from the lovely Rishikonda Beach and reside in Totapalli Hills. The Hills too have a charm and message of their own. They have so much to teach us, giving us strength and inspiration.

Here in Waltair Ashram we are blessed to have both Hills and the Ocean. The ocean calls ceaselessly with the never ending chanting of the Mystic Syllable Om, with every rise and fall of the waves. Kailas on the top of the Hill also calls me ceaselessly. Now we are concerned not with the call of Kailas but with the call of the ocean.

I was happy to see the ocean after years of separation except once on a short visit. It was with great awe and deep respect, I approach the ocean. It is so sacred that I hesitate to touch it. It

comes towards me. It welcomes me. It welcomes and touches my feet. Wave after wave offer their homage and welcome to me. I am overwhelmed with ecstasy at the welcome and love of the ocean. I approach it in all humility to be sanctified by its stupendous glory. The very touch of the ocean inspires me. What can I say to the ocean? How can I reciprocate its Love. I utter simply the following words unconsciously.

MAKE ME LIKE THEE!

This is my humble prayer to the ocean. It is only a prayer of four simple words, Make me like Thee! How blessed it is to be like the ocean, broad, wide, fathomless. limitless, unceasingly chanting the sacred syllable Om both day and night! The Ocean is praying. Why don't you pray, O Man? This has been one of my old and favourite, sayings, a sacred motto in the Ashram. It is not so easy to be like the ocean. The ocean is same in tempests and storms. The more tempests it has, the more it smiles.

Can you smile also in all your tests and trails?

The ocean is same, whether rivers of water flow into it or the water is pumped out. It neither increases nor decreases. The ocean is calling you also! Hearken to its ceaseless call of love! Don't you want to come and listen to its constant prayers?

Dear Readers of Peace magazine, the ocean is praying ceaselessly. Are you praying also unceasingly? However busy you may be, please find some time, to come to the beautiful Rishikonda Beach. The ocean joins me in extending you a hearty welcome.

Please come, not to gossip, but to commune with the ocean and to listen to its silent message. Every wave has a lesson to teach us.

Having eyes, see ye not? Having ears, hear ye not? Behold the glory within, without, above, below and all around! The ocean is praying. It is praying with every wave in each and every moment. Why don't you pray also?

Let us join the ocean in its endless prayers for the Peace of all wishing Peace and Goodwill among individuals, communities and nations. The ocean is praying, let us pray also.

PRAYER

O Infinite Ocean of Eternal Love! Bless us to be like thee ever FULL. Make us like thee eternally complete, bearing everything in silence, same to all, excluding none, but including all in the Love Universal.

*Om Poornamadhah Poornamidam Poornath poornamudachyate
Poornasya Poornamadaya Poornamevaavasishete*

All that is Invisible is verily the Infinite *brahman*. All that is visible also is the Infinite *brahman*. The whole universe has come out of the Infinite *brahman*. *brahman* is Infinite, although the whole universe has come out of it.

May the Almighty, the *ksheerasagarsayana* the Lord who sleeps on the ocean of Milk, bless all the loving readers of Peace magazine, with Infinite Peace! May Peace be unto all!

OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace Sept 1956)

43. MY PRAYER TO THE SUN

In our last Peace magazine, many of its readers felt inspired to read the message: My Prayer to the Ocean.

But, there are hundreds, nay thousands of people who never saw the ocean. For instance, we brought a gardener from Totapalli Hills to help us here in Waltair Ashram. He never saw the ocean. He is an expert swimmer too. He learnt to swim in the small tanks. He is afraid now to swim in the ocean or even to bathe in it. Now coming back to our Prayer to the Sun, it is far easier to offer prayer to the one, whom we can see, than to the one whom we can never see.

There are many people, who never saw the ocean, but can there be any people who never saw the Sun, the highest image of God? If you say, there are some born-blind people who never saw the sun: I say even though they never saw it, they can at least feel the warmth of the sun. Often and often sitting by the side of the ocean awaiting the sun-rise, the sun to come out of the bosom of the ocean, from the very horizons, I gaze at the heart and soul of the sun in ecstasy.

What is my prayer to the sun now? What has been my prayer to the ocean? As I gaze into the heart of the sun also, the same simple prayer of four words MAKE ME LIKE THEE; comes from within my heart. O! Effulgent Sun, make me like Thee. How Blessed it is to be like the Self-Effulgent Sun! There is darkness in the world. There is darkness in the night. Can you ever expect any kind of darkness in the sun? The sun is above darkness of every kind. There may be clouds in the sky, but the sun is above all passing clouds.

How Blessed it is to offer prayers, nay to unite ourselves with the One who is All Light, nothing but Light within and without! As we meditate on the Light we become Light. As we meditate on darkness, we become darkness. THOUGHTS ARE THINGS. As you meditate, you become the same on which you meditate. THINK ONLY OF THE THINGS YOU WANT CEASELESSLY is one of the inspiring and helpful mottos, in the Kailas Ashram. Millions of people all over India, meditate consciously and unconsciously on the Sun, repeating everyday the *Gayatri mantram*:

*Om BhurbhavaSwaha, Tat SaviturVarenyam
Bhargodevasyadhimahi,Dhiyoyonahprachodayat,*

May we meditate upon that Adorable Effulgence of the Resplendent Vivifier. May He stimulate our intellects and bless us with Self-knowledge, which alone helps the liberation from birth and death—the bondage of *samsara*.

Here, in the Prayer to the Sun, as one meditates on the Self Effulgent Light, one feels the warmth of the Sun as it pervades and permeates the very cells of our being. It is no longer imaginary but practical and inspiring. As you open your eyes the Sun is there without. As you close your eyes, the Sun is there within.

As you continue meditating on the SELF-EFFULGENT SUN, you will be the SELF-EFFULGENT LIGHT itself. In that blessed state of Self-effulgent Splendour there is neither day nor night, neither within nor without. It is All Light, Infinite Light, Eternal Light, the Indivisible Light and the Interpenetrating Light.

*Na TatraSuryoBhatiNa Chandra Tarakam
ne ma VidyutoBhantikutoAyanagnih
TamevabhantamanubhatiSarvam
TasyabhasaSarwamidamVibhati*

There, in that holy Ineffable and Transcendental State, the sun does not shine, nor the moon nor stars; much less the tiny fire. When it shines the whole world shines. It is because of that everything exists. The manifested world comes from the unmanifested, Self-effulgent Light.

I request all the Readers of Peace magazine, to find some time, even ten minutes both at the hour of Sun-rise and at the hour of Sun-set, to meditate facing the Sun every day, as it will be very helpful for their progress, physically, mentally and spiritually. Only a few days of daily practice will convince them of the great benefits of the Sun-worship, Sun-bathing and Sun-meditation.

Prayer is a golden link that unites the individual with the Universal. Prayer to the Sun leads to the Source of all Light. Meditation on the Light leads to the Self-effulgent, Infinite and the Eternal Light. The Light without joins the Light within. Then it is All Light. The Sun without leads to the Sun within. In Silence, in the waveless stillness, in deep Meditation, one recognizes that He is All Light, the Light of the Sun of Suns. There is but One Reality.

THOU ART THAT--*TAT TWAM ASI*.

Dear Loving Readers of Peace magazine, let us close our eyes and meditate now on the Resplendent Vivifier to be filled and surrounded, nay to be saturated and sanctified by the splendour of the Millions of Suns, the Incomprehensible Light of Lights! MAKE ME LIKE THEE O! SELF EFFULGENT SUN!

HAR! OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace Oct 1956)

44. MIRACLES

The Dictionary meaning of “miracle” is: Super-natural event. Anything wonderful, extraordinary is a miracle. Is not the Effulgent Sun, the Light of the World, a stupendous miracle? He is the miracle wrought by God. Can anyone, any human or even a Celestial Being make a miracle of creating the Sun, the life giving and soul-awakening Radiance of the World?, God is the only Miracle-Worker. His creation is the Miracle of miracles. All other miracle-workers are merely miracle-mongers. The greatest miracle is God Himself, the Creator of all the worlds. The Creation, with all its changeless as well as changeable phenomena, is His living miracle.

To understand this our present theme on miracles, let us divide our subject into two parts or sections:-

- I. The miracles of phenomena-the unnatural miracles;
- II. The miracles of Love - the natural miracles of His Grace.

It will be helpful to understand the meaning of the word Phenomena. The Dictionary meaning is:-Anything perceived by observation, a remarkable or unusual appearance.

My heart heaves in admiration towards the Miracles of Love of His Grace, rather than the Miracles of Phenomena; for, the Miracles of Love are natural whereas the miracles of Phenomena are unnatural. Is not the world a miracle of the Love of God, with all its five elements of earth, water, air, fire and ether?

To understand more vividly the difference between these two kinds of miracles, let us take some concrete examples of these miracles of phenomena and miracles of Love from our own personal experiences. Let us begin with the miracles of phenomena. Two years ago, it was the midnight hour; I was fast asleep and was awakened by our Rajahji, the Secretary, saying that some friends had come all the way from Waltair on a Taxi to get a recommendation letter from me and that they had to rush back, hence I was disturbed. A Professor in a College, an old friend of the Ashram introduced to me a Christian *Sadhu*, who offered me a few jasmine flowers laying them before me on my table. We had the usual prayers, the recommendation letter was given and they left the Ashram immediately. After they left, our Rajahji told me that the Christian *Sadhu*, before coming to me, stood before the Life-size Statue of Holy Christ which is in front of the Nirvana Mandir, along with the other statues of Lord Krishna, Bhagavan Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi.

The *Sadhu* or the *Yogi*, standing before Christ, produced jasmine flowers, quite afresh, from no-where and worshipped Christ, laying them at his feet. It was only some of those flowers that were brought to me. I felt touched, of course, with the worship of Christ, but was quite astonished at the phenomena of producing jasmine flowers from no-where. I do not wish to belittle the importance of the miracle of the *Yogi* of producing jasmine flowers thus, but unconsciously another incident of a similar phenomena which I witnessed as a youngster came back to my memory. I was a mere boy studying in the School. A miracle-play was arranged in

the spacious hall of the school. Hundreds of students and teachers were assembled. The person who was giving the performance was not called by the sacred name of a *Yogi* or *Sadhu* but by the common name of a juggler-miracle-worker. Among the miracles that he performed on that day in the school, one miracle stands uppermost in my memory; it is a miracle of phenomenon.

He took a cloth and chanted some secret words or *mantrams*, and from no-where there arose a small mango plant from within the cloth. He continued repeating his *mantrams*; when he removed the cloth completely, the plant became a small tree. Later on, it became a good size tree, having mango fruits on it. He plucked from the tree some of the fruits, cut them into pieces and fed some to the onlookers. I remember to have eaten a mango piece, myself. Is not this a miracle, a miracle of phenomenon although performed by a mere “Juggler?” No one can say that the Juggler brought the big mango tree with him; for, his hand-bag was too small to hold any tree of that size with so many fruits all fresh. Thus, various would be the miracles of phenomena, that you too must have witnessed sometime or other, somewhere in your lives. We hear of some *mahatmas* producing from no-where, pearl and diamond necklaces, holy pictures, sweets, flowers and many other such things—nay, whatever they or their visitors want. How shall we explain these miracles of phenomena? How shall we explain the miracles of the blessed Christ, stilling the roaring waves of the sea and, on another occasion, feeding five thousand people simultaneously with only two loaves and five fish as his food store. Let us now leave the work of explaining all these miracles of phenomena to the great Scientists and to the mighty intellects of the Philosophers of the world, and try to dwell now on the other kind of miracles - the miracles of Love, with reference to instances of our own personal experiences.

Let me begin, by giving here, a miracle of love, of my own recent and latest experience that happened only a few weeks ago in Madras. One of the Sisters of our party wanted to buy some valuable books like ‘Serpent Power’ etc., we went to a shop, a well-known book-store; she selected a number of costly books and was about to pay the cost of the books. The devoted Proprietor looked at us and said; ‘the books are free. You can take them without paying the cost of the books.’ I felt deeply touched and was taken aback in admiration and gratitude for his sympathy and love. I then said that he should take the money, as the books are not for the Ashram but for the personal use of the lady. Then the good-hearted Proprietor said: “The books are given free, because the lady is connected with the Ashram.” Is not this a miracle of Love? It was a sacred moment of feeling God’s Presence and Love. The giver is an image of God. The recipient also, likewise, is an image of God. Those who were blessed to witness that miracle of Love then, also, are the living images of God: May all homage be unto all the Images of God!

I love to narrate another miracle of Love that was performed several years ago. I needed some glasses for my eyes, and went to an optical store, The Proprietor was a perfect stranger; yet, he lovingly tested my eyes for a long time with different glasses, with all patience and devotion. Finally, he was selecting a costly frame. When I said: “The Ashram cannot afford such costly frames,” he smiled at me and just requested, not to worry over the cost, but only to select whatever was good and best. Apart from the spectacles, with a costly frame, he took out also, a good costly case for keeping the costly spectacles, and said; “Sir, this is all for you.” How

can I express or describe my immediate reaction! There were tears of ecstasy in my eyes! I was deeply touched at this Miracle of Love and felt God's Presence so vividly and consciously. Is not this a living miracle of Love? Since then, the Optician has become a lifelong friend of the Ashram; he keeps on giving spectacles freely, not only to the workers and members of the Ashram but also even to the other devotees of the Ashram. On the other day, our Manager went to our optician for a change of glasses and offered money, as he had it. Then the optician asked "do you get any salary from the Ashram?" When the Manager said "No" the optician said; "As you are not a paid worker, but only a free worker, these spectacles are free for you." How good is God! We take joy in calling our optician a "A Divine Optician."

Since my boyhood days, I have been blessed with enjoying and experiencing very many miracles of Love and it taken many, many pages to write about all those miracles of Love, big and small. During my *parivrajaka* days, as a young wandering monk or *sadhu* in teens, while going to Badrinath and Kailas, walking 40 miles a day on some days, when I got footsore, and was lying alone, weak and sick, on the road-side or in a hut, imagine someone coming and rubbing oil on my sore feet and fomenting with hot compresses! Is not this a miracle of Love! Again, when I was unable to move, thirsty and hungry, lying all alone on those giddy heights of Himalayas, imagine someone coming to me, lighting fire, cooking sago and feeding me in the dark night! Is not this a miracle of Love!

It was a happy surprise to me, to see our simple Peace Prayer also performing its miracles of Love during our recent Peace Propaganda Tour in the North. While crossing the Devi on the long river SONE, we had to wait at a Railway Station for the railway trucks to arrive for taking our Sushila Peace Van to the other side. During our stay at the station, I took to the market, our chanti, a little boy of the Ashram whom we took with us to buy him a rubber ball. After buying the ball, I gave the shop-keeper, a copy of our Peace Prayer in Hindi. After reading it, he left the shop and followed us to the Peace Van. He expressed an ardent wish to leave his shop and his kith and kin and to follow us to Santi Ashram to remain there permanently, serving the Cause of Peace. He wanted to sit right away in the Van and come to the Ashram with us. With great difficulty, we made him to remain behind us, requesting him to follow us after entrusting his shop to someone else, and adjusting all his affairs. Also, there was no space in the van to accommodate him. While reluctantly leaving us, he said that he would get a thousand copies of the Peace Prayer printed on that day itself, to share it with all the devoted people of his place and to spread the Peace Prayer from heart to heart. Is not this a Miracle of Love? How good God is!

I shall narrate yet another instance of how the Peace Prayer is doing its silent miraculous work. During our recent visit to Nilgiris, we have been travelling hundreds of miles on our Peace Van—but, unfortunately without the License Disc on the Van. We were not violating the Laws of the Government as we did procure the required License; but only, by mistake, the License disc was left behind in the Ashram. We intended to get it from the Ashram as soon as possible along with the Insurance Documents of the Peace Van. Month passed and the License Disc has not come; and our Peace Van was doing its silent work without having the License ticket on the front wind shed.

At one place, when the Van stopped for petrol, the Inspector sent for our Driver asking him to bring the Car License Book etc., gave to the driver a copy of the Peace Prayer asking him to give it to the Inspector, first. The Inspector kindly read the whole of the Peace Prayer. He then asked the Driver for the License Book. The Driver told him that, by mistake, the License Book the C. Certificate was left in our Ashram in the Godavari District. The Inspector did not know that we were travelling even without the License disc or ticket.

The Officer looked at the Peace Prayer once again and said: “As the Car belongs to *Swamiyar*, let it go free.” While we, who remained behind in the Van, were feeling worried and anxious, the Inspector sent his Head Constable to our Peace Van to convey to us the above happy message. I was beside myself, with great joy and gratitude to God, for His innumerable blessings and departed from the town invoking God’s richest blessings on the kind and goodhearted inspector. Is not this a miracle of Love?

Again, during my sojourn in the West when I had a fall on the ice, breaking my hip-bone, perfect strangers took care of me quite unasked, converting their home into an hospital with special doctor and nurses, and spending thousands of dollars like water over my welfare. Is not this a miracle of Love? All along in my life from beginning to the present moment, I have been a simple believer and faithful admirer of the Miracles of Love, feeling God’s Presence, in all the simple acts of natural reaction of the Law of ‘LOVE AND BE LOVED.’ How blessed it is to live as “LOVE,” including all and excluding none! Verily. God IS LOVE and LOVE IS GOD, and WHERE LOVE IS THERE IS GOD. To me, the greatest of the great and the Holiest of the holy Miracle is the LOVE OF GOD. To feel and express His, Love, in our daily acts, in thought and word and to share that Divine Love with all the children of God, irrespective of the man-made differences of castes, creeds, color and nationalities, is the Soul and Goal of all Miracles of Love.

Blessing those who are cursing and persecuting us, is a Miracle of Love. The heart that feels and throbs for all creation, including the dumb animals and all the tiniest creatures, and even the pure and sacred flowers is the greatest miracle of Love. I long to have my share of witnessing the miracles not in the form of Phenomena or of wonders of the world, but in the simpler and practical ways of sharing all that we have—even blood, flesh and bones, with those who are in need, without expecting any reward in any form. From my personal experience, sharing a slice of my leg-bone to help a helpless child has given me the utmost and inexpressible joy, AS A MIRACLE OF LOVE, without expecting any reward but rendering service only for the sake of Love. I bow down my head in all humility and adoration to the Great Miracle-Worker, the Almighty God, for giving me the great opportunity of serving His children in my own humble and insignificant way. These days, I take joy in repeating my simple and favourite prayer!

Dear God! make others great, famous and well-known, but keep me always simple, humble and insignificant.

May the All-knowing, Almighty God, bless us with the miracle of Miracles, namely the four-letter simple word LOVE, which has been the greatest blessing, ever, to the world of humanity.

May God Bless all His Children with the Miracles of Love!
May Peace be unto all! Om Tat Sat Om

Offered to the Greatest

Miracle Worker, the Almighty God-invoking His richest blessings on all His children in the East and the West.

OM OMOM

(Peace Sept 1960)

45. MIRACLE OF MIRACLES

The greatest miracle in the world is the Love of God, the Love that excludes none and includes all. Love and be loved in return is the Law in the world. Do not Love, but live as love, is the law of the Gods in heaven. These inspiring adages appear to be conflicting to the layman. But to the man of God, each has a lesson to teach from its particular standard. The sage who is living as Love, is including the whole of humanity, the people of all the world, the respective followers of each and every religion in his infinite fold or wide embrace of his Universal Love. One devotee sings in ecstasy I am ever in the embrace of God.

Another aspirant sings: When I stumble, I fall into the lap of God, for the wide world is the lap of God. Where is the place where God exists not? It has been said, that we cannot keep or put even a needle's point where God exists not.

All is God. The whole universe is pervaded by the Presence of God. Everyone is an image of God. Hence I see him shining in every face. In spite of the renaissance in every field of life, both within and without, it makes me sad to see little frogs sitting in their wells of manmade finite religions, croaking and crying out still: -My Religion is the best and your religion is the worst. My Saviour is an *avatar* and your Saviour is a heathen, a mere man etc., etc., Fortunately, these bigots or fanatics are not confined to the East or the West or to any one particular religion, but we have them in all the religions. But thank God, they are not many, but very few. From the place where Mahatma Gandhi was murdered, the seat of learning and culture, one devoted reader of Peace Journal writes partly appreciating the journal the following words.

Respected Swamiji:

Every article of the issue gives new life to me and leads me to right path. But there is too much publicity of Christ and Christianity. There is the Cross in the universal block of the title page above our own OM even: Om is the only name of God.

Our friend sitting in his own little well further continues to write “Let the cross be removed from the Universal Symbol or the Peace Journal be discontinued to be sent to me.”

Again some of the Christian friends sitting in their little wells write: - How can you associate our Holy Christ, with the unholy Krishna or other so-called *avatars* or Saviours? My heart bleeds when I see these differences of deep ignorance of these ignorant children in every religion. The persecution is from every side both from the orthodox Hindus, and bigoted Christians. Then I recall the wise words of the Blessed Christ: - Blessed are they who are persecuted for my sake, in my name. The Holy Cross is the sacred body itself. The Star in the Cross is the Light within. How can you remove the Cross, the Light within, so long as you have the body either from the Universal Symbol or Peace Journal or from the Ashram? I would rather stop the publication of the journals and close the Ashram, the Mission of Peace, rather than think of erasing the Holy Cross or the Universal Symbol. To me the Cross is in the Om and the Om is in the Cross, The finite is in the Infinite and the Infinite is in the finite.

Rama is in Krishna and Krishna is in Rama.

Christ is in Krishna and Krishna is in Christ.

There is only one Reality. That which exists is one. But sages called It by various names. We fight over the names for our religion is only skin-deep. We have not yet touched the Hem of His Garment, not yet known what God is, from Personal Experience, hence is all this criticism, condemnation and persecution.

Empty vessels make much sound. The full vessels are silent. He who knows becomes silent. Knowing That, the wise melt in silence, We are all the waves of the one mighty ocean of *sat-chit-anandam* - the Existence, Knowledge and Bliss Absolute. We are the rays of the one Self-effulgent Sun, coming from Him, living in Him and going back to Him.

As said by Sri Ramakrishna this world is only of two days existence and our life is only of five minutes.

In this short duration, instead of praying ceaselessly and meditating deeply, why waste precious time fighting with words, living on surface? In Santi Ashram at the Nirvana Mandir we have the living life-size statues of Sri Krishna, Sri Christ, Sri Buddha and Sri Gandhiji. I live in a world of my own, where those *avatars*-Saviours are not dead to me, but alive even Now. They are not mere statues of cement to me. They are still to me, the *avatars* - Saviours of Light. Often and often, I gaze at their holy faces and feel that they are talking with me. I take joy to commune with them and they too bless me with their Love Universal that excludes none but includes all.

In the world of my own, I gaze at the Holy Face of Sri Krishna, I still listen to His Immortal words of Bhagavad Gita. Similarly, as I look at the innocent face of the Blessed Christ, I listen to His Holy Sermon on the Mount. Thus, not only Sri Krishna and Holy Christ, but also Lord Buddha, Sri Mohamed, Sri Gandhiji, Sri Zoroaster, Sri Mahavir and other *avatars* and sages and saints are alive to me Now and Here.

Dear Readers of Peace magazine - You may laugh at my innocent, incredulity or blind belief, to see that in my world, I hear Krishna, singing the name of Christ and Christ chanting the name of Krishna. You and I may not love each other, due to our attachment to the body-consciousness. But Krishna and Christ love each other as they are God-conscious and nay, as they are not two but One. They are the embodiments of Miracles of Love. In the Miracle of Miracles, there is only the Infinite Love, the Eternal Love, and the All-embracing Love which includes all!

In the Miracle of Miracles, everyone is an Image of God. Everything is God. Nothing exists besides God, except His Self-effulgent Light. Harken my friends, to listen to the sweet music of Sri Krishna from the Sacred Flute within, which is no other than the body, the physical sheath itself. Behold! The Blessed Christ praying ceaselessly absorbed in the Holy Father in the Kingdom of Heaven within!

Can you not see Buddha- the Enlightened One, deeply absorbed in Meditation in *nirvana*? Gandhiji is still leading us, walking ahead with his living messages of Truth and Nonviolence. All the *avatars*, all the sages and saints of the East and the West are with us, nay in us Now and Here. It is with us now to recognize in them - the One in the many and the many in the One and be blessed with Love Universal centering ourselves in their Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. God-realization Now and Here is the Message of the Day, nay, this is the living Message of the Hour and of this present living moment.

Feeling God's Presence—His interpenetrating Presence Now and Here is the Miracle of Miracles. Love Universal that includes all, that sees the sweet face of God in every face, the Love that cannot see anything other than God, in anyone or anywhere is the soul, goal and essence of the Miracles of Miracles.

Love begets Love.
DO NOT LOVE BUT LIVE AS LOVE.

Adorations be unto the Love which is shining in the devoted and dedicated heart of all of you—His Chosen Children!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL
OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace March 1961)

46. MEETING OF THE EIGHT PLANETS - ASHTAGRAHAMS

The finite man, with all his unlimited, outerknowledge cannot comprehend the incomprehensibleknowledge of God or the mysteries of nature. Sometimes, the very drastic changes in the world ofphenomena, although they appear to be relentless andcruel, they are really blessings in disguise. From thefar away Hong Kong, China, a devoted friend who hasbeen a well-wisher of Santi Ashram has written thefollowing words in an Air Mail letter, feeling anxiouslyover the coming *ashtagrahaKootami*-the Meeting of theEight Planets.

Q: Dear Swamiji, what are the sages, saints and the*mahatamas* of India doing to protect the worldfrom the coming catastrophe of the *ASHTAGRAHAKOOTAMI*-Meeting of the Eight Planets ?

As I felt from within I have replied to him in thefollowing words:

A:Dear Brother! As for the Meeting of thePlanets *ASHTAGRAHAMS* in the comingFebruary, personally I am not at all worried.Everyday is the same to me. The same Godexists in all the days, whether the planets meet or not. Of course there may be outer changesas per the laws of Nature-*prakriti*.In spite of all the drastic changes, those who cling to Godare ever safe.

Do you have hand-made Grinding Stones inHongkong? Did you ever see it? The GrindingStone is very common in every home in India.

It seems a devoted lady was grinding rice and shedding tears over it, when a *sadhu* sawit, he asked the cause of her weeping. She saidthat her life is being wasted and being powderedlike the rice, between the two stones of life anddeath. Then the wise *sadhu* asked her, to liftthe upper stone and said:-LOOK AT THE RICECLINGING TO THE PEG, around it. They arenever hurt or even touched by any amount of grinding. So let us cling to God more than evert to the Peg-the LIGHT within and all is goingto be safe always.

Dear Brother, the restless and ignorant people get upset over these predictions. Whereas, the God-men for the Peace of all,wishing the welfare of the world, cling to Godmore than ever, forgetting the outer world and its inevitable changes-the ups and downs of life.Thus day by day let us meditate on the Lightwithin going deeper and deeper! May Peace be unto all, Om! Om! Om!

It was Swami Ram who said:

BETTER HAVE A BULLET IN YOUR HEART THAN A DOUBT

I take joy in saying:

BETTER HAVE AN ATOM BOMB IN YOUR HEART THAN FEAR.

Fear creates sickness and makes one lifeless, paralyzing the very blood. As thoughts are things let us not create more trouble in the world with our weak, negative pessimistic thoughts. O Man, thou the Living Image of God! Where is your faith in the Indwelling Light? Do not be of little faith, shaking at every whiff of wind and at the passing clouds of these predictions. None of the things of the world can ever dare to touch you or more change you, the real *atman*.

Weakness and ignorance create enough of mischief converting the veritable heavens, into dingy dungeons or hells of suffering all through needless suspicions and fears. It seems once there was a cruel epidemic of plague and thousands and thousands were dying every day. The Priests and devotees with Prayers and supplications approached the King of Death and begged him not to kill any more innocent people. The King of Death taking pity on the helplessness of the people promised only to take five thousand more lives and then he would leave them all free. Lo; and behold, to the consternation of the people, on the next day fifty thousand people died. With resentment and disappointment, the people approached *Yama*, the King of Death and reproached him saying, that he has been untrue to his promise and killed 45,000 people more. *Yama* smiled and replied thus:

Dear Ones, as per my promise only 5000 died of the plague but all the rest of the 45,000 died of FEAR.

Such are the drastic, cruel and unrelentable and unbelievable results of the false demon fear. Where is the darkest cloud of Fear in the Light of lights, in the Sun of suns, in the Splendour of the Millions of Suns! Let us give a death blow, a permanent blow to the cruel demon—the fear, which is sucking our life-blood like a leech. Let *ashtagrahas* meet or let all the *grahams* meet, nay let there be even *pralayam* the destruction of the world but let us cling to the Infinite Light, the Eternal Light; the Indivisible Light that can never be touched by any changes in all the planets of the world. Like Markandeya of the sacred love, let us cling to the SIVA LINGAM—the Light within so that even YAMA could not approach. Once again I raise my voice to repeat that EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD IS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE, ALL IS FOR THE BEST. Had it not been for the fearful predictions over the meeting of the *ashtagrahas*, many a man would not have bothered his head about God and His Laws of Nature. Now we find everywhere, even in the small villages and towns, *Pujas*, *Yagnas*, *Bhajans* and religious ceremonies of every kind, invoking the Gods and Goddesses of the past present and future, for their blessings to minimize or even dispel the drastic effects of the meeting of these planets.

As change is inevitable and death is certain to one and all sooner or later, there may be unavoidable changes here and there, in the East and the West, in all the world. But at any cost let us not give in, to the most harmful and silent enemy in the form of FEAR. Let us be brave, asserting the living Light, the Changeless Reality, the loving DIVINITY within. From every face let us see God shining forth. In our God Vision, let nothing exist within or without except the Splendour of Millions of Suns, which is the only loving Truth and Living Reality—the Substance and Basis of all the worlds!

The more planets meet in heavens, the more nearer and closer let us go to the Self-effulgent LIGHT within us, which is awaiting our recognition Now and always in the stillness of our purified hearts! Let us not add fuel or petrol to the already burning flame by our negative thoughts and needless fears. Above all let us learn to live in the present living moment, forgetting the dead past and ignoring the dim, uncertain future. As you live in the present moment identifying with the Light of Lights, moment by moment you are led towards the Highest Truth, forgetting all planets and even worlds.

The Planets may move, wander, change and meet all the other planets. But the *atman* or the SOUL neither moves nor wanders or changes for IT is the One without a second, being OMNIPRESENT. After all, the real planets from the spiritual point are not without, but they are within. They are the *kama*, *krodha*, *lobha*, *moha*, *mada*, *matsrayamulu*, with *ahamkaram* and *mamakaram*—Desire, Anger, Averseness, Lust, Ignorance, Egoism and Selfishness are the planets that make a havoc of the real life of man, leading him into the very hell and causing world catastrophes. HE WHO CONTROLS THE INNER GUNAS-QUALITIES controls all the outer planets of the whole world. Such a one is the greatest blessing to the entire world.

Dear Loving Readers of Peace magazine and friends and well-wishers of humanity, whatever changes may happen in the outer, let us cling to the Changeless Self-effulgent Light within, more than ever, with all the strength of our minds, hearts and souls, thus be a blessing to all the world, in spite of all the planets meeting in the skies above.

The essence of this message in a nut-shell is, the more *Kootami* there is outside, in the meeting of all the planets, let there be more union of the JIVAS inside with *PARAMATHMA*—the individuals with the Universal. Lo and behold! There is but one Reality, *TAT TWAM ASI*. THOU ART THAT.

Nothing else exists besides IT, not even the planets.

Be still and know that I am God. Recognize and Be Silent, ever centering in the Peace that passeth all understanding.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!
OM OMOM

(Peace Jan 1962)

47. MAN PROPOSES BUT GOD DISPOSES

Dr. Narayanaswamy was a devoted and dedicated soul. He was an Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Doctor, treating all the poor and the sick people in Chandavaram and surrounding twenty hamlets in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh.

He used to send us medicines to Totapalli Ashram occasionally with instructions to administer the same to the sick and the poor. However, he himself could not avail of any opportunity to go over to Totapalli, to see the Ashram or myself. God's ways are mysterious!

He was so simple and assured in his ways and habits that I wish to call him *Sadhu* Narayanaswamy instead of Dr. Narayanaswamy. His living place was a small hut, where he used to spend his spare hours in prayer and meditation. He was a great admirer and ardent advocate of our Peace Prayer.

Suddenly he felt from within that the Call had come from the Great Beyond and that he should leave the world soon. Hence, he wrote me a letter that his one desire was only to see me and offer his worship in his closing days. He has also written that he has set apart Rs. 516/- for the use of the Ashram and that I should go over to his place immediately, considering his letter as a telegram. The letter reached us in six days.

As the letter had been written by himself in his own hand writing, we delayed rushing to his bedside soon. But, alas by the time we reached his place, he has passed away leaving his mortal frame. We heard the sad news that he left the body only the previous day anticipating my arrival until the last moment.

Imagine my sad surprise to hear the saddest news! When we stepped into his lonely hut, there we saw only the single photo of Omkar, which was taken 40 years ago in the meditation pose. I do not know when, how and where he got the Meditation Photo, but it was the only photo in the cottage of *Sadhu* Narayan.

I blamed myself for my delay in not rushing to the bedside of Narayan while he was alive. I felt sad and repentant for not fulfilling such a simple desire and the last wish of *Sadhu* Narayan.

He got the fruits, flowers, incense, camphor and everything ready for my worship-the *Puja*. Everything was there except Narayan. How deplorable!

Our Narayan knew the coming hour of his departure from the mortal body. He has predicted his hour of death and his last words were that he was going away leaving the world, without seeing Swamiji. How very heart rending!

There are certain things that can be remedied. This delay or mistake or blunder is something that cannot be remedied.

May God forgive me for the delay and may He bless the blessed spirit of *Sadhu* Narayan with His richest blessings of Peace.

Some of the members of our party, even thought that the Ashram may not get what Dr. Narayan wanted to offer since we went late. But *Sadhu* Narayan had made all arrangements to help and serve the Ashram, the Cause of Peace, before he closed his eyes. His disciples are so devoted that they added Rupees fifty more to the amount Narayan mentioned in his letter. Another close disciple of *Sadhu* Narayan surprised us by offering Rs. 100/- more. As the *Gurus*, so are the disciples.

In the evening we had a big crowded meeting of all the people, in the village. A nice message was given to all the sisters, brothers and children of the village and to the many other devotees and followers of Narayan who came from several villages, to take part in the condolence meeting. In the end I exhorted all the people who were present, to do something practical to keep up the sacred memory of Dr. Narayan permanently.

All the devotees and disciples promised to build a small hospital in the name of Dr. Narayan as all his life was dedicated only to the service of the sick and the poor. I promised also to come to do the Opening Ceremony of the Narayan Hospital as soon as it gets completed.

There was *Bhajan* and chanting of God's name and we all felt the unseen Presence of *Sadhu* Narayan, within, without, above, below and all around us.

Whenever I think of Narayan and his deep love for the Ashram and myself, and how I failed him, it makes my heart sad and heavy even now. As I repeat the Peace Prayer with closed eyes, I feel the Presence of Narayan throbbing in my heart and flowing in my very breath. This is my only consolation now.

How finite and frail is man! How he proposes, but how God disposes as per His will! May His will be done in Heaven and on the earth. Not my will O Lord, but may thy will be done always and may Peace be unto all!

OM OM OM

(Peace April & May 1962)

48. MEDITATION

(My Meditation These Days)

It has been said of all the births the human birth is very precious and rare. To justify my existence in the human form and to be grateful to God-the Giver of the human birth, as well as for all His Blessings, these days I include and cover in my meditations, not only the human kingdom, but also the kingdoms of animals, plants and even minerals. Every creature and atom are included in my meditation.

How true are the words:

HE PRAYETH WELL, WHO LOVETH WELL, BOTH MAN AND BIRD, AND BEAST.

May all Glory be unto Him, the Indwelling Presence of our hearts!

There are such sacred moments in my deep meditation that often I forget the form, the body and feel that my real body is the wide world and all the respective nations, be they big or small are the limbs in my body. Thus I feel one man's sorrow, whether it is in the East or the West, is my sorrow. One man's joy anywhere in the world is my joy. Blessed are they who Love all and who feel for all!

These days my meditation covers everything and everyone. In the real Meditation all are included and no one is excluded, not even the so-called enemy. God means all in all. All are the children of the One All-loving God, be they good or bad, fair or crooked, belonging to the religions of the East or to the West or to no religion. Hence, all are included and no one is excluded. But the crooked and the bad, the weak and the ignorant are to be educated and enlightened. Alas! What an up-hill task it is! Yet, LOVE is the unfailing WAY. As it is the Individual Peace, that paves the way towards Universal Peace, let us begin now with the individual, meditating individually wishing the Peace of all!

As I close my eyes in my meditations and even now, I feel His Presence—the Adorable Light within, in the very cells of the being filling the body, from the very toes to the top of the head. As I open my eyes, the Self-effulgent Light, is in front of me. As the Light is Omnipresent, it is within, without, above, below and all around. How glorious! Facing the Light on every side and all around and everywhere, I often visit, mentally, in spirit, these days, the border-land of India, where the needless slaughter is going on. I try to cover and fill the friend and foe with God's Light. I whisper to the friend:-

Peace be unto you! May God protect you and may you feel His Presence in all your tests and trials. As you trust in God in the great crisis in your brave fight, He alone will take care of you. Our Prayers are ever with you wishing your welfare and Peace. I tell the foe:

Why do you persecute us? Why shoot, kill and crucify the children of Indivisible God, in His manifested forms? He who takes up the sword dies from the sword. Anger, resentment and hatred and bitterness lead one eventually to hell, in spite of the seeming success outside.

Then I cover all Asia, Malaya, China, Japan, Australia and the whole of the East and try to fill all, with Peace that passeth all understanding. Thus in my meditation feeling His Presence within and without, I travel on and on towards Russia. I am face to face with the Dictator and his comrades begging thus:-

Please recognize the One Omnipresence, the very Source of all your mighty inventions and deathly missiles. Whether you believe in God or not everyone must bow down his head to the inexorable Law of Karma—Sowing and reaping.

*Good leads to more good
Bad leads to more bad
Selfishness leads to hell
Selflessness to Heaven*

The seeds of castor oil plant, can never give us the harvest of wheat. Thus the thoughts of revenge or hatred, destroy the very soul. It is the sublime thoughts of Love that includes all, gives solace, strength and Peace. The world is expecting big things from you, for you are blessed with noble hearts of progress and culture.

As I continue my meditation, I wander towards Europe, Germany, France and England and finally reach America the land of sympathy and goodwill. I am face to face with the President and all his wise colleagues. I seem to hear the Good Lord repeating:

Well done! My children over your selfless acts and love of humanity. May you be the chosen instruments setting an ideal example to all the other big and small nations, to follow in your foot-prints.

Blessed are the Peace makers!

I am flooded with Light, for it is the Ineffable Light in individuals as well as nations nay, it is the same Light filling the tiniest atom, to the biggest planet. It is the Omnipresent Light, the One Adorable Light in the past, present and future. Where is the moment when this Self-effulgent Light is absent? The Eternal and Infinite Light is the only Reality. There is never a moment of time now or in the past or future, when the LIGHT is absent. Glory, Glory, Glory!

Even the Theist and Atheist, the believer and the non-believer all are filled, surrounded and saturated by this Interpenetrating Light! I take joy in seeing the Infinite in the finite and the finite in the Infinite. Thus the Individual finds himself as the Universal and the Universal as Individual. Verily, all this is *brahman*, the One *atman*, the only Reality. *Isavasyamidamsarvam*.

Thus in my meditations these days I try to soar higher and higher into the Cosmic Heights, into the Transcendental Glory, where the whole world, with all its mighty kingdoms and nations appears like a bubble, in the firmament of God.

I allow the bubble-like world with all its people, Hindus, Chinese, Russians, Americans etc., the Easterners and the Westerners, all to merge and dissolve in the one Stupendous and Incomprehensible Light, which is the only Changeless Reality, the One without a second. When I come down to the plane of the earth, everyday in my meditation filling all the nations in the world with God's Light, Life and Love, I feel contented, happy, and blessed. For in blessing others, I too am blessed with Peace, the Divine Heritage of man, the living Image of God. In conclusion, let us sing our Vedic Prayer, the Peace Chant.

The Peace Chant

May there be Peace in Heaven.

Peace in the Sky

Peace across the Waters,

May there be Peace on Earth.

May Peace flow from the herbs, plants and trees!

May all the celestial beings radiate Peace!

May Peace pervade all quarters!

May peace be unto all!

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti

(Peace Dec 1962)

49. MY ASPIRATION

These days as I lie down in the sick-bed which I call my Bed of Roses, one of the top most ardent aspiration is:-

Not to talk of God to people who come to see me, but to make them feel God's Presence Here and Now as they sit here with me.

Q: Is it possible?

A: It is more than possible, for God is pervading and permeating the very cells of their beings. When He is sparkling in their eyes, throbbing in their hearts and flowing in their very breath, why is it not possible to feel God's Presence?

To feel God's Presence Now and Here, this is the only possible thing, for; He is the only ever present Reality-the changeless TRUTH. My heart longs not only to help the devotees who come to me to feel God's Presence, but also to help those who are not able to come to see me.

Q: Is it also possible?

A: Yes! It is one hundred percent possible, provided they are pining for God, being in Tune with the Infinite.

WHERE IS DISTANCE IN GOD? When you can make someone to feel God's Presence whomever you, you can make the one to feel God's Presence, who is at a distance of thousands of miles away also. For God, whether it is in India or in America or in the North Pole or South Pole, it is all the same to Him, as He is Omnipresent and equally present pervading from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet.

If you can feel Him now, you can feel Him always for He is always present either in the past, present or future. In fact, God is above time, space and causation. He alone exists and nothing exists besides Him. As *atman*, the only Reality, you have nothing to preach or teach - for, there is nothing besides you. As *atman* you have nothing to learn from outside. Verily, there is neither inside or outside. Only the Self-effulgent Light exists.

As an ounce of practice is worth more than a ton of words or theory, let us practice to feel His Presence Now, as He is awaiting our RECOGNITION or AWARENESS, in the stillness of our hearts, interpenetrating the very cells of our beings. The repetition of our simple and inspiring PEACE PRAYER also is very helpful to feel His Presence Here and Now. Nay, the Peace Prayers unite all the individuals, communities and nations into one homogeneous whole, bringing all together, making them many into One, for, God is Indivisible and One without a second. Now let us repeat our simple PEACE PRAYER and feel God's Presence in the very cells of our beings, from the toes to the top of the head, as well as in all the creation.

Verily it is the PEACE PRAYER that not only unites all the children of God in the East and the West, but also brings Universal Peace to the humanity.

Dear Friends of Peace, everywhere near and far, please help me, help yourselves and help the humanity, by repeating PEACE PRAYER with all the strength of your mind, heart and soul, wishing the Peace of all mankind.

AN OFFERING

AN OFFERING to the well-wishers of Humanity, who are blessed with Hearts of Universality!

AUM

(Peace Feb 1964)

50. MY TELEPHONE IN KAILAS

My Doctor friends were unwilling that I should go and live in Kailas alone far away from Medical aid. When I insisted that the Doctor of doctors within me is calling me to Kailas, they allowed me to go and they suggested that I should get a telephone installed in the Ashram so that I could telephone them in case of danger or emergency.

To install a telephone in Kailas is a costly affair, but in the Ashram down in Waltair, telephone can be installed easily.

Besides the cost of installing the telephone, I thought we will be too often disturbed by the telephone calls from all the friends and devotees in Visakhapatnam, Tuni, Bobbili, Kakinada, Rajahmundry, Madras, Hyderabad and even from foreign lands. Hence I strongly objected to the telephone installation for our Peace as well as for the Peace of all.

Q: But what to do in case of emergency on the hill above?

A: Trust in God more than ever and He alone will take care of you protecting you always if you really love and trust Him.

Thus, days passed on in rest and peace without the need of any doctors or telephone. One night I felt pain not exactly in the heart but to the right side of the heart. What to do then? How to reach the Doctors? Naturally, I began to think of the wise suggestion of the Doctors to have the telephone near at hand. Even if I need the Doctor now, I have to send someone down the hill in Kailas, first to the Ashram and then to our Sri V. R. Chitra's house, where he has the telephone. Then he will inform the Doctors and they will be anxious and worried. If they have to come, we have to try for a jeep. Thus, request our dear friend Commander Mehra to help us with his jeep or some other friends who have jeeps. Then our Dr. Ramani comes and examines my heart-beat, taking the blood pressure, pulse and temperature etc. Then the Doctors will pronounce that the blood pressure was not so bad. But the pulse was normal and there was not any temperature. All was wonderful. Perhaps the pain in the right side of the heart may be only due to accumulation of gas. Anyway, Dr. Ramani to be extra careful and to be on guard insists, that I should come down and stay in the hospital or in her comfortable quarters, to be near to the medical aid and care. These were some of my thoughts during my pain in the heart at the midnight hour.

Chy. Santhi who takes care of me, protecting me like the eye-lid protects the eye-ball, both day and night will surely go down the hill in the high wind with the help of Satya Kumar (Chanti), who helps Santi in Kailas. But Chanti although 14 years old is afraid of any sound, even in the day time from the trees and wind. It is sad to have people who are afraid of themselves, even of their own shadows.

Now coming back to our telephone in Kailas:-

At that midnight hour in the cold and tempestuous wind, as there is no Telephone in Kailas or in the Ashram down, in my helplessness the bright thought came. Why not telephone to God himself, who does not need the help of any wires or other apparatus, for speaking? The very thought of it gave me strength and inspiration, for it was the brightest idea that God alone never fails or disappoints us and fulfills the least of our wishes. Then I began to call on God, shouting Hallo! Hallo! The Inner Voice said “why shout, when God is so near within yourself?” Any way to commune with God, to draw his attention, one must empty himself or herself. The still small voice of God is heard by the pure in heart. I felt His Presence deeply and intensely in that very still-hour of mid-night.

Unconsciously, I began to commune with God feeling his Presence in the very cells of my being. It was a sacred moment of ecstasy when it was all LIGHT, His Presence within, without, above, below and all around in that perfect stillness, God seemed to have whispered thus: What is it you want now my child? What do I want from that stupendous splendour of millions of suns, where all the pain in the heart, Telephones, Kailas and all the Ashram and Doctors and world too disappear and where the Self Effulgent Light alone is existing?

Thus a long time passed away in stillness and Supreme Silence. This was a sacred moment of blessed experience which has made me to rely no longer on the Telephones and my Good-hearted Doctors, but rely completely on the Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient, never failing power of God, which is ever protecting us, pervading and permeating the very cells of our beings.

By His Grace, Kailas is installed, now permanently, with the Universal Telephone which can be used not only by me, but also by anyone at any time, provided one empties oneself of all the ego, before he or she calls on God, Who is ever anxiously awaiting our Call.

I always love to share all the good news, with the devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram, the Mission of Peace.

Here is the good news of the installation of God's telephone in Kailas.

It is a telephone to God. Not only myself but any one pining for God can come to Kailas and directly telephone God and thus commune with Him merging one's mind, heart and soul in the Self Effulgent splendour of the Sun of suns.

The telephone to God is ever at your service, at the service of the aspiring devotees, irrespective of the man-made difference in caste, creed, colour and nation, alike for, all are the children of the One Indivisible God.

Kailas does not recognize any one religion or one nation except the Religion of Love and Nation of Peace. God is calling you. Kailas is calling you. The new Telephone is calling you, to be in tune with the Infinite, Now and Here.

Blessed are they who are pining for God. May Peace be unto all !
Om OmOm

(Peace Sept 1964)

51. MY PUJA AT SANGAREDDY

(At the hour of dawn)

It was still dark. The Sun - the Light of the world had not yet come. As it was cold, instead of shivering myself in bed, I thought it best, to go out for a walk and get myself warmth. Further, I love walking alone, and every step I take, I consider it a step towards God for I walk towards Him—the Omnipresent God. As it was too early, all the town was still and people were sleeping and the doors of the shops at Sangareddy were locked. Due to cold, here and there, there were some people—some of the old people and children too making fire by the roadside in the streets and warming themselves by sitting around it. On account of my walking, as my feet were chilly I too felt like joining them sitting around the fire. It was a happy surprise when a Police Constable going fast on a cycle, offered me a regular Police salute. Then I recalled the saying *yadha rajatadhapraja*. As the Master is so are the servants. As the Supt. Raghavendra Rao is God loving and devoted—so are all his subordinates and workers under him. An ideal life is always a blessing to all. With such thoughts, as I was walking towards God, still waiting for the sun-rise to come out, I came to a big tank, the name of which is a Mahaboob Tank. I passed on by its side and at the end of the tank, I saw an old dilapidated temple. Feeling tired and weary due to walking nearly a mile, I wanted to take rest and meditate somewhere. God the unseen power, arranged for my rest and relaxation in the old temple. As I went in, I left the sandals outside and was happy to go inside and meditate.

Strange as it may sound, there was a lovely meditation seat as if arranged for me, around an amango tree, facing green fields and the horizon in front of me. At last as I continued my meditation, I was rewarded with glimpses of light in the sky as the *ushas*—the Sun was rising filling the world slowly, with Light, Life and Love. It was a moment of Divine Ecstasy, that cannot be described in these finite words to see all those millions of rays coming out of the Self-effulgent Sun. As the Sun is giving out his radiance and filling the world with LIGHT, may I also, as the living Image of God having Sun of suns as my Birthright, let me give out, to all the children of God in the East and the West, Infinite Light Eternal Love and Universal Peace. This was my meditation thought filling my mind, heart and Soul with His Presence—which is interpenetrating the very cells of my being. For sometime, I was repeating also mentally—the life-giving and soul-awakening Peace Prayer. A little dog also came to see me, as if to know, whether my meditation was deep or not, whether I was seeing in it God or not, as I repeat and preach that all is God. All the world is filled with God. Dog and God are not two but one. Instead of reading it from left to right, if you read from right to left the word “dog” becomes “God.” As if satisfied with my thoughts, the dog left me wagging its tail.

As I left the Supt. Bungalow very early, without telling anyone, feeling that our Host and other members of the Ashram will be getting worry from my long absence, I rose from my seat chanting once again the helpful Peace Prayer ending with the chanting of the sacred syllable AUM. There were the Temple Bells as in Totapalli Viswanath Mandir and devotees were ringing, glorifying God. I too went towards them and rang four times wishing the welfare and Peace of all in the world, in the East and the West, in the North and the South. May there be Peace unto all! Om! Om! Om!

There was a little girl sweeping the temple ground and I asked her name and she told me smilingly:—Lakshmi, I have requested her to repeat the name of God, more so as she is Lakshmi, in each and every moment of her life, both in work and rest, as she is fortunate now to be engaged in God's service, by keeping the temple grounds clean and neat. She was happy and contented, smiling with contentment in her heart. It needs so very little to make people happy. All that the sad world needs is only a little sympathy and Love. I wanted to see the water in the Mahaboob Tank, so I climbed up the steps and began to walk on the bund itself. There I saw several donkeys grazing with contentment and also washermen washing the clothes, alas, with discontentment. The thought came, why human beings who are created in the Image of God are unhappy, discontented and restless and why the dumb animals are happy and contented with their lot!

As I continued my walk on the bund watching the donkeys and washermen I happened to pass by a big tree, where some sparrows were chirping, singing and flying from one branch to another with joy, I stood and watched them, trying to listen to their conversation. It looked as if one sparrow was asking the other one thus:—

Why these living Image of God, disgracing the Mother Earth and their creator walking with sorrow and worry in their hearts and restlessness and sadness on their face, while we, simple birds, are so happy. We neither sow nor reap, yet the Heavenly Father feeds and takes care of us. The other sparrow, thinking of the question, deeply, I felt it answered thus:— Perhaps these people do not have the Heavenly Father who takes care of us. They do not even have real belief in God and in His Omnipresence and in His never failing protection. What a wonderful Message from a tiny small ignorant sparrow to the man the living Image of God, the so-called all-knowing intelligent, mighty man! With such thoughts, brooding over the mystery of life and the creation and the Glory of God, I was wending my way back to the Supt.'s Bungalow. It was still cold—and there were children and *jatkawalas* here and there on the road-side still sitting around the fires they made to get themselves warmth. Envyng their warmth, I was walking briskly to get myself a little warmth.

Early morning walks, always make me happy as I walk towards God, considering them as my *Puja* to Him who is Omnipresent. Often I am rewarded with the *darshan*, the Presence of my *GURU*, the effulgent SUN as I see him slowly flooding the world with his life, light and love. Even after I reached the Bungalow I did not wish to go inside, but rested on an easy chair outside, facing the rising sun, bathing in his warm rays, forgetting the temple, tank, donkeys, washer-men,

sparrows and the children around the fire side, facing only the Self-effulgent Light of the Sun outside and the Splendour of Millions of Suns inside.

It was a sacred moment of Divine ecstasy! May this blessed moment be made permanent! May I offer this holy Legacy Divine Communion with the Indwelling Light, to my devoted Host and to all the devoted people at Sangareddy. Thus ended my early morning *PUJA* at Sangareddy.

May Glory be unto God-the Highest and Peace unto all His children on earth!

Om! Tat! Sat!

Om OmOm

(Peace March 1965)

52. MY ARDENT WISH

As the Golden Jubilee-the Fifty Years of my life-work is fast approaching, my heart longs to make best use of every moment, now and in future, more than ever, in the service of His children and in deep contemplation. I wish to see that every heart-beat of mine should throb only for Him. I long to see every breath of mine should flow only towards Him, I wish to Inhale and Exhale Peace with each and every breath, wishing Peace on Earth and Goodwill among mankind.

Another ardent longing of mine is, as the time is very precious, I do not wish to be associated with the self-interested people, who do not have time to pray, meditate or serve God and who are busy with words, talking always, I wish to keep myself aloof from all talking machines, who waste their precious time.

Even in the name of the Ashram, my life-work, I do not wish to give any trouble to the worldly-minded people, by requesting their hard-earned cash or any other kind of help in His service. Let me not be the cause of giving any trouble to any of the least of His children in anyway directly or indirectly.

My heart longs to be a worshipper of all the devoted and selfless people, who live not for themselves, but for the good of others. I long to be away and aloof from all the selfish people who have time for their self-interests and not for God. I long to be away from such people not by hundreds and thousands, but, even by millions of miles of distance, yet send my thoughts and prayers for their welfare and Peace too. Above all, I long not only to feel but also to express in each and every moment of my life, with every heart-beat and every breath, God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience, for they are God's Divine Attributes and as such my Divine Birthright and Holy Heritage also.

I wish to see all the devotees, who are aspiring to realize God in this birth, now and here, visiting Santi Ashram, the Abode of Peace and its Peace Centres, often and realizing Peace and

Silence in solitude, the Peace that cannot be bought in the market with any amount of wealth. As all cannot visit Santi Ashram and Peace Centers, my legacy to all the seekers of Truth in every religion is the simple and inspiring Peace Prayer, that helps anyone to feel God's Presence. My another longing now is to improve the monthly journals Peace and *Santi*, with better get-up and inspiring contents, with messages that give strength and inspiration to all our devoted readers.

My loving friends and well-wishers of the Ashram, in memory of the coming Golden Jubilee, will you not help me to realize my ardent longings with your sympathy and prayers so that the Ashram will be able to serve you all better, more than ever? My ardent wish now is, that you should feel the Indwelling Presence of God Now, as you read this message and make your devoted life a blessing to all His children. Let your ideal be always To Live in God and help others to Live in Him. As one word is enough for the wise, let that one word be:

God-The Indwelling Light. God-Realization Now and Here. Selfless Service to all his Children. No More Reliance on the frail outer props, but Reliance on the Indwelling Presence- the Adorable Presence which is within, without, above, below and all around now and always.

Let Self Reliance be the beginning, middle and end of your life. My heart longs to close this message with Peace Chant, wishing the Peace of all in the East and West, North and South.

May there be Peace in Heaven,
Peace in the sky,
Peace across the Waters.
May there be Peace on Earth,
May Peace flow from the herbs, plants & trees
May all the celestial beings radiate Peace!
May Peace pervade all quarters.
May Peace be unto all!

Om Om Om

A HUMBLE OFFERING

A humble offering to all the old and new friends and well-wishers of the Ashram, The Mission of Peace.

Aum

(Peace Nov 1966)

53. MY THREE-FOLD OFFERING TO YOU

Dear Loving Readers, my heart rejoices to offer to you, something which is helpful to realize the Goal of your precious human birth. Our happiness is in sharing but never in accumulation selfishly. Verily, selfishness leads to hell and selflessness leads to heaven. As the world is my Home and all of you are the children of the One Living God of Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience, it does not make any difference whether I have seen you or not. It is enough to remember always that all of us have come from Him and live in Him and merge in Him finally. Hence your Peace is my Peace. Your *mukti*—salvation is my salvation. Let me have the privilege of serving you. It does not make any difference whether you belong to this religion or that religion or no religion at all. It is enough for me that you are an image of God.

In serving you, I am serving God. Verily, Love of man is Love of God. When we cannot love the one, whom we are seeing, who is visible and who is in front of us, how can we ever love God, who is invisible and who cannot be seen with the physical eyes. Let us begin our religion by facing God all around us, in man, bird, beast and plant, nay, in every tiny creature and atom of sand, for, God pervades and permeates the whole Universe. To begin with, let us feel His Presence, in the very cells of our beings, from the toes to the top of our head. Because of His Presence I am writing now, and you are also reading this message, wherever you may be only because of His Presence in you. With the feeling of the presence of God our life is complete. It is all Light, without Him it is incomplete. It is all darkness.

Here is Santi Ashram—the Abode of Peace. This is my offering to you, my real helpful legacy to you. This has been my life work of fifty long years. It is with you now, to make best use of it to realize God—the Soul and Goal of your precious life. The Peace that cannot be bought for any amount of wealth in the market, you can have it FREE here. Don't you want PEACE, the aspiration of your life? What is life without our Peace? What is the use of gaining the whole world losing Peace, your soul and goal? Do not think that Santi Ashram is only a place for a few *sadhus* or *swamis*. It is a world Abode of Peace, established in a lovely valley midst the hills on a two hundred acres of plot, to serve all the children of God in the world in the East and the West, with various activities such as a *Gurukula* - Residential School for orphan girls and boys, Santi Printing Works, for printing various Peace leaflets and spiritual literature, a Veterinary Centre for Dumb Animals, a regular Hospital with 20 beds for poor and sick people and an Aged Home too—to serve all the Aged people when they become old in all the lands of East and West, irrespective of the differences, in caste, creed, colour and nationality.

My friends, it is needless to repeat that a hearty welcome awaits you for a permanent stay or temporary stay, provided your hearts are pining for Peace or God. But I often repeat, emphasizing that a Square Plug in a Square Hole and a Round Plug in a Round Hole fits in, but never wrong plugs in wrong holes. Let us keep our bodies also where our minds, hearts and souls

are. Our minds naturally hover and wander wherever our treasure lies. Let our Imperishable Treasure be always God—Peace! Once again, I take joy in extending a hearty welcome to all the aspiring souls in every Religion and Nation. In the First Offering, I have shown you a place, where you can come and reside either permanently or temporarily in order to pray and meditate and thus rest and relax in God, to realize the goal of life. In the trinity, my Second Offering is the most simple and inspiring Peace Prayer, which makes you to feel the Presence of God now and here as you repeat it. What else you need?

The Peace Prayer is as simple and direct as to make you feel God's Presence in its very repetition. Please try it once with faith and devotion even as an experiment. Do not try to read it from the paper but memorize the prayer and repeat it with great devotion closing the eyes, feeling His Presence in the very cells of your being. As you repeat it, you are bound to feel Him, in your very eyes, ears, mind, heart and the breath, for verily, He is interpenetrating the very cells of your being, from the toes to the top of your head. Peace Prayer has been translated into 20 languages all over the world, including foreign languages too. It has been helping and serving directly and indirectly all the aspiring children of God in the world. Let it help and serve you also. Let the mere thought of Adorable Presence dispel all clouds of separation, darkness and ignorance! The very two first words, Adorable Presence, are enough for leading you to God-realization. With the first word Adorable let your body be filled with God's Presence—the Infinite and Eternal Light and with the second word Presence—feel, feel and recognize His Presence—God's Omnipresence all over the world, for, He is both within and without.

Now let us come to the Third Offering in the Trinity. It is the Holy *mantram*, the sacred statement *Jaya Jaya Rama Krishna Hari Om*—the famous *mantram* of the Holy Saint Tukaram. The Holy *Mantram* belongs to him, hence all credit goes to him. My contribution is only a humble commentary on it, to fill our bodies and the world—the finite and the Infinite with God's Presence, as we chant it. It seems once when Saint, Sri Tukaram was engaged in *bhajan* with five thousand devotees repeating this simple *mantram*, we read that this *mantram* has made a dead child to revive. The dead child got life and took part in the holy *bhajan*, to the great wonder of all the devotees there present.

Now the practical side of my commentary is:—begin to fill up your body or rather recognize God's Presence with each word in each limb of the body. As an example, when you utter the word *Jaya* try to feel that the left leg is filled with Light and with the second word *Jaya*, come to the right leg and feel that it is also filled with God's Interpenetrating Presence. Both the legs are filled now, with Light with the first and second word *Jaya-Jaya*, now with the third word *Rama*, feel that the right side of the body, the right hand is also filled with God's Presence and from there come to the left arm with the repetition of the word *Krishna*. With the next Holy word *Hari* fill yourself from the top of the head to the very toes with God's Indwelling Presence. Now comes the closing word, the sacred syllable *OM* the most potential word with the Holy vibrations. As you repeat *OM*, feel its vibrations rising from the toes to the top of the head. Think then of *sahasrara*—the seat of the thousand-petalled lotus, where it is All Light, the Splendour of Millions of Suns. Now you are filled with the Light—Infinite Light, Eternal Light within in the

left leg, right leg, right arm, left arm, from the head to the toes and from the toes to the head—the seat of the thousand-petalled Lotus—the Light of lights.

With one repetition of *Jaya Jaya Rama Krishna Hari Om*, you become a mass of Stupendous Light, the Living Flame of God. Thus keep on repeating the holy *mantra* until you get saturated filling the very cells of your being with the potential Light, from the toes to the top of the head. As it is the Individual Peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace, as our happiness is never in our own self-gratification and above all, the way to be really happy is to make others happy, we try to come out of the finite body with the Infinite Light, to share our personal experience of God's Presence or God-realization, with all the children of God in the East and the West, the North and the South, in the following manner with the same Holy *Mantram* of the sage *Tukaram*.

Now you are no longer filling the different limbs of the body, you are filling all the world. As you repeat the same *mantram* one *Jaya* goes to the East and with the other *Jaya* it travels towards North and with *Rama* it comes to the West and with *Krishna* it comes to the South. As you continue repeating the word *Hari*, you are coming from the Heaven to the depths of all the *loka*'s and with the holy word *OM*, you are coming up, covering all the worlds from down below to the heavens above again. This is something to be experienced by the aspiring devotees but not to be described in finite words.

Dear Loving Readers, what else can I write now? Please keep on repeating the holy *mantram* filling yourself first with its holy vibrations and thus all the worlds with its Interpenetrating Self-effulgent Light *Jaya Jaya Rama Krishna Hari Om*. Let the repetition be vocally, mentally and casually, as you feel from within. Follow the urge within, the Inner Voice. As there is nothing more to be said in finite words, let me leave you now in the experience of that Stupendous Light—the Self-effulgent splendour of Millions of Suns. It is all Glory. It is deep Silence, waveless Silence, the Supreme Silence. May Santi Ashram—the Abode of Peace, may the Peace Prayer and may the holy *mantram* *Jaya Jaya Rama Krishna Hari Om*, be a blessing in your devoted life of dedication, leading you step by step in a most natural way from the finite to the Infinite, from the mortal to the Immortal into that glorious state of God-consciousness the Spiritual Splendour of Sun of suns.

As I have nothing more to offer you except my Deep Love, which is ever flowing towards you ceaselessly, wishing your welfare and Peace, may I leave you now there, in the happiness of the experience of that Self-effulgent Light in Supreme Silence, the incomprehensible Wonder of wonders! In conclusion let us repeat once again.

JAYA JAYA RAMA KRISHNA HARI OM
MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!
Om Om Om

AN OFFERING

An offering to all His children all over the world, including the dumb children and the two Ramies that are now at my feet, as I am writing this message

(Peace Aug & Sept 1967)

54. MY PUJA- THE WORSHIP

Everything I do is my *PUJA* - the worship of Him. I am writing now; it is my *PUJA* to Him. I am seeing and it is my *PUJA*, for I am seeing Him, even in my pen, clock on the table, in this notebook, in the letters, and in all the things around me, verily it is He in everything - in little things as well as in big things. In seeing any of the least of His children, even in the form of dumb animals, I have only to see Him. What is there in this world which is not God, His manifestation? I open my eyes only to see Him. I close them again only to merge in Him.

As I am writing now, at this early hour of dawn, it is drizzling. Is not He in every raindrop? I feel His Presence in the sound of every raindrop. How lovely and helpful to sing that it is not raining for me. It is raining roses and flowers. Let these eyes see GOD in every tiny flower - even in Jimmy, the mother of the little Rammy in Totapalli. By the way Jimmy, the favourite dog of Sister Lalita Devi, is often now at my feet looking into my face. It certainly feels the sweet memory of Lalita Devi, the Sister of compassion and kindness to all dumb animals.

It is with us now to see that dumb animals should not miss the attention, kindness and love of Sister Lalita Devi, above all their daily food-rations, for in serving any of the least of His children even in the form of dumb animals, we are only serving Him. Even a leaf or a tiny flower is an offering to Him. Whosoever gives a cup of cold water to a thirsty man, is doing *PUJA*- his worship to the Lord.

Every throb of my heart is my *Puja* to Him. Both day and night my heart is only throbbing for Him. What about the breath? Inhale and Exhale Peace with each and every breath. Verily, this is the highest *Puja*, the most simple, direct and natural worship to the Indwelling Presence of my heart, as well as to the Universe. Every movement of the body, nay, even if the mind is my living *Puja* to God - the Universal Energy, the Divine Essence. Whether I am aware of it, conscious or not, there is never a single moment of time either in the past, present or future, when I am not doing my *Puja* to the Omnipresent, Omnipotent the highest of High.

Verily, I live in Him, nay, work and move in Him from eternity to eternity, from the beginning to the end. What need is there of any more words? Let *SOHAM*, the *AJAPA GAYATRI*, be my simple and natural *PUJA*. Above all, let Supreme Silence, Waveless Silence, be my Highest *Puja* - Worship. May I worship HIM in All?

My Peace be unto All!

OMOMOM

(Peace March 1969)

55. MY HUMBLE OFFERING

How blessed is the life of the one who offers himself to God! Unfortunate are those who sell their souls for a mess of pottage; running after the fleeting clouds of fame and name in this bubble-like world! When the bubble of their dream bursts, they feel sad, depressed, disappointed and miserable. Happiness is only in union with God. The real union is *Yoga*, offering oneself completely to the Father, the Mother, God; the Soul and Goal of our existence, nay, of the whole world or of humanity.

When I was privileged to be in the Himalayas by the side of the Ganges, I loved to see the *mahatmas* calling the Himalayas as Father Himalayas, and the Ganges as Mother Ganges. That which exists is ONE, whether we call it by the reverend name of FATHER or by the affectionate name of MOTHER. It was perhaps in the U. S. A., a long, long time ago, when I was there, that I read a lovely story about a Juggler who offered himself, showing his art of Jugglery to the Holy Mother Mary, in a Monastery.

All his life, the wandering Juggler spent his days in learning the art of jugglery, and he made his living by entertaining people; showing his art of playing with darts, knives, etc., by throwing them into the air and catching them all at one time, sometimes with his mouth also. That was his art; trying to become an expert in the art of Jugglery. In spite of his crude art, because of his good *karma*, the good deeds done in the past births, he became detached suddenly, from the world, and wanted to dedicate himself to the Holy Mother Mary; to spend his remaining years in Prayer and Meditation like Brother Lawrence the ideal devotee who practiced to feel God's Presence in all little things, such as washing and cleaning the plates, and following in the footsteps of the Priests in the Monastery. All work was the same to him. It was a real worship: a humble offering to God.

Now our Juggler approached the High Priest of the Monastery and got admitted as a Novice in the Church, so as to spend his time in prayer and meditation. But being a Juggler from his boyhood days, he did not know how to pray or meditate. His mind was too restless, unstable and fickle. He was sad and in a fix. He was out of place in the Monastery where he saw his brother monks praying and meditating, both day and night; repeating the holy name of Mary on their rosaries. After a deep contemplation and introspection, our Juggler wanted to offer his art to the holy Mother; to show Her what he had learned in all his life.

Hence, after all the Fathers and Brothers had left the Church, finishing their daily worship of Prayers and Spiritual Study, when the doors of the Church, were closed, our Juggler went with his plates, knives, etc. and before the holy statue of Mother Mary, offered Her all that he knew, for Her approval and pleasure. Thus, every day he would show his art in the Church: all done after all the members left the Church; all done for Mother Mary.

One of the Reverend Brothers happened to see his sacrilegious play of throwing dishes and knives before the Mother, and was shocked. He went immediately and told all of the Priests, and the High Priest, the Head of the Monastery. They all came with sticks and canes to beat the Juggler and to turn him out from the Holy Monastery.

When they slowly opened the doors of the Church, imagine their surprise! It was a sight for Angels and Gods to envy.....for there was the Holy Mother, coming down from Her Pedestal, Altar, and wiping the sweat of Her child, the Juggler with Her robe; for he was so tired that the beads of sweat were pouring from his head and brow; all because of the trying play of entertaining the Holy Mother with his art of the only thing he knew. Thus, he was offering himself as a humble offering to the Holy Mother Mary.

This inspiring story or incident has left a lasting, deep impression on my mind and heart. Many a time I too wanted to offer myself, all that I have known, as an offering to God, instead of satisfying Him with lip prayers and outer worship with non-essential ceremonies. As not a blade of grass moves without His Will, some of my readers will be surprised to hear that I started to learn and practice the violin, especially to teach both of the Ramies to sing the name of RAMA, and also the holy *mantra* of Sri Anand Ashram.

SRI RAM JAI RAM JAI JAI RAM OM

Moreover, as we have a Music Teacher in Santi Ashram, and as he does not have any work, and as no one is learning Music, I myself wanted to learn the Music on the violin. The Music Teacher teaches me patiently every day. I practice on the violin chanting God's name along with Sa, Ri, Ga, Ma, Pa, Dha, Ni, Sa. As the electric light went out, and I did not have any work to do, I groped in darkness and with the help of a torch I brought the violin to the verandah, and I offered to show the little musical syllables that I had learnt as an offering to the Father, the Mother, the God, the Only Reality, the Creator of the Worlds.

These days, besides offering to Him my childish, broken Music, I offer every little thing I do as my offering to Him. The child likes anxiously to share with his Mother every little thing he does. The Mother is pleased with all these little plays. Thus, I feel God is pleased with all my imperfect and perfect works, as I offer them to Him. At these early hours, as I am working; this is an offering to Him. As I see, it is an offering to Him, for I see Him As I hear the sacred PIPPIHA bird, seeking its Beloved, repeating with pathos, PIU KAHAN, where is the Beloved? It is an offering to Him. As I walk in the early hours, it is an offering to Him, for with every step I walk only towards Him. He is ever leading me and I am always following Him. What a great privilege.

The incense stick is a great example of a humble offering. It gives out sweet fragrance to all and fills all the place with its fragrance, and finally disappears; burns itself to nothingness. Let us take another example, that of a tiny flower. How it gives its humble offering in the form of sweet fragrance and finally fades itself into nothingness! Let man's life be like that of a tiny incense stick or like that of a small flower; giving out their fragrance, doing their duty for the sake of duty, and dissolving into nothingness, losing their form and name.

Verily, our very breath is a most natural and simple offering to Him, the Indwelling Presence of our Hearts. This is the highest *Puja* done both day and night, Ceaselessly Ceaselessly, Ceaselessly.

Ceaseless AWARENESS of HIS Presence alone, in each and every breath, is most essential for the Happiness and Peace of one's Soul.

In conclusion, may all our life, from birth to death, nay, from beginning to end, be a ceaseless Offering to HIM, the Lord of all Creation; until the final breath merges in the Big Breath, the Universal Energy, the Glory, SOHAM, in all Silence.

May Peace be unto all !
OM SANTI SANTISANTI OM

A TINY OFFERING

A tiny offering to our Susanna Reynold, who helps by typing all my messages; with my Prayers for her Illumination and Peace.

OMOMOM

(Peace Aug 1970)

56. MULKI OR MUKTI

Being ignorant of politics and outer life in the world, I confess that I do not know what *mulki* is, even the meaning of the very word. But I am happy to say that I know something of *mukti*, for all my life, from the boyhood days, has been consecrated only for *mukti*, Freedom or Salvation, Peace for all and Peace for everyone, beginning with myself, has been my one slogan and idea from the very early days.

I may be ignorant of politics but I am happy to say not so of *mukti*. This much I know, that there is as much difference between Light and Darkness, or between Heaven or Hell, as between *mukti* and *mulki*.

Mulki is rooted and centered in stark selfishness and gross darkness. Whereas *mukti* is based on Selflessness, wishing the Peace of all. The man for *mukti* offers Prayers to God or the Highest within:

*O God! Let there be Peace in the world
and let it begin with me!*

If only our Politicians, Ministers, Presidents, Dictators and other Leaders could repeat this simple Prayer every day, establishing Peace first in their own hearts, which naturally spreads

from heart to heart, all over the world there would be Peace, now and here. Let Charity begin at home.

Reformers wanted:

Not to reform others but to reform themselves.

These are the wise words of Swami Rama, the great Poet-Saint of India whose Centenary is being celebrated this year.

If you wish to be a peace maker, try to begin your Peace-making by starting it with yourself. What I cannot understand with my finite mind is: Why the inexperienced young students give up their studies and burn the buses, houses, stations, cabins and even banks, causing havoc and terror to the innocent, resulting even in the death of innocent people and themselves too.

Having the Blessed Privilege of a Birth in the Holy Land of *Bharatabhumi*, they should strive to be like Prahladas and Dhruvas, but not grow to be Hiranyakasyapus and Ravana, bringing disgrace to the Motherland, causing loss of life to their fellow brothers and destruction and loss of vast and valuable properties to the Motherland.

You are little children without experience or basis of spirituality. Kindly leave politics and problems of State; of your country to the elders of grey hair, those who have wide experience minding your own studies and trying to be ideal students of the Motherland.

Does it help Andhra Desa or the Motherland to burn your own town, Railway Stations, including the Railway tickets and records? Does this help to solve the *mulki* Problem? Leave these weighty and important matters to the wise and selfless souls like Sri Tenneti Viswanatham, Dr. A. B. Nageswara Rao and other selfless and dedicated patriots who do not have axes of their own to grind, except the welfare of the Motherland and the Peace of the world.

Do you want *mulki* or do you want *mukti*? *Mulki* creates Hell, here and now. *Mukti* leads to Heaven, giving Freedom, Peace and Deliverance.

Spiritual basis is the only way for the Peace of Communities, Nations, and the world at large, to bring World Peace. You may give a hundred ways to modify and alter and stipulate *mulki*, but as the Light is the only way to dispel every kind of darkness, please, take a firm hold on your Divine Heritage, Real Birthright the Light within, which is All-Love that includes all and excludes none. Let us repeat at the top of our voices the following adage that bring world Peace:

Love thy neighbour as thyself.

Love of man is Love of God.

The Heart devoid of Love is a Cemetery,

A real Burning Ground.

I am not trying to condemn or criticize or find fault with the young students or wise leaders and other peace makers, but I am only sharing my inner thoughts, wishing the welfare of you all, as I consider you all as my own, a part and parcel of the One, Indivisible God, the Universal Atman, the One without a second. Whether you appreciate my words or not, whether you love me or misunderstand me, for the sake of my Peace, I love you all, wishing your welfare, for all of you, each and every one of you are my own. Every being is a Moving Temple of God. To me God is in all of you, sparkling in all eyes, throbbing in all hearts and flowing as the one, Universal Breath of *Soham*. Let not my lonely Voice be a cry in the wilderness. Let it enter into your devoted hearts for the Peace of all!

Dear People in *mulki*, in Andhra, in India and all over the world, I love you. I love you all. In loving you, I am loving God or Salvation.

Let me repeat again,

Let there be Peace in the world

And let it begin with us.

Let us chant now our Vedic Peace Chant:

OM OMOM

(Peace Feb & Mar 1973)

57. MY WORK TODAY

Q:- What is my work today? What is your work everyday?

A:- The only work for you, as you are a child of God—a living image of God, is to feel His Presence within and without ceaselessly.

May you feel His Presence Now and always ceaselessly.

OmOmOm

May each of you—nay all of you feel His Presence, in memory of the Holy Christmas just passed last night, in the middle of the night of 24th December. You too are born, with the Blessed Christ in the mid-night of the holy hour of 24th.

As someone said: It will not do us good if Holy Christ is born a million times even in outside us, in Bethleham in Jerusalem outside. CHRIST MUST BE BORN in the stillness of our purified hearts.

In memory of this Holy Christmas may He be born now: in the stillness of our purified hearts.

As it is 4 A.M I feel that I am only 4 hours of age. Myage—the Age of this body is only 4 hours now.

Holy Christ is looking at me. He has no other body on earth now than mine.

On the right side of my table as I am writing now at 4A.M on the Christmas day. Lord Sri Krishna is playing on His Holy Flute standing by the side of the sacred Cow.

Let us listen to His Holy Call of Gita in Krishna's Celestial Music

Christ is on the left side looking at me with His tender eyes, repeating COME UNTO ME.

Blessed are the Pure in Heart. The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the children of God. Be still and know that I am God!

Let us listen now the Holy Music of Krishna's Flute:

Whoever offers me with Devotion and a pure mind and heart, a leaf, a flower or a fruit or a little water, I accept the offering.

Fix thy mind on ME, be devoted to Me
sacrifice unto Me bow down to Me
having thus united, thy whole Self to me
taking me as the Supreme Goal, Thou shalt

COME UNTO ME

May the blessings of Lord KRISHNA, be upon you all.

May the GITA be your centre, Ideal and goal!

Blessed is the man who studies GITA everyday. Twice blessed is he, who lives in the Spirit of the Gita. Thrice blessed is he, who has realized, the Knowledge of Gita the essence of Vedanta—God-consciousness or Christ-consciousness.

Hari Om Tat Sat Aum

AN OFFERING

To our Sri Viswanathji in memory of his sudden surprise, loving visit on 24th night December 77.

May Peace be unto all!

(Peace Jan 1978)

58. MIRACLES

Miracles happen even in these days for those who love and trust in God-the Indwelling Presence or LIGHT.

By His Grace a miracle happened in my Life. The eyes of this body may be because of the advanced age 84 years have been giving a little trouble. The Specialist Doctors in Eye sight examinations have been very kind after examining my eyes and giving glasses also for the eyes- all so freely some of them even coming to the Ashram, bringing all their glasses etc., for testing the eyes in the Ashram itself. How very kind and good of God and the devoted doctors to come to the Ashram to examine my eyes.

Really as I was not able to read or write clearly, I thought another test is needed and perhaps a change of glasses too. When we went to our Waltair Ashram to serve the devotees there as one good Eye Specialist there I had the opportunity of getting my eyes tested. Even there the Eye Specialist was kind enough to come and test my eyes Dr. Pitchaiah the great surgeon the oldest devotee and well-wisher of the Ashram has brought an Eye Specialist and was kind enough to be present while the examination was going on in the Ashram itself. After examination the Specialist the devoted Doctor requested me to come to the Eye Clinic to do better service by examination thoroughly by pouring medicine in the eyes for better results.

In the presence of our loving doctor Dr. Pitchaiah, the Eye Specialist Dr. Reddy Naidu, M.B.B.S. tried all his test-glasses pouring liquid in my eyes with all his devotion and personal attention and kindness all his tests disappointed us all because none of glasses helped us, for I was not able to read anything clearly. Hence the Eye Specialist Sri Reddy Naidu and our Dr. Pitchaiah said in disappointment. Swami ji let us wait some more time to get clear results even for a change of glasses. Hence returned to Waltair Ashram a little disappointed after all the trouble taken by the Loving Doctors to help and serve me. Repeating all is for the best I tried to convert the stumbling blocks into Stepping Stones.

In our Simple helpful and inspiring Peace Prayer we repeat every day the inspiring powerful words EYE OF THEEYE. When God is the EYE of the eye why should there be any doubt or weakness in the eyes, thus I began to repeat Peace Prayer feeling His Presence, God's OMNIPRESENCE, OMNIPOTENCE and OMNISCIENCE in the very cells of my eyes. By God's Special Grace and Blessings the result is I am writing now with help of the old glasses.

This is *anushtanavedanta* not only for me but also for all the members of the Ashram and devotees especially to all the sick people in the world to get rid of the passing clouds of sickness and weakness of every form and kind.

SELF-RELIANCE, SELF-RELIANCE, SELF-RELIANCE is to be practiced in daily life. No more reliance on outer doctors but reliance Now and Here on Doctor of Doctors, who is the Indwelling Presence of our devoted and dedicated hearts of purity truth, and peace! May all the

children of God rely on the Infinite and Eternal LIGHT within and be ablessing to our Creator who has blessed, with Human Birthand thus be a blessing to all His children by being PerfectImages of health and Peace.

This is the ardent Prayer of your Own Omkar who loves you all as His own As God is Omnipotent All in all onewwithout a second.

Hari Om Tat Sat Om.

(Peace April 1991)

59. Mental Worship

(For man the miniature God)

O God my body is thy holy shrine
Thou art myself, the secret source of Life
My changeful mind is *prakruti* thy wife
And my five vital airs are servants Thine
My homage to Thee is all pleasure mine
My sleep is meditation rapt, serene
My movements all are hearty *pradakshin*
And all my utterances praise Thine
By this whatever I do, deign Thou O Lord
To be by me thy supplicant - Adored
But thine I am, in Truth though one are we,
And thou not mine, a wave I, thou the Sea,
Oh! Lead me Eternal Light, O boundless Love.
To Thine over Bliss from *maya* dark, remove.
“Is this true worship?” the still small voice
 whispers -this duality
This is true Worship—of I serve a sick dog.

(Peace Oct & Nov 1993)

60. GOD IS HERE AND NOW

(Recording Voice of Swami Omkar)

OM	'Namaste'	Satete	Jagat	Karanaya
OM	Namaste	Chite	Sarvaloka	Asrayaya
OM	Namo Advaita	Tatvaya	Mukti Pradaya	
OM	Namo Bramhane	Vyapine	Saswataya	
		Om Shanti ShantiShanti		

It was a privilege to hear Our Pujya Swamiji RamanandaTirtha's Message. It has been said. "One word is enough for the wise." If we are here to assimilate, to feel the presence of God it is more than enough for our Peace and Realization, Our Sister Lalita Devi as usual welcome all of you into the Peace Center but my nature has also been to welcome all of you not only into the peace center but into the presence of God. If we believe God is omnipresent, then all of us are sitting now in his omnipresence. In the name of recording our messages and so on. Let not forget the indwelling light, the light which is our life, soul and goal, so it has been my one wish and aspiration and ambition, whoever comes to see me who ever comes here to visit the prayer hall, to feel the presence of God the God for whom we have been seeking and seeking, he is never far away and aloof but he is here throbbing in your heart, sparkling in your very eyes, flowing in your very breath. What a great joy it is, just to feel that we are living in God here, that we are breathing in God here, that we are talking in God here, because of God's presence all of you are different, he is here and now. So I request you my friends for the trouble that you have taken in coming here from long distances. First to feel his presence now, to feel his presence now, and then think of other things, for with him we are everything, and without him we are mere nothing. It is so easy to seek, it is so easy to talk and talk but to feel his presence it is very difficult and everything lies only as Swamiji RamanandaTirtha has said. "In the awareness of God, the interpenetrating presence now and here not tomorrow."

As a boy I searched and searched for God in all the temples, I went far and near. I was not satisfied. As I began to grow then I began to search in all the *mahatmas*, *Swamis*, *Yogis* and teachers that has not given me also satisfaction. As I evolved, as I merged, as I deeply meditated and meditated. I came to realise that God is not a faraway God who is sitting in the sky or heaven, he is the Omnipresent God, he is in all of you. Now I have come to that state, I need not close my eyes to see God, I need not even pray or meditate, because if I believe in one word that God is Omnipresent, he is in all of you, so my God is in front of me, so you are the images of God. So if I am seeing God in all of you I request each and everyone of you also to help me by recognizing that God power, the enticing power which is awaiting your recognition here and now, Now! So help me dear sisters and brothers by feeling the presence of God Now and Here. The greatest help which you can render to me is to recognise him now, to feel him now, to know that he is pervading and permeating the very cells of your being from the very toes to the top of your head. With that Indwelling light we are everything and behind that indwelling light, we are a burden to mother earth. I take joy in repeating if there is anything precious in this life which is "TIME! ONE MOMENT LOST IS LOST FOR EVER!" Anything lost we can gain again but the

time lost one moment is lost forever. In that I take joy by repeating again and again.” HE WHO WASTES A MOMENT, WASTES ALL HIS LIFE!

So my friends, TIME is your WEALTH. TIME is your GOD with this precious tiny moment you can buy ETERNITY you can buy GOD. It is with you either to grow up with selfishness or with selflessness or with selfishness to go down. So as images of God, having God in us, feeling God's presence from the toes to the top of the head- It is our divine heritage to be fulfilled, to be loving, it has been said the essence of all religions is “Love is God and God is Love” where Love is there is God! If we have Love in our heart he is here and now. So my friend each time you come to the peace center. I want you to have a taste of that Love, I want you to feel yourself with that life, Light and Love, and thus make your life the greatest conclusion to centered both, the essence of the peace mission has been always,” it is the INDIVIDUAL PEACE that paves the way towards UNIVERSAL PEACE, if we have peace in our heart there is peace everywhere. So for the sake of the members of our family and children, who are relying on us, Let us establish peace first in our heart, now and here, and share the same thing with the members of our family and then with the community and then with all the nation and finally with the world and so on, how blessed is the life with the one who can say cheerfully “the WORLD is my HOME ALL PEOPLE are my sisters and brothers, to help and serve them is the RELIGION”. So my friends what we need is not more teaching, not more preaching, but only the awareness of God presence now and here.

I like to close my message. During a beautiful illustration that has helped me in my life, to know where I am, what I am, it seems, in all of us, there are three friends. You have three friends and I have three friends, everybody has three friends, and we have to analyse ourselves how we are loving these three friends. With one friend it seems, we are loving 90 percent of giving our mind, 90 percent of Love, we are loving one friend- Then the other friends we are loving only with nine percent of our mind, and there is the third friend whom we are loving may be with 1 percent even then not with heart and soul and who are these three friends, let us see. When we close our eyes sooner or later, all of us have to close our eyes, and how these three friends are helping us, let each one analyse. The first friend it seems, our properties everything that has a name and form, all the worlds we have this, is the first friend whom we worship with 90 percent of our mind from dawn to dusk. Then, how far is this first friend helping when we close our eyes, he cannot even move, he cannot come with us, so everything that has name and form, the first friend, we have to leave where he belongs. Now who are the second friend, the second friend are kith and kins, our children, our family members, everybody, and we are giving nine percent of our mind in loving this friend. This friend when we close our eyes it seems only it comes as far as the burial ground or burning pot, he cannot go, follow us. When we close our eyes, this is the second friend. Then, who is the third friend whom we are loving only with one percent? That is God. Although we close our eyes, he is there, waiting for us. So, just this is a law operating scientifically, nothing secret, nothing hidden. What we think we are. So if we love God with 100 percent of our mind, we will be enjoying the ecstasy divine of peace. If we are loving only with one percent then we will be far away from him, So it is with us either to enjoy peace or to be miserable.

It has been said so : as human beings coming from him it is our bounded duty to love God with heart and soul with 100 percent of mind. By that, I do not mean that we should renounce that we should not love our children and all the worldly things, you may be in the world but your mind should be within God, because God is your life, God is your soul, God is your All in All. So, if you after coming here, I will try to begin my God life. “TODAY MAN IS TOMORROW HE IS NOT!” “THIS MOMENT IS OURS and NOT THE NEXT MOMENT.” What I emphasize again and again, we are all the children of God, we have come from him, to live in him to breathe in him, so our life is completed with his presence and, it is incomplete if we deny him, so if there is anything that makes me sad, as I know the preciousness of every moment it is only when peace will come and be satisfied with words and forget the light within. So even to make me happy I request each and every one of you to recognize that Light of lights, to identify yourself no longer with these physical terms that has come and will go sooner or later, but with the infinite light, eternal light, universal light, self-effulgent light which is shining in all of you. The greatest consolation even if we have forgotten or not forgotten out, as the friend whom we love only with one percent, was waiting there for us. So also the Light of lights is awaiting your recognition always, it is there. So, as our time is very precious, as this moment is ours and not the next moment, it is HIGHTIME for each and every one of you to recognize the Light and to identify with the interpenetrating light, with the self-effulgent light although we are going physically, our thoughts and prayers should be with you always ever wishing your welfare. So we want your help in all possible ways to live in God and help others to live in God, that is only simple not only in our peace mission where it was started so years old to live in God and help others to live in him. I take joy in repeating also, if you want to be miserable think of yourself, if you want to be happy think of others, because others are the living images of God, so our joy and happiness, my joy and happiness is only in your peace and in your happiness. Even to make me happy I request you all to FEEL THE PRESENCE OF GOD. I told you, the essence of my message through all these years of experiences, to me God is no longer under this fire, heaven and temples and teachers, but he is in all of you. So there is a Telugu song.

ANTA RAMA MAYAM BI JAGAMANTA RAMAYAM

The whole universe is pervading and permeating by the presence of God.

ANTA RAMA MAYAM BI JAGAMANTA RAMAYAM

We are all the images of God.

God is here and now. What else can I tell you other than requesting you and begging you to recognize God now not to deny him, not to bury him, but to awaken him for the peace of your soul, for the peace of your home, for the peace of your Nation, for the peace of the World.

May God Bless You All!

Now we chant three Om!

With one Om!:- Let us fill our bodies with the presence of God.

With the second Om! :- Let us fill the all world with the presence of God.

With the third Om! :- Let the world of the all bubbles merge with the *akanda* of *satchitananda*

OMMMOMMMOMMM

It is light within and without above and below and all and all around, we are filling by the presence of God.

As I go forth into the world of activity, let us carry this light, the presence of God with us, and expressing the same in our thoughts, words and deeds.

Loka Samastha Sukino Bavanthu!

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti!

--Translated by Sushila Devi

(Peace June 1992)

61. MY WEAKNESS

My weakness is the Ashram and the attachment to its selfless and dedicated workers. The life – work thirty five years, the Ashram that has been raised, with my life - blood has been my weakness. It has been the joy of my life and will be the hope of my future.

I can bear anything and everything, but not when one hurts and tries to verify the Ashram and its devoted and consecrated workers. Hence, the Divine Law wants to teach one to conquer even this last weakness, by sending cloud-bursts and storms over the peaceful Ashram.

A weakness is a weakness, whether it is attachment to an institution or a person, however great and holy they may be. What are all these institutions before God! What are all the persons, before the Light of lights! Let nothing come between God and yourself!

In my weakness there are moments when I feel that one who is helping the progress of the Ashram spreading peace far and near, is my best friend and who is trying to harm the Cause of Peace, is verily the living devil - the incarnation of Satan.

Attachment of any kind to anything begets fear. Fear paralyzes the restful life. It poisons the very blood and ruins one's health. Hence, fear of every kind, in the name of Truth and God, should be crushed mercilessly.

If you are afraid, even a mouse devours you. If you are fearless even a lion shivers and quivers before your fiery gaze. Be fearless at any cost. Peace belongs to the fearless. The fearless are the strength of the nation and the builders of humanity. These days when thick and thin, passing clouds are hovering over the Ashram, I often repeat for my inner strength and joy, the following words:-

BETTER TO HAVE AN ATOM BOMB IN YOUR HEART THAN FEAR OF ANY KIND.

How consoling are the life - giving words of Lincoln:
Out of the depths fresh STRENGTH.
Out of the dark new LIGHT.
Even in the gloom we are on the WAY.

May every weakness in every form be converted into a stepping stone, leading to the Heights of Peace, Power and Poise.

May all Homage be unto those rare souls who have risen above weakness of every kind, and may we strive to walk in their Blessed foot prints!

Verily, the *atman* belongs to the brave and strong!
May Peace Be Unto All!
OM OM OM

(Peace April 1995)

62. MY SILENT FAST OF THIRTY DAYS

(PREFACE)

I am an advocate of fasting, for I love it. I am a worshipper of silence, for I adore it. Fasting purifies and leads on to silence, and silence creates souls.

Perhaps I wasted my precious time, during the days of my long fast, in writing these thoughts in the form of the thirty chapters—one chapter every day.

Instead of meditating uninterruptedly on the highest, and remaining above thought, my one thought—main thought every day was: “What shall I write today? What beautiful thoughts shall I give out today? Let me meditate deeply to get some inspiring and original thoughts.” Thus instead of reposing in unruffled peace, I lived day after day as it were to write this book, digging up these thoughts from within myself, so that I might share the same with all seekers of Truth.

I will be consoled if these thoughts of my silent fasting days help any fellow wayfarer or pilgrim to reach the goal and will feel gratified that I have not wasted my precious time, but have rather made good use of my fasting days, to be of service to you in this bumble way.

Although I am an advocate of fasting, I would not ask anyone to fast even for a day, if it would not help him to reach the Goal. If fasting helps you to realize God—go on—begin to fast to day. If feasting helps you to realize God, begin to feast. If work helps you to feel His presence, engage yourself in ceaseless work. If silence helps you to realize stupendous Splendour, then become rapt in silence.

The goal is the conscious realization and recognition, of the All-embracing, Omnipresent and Interpenetrating Truth. Realize this Unity and Perfection by fasting or feasting, by work or silence, not in the uncertain dim future, but rightnow, as you read this book is my earnest prayer.

Hari Om Tat Sat

(Peace June & July 1935)