

ARTICLES – 9

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INDEX

1. The Cast	04
2. The Spirit of Silence endurance	05
3. The Way to be Great	06
4. The Unknown Something	09
5. The Essence of the Fast	11
6. The Two Precious Moments	15
7. The Cowries	16
8. The Threefold Activity	18
9. The Vision Universal	19
10. This One Breath is Enough for me	23
11. The Vision Beautiful	25
12. The Words Of Welcome	27
13. The Highest Cosmic Truth	28
14. The Blessed Man—God's Good Man	29
15. The Quintessence	30
16. The Value of Human Existence	32
17. The Vision Flashed	35
18. The World—A Dream	35
19. The Five Years of my Silence	37
20. The Presence	40
21. The Self-Effulgent Soham	42
22. The Long Session of Ten Hours	45
23. Twenty Thousand Rupees	47
24. Totapalli to Nilgiri	49
25. The Birth of Christ	57
26. The Acid Test	59
27. The Presence of God	61
28. The Curse of Division	63
29. Transfers	68
30. The Peace Centre	71
31. To Think is to Pray	74
32. The Inner World	77
33. Thoughts are Things	80
34. Twenty Days in Eternity	81
35. The Parliament of Sparrows	83
36. The Holy Mantram	85

37. Thirty Lakhs of Rupees	87
38. The Universal Voice	89
39. The Tests and Trials of Santi Ashram	92
40. The Agony of Omkar	98
41. The Conception of God	100
42. The Peace Centres	101
43. The Highest Truth—Exertion	103
44. The Four Avatars	105
45. The Greatest Blessings	106
46. The Message of the Agarbathi	109
47. The Life of Sweet Smelling Flowers	111
48. The World an Emanation of God	113
49. The Grace of God	116
50. The One World	117
51. This too shall Pass Away	119
52. The Master Within	121
53. The Atman (Soul) is Never Bound	122

1. THE CAST

Lying at ease in His enfolding love, abstract reflections like cloud-ships floated through my mind about the swift events and rich experiences of these hospital days. My fancy finally then rested on the white, plaster-length of my present cast, which was applied to extend from the toes of the left foot around the leg, covering the heel, calf, knee, thigh, hip, abdomen, and encircling trunk and chest. It took rather a long time for me to become accustomed to this cast; but by His blessings, I finally succeeded in entirely forgetting it.

There is however another type of confining cast, which takes not merely days, but months, years and sometimes a whole lifetime to mentally relinquish. This latter, clinging cast is the physical tyrant, namely the body sheath. This very temporary cast is ingeniously made up of plaster of Paris bandage, lined with cotton-padding. The other, almost equally dense, and material cast, enveloping all of us, is made up of flesh, blood and bones, and this is equally evanescent, consisting of ever-changing substance, moulding clay in the hands of mother nature. The plaster cast is fashioned to bind up part of the body. The sheath of flesh and bones is fashioned to hold in its vehicle, the soul.

It saddens me when people come to see me with anxious, too earnest faces of pity, surveying with shaking heads, my long, heavy cast, afraid even to smile. They often say subdued and hesitatingly, "How do you feel now, Swamiji." I reply with a happy smile to allay all their concern, "Why, I feel wonderfully fine. There is peace within and peace without!" With a warm glow of contentment in His presence, I request all who approach me, to also recognize only, the eternal and perfect one, always in everyone, and anything but never the passing shadows of phenomena.

By long association with any useful or helpful thing, one learns to love it. So aware of its utility I do not fret, fume, grumble or worry, over my helpful cast either but affectionately regard it as good grist for my mill of experience. Yes, I love it because it is protecting and helping my hip-bone to firmly knit, and grow strong. How the stumbling-blocks can be converted into stepping stones, by a mere touch of the transcending and alchemizing power of love and light! Now the cast hardly seems to exist for me, and I have already had thirty days of its company. Everything in this world serves its purpose, and forms its pattern in the web of life.

Dr. Kini remarked kindly that he would remove this cast soon, and place me in a splint, and that I would still have to lie down on my back, without moving either to the right or the left—only for sixty days more. He explained that the reset bone must be kept undisturbed for a period of about ninety days, in all to allow nature to form firm bone tissue. With ninety days of rest and relaxation, not only the hip-bone but everything else is expected to become perfected, is it not? How very blessed are those priceless moments that one spends oblivious of not only the plaster cast, but also the physical cast—the body! It is unspeakably glorious to rise far above all

sheaths. Freedom and health belongs, only truly to those rare souls who are free from the imprisoning restraint of every kind of cast or sheath.

The very word cast brings relative thoughts of the synonymous word caste and its far-reaching problems as well. The slaves of caste, those who are suffering from the soul-hampering weight of caste prejudices, and class restrictions, are really more to be pitied than those who are temporarily confined in a plaster cast, for a brief time. The one is constructive while the other is destructive and detrimental. Do not be an outcaste by recognizing castes. Do not be enslaved by circumstances and self-pity, by the mind, dwelling unduly on either a plaster-cast, if fate decrees one, or even on the body-cast of flesh and bones. Both have only their temporary utility, serving an end.

Let us be masters of life under all conditions forgetting all casts and castes, in the peace that passeth all understanding. May eternal glory be unto those who fully surrender to His will, and transcend, materiality, rising in spirit above all casts and castes!

May Peace be unto all!
OM OMOM

(Peace May & June 1936)

2. THE SPIRIT OF SILENT ENDURANCE

We can silently bear being misunderstood by strangers. We can calmly resign ourselves when traduced and insulted by outsiders. We can cheerfully suffer when mocked and maligned by our foes. We can bear any number of persecutions and aspersions from our so called enemies. But, when we are misunderstood by our dearest friends, when depreciated by those we thought to be our nearest ones, when mocked or disdained, by our beloved ones, the agony—it seems to be rather too much to be silently borne without a sigh or murmur. When we have risen to such a state of *satyagraha*, where we can lovingly allow our foes and revilers to insult and scourge us, why should we not rise also superior to the capricious heartlessness of our friends and disciples?

Yes, it seems easy to allow an enemy even to kill us, but to silently and cheerfully bear even the slightest insult from our loving ones, appears to be more excruciating than the severest physical pains, more keen and sharp than the sword's thrust and more poisonous than the fangs of a deadly snake. But real greatness is only in keeping up our equilibrium under the most trying conditions, even in pain meted out by the hands of our beloved ones. The children or disciples whom we have nourished with our very life's blood, whom we have trained with our very vitality and whom we have watched with our life's breath, when they are recreant in thought, word and deed, and show us obstinacy or disloyalty instead of love or devotion or humility; it is

only then that we must repeat: We are never these bodies. We are never the gurus or masters. We are never these names and forms. We are the formless and nameless truth, in this truth; there is neither master nor disciple. There is neither accuser nor accused. There is neither praise nor blame and there is neither body nor world. So let us merge in God-consciousness. This is the only way to be entirely immune to the unexpected thrusts of our dear and near ones, and thus be perfectly happy in a world of duality and change.

When someone asked the sage Vaswani: How do you account for the fact that truly spiritual men seldom attend to personal attacks on them and their springs of action? He answered: Truly spiritual men believe in divine grace. This is poured down in proportion to the malicious attacks of men. God's grace grows, as opposition and enmity increase. This is the secret that Jesus held in His heart when betrayed and crucified by those he loved, uttering in a cry of love. "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

May we ever shine with the glory of millions of suns splendour—our Divine heritage, rising above the delusion of mortal ties of any kind especially the big delusions of our Guruship or mastership.

May Peace be to all *Gurus* and *Chelas*!
OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace Nov & Dec 1936)

3. THE WAY TO BE GREAT

He's true to God who's true to man;
Wherever wrong is done
To the humblest and the weakest
Neath the all-beholding sun,
That wrong is also done to us,
And they are slaves most base
Whose love of right is for themselves,
And not for all their race.

—Lowell

The very simplest way to be great is to allow and help others to be great, for the greatness of others is our greatness. In the One indivisible-self there is nothing like "others". For, are not others an indivisible part and parcel of our own great self? One cannot divide the boundless ocean, that vast cohesive expanse of water, and say, "This wave is mine and that wave is yours." Neither can one say, "That particular wave shall never rise, and my wave alone shall mount on high." The waves rise and fall, according to the ebb and flow, of the great creative

force. Similarly, men also rise and fall according to their propensities divine energy, inner thoughts and cravings. Each soul is reaping the fruits or harvest of what he is sowing. No one can elbow out or stand in the light of another individual's divinely appointed way. Each one is seeking his particular salvation and goal, according to his present and past actions and *karmic* merit. Every stream or river has a course of its own. How can we stop or change the rapid flow and turbulent course of rivers?

We cannot change others, but we can always change ourselves for the better. By discrimination and determination, we walk in the higher path of love and duty wherein one also takes interest and joy in the progress or greatness of others. It is better to be self-effacing, recognizing the worth of others, than to become inflated with a superiority complex. Since the dawn of creation there has never been an example in the history of the world of anyone becoming spiritually great, the only true greatness, by crushing and oppressing others, physically, mentally or spiritually. Many of the world conquerors have been conquered by their own weaknesses. The more we try to crush others, the more do we crush our own selves. The more we glorify others when they merit it, the more do we glorify ourselves, for all good emanates from the One Self, the source of all goodness and wisdom.

You may try to crush a leaping wave or press it down, but if you do so, it emerges again, dancing in all its glory, strength and beauty. One can be truly great so easily. The simple way to be great is to recognize and feel joy in the greatness of one and all; for all have that divine spark or seed of Omniscience and Omnipotence having come from That.

Let others be great. Let them be beautiful, healthy and happy. Let the name and fame of others be flashed from pole to pole, let it be advertised from East to West! Let it give you joy to see the beauty, wisdom and splendour in others. One should be blessed with the Vision Universal, with Love Infinite and with Peace Profound, to have that noble outlook, deeper understanding and silent appreciation of the greatness in others. One is blessed with the Higher Vision of recognizing the best and the highest, in one and all, only when the little self is crushed and annihilated. To be free or to see the light in others, one should completely efface the troublesome ego, the false tiny 'I'.

In the name of God, the Indwelling presence of our hearts, Who is the great light of the universe; if we have any realization or love in our hearts, let us be universal in our outlook and life, but never divide and bisect Him, by calling the One presence by the ignorant and finite names of he, she, you or I. All the sages and saints in every clime and every religion on the face of earth are teaching us only this first and most essential fundamental Truth that all life is one. All religions date back to the universal mind or substance. You cannot confine God to any form or name; you cannot confine His Omnipresence to any particular religion or creed. You cannot hide His Omnipotence to any one person. You cannot monopolize His Omniscience for yourself or for any particular or favorite individual. He belongs to all, nay He is all in all, and so may He be all in all to you! Verily, it is He, in all this, for He pervades and permeates the whole universe from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet. Therefore, we should sing the song of Love Universal,

knowing the great unrelenting and unalterable Law that in hurting anyone we are inevitably hurting only ourselves or the One Presence. In trying to crush anyone, we are crushing ourselves. In helping anyone we are helping ourselves. In loving anyone we are loving the One Self—the One over Soul.

The great important Truth of Indivisible Oneness, the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man—the Eternal Unity of all creation, not only should be, broadcast and propagated from heart to heart, from town to town and from nation to nation, but it should be also practiced in one's own daily life and everyday work. What we need is not merely the right theory alone but right practice also now and here. Whether we do it today, or tomorrow we should practice to see the sweet face of God—the Indivisible God—the Interpenetrating God—the Universal God in each and every human face, nay, in the face of each and every creature, on the face of earth.

When the disciples approached Christ to know the way to become perfect and great in the Kingdom of Heaven, He called to Him a little child and set him in the midst of them and said:

Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

When a *chela* approaches the *guru* in the East, with the desire of becoming great in the world of spirit, to be a candidate for the Kingdom of Heaven, *nirvana* or *samadhi* he is expected to renounce both the outer and inner attachments, becoming like a new born baby. But alas! How very difficult to relinquish the inherent propensities! The aspirant has many a struggle in disentangling himself from such impediments. Yes! It is, comparatively easy when fully dedicated to surrender to Him all material possessions of every kind, but the real Herculean labour is to purge out with unrelenting zeal and sacrifice all that is selfish and weak within one's-self. Greatness is the result of renouncing smallness in thought, word and deed, and expanding in Universal Love. To be great not only should one endeavor to be humble and childlike, but he should be ready to love and feel even for an outcaste dog or the tiniest suffering creature in the Kingdom of God.

I emphasize again and again to extol and declare the essence of all religions in the following words of the Scriptures of the East that: He who sees himself in all, and ALL in himself, attains to the empire of self thus worshipping Self anywhere and looking on all things with equal eye. All this is the One Self, this Self is the universal self—your own Self. Remember thy full Self. Thou art the real Self, the ground of existence and the All in All. Thou art that.

Dear loving Reader! What else is there to be said or added to the above illuminating words—the seed thoughts or the essence of all great religions! Let us close our eyes and meditate now on the glory and beauty of the Universal Self, which is no other than our Inner Self. Let us relax our bodies, draw our senses within, make our minds one pointed or steady, and repeat the

following sacred affirmations, mentally, meditating on the Light of lights, of the One All-embracing Self.

I am the Inspiration in all, Om
I am the Light in all, Om
I am the Life in all, Om
I am the Love in all, Om
I am the Peace in all, Om
I am the Happiness in all, Om
I am the Health in all, Om
I am the Wealth in all, Om
I am the Silence in all, Om

It is Peace within, without, above, below and all around.

Om OmOm

May we inhale and exhale this Infinite Peace and Eternal Love with each and every breath ever bathing the whole world in the all-embracing Light of the Sun of suns of the One Indivisible Self!

May Peace be unto all!

OM OMOM

(Peace May 1939)

4. THE UNKNOWN SOMETHING

There is something in man, in every man, on the face of the earth, which is so infinitely greater and stronger than all the tests, trials and tribulations of life, and the ups and downs of the ever changing world, that it completely evaporates and dispels them as shadows are dispersed in bright sunlight. If only man could be ever conscious of That—the Unknown something, what a great powerful dynamo his life would be, filled with Light, Poise, Peace and Divine Energy! Man only needs to consciously have the Awareness of his Creator, who is no other than the incomprehensible something, the First Principle of all the cosmos. That which exists is One, but sages have called It by various names. This Something has been the one central note or the voice of the ancient Upanishads.

That One is called by many a name, such as, That, Something, Essence, The Unknown, Substance, God, Creator, Over-soul, Peace, I am Love and a thousand other names in a thousand dialects and tongues, signs and symbols. We are not concerned here, with the various names of that Something, or the Great Beyond, the only Reality or Truth. Our problem now is not the discussion of the many names by which it is called by sages and saints in both East and West. It

is an established Truth and an authorized fact that It is called by many a name and by all names, for everything that exists is Itself. Our question now is how to be aware of that Something, so that our lives will be a blessing to everything and everyone.

How are we to be aware of the warmth of the sun on a hot day? It is there, ever penetrating its warm rays into the very soul of our beings. How to be aware of the cool breeze of the sky on a cool night? The life-giving cool breeze is blowing on us, and filling our beings with *prana*. Are not the fish in the ocean aware of the life-giving waters in and around them? Are not the birds of the air conscious of the high winds of the heavens? Who ever heard of fish dying of thirst in the ocean for want of a drink of water? Did you ever hear of birds dying of suffocation in the cool sky for want of a breath of air?

Man, ignorant as he is, having the blessed privilege of being created in the image of God, being the Flame of the very Godhead, having unlimited and infinite potential power, he alone is suffering, starving and dying with a million untold worries and agonies physically and mentally! What a shame! Alas, how pathetic! The Sun of Light is hidden; hence darkness is the inevitable result. Truth is ignored and therefore man faces darkness and trouble everywhere.

What is the infallible remedy? It is a simple one. Let the Sun shine. Let Truth be manifested. Let man be aware of the Unknown Something, Now and Here!

It is only when man is conscious of that Something he laughs at a sea of difficulties. He is not afraid of anything, for he is centered in that great Something. The greatest calumny does not touch him. The sweetest flattery does not move him. He is above praise and blame. He turns water into wine. He changes clay into gold! He converts stumbling blocks into stepping stones. Darkest nights bring solace to him through the millions of stars, for it is that same Something that speaks and sparkles through them. Hottest days are inwardly cool and scorching periods, for the serene heart; for the sun radiates messages of peace and glory through its millions of rays. Whether it is day or night, morning or evening it is the same Unknown Something that expresses to him in a million tongues, both when he is alone in a forest, or when he is engaged in the busy activities of a big city.

How blessed is the man who is ceaselessly aware of his divine birthright—the great Something! He lives, moves and breathes in a world of his own, where the One Truth—that Something expresses to him in manifold ways. All homage be unto those blessed Souls whose hearts are ever centered on that Something—the Light of the universe! One who is aware of that Something, does not recognize poverty or defeat, suffering or death in any form. He recognizes only Success, Light, Power, Peace, Poise and Love, within, and without, in himself, and in others. Whether we are consciously cognizant of that Something now or in the future, it is a great consolation and Bliss Eternal just to know and feel that that Something or God, the Substance is pervading and permeating the very cells of our beings now and forever. In the past, present and future we are eternally One with That!

In what moment are we separate, away or aloof from That? From eternity to eternity we are One with That. *Tat twamasi*-Thou art That! It is the same Something, which is the Source of my expression, and which is the Witness of your reading. It is the Unknown Something which is the Primal Cause of all the manifested world, the Awareness of which, dispels all clouds of misery, fear and separation.

May silent adorations be unto that great ineffable Something, the Primal Energy or the Cosmic Force, which is the Goal of man and the Soul of the universe; and may man, the image of Perfection strive ceaselessly to be aware of this interpenetrating Presence, in every moment of his life, nay with each and every breath, for verily, He is the Breath of breath and All Breath!

May Peace be unto all!
OM! OM!! OM!!!

(Peace June, July & Aug 1939)

5. THE ESSENCE OF THE FAST

(Closing Chapter from 'A Silent Fast of Thirty Days'.)

O! Living Spark of Beauty rare,
Thou Secret Leaven of God's care,
O! Christine-birth—Baptismal Flame,
Bright *Bodhacitta* Bloom, of Holy Name,
Thou All-consuming Consciousness,
Devoid of ego's selfishness—
Break forth from every human heart
Release of God, That, Living part,
Consume dark evil's propagation,
In Love's grand, Holy conflagration!
Om!

—Sister Sushila Devi

God Our All in All

God is the universal supplier. He is the infinite source. He is the never-failing divine friend Who meets and fulfills all needs. In Him one is complete, and with Him one is all-blessed. He is our Father, Mother, Comforter and Eternal Soul Companion, and our All in All. These sacred thoughts kept running through heart and mind in a warm, golden stream, and vibrating in every rejoicing cell of one's being.

Strolling to the Hillside

On the memorable evening of the thirtieth, I felt inclined to stroll towards the green foothills of Totapalli just beyond the Ashram compound, so I set out followed by Ramam the little boy who so faithfully attended me throughout the silent days of the fast. Rammy our loyal and affectionate dog also came along barking joyfully in advance. We reached the newly acquired lands near the foot of the high, jungle-covered hills and I began to feel the effort of climbing the steep incline. Stopping to look about at the tranquil green lands basking in the late sunshine, I took a few deep life-giving breaths and soon felt strong and refreshed again.

Sunset Meditation

Ramam arranged a seat for me on a large, flat stone near a spring so that I might rest and meditate at ease. The sun was just about to set, gathering up unto himself the last golden rays from field and wood, but the whole sky was still aflame with crimson glory and gilt-edged clouds, Ramam and Rammy both made themselves comfortable on the soft turf and together we all gazed into the great, ruddy disk of the sun, almost wishing that it remain there in the shimmering west, shedding its splendour upon us instead of setting and leaving the world in shadow and darkness again. However even as we watched it, in all peace and stillness it sank to rest; our eyes also closed like that great eye of day, and we lost ourselves in deep meditation. How can I express in mere words the grandeur of that sublime moment, surrounded by the beauty of nature, at that lovely sunset hour! One felt over-powered by a mighty presence that covered one with waves of ecstasy. Besides that wonderful stillness and beauty there was someone definitely standing behind me, stretching forth holy hands to lay them on my head in benediction, while a voice seemed to say, "I am well pleased with thee my son. Arise and behold the glory around thee and serve me in all that thou seest, for I am in all things and everywhere! When I opened my eyes, eyes that were wet with the dew of heavenly love, Lo! He was not there in form—and yet He was there, end everywhere—was and is eternally, in His aspect of formlessness and perfection.

Ramam the devoted boy

Ramam the little boy is aged but thirteen, but he is a highly evolved soul, being the child of deeply spiritual Brahmin parents. I watch him often without his knowledge, when he talks to God, shedding tears of divine ecstasy, although a normal healthy boy in all respects. He writes letters to God quite often, and spends long hours in prayer and contemplation. His innocent face glows with spiritual fire as he meditates with me. This evening he was also radiant from our sunset meditation. Then we rose to wend our way back to the Ashram ere nightfall, our faithful Rammy leading the way also wagging his tail in joy. Poor dumb creature! He also tries to express something which is yet beyond himself! I felt grateful to the boy Ramam as well as Rammy, for helping me by partaking in that wonderful meditation.

Nearness of God

It was on the 28th, 29th, and the 30th day of my fast that I felt most closely the nearness and inseparable Oneness of divinity. It has been said that often the results of a fast cannot be fully known or felt during the days of actual fasting but are experienced a few days after the fast has been broken. May all homage be unto God, for all his innumerable blessings! Verily, He is the Reality of my life and very existence now, as never before. I feel Him, nay recognize His invisible presence, and love as I feel the warmth of the sun, or the coolness of the life-giving breeze. He is not only, within, with out and everywhere, but in each and every cell of my being, and it is indeed glorious beyond expression, to feel Him in the minutest cell of one's being, recognizing the Infinite in the finite.

Flame of God-consciousness

In the infinite glory how can anything else exist, but Life, Light and Love! Where He exists nothing else can exist. As clouds are dispelled by the advent of the rising sun so also worries, fears, desires and expectations are dispelled at the dawn of His cosmic touch. I feel that it is blessed to live, the life of a ceaseless Flame of God-consciousness, I rejoice because of the Love and peace that gushes from every pore of my body to one and all, friend or foe, known or unknown. It is all One infinite mass of stupendous light. Whether eyes are open or closed, in activity or in repose, sitting alone or in company or when quietly meditating, it makes no difference, for the universal supplier is ever the same—Eternal and Infinite.

Self-purification - the Whole Essence

The whole essence of the fast can be summed up in the simple phrase—Self-purification. It is purification within, and without physically, mentally and spiritually, fasting all that is weak and negative within oneself. It is for the recognition of the Universal Self, ignoring the little self. It is realization of at-one-ment, with the all-pervading truth, denying the evanescent form and name. When everything else fails to help us, it is the simple—fast that helps us in every possible way by giving us the needed inner strength, to meet the demands of evolving life and to solve the perplexities of existence.

Mahatma Gandhiji's Letter of Blessings

I am indeed deeply grateful to Mahatma Gandhiji for his loving letter of blessings that was received during the days of my fast. This great soul has found the secret of spiritual feasting by fasting, and has set the world an example of what true fasting is—with its attendant results of soul-force that moves and inspires, multitudes, and rays forth to all the world. Fasts tend towards perfection; they improve the health by allowing the vital mechanism of the body a time of complete rest so that both elimination and repair work may go on unhampered, and they clear the mind, curb and control the instincts, and naturally lead to God-expression, by giving spirituality full reign. The mind becomes restful, one-pointed and waveless like a still, deep, pool; the result is perfection or *nirvana*—the annihilation of the little self, and the strong assertion of Divinity.

Sister Sushila Devi

My deepest gratitude goes forth to our beloved Sister Sushila Devi, who whether near or afar through time and distance, ever inspires, sympathizes and helps me fulfill my vision and ministry. Again she watched over this fast from America, sending me helpful, scientific fasting books, and inspiring pen-pictures of Jesus Christ fasting and praying in the desert alone, in preparation of His holy ministry, and of the Buddha's austerities and enlightenment. She also prepared the way, by relieving me from the pressing Ashram cares and concerns.

In Tune with Creation and Creator

As the last day, the day of breaking the fast and silence dawned, I awakened so very happy and arose real early when it was yet quite dark. I mounted to the terrace of the building, feeling very grateful and deeply moved for the blessings of God and the silent help that I received constantly from the green hills, the trees, stars, singing birds and bright-winged insects, creatures great and small, fragrant flowers and shrubs, nay from every atom of the Energy that surrounded me. Therefore I silently offered my thanks to all the diverse beauties and wonders of nature, and then lost myself in the creator while contemplating His creation. When I opened my eyes, they met the beaming morning-smiles of the sun spreading warmth far and near. There were Mother Ratnam, Brother Pundareekashayya and many other Ashram devotees sitting near me with their eyes closed in meditation. Incense was burning with a pungent sweetness, and I was surprised to find around my neck a large garland of yellow chrysanthemums prepared by loving hands for the occasion, to glorify God for all His rich blessings. The scene at that particular moment is unforgettable—the glory of the rising sun, the loving greetings of the devoted friends and the aroma of incense and fresh flowers, all commingling to flood my heart with deepest joy and unspeakable thanksgiving to the Almighty, the Universal Supplier of every good.

Breaking the Silence by chanting Om

Then for the first time after a full month of silence, I joined the congregation in chanting Om, allowing the sacred note to vibrate loud and clear, far and near—out towards the whole of humanity—with the loving words of benediction:—Peace on earth and Goodwill towards men. Thus happily ended my fast of thirty days of silence in Peace, Poise and Great Perfection.

May Glory be unto the Highest and Peace unto all beings and creatures in the manifested and unmanifested realms, is my prayer!

Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Aug, May & Jun 1941)

6. THE TWO PRECIOUS MOMENTS

There are two precious and priceless moments in the lives of all seekers of truth, and all those who always try to reach the goal of the precious human birth. Such blessed souls whether they belong to the East or the West, are not only serving themselves, but also their nation and the whole of humanity.

What are those two precious moments?

I. The period of selfless service where self-interest is replaced by selfless interest working for the welfare of humanity rising above the ego.

II. The period of God-consciousness where body is no body, mind is no mind and world is no world and where everything is filled with self-effulgent Light, the goal of humanity.

In both these precious periods, the common factor is selflessness, complete annihilation of the ego. Man is able to render selfless service, because he is selfless and he has risen above the lower self or the ego. He does not seek any reward for his service. He feels that service is its own reward. A God-man is also able to meditate and recognize light, within and without, in him and in others, because the lesser self is dead in him. The effulgent light that he has within, he beholds in others. As he is One without a second, he has nothing to expect or desire from outside.

Which one is greater of the two, the man of selfless service or the man of God-realization, is not the question with which we are concerned now. Each man is great in his own sphere of life. Both are serving the cause of humanity, glorifying service and meditation. Each is doing his own part for the good of the world. What counts and what is most important in both the planes of life is complete selflessness.

A selfish man is a burden to Mother Earth whether he is engaged in action or inaction. A selfless man is a greatest blessing to humanity whether he is a *karma yogi* serving God's children in His manifested forms or a *jnana yogi* given to meditation and silence serving through his ideal life of peace.

My friends, it is for you now to introspect your lives and to recall your sacred moments of service or silence and to see whether you are serving God through service or meditation. My prayer is that you should make the best use of your lives in the service of His children and reach the goal of precious human birth, before the call comes from the great beyond.

Verily, he who is blessed to combine both service and silence centered in selflessness and thus can serve the humanity considering the whole world as his Home is the greatest of the great and real benefactor to all the world.

May all Homage be unto such!

May Peace be unto all!
OM OMOM

(Peace Mar & Apr 1952)

7. THE COWRIES

My Friends! Do you know what a cowrie is? it is a type of small shell which is found abundantly on the sea shores. Sometimes I go for a walk along the beach watching the rolling waves of the ocean and listening to their sacred music, the vibration of Om. Even in the rise and fall of every wave, there is the sound of inhalation and exhalation.

Behold! The Lord is speaking in a million tongues. He is expressing His glory, through a multimillion voices. Let us be silent, so that the Lord may speak to us in silence, Dear Lord! Speak, for thy servant heareth. Blessed and perfect indeed is the one who listens to this still small voice both in sound and silence. His life is a play with the universal play of the divine. But children are content with playing on the beach, with whatever they get over there. Similarly, the spiritual children play in the mighty waves of the ocean of the divine experiences and are content with the precious cowries and pearls of peace.

Now, there are cowries of every kind, beautiful cowries, big and small cowries, in different colours and various hues too. Only the one who gathers cowries can understand their beauty and charm. When I go with the children of the Ashram to the beach, I find them very busy in gathering not only cowries but also shells of every kind. They get so absorbed in gathering cowries and other shells and even fine pebbles that they are lost to everything else. Often during such walks I say to myself:

Do not waste your precious time picking worthless cowries. Let your mind be lifted towards the heavens, listening to the sweet and sacred music of the ocean.

In spite of the determination however when a beautiful pearl-like shell happens to be on the way, at my feet, I stoop to pick it, thinking that I could make some child happy by offering it. But, when I see the collection of the cowries, shells and pebbles of the children, I often say to them.

Dear children, why do you pick and gather these broken shells, useless and ugly cowries and rough pebbles? Throw them away!

But the children do not care for my advice. They cling to their coveted possessions, for even a broken shell has a beauty and attraction of its own. Similarly, my friends in the spiritual field, I consider my cowries are my messages. Some of them are beautiful so pearl like, some of them may be ugly or rough only on the surface, looking like dry oysters. But every mother of pearl has its beauty in its womb. I am here like a child gathering the cowries and shells that come across my way and it is for you to appreciate or discard them. I write the messages as they come from within, hoping that some child in the field of spirituality will appreciate them. But some

learned men say: This is a poor shell, a broken cowrie. My heart says:-What of it? It will make some child somewhere, who lives far away from the ocean, happy in possessing it.

It is true there are priceless pearls in the bosom of the deep ocean. How rare and blessed are they who always remain in the bosom of the ocean enjoying the transcendental bliss! Yet, everyone cannot always dive deep in the ocean. What is more, often one is blessed to find shells of rare beauty even in the sand, on the beach as one searches with patience. Thus, I am happy in my search within for pearls and shells both the refined and rough, the beautiful and the ordinary, for I lay them all, the days labours, at the feet of my Lord, as my humble offering.

Lo! And behold! out of the fullness of His heart, the lord is pleased even with the worst, broken cowries for He sees His reflection in them, I am here to gather all the cowries, all the shells, all the pebbles that come on my way, be they good or bad, beautiful or ugly, complete or broken and offer them all at His Feet. It is for the lord to distribute my cowries, the messages, the common messages among the beginners, and the deep messages among the elders, the adepts in pearl gathering, in the world of peace. *Bhagavan* says in Gita: Our duty is only with the work and not with the results.

Thus, I feel happy and contented that as every shell will have its own adherent or admirer so also every message will have a child somewhere in East or West who reads and appreciates it, assimilating its essence, the love of God. Many a time I resolve not to write any more messages, not to pick up any more cowries that come across my way, but somehow, something, whether it is the urge within or the force of habit, the *karma*, that goads me to write these simple messages, wishing the happiness of someone, somewhere in the world.

Dear Friends! May I offer you these tiny cowries also invoking God's richest blessings of love and happiness! God is love. Love is god. The way to be happy is to make others happy. Let us try to find the pearl of great price, the invaluable pearl of peace in the stillness of our holy moments, in the sacred sanctuary of our consecrated hearts! Above all, let us inhale and exhale peace, our birthright with each and every breath!

May His grace descend on all, and may He protect us all, may His cowries, the messages be broadcast and shared by all His children, near and far, who are treading the way of the quest within.

May Peace be unto all OMOMOM

(Peace Oct 1952)

8. THE THREEFOLD ACTIVITY

The world exists because of activity or motion. Whether we call it, by the name of activity or motion, it is all one and the same. No one is free from some activity or other, be he a saint or sinner, learned or ignorant so long as he is with a body in the world of duality. The world exists because of motion. Motion is life. Thus man lives because of life or motion, expressing It, in his daily life in the following three grades or ways.

- I. Activity of the body - Physical.
- II. Activity of the mind - Mental.
- III. Activity of the breath- Causal.

In all the manifested world, there are these three kinds of activities both individually and universally. He who understands it clearly in Microcosm in himself first, understands it in macrocosm in the universe. It means, when you can understand a bubble you can understand the whole ocean, for that which is in the bubble is in the ocean.

Now let us examine these three steps or the stages of activity or motion, one by one in the body, mind and breath.

I. All are aware of the activity of the body, such as writing, reading, walking, talking, eating, even seeing, opening and closing the eye lids. All these go as the activity of the body. This is an activity in gross state.

II. Now; we come to the activity of the mind. Scheming, planning and thinking of every kind, all imagination, and the movements of the subtle mind come under this heading. This activity is refined and it is subtle.

III. Now comes the activity of the breath, the *soham*. This is the most refined, the highest form of activity. It can be called superfine activity; it is invisible to the naked eye, but visible to the spiritual eye. It has its root in the causal body and the source in the primal energy.

With a little effort the aspirant can control the physical activity of the body. This is called steadiness of posture, *asana siddhi*. With much effort an advanced aspirant, with ceaseless struggle can control the mental activity also to a great extent. But to control the *pranic* activity, the activity of the breath, the motion of *soham* is rather an uphill work. It is the last and final stage. One should bear in mind that all activity, be it the gross, the physical, which is being done with the body or the subtle, the mental activity which is being done with the mind and the causal or spiritual activity which is being done unconsciously with the breath have their source in Brahman, the One universal whole which is beyond the manifested and the unmanifested. In the world of activity in all these different planes it is the *shakti*, the divine energy, alone that manifests in the form of activity of the body, mind and breath.

Peace profound or *nirvana* or *samadhi* belongs only to the master or the *yogi* who has mastered all the three kinds of motion, in body, mind and breath. It is helpful in the beginning, to know the source of the activity, while engaged in work. This is called the practice of feeling God's presence. Thus, one can feel God's presence both in work and meditation and even in rest for it is all One energy, One force and One *shakti*, expressing either in gross, subtle or causal manner. Be a witness of your bodily movements. Then try to be a witness of your mental activity or imagination. Finally, be a witness of your own breath-*soham*. These three steps, gradually, lead any aspiring soul in a most simple and natural way to the Heights of God realization.

Q:-When shall I be Free?

A:-When the "I" which is in the form of ego expressing through body, mind and breath dissolves in the universal whole, just like a bubble in the ocean. The result will be freedom, *jivanmukthi*, liberation-in-life, Now and Here.

As there is nothing else to be said or taught, may He, the One universal presence, the Light of all the manifested worlds, bless you my loving reader with vision universal or completeness by making you a master of all the three kinds of activity, physical, mental and causal or spiritual and keep you on the height of God realization!

May Peace be unto all!

OM OMOM

(Peace Dec 1952)

9. THE VISION UNIVERSAL

"Births of Breath are as many as waves on the Sleepless Sea."

BIRTHS OF BREATH:

This is a deep thought given out by Swami Rama Tirtha, the eminent sage and the practical philosopher, in his words of God-realization. I had the good fortune of reading this, while quite young and felt greatly inspired and benefitted by it. Suppose that we have as many births, as our breaths in a span of life, can we count all the breaths, taken in and out in a day? It is said that we inhale and exhale 21600 times a day. This works to 77,76,000 times a year. Taking that a man lives for a hundred years, the total number of breaths in his life-time comes to the colossal number of 77,76,00,000.

This number can be taken to represent the number of births that a soul has to go through before he is freed from the cycle of births and deaths. Even if one dies a little earlier in one life, he will still have so many births, to evolve and reach the heights, the goal of precious human birth. As if this, number of births is not big enough; Rama compares these births with the waves

on the sleepless sea. We may be able to count the breaths, but how can we count the waves on the sleepless sea? Mark the word sleepless! The word sleepless is used to indicate that we have to count the waves not only by day but also in the night. Now, let us leave the counting of the waves on the sleepless sea to the scientists, unto whom nothing seems to be impossible, beginning from the counting of the hair on a man's head, to the counting of the stars in the sky.

MAN'S EVOLUTION:

Life is a constant process of growth evolving from the lowest germ to the highest saint. Life, like the rapids of the high mountains, is continuously gushing towards the plains and keeps on flowing until it becomes one with the ocean. Similarly, whether man is aware of it or not, he is evolving steadily taking birth after birth, passing through mineral, vegetable, animal and human kingdoms of life, until he reaches the very Heights of God-realization, wherein alone, he feels that he is birthless and deathless, being One without a second.

“Stagnation is death and progress is life”

Blessed is the man who is always aware of this evolution from the lower to the higher, from the finite to the Infinite, until he has established himself in all glory on the throne of completeness!

PARTIAL VISION:

Alas! Man in ignorance, even the learned man thinks and acts as if the present birth is his only birth. He does not take into consideration all the births he has to go through, before reaching the goal. He is judging the whole world from the view point of his present birth only. If one is born as a Muslim, he thinks there is nothing beyond Islam. A Christian thinks similarly of Christianity. A Buddhist is centered around his *nirvana*. A Hindu thinks that he is privileged to be superior to other religionists. Same is the outlook of the followers of all the other religions, in the world. Their view of life is like that of the blind men about the elephant, in the fable. This is but partial vision.

If these devout and faithful followers of the respective religions could comprehend, at least some of their past births also, there will not be any more religious wrangles or quarrels of spiritual greatness or the arrogance of race superiority. They will open their minds, hearts and souls and stretch their arms to embrace the whole of humanity, people of all religions or no religion, for, in the vision universal not even the tiniest creature or the smallest atom is excluded, for all are related and inter-related in some of these births, for births of breath are as many as waves on the sleepless sea.

It is the partial vision which has been the cause of religious differences and controversies leading to religious crusades, and communal troubles which land in the destruction and death of the innocent children of the One, all-loving God. Due to this partial vision, we see the differences

of low and high castes and each one working for his own particular caste, isolating himself from all the others, the children of the same God. The curse of division by caste, creed, colour and nationality, descends on the people with partial vision. They divide the fair face of the mother earth into sections and parts and calling each by a different name. Partial vision leads only to the degeneration of individuals as well as of communities and nations.

GOD VISION:

God vision or vision universal is the goal of all, be they Muslims or Christians, Buddhists or Hindus, Jains or Parsees or any other religionists, Here there is neither East nor West, neither race superiority nor religious bigotry, neither fanaticism of caste nor that of creed. When one is blessed with the vision universal, one not only feels oneness with every man and woman, but also with every bird and beast, nay, with every star in the sky and every flower on the earth. What one sees within, one beholds without.

In God vision one sees One-self in all, for, that which exists is One, though men call It by various names. Every form and name in the world is only a mere tiny flower in the garland of the eternal life. Here, the God-man identifies himself, with the string which is passing through all the flowers, thus enjoys bliss absolute considering all the flowers as his own. But, the man of partial vision, however learned and great he may be, clings to his body of blood and flesh identifying himself with only one flower, which is about to fade, decay and fall any moment. In God vision, there is nothing but God on every side, in every one and at all times. All flowers of any colour or kind, belonging to any climate or nation, belong to Him, for, He is the string, the *sutratma*, the Universal thread, passing through all the flowers.

WE READ IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT:

The stupid man identifies himself with the body, and the book-worm, the merely learned man with the mixture of body and soul, whereas the man of God vision identifies himself with Atman, the One universal soul. Peace eternal and Infinite, belongs only to the rare and blessed souls who do not see any difference, unto whom everything is nothing but God. Unto such blessed souls of God vision, the whole world is only an emanation from the unmanifested One God. It is only a mere bubble in the ocean of God.

EPILOGUE:

My living image of the adorable light! As your happiness is my happiness and as your peace is my peace, I appeal to you to regain your divine heritage, your birthright of vision universal, the glory of millions of suns. Let us judge no longer the effulgent sun, by the reflection in the mud pool or in the tiny well in our back yard. Identification with the nest of skin, flesh, fat and bones is the root cause of the perverted vision of lower life, However great, mighty and famous a man may be, if he is attached to the body, his life is only like that of a grass blade that withers, fades and perishes before one's very eyes.

We cannot call these bodies as our own, even if we are the rulers of the whole world. Did you ever watch the rising waves in the rushing ocean? Pray, pay a visit to our Rishikonda beach, and watch the play of these mighty turbulent waves, especially when the sea is in high tide! Watch each rolling wave which rushes towards you! Can you hold on to any one wave? Before your very eyes it breaks and disappears and becomes one with, the other waves. O man! such is your life in the present body. Each body is a wave in the Ocean of God. However much, you may love the body, cling and worship it, you cannot keep it forever, and neither can you call it as your own. You belong to all and all belong to you. The wave belongs to the ocean and the ocean belongs to all the waves. Your body is like a wave in the ocean of God, You cannot separate one wave, from the other waves. You cannot give any special privileges or recognition to one wave, however big it may appear to be. What is the biggest wave, the mightiest man, before the Ocean, the Splendour of God, the *Para Brahman*?

SOMEWHERE IN THE SCRIPTURES WE READ THAT;

“He that tries to realize the supreme self, while yet attached to the body is like a man that prepares to cross a river mounting on the back of a crocodile mistaking it for a piece of wood.”

The attachment to the body leads to destruction and death. The very fundamental basis, the foundation and bedrock of vision universal is rooted in the great thought, that:

“The world is our home and all people in it are our Sisters and Brothers and to Love and worship them is our real religion.”

Verily, worship of man is worship of God. Religion begins, when one is blessed with true vision and true vision leads to universal vision. It may be difficult for people to set apart periods of time to pray and meditate regularly due to their restless minds and many avocations. But no one can prevent them from developing the universal vision. All that one needs to practice the vision universal is only an open mind and a loving heart. One should annihilate the deep-rooted ignorance that he or she is the bundle of flesh and blood and to replace it with the living truth, that each one is the universal intelligence. This realization is so easy for the pure and selfless but so difficult for the fanatic bigoted and narrow-minded. Worship of the universe is possible for those who are blessed with universal vision; for, in their vision of universality they see all as an emanation of God.

THE ESSENCE;

Following the inner urge, my soul longs to repeat now, the essence of this message in a nutshell in the following words, for the kind assimilation of my loving readers. Vision universal is the outcome of the complete destruction of the ego, the source of all misery and trouble. It is the ego which clings to this one birth and considers it as all-in-all and tries to solve and remedy the world problems, with the finite consciousness of the one little flower, ignoring all the flowers

in the eternal string-the eternal life, which is binding not only the flowers but also the known and unknown worlds. Peace that passeth all understanding belongs only to the sage, who sees the One in the many and unto none else-not even to the world diplomats who are aspiring to be the world dictators and masters. In vision universal the momentary body consciousness is replaced by the eternal God-consciousness. One is no longer a tiny, finite flower but the ever-lasting string, the *paramatma* that binds, and unites all.

May the Good Lord, Sri Bhagavan bless all His children all over the world, with the vision universal, so as to bring peace on earth and goodwill among nations! This is the prayer of your brother Omkar!

May Peace be unto all!
OMOMOM

(Peace Jan 1953)

10. THIS ONE BREATH IS ENOUGH FOR ME

There are certain affirmations in the spiritual world that have been of immense help in the onward march of the religious life of the seekers of truth. The evolution of the soul's progress and the great part the breath plays in the life of the aspiring soul is not only very interesting, but also quite helpful if one can grasp and understand its fundamental basis of the very existence. How true are the words that God is the, Breath of the breath!

The following three statements have been of immense help to me, individually in my personal experience of Soul growth and Spiritual Culture.

1. This one step is enough for me
2. This one, moment is enough for me.
3. This one breath is enough for me.

1. Step: - At each step that we take, in our daily life whether it is for a walk or work is leading only towards God. But the aspiring soul should begin the day's life with the very first step remembering, that it is leading him towards God, into his Omnipresence.

2. Moment: - The past is dead and buried and the future is dim and uncertain. What belongs to us is only the present tiny precious, invaluable moment. With this price less moment we can buy all the world. We can make or unmake, mold or change the lives of the individuals as well as the destinies of the nations. Blessed is the one who is conscious of the power and glory of the present tiny moment which is leading one into His Omnipotence.

3. Breath: - We come now to the mighty and the subtle breath, which is the life and soul of the individual as well as the creation! We exist because of the breath. The world exists

because of the breath. One, who has controlled breath, has controlled everything. He who is aware of the breath within, is aware of the God within and without, for what is within is without too. Blessed is the one whose life is centered in the breath in each and every moment of his life, saturated with Omniscience.

My loving Reader! Do you know that the present breath represents the whole of your past breaths, nay even from the beginning of the world, for breath is One. Even when gross matter is indestructible, how can the fine and subtle breath, be finite or destructible?

God or the indwelling light is the Breath of the breath, Life of the life and Soul of the soul. Peace that passeth all understanding, belongs to these rare and blessed souls, who can identify with the imperishable breath, but not with the passing name and form of the perishable body. The God-man is representing not only the past but even the present and the future with a single breath. In his breath, even time, space and causation exist.

As I was musing on this sublime theme in the dark hours of midnight, I hear of the snoring of the manager of the Ashram, who happened to sleep in the same hall, with me. I watched and followed his breath, longing to know the inseparable and eternal oneness with All Breath, the universal breath.

What is the difference between the breath within me and within him or even within you? Is not all breath one and the same, not only now but always? Is not the same breath existed and operated in the lives of all sages and saints, saviours and prophets in the past and present, in both the East and the West?

Verily, this one breath is enough to conquer the world of phenomena. As we follow the breath, the finite breath leads to the infinite breath. The very breath within becomes the big breath, the universal breath. May we meditate now on the glory and power of the *soham* breath, which is filling our hearts with laughter and souls with peace.

May all homage be unto the Breath of breaths, both in the manifested and the unmanifested, the One without a second!

May Peace Be Unto All!
OM OMOM

(Peace Mar & Apr 1954)

11. THE VISION BEAUTIFUL

“That which exists is One;
Sages have called It by various names.”

The Vision Beautiful also has been One, but it has been called by various names by God-men of different climes and races. Some called it, the vision glorious, others called it, the vision ineffable, the vision universal and the vision transcendental. I do not wish to call this vision transcendental, for I am seeing this vision now through the medium of senses.

In this vision beautiful, it is He that exists in the mineral, vegetable, animal and human kingdoms, nay even in the celestial and unknown and undiscovered kingdoms too. Here the scales of duality have dropped off, hence all is beautiful within without, above, below and all around. It is the same beauty or glory or reality, either in the past, present or future. It is the same beauty, or *Brahman* whichever side I turn my eyes.

Verily, *Brahman* and vision beautiful are not two but one, for that which exists is One whether we call it by the name vision beautiful or *Brahman*. It was yesterday morning. I was meditating facing the glorious sunrise, throwing all its wonderful rays of reflection on the singing waves of the limitless waters of the surging ocean. Indeed it was the vision beautiful that cannot be described in finite words but it is to be appreciated and experienced in silence. It is the play of *Brahman* in the beauty of *shakti* where all is God both in the manifested and unmanifested, in the visible and in the invisible. Blessed is the one who is blessed with the vision beautiful, for in It, he beholds the One in the many. It is in the vision beautiful a wall is no wall, a tree is no tree, a beast is no beast and a man is no man, for all are the different manifestations of the one indivisible substance. It is here one feels the interpenetrating presence in the very cells of one's being within, and the same presence pervading and permeating the whole universe, from a blade of grass to the biggest planet.

While musing thus, unconsciously, I took a piece of stone into my hand and asked it: ‘Are you the *Brahman*?’

The stone: ‘Yes, I am, for *Brahman* is the stability of my heart.’

I took a flower and asked, ‘Are you the *Brahman*?’

The Flower: “Yes I am. Is not my fragrance the *Brahman*?”

I saw a bird sitting nearby me, singing in all joy and freedom and asked it: ‘Are you the *Brahman*?’

The Bird: “Surely. Is not my care-free song an expression of *Brahman*?”

Next I began to consider of a man, whether he is the *Brahman*! Is he not the *Brahman*?

What is that which is shining in his eyes and throbbing in his heart and flowing in his very breath?

Verily, man is the image of God. He is the proto-type of *Brahman*. As I stretched my eyes, from the rolling waves, towards the still waters, the horizon of the ocean, I felt the beauty of *Brahman* in both the motion as well as in motionlessness. As I lifted the eyes towards the sky, the heaven, I felt the beauty, above all, in the millions of the warm rays of effulgent sun, in front of me, who was bathing me in his light. What else could I feel in the Sun, other than glory and warmth penetrating the very cells of my being! How blessed is the vision beautiful wherein one beholds the sweet face of God in the rock, flower, bird, beast and man and in sky and heaven!

How glorious it is to face God in those high ranges of lofty mountains, even in the swiftly moving clouds in the sky, nay in the very breeze which is blowing on us! On the same day a mosquito gave me a bite to test me whether I could feel the beauty in its very sting? A green snake appeared on the scene, to see whether I could behold the same Indivisible *Brahman* in it.

How the path of divine beauty is beset with so many tests and trials. Indeed, the path of truth is narrow and rugged and rare are they who travel its lonely path! Happiness belongs to the One who can withstand all the tests and tribulations. Unto such all is same, whether it is the sting of a foe or the love of a friend. The passing clouds of praise and blame do not mar his vision beautiful.

In fact the vision beautiful, through all the tests and severe examinations of ups and downs of life, leads one finally to the vision transcendental, where it is all *Brahman*, the beauty of the soul, the splendor of millions of suns of which the *upanishads* sing.

“The sun does not shine there, nor does the moon, nor do the stars, nor the lightning shine and much less this fire. When He shines, everything shines after Him; by His light, all these shine.”

HARI OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace July 1954)

12. THE WORDS OF WELCOME

Of all the words in the world, the word Welcome is one of the sweetest words, uniting hearts with hearts, creating love, unity and peace. It is my happy privilege today to extend a hearty welcome to the worthy President and the learned speakers and to all of you, the old and new friends of the Ashram. Some of you may be thinking within yourselves, 'We wish Swamiji were also here today with all of us.' Several years ago a lady doctor from Denmark came and stayed sometime in the Ashram. She wrote some beautiful lines in the visitors book. The very first sentence runs thus: Sri Swami Omkar and Santi Ashram are not two but one. The person, who has seen one, has seen the other.

My friend! As you are seeing the Ashram now, it is the same thing as you are seeing me. I feel that I am with all of you in the Ashram. Santi Ashram, the Abode of Peace has been my legacy to all of you, for it is the common property of all people of the entire world, children of One God. What a wonderful privilege it is to have an abode that belongs to all where anyone of any religion, from any corner of the world is welcome and can consider it his or her own spiritual home. You are all blessed now to be in the Abode of Peace, where nature is paying its highest homage to the supreme lord and where the waves are singing the sacred syllable *aum*. Now, please join nature's worship by chanting three times, the mystic syllable *aum* and then attune yourselves to the interesting lectures that follow.

May God's richest Blessings ever be upon each and everyone of you, who is privileged to gather in the Ashram on this auspicious day of Sri Krishna *Jayanti*. May Bhagavan Sri Krishna bless you all with eternal bliss!

Now let us close our eyes and fix our minds on the indwelling light and chant the sacred syllable *aum* three times....*aum-aum-aum*.

May Peace Be Unto All!

(Peace Sept 1954)

13. THE HIGHEST COSMIC TRUTH

(Breath, the Ray of the Sun of suns)

I cannot afford to forget God even for a millionth fraction of a tiny second.

The very repetition of the above statement gives such a thrill of ecstasy, filling the very cells of my being with His life, light and love. The fervour and intensity of the awareness of God's interpenetrating presence becomes so real and actual, even as one merely repeats the statement. But is it possible not to forget God, the Light of lights even for the millionth fraction of a second? Yes, it is quite possible for the ignorant worshippers of darkness.

Does the sun ever forget its light or radiance? Similarly also the Light of lights can never forget Itself even for the minutest fraction of time. Here is something practical and helpful. Your very breath is the ray of the Sun of suns, the Light of lights within. Thus, the ray, your breath is always there, in waking, dreaming or sleeping condition. How is it possible to forget that which is present always, eternally?

But the *advaitavedantin*, the critic raises the question, saying, that the very so-called helpful statement that I cannot afford to forget God even for a millionth fraction of a second, is a self-delusion. His argument is as follows: When God is *advitheeyam*, One without a second, who are you to remember or forget Him? In the first place, you do not exist at all, for nothing exists besides God. We are baffled and puzzled, for what he says is nothing but truth, from his highest standard. But coming down from the giddy heights of *advaita* into the daily life, so long as we have bodies that eat, drink and sleep, we can as well admit our ignorance and earnestly strive until we reach those blessed heights, where there is neither forgetfulness nor remembrance. There you and I, the Ashrams and the world do not exist and all the *jivas* and their works are mere illusions and delusions and *Brahma* alone is the only abiding reality.

With one breath, man says:

O God! I will never forget Thee even for the millionth fraction of a second and with the next breath he forgets God, as if for a million years.

How thick and dark is *maya*, deluding even the devout and learned!

Q: - How to overcome this endless *maya* that envelopes even the wise?

A: - By rising once for all, above mind and ego.

Verily, wherever there is remembrance, there is forgetfulness and wherever there is forgetfulness there is remembrance. Tied mercilessly to the delusion of remembrance and forgetfulness, man is revolving round and round, without, ever reaching the goal, often getting crushed under the wheels of his own relentless *karma*, with many ups and downs of life.

Man, know thyself. It is high time for you to look within and to recognize your real self. Your true self is above the dual state of light and darkness joy and pain, health and sickness, even life and death. Recognize God and be silent, wherein there is neither remembrance nor forgetfulness and where is All Light, within, without, above, below and all around from eternity to eternity. Glory glory glory! May we ever abide in this infinite glory!

May we offer our Homage in dumb ecstasy in all Silence, to the Splendour of Millions of suns!

May Peace be unto all! Om Om Om

(Peace Oct 1954)

14. The Blessed Man—God's Good Man

Who is a Blessed Man? It is not, the one who neither rolls in wealth or the one who rules a kingdom. Not even a *Mahanthi*, the head of an Ashram, or the Minister of a State, can be called a blessed man. Then, who is really the blessed man? The blessed man is he who finds real good work in life, who chooses his right vocation which gives him plenty of opportunity to serve others. He has carved his proper life from the materials of his inner propensities. His life is based on the firm foundation of his character. Such a man of iron will and firm character does not need any other blessing from any one. To find real opportunities to do selfless work is the greatest blessing.

My friend, have you found right work for yourself? Have you chosen the work for which you are well fitted, like a glove to the hand? Are you a square plug in a square hole? Or, are you a round plug in a square hole? What is your aim in life? Is it to live in God and help others to do so? Or is it to starve the poor and sick, the oppressed and the persecuted? Do you live to help the helpless from the hands of the unscrupulous cruel tyrants?

My loving reader, whatever may be the vocation that you have chosen for yourself according to your temperament, the least that you can do is to be true to your God-given work, the blessed work of your vocation. Let not all the wealth in the world make you swerve from the path of justice. Let not the influence of friends or even your father or mother make you deviate from what you hear and know as living truth. Blessed is the man who cannot be bought with all the valuable goods of the world and who never can exchange his soul for a mess of pottage. Such a one is the all-consuming fire of truth and no evil influence or recommendation can dare

approach him. Verily, he is the greatest blessing to the nation to which he belongs, nay even to the whole world.

The man who has found good work and who is true to his duty is the real benefactor of humanity. He is true to the whole world in trying to be true to himself. What other blessing does the righteous man, God's good man, who lives for the welfare of others identifying himself with sorrows and sufferings of the poor and oppressed, need other than to be allowed to serve humanity, especially the poor and oppressed? The Omnipresent God often comes to him in the form of sick and poor, to test his integrity, selfless service and sense of justice and truth.

After all, what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world but loses his own precious soul? Selfless service to the poor and needy should come first and foremost. Truly service of man is service of God! Such a one, who has found his real good work, is the greatest blessing to humanity. He does not need any other blessing, for he himself is a blessing to the wide world, to his motherland, his community, family and himself. He is the blessed man, the God's man, the chosen instrument of God.

May all homage be unto such! May Peace be unto all!

Om OmOm

(peace Nov 1954)

15. The Quintessence

(A Practical Message for the Seekers of Truth in all Religions and Nations)

The Essence of my teachings can be summed up in a nutshell in the following three short sentences.

1. Do not rely on me.
2. Do not rely on others.
3. Rely on the light which is ever shining in the stillness of your own purified heart.

Let me help you, to help yourself. If you cannot rely on the Light which is near and dear to you, nay so inseparably one with you, which is ever-present in the waking, dreaming and sleeping states, how can you rely on me or on others? Who are outside and distant from you? It is not outer reliance that gives freedom, but it is *Atmavichara*, Self-reflection that gives emancipation even from future births. Hence, the sages of both the East and the West have proclaimed the goal and the essence of life in one voice, viz. know thyself.

Knowing That, the wise melt in silence.

Know that outer worship of Gods and images found in all religions is but a beginning, and to the weak to learn. Know and live in the All-knowing formless *sarvavyapi*- the all-pervading *Para Brahman*- the cosmic soul, our individual souls should by gradual self-realization merge with Om. Learn to stand on your own feet, on your own strength, even if you do not have any following and are left alone. Be self-reliant. No more reliance on outer forms and names, be they incarnates or discarnate but always rely on the indwelling light, the self-effulgent light, the Light of all worlds now and here.

This is the essence of my life's message which has helped me immensely, hence, sharing it with all of you, whose welfare is dear and near to my heart for we are all the rays of the same One self-effulgent Sun, the waves of the One mightily surging ocean, the sparks of the one Light of lights. Let the rays merge in the sun. Let the waves go down into the ocean. Let the sparks go back into the Light of lights.

Love of man is love of God. Service to humanity is service to God. It is individual peace that paves the way to universal peace. Be centered in peace and radiate it, to the whole world, no longer in words but in silence through silent and selfless deeds.

Thoughts are things.
As you think you become.
What you sow, that alone you reap.

Religion begins with self-reliance and it ends with self-realization. As the Holy Scriptures teach:

Arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached.
Tat Twam Asi—Thou Art That.

May all homage be unto the souls of self-reliance who are the beacon lights of humanity! Om!

(Peace Dec 1954)

16. The Value of Human Existence

Only those who understand the significance, greatness and value of human birth, which is difficult to attain, can also understand the value of time.

I often tell people who waste their precious time in useless conversation, that my time is very valuable. Why only my time, is your time also not valuable? When I see my cat 'Sitha Ram' go on sleeping for hours together, I often feel that it does not know the value of time. It is alright if animals do not realize the value of time. But it is a pity that human beings, having been born as such on account of past merit also, without realizing the value of time, waste not only seconds and minutes but also days, weeks, months and years in vain thoughts and useless words.

The other day some women came to the Ashram fully bedecked with jewels. I asked them if they offer their daily prayers to God. They replied in the negative. I felt sorry for the future of the children in their arms. Have parents no responsibility to pray to God even for the sake of their children whom they love, and make them also offer their prayers? There is nothing surprising if dumb animals do not pray. What is to be said of human beings, endowed with speech and human birth which is the highest in the creation, do not pray to God? Men of wisdom have named such people as two-legged animals. Having attained precious human birth, we should not waste our precious lives and time like animals, without prayer and meditation, for getting our goal. It is about such people, a beautiful verse in the *Bhagavata* says:

'If one does not worship Siva with his hands,
If one does not sing the glory of Hari till his mouth is filled,
If one has no compassion and truth in his heart,
His birth is wasted and it is unnecessary trouble to their mothers.'

It is written in several places in the Ashram, that people who waste moments waste their entire lives. What a deep meaning this small sentence conveys? It would be of some use, even if we read such great sayings constantly remember and meditate on them- we will understand the value of time. There is no use of thinking about the past. We cannot regain the time we have lost, however much we may repent of it. It is enough if we put the present moments to best use, without wasting them. Without crying over spilt milk, being careful not to spill milk at least in future, without wasting our time, in the midst of any number of worldly activities, we should remember the Lord and sing His glory and go from progress to progress day by day and endeavor day and night to cross this ocean of existence, before the light is extinguished.

Another great saying, 'Today is ours. Tomorrow is not ours'! Is written in the Ashram. How can we say that today is ours? We cannot say what will happen the next moment. Does death come after forewarning us? So, it has to be said that only this moment is ours. Even after one's death, his merit and demerit follow him. All the rest, property, wealth, jewels everything he has to

leave where they are and quit the world. Even the worst miser cannot take with him even a blunt pin or even his waist-thread. When such is the position, all intelligent men and women should understand the importance of their precious human birth, and engage themselves in constant prayer and meditation and drink the nectar of the divine name, which is the eternal, the true, the permanent, which they can carry with them and which accompanies them even after the body falls.

Householders should themselves cross the ocean of existence and keep all their relatives and children whom they love, to do so. The scriptures say that these bodies are meant for the service of others. So we have to render all service, help and good only to day and reach the other shore and help all our people and friends to the best of our ability and see that we and all of them attain liberation. Sages have said that one word of advice is sufficient for a devotee, and even a crore of words prove to be useless in the case of a person who has no devotion. As you are all devotees, do not allow these words of advice to enter through one ear and pass out through the other, but fill your hearts with peace and love for the divine, and even in the midst of your manifold activities, constantly remember the divine and attain liberation.

Ignorant people think that work stands in the way of chanting of the divine name, but it is not so. A great devotee has said that if one of your hands is engaged in work, serve God with the other hand. If both hands are engaged, repeat the divine name with the mouth. When both hands are free, you can serve the divine with the hands, mouth, heart, and cent per cent mind and liberate yourself. To those who sincerely and earnestly crave for the divine, liberation will be in their palms, near within themselves. To the others, liberation will be far away, not only in this life but even in crores of lives to come. While writing this article, I am reminded of a song composed by a devotee in Telugu, to the effect that it is difficult to attain human birth.

If one fills this precious human life with selfishness and misuses it, how can he get human birth again? So, devotees have sung that this human birth cannot be attained again. While there is yet life in this body, let us render all help and service which we have to render, not only to our people, our near and dear ones, but also to everybody without any distinction of near and distant, and attain liberation! In remembrance of having read this article to-day all of you kindly get by heart the Peace Prayer, constantly remember it and liberate yourselves.

May God bless you always with health and longevity!

May all worlds be happy! Hari Om Tat sat

(Peace May 1955)

17. THE VISION FLASHED

What is that Vision? It is the vision wherein the truth flashed that you cannot save others, but you can save yourself. Man in ignorance wants to change others, to change the whole world, except himself. Can you change the stripes of a leopard? Can you change the skin of a black bear, even by rubbing with all the medicated soaps and caustics of the world? Such is the unalterable nature, be it of a bird, beast or man.

Hence the thought comes: - Why attempt to try to do the impossible and waste the previous time? One is troubled with the thought of compassion also. Is it not selfish to think of saving yourself ignoring others? It looks like waste of time and selfish too when you think of saving your soul. But what is the use of dying like a worm among worms, crawling on earth, without an ideal or aspiring aim, suffering restlessly both day and night! You are saving either yourself or others. Both of you are falling in the deep ditch of ignorance. The truth is that in saving yourself you are saving others. In reforming yourself, you are reforming the world. The life of one selfless man is the greatest blessing to the whole of humanity. Similarly, the life of a selfish man the hustler and the one who takes joy in mere talking wasting his and your precious time is a curse and a mere burden to mother earth. You cannot do things by big talk, but you can do anything in silence and with silence. All big things, all great achievements are done in silence. Verily, silence, the wise silence gives power, poise and peace. Indeed silence creates souls.

My friend, can you change the nature of a scorpion? Its nature is to sting even the innocent. Can you change the nature of a miser? He would rather die than part with his hard-earned cash. Can you change the nature of a selfish man? His one thought is of self and selfishness. His whole life is a sacrifice to build edifices of gross selfishness in every moment of his life. The scorpion stings. The miser accumulates and the selfish man lives, works and breathes for himself and no one else.

In the moments of deep silence the inner voice whispers thus, “My child, you have wasted enough of your precious time waiting at the doors of the poor and rich, begging for the perishable riches, all in the name of the ashram.” Now the vision flashed during my stay in the Kailas Ashram, from the heights of the Kailas, never to be a beggar anymore, even if all the Ashrams disappear from the face of the earth. It is wonderful to be a giver always, even in the face of starvation and physical death, the demise of the body. If you have nothing else to give, give your blood and flesh. Pour out your love and peace ceaselessly on one and all.

Blessed is the giver! Blessed is the one who saves himself! Blessed is the selfless man who is an ornament to the world of humanity!

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

18. The World-A Dream

How can we say that the world is a mere dream when we actually see these mountains with enchanting nature, these rivers flowing incessantly from the mountains, waterfalls, tall trees, animals, the five elements and all the gross things of name and form? Are the sun, the moon and the stars mere dreams? If all this gross world is no better than a dream, what is it that is not a dream?

There is only one which is the mighty *sat*, which is not a dream and which transcends all dreams. That is *Brahman*! Blessed are the lives of those who realize That, become one with That, and enjoy the eternal truth of That! In the light of every individual, there will become highly sacred moments in which he forgets himself in indescribable bliss, such moments may come when we admire the beauty of nature, and sunset and sunrise may give us such bliss. Some people forget themselves in prayer and *sankirtan*. Incessant chanting of the divine name is highly helpful to spiritual progress. The constant reading of the Gita and the Upanishads also helps us to feel divine.

According to the purity of his mind, any *mahavakya* may send one into trance. Without any effort, the three *mahavakyas* given below make one oblivious of the body. We have to follow whatever helps us in our Spiritual endeavour to reach the goal of human existence. Kindly share with me the three *mahavakyas* which are helpful to me:

1. 'I Am in the Light.'

Whether we call it Light, God, Peace or Universal Love, it is all the same. Not only I but also all of you have always been in that divine light. In the past, present and the future all of us are imbedded in that light. What enthusiasm and strength, the glad tidings that in any place and in any condition we are in that divine light, gives us!

2. 'That Divine Light in me.'

From beginning last time till the end, the light without second has always been in us. There was never a moment when the light was not within us especially, it is fortunate that during prayer and meditation we recognize and feel it from top to toe.

3. 'I Am that Light'

There is only one! It is non-dual and one without a second. So we are the divine light. One should not rest content with merely uttering this *mahavakya*. One has to feel and enjoy it in life forgetting the body and the world. Another feeling gives one any amount of inspiration and perfect bliss. I wish to share that also with you.

‘I never did anything
I am not doing anything
In future also, I have nothing to do.’

By merely remembering these three small sentences, I transcend all words, deeds and thoughts and forget everything. Then, my establishing ashrams, going round the world and visiting America and other places several times, donating my bone to a girl, these birthday celebrations, worshipping the Lord with lakhs and crores of basil leaves, are all these mere dreams? From the transcendental view point all of them are mere dreams. There are countless things done, being done, and to be done with the consciousness that I am the body. What work can there be for anybody who feels that he is the all perfect, the divine, the truth, auspiciousness and the non-dual *atman* itself? Then, no words, no thoughts! All is perfection, all is *Brahman*!

As a ripe fruit drops of its own accord the perfect state also is natural. As the kernel of a dry coconut is separate from the shell, by merely remembering this *mahavakya*, he shines as the *paramatman*, the wearer of the body, without any thing to do with the body or the world. Where is the world, in this state of *Brahman* consciousness, even if it exists is it not dreamlike? So the world is a dream. In the dream state, we take the dream experience as real and permanent. Similarly in the waking state, we take wife, children, wealth, houses, gardens and all to be everlasting, forget the eternal. Worship the transcendent and fall into a bottomless pit!

Yesterday from midnight to dawn I went on writing some articles and other things. In the morning, with a view to meditate I assumed a corpse-like posture. I sank into a state of deep sleep and had a dream, in that I was traveling in the big bus in some country in the west for propaganda, I did not alight at the place of my destination but was going to the terminus of the bus. I and the conductor of the bus were the only persons therein. It was a night enveloped in complete darkness. The conductor came to me and demanded my ticket. I felt ashamed and also on account of my silence I could not say anything. At this the conductor was puzzled, I was trying to put on paper and explain to him that I was under a vow of silence and over travelled my destination on account of sleep. When the bus stopped with a sudden jerk, I woke up and opened my eyes. I saw the rafters of the ceiling and was satisfied that I was safe and secure in the Ashram I was glad that I was free from the nightmare.

How funny! In a trice the mind travelled over vast spaces and returned. I had another wink and dreamt again. This time I was travelling by an aeroplane and the body was as light as air. I was beside myself with joy as if I was flying in air. Then I was sorry to see my pens dropping down to the earth one after another, I was not possible to stop the plane nor was it possible to get down for the pen. While I was in this predicament, a huge sound in the plane woke me up. I was glad I did not lose my pens. Though they were mere dreams I still feel the bus, the conductor, and hear him demanding my ticket and the stopping of the bus with a sudden jerk. I also see my pens falling down.

Just as my dream experiences, actually seen and felt are transient and mere imaginations of the mind, all this gross world with names and forms, big and small are like dreams and nothing else. Dream experience is of short duration. True waking experience may last little longer. It is only a difference in duration. But their origin and transitoriness are the same.

So the people with discrimination should not forget the Reality and run after shadows, taking this dreamlike gross world to be all in all. Blessed are the *jivanmuktas*, the knowers of *Brahman*, who constantly drink the nectar of immortality and realize *Brahman* who is beyond this world and its dreams!

May all worlds be happy!
Om Tat Sat Om!

(Peace Feb & Mar 1956)

19. THE FIVE YEARS OF MY SILENCE

(An ardent friend, an old devotee of the Ashram writes that I should send him my experiences in silence during these five long years, as he desires to translate the same into German and Russian languages for the benefit of his friends in the different countries who cannot read English. This essay is the result of his request.)

To begin with, the silence of five years, passed away like five days. I could hardly believe that five long years passed, since the silence was started, in Jan 1951. All things are possible by His grace, especially for those who trust in Him. The indwelling light, for a man of the world, it is very difficult to be silent even for a single day, for one who is used to the company of people, if he is left alone in silence he will get crazy.

To begin with, apart from the spiritual help and inner peace that I had the privilege of enjoying during these five years of silence, the greatest help, the time saving benefit, that I have received, is from the people of the world, who are fond of arguments and discussions, finding all their joy in chewing the dry bones of lifeless words. They have left me to my silence, considering me almost dead to the world, with the thought, that they would be wasting their time, if they sit in silence, with the one who does not talk. Thus often I was left to my silence, as the master of all my precious time. What is difficult, unnatural and impossible for the man of the world is easy, natural and possible for the man of God.

In the first place, what is silence? Let us understand what silence is before we proceed further. Silence is not merely to abstain from talking. If it is silence, I have the statuette of the three monkeys on my tables with eyes, ears and mouths closed, teaching the vital lessons of

See No Evil, Hear No Evil, and Speak No Evil.

Silence is more deep and sublime than giving up outertalk. Hence, sages have taught us, that the voice of God is silence- *nissabdo Brahma*, voicelessness is *Brahman*, waveless silence both within and without is the highest state. The sage is silent, because God is silence. The highest, the *adviteeyam*, the One without a second, cannot help but be silent. One can never be silent, clinging to blood and flesh, identifying with a form and name. Such a one is only silent outwardly but scheming within, thinking and planning all that he wants to get or annex from outside. Be dead that ye may live. One who is dead to the outer life can afford to be silent. What greater tribute can I pay to silence, than what I have already said that five long years passed away like five days. Not only five years but even any number of years will pass away unnoticed, without the least worry or strain, for silence is above time.

Now coming to the practical side of silence:-

1. Silence draws all the souls of Silence in all the world towards the center of truth.
2. Silence creates souls, without the need of a word.
3. Silent Buddhas and Christs, blessed Krishna's and Mohammds and other world-saviours are the result of Wise Silence.
4. What one cannot do with all the words in the world can be done and achieved in no time through wise silence.
5. Silence is not selfishness but selflessness. It is not aloofness but all-pervading love, that unites all in the one spirit.
6. Silence is the Ocean that heaves, with ebb and flow, drawing all the words and worlds into its bosom of Peace.
7. Silence is the Light of the World, giving out Life, Light and Love without the need of words.
8. Above all, Silence is *Brahmabhavan*, God-consciousness, which is waveless, excluding none but including all.

Besides serving hundreds of devotees who came to Kailas, the substantial results of these five years of silence by His grace are one thousand messages in English and Telugu and three volumes of in the hours of silence consisting of 108 small chapters in each of the volumes.

My friends! Silence is your soul and goal. Whether you know it or not, whether you recognize this glory of silent today or tomorrow, it is your birthright; for you have come from silence, the great void-the incomprehensible splendour. The sooner you realize this truth of silence and try to practice silence in your daily life, the better it is for you.

As an experiment please try to practice silence once a week, as Mahatma Gandhiji used to do on every Monday. If it is not possible, then try to be silent once a month atleast. If that is not

also possible for you, please, try to be silent even once a year. Anyway, all of us have to be silent once in life, when life departs. So why not we realize the glory of silence, while there is yet life in us. Let us wake up, while there is yet light, making hay in the day time instead of groping in darkness, when it is too late. Remember that one does not lose anything by being silent; on the contrary, one gains everything in silence, by being silent both inwardly and outwardly.

All power is in silence. Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience are the core and heart of silence. In conclusion, I love to repeat that silence is not laziness or inactivity, but it is intense waveless activity and dynamic power, which cannot be understood or appreciated by gossipers and talking machines. Time hangs very heavy for those who have forgotten the goal of precious human life and in whom the fire of aspiration is extinguished. Words create often misunderstandings and troubles, whereas silence smooths all differences and spreads harmony and peace and leads (only) finally to success and bliss in every line of work.

In these five years, a certain wise saying of the seers has been very close to my heart, as a source of strength and inspiration. Let me share it especially with my loving readers in the far away west '*mounamsarvarthasaadhanam*,' silence is the unfailing way to success in all undertakings.

Friends, as one word is enough for the wise, let me not disturb this waveless silence by any more words, but let us be silent now to understand the wise silence and assimilate its power and peace and feel it in the very cells of our being.

PRAYER

O Blessed Silence! Bless us all, all the restless people in the East and the West, with a glimpse of Thy transcendental glory, so that we may be better fitted to be Thy chosen instruments, to discharge our respective duties without much strain or too many words. Let the Sun, the Light of the world, who is filling the world with life, light and love, without the need of any words from day to day, from the beginning of the creation, be our living *guru*, the silent teacher, leading us from the darkness of words into the light of silence!

May silence, the still small voice of God, bless all the seekers of truth, all the lovers of peace all over the world, with peace, that passeth all understanding!

This is the prayer of your brother Omkar
OM OMOM!

(Peace Nov 1956)

20. THE PRESENCE

Blessed are they who can feel the presence ceaselessly in each and every moment of their lives and with every breath. I long to feel Him in the motion of the body nay in the motion of the hand as I write and in the sight of the eyes as I see now. When I am still in body, when I am free of all outer motions I long to feel the presence in the motion of the mind which is always active. The source of the mind is the presence. Let the goal of the mind be also the same presence, the only reality, the changeless reality.

Q:-When the mind does not wander any longer, when it is steady and one-pointed, where do you want to feel the presence?

A: - I long to feel Him in the very breath, which is ever flowing both day and night ceaselessly, for He is the Breath of my breath.

Q:-When the Breath stops someday, then, where do you want to feel His Presence, where do you want to locate the presence?

A:-When the breath stops, when you are free of the motion of the body, mind and breath, you have no other place to locate, Thou art That. You do not need any more, concentrations, contemplations or meditations. It is a blessed state of all glory and completeness.

Now coming down into our daily practical lives, it is easy to feel the presence in the motion of the body and in the mind, as it wanders and also in the flow of the breath, with a little practice, but there are higher tests and trials for the seekers of truth, as they walk in the narrow and rugged path, which is full of trials and tribulations. Here are some of the tests.

Can you feel the presence in the bite of a mosquito nay, in the sting of a scorpion?

Can you feel the presence in the well-meant criticism of a friend?

Can you feel the presence in the censure, in the insulting words of a foe?

Can you feel the presence from the cross, facing crucifixion?

If it so your life is blessed and a blessing to the world of humanity. It is easy to feel the presence, when praised and flattered, blooming with health, sitting on a throne. But blessed is the one who can feel the presence, when criticized and condemned, in suffering and pain. Such a one is a living Christ, a loving Buddha and an adorable Krishna. May adorations be unto such *avatars* of past, present and future may to all the sages and saints of the East and the West, who are privileged to express the highest, the infinite, the Omnipresence in all the conditions of life.

Omnipresence represents the helpful state of, I am in the light.

Omnipotence represents the potential state of; The light is in me.

Omniscience represents the ineffable state of, the light is myself for I am the light

The light and I are not two but One. In a certain stage, the very repetition of the three powerful words: - Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience even once, one after another gives an exalted state of cosmic bliss. When one is about to enter into the haven of peace, he repeats only *aum*, as they represent the three divine words. As he advances, he no longer repeats any big or small words but only feels the *soham* glory. He is the same *so-ham* light in both inhalation and exhalation. With each and every breath he is *soham*. As one still rises there is no longer the *so* nor *ham*, but only the one universal energy, the Breath of breaths, the waveless silence the incomprehensible peace, where there is neither the body, the mind nor the world. It is only of this blessed condition the sages have said in the Upanishads: The Sun does not shine there, nor the moon, nor the stars, nor the lightning and much less the fire. When That shines everything shines after That. By its light all this is lighted.

May all homage be unto the ineffable and incomprehensible presence, the indwelling presence of our dedicated and pure hearts of love universal!

Dear Friends, images of the adorable presence, shall we close our eyes and merge our minds in the indwelling light, the adorable presence which is waiting within us, for our recognition now and here!

O Adorable Presence, Thou who art within, without, above, below and all around, and Thou who art interpenetrating the very cells of our beings, bless us dear God, with the strength to recognize Thee not only now and here, but for ever and ever, eternally! This is all that we ask of Thee!

May Peace be unto all! Hari Om Tat Sat Om!
Om SantiSantiSanti

(Peace Dec 1956)

21. THE SELF-EFFULGENT SOHAM

What is that thing by knowing which everything is known? What is that thing which is above remembrance and forgetfulness? What is that thing which is same in the waking, dreaming and sleeping states? What is that thing which is same in the past, present and future? What is that thing which is above birth and death? Above all, what is that thing which is infinite, eternal and indivisible? Indeed, it is *soham*, the ever-present, indwelling breath. If one is blessed to know *soham*, he has known everything. If one can recognize *soham*, such a one has recognized everything in the world and beyond the world.

How can you know the *soham*, the only reality? If there is something besides you separate or aloof from you, it is possible to know it. But how can you know It, when there is only one reality and when nothing exists besides It. You can know It only by introspection or intuition. You can never realize It by words or arguments. You can know It by silence. You will come to know It when you can make your mind steady, one-pointed, let me say if you can become free of all thoughts, in one word, waveless. Peace that passeth, all understanding be longs to those precious and rare souls, who are the masters of their minds. Blessed are they who are the witnesses of their own minds. When you are the witness, the subject, you abide in your own natural glory, *sahaja sthithi* or *samadhi*. Thou art the *prajna* - the intelligence within. *prajnanambrahma*, intelligence art thou.

Astavakra Says:

You are not the body, nor is the body yours, nor are you the doer or you the doer or the enjoyer. You are intelligence itself, the eternal witness and free. Go about happily. Realizing the self in all and all in the self, free from egoism and free from the sense of “mine” be you happy. My child! You are pure intelligence itself. This universe is nothing different from you. Therefore, who will accept and reject? And how and where would he do so? Let the waves of the universe rise or fall of their own accord, in you who are the infinite ocean. That means no gain or loss to you. Have faith my son, have faith. Never delude yourself in this. You are intelligence, Knowledge itself. You are the lord. You are the self and you are superior to nature.

Is it ever possible to forget *soham*? You can forget anything else but not *soham*, the self-effulgent light, the witness of all nature. The modification of mind or the changes in nature can never touch or affect the *soham*. For everything in this world, there is an underlying cause. The only thing which is causeless is the eternal *soham*, the light of all worlds. Spiritual tranquility is uncaused. *soham* is both the cause and effect. Indeed it is above both of them or the duality of every kind. Man, the ignorant man, deludes himself with the thought that he is forgetting God - the living *soham*. But it is impossible to forget *soham*, for It is ever there. It is everywhere, for It is the indwelling light in everyone.

Dear loving reader: Here is an exercise for you, please see whether you can forget yourself, the indwelling light. How can you forget your own *prajna*, the intelligence? It is because of the intelligence in you, you are able to see, hear, smell, touch, think, eat, drink and move etc... because of the intelligence, *prajna*, everything exists.

Let us take an illustration of the Sun, the light of the world. Let us face the Sun. Can the sun ever forget itself? Can the sun forget its effulgent light? It is same both day and night. It is same in the past, present and future. The Sun is same in all the changing conditions in the world. Indeed the Sun is above death and life. When death and life cannot touch the outer sun itself, how much less, can they ever touch the Sun of suns, the splendour of the millions of suns? It is all light the ineffable light the inexpressible light, the indescribable light, the uncaused light, nay the self-effulgent *soham*. May silent adorations be unto *soham*, the heart of the world, and the soul and goal of humanity!

Knowing That, we become silent. *Soham* leads to freedom. *soham* gives freedom.

Soham is complete and indivisible, being One without a second. May all homage be unto the one in the many, unto the one *soham*, in all the variegated and manifested states of life in the world of expression, of forms and names. Verily, *soham* is formless and nameless. Thou Art That, *Tattwamasi*

Hari Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Aug 1957)

22. THE LONG SESSION OF TEN HOURS

There may be still longer sessions in the world of bustle and hustle in politics etc., but in my religious life of fifty years, this is my first experience to sit in the meeting for ten long hours presiding, over the sacred function of the Thirteenth all India divine life conference and all religions conference held at the Town Hall of the Mysore City. Not only I but our sister Lalita Devi, Chy. Santi and our little Chanti also were sitting in one posture taking part in the holy function, although Chanti was having little naps when the messages of the speakers were too long and boring to his little mind. But Chanti was interested and excited to see the demonstrations of the *yoga asanas*. All his sleep left him and he was hilarious, when he saw the *yoga asana* shown by the teacher himself. Chanti was more interested in the yogic teacher when he was showing *sarvanga* and *kapala asanas* etc., The yogic teacher gave helpful speech on the benefits of practicing *yoga asanas* side by side making his students including a girl to demonstrate, all the *asana* postures on the stage, to the audience consisting of nearly five thousand people, who have highly appreciated and clapped their hands.

How easy it is to short advice and clap the hands and how difficult it is, to pay the price and to practice the *asanas* everyday, to make the body nimble, healthy, manipulating, twisting, beating and uniting every limb just like the plastic rubber. For everything, the price is to be paid, whether it is in learning *yoga asanas* or any other art, trade, or profession. When the teacher sets an example of practicing himself, what he teaches to the *chelas* and the students whether *yoga* or art it may be, it is bound to be a complete success. In a way, Sister Lalita Devi and myself felt, that we too should be happy to be the masters of the *asana* to a certain extent, to be able to sit not one or two hours, but long hours on a straight chair, patiently and cheerfully. This happy experience of presiding over a holy function for ten long hours has been the first of its kind, giving me added joy and new strength and I feel it is going to be memorable and will ever remain fresh in my personal experiences.

It was Sri Lakshman Rao Jagapath, the devoted and dedicated Secretary of the Divine life society of Mysore, who was after me six months, sending telegrams, letters and appeals requesting me to preside all the four days of the conference. His love and devotion were so deep, that I could not avoid but promised to come at least one day to share my message of peace, but not to preside over any sessions as I was not used to take part in moving with crowds and in big conferences etc., Anyway Sri Lakshman Rao and Sri Swami Sreenivasanandaji the *padasevak* of H. H. Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj succeeded in making me to preside over one of the sessions. It was my privilege to preside over the last sessions and to listen to the inspiring speeches of Sri Yogiraja Shuddhananda Bharathi, Sri Swami Venkateshananda Maharaj and other learned speakers.

The *gitasangeeta* by Mysore brothers and the bhajan by Sri Swami Murugudassji, Gitarecitation by children, above all the bhajan of Smt. Sivananda Vijayalakshmi and our sister Lalita Devi's message, were inspiring and soul-awakening, capturing the big audience with divine love and feeling their devoted hearts with ecstasy. The saddest part of the conference was as midnight hour was nearing the President and his address were forgotten. All were getting ready to leave the hall. Then as I went there from a long distance of 120 miles with the sole wish of entering into the devoted hearts of the sisters and brothers of Mysore, I myself forced the way, requesting the audience to stay a few minutes more. When I consent to do a thing, I try to do it efficiently with heart and soul. I even got the address to be delivered at the conference of all religions, to be printed in advance, sending it to our Mother Ashram in Totapalli Hills, in our Santi printing works. I felt happy over the promptness of Kumari Jnaneswari, Jagadish and the printers respecting the least of my wishes, rushed a thousand copies for sharing with the devotees of Mysore. It was sad to see how my address was not read out in the longest session of ten hours, but I have the consolation to see some of the copies have been distributed among the audience before the session started.

When engaged in a big conference, little slips are natural to happen, but what counts is the love of God and service to His children and the complete success of the holy conference. It has been said; Let one man live in God and the whole nation will be united in his name. Such has been the ideal and consecrated life of Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj, who has been uniting not only

the nation but the whole world; by his dedicated life of selfless service. Longest life be unto Sri Sivanandaji Maharaj, so as to continue his noble services to the whole of humanity I do not wish now to make this message also long by giving out all the non-essentials and also as a President, giving out my impressions over the learned speeches and holy bhajans of the speakers and devotees making it also like the ten hours long session. But my message will be incomplete without offering my homage to Sri Swami Venkateshanandaji, the ideal disciple of H. H. Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj for all his deep love and affection shown, not only towards me but also towards our sister Lalita Devi and other members and our little Chanti from the Santi *gurukula* in Totapalli Hills, Now I wish to conclude my present theme by giving below, my Presidential message given out, while half of the audience were leaving, as it was nearly midnight hour, but listened to my words with pin drop silence. I feel that I myself have to learn so much from the devoted sisters and brothers of Mysore for all their patience and devotion setting an example, for others by sitting ten long hours in the meeting.

NOW THE MESSAGE

Dear Blessed Images of God: My heart longs to offer my grateful thanks to each and every one of you and to the organizers of this sacred divine conference and for giving me the blessed opportunity of sharing in the divine feast with all of you. Our session was supposed to be closed by 9 P. M., as it is now nearly midnight hour and I do not wish to weary you all, with another long speech. I feel the greatest help that I can render to all of you, is to allow you to go to your homes, repeating now three times, the sacred syllable Om, filling your bodies with divine life and sharing the same light with the whole world. But it has been my life's ideal, never to go anywhere or see anyone, if I cannot help or serve others, who are no other than myself the One indivisible *atman*. If there is anything precious in this world it is invaluable time. Anything that was lost, such as money, health etc., can be regained but not the precious time. Hence, it has been said; He who wastes moments wastes his whole life. Since the day I was invited to take part in the divine conference, my one thought has been: What can I do, what can I say to help and serve you all? Hence my heart longs to fill your bodies, minds and souls with God's interpenetrating presence now and here. It is the personal experience that counts. What is the use of counting all the cows in Mysore and even in the whole of India? What we need is a little cow of our own, be it lame or blind, that gives us a little milk, which alone satisfies our thirst and hunger. At the very outset I wish to express my grateful thanks to Sri Kavi Yogi Sudhananda Bharati to Sri Swami Venkateshanandaji and other *Mahatmas* and Speakers who have paid glowing tribute to our silent and humble work on behalf of Santi Ashram, the Mission of Peace. You will be happy and surprised to hear the good news, that our Santi Ashram was blessed by the Blessings and Tapas of his Holiness Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj before he started his great world-wide Divine Life Society. If there is any credit or good that goes to Santi Ashram and its services, it is all due to the great tapas and the Holy Blessings of Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj and all the other *Mahatmas*, who have blessed Santi Ashram during their stay with tapas and blessings.

Some of you perhaps think that Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj is now in Rishikesh in the far away Himalayas. No, a hundred times no. He is with us now. He is with all of you singing the holy name of God. To me you are all the living Images of Sri Sivanandaji Maharaj. If we love him we are to express our love in feeling his presence not only when we are in the divine conference, but also in each and every moment of our lives, in our daily acts also. Let us feel, feel God's presence now and here, for the place to feel Him is here and the time to feel Him is now.

As I often repeat-

If we use what we have, what we have will grow. If we do not use what we have, what is the use of learning more and more from all the teachers and masters in the world?

Strange as it may sound in my religion, there are neither Hindus nor Christians or Buddhists or Muslims, nor any other separate religionists, for to me all are the images of the one Indivisible God, for all of us are like the rays of the one effulgent Sun or like different waves of the one spacious ocean. In my religion, I do not feel anyone is a stranger or outsider, for the one Omnipresent God is shining in the heart of all, sparkling in the eyes of all and flowing in the breath of all, as the universal breath - the holy *soham*. Thus no one can be excluded and all are included. My joy consists in considering you all as my own. Thus in loving and serving you I am loving the One *paramatman*.

In my life three simple prayers have been the inspiration and I wish to share them now with all of you and conclude my short message with the chanting of Om-the sacred syllable.

First prayer:

Dear God make others great and famous and keep me humble and insignificant, doing my little service without any advertisement or wishing even recognition!

Second prayer:

Dear God, let Thy light shine on me so intensely, that when people see me, let them not see this form and name, but only Thy self-effulgent light!

Third prayer:

This is our simple Peace prayer which we have been trying to spread it from heart to heart, from village to village and in all the towns, in both the East and the West. Even if I cannot reform the world, if I could only spread this universal prayer among the children of God, I feel that this life has not been a burden to mother earth, take joy in expressing that It is the individual peace, that paves the way to universal peace.

Hence my friends please establish peace now and here, in your devoted hearts and radiate it in your home, then in the community and nation and thus spread it all over the world! This simple Peace Prayer has been a blessing a real talisman, to many devotees in the East and the West. In many schools and colleges it is being repeated everyday. It has been translated into many of the languages in India and abroad also. In memory of the divine life conference, may I

request each and every one of you to memorize and repeat this inspiring simple prayer, along with your other prayers, as it helps you to feel the presence of God now and here while repeating itself. Please make your dear ones, friends and children also repeat it as it helps you all immensely. As you know, the sacred word OM is the *mantram* of *mantrams*. I am happy to see you all repeating it often in the conference; with the first Om we are filling our bodies with light, life and love. With the second Om, let us fill all the sisters and brothers in Mysore with Divine life, the only changeless reality, which is the divine birthright of all His children. With the repetition of the third OM let all the world of forms and names, with all the big dimensions, merge and dissolve like a bubble in the ocean of *akanda sat-chidananda*, the existence absolute, the knowledge absolute and the bliss absolute. May we all repeat the Peace Prayer now, with closed eyes! It is light within, without, above, below and all around. May the infinite light, eternal light, the self-effulgent light, bless you all, with the peace that passeth all understanding, which is no other than the divine life. This is the prayer of your brother Omkar.

Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavanthu

May Peace be unto all!

OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace Oct 1960)

23. TWENTY THOUSAND RUPEES

It has been my habit to express without, what I feel within and to share my thoughts with the loving readers of Peace Magazine and *Santi Patrika*. Although, I feel that all the people in the world belong to me, I feel closer affinity and touch with the readers of our journals. I feel from within that God has brought me from Totapalli to Kotagiri, to create not only a lovely abode of peace, but also lovely abode of health in these cool, lovely hills of inspiration and silence.

It is my privilege to forget my life-work of all the Ashrams in Andhra and to concentrate my remaining life and time in creating this new Peace Centre of Health in Nilgiris for the good of all the devotees of the Ashram in both the East and the West. How blessed it is to do such things, that will permanently remain in God's name, serving and helping aspiring devotees, even though these bodies pass away in their appointed or destined time !

We are deeply grateful to Sri Sri Rani Saheba and Sri Raja Saheb of Dasappa, for giving this valuable estate, at a concession rate for doing God's work, As per their agreement, we have to pay a sum of twenty thousand rupees, by the end of this year-December 30th, failing which, we have to vacate this place even without receiving any notice. How very kind of them to have given us, nearly six months of time, to pay the amount!

These days, under the above circumstances naturally, I am surprised, often to find myself thinking of the twenty thousand, instead of thinking of God! But how to think of God and what to think of God Who is all love and who is all silence and who is beyond the comprehension of the tiny mind and finite intellect! I find myself, consoling with the thought, as the amount of twenty thousand is intended only for God's work, in thinking of twenty thousand, I am partly thinking of God also. In these days, my mind wanders and roams towards the East and the West, to remember all the old and new friends, devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram, who love and understand me and who will be happy to give our new Peace Centre a helping hand, in stabilizing and making this work permanent here, I am grateful to all those sisters and brothers in India and abroad who are coming forward with their generous donations and love-offerings towards the purchase of the Lakshmi Villa property, some of them even unasked. How blessed and good are such generous-hearted souls!

By selling away the extra land in the Lakshmi Villa Estate, we will be able to get the twenty thousand easily, but the land is intended for devotees to build *kuteerams*, for their stay and future work. In the coming years, those who wish to come here to enjoy cool breeze in the hot summer days and to recover from their chronic diseases or ill health are requested to take a little trouble now in helping the Peace Centre of health here, so that it can be made first permanent, for the benefit of all, serving them in the future. Day by day I find myself clinging to God more than ever to realize my fond dreams for the good of all, for He alone is Bestower of all gifts fulfiller of all wishes.

Nothing for me and everything for all has been my life's motto and ideal.

As an illustration, my life-work of nearly fifty years in Andhra has been offered to all the aspiring children in the East and the West, in all religions and nations. The settlement deed of all the Santhi Ashrams and their rich properties was registered and handed over to a committee of selfless and devoted members, who have been the devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram. I am glad to see that even my name is not in the managing committee. Some found fault, for not keeping my name in the committee while I am alive. But I felt pleased, free and happy and thought: All is for the best.

Similarly, I do not want my name in the new Kotagiri Peace Centre of Health also; it is all for the benefit of you all. After completing this work, God may take me to the new fields of service and other activities elsewhere. Today, I am here and tomorrow I may be somewhere else, always happy to serve His children anywhere in the world for the wide world is my real home.

Sharing with you my last musing, over our Universal Symbol, I like to close this present message. Here, I am trying to have our Universal Symbol consisting of Om, Lotus, Cross, Crescent and Fire, in different colours in Neon signs. Especially in Nilgiris people of different religions come to partake in the worship of God in the Kotagiri Peace Centre, Today I received a

letter from Bangalore about the estimate of our Universal Symbol in Neon signs, my mind has been thinking of it more than ever.

Then I said to myself within -

Q:- Do you want God or Universal Symbol in Neon signs?

With introspection I answered thus.

A:-I want Neon signs of the Universal Symbol,for it is for God's work.

When people of different faiths come to the PeaceCentre and are, drawn towards their particular symbol, being lighted in the bright Neon Sign and thus come closer towards God. I feel that I am helping them to be nearer to God and to feel His presence? Thus, the Neon sign of our Universal Symbol, as well as the twenty thousand rupees are an offering to God as media of help, to serve His devoted children in the different religions.

Verily, thoughts are things and religionand life are not two but one.

May all glory be unto Godand long lives of healthand peace to His children in the East and the West especially to all those precious souls who are privileged, to extend their helping hand in building up this new Peace Centers of Health

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL

Om OmOm

(Peace Nov 1960)

24. TOTAPALLI TO NILGIRI

ALL IS FOR THE BEST:

Man proposes and God disposes. Blessed arethey who can say cheerfully: Not my will but may Thy will be done O God! Even in disappointments.

An auspicious day was chosen for going to Nilgirisand the driver of our Sushila Peace Van went to his home promising to come the next day, but the next day and the following day also passed away without the return of the driver. We had to send a man from the Ashram to get the driver, and thus instead of on 5ththe auspicious day of August we had to select another good day and started on 9th August.

It is strange how in spite of our best intentionssometimes we are not able to do certain things, until the time comes—even in little things, such as writing this message, I wanted to write

this article three months ago, but could not write it until now. There is a saying that the time must come for everything. How true are the words that:- Not a blade of grass moves without His Will ! May His will be done now and always! Did you ever hear the interesting story of: All is for the best? I wish to share it for the good of those who have not heard it before, especially for our loving readers of PeaceJournal in the West. It seems when a king was hunting, in an accident, he lost his toe, and the Minister remarked: “All is for the best.” and the King became angry for his unsympathetic remark and put the Minister in the prison. The Minister said again “All is for the best.” After some days the King went on a hunting expedition and feeling tired slept under a tree. Then a party of *tantrics*, Kali worshippers—came in search of a strong man to offer him as a sacrifice before their Goddess Kali. They took the King to the temple of Kali and when they were about to offer him to the Goddess one of them saw that the toe of the king was missing and as they were not allowed to offer anyone maimed, they set the King free and allowed him to go away.

Then the King realized the wise words of his Minister that, “All is for the best,” when he lost the toe, and rushed to the prison and set him free with an apology and narrated everything about his being caught by *tantric* thieves and how they left him free without sacrificing him to the Goddess because one of his toes was missing.

But the King in curiosity asked the Minister:—“It was alright for me, when you said, “All is for the best,” when I lost the toe, but how is it you said, “All is for the best,” when I put you in the prison?”.

Then the minister smilingly replied:—

“Had you not locked me up in the prison, I would have followed you on the hunting expedition, and the thieves were disappointed in seeing you without a toe, they would have gladly taken me, seeing me with all my toes and limbs in order and would have sacrificed me to the Goddess mercilessly, so all has been for the best.”

Thus goes the simple story to amuse the children as well as the elders.

Due to the disappointment of the driver, we were able to participate in the birthday of Sri Vajrabodhi. In the Santi Ashram the birthdays are celebrated not for a show as a custom, but only to feel the nearness of God at least once in a year by repeating the Peace Prayer, 108 times on the birthday, by the members and even by the children, wishing the progress of themselves as well as the peace of the world. The same disappointment of the driver and our delay in going from Totapalli has brought one of the old devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram, brother M. Chinnaiah all the way from Malaya. He was in Totapalli Ashram for some days more than 35 years ago and wanted to spend a few days with me in his closing years. Thus he came all the way from Malaya and spent a few peaceful days with me, in the lovely Totapalli Ashram, highly appreciating the vast strides of progress that it has made in every field of service, since his last visit to the Ashram. All glory belongs to God and long life of peace be to our Br. Chinniah.

MIRACLES OF LOVE:

All the members and children of *gurukula* with our Sri Chinniah from Malaya and other friends and devotees gave us a wonderful sendoff with the chanting of the sacred syllable *Om*, invoking God's protection and richest blessings, on our long trip and to reach Kotagiri sale. We reached Rajahmundry a distance of nearly 50 miles safe, by 2 P.M, leaving, Thotapalli by 10 A.M, sowing seeds of peace all along the way in the devoted hearts of the devotees of the Ashram. But friends in Rajahmundry in their great devotion kept, us busy with prayers etc., until nearly 5 P. M. and it seems that the last launch leaves from Rajahmundry before 5 P. M. to cross the river Godavari, which was in floods at that time. Anyway we wanted to take a chance in crossing Godavari on that evening and promised our friends that we would return, if no launch was available. We reached almost by 6 P. M. the banks of Godavari river, with an anxious and heavy heart, for going so late. Imagine our happy surprise when one of the owners of launch service was waiting there for us. He was an old devotee of the Ashram, whom I saw nearly 25 years ago. Offering *Pranams* he said:-

“If Swamiji wishes to cross the river Godavari at this late hour even if it gets dark, I will send the launch purposely for taking Swamiji and his party on the peace van, to the other side.”

Expressing our grateful thanks to the old devotee, Mr. Veerraju, and glorifying the unbounded love and mercy of God, we proceeded with our journey, crossing the Godavari at the twilight hour, singing God's name for all His unexpected blessings. It was a long trip more than an hour while the launch was taking us, watching the beautiful sunset on the rushing rapids of the Godavari river, we had a picnic also, sharing our food stuff and fruits with the singing boat men too, praising God, for all His blessings and love.

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE:

Mr & Mrs Atmaram, the oldest devotees of the Ashram with their little son Sai also were coming with us, to go to their relation's home in Guntur, helping us on the way and singing God's name. After crossing safely the river Godavari, while our peace van was proceeding at a good speed, the little Sai said: Let us go to Eluru tonight to see a Cinema.” As soon as he said those words, strange as it may sound, the peace van had some wheel trouble and instead of landing us all in a serious accident, it was stopped by the driver before a big tobacco factory. We all got down, our little Sai getting disappointed for not going to see the Cinema and it was taking hours to fix the wheel. In our helplessness at that midnight hour in the cold, when the fortunate mosquitoes were feasting on our bodies, one good mechanic, who is an experienced driver came to our peace van and invited us all to his home which is nearby, where our van was lying. We were requested by his family members also to come to their home and partake their hospitality and also listen to their hymns and songs.

Mr & Mrs Kripanandam have been the ardent followers of the blessed Lord Christ and it was our blessed privilege to listen and partake in their holy music and bhajan, forgetting our Peace Van and its trouble for the time being. After our spiritual feast at, the midnight hour, Br.

Kripanandam, who is all *kripa*, kindness and love, removed his shirt and went under the peace van and started repairing it until 2 A. M., while our little Sai also was watching and helping in the work along with our little Chanti and others, forgetting the cinema. With many, many grateful thanks to Mr&Mrs Kripanandam, promising to visit them again and with prayers to the Almighty God, for all the new contacts, the blessings in disguise, we proceeded on our way to Eluru and reached the travelers bungalow at 4 A. M., in the early hours of dawn where we were accommodated comfortably by our old devoted watchman Ranga Rao and his assistants and slept in peace glorifying God. As we were all so tired and weary, we slept peacefully.

ELURU, GUNTUR, ONGOLE AND NANDIYAL:

Chy. Nagamani the *gurukula* child while playing in the Ashram had a fall and hurt her knee which has resulted in a wound with pus giving her pain. In Rajahmundry Eluru and Guntur etc., we were getting her treated. The devotees as well as Doctors have been very kind by attending to her and by God's blessings she was healthy and happy again. At Eluru Br. Satyanarayana, the Proprietor of Ravendra Cafe, hearing of our arrival at Eluru rushed all kinds of *palaharams* and *idlee*, *dosa*, *upma*, milk, tea etc. etc. to all the members of the party. With a good breakfast, the night troubles were forgotten and little Sai and Chanti were singing again the name of God.

At Guntur we were received by our old devotees Sri Annapurnaiah and other friends and they made us comfortable in the Shankar Lodge. We were taken to the lovely home of Sri Annapurnaiah, where we had an inspiring spiritual discourse and felt deeply touched with the devotion of Mrs. Annapurnaiah and her friends, who sang *adhyatmickrutees*, holy songs. It was a sacred hour of feeling God's presence. Shankar Lodge was filled with old and new devotees until the late hours of the night with the repetition of the Peace Prayer and chanting of the Mystic Syllable Om by all the respective visitors.

We left Guntur early in the morning and reached Ongole by 10 A.M., and were shown two ways, one broad and wide way with good road, having big hotels etc., but the other an ordinary road, where there will not be even water to get, but which is nearer to our destination. We chose to go by the narrow and rugged road only and by God's blessings, we reached Nandyalsafe, when it was getting dark. But unfortunately all the dak bungalows, travellers resting places, were occupied and we could not get any place, although we wandered all over Nandiyal in darkness. Then a stranger taking pity on our helpless condition took us to a Public Works Officer's Bungalow which is outside the town and we had to go on the bund of a big tank in a risky way and felt happy at least in having some accommodation for the night.

There the watchman, a devoted old muslim, took all good care of us providing with water, light etc., in the night time. Besides the tank, I was happy to see in the morning, a big canal just by the side of the big bungalow. I enjoyed an early walk by the canal side. Our Bhojan had a nice bath in the waters of the canal and after refreshments and chanting the name of God. Feeding the monkeys also which besieged us, we left the place enjoying our return ride on the bund now being the day time.

UTTER NEGLECT OF OUR DUTY:

While speeding up in our peace van to reach Ananthapur in time we happened to pass by a man who had fallen down by the road side having the cycle over him. We did not know, whether he was dead or alive or drunk or in a swoon. I was drowsy because of the long journey we had from the morning and we thought in case the man was dead, there would be police inquiry and so many questions as to, how the death had occurred would be asked and our driver was thinking that he would be blamed for the death and further the bus which would be coming after us, would be able to take the man dead or alive, with his cycle on it. With such pessimistic thoughts we passed on, failing to do our duty, with regard to the man.

Later on, my conscience began to prick for our not stopping and doing our part. I began to think perhaps the man had fainted or in a swoon and throwing of a little cold water might have revived him. I was haunted for a few days with such negative and depressive thoughts. God came to us in the form of that helpless man having the cycle on him and we neglected him utterly, failing to do our part. On our peace van, it was written in bold letters that, "Service of man is service of God." I felt ashamed of those words, as we did not do our part. Indeed to err is human. Even to know once our mistake is half way to progress. Later on, on the same day we came across another man who was in the gutter, perhaps dead drunk and several people gathered around him as it was in the town.

This incident did not bother as much as there were many people gathered around the man. But even now as I write, I still see the lonely man, on the lonely road, so helpless and forlorn, that my heart becomes sad and heavy, what is the use of worrying over spilt milk? It was a lost opportunity of service to God, our only consolation has been now, to admit our mistake and to promise God to be more kind, careful, and attentive under such conditions. As someone said, all the sad world needs is only a little kindness and human sympathy. This sad incident has been the only jarring thing, marring our happiness, in all our journey from Totapalli to Nilgiri Hills. When man neglects, may God help and take care of His helpless children.

ANANTHAPUR AND BANGALORE:

We reached Ananthapur by midday and although we had friends there, for our friend Sri K. Subbarao, The Executive Engineer gave us letters of introduction to the Municipal Chairman etc., as we longed to reach Bangalore that night, we did not visit any of the friends. A stranger looking at our peace van, was drawn towards us and helped us, being himself a mechanic, with the van and took us to travelers bungalow and wanted to follow us to Bangalore. The watchman in the bungalow was so devoted that he offered one of his children to the Ashram, but we promised to take the boy on our return trip. By the time we reached Bangalore, it was nearly 10 P. M, and it took us two hours by the time we roamed all over the town in search of our old host Sri Timmarayya Chettiar whose house we visited nearly thirty years ago with Sister Sushila Devi. At that midnight hour, Mr & Mrs Timmaraya Chettiar and their children were very happy to receive us and took joy in feeding us and then took us to the new big house of another devotee Sri Ratnayya Chettiar, who made us all comfortable and happy in his house even at such a late, and odd hour.

IN BANGALORE:

How often again and again, man proposes and God disposes? We wanted to stay in Bangalore only a day utmost, as our Br. Bhojan was in a hurry to reach Kotagiri to do some collection work towards the purchase of the Lakshmi Villa property for the Peace Centre. But God's ways were incomprehensible. One Mr. Naidu, an Engineer and a devotee of Sri Ramana Maharshi came and offered his free services to overhaul, our peace van, saying that we should not go on the high hills, such a long distance, without keeping the van in order and checking all its parts. Our old and new devotees were insisting that we should not think of leaving so soon Bangalore coming there after a lapse of 30 long years. We thought also it was a God given opportunity for our peace van to be thoroughly overhauled by the devoted Engineer and his workmen. When once the repairs were commenced for the van, it needed some new parts etc., then holidays came and thus it took six days for its adjustment.

In the meantime our friends were busy in taking us from one place to another to attend the *bhajans* in the homes of devotees, arranging discourses in several meetings. On Kristnastami, the birthday of Sri Krishna, it was my joy and privilege to speak before two thousand devotees helping them all to feel Krishna's presence in the stillness of their devoted hearts, then and there. Another outstanding meeting was, when I was requested to speak in the big gathering of the distinguished people of Bangalore on the opening day of Vasavi Hostel, when Sri S. Nijalingappa the Ex-Minister of Mysore and now the President M.P.C.C. presided. He was happy to receive a copy of our Cosmic Flashes and very much drawn towards our Peace Prayer. While concluding my short message, it was a joy for me to see all the members and visitors repeating our Peace Prayer in chorus.

In our host's, Sri Ratnayya Chetty's palatial home, there was music going on, both in the morning and the evening on veena, by his devoted and talented daughters, Saraswathy and Vijayaratnam. Our six days long stay in Bangalore was pleased with loving visits of Srimathi Rani Saheba of Bobbili and her dear children and also of our Miss Moti Manekji and her several Parsee friends, who used to contribute much, by taking part in the inspiring *bhajans*, both in the morning and the evening. Sri Ratnayya Chetty was kind enough in offering us the big spacious hall and a set of rooms for the permanent establishment of a Peace Centre in Bangalore. For the present, we were happy in starting Peace Centers in the hearts of several devotees of Bangalore. Br. Ratnayya Chetty was also kind enough in getting our Peace Prayer, translated and printed in Canarese language, for the good of the Canarees, knowing people. May God bless Sri Ratnayya Chetty and his devoted family and children and Srinivas the devoted boy with peace!

Our visit to Bangalore was fruitful and blessed when H. H. Swami Shantanandaji Maharaj and H. H. Sri Swami Hariharanandaji Maharaj and some other *swamiji's* also came to our place to see us and gave us their blessings, inviting us to visit their Ashramas also. Happy to have visited Sri Hariharananda Swamiji's Sri Anantha Swamy Mutt and he was all kindness and love. We have also visited an orphanage and an old home for the aged people. It was very interesting for us to see the orphans and aged people, as we were also trying to do the same work in our Totapalli Ashram.

MYSORE:

My heart has a soft corner for Mysore, because of its nature's grandeur with lovely gardens, beautiful palaces gold mines, inspiring waterfalls and its historic and spiritual eminence. We did not have any close friends of the Ashram, except a few subscribers of our Peace and Santi journals. To reach Kotagiri from Bangalore, we had to pass through Mysore. The distance from Bangalore to Kotagiri is nearly 220 miles, hence we wanted to stop the night in Mysore and proceed to Ooty and Kotagiri. When H. H. Swami Haraharanandaji heard of our programme, imagine our joy when he himself offered to take us to Mysore, requesting us to stay in his lovely Anantha Swami Ashram, which is fitted with all modern conveniences. He was kind enough to come with us, with his chosen disciple Sri Swamy Rao, taking good care of us like a tender mother. Swamiji did not allow us to leave Mysore next day in the morning and he took us for the *darsan* and worship of the Goddess Sri Chamundeswari on the lovely hill, and on the next day early we left Sri Anantha Ashram after having enjoyed the hospitality and love of Sri Swamiji Maharaj. We are blessed now to have a permanent place not only in Sri Anantha Ashram but also in the devoted heart of Sri H. H. Swami Hariharanandaji, the Founder and President of Sri Anantha Ashramas both in Bangalore and Mysore.

THE CONFERENCE OF ALL RELIGIONS:

By nature I love silence, avoiding crowds and publicity. Yet, whether I am willing or not God's divine plan must be fulfilled and we are to bow our heads to His holy will. Sri Lakshmanarao, The Secretary of the Divine Life Society has been sending me to Totapalli letter after letter and telegrams with appealing requests, to preside over the Divine Life Conference and over the Conference of all Religions in Mysore. I was trying to evade and avoid his requests not because of want of interest in the Divine Life Society of H. H Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj, who has been ever dear and near to my heart, but because of my love of silence and solitude. Yet, I wanted to send my humble message after reaching Kotagiri for the Divine Life Conference and for the Conference of all Religions.

Imagine my surprise that by, the time we reached Sri Anantha Ashram, there was the *padasevak* of Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj Sri Srinivasanandaji waiting in Sri Anantha Ashram, to invite me to preside over the Divine Life Conference. The same evening the Secretary, Sri Lakshmanarao, with half a dozen other members of the Divine Life Society, came purposely to insist that I should preside over the conference, without refusing their requests, and on the fifth day that I should take part in the procession of all the *swamis* and *yogis*, that will be taken in the streets of Mysore, which has scared me, more than anything else. Excusing myself for my not taking part in the procession, I promised to come on one day to share my message of peace and love with the devoted sisters and brothers of Mysore. Accordingly I went to Mysore on the day of my message on our Sushila Peace Van, with our Sister Lalita Devi, the President of our Kotagiri Peace Centre and Chy. Santi and other members of our Ashram here. Imagine my surprise, instead of allowing me to give my message as one of the speakers. I was made to preside over the closing day's session of the Divine Life Conference and the Conference of all Religions, which lasted for ten long hours and the details of the same were published in some other article in our monthly journals.

I am here only trying to bring out the point, that it is not our will, but His will that gets always fulfilled at any cost. How I wanted to avoid the crowds of people and how I was taken from my seclusion of Kotagiri hills, to preside over a conference where more than five thousand devotees gathered in the spacious Town Hall of Mysore! It was an unforgettable divine sight that will ever remain afresh in my heart, as an inspiration of my life, glorifying the inflexible and incomprehensible will of the all-knowing God! Not our will, but may His will be done now and always!

CONCLUDING WORDS:

Religion and Life are not two but one. Blessed are they who can feel and recognize God's hand and holy touch and presence in little things as well as in big things. How true are the words that: Not a blade of grass moves without His will!

The journey from Mysore to Nilgiri hills is one of the most inspiring and beautiful experiences since we passed through lovely hills and dales on our almost human, faithful and affectionate Sushila Peace Van. At Ootacamund, although our members and devotees of the Peace Centre, brother Krishnan and sister Devi were absent from their lovely home in Clifton Lodge, our devoted and loyal Bhojan arranged a royal feast with the help of his relations. With a grateful heart of love, all the members of the Ashram, enjoyed the rich repast of many dishes on that cold afternoon. We were happy to have met there Smt. Akkamma Devi, Member of the State Social Service Advisory Board, Madras and brother K. B. Nanthi M. A., L. L. B. Advocate and his devoted Mrs. and all their lovely children, and other devotees and to have shared our Peace Prayer and peace literature with all of them. It was a great joy for all of us to see them all repeating the Peace Prayer with closed eyes and chanting the sacred syllable *aum* in all ecstasy, feeling God's presence within and without. On the way we visited Sri OM Prakash Mutt or Dakshina Murthi Mutt near Ooty and the sister-in-charge, one devoted Manchammal showed us around and entertained us with refreshments and loving devotion. When the Founder was alive the Mutt was flourishing gloriously. There was a depressing feeling to see now the old temple, the old library, the *samadhi* of the Founder and tombs of other devotees and followers; all in ruins and so neglected by the Managing Committee and the followers of the once such a famous Mutt - the living Ashram of light, life and love of olden days.

Unconsciously, I began to brood over the life work of The Mission of Peace-Sri Santi Ashram, the selfless labours of love, for nearly forty five long years and began to probe into the dim future, to see whether my followers and The Managing Committee Members will make it into another Om Prakash Ashram, so neglected without efficient workers, who are selfless and consecrated to God and to the service of His children! By God's blessings may Sri Santi Ashram - The Mission of Peace always remain as an Abode of Peace, for all the seekers of truth in the East and the West, overcoming the pessimistic thoughts, with the optimistic thoughts of God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience, which is eternal and infinite, we reached our Lakshmi Villa Peace Centre at the happy twilight hour, where we were welcomed by our Sister Lalita Devi, The President, Sri Belli Gowder, The Secretary and the devoted Treasurer Sri M.

Thangavelu and other members and workers of the Peace Centre, including old Anthony, the faithful caretaker and the watchman of the LakshmiVilla.

Invoking God's richest blessings on all the Sistersand Brothers in the world and offering our special prayers to the Almighty God, for bringing us all safe on the peace van from Totapalli to Kotagiri, a distance of more than a thousand miles without a scratch to the van or person, we all repeated the PeacePrayer, in gratitude and chanted the sacred syllable *aum*, wishing peace and goodwill among communities as well as nations.

OM TAT SAT OM! OM OMOM

(PeaceJan&Feb 1961)

25. THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

(THE HOLY SHEPHERD)

It is the firmbelief of all the ardent devotees andfollowers of Christianity that Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God, was born exactly at midnight at 12 o' clock. It is strange how every year I wake up at 12 o' clock at midnight to worship Him in silence. How merciful is God! How could I sleep on the holy auspicious day of the blessed birth of our Lord JesusChrist? As usual, in the early hours of dawn, I read two chapters from Cosmic Flashes. But today in memory of the Lord's birth, I read chapters 77, 78 and 79 from Cosmic Flashes and also from the book In the Hours of Silence. These chapters not only teach Christ love, but also of His oneness with the supreme light, the HolyGhost. Daily at the early hours of dawn, I light a single scented stick (incense) wishing the peace of the world. This morning I lighted one more scented stick to the Lord, the new born Christ as my token of humble offering in memory of His holy birth.

There is a beautiful picture of Lord Jesus on mytable and I feel He is watching me now, while I am writing this holy message. This lovely, picture, was sent to me by brother Atmanandafrom Germany. This picture showsthe Blessed Christ carrying His Cross, while many sheep are following behind Him. In this holy picture, He is also gently holding in His loving arms a little lamb whocould not walk on account of its lameness.Hence the compassionate Lord Himself was carrying it gently in His loving arms. As I am also limping like the little lamb, the thought that the merciful Lord is carrying me also in His loving arms; gives me joy, strength and peace, which can never be expressed in these finite words. Blessed children of light, if any of you are unable to walk on the thorny, spiritual path, trust Him wholeheartedly and the compassionate Lord will also take you to the goal, by carrying you in His gentle, loving arms.

Dear loving readers of Peacejournal, kindly examine yourminds and hearts and introspect your lives and find out where you stand in this great onward march to reach the heights of God-realization? Are you in the holy embrace of the loving Christ, like the little lamb? Are you walking by His side like aspiring pilgrims? OrAre you following the Holy Shepherd like a flock

of sheep? Do not be far away from Him. Try to be near the Blessed Christ ever walking in His holy foot-prints. The path leading to truth is naturally narrow, strewn with rugged stones and sharp thorns, but if we proceed in the foot-steps of the Lord. He will easily take us to the kingdom of heaven. How blessed are the lives of those who can sacrifice their all to God, completely surrendering unto Him, ever doing selfless service. How blessed and fortunate are the lives of those who can be in tune, with the Lord Christ, walking in His foot-prints.

“The kingdom of heaven is near at hand.” If you stretch, your hand you can touch it! And to those who feel discouraged, thinking that the heaven is far away in the skies, listen to the consoling words, of the blessed Christ. He is still repeating: “The kingdom of heaven is within you.” How life-giving and soul-awakening are the words of the Lord: Come unto me. Then why search for the heaven here and there? It is over within us. In memory of His birthday let us feel now that the Kingdom of Heaven is awaiting our recognition in the stillness of our purified hearts Now and Here. Let us merge within and feel His presence now only. The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the pure in heart. Verily, Christ is born in the hearts of the pure. In the waveless silence He is born within, in all stillness.

Dear God! In memory of the sacred birth of Christ bless us all with Christ love, and also bless us with His great forbearance, bearing everything with a smile and above all, bless us to imitate Him, in doing good to the poor and the helpless.

May the birth of Christ be complete now by singing the following inspiring song by **Paramahansa Yoganandaji**.

SITTING IN THE SILENCE

Sitting in the Silence
On the Sunny bank of my mind
Sitting in the Silence
With the Lord Christ by my side
With the Lord Krishna by my side
When the thoughts have gone to rest
That's the time I see Him best
Oh, it is Lovely sitting in the Silence.

How glorious and happy one feels to sit all alone, in solitude, feeling the presence of God! I offer my heart-felt homage to the Christ, who is manifesting in various names and forms in all of you. I, bow my head in deep adoration to the Holy Spirit of Lord Jesus Christ who is born now in the sacred, selfless hearts of all the readers of Peacejournal.

May the world pervade with the Christ-consciousness, Universal Love and Infinite Peace, which is no other than God-consciousness!

May Peace be unto all.
OM OMOM

(Peace Dec 1961)

26. THE ACID TEST

Tests and trials come to one and all; they do not leave even the sages and saints. The more spiritual you are, the more tribulations come, to test your mettle. Every institution has its own tests. Thus our Santi Ashram also is no exception. After all, the world is a *karma bhoomi*, a place where everyone has to reap what he has sown. It was reserved to the Annavaram Post Office to give the Acid Test to Sri Santi Ashram.

We have been publishing, Peace and Santi Journals since the last 35 years, but never such a severe test ever came from anyone. During the absence of the Post Master of Annavaram one of the assistants, has stamped a due mark, not on one or two issues of our unfortunate Telugu Shanti but nearly on 500 copies of it. We would have been grateful to him, had he showed us our mistake and returned all the 500 copies to the Ashram itself instead of shocking the many subscribers of Shanti with due stamp.

When ignorant people come into power even for a day they wish to show their authority recklessly, without respecting any selfless or Godly, works. How true are the words, "Do not behead others to grow tall." For a little promotion, some people try to show some income to the Government, regardless of beheading God Himself, what makes me sad is, that the test, the Acid Test should come to us from the one, who is blessed to stay at the feet of the Lord Satyanarayana at the foot of the Annavaram Hill. I do not wish anyone to violate, the rules of the Postal Department or of the Government. One can be strict but a little kind and considerate considering both the sides. One need not be so strict as if demanding the Pound of Flesh, at any cost and under any circumstances.

Now I offer my apology, to all the devoted readers of our Shanti Journal who are getting the due copies. Everyday we get a number of copies returned with the cruel remark refused. The shock was so intense and deep, that I could not eat or sleep for a day. The due stamped and refused issues of our Shanti are coming back everyday in the post. As we see their sad fate, it fills our hearts with sorrow and disappointment.

We offer our sympathy to our readers of Shanti, we have the consolation, that with the passing of time all Acid Tests pass away like clouds before the Sun.

I am one of those who believe that everything is for the best. Even in this acid test, I see some good, as every dark cloud has its silver lining. On the refused copies, I read the remarks

some of the readers of Shanti are dead, some left the town and some addresses are unknown. My homage goes to those rare and chosen devotees of the Ashram who take the Shanti issues even if a hundred rupees due is stamped, for unto such Shanti, Peace is more essential than all the wealth in the world. It is only the half-hearted devotees, some of the mammon worshippers refused Shanti, because of the due of a few cents. Is not God more precious than 12 cents? Can we buy God with all the wealth in the world?

What is the use of gaining the whole world, losing one's soul! In memory of the Holy Birth of Christ and the New Year, let us cling to God, more than ever, than to the passing clouds of a little name and fame. Let us identify with God, the infinite and eternal light the only reality in this ever changing world of tests and trials. The peace that cannot be bought with all the wealth in the world is coming to your homes, knocking at the door of your hearts for admittance. Let not a few cents come between you and Shanti the goal of your precious human lives.

In conclusion, once again I offer my apology on behalf of the people who try to be too strict, demanding the Pound of Flesh and also on behalf of the workers and members in the Ashram for the delay in mailing the issues of Shanti as well as for the due stamp.

Out of the depths fresh strength
Out of the dark new light
Even in the gloom we are on the way

May Lord Satyanarayana bless His Ashram and its silent work with his blessings, may He bless all his children in Annavaram, Santi Ashram, and all over the world in the East and the West.

This is the prayer of one of His Children.
May Peace be unto all!
OM OMOM

(Peace Jan 1962)

27. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

(How to feel God's presence ceaselessly)

The presence of God is above forgetfulness and remembrance too, for it is one without a second. Being Omnipresent it is ever here, there and everywhere, and it is pervading and permeating the very cells of our beings. If there are two, one can remember the other or forget the other. When It is all One without having anything besides IT, how can It forget or remember! The Presence alone exists. Recognize IT and be silent. The least that we could do is not to talk about the Presence. Someone said he who wastes his precious time, by talking about God is a fool. Who can talk of Him? He who talks of God, has not yet known Him! He who knows Him is silent. How true are the words:

The wise, who have known Him melt in silence. They no longer talk but are absorbed in Silence or God-consciousness. The bee makes buzzing noise, so long as it has not tasted honey. When once it tastes the honey, it becomes silent. Such is the glory of the presence of God. It is complete in itself. It is always *poornam*, full. It is full in the beginning, middle and end. There is neither end, middle or beginning in the presence of God. It is over full from eternity to eternity. It is above, past, present, and future, nay, it is above time, space and causation.

GloryGloryGlory

How to feel this presence, not now and then but ceaselessly like *tailadhara*—like oil poured from one vessel into another vessel. We can never find a break or discontinuity in the *tailadhara*. May our minds also be absorbed in God now and forever, in supreme silence!

Om OmOm

The way to feel God's presence, is to begin to feel right—away now and here, wherever you may be. Begin it by recognizing Him within and without in work as well as in prayer and meditation, nay even in sound and silence too. As you feel His presence for a moment you can feel in the next moment also, and in the next following moment too. As you practice to feel His presence moment by moment by persistent practice, you can feel Him always. Try, try until you succeed is the unfailing law, in little things as well as in big things. Success is your goal and not failure. Each time you fall, let your ideal be to rise never to fall again. Wind and tide are always for the brave. May success attend you with peace.

Now, coming to the practical side in the daily life:—

It was a rainy day, but only drizzling. Felt like going towards the Govardhana Hill in the rain, feeling God's presence with every step. After reaching the heights sat on a slab of stone, feeling His presence within, without, above, below and all around. There is a *parijatha*, a sweet-smelling tree, giving out fragrance in front of me. Some flowers were falling on the leaves of the tree itself and I took one flower from the leaves and holding it in the palm of my hand, I was asking it:—O Sweet flower! Where is God's fragrance?

The Flower: Look into my heart! It is within me. So also it is within you in the stillness of your purified heart.

The birds were singing. One bird approached me and was looking at me and I asked it: O Sweet Bird! where is God's presence?

The Bird: It is Here and Now, in my very song of freedom.

Thus saying with a song in its heart, it has flown away towards the sky, as if asking me not to be earth-bound always. Then came the high wind, the breeze blowing on me heavily, and I asked it about the presence of God.

The Wind: Are you not wafting in the presence of God Now? Feel, feel, for God's presence is blowing on you now and here.

Then I approached the rain drops which were falling on me and said, O rain drops! please tell me of the presence of God. As if laughing the raindrops began to say!

The Rain Drops: We are the silent messengers of God, bringing the messages of the presence of God to you. Having eyes, see you not!

How blessed it is to feel His presence in each and every rain drop! In spite of the cold and rain and the breezy weather, when I looked at the horizon, there was the brightness, the advent of the Sun, the Life and Light of the world. Then I asked the Sun of the presence of God.

The Sun: O ye of little faith, is it not ludicrous to think of the fish dying of thirst in the ocean? The fish has water within, without, above, below and all around. Where is the moment when the fish in the ocean, did not have water whether it is day or night?

Similarly, O man! The living image of God, you are eternally centered in God.

The presence is within, without, above, below and all around. It is expressing in sound, in the manifested world and it is silent in the unmanifested world. Verily, Thou art the self-effulgent light, the splendour of millions of suns. Being the Light of lights, the Sun of suns, why beg for a little tiny light running after the will of the wisp in the mirage-like world! Wake up! from your deep slumbers, to the glory of your divine birthright, the splendour of millions of suns.

Listening to the soul-stirring message of the Sun, I became dumb with ecstasy. Body became numb. Senses were withdrawn or indrawn. Mind and intellect merged in the ego and the ego in its turn dissolved in the *mahat*, in the completeness, in the fire of God-consciousness. It was a sacred moment of divine ecstasy. I was no longer in Govardhan Giri or in the Ashram.

My Dear Loving Reader, I am not now in the Govardhan Giri- hill, but came down from those blessed heights after bathing in His presence getting soaked and drenched in His love and saturated with His light, as I am writing now my latest personal experiences at this early hour to share my ecstasy with you, I feel that I am now in your devoted and aspiring heart of love. Verily, my peace is your peace. My freedom is your freedom. My realization is your realization. What else can I say in these finite words? Let us lose ourselves now in this stupendous, incomprehensible and ineffable splendour, the interpenetrating and all-embracing light, which is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient! Glory Glory Glory

OM OM OM A M E N

(Peace Nov 1962)

28. THE CURSE OF DIVISION

(PEACE IS IN UNIVERSALITY AND NOWHERE ELSE)

Peace is infinite. How can you find it in finite things? Peace is eternal. How can you find it in changing shadows? Peace is boundless. How can you find it in limited castes, creeds, colors, and nationalities?

If you want to glimpse peace, you will find it only in the infinite, eternal and boundless. If you really wish to taste the peace that passeth all understanding, you have to rise above the limitations of body, mind and world.

Peace, which is the common birthright and divine heritage of every individual on the face of earth, is far away from caste distinctions, communal strife's, surface patriotism national feelings and racial prejudices.

Are not all these differences man-made? No wonder the man-made differences and distinctions always create trouble, suffering, destruction and death.

God has created only man and woman, to live and love and to glorify Him for all His unlimited blessings, in the form of the five elements, and also sun, moon, and a million other manifested beauties of nature.

Was it God who separated the world into two sections, calling them Eastern Hemisphere and Western Hemisphere or calling His children Asiatics and Europeans?

Was it God who divided the people of the East into Japanese, Chinese, Hindus, Arabians, Mongolians, Tibetans and Africans?

Was it God Who divided the people of the West into segregated races, Americans, Canadians, Englishmen, Germans, Russians, Italians, Frenchmen, Spaniards and Greeks etc. ?

If we probe into the very source of these various races in East and West, we will realize that all these distinctions are only man-made—created only for man's convenience and custom through isolation or temperament. The source of all these distinctions is forgotten, and these forms and names are so crystalized and solidified that there is no space for two nations or countries to love each other and to stand on the one common ground, or basis of love and brotherhood.

In each nation and race, there are many sub-divisions again. As an example, among Hindus there are Bengalis, Madrassese, Gujarats, Punjabees etc.

Strange as it may sound, each of these communities are sub-divided into several different sections. For instance, Madrassese are divided into Andhras, Tamilians, Malayalese, Oriyas, Canarese etc.

Again all these sections are sub-divided into minor sections.

Then comes the distinction of castes, such as Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vysyas, Sudras etc. Each caste is divided again into minor castes.

Even among the so-called out castes there are many different classes.

Is God—the all merciful, the universal Lord or Spirit—the Author of all these distinctions of races, nations, communities, high-castes and low-castes?

Are not all these, the same children of the One Universal Father? Have they not all come from one source whether they are Easterners or Westerners, Indians or Englishmen, Hindustanees or Madrassese, Brahmins or Non-brahmins etc.?

What legitimate right has a man to oppress his fellow brother? In oppressing or despoiling any one, is he not doing it to the child of the same Almighty Father? Has not God created us to love and serve each other?

Then why are we hating each other and trying to kill each other? What is the root cause?

Ignorance—ignorance of the source—ignorance of our birthright and also the deep ignorance of the aim or goal of our precious human birth.

Poor and naked we came into the world. Poor and naked we leave the world. Can we in our departing take even a broken needle with us, not to speak of our coveted kingdoms, empires, territories and other accumulated lands and perishable riches?

Oh! Poor deluded and hypnotized mankind! wake up from your deep slumbers-long lethargy! Be ashamed of your present state of deep ignorance and darkness!

How you have unconsciously fallen down from the greatest heights of God-consciousness or universal love into the lowest depths of body-consciousness and selfish love.

Pray! Use your intelligence, common sense, intuition and see for yourself, how you have slowly and silently degraded yourself from God-head into a lump of flesh.

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS GOD!

Then whence came all these morbid differences of castes, creeds, colors and nations, creating havoc, misery agony and untold sufferings, resulting in chaos, destruction and death ?

The heart of Mother Earth bleeds and she quakes and shivers, for the very soil is wet and drenched with the red blood of the helpless and innocent.

Is this the civilization of the civilized man?

Oh ignorant man! Make a retreat from the form to the Formless, from the name to the Nameless and from the finite to the Infinite.

Bid adieu, to your caste-feelings, communal differences, privileges, one sided patriotisms and national rights.

“There is only one nation, the Nation of God. There is only one patriotism, the patriotism of Universal Love. There is only one community, the community of Common Brotherhood.”

There is only one caste, the caste of the casteless one wherein all are the children of the One God of Universal Love and Existence.

These simple thoughts may sound to some of you, rather unpalatable, because of our deep-rooted ignorance and dark attachment to the so-called mighty nations and all-important castes.

What joy is there in thinking that you are an Almighty European or a sanctified Hindu!

What are you before God-the Light of lights? What joy does it give you, to think that you are a high caste Brahmin or a big, noted Naidu?

What are you before the Sun of suns? Why do you sell your infinite and eternal soul for a mess of pottage, for a perishable form and a passing name?

Coming to the spiritual side of humanity, we find to our sorrow, the ignorant man has made the same mistake again in falling down from the one religion of universal love to the manifold religions, denominations, creeds and beliefs, such as Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Mahammedanism, Judaism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Sufism, Brahmanism, Monism, qualified non-dualism, Dualism, and a hundred other creeds and beliefs.

Who has created again all these various religions and beliefs, not the God of One Religion, the Religion of Love Universal.

If God had created these religions, there would have been love among the followers of these religions.

As this is the work of the ignorant man we see again, hatred between Hindus and Mohammadans, mistrust between Christians and non-Christians and so on.

The fair face of Mother Earth, God's creation was divided and divided, by man, bisected and bisected by man, until he could not divide and bisect it any more.

Dreadful as it may sound, man has fallen so low from the Infinite to the finite, until he could not fall down any lower.

Man has fallen down so low, forgetting his divine birthright of universality and has unconsciously become so subject a slave of his privileged country and caste, that he has no standing as a citizen of the world or as a free soul, unless and until he identifies himself with some nation or other through naturalization.

A free soul or a Universalist is considered a nobody, a non-entity because he is not pinned to one particular nation. The fair face of God's creation, the common birthright of every man, is so divided and sub-divided, into sections and barred zones that people cannot even travel from one place to another unless they are provided with different passports and visas.

You are not even allowed to visit certain countries. Even if you visit them, you are only allowed to stay for a limited time as ordained by the finite man-the Immigration Officer.

How man is cruelly deprived of the privilege of freely going from one place to another place, in the kingdom of earth, by the ignorant and civilized man!

The wide world is the spacious mansion of God and in His mansion, His children are prevented from going from one room to another. This seems plausible in the civilized aspect, but iniquitous from the aspect of the highest truth of **one God-one kingdom-one love-one humanity-one universality and one common brotherhood!**

The result of all these differences in castes, creeds, colors and nations is what we see now in the form of destruction of monuments of civilization and the annihilation of the precious and sacred lives of millions of innocent and helpless images of God.

What is the remedy? The remedy is in the source—in God.

Make a retreat, a rapid retreat, to the source from which you have come and fallen down through *maya*-delusion, into the curse of division. Your salvation is in the recognition of your source—namely your divinity or God-head.

What joy is there in identifying oneself with a lump of flesh and blood, and forgetting the creator, the very source of existence? How can you expect to find peace anywhere other than in universal love?

- Love Thy neighbour as Thyself, is the first step to Universal Peace.
- Do not covet your brother's goods, is the second step to Universal Peace.
- Worship the God-who comes to you in the form of sick and poor, is the third step to Universal Peace.

Above all, the last and the highest step is to, behold God, not only within yourself but in all, forgetting and rising above all these man-made differences and distinctions of castes, creeds, colors and nations.

Dear Friends of Peace Journal, let us not seek peace anywhere other than in universal love, for, peace is only in unity, harmony and understanding of the one indivisible truth.

Let us take joy in exclaiming that:—the world is our home and all people in it are our sisters and brothers and to love and serve them is the only highest religion.

Above all, let us meditate now on the effulgent light of the sun, wherein we are all the different rays of the one sun. Let us meditate on the fathomless ocean, wherein we are all the different waves of the one ocean.

Let us meditate on the glorious light wherein we are all the sparks or images of the living and loving God of one humanity and thus strive to find peace in the heart of universality or love universal.

Harihi Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Oct 1963)

29. TRANSFERS

Once upon a time, a man of the world asked another, the following question: What does God do? It seems his friend replied thus:

God does nothing; but transfers the people from one place to another. He makes the rich man poor and the poor man rich. He shifts the people from the heights into the depths and from the depths to the heights. Since not a blade of grass moves without God's will, one has apt to believe that all these transfers, shifts and changes are done only by His ordination. But the selfish man even if he is shifted to heaven, converts the heaven by his selfish thoughts, words and deeds into a veritable hell. Similarly, a good man even if he is placed in hell, he tries to change it into heaven by his good, pious and selfless deeds and makes its inmates happy and contented.

But the wise say, God neither does this nor that. He neither shifts nor transfers the people to heaven or hell. God is only a silent witness like the effulgent sun, spreading life, light and love to all the creation, the manifested world. Coming down from our Philosophical heights into bare facts, into the daily life in the world, we see these transfers, especially some sudden transfers without any warning or advance notice, gives to many a man, headache, heartache and worry causing so much trouble, loss and inconvenience. When I had the heart trouble, a good devoted doctor was treating me with all tender care and devotion and love. He was suddenly transferred to Hyderabad from Visakhapatnam. Imagine the disappointment and consternation of both the doctor and the patient! But both of us by His grace, had the strength to say, "Not our will O Lord, may Thy will be done!"

Verily, God is only a mere witness of all the world, like the life-giving sun, of the creation. None of the things or changes or shifts in the world can ever touch His self-effulgent light. Passing clouds come and go and it is nothing to the sun. Whether it rains or shines, it is all the same to the sun of the world that is all light. It is the selfish man who is always busy in scheming for the transfers of innocent officers from one place to another either for his personal advantage or of his friends or relations. Sometimes, when there is a very honest officer, loved by all honest and devoted people, when the crooked people are not able to do their cruel deeds and wag their tails, they use pressure, influence and even spend money to see that the honest, devoted and righteous officer is transferred to some distant place away from them, so that they may be free to continue to do their selfish deeds happily without any check. These are common and well known occurrences in the present days. Imagine the helplessness of the good officer,

who has to leave suddenly and helplessly his seven or eight children studying in the school or college, his life-partner, and going to the new place. Sometimes the husband and wife are doctors doing good work for the children of God with mutual co-operation and love, having the ideal of service and God before self. They are separated with such sudden transfers. In these unexpected Transfers, if there are old and sick members in the family, they too have to suffer in being shifted to distant places suddenly. It really takes good deal of time, not to speak of expenses and worry for those persons to shift their sick members of family to suitable stations where there is general care and proper medical aid.

A word to console and give strength to the unfortunate people who suffer by getting sudden transfers is very necessary. There is great truth in the saying that, "All is for the best." God alone knows what is good for His own devoted children even though the tests and trials appear now as needless and severe too. Blessed are those who are happy and contented under all trying conditions! It seems a learned poet was complaining and grumbling always saying that God did not give him even a good pair of shoes in spite of all his learning. He happened to see once by accident an unfortunate man without even feet. Then he realized how good God has been in giving him both the feet and keeping them also in good condition. Those who are having sudden and needless shifts should have to be consoled and comforted with the thought that there are some others who are having very frequent transfers and that these frequent or sudden transfers are really eye openers and blessings in disguise, in order to help them to have detachment from all the attractions of this world for preparing them gradually to the only permanent and last transfer from this world. They are not yet having the shift or transfer to the great beyond itself which comes more suddenly, unwillingly and unexpectedly to some. For the wise, devoted and the God-loving with pure hearts there is always something very happy with peace which passeth all understanding in order to be ever grateful to Him and contented for giving them human birth with knowledge about Him, in spite of a world of apparent tribulations, tests and even crucifixions. Real peace belongs only to those rare souls who can bear everything cheerfully and silently with an understanding smile of contentment knowing about the true nature of all these.

Blessed are really the transfers which are sudden, unexpected, at times frequent and apparently unjustified, for, they remind all the concerned, and others who are good thinkers, to the temporary and undependable nature of this world. People who serve in one station for a few years, develop peculiar attachments for various reasons thinking that they would be there for a long time and by the unexpected transfers, they have to cut off quickly, unavoidably and reluctantly too all their bonds of attachments helplessly and without any hesitation. If such transfers alone in this world, from one end to another, really help us or force us to open our eyes to be detached, how careful and ready should all of us ever be, to bid good bye to this world at any moment if we are to leave it without any notice at all? The practical lessons, which these transfers, whether sudden or not, teach all the concerned are many and inexplicable too. Devoted souls who are ever ready to leave their stations cheerfully and happily without any attachments at all, even on such sudden transfers, can ever be ready to quit the world also chanting His name, even without any notice at all.

If the work entrusted to us in this world is done well, quickly, selflessly and completely too at all moments without postponing anything even to the next moment, leaving the results to God we can be treated as if we are ever ready to bid good bye to this world at any moment without any worry at all. Is it really easy to be so ready always to quit this world having all our desires fulfilled by His grace? Where is the need then for a rebirth if all our desires are satisfied completely especially with the dawn of self-knowledge by His grace!

Man, on account of his fickle mindedness and restlessness due to his own scheming nature of selfishness, is always thinking of only happiness due to transfers and shifts. Whereas good men who know God, who is one without a second who is the only changeless reality, are ever there, happy under all circumstances setting an excellent and silent example of steadiness and equanimity. Blessed are they who walk patiently and with perseverance in His foot prints and whoever clings to His Omnipresence and to His ever steady nature! Unfortunate and sad is the present miserable state or gloomy future of the person, whose life is centered always blindly in power politics, running after the fleeting clouds of name and fame. Each man should ever be helpful for all and all should be so for the one, in order to be helpful for making any solid, happy and sound progress in any nation. Individuals must always happily live only for the good of the universe. The transfers and shifts if any were to be made unavoidably must be based on the common good of all, for justice and the benefit of the nation; but never for the satisfaction of any selfish individual for achieving one's own selfish will or ambition. Let us always remember the unalterable divine laws of God that thoughts are things. As we sow we reap. As we think, we become. What we are now is the result of our past, and our future will be determined only by our present thoughts, words and deeds.

A selfish man is digging unknowingly his own grave. A selfless man is constructing sound steps or reaching heaven with his good thoughts, deeds of love and service. The world is full of sudden and undeserving transfers and consequent sorrows. Only God is free from all changes and transfers, so let us cling to the changeless one, in whom there are no transfers at all. Above all, let all these sudden transfers be a blessing and awaken all to the real goal of human life, lead them towards God, who is above all transfers. May God in His infinite mercy, wisdom and compassion transfer the understanding of all, from the unreal to the Real from the changing to the Changeless and from the mortal to the Immortal and bless all to reach the goal of human birth in this very life!

May Peace be unto all.
Om OmOm

AN OFFERING

A tiny offering to console all those who are suffering from sudden and unjust transfers with prayers for their peace, invoking God's richest blessings on them.

30. THE PEACE CENTRE

“I want nothing from man, for myself.”

Verily, man disappoints, God alone never, disappoints. These days I take joy in repeating and meditating on the essence of the above statements. They are *mantrams*, holy affirmations giving me joy and inspiration in my daily life. Although I want nothing from anyone personally, I want many things from all devoted souls for the Ashram-The Mission of Peace, for the sacred work that God has kept us busy in serving His children, since the last 50 years.

It is because of the help of pious souls, the living images of God, we are able to have in a 250 acres of spacious land, a residential school, *gurukula* where children, boys and girls, stay with their ideal teachers, learning not only the secular education but also the culture of the spirit - the education that gives them *moksha*, liberation, freedom from all evil influences and helps their worldly success and peace, as well as to the peace of the world in the long run. As God is all good, He is ever protecting His children. It is because of the help of devotees in the world, we have been able to have Santi Printing Works and publish Peace and Santi Journals with hundreds of Peace Tracts - that go all over the world, serving the seekers of peace in every religion, since the last 50 years. How good is God! It is because of such help, we are able to have Sushila Hospital with 20 beds for men and women, with a daily attendance of nearly 100 patients. It is because of such loving help we are able to maintain, an Aged Home with 20 poor, helpless and aged people. It is because of God's help, we are able to have Veterinary Centre for the sick, helpless dumb animals. How good is God! The most important of the activities, selfless services which I consider as the most important is Santi Ashram itself as it serves as An Abode of Peace, to all the ardent seekers of peace in every religion in the East and the West.

I am ever grateful to God for blessing me to leave this Ashram as my legacy to you all my loving readers, for, it is the common property of all the aspiring children of God, in all religions. Wherever you may be, whoever you may be are welcome, either for a temporary or for a permanent stay in Santi Ashram and its lovely branches in Waltair by the beach side or in Kotagiri, Nilgiri Hills, the cool and ideal place of health and peace. Not the least, but the latest and the highest service, now has been The Rama Tirtha Institute of Peace, giving training in practical Vedanta freely for batches of students both ladies and gents, irrespective of the difference in caste, creed, colour and nationality and sending them all over the world as Apostles of Peace, spreading the message of universal brotherhood, giving a death blow to unhealthy sectarianism, exclusiveness and selfishness, for establishing peace in the world. How good is

God, helping His chosen instruments, through His living images, to bring peace on earth and goodwill among nations! All glory belongs to Him and to His manifested children, the living images, for enabling us to create this Abode of Peace, where all aspiring souls can have peace freely, the peace that cannot be bought for any amount of wealth in the market, in the world.

Now, with the sudden demise of Sister Lalita Devi, The President of the Peace Centre, we need some urgent practical help to keep the Peace Centre. Kotagiri alive and continue doing its good work silently, among all the children of the different religions. Lalita Devi died so suddenly and unexpectedly without even executing a Will or making any provision even for her pet, favorite dog Jimmy. We are happy now to send a little mite of Rs. 5 every month, to take care of the dumb animal friend of Lalita in the Peace Centre. There is a Pandit now Sri Sethu Madhavachary M. A. B. O. L. ripe with wisdom being an aged soul of nearly 80 years, whom God has sent us to keep the Peace Centre alive and to feed spiritually its aspiring devotees, teaching everyday, Gita, Ramayana etc., giving daily spiritual discourses in Tamil accompanied by *bhajans*, the divine music.

We have the faithful gardener Ramaswamy and his devoted wife, old and elderly people taking care of the extensive grounds of Lakshmi Vihar and its new Prayer Hall for the benefit of its devotees, who come from far and near. The house taxes, the electric bills etc., are to be paid every month, besides taking care of the above worthy devoted and dedicated souls, who live in the Peace Centre to help and serve all its visitors both day and night in all possible ways. How true are the words: Deserve, no need of desiring! It was during my last visit to Kotagiri in connection with the unexpected demise of our Sister Lalitha Devi, Sri N. Sundaram, Foreman of the Cordite Factory, Aravankadu, Nilgiris, came to the Peace Centre and made us all happy after his bhajan, by his good announcement and wrote in the visitors book as follows:

“Ram, the God within prompted me to send monthly Rs. Five for the up-keep of the Prayer Hall and this Centre, and I told Swamiji also the same, and he welcomed the idea. And if any other friends also give such help, it will be a service to God in humanity. I request others also to send monthly remittances to the Treasurer of the Peace Centre, to maintain the Peace Centre at Kotagiri for the welfare of all.”

Another devoted loyal, old friend, Sri M. Bhojan, the Inspector of Central Excise, has been kind enough, since the last 10 years, to send rupees 10 every month, regularly to take care of the Peace Centre and its silent work, without expecting any reward or even advertisement of his charity. God in the form of man is always helping, all deserving causes without any need of any direct individual appeal. Sri Krishna Chettiar in Asoka Gardens and Sri Chandra Mouli, the Engineer, in Coimbatore and several friends in Madras, Bangalore, Bobbili, Wellington, Coonoor and above all in Kotagiri itself have been the silent friends of the Peace Centre. Sister Lalita Devi was paying every month not less than Rs. 25 besides taking care of the dumb animals and also looking after the urgent repairs and improvements of the old and new Prayer Halls etc., in the Peace Centre. Now in the absence of Sister Lalita Devi's physical form, I am sure all her

friends and well-wishers of the Peace Centre, will kindly send their mite every month for the upkeep of the vast grounds of the Peace Centre and help the silent good work in the Lakshmi Vihar, for the good of all and also to please the departed pious soul. Only a visit will give you an idea of the silent and spiritual work of the Peace Centre in Nilgiri Hills for the peace of the world with universal religion.

All devotees may kindly remit their help every month, however little it may be, in the name of Sri Kumaran Nair the devoted Treasurer of the Peace Centre, who has been kind enough in keeping the centre alive, by his ever ready help and sympathy, whether the Peace Centre has funds or not. M.O's or drafts, monthly or yearly contributions may kindly be sent by the generoushearted devotees of the Peace Centre, not for ever; but only for one or two years atleast, until the Peace Centre can be made self-supporting, standing on its own feet, as we are trying now to improve its long neglected tea estate and fruit gardens.

Address:- Sri Kumaran Nair,
The Treasurer, Peace Centre,
Kotagiri, Nilgiris.

He will gratefully accept and acknowledge on behalf of the Peace Centre,

DANA (GIVING)

“Give, give, give
That which you hold will turn to dust.
Give while you live, give, for, you must.
Else what you hold tightly in your hands
Will vanish through your fingers and be lost,
Give and there flows a mighty fountain through the land.”

We are happy to publish in this Peace issue, some of the impressions and good wishes of a few of our distinguished visitors and devotees to the Peace Centre to give our readers of peace an idea of the silent and universal work of the Peace Centre so far. There is yet a good deal to be done.

May God bless you all with Peace!
OM OMOM

(Peace Dec 1968)

31. TO THINK IS TO PRAY

We have been taught both by scriptures and teachers that work is worship and in serving man, we are serving God. In spite of our vocal consent or belief in the precept when we are actually engaged in our daily activities, somehow, the great truth that work is worship is forgotten and instead of serving God we are serving only man, expecting reward for every little thing we do, extracting interest also. The result is, work becomes drudgery leading us into despondency, disappointment and failure.

How glorious it is, to live, work and if needed to die for others, who are no other than the different manifestations of one God! It is blessed to be completely selfless forgetting even one's freedom or salvation offering one's very life for the freedom and peace of others. Such rare souls must be souls of liberation, *jivanmuktas*.

We read in our scriptures a highly instructive incident in the life of a great disciple who is an emblem of service and complete selflessness. It seems his guru or spiritual instructor, taught him a *mantram*, a sacred affirmation that leads to freedom, by repeating it and meditating thereon. But the *guru* said to the disciple, "Through this sacred *mantram* you will realize God. But if you tell it to anyone; your head will be broken into a thousand pieces."

The disciple went home and silently brooded over his master's words and thought, "What is freedom to me, when all my brothers and sisters are in bondage, suffering the sorrows of worldliness. I would rather see them all free through this *mantram* even though my head will be split into pieces.

So he invited all the people in his town, both young and old, rich and poor, of all castes and creeds, promising that he would initiate them into a most sacred and mystic *mantram*, the repetition of which would lead them into heaven. He climbed to the top of a hill so that his voice could be heard and vibrated among thousands who gathered; and freely he gave out the *mantram*, that was taught by his *guru* in secrecy.

The *guru* heard of this and feeling enraged came to the spot and saw the vast mass of people repeating the sacred *mantram*, and approaching the disciple asked him, why he disobeyed his words so impertinently? The disciple prostrating at the feet of his *guru* reverently said. O my blessed *Guru*! Behold how many thousands of people are entering into heaven through your

sacred *mantram*. I am prepared for the sake of them to get my head broken into a thousand pieces and die as you said, for, their salvation is my salvation.”

“The *guru* felt touched with the utter humility, universal love and selflessness of the disciple and embraced him and said. My son, thou art already liberated, for, one who is blessed with universal love living for the good of humanity offering his life as a willing sacrifice is already a *jivanmukta*, a liberated soul in life,”

The above striking illustration has been my life's joy and strength, when tired and exhausted, trudging foot-sore with wearied steps, in carrying out the manifold activities of the Ashram, facing tests and trials in every form. It is easy to be lazy to retire, to spend the time alone away from all people, doing nothing, but very difficult to face poverty, ridicule, opposition if needed persecution and death, walking in the narrow way which is always rugged, ever doing His work.

Often I felt my heart lightened and face glowing with joy when wearied pilgrims expressed their deep gratitude and hearty thanks saying that for the first time they felt in their lives, what real peace is after visiting the Abode of Peace. Often it made me happy in our work of peace and strengthened my spirits, encouraging me, when people expressed appreciation through their lips or letters, saying that our peace has been a blessing in their lives, awakening them to the consciousness of truth. May God be praised that our little efforts in the cause of peace, are acceptable to His children.

Strange as it may sound, like the disciple in the illustration above, each time I meditate, I long to find a *mantram* or something more definite and helpful for the service of all seekers of truth and our loving readers of Peace Journal. One of these days I too long, to climb the summit of truth, to proclaim to suffering creation, the *mantram* of freedom and illumination, in a more extensive way. In the meantime I am contented, to meditate for you, ever wishing your peace and freedom.

With such thoughts while turning over the pages of one of the inspiring magazines—The Epoch now called The Herald of the New World, Edited by Mrs. James Allen, a great teacher of living truth. I came across the soul awakening and thrilling words, “To think is to pray.” As I pondered on these simple, life-giving words they seemed to me to be the *Mantram* of *mantrams* the most sacred and helpful words leading one from restlessness and discontent to prayer and perfection.

You cannot pray all the time, but you can think all the time, so you can be always in prayer if you could only enter into the soul of this *mantram*, the sacred statement namely to think is to pray. Thoughts are things. As you think, so you will become. Do not be discouraged, even if you cannot be free from thinking. Do not worry about the different methods of curbing or controlling the mind. Here is the truth that can be proclaimed from house-tops, in markets, fairs,

in all the gatherings, in every town and home in East and West that to think is to pray. No one need to run away from his duty retiring into the hills shirking from doing what is ordained for him. No one need to remain as a stunted ascetic but can be a great soldier, fighting his battle in life with all the strength of his heart and soul with the awareness that all his actions and thoughts are leading him only towards perfection, remembering the great precept that work is worship. And it is a blessing to find the real work, leading one to the freedom of himself and others.

If thinking is praying then what about the state where thinking is absent, for in deep sleep state or in the state of meditation, *nirvana* or perfection wherein one rises above all thinking?

That state of cessation from all thinking is to be called meditation. To think is to pray. To cease to think is meditation. There is a state which is above thinking and non-thinking. It is the blessed state of *nirvana*, *samadhi* or perfection. Prayer leads us into meditation and meditation into illumination,

Now the doubt arises, that even a wicked or weak man might think that he is praying with all his evil thoughts. As thoughts are things, yes, he too is praying, but for his destruction, going downwards, digging his grave with his own hands. Verily everyone is reaping what he is sowing. Hence we must watch and pray for higher things and selfless thoughts, always recognizing God's Omnipresence. Then only every thought becomes a prayer. Verily, God is the source of our thought and the goal of our prayer.

This message, "To think is to pray" will be incomplete, if I fail to give here the most uplifting stanzas of Sri Sankaracharya, on:

MENTAL WORSHIP

O God, my body is Thy holy shrine,
Thou art my Self-the secret source of life,
My changeful mind is *prakruthi* Thy wife,
And my five vital airs are servants Thine,
My homage to Thee are all pleasures mine,
My sleep is meditation rapt serene;
My movements all are hearty *pradashin*;
And all my utterances praise Thine
By thus whatever I do, Thou deign 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 own bliss, from *maya* dark remove.

My loving readers of Peace Journal! The poem is complete in itself and I have nothing else to add. We are the waves and He is the sea, whether the wave is rising or falling it is inseparably connected with the ocean, whether we are thinking or praying, absorbed or active we too are inseparably and eternally connected with the Lord of love, the living truth. We are ever centered in the heart of God, resting or moving only within the radius of his infinite embrace. Even if we would, we cannot escape from God or truth, for, it is He, who is expressing and thinking in you, in me, and in all the manifested images of creation.

So let us strive to be His obedient children dutifully walking towards His throne of perfection, and glory, building our future, step by step, slowly and steadily with every thought we think, every word we speak and every deed we perform, knowing that all our thoughts are silent prayers, leading us to meditation, illumination and supreme silence, the goal of humanity.

Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Nov 1967)

32. THE INNER WORLD

Is there an inner world and an outer world? Are there two worlds? There are the only two worlds but we read in the scriptures that there are fourteen worlds. Here we are concerned only with the inner world and the outer world. How blessed it is to be dead to the outer world so that one can live for the inner world, as an ideal of universal love or God-consciousness. It is Pujya Swami Ramanandaji, who said that I live in a different world, where it is all God to me; every one of you is a living image of God.

Strange as it may sound, in the inner world, Bhagavan Krishna is still preaching his immortal message of Gita, to Arjuna, the individual soul; the Buddha is preaching the Sermon of Compassion, the eight-fold path in Sarnath; the Blessed Christ is preaching his Sermon on the Mount to the multitudes; Gandhiji is advocating his Truth and Non-violence in full swing among the masses as well as his followers. Why confine the inner world to the four saviours alone? All the *mahatmas* of the past and the present, nay, of the East and the West, are within alone in my inner world.

My heart rejoices to repeat that all the 33 crores of the *devatas* are in the inner world. Now with the growth of the population all the 450 millions of people are in me alone, in the inner world. Not only human beings but even the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms of life are within me alone. Not only these physical, tangible kingdoms but also the celestial kingdoms above, the sun, the moon and other planets are within me alone. Not only this solar system, but all

the myriads of systems, nay, all the universes, what is within the sight of our naked eye or seen through the telescope, or even all those mighty worlds that lie beyond the range of our instruments only lie within the inner world. What the oceans contain or the deep bowels of all the planets and celestial bodies contain even that lie within the inner world. Even what lies beyond the reach of our mind and thought, is also contained within the inner world.

What great joy it gives, to feel that everything and everyone is within. Even the friends and the foes, are within me only. My dear loving readers, you too, wherever you may be, whoever you may be you are all within me, in the inner kingdom of love, that excludes none but includes all.

Some may say that it is all imagination, hallucination, of the mind. Even if it is imagination—after all, is not the whole of the world, your own mind? It is surely helpful and life-giving and soul-awakening imagination that leads in the long run to the fulfillment of the human birth itself, the goal of existence. This is nothing short of *vishwarupadarshan*, described so vividly in the Immortal Gita, by Lord Sri Krishna. It is not theory we want now but rather personal experience. Man does not live by bread alone, but by the spirit of God. You cannot satisfy your hunger, be it physical or spiritual, by mere imagination. How blessed it is to live in the inner world, where all the *mahatmas* of the world, the sages of the East and the West are majestically walking, working and thinking within us, moving and breathing within us, blessing the world with peace on earth and good-will among mankind. One Caste, One Creed, One Religion, One Nation, One Brotherhood is the heart, soul, spirit and the only God, living in the Inner World.

In my vision, I see a galaxy of *avatars*, *mahatmas*, spiritual giants of the East and the West, descending from heaven to bless the earth, coming from the inner world to sanctify the outer world. I see Krishnas, Christs, Buddhas, Zoroasters, Mahavirs, Mohameds, Nanaks, Ramakrishnas, Vivekanandas, RamaTirthas, Vaswanis, Miras, Suradas as and innumerable enlightened souls of not only of the East, but also of the West in the form of Socrates, Aristotles, Platos, Luthers, Schopenhauers, Kants, Emersons, Thoreaus, Marys, St. Theresas, Florence Nightingales, and countless others. How full, rich and complete I feel, to have all the sages and saints of the world, of the past and the present, in me, within me. Not only they, but you are also in my inner world.

My dear Loving Readers, pray help me by drawing yourselves towards my inner world. Let me help you, to help yourselves to feel His presence, the indwelling light, now and always, ceaselessly! Verily, there is an unknown world within us. To be aware of it, all that we have to do is to turn our minds from *pravritti*, the outer life, to *nivritti*, the inner life. Merge within. Go to the source. Meditate deeply. Be still. Just tap the source in silence. Thou art That, *tat twamasi*. We are living in a world of space, where there are no dimensions, where it is all light, self-effulgent light, the splendour of millions of suns, nay where there is neither within nor without.

In the field of Para psychology, scientists are still exploring and discovering now, that we have infinite powers that we have not yet dreamt of man, the finite man is trying to find everything in the outer world, except knowing himself in the inner world. How true are the words that, "He who controls himself, controls the whole world!" May science and religion lead us to control the mind. Peace that passeth all understanding belongs to the adepts of *yoga*, the masters of the mind and to none else.

Here is what Swami Rama Tirtha says of the inner world: Within you there is indeed something, the infinity within, which cannot be seen, cannot be heard, cannot be tasted and yet it is the fountain-head of all that you see. It is the cause of all sight, it is the cause of all sound, it is the reality in all your taste. It is the reality, the divinity, the one power in all that you sense, see, touch, or hear. It is there and yet it is indescribable. Thus incapable of being heard, incapable of being thought, of being imagined and yet all that you see is through It, all that you hear is through It, all that you smell is through It. It is indescribable and yet it is the fountain-head, the essence of all that is described.

Within us are treasures, the infinite and eternal treasures yet untouched. In the inner world each cell within, expresses Omnipresence Omnipotence and Omniscience. Let us meditate now on a single tiny, finite cell to feel and awaken the infinite potentiality in the very cells in each and every moment of our life, within, in the supreme silence.

May our Prayers and Meditations, all our *sadhanas*, lead us to the spiritual, inner unexplored regions of the unknown world, which is birthright of all of us, the blessed images of God!

Let there be Peace on Earth, and let it begin with us, Now and Here!

MAY PEACE BE UPTO ALL.
OMOMOM

(Peace April & May 1970)

33. THOUGHTS ARE THINGS

(As you think, so you become)

What you are is the result of your past. What you are going to be will be determined by your present thoughts, words and deeds. Verily, thoughts are things. These days I think that every day is a new beginning. I am born, or rather, re-born with every dawn of the day. Especially when I take my bath, I feel the old self of fears and worries is dead and buried and the new self of joy, strength, fearlessness and peace begins.

Somewhere I read that a man can live very easily to 120 years or more. Why limit it to 120 years? There are here and there a few rare souls in the world, who are living even to 150 years, by living a sane, simple, and natural life of purity, kindness, compassion, truth and love. Blessed are the pure in heart, who are child-like!

Fruit diet is very helpful. It gives one longevity. But it is rather difficult to control the palate and to cling to the simple and most natural fruit diet, when I was young, trying to follow Louis Kuhne's natural system of nature cure, in one of the books I read that, one coconut a day, will keep you alive a hundred years in a healthy and happy way. It was also said by someone that, one apple a day keeps the doctor away. I feel also now, that what I have done so far for the good of all in the name of Santi Ashram is nothing compared with the great work which my heart longs to do, now and in the future for the benefit of all.

I believe finally that it is the individual peace that paves the way to world peace. So, I sing with joy, joining the American poet who wrote the inspiring song.

Let there be Peace on Earth
May Peace be established on Earth
But let it begin with me

Pitiable is the sad state of the men and women who live in a self-created well of their own, with finite visions, considering their children and family as all the world. My homage goes towards the rare and few precious souls, whose vision is unlimited and whose love includes all and excludes none. Such simple, devoted and dedicated souls of universal vision alone can repeat with joy and ecstasy;

The world is my home.
And all the people in it are my sisters and brothers.
And to serve them selflessly is my highest - religion.
Glory to the highest and peace on earth in the East and the West.

Dear Loving Readers of Peace Journal, please join me in repeating our simple Peace Prayer, which gives joy, inspiration, health and longevity, with a firm determination to live at least one hundred years!

May Peace be unto all.
OmOmOm

(Peace Oct & Nov 1970)

34. TWENTY DAYS IN ETERNITY

(On the Sublime Heights of Holy Kailas)

Long, long time ago, when I was in America I had the joy of reading one inspiring booklet named: "Seven minutes in Eternity." Imagine the great privilege of staying in Kailas not seven minutes but twenty days in Eternity:

It is a blessed privilege that cannot be described in these finite words. Twenty days passed away like twenty minutes. In fact, time did not exist. There was neither the dead past, nor the living present, nor the uncertain future; only eternity existed. The very memory of my twenty days in Kailas brings joy, strength and inspiration and fills me with Divine Ecstasy. Glory! Glory! Glory!

I am now in Totapalli, the Mother Ashram. At this early hour here now the electric current is not working. But there was no electricity in Kailas either. I worked there with the help of a hurricane light. But the difference between Kailas and Totapalli is that there was kerosene in Kailas in the hurricane light. But here, in spite of our having the electricity no light, in spite of our having the hurricane light, there is no kerosene in the lamp now to give light.

How to write in darkness? Let me wait for the dawn, feeling Eternity in every moment now! Blessed are they who can recognize Light in darkness! Is darkness real? Or is Light real? Light is the only permanent Reality. That which exists is One. It is the Eternal Light, Infinite Light nay, the Self- Effulgent Light.

Sitting in silence, in darkness, feeling the light within and without in the blessed solitudes of Totapalli Hills, I meditate on Eternity. There is nothing to meditate on. Who is the One to meditate?

Eternity is free of all ineditations and prayers. It is free of all exertions. All are unhappy, because they exert themselves; thus says the sage Ashtavakra. Reading and writing, even thinking are exertions. Samadhi state; waveless silence is the only real condition or divine state which is free of all exertions. Every work or activity, even every thought and the very breathing too, is an exertion. In the beginning there was Motionlessness or Completeness. In the end again there is Completeness or Motionlessness, nay-wavelessness. It is only in the middle that there is activity, exertion, and hence there is misery, agony, and restlessness. Let the bubble, the

individual merge in the wave of the world. Let the wave of the world merge in the ocean of *akhanda, sat chidananda*. Let *Shakti* merge in *Brahman* for final peace, freedom.

In the man neglected, dilapidated Kailas Ashram there is a Big Hall, in ruins, which is about to tumble down, where I had the joy of meditating six long years in *mounam*, silence.

On one of its walls, on the window, a simplebut inspiring motto was written which reminds meof Eternity.The simple motto is “Now”

The three letters Now remind one of *akara, ukaraand makara, aum*, and also of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara. They represent to me past, present and future, covering waking, dreaming and sleeping states; leading into Super-consciousness, the state of Eternity,

During the blessed days of my Twenty days stay in Eternity, it was my joy to sit before this inspiring, simple motto and receive inspiration from within. Blessed are they who can live in the present Now, feeling the Eternity in eachand every moment.

Duality is ignorance and delusion. Chy.Santhiwho takes care of this body, the physical sheath, said: Since we are now in Visakhapatnam, near the KingGeorge Hospital, where you were once treated for the Heart Malady by the devoted doctor friends, let us avail ourselves of their free and loving services now and take another E. C. G. and X-Ray too, to see the present condition of your heart.In fact, Dr. Ramani, the Superintendent of Victoria Hospital, arranged with Dr. Suryanarayana, the Heart Specialist, to come and take an E. C. G. before I left Visakha for the Mother Ashram in Totapalli Hills.

But I smiled and said, Kailas is free of E. C. G’s,X-Rays and Doctors. There is only one Doctor here. He is the Doctor of doctors. Who is ever throbbing in the stillness of my heart in all glory.

In the full glory of Eternal Light let us not recognize any sickness, any weakness.

In the world of duality people are anxious tohave check-ups. I too long to have a divine check-up of the soul and not the check-up of the passing cloud of the body, the frail sheath. I want a check-up of the heart just to see that it throbs only for God, the Eternal, and silently repeats the sacred syllable *aum* with every heartbeat.

I want a check-up of the breath too, to seewhether it is flowing towards the Universal, the Eternal, repeating or feeling *soham* with each and every breath, ceaselessly.

All Homage be unto the Eternity, the Splendourof Millions of Suns.

Supreme Silence, Waveless Silence, Inexpressible Silence, Incomprehensible Silence!

OM OMOM

(Peace March 1971)

35. The Parliament of Sparrows

This miniature Parliament of Sparrows recalls and reminds me of the famous World Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1883 where Sri Swami Vivekananda delivered his memorable speech.

The simple message of our tiny sparrows is not less important and less inspiring to the present dayworld, to realize the goal of precious human birth. For the peace of one's soul what is needed is not theory but practice in one's daily life; the expression of love in thought, word and deed, with a firm foundation of faith in God, the God of humanity.

How true are the words, all that this sadworld needs is not old and new religions but only a little kindness and human sympathy.

In ignorance the finite man thinks that he is all-knowing. The wise man thinks that he knows nothing.

The mysteries of the dumb animals and of bird life are incomprehensible to the finite man. As I stay at Lakshmi Vihar, when I sit in the bathroom I read the inspiring mottoes on the walls:

- INHALE AND EXHALE PEACE.
- GOD IS OMNIPRESENT.
- FEEL GOD'S PRESENCE HERE.
- GOD IS IN YOU ALWAYS.

I see the Universal Symbol also, with the following words: Meditate deeply. There is *soham* and the wise words, the essence of all religions: Be Still. Thus this little bathroom has been my *puja* room and I live in a world of my own imagination and inspiration. When I am absorbed in His glory, facing Him all around in the early hours, often a sparrow comes to greet me and to see what I am doing. It touches my heart to receive its loving greetings and I give it a few rice seeds. It does not eat the seeds all by itself. It chirps and runs away and comes back with its companions -more sparrows.

It teaches us the lesson of sharing whatever we have with others. They are all happy, chirping, picking and eating the seeds with contentment. The Heavenly Father feeds them. My heart longs to know their simple language. What are they speaking about among themselves?

Having ears, hear ye not!
Eyes have they yet they see not!
Behold the One in all you see-
In all the sparrows!

God is dumb in stones, grows in vegetables, chirps in birds, moves in animals and talks in man. Now, without wasting any more precious time in wild imagination let us enter into the tiny hearts of the little sparrows and listen to their conversation. One sparrow is asking the other sparrow:

Q: How is it these men who are the children of God created in His image are with long faces? They are full of worries and anxieties. We do not see them free and happy, chirping and flying like us what is wrong with them?

A: Perhaps they do not have the God who protects and takes care of us, feeding us with our daily-food. We neither sow nor reap, yet the wise all-knowing Heavenly Father feeds us from day today. Man, in spite of his bag-full of talk God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience does not believe in daily practical life in the existence of God. He does not believe in the Indwelling Presence- the Light of the world, who is protecting us like the mother her baby or the eyelid the eye.

It is needless to mention how deeply inspired I felt as I listened to these wise words of illumination. As the seeds were getting exhausted, saying good bye, to me, all the sparrows left, giving me a grateful look, as if uttering, 'Thank You.'

How blessed it is to have the faith of the little sparrows. The faith of a small, tiny mustard seed works miracles. How truly it has been said that faith moves mountains. It is faith that makes the dumb eloquent, the lame to climb mountains.

In these days of my happy lonely life in Lakshmi Vihar in the lovely Nilgiri Hills I take more interest in taking part in the conferences of the birds, beasts and flowers too, than in the big meetings of men where there is often too much talk and little spirit.

Blessed are they who can make religion and life not two, but one.

I love to meditate now on the One, Indivisible Presence which is throbbing in the tiny hearts of the little sparrows as well as in my heart. Is not the same presence sparkling in all eyes, in all the kingdoms of life? I bow my head in deep adoration to that one presence, which

expresses in all the kingdoms of life: human, animal, and vegetable; nay, even in the animate and inanimate.

My heart longs to throb with the heart of every little flower-and twinkle in the eyes of every star in the heavens, up above the sky.

May silent adorations be unto that Self-Effulgent Light, which is pervading and permeating from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet, covering the world of sparrows, birds, beasts and men.

OMOMOM

TALK LESS AND MEDITATE MORE:

Let there be less words and more spirit. Religion is cheerfulness, self-reliance and love universal that excludes none but includes all. These are some of the wise thoughts that I have learnt from The Parliament of Sparrows.

May all glory be unto Him, who is in the form of the bird, beast, man, even the bright flowers and sparkling or twinkling stars.

May there be Peace on Earth and Glory in the Heavens.

May Peace be unto All!

AUM

An Offering

To the Little Sparrow of Santi Ashram, Kumari Jnaneswari with prayers for her health and peace to continue her selfless life of devotion and dedication serving all the children of God, including the two Ramies and all the birds in the Ashram and in the World.

(Peace June 1971)

36. THE HOLY MANTRAM

(Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram Om)

Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram Om is the holy *mantram*, the inspiring affirmation of Sri Anandashram, of Pujya Papaji Sri Swami Ramdas which is chanted and sung, both day and night by all the members, both the inmates and various visitors to the Ashram. The very memory of it

brings Sri Swami Ramdasji, Pujya Mataji, Sri Satchidanandaji and all the members of Sri Anandashram closer and nearer to my heart with joy and inspiration.

These days, after our recent visit to Anandashram during our pilgrimage, as we chant the holy *mantram* in Santi Ashram we feel the presence of Sri Mataji, Sri Satchidanandaji and all the members, sisters, and brothers of Anandashram within ourselves in Santi Ashram.

With the first chant, as I chant *Sri Ram, Jai Ram, Jai Jai Rama Om* Mataji is installed in my heart. With the second chant, Sri Satchidanandaji comes and with the third chant all the members of Sri Anandashram enter into my heart. As I continue chanting *Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Rama Om* all those who are near and dear to my heart, those who are living in God, helping others towards Him, such as the Malkanis in Bombay and our Smt. Manorama in Bangalore, from every part of the motherland and from foreign lands, all enter into me, into the very cells of my being and all chant *Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Rama Om*.

Of course, the holy *avatars*, Krishna, Christ, Buddha, and Gandhiji and all the saints and sages of the East and West are within me chanting the holy *mantram*: *Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Rama Om*.

Those of the devotees who wish to join us in this Universal Meditation are welcome to take part in this Spiritual Feast of Silence. They may kindly send their names and join us regularly, both at the sacred hours of dawn and dusk, if only for ten minutes.

Congregational Prayers and Meditations are always helpful for the Peace, of the world as it is the Individual Peace that paves the way to Universal Peace. *Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Rama Om*.

May God's richest blessings ever be upon all the devoted readers of Peace and Santi Journals. May Peace be unto All!

As my message would be incomplete without the Peace Prayer and Peace Chant I request my loving readers to repeat them both now in silence feeling God's presence.

Om OmOm

DEDICATED

Dedicated to Mother Krishna Bai, Anandashram, on 19th October 1971.

(Peace Oct & Nov 1971)

37. THIRTY LAKHS OF RUPEES

These days I take joy in repeating the following helpful statements:-

I AM THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD.
I AM THE HEALTHIEST MAN IN THE WORLD.
I AM THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

You cannot imagine what great joy the very repetition of these holy affirmations give me. They are life-giving and soul-awakening *mantras*, which give me wealth health and happiness.

Every evening as I sit in the old Prayer Hall of our Lakshmi Vihar which faces the lovely hills in front, while engaged in *bhajan* and prayers with devotees, unconsciously. I think of one of the richest men of Kotagiri, a silent devotee of the Peace Centre, for his house faces me. It gives me joy to feel that all his wealth belongs to me. Does not all the wealth in this world belong to me.

Can the rich man eat more because of his wealth, more than I can? After all how much do we need to satisfy our hunger?

Poor and naked we came into the world, and poor and naked we leave the world.

It is not the perishable wealth that follows and helps us but only the imperishable, wealth of immortality which cannot be rusted or stolen by thieves or taken away by the Government.

The other day while I was in the New Prayer Hall an aged devotee came to see me. Someone whispered that he has thirty lakhs of rupees. What a huge amount. But when compared to the wealth of some of the millionaires or *Maharajahs*, nay to that of the Nizam of Hyderabad, this rich man's property, thirty lakhs of rupees is only a drop in the ocean of the world, a mere tiny drop in the ocean of material wealth. Naturally with such thoughts my mind was thinking of the thirty lakhs rather than of God, even in the night time.

Then I felt ashamed of myself and introspected in my mind and reprimanded my mind, unconsciously saying:

Fie upon Thee O restless mind, for running after the perishable forms and bewitching things rather than the self-effulgent light, the splendour of millions of suns, which is the only changeless reality in this ever changing world of *maya*, the delusion.

How unreal is this world; how frail and uncertain is the life of even the mighty, learned and saintly souls.

Our President of the Peace Centre Sister Lalita Devi died without even writing a will, even in the name of her favorite dog Jimmy, for death came to her so suddenly and unexpectedly. Now Jimmy is without food, it is clinging to me, lying at my feet, looking at my face, as I write this message in the cool early hours of dawn in the Nilgiris Peace Centre.

Sister Lalita Devi's sudden demise should teach us all, all the wise people, the helpful lesson to be always ready and prepared, doing the needful for all those who rely on us including, even the dumb animals. Blessed are the wise souls who are ever ready and prepared and whom death cannot touch.

As I did not wish any mess to be made or confusion created in the Ashram after the demise of this body a long long time ago, by God's blessings, I made a Will for all the Ashrams and their valuable properties so. They will belong not to any individual or selfish people but to all the aspiring children of God, in every religion and nation. All that I have belongs to all the aspiring and devoted children of God. The life giving Ashrams, the soul-awakening resorts of peace are my legacy to the devoted and consecrated children of God in all the world.

Even with my personal things, assets that I use everyday such as valuable fountain pens, watches, Om Symbol, etc., I do not wish that any self-interested people should grab them, hence I have set apart and willed each article in the name of the devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram.

Sister Lalita Devi died so suddenly and unexpectedly that even her Peace Centre or her favorite dogs did not get a *paisa* or a crust of bread.

Let the sudden death of Sister Lalita Devi be a burning lesson to open our eyes now, to do our part for our dear and near ones and for those who rely on us completely and innocently.

Now alone, in this living present moment, never postponing our good deed to the uncertain future, for today alone is ours and not tomorrow, let us do our humble part.

As a result of the sudden and unexpected deaths we see so many calamities and disappointments happening to the helpless and innocent.

In the absence of any Will, big estates and vast properties are confiscated and annexed by the Government also.

Let our property be willed to the worthy and deserving persons and let our minds and hearts be willed to God, the soul and goal of our precious human birth.

May our perishable wealth, be it lakhs, huge amounts, or a few coins, or small amounts be willed wisely and distributed among the sick, poor and deserving, not only in the human kingdom but also in the animal kingdom of dumb and faithful lives.

May peace be unto all to the rich and poor to the learned and ignorant, to the departed as well as to the living, beginning from the example of our compassionate Lalita Devi to the unfortunate, faithful Jimmy.

Lokahsamasthasukinobhavanthu.

Om Santhi Santhi Santhi

Om Tat Sat Om

Peace Centre, 8-10-1968

4 A.M

(Peace Oct & Nov 1971)

38. THE UNIVERSAL VOICE

Reverend Robert Parr is a devoted and dedicated Missionary in Willows, California, U.S.A., with great love for Eastern Philosophy. His life-partner, Mrs. Mary Parr also is a devoted soul with love of God. They were kind enough to send to Santi Ashram two reels of tape for the tape-recorder from the far away America with the request that I send my voice, record my message on one of the reels.

Sitting all alone in Totapalli Hills in the midnight hour on 15 January, 1972 I long to help and serve Mr. & Mrs. Parr with their simple request. Now I am musing and thinking over the meaning of the voice. Is there one voice or are there many voices? My voice is your voice if we admit that there is only One voice in all the world, the Real Voice, the Voice of God. It is the Universal Breath, *soham*, the Voice of God which is writing in me, expressing in all the manifested world.

When I speak of God I do not speak of the God who is confined to Hinduism or Christianity or to any religion. I speak of the God who is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient; who is throbbing in your heart, sparkling in your eyes and flowing in your very breath.

INHALE AND EXHALE PEACE THY BIRTHRIGHT-with every breath.

Dear Friends everywhere, let us feel His presence, the indwelling light, Now and Here, in this living present moment alone.

There is only one eternal and indivisible presence or Light. We may call IT by any name or by no name at all. IT is the Voice of God. That which exists is One. Sages call IT by various names. What we need is not the name but identification with that one changeless, eternal and infinite reality; not tomorrow but right Now, in the living, present moment.

Identifying with That you are everything. Devoid of That, denying and forgetting That, you are a mere nothing.

Thou art That - *Tat Twam Asi*

Recognize That and be silent. Let us have God-realization Now and Here for He is awaiting our recognition now and here, in this very moment, in the stillness of our own devoted hearts.

Recognize and be silent.

Be still and know that I am God or Truth.

What we need is not the outer life, *pravritti*, but the inner life within, *nivritti*, in silence. If you want God-realization, or call it cosmic consciousness, learn to withdraw from the outer to the inner. God, the indwelling presence, the inner voice or light, has been awaiting your recognition within yourself since eternity or ages. It is high time that you recognize the inner voice. Merge within. Breathe deeply. Now alone, with each and every breath, *soham*, Thou art That. Follow your own breath, *soham*, for it leads more and more within, to God-realization in a most natural and simple way.

If you use what you have, what you have will grow. If you do not use what you have, what is the use of learning more and more, for it will be a burden to the intellect. Self-reliance has been my one message always.

Do not rely upon me.

Do not rely upon others.

Rely on the light, the indwelling light, Now and Here.

This is the message of the inner voice.

If we believe in one word: that God is Omnipresent, then it is my privilege to see Him in all of you. To me He is not in the sky or heaven above. How happy I feel to face Him in all of you! My heart longs to help and serve you all. But you are to help yourselves to wake up the sleeping or hidden light within.

“Nothing is lost yet. Let the past be buried.”

Recognize the Omnipresence! Omnipotence and Omniscience Now and Here, in the very cells of your being.

This is the real message; my message, your message, the eternal message of truth. In serving you, any of the least of His children I am only serving myself, oneself, the One indivisible self, the living, universal *atman*.

May I have the privilege of serving you? Please help me by feeling His presence now alone. If you can feel His presence for a moment, now, you can feel His presence in the next moment also. Thus you can continue to feel His presence forever, indefinitely.

The Truth or God, for whom you have been seeking in temples and churches, in the outer world, has been waiting patiently in the stillness of your own purified heart, in all silence. The time to recognise It is Now, the place to recognize It is Here, wherever you are.

Lord, Speak! Thy servant heareth.

Let others be great and famous but let me be unknown and insignificant, ever listening to the inner voice, the voice of God rather, Thy voice, the only infinite, eternal and ever-present voice of God!

“Eyes have they, yet they see not. Having ears, hear ye not?”

As one word is enough for the wise, let me not waste my time and your precious time with too many words.

In my religion there are neither strangers nor outsiders. All are my own, for all of us have come from Him- the One, infinite source. We live in Him, work and breathe in Him and finally merge and dissolve in Him. Indeed, love of man is love of God. Blessed are they who can say:

The world is our home and all the people in it are our sisters and brothers. To love and serve them is our religion.

Glory to the universality that excludes none but includes all it is the only, life-giving and soul-awakening religion! Not I but Thou is the Message of the Day.

Question:-When shall I be free?

Answer:- When the I, the ego, ceases to be. Words are mere stones. They lead us nowhere. It is silence, beyond the confusion of words, that leads us into the kingdom of heaven, and gives us a taste of the peace that passeth all understanding. Verily, Silence creates Souls.

My Friends everywhere, the living images of the one indivisible light, in the East and the West, everywhere; I love you all. I love you all. I love you all!

Verily, my love excludes none but includes you all. I only appeal for your love, sympathy and co-operation in clinging to the inner voice which embraces all humanity.

What else can I say in these finite words! Let us merge now in wordless silence.

It is deep silence, waveless silence, supreme silence, which is, the only birthright of every individual on the face of the earth. May It bless you all with its glorious light, the splendour of the Sun of suns.

This is the ardent prayer of your humble brother Omkar.

Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavanthu.

May Peace be unto all.

OMOMOM

A Tiny Offering

To Rev. Parr and his life-partner, extending a Hearty Welcome to them to their own Santi Ashram, the Abode of Peace and to all the aspiring children of God who are seeking Truth, the Inner Voice or Light.

Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Feb 1972)

39. THE TESTS AND TRIALS OF SANTI ASHRAM

(Ashramavasthalu)

(As the Ashram crops failed due to drought, for want of rains, in the fundlessness and crisis of the *gurukula* children Sri Swamiji has written the *Ashramavasthalu*, the tests and trials of the Ashram and published it in the Telugu journal, Santi. Many devotees from near and far helped in the crisis. For a few months more there will be the same situation and struggle. Our Sister

Lakshmi translated the Telugu message. We request our Readers of Peace to extend the sympathy to take care of the *gurukula* children. In the January issue will appear an encouraging message on *Ashramsampadalu*, the Ashram Properties or Blessings, for we wish to share them also with all of you, with the blessings of God -Editors)

No wants to hear the troubles of others. The wise say: when you weep, you weep alone. When you laugh, the whole world laughs with you. But, as Santi Ashram belongs not only to me but is the common property of all the children of God in the world being The Abode of Peace, a Home of Wisdom to all, our loving devotees and readers of Peace Journal should know of its tests and trials. The following poem gives me joy, strength and inspiration--

Troubles may come, but they are not troubles.
Pleasures may come, but they are not pleasures.
Forgetfulness of God is the only trouble or pain.
Remembrance of God is the only pleasure, happiness or blessing.

Naturally all people want only happiness. They want to hear about good things only. No wants to hear about misery and sorrow. Joy and sadness are inevitable in this world of changes. It is only when we recognize this fact that we can be happy. In this universe, if anyone has any thought of pain or sorrow it spreads through the world. Whether you know it or not, when you are sorrowful, you spread that sorrow throughout the world. If you are happy all the world will be happy with you and filled with joy and goodness.

I like to offer all my gratitude first to all the *bhaktas* who have been helping during the Ashram tests and troubles. The God who is Omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent will bless them, give peace to all the people who serve and help His work, Sri Santi Ashram. It is natural that a big institution like Santi Ashram which does so much selfless service should have so many tests and trials, like the waves on the wide ocean. But, if we recognize that these troubles are only temporary and transient, like the clouds before the Sun, then we can be happy. Have you not seen the clouds in the sky? In a single moment the whole sky may be filled with clouds. In another moment the Sun makes all the clouds disappear. What beauty and glory! In the same way we must recognize that sorrow is only temporary and then we can have some contentment, joy and peace.

I don't know where to begin in telling about the Ashram's troubles. In the beginning, when Santi Ashram was established on ten acres of land in 1917 there was only a single mango tree in the Ashram. As there were so many wild animals roaming here and there, a hammock was fixed to that tree and I used to sleep in it at night and have my Prayers and Meditations swinging to and fro in the hammock, with *soham* consciousness. In those days and now also that mango tree has given much shelter and protection, not only to me but also to so many devotees and visitors. The rest of the land had not a single tree; it was all filled with thorns and stones. Yet now the Ashram has grown to 200 acres of land, with a *gurukula* of 125 children, 30 Aged People and other ashramites, workers, etc. Now the Ashram is shining with God's glory.

In those days, when I was offering my Prayers and Meditations alone under that mango tree God alone gave me milk and fruits. He alone fed me in those days. It is He who is now providing all the food and necessities of life for me and for the 200 children and members. How good is God! If there is any miracle in the Ashram it is this alone. We don't know from one day to the next from where we will get our food. Yet, for the last 56 years God has been providing for us in some form or other, with love and sympathy. He has been protecting the Ashram like the eyelid protects the eye. Here is a poem that tells us of the endless mercies of God:

Who gives food to the birds in the wilderness?
Who feeds the beasts in the forest?
Who gives water for drink to all creatures?
Who gives water to the trees and plants?
Who protects the tiny baby in the womb of the Mother?
Who gives poison to the snakes?
Who gives honey to the bees?
Who gives green grass to the cattle?
Who else can do all these, except Thee, O Lord!
No one else can do all these things to protect all Thy creatures.
O Lord! Thou art the One blessing Thy devotees and destroying the evil in all Thy children.

Our hope is only that Sri Santi Ashram be an ideal Ashram. Spreading selfless service, universal love and wisdom to all beings and be a guide and inspiration to other Ashrams. This aspiration does not come out of *ahankara*, ego. People may like to think that I want the Ashram to be ideal because it belongs to me, but this is not so, for the Ashram belongs to all of mankind and is the common property of all God's children. The Ashram is centered and rooted in universal peace and it is the desire for universal peace, universal love and universal wisdom that has produced Santi Ashram. The whole universe is my home and every human being is my own self, my own form. This is my highest religion and goal.

Five years ago the foundation stone of The Spiritual Healing Centre was laid, with the purpose that it would serve all the people in the world, regardless of caste, creed and nationality. The Centre is on the second floor of the Sushila Hospital and, it has been constructed up to the walls. But there is no roof laid yet, for want of funds. Yet, with the help of many devoted Ashramites and friends from near and far the work of the Spiritual Healing Centre is going on with silent prayers. But when I see that only the walls are there, my heart is filled with sorrow. I have fasted and meditated and offered prayers so that the roof might be put on the walls by some devoted soul and thus have the building completed. Now, may God enter into the hearts of some devotees so that they may finish this work in their name. I still have faith that this will happen, even though five years have passed away and no one has come forward to finish the dwelling place of the Spiritual Healing Centre. No matter where you are, near or far, if you are sick and depressed, you can write, telegraph or telephone us for prayers. We want to help all the sick

people overcome their illnesses. This important work is vital to the health and peace of the world. But still, even the construction work is not yet finished. Is this not an Ashram difficulty?

Another tribulation is our great need of the Cottage Industries Building. In the Ashram we manufacture incense, soap, etc. We also have sewing machines to teach our school girls and Ashram ladies sewing. But we have no building at all for them and they are being kept in a thatched hut and there is trouble with white ants and also from the rain. Thus we need to have our Cottage Industries Building completed also. Is this not an *Ashramaavasthalu*, trouble?

There is a saying in Telugu that unless we ask, even our own mother won't give us anything in time. Thus, unless we tell what the Ashram's tests and troubles are, and what more work needs to be done, and the Ashram's present needs, how will the devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram know? Once, while I was in Kotagiri one devotee came to the Ashram and said that as there were only three *kutiramsin* Janaka Ashram he wanted to lay the foundation stone and construct the fourth one. Then he wrote me so many letters asking for my permission. I felt so much gratitude because he had suggested it himself, without being asked. Then, after returning from Kotagiri, we wrote so many letters to that devotee but he has not yet bothered to reply to us. When we rely on man he always disappoints us. When we trust in God He never disappoints us. How true are these words.

Another time we had a similar incident. A devotee came and said: Swamiji, the human body is transitory. Today man is and tomorrow he is not. Therefore, please let me construct a Mandir in my name in the Ashram and I shall donate Rs. 10, 000/- for that purpose. Please help me only to construct the building. I happily agreed. He said he would pay a part of the money within a certain period of time. But the time passed away. As he might have forgotten about it we wrote to remind him. Then he answered by saying: There was a marriage in our house and we had to borrow and spend Rs. 50, 000/- for it. How can we give charities now? Thus, in this *kali yuga* the *maya* is great. We didn't ask him to construct a building here. He himself promised and then when we reminded him, he sent the above answer, which is really astonishing and disappointing.

We don't want to worry people with all our tests and troubles. Each person has his own character and ways. We can't change the nature of others. My habit has been always to share my inner thoughts with others, whether they are good or bad, positive or negative, for your benefit. Nowadays, when we are struggling to feed the *gurukula* children it makes me sad to see the indifference and gross neglect of those who could give the necessary help to the Ashram. When I think of the poor rich people it gives my heart pain. Now I'm determined not to give trouble any more to these rich people also.

How true are the wise words that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into heaven. The ignorant rich would rather part with life itself than with their cash. Such is the *maya*. These days it hurts very soul to give worry and trouble to the rich by sending appeals. I long to promise God, even in the name of the Ashram

and want of food for the *gurukula* children, never to give trouble to the mighty rich or wound their feelings in any way. May love alone flow from me towards the rich and poor under all conditions is my prayer.

In order to give the children food I want to sell away some of the costly articles that we have in the Ashram. One devotee came from Tenali and offered Rs. 1500/- to buy our Telugu type writer. We have also a Duplicator Machine which takes any number of copies of any messages and we want to sell that also and with the money finish the Cottage Industries Building and lay the roof on our Spiritual Healing Centre.

When I was in America the devotees there gave me so many costly things for my birthday, such as cameras, projectors, watches etc. when people give things for the benefit of the Ashram I feel so happy. To feed the children and develop the Ashram in all possible ways is my life's ideal and goal. In order to feed the children and improve and develop the Ashram I am ready to sell myself. The story of king Harischandra, who sold his wife and then his son and finally himself to Veerabhadra, the keeper of the burial ground for the sake of truth, comes to mind these days. During all the Ashram's tests and trials such thoughts are coming into my mind.

Once a devotee came to the Ashram and appreciated all the work and selfless service and asked us to send a bullock cart and men immediately to his place and he promised to collect for us rice and other supplies. We did as he had asked. But when the bullock cart arrived, it seems the man had just left by the back gate and given word that he had urgent business somewhere else. So the bullock cart came back empty. In another village also, after promises to help us, the same thing happened.

How many tests, trials and troubles like this can we bear? No one helps us but God. We want to complete the Spiritual Healing Centre Building and the Cottage Industries Building so the peace work can go on. This is my unshakable determination in spite of all the tests and troubles. Last year and this year there were no rains. It is very difficult to feed the children and inmates. We also have to pay wages to nearly twenty gardeners each month. To do all these things properly and to feed the *gurukula* children we have to make so many appeals, again and again to all the readers of Peace and Santi Journals and to all the Ashram friends. These appeals have made my heart sad and heavy. Now I have come to a conclusion which gives me so much joy.

There is a good mobile van in our Ashram which has done so much work by serving the sick people in the villages. We want to sell it away and use the money to finish the Spiritual Healing Centre and Cottage Industries Building. This very thought gives me much joy and contentment. If this money is insufficient I want to sell away the Telugu Typewriter and Duplicator also and any other costly articles in the Ashram. With the money from these and any other source we can reduce the Ashram troubles. In any case, we have to finish God's work that is most essential. The feeding of the children and the development of the Ashram gives joy to those people who have *daivaparitapana*, pining for God. But for those who are following the path

of *pravritti*, outer life, who do not have pining for God, God's work gives no joy but only pain. The way to heaven or Santi, Peace, is very thorny and rugged. But the way to hell is broad and attractive and invites so many people.

Let me conclude this article with a poem from Bhakta Chintamani:

If a human being behaves like a beast
Than it is better for him to be born as a beast.
The Dumb Animals at least behave the way God made them.
But God has made man with *jnana*, wisdom, to serve others.
If man misuses or denies this wisdom and behaves wrongly, like a beast,
Then he deserves the wrath of God's punishment.
Verily, what we sow, we reap.
Please save us, O Lord, with your great compassion.

Our *Ashram avasthalu*, the tests and trials of the Ashram and its appeals, are not for the poor, those who are not blessed with the goods of the world. We request them to help us with their prayers. A sincere prayer from an ardent devotee is worth more than all the wealth in the world.

“Prayer is the only language in which man can speak to God and get a response.”

Thus we read in the Prayer Book of Sri Babu Rao Patel. So please send us your loving prayers so we can take care of the suffering *gurukula* children. In conclusion, in the great crisis of the Ashram I request all the devoted rich people, whom God has blessed with wealth, to extend their helping hand to take care of the 125 orphan children and 25 aged and other sick and poor people and gardeners and workers of the press, the spacious gardens of the Mother Ashram, etc. May I be allowed to conclude my message on *Ashram avasthalu* with the inspiring poem on

DANA

Give, Give, Give.
That which you hold will turn to dust
Give while you live. Give for you must.
Else what you hold tightly in your hands
Will vanish through your fingers and be lost.
Give and thus flows a mighty fountain through the land.
Let us chant how the Peace Chant for the Peace of all.

OMOMOM

(Peace Dec 1972)

40. THE AGONY OF OMKAR

(In the crisis of the Ashram)

“Omkar is Indivisible and One without a second. He Loves all and feels for all.”

GURUKULA CHILDREN AND AGED PEOPLE:

When we do not know from where the next meal comes, how to feed the 125 *gurukula* children, the 25 disabled, blind and sick people in the Aged Home. Yet, God has been taking care of His work from day to day. But what a great strain and worry it has been to our Jnaneswari, The Secretary and Sri K. S. R., The Treasurer, who has nothing in his treasury but debts. How can I be unconcerned and callous; when children and aged people are suffering for want of a little rice. I keep on writing begging letters to help the orphan children and helpless old people, to the friends and devotees of the Ashram almost every day, which makes my heart sad and heavy in these days of draught and great crisis.

THE RICH DEVOTEES AROUND THE ASHRAM:

In my agony, it is my weakness to find fault with the *zamindars*, who are around the Ashram and with the rich devotees, who are lakhiers and richest people but who are not conscious of the struggle and starvation of the *gurukul* children and other Aged People and workers of the Ashram. One single rich man or woman, who has a heart for the poor, helpless and sick, can bear the burden of the whole Ashram, but they are busy with themselves, spending thousands of rupees in the name of elections, marriages, *yatras*, sickness and other mundane things etc., running after the shadows of name and fame, neglecting the poor and needy people at their very door. Santi Ashram the common property of all aspiring souls, which belongs to all of you. It needs the help, the sympathy and prayers of all devotees in every religion and all those who have love in their hearts, as God is love and love is God. How true are the words: that the heart devoid of love is a cemetery.

CRAVING TO LEAVE THE BODY INSTEAD OF WORRYING OTHERS:

Sometimes the Agony of Omkar, is so intense, the depressed and negative thought of leaving this body comes, instead of begging people and giving trouble to the rich devotees, who have love for themselves, but not for the suffering orphan children of God. When I am not able to achieve and succeed in feeding the poor and helpless children in the Ashram, while alive, how can I help them after I leave this body! Hence this appeal the Agony of Omkar, is coming now from within, at this midnight hour to touch the devoted hearts of some of the children, the living images of God.

SILVER LINING AROUND THE ASHRAM:

As every cloud has silver lining, Santi Ashram has been blessed with the sympathy and blessings of even some of the Loving Swamiji's and Pujya Mathaji's, who have their own Ashramas to take care and protect. Yet unasked hearing of the struggling state, the crisis of the Ashram, they often send help blessing the *gurukula* children.

We are grateful to all our old friends, devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram in Bobbili, Lakkavaram, Tuni, Kakinada, Rajahmundry, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Bombay, Durban in South Africa, Hongkong in China, England and U. S. A., etc., for their taking care of the Ashram, considering it as their own spiritual home.

A BAG OF RICE EVERYDAY:

When the Ashram needs a bag of rice everyday to feed all these helpless sick and old people it is a great burden and responsibility to feed all these 200, inmates and 250 people often including visitors. It needs hard work and strain to keep the Ashram above water and alive. A beggar is shunned and avoided by the rich everywhere - yet we have to try again and again even though ignored, to feed all these helpless, needy children and other selfless workers.

HUMBLE SERVICE OF BONE GRAFTING:

In these days of my depression and agony, by God's grace, when I recall a little incident, how I shared with a slice of bone from my leg in Bone Grafting, which gives me joy and consolation that my life has been of some use but not a burden to Mother Earth. I am ashamed to send my last appeal, to share my agony, with some of the oldest devotees, who have been taking care of the Ashram already, requesting them to continue showering blessings on their own Ashram. May this Agony of Omkar, touch the devoted hearts of those who have visited the Ashram and those who never visited it in all these nearly 60 years.

SANTI ASHRAM THE COMMON PROPERTY:

As Santi Ashram - the Mission of Peace is the common property of all devotees in every religion. I request them to visit it once to see its silent work and to spend some time in real rest and peace. As one word is enough for the wise, may this be my last appeal and may the Agony of Omkar, touch the devoted hearts of those who love me and the Ashram ignoring, my too many words of depression, because of the everyday crisis 21st January 1974 is the dawn of my 80th year, when I am longing to be dead to the world and silent observing *mounam* and serving you all more than ever through silence.

LET US MEDITATE NOW

Let us meditate now, forgetting the Agony of Omkar and the crisis, on the Indwelling Light the Presence in our hearts and repeat the following simple prayer.

Lord! Lead us from the unreal to the Real
Lead us from darkness into Light

Lead us from mortality to Immortality.
May Peace be unto all.
Om Tat Sat Om

AN OFFERING

**An Offering to all the devoted and dedicated friends, devotees and sympathisers of
Santi Ashram in the East and the West who love and feel for all, as God is love and love is
God.**

OmOmOm

(Peace Oct & Nov 1973)

41. THE CONCEPTION OF GOD

In the Conception of God, all is God. All the world is God. *isavasyamidamsarvam*. All this universe is filled with *swara*, the One Indivisible God, it is easy to repeat.

All this world is filled, pervaded and permeated by Rama. But we need this conception not from the songs we sing, holy books we read or from the sermons and discourses we listen to but from our personal and practical experience, from the moments of silence or contact or communion with God, when doing *bhajan*, prayers or meditations or when alone with Him in silence in our daily life.

Our conception from the songs will be “*antharamamayam*”, all this is God. Our conception from the books and scriptures will be, God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient etc. From the discourses and Sermons we repeat *mahavakyams- ahambrahmasmi, ayamatma brahma, prajnanam brahma, tattwamasi*, Thou art That etc. What we need now is from our personal contact personal experience with God from the moments of our contact with Him in silence. Are our eyes seeing Him everywhere? Are our ears listening to His voice in every sound? Are we opening our mouth only to speak about God? Blessed are the rare and inspiring lives of those to whom religion and life are not two but one! Unto such, everything they see is God. Everything they listen to is of God. Every word they speak is of God.

This real Conception of God, plays an important part in the spiritual life, in God-realization Now and Here in our daily lives. If your conception of God is that He is in heaven, you are to wait until you go there. If your conception of God is that He is away or separate from you, you

have to wait until you become one with Him. Those who confine God to temples and churches will feel His presence only when they go there. "God has no other body on earth than yours now". As He is pervading and permeating the very cells of your being, it is high time to feel His presence in the living present moment, Now only and continue to feel His presence, Ever present presence, His eternal presence, in each and every moment of your life. Life with Him is full and everything, without Him it is in-complete, empty and a zero.

May the true Conception of God, that He is the interpenetrating presence, the indwelling, infinite light, drive away all passing clouds of weakness and sickness, dispel all clouds of ignorance and darkness. When He exists nothing else can exist. Where there is light, there is no scope for darkness. In the highest Conception of God - in His presence in the light of millions of sun's splendour, this body, mind, world and all its imaginations disappear. They are burnt away in the all-consuming fire of God-Consciousness.

Glory, Glory, Glory! To the stupendous light, the self-effulgent light, the ever present Light of lights. Be dead that ye may live is the essence of all religions. But the selfish man, the finite man, the ignorant man is afraid to die. He wants to live forever in ignorance with finite and ignorant Conceptions of God.

May all homage be unto those few and rare souls of God-Consciousness who are expressing Him with every heartbeat, with every breath, for, He, is the Breath of the breath.

Hari Om Tat Sat Om

AN OFFERING

A Tiny Offering to Mrs. A. C. Krishna Rao the Vice-President the Life and Soul to SthreeSeva Mandir with Prayer for her longest life of Service and Peace in her noble and selfless work.

(Peace Jun & Jul 1974)

42. THE PEACE CENTRES

As I am blessed to stay now on the heights of Nilgiri Hills, there is a great longing more than ever, to start Peace Centres both in the East and the West, all over the world not on land, but in each and every individual's heart. It is so easy to start Peace Centers within also provided one is willing to pay the proper price of complete self-surrender, for establishing Peace within, from where Peace alone flows ceaselessly towards all the children of God in the world. Irrespective of

the difference in caste, creed, colour and nationality. What are the indispensable requisites to start a Peace Centre within?

To begin with, knowing the preciousness of human birth one must wish to attain and aspire with all the strength of his mind, heart and soul to realize God before the Call—in the form of Death, comes.

Regular study of your scriptures be it Gita or Bible or any of your favourite book, even for fifteen minutes everyday will be helpful for your spiritual progress.

One must memorize and repeat the simple Peace Prayer at least twice, as one wakes up at dawn and also retires in the night to sleep. The more one repeats the Prayer both in work and rest, the more it gives strength and Peace.

As the scriptures say *paropokaramidamsareeram*, this body is given only for service. So let us serve His children, by spreading peace from heart to heart, by making them to repeat the peace prayer as it helps to feel God's presence while repeating itself.

As it is the Individual Peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace, by establishing it in our hearts, and spreading it near and far, we are really contributing to the Peace of the world.

In the Peace Centre, one need not struggle to learn any more from outside and from the finite teachers, for, everything is within himself, inside in the stillness of his own purified and dedicated heart. All that he has to do is to forget all his superficial knowledge and all that he has learnt from outside. The Message of the Peace Centre within, is always self-reliance in the beginning, middle and end and no more reliance and trust on outside props.

Let the Peace thought—Peace within and without, Peace everywhere and all around us, be prominent, than the thoughts of fear, strife, bitterness and war.

Lokasamasthasukhinobhavanthu!

May all be peaceful everywhere!

My Dear Loving Reader, will you not help us, by establishing Peace in your devoted heart first, then in your home, community, nation and world at large, Now in the living present moment? Let charity begin at home? Let Peace begin, Now alone in your aspiring heart of devotion and thus fill your home and radiate near and far, wherever you go. Aspire to be a holy shadow spreading Peace unconsciously.

Time is too precious to be wasted in mere words, discourses and lectures. The bullets without powder are not helpful. What we need is soul force, the love universal and the supreme peace that includes all. Due to *maya*, delusion, man is not yet ready to pay the price and start the Peace Centre within. He would rather prefer easily, to start a Branch of the Ashram or Society on

land, by collecting subscriptions going from door to door, so that he can be a president, or at least be its Secretary or manager. In the outer branches there is no need of paying the price of killing the ego, annihilating the little self.

Due to wrong association with wrong people, who are running after the fleeting clouds of name and fame, alas the ignorant man neglects the Peace Within and runs after the Peace Without like sheep forgetting the divinity, the roaring lion within himself. Man! Wake up! It is high time to start a Peace Centre within yourself from where Peace alone should flow ceaselessly in torrents and rushing streams.

It is very easy to start a Peace Centre within yourself here there is no need of paying monthly dues or yearly donations or subscriptions. All that you have to do is only to shift your Centre from without to within. Now is the time and this is the place where even you may be. Today is ours and not the uncertain tomorrow. Let us do our good deed today only, may in this moment alone, by establishing Peace Centre in our hearts in the present living moment now, for the peace of our souls and for the good of humanity

Dear Friend Fellow Pilgrim on the Path of Peace! We are here to help and serve you. Our Prayers are with you. If you need to know anything more about starting the Peace Centre in your aspiring heart of devotion, please write to us for further details:-

THE HEAD QUARTERS OF THE MISSION OF PEACE
Sri Santi Ashram (Regd), Totapalli Hills, Santi Ashram P.O,
East Godavari Dt, A.P, or to
THE PEACE CENTRE,
Lakshmi Vihar, Kotagiri, Nilgiri Hills, T.N.

(Peace Dec 1974)

43. THE HIGHEST TRUTH-EXERTION

It was the great sage Sri Ashtavakra, the sage of illumination, who said the following wise words:

“All are unhappy and miserable, because they are exerting, consciously or unconsciously, knowingly or unknowingly in some form or other. Blessed are the few and rare souls, who know this highest truth, and who are free from all exertion both within and without.”

Exertion is of several kinds. To understand it, let us divide the Exertion into three kinds.

- I. The Physical Exertion, such as digging, ploughing and other activities that are done with hands and feet.
2. The Mental Exertion, such as thinking, scheming, planning, engaging to do all big things even in the name of Ashramas for the good of others.
3. Then there is the Spiritual Exertion. It is very deep. Casual, latent and inherent within and subtle, difficult even to understand and comprehend for any lay man or woman.

Only the wise, the perfect, the man of wisdom and illumination can comprehend; what Spiritual Exertion is and how it works silently deep within. Even in the repetition of *mahavakyas*, such as *Aham Brahmasmi*, *Ayamathma* *Brahma*, *Prajnanam* *Brahma*, *Tatwamasih*, there is exertion. In the repetition of holy *Ram nam* there is exertion. What about the repetition of the *mantram* *Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram OM*! Certainly, there is exertion in the repetition of these holy words or in any other *mantrams* like: *Om Namobhagavate Vasudevaya*, *Om Namonarayanaya*, *Om Namassivaya*, *Shivoham*, *Hamsaham* etc.

What about the repetition of the Mystic Syllable *Aum* the holy word: sad to say the truth, there is exertion in its repetition also. If so, is there anything, which is free of all exertions, physically, mentally and even spiritually or casually, in the astral plane too!

What about the *ajapa mantra*, which is not repeated with the voice, but repeats itself- the highest and the holiest *mantra* the *Mantra* of *mantrams*, *soham*! If you are repeating even this holy *mantra* with lips or even with mind, you are not free from the subtle exertion. Then what to do? It is like life and death. It is deep, subtle almost an incomprehensible problem. No wonder sages have said the path of truth is very difficult like walking on the sharp edge of a Razor Blade.

There is exertion in seeing. There is exerting in hearing. There is certainly a lot of exertion in speaking. Even in thinking there is exertion. The One indivisible *soham* Light alone is free of all exertion, because it is *adviteeyam*, One without a second. In duality exertion is inevitable. When one sees not another, one hears not of another, one thinks not of another, for, there is nothing besides the spiritual truth *soham* light which is free of all exertions. Only the adepts, men of God-realization, knowing this highest truth become silent.

Recognize, and follow *soham* ceaselessly, without a break like *thailadhara*—oil poured from one vessel into another vessel without a break. What else can I write in these finite words? Knowing that, the highest truth the wise melt in silence. I know that I am exerting even in writing this helpful Musings, feeling that it helps seekers of truth. Let me rest now in the glorious *soham* in all silence, supreme silence and waveless silence.

OM TAT SAT OM

44. THE FOUR AVATARS

In front of my dwelling place, Sri Nirvana Mandiram there is four *avatars*-the statues of Sri Krishna, Sri Christ, Sri Buddha and Sri Gandhiji.

In the early hours as soon as I wake up it is my habit to walk towards each *avatar* feeling the presence within and without every step leads me towards the *avatar*.

Sometimes on certain days, when I feel the presence very deeply, I do not walk towards them. The thought comes from within, when the *avatar* is within, why should I walk towards Him. Thus I merge within and feel His presence in the stillness of my heart.

An ardent devotee of the Ashram has asked me once:

Q:- Dear Swamiji! Is Gandhiji also an *avatar*, incarnation of God?

A:- Not only Sri Gandhiji, but you also are a living *avatar*!

From every face I see God shining forth, for, nothing exists except God within or without, for, God is one without a second and He is indivisible.

These *avatars* are my close association both day and night have become so close, that I feel, when I speak, is they Krishna, Christ, Buddha and Gandhiji who are speaking. When I write it is they who are writing through me now.

It gives me joy and strength even when I walk, it is not the little 'I' the ego, but it is only Krishna, Christ, Buddha and Gandhiji who are walking towards God.

As God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, and Omniscient, whatever you do, you are doing in God. Wherever you may be, you are in God! Whatever you see is God, whatever you listen is also God.

I am in ecstasy, for, nothing exists except God. All is God the Omnipresent, self-effulgent, one Eternal, indivisible God. I live, work, move and breathe in God. Not only 'I', the finite ego, but you too, all of you live, breathe, work and move in God, for, you are all the living images of God.

How true are the words: Every one is an image of God, playing the part of a fool. Through *thinkmaya*, deep delusion, man has forgotten the great truth the indwelling light identifies with the shadow, instead of with substance, the indwelling light within, the Sun of suns. Thus selfless, needless, agony and suffers in so many forms.

O! Ignorant man, wake up to your divine heritage, your real birth right of Sun of suns, the splendour of millions of suns. Be Lion of Vedanta, for, Thou art That, *tat twamasi*. Wake up now to sleep no more, knowing forgetfulness of God within - the light is real death.

Thou art the light, or light with every breath, Thou art that eternally. Om Om Om

May every thought, word and deed lead you only towards God! The only reality the eternal truth - the goal and soul of precious human birth. This is the prayer of your own Omkar who loves you all!

Hari Om Tat Sat Om

AN OFFERING

A tiny offering to all the Images of God in the East and the West in all the World, with Prayers for the Peace of all the Children of God.

(Peace Nov 1977)

45. THE GREATEST BLESSINGS

On a white sheet of cloth, the finite man thinks with his finite knowledge, he sees only the tiny speck of ink spot, rather seeing the whole of the white sheet. This is *maya*, the great delusion of life.

Sri Tenneti Viswanatham has been the greatest blessing of God to Sri Shanti Ashram the Mission of Peace. He is the God-given gift-chosen by God to be the President of Sri Shanti Ashram to lead it from darkness into light, from the depths to the heights in all the tests and trials, to help with his wise suggestions. May all glory be unto God and longest life of health and peace to our Sri Viswanathji, our ideal President!

The second great blessing is our Sri Sanaka Rama Rao, The Retired Register of Co-operative Societies, now the Vice-President of Sri Shanti Ashram—the Mission of Peace - the International Institute, working for World Peace.

Sri Ram has been the ideal Vice-President, reminding us always of Bhishma the great sage of Mahabharata. Our Sri Ram is a day and night selfless worker, working in spite of his advanced age, helping in all the tests and trials, leading the Ashram towards success and light, so patiently, lovingly setting an example to all the members of the Ashram and especially to the inexperienced youngsters. May our Sri Ram's selfless and ideal life be a blessing to all of us and may he live-long to serve the cause of peace, Sri Shanti Ashram and all the world with his favourite weapons of *dharma*, truth and his simple ideal life. This is the prayer, of all the members of Sri Shanti Ashram.

Next comes Sri Seshamamba, the Mother of Shanti Ashram who is also a day and night selfless worker taking care of all his children of the Ashram so lovingly and patiently in spite of old age and sickness too.

Our Sri Rajaji, the General Secretary of Sri Shanti Ashram the Mission of Peace. We owe all the constructions in the Ashram and the progress of Waltair Ashram as well as of the Peace Centre in Nilagiris and also our new Mounashram to our selfless and ideal worker Sri Ch. V. Rajaji. He is always busy selflessly working in every field, in spite of his ill health and weakness ever wishing the welfare and the progress of the Ashram.

Now comes our Jnaneswari, the greatest blessing of God to Sri Shanti Ashram setting an example, not only to the members and children of the Ashram and its *gurukul* but to all the visitors and guests who come to the Ashram from all parts of India and also to foreign devotees, who come from U.S.A. Africa, China, England, Malaysia etc. etc. May God bless our Jnaneswari, God-given gift to serve not only the Ashram members but also all the devotees in the East and the West.

Then comes our Shanti Devi, who is ever-walking in the foot prints of Jnaneswari taking care of this body and all the guests who come from far and near so patiently, forgetting herself in the service of others.

Santhi Ashram is blessed to have Lakshmi, Seeta Devi, and in spite of their ill-health, always taking care of the Ashram. Especially they are the both Editors of the Telugu Monthly Journal Santi, although Pujya Sri Swami Nirvananandaji is the Executive Editor. May God's richest blessings of health and peace ever be upon our Lakshmi and Sita Devi for the progress of the Ashram and for the good of the world.

Pujya Swami Nirvananandaji- We owe the Peace and Shanti Journals and the up keep of the registers and the correspondence with the subscribers of both the magazines and correcting the proofs so patiently to him. He is there always working in spite of his advanced age. In the Press and in the Prayer Hall reading to the Ashram members and guests, who come from near and far with his learned translations and messages regularly, especially on Sundays in the Prayer Hall. May God's richest blessings of health and peace be upon our ideal Swami Sri Nirvananandaji for the good of all the devotees in the world.

Now comes the young Hanuman, the living Anjaneya of Sri Shanti Ashram taking good care of Shanti Printing Works, visitors who come from near and far, especially with correspondence, typing so patiently and lovingly all my messages, musings, letters both in English and Telugu. May Hanuman be the future hope of Sri Shanti Ashram -the Mission of Peace for World Peace.

Then comes the Retired old Post Master Sri M. Surya Narayana with his devoted mother-in-law Sri Narayanamma also his loving Mrs. Suramamba serving the Ashram in all possible ways.

We owe our Ideal Gurukula to our Ideal Sri Sarviah Das

Sadhu Santa Ram is a new devotee sent by God to take care of Shivalayam, to do *puja* and to take care of gardens.

We owe *namasankirtana*, to our Sri Annapoornamma, Sri Jagadamba, Ashram Musician and to all the devoted ladies in the kitchen.

Sri Pydiah is a hard working simple gardener. It is entirely for the selfless services, we owe our lovely garden in its beauty. He loves the trees, plants and flowers so much, that they respond to his love and care. This time when we go to our Nilagiri Peace Centre on our new diesel engine van, we are thinking of taking him with us, so that he can learn more about gardening and thus improve the Mother Ashram Gardens. Whether one is a humble Gardener or simple President their lives are a blessing, when they are living for others forgetting the little self.

My Musing, "Greatest Blessings" will be incomplete if I do not mention the name of our loyal loving and devoted faithful little Omy who clings to me both day and night like my inseparable shadow. It is teaching us all a lesson, to me also as well as to all the *gurukula* children and members of the Ashram, Whenever I see its loyalty and great faith, deep Love, unconsciously a prayer comes from within:-

"O Lord! Give me the faith and love that Omy has formed. Pray, bless me with that deep love and great faith towards Thee. This is all that I ask of Thee."

Om OmOm

In the moments of depression when I forget God the Light within, I think everyone is superior to me and I am the only one who is doing nothing and a burden to mother earth and especially to Shanti Ashram remembering the loving poem of Sri Suradas:-

WHERE IS THERE A WRETCH
SO LOATHESOME AND WICKED AS I
I HAVE FORSAKEN MY MAKER
SO FAITHLESS HAVE I BEEN

Then for my consolation I begin to chant the helpful song

*Anta Krishna mayam, eajagamanta Krishna mayam.
Kandlumasina Krishna mayam, kandluterichina Krishna mayam.*

The whole world is full of Krishna—the God. When eyes closed or opened there is Krishna, within and without.

When I am in depression I repeat the loving words of Abraham Lincoln!

Out of the depths fresh strength
Out of the darkness new light
Even in the gloom we are on the way

The repetition of the holy *mantram*, *jayajayaramakrishnahariomis* my joy, strength and inspiration in these days.

The way to be happy is to make others happy. I repeat this holy motto often and often, making all the *gurukula* children and members and devotees who come from near and far to repeat the same with ecstasy until we all get tears of joy that come down from the tender eyes as an offering to God—the indwelling presence.

Hari Om Tat Sat Aum

(Peace Nov 1977)

46. THE MESSAGE OF THE AGARBATHI

(On the occasion of the first visit of Mrs. and Mr. Lokumal (philanthropists and friends of the poor) from Ooty to Shanthi Ashram, Kotagiri on 10th May 1978)

I extend my hearty welcome to brother Lokumal and his life-partner and the devotees assembled here. I have all along been thinking of their charitable disposition and their generosity though I am seeing Lokumals physically now and here, he is seen by me as an old friend of mine always. They have responded to our invitation to visit the Ashram and take part in the *satsang*. I can even say that they can even permanently reside in the Ashram itself. I wish them to feel the presence of God now and here.

I ask you all to feel the presence of God. We are all the children of God. We came from the Light. We are in the Light. We will go back to Light. The Light is God who is Omnipotent,

Omnipresent and Omniscient. The kingdom of God is within you. See God in you. After a constant struggle and profound research for truth I have come to this conclusion that God is Love and Love is God. That is why ask all of you to see God, in you, to pray ceaselessly and to meditate deeply, and to contemplate on divine light. Before reforming others, it is better to reform ourselves. Be moderate in everything as moderation is the keynote of success in life.

After fifty years of upbringing the mother Ashram in Totapalli Hills and Kotagiri, now, I don't attach importance to name or fame or even form. My earnest prayer to God will be to give me the gift to feel the presence of God and help others too in feeling the presence of God. I am saying everything from my experience and not from any scriptures. I think it is better to say what I practice and what I have found useful and purposeful for an eventful life.

I am always having an incense stick, *agarbathi* before me for surcharging the holy atmosphere. I consider it my *guru*. Just look at it! It burns brightly and gives out sweet fragrance all around and after that it loses its form and name. Likewise, one should serve his brethren and rest in God after becoming formless and nameless. In my birthday message too, I have specifically said, "Swami is dead and Omkar is alive in all of you!" God is waveless silence. Verily, God is the breath of the breaths, leading us towards breathlessness, which is motionless, which is the transcendental, incomprehensible state of glory, the splendour of millions of suns.

I am in the Light. The Light is in me. I am the Light. Meditate deeply and pray ceaselessly. Inhale and exhale peace. Let each breath lead towards God, who is nearer to us than our feet or hands. He is within. He is the *soham* breath both within and without; He is the one indivisible *soham* breath.

I am always reminded of a small puppy presented by Smt. Sushila Rani of Bombay six years before to Santhi Ashram. The puppy was named Omy by me and it was a part and parcel of me. Only for the sake of that dog I visited Kotagiri during summer season. The dog was so fond of me that it would not go for taking food. It was always with me and it was under my feet during satsang before I came to Kotagiri. It went to Sivalayam and it breathed its last under my feet. I was then talking to others and reforming them while I failed to notice that it was breathing its last such an early age. Our Hanuman was there and he touched it and wrote the sacred syllable Om on its head before the end. It was so loyal to me. My sincere wish is that I should be loyal to God as Omy was to me. Even now I think that its soul has entered my body. So Omy and Myself are not two but One.

If you want to lead an ideal life, here are my conclusions: (1) Don't rely upon your body. (2) Don't rely on the masters and teachers, (3) Rely on yourself and meditate deeply on God who is within you and who is ready to take care of you. In this connection I can even say that "Forgetfulness of God is death." God is throbbing in your hearts, shining in your twinkling eyes and living in your thoughts, words and deeds. I don't want to live as I don't attach much importance to life and death. As a matter of fact I can even say "Be dead to live" thereby meaning that our deeds should be remembered and honored eternally by all.

In doing Ramanamajapa, inhale *ra* and exhale *ma* always. Even while we are sleeping, *ajapa* (i.e.) *japa* without effort is going on. Always say Rama wherever you are and in whatever you do.

This moment is yours, not the next moment. Don't waste your precious time. I don't want to tax you by words. Silence is golden. I am now 84 years old and I can tell you that I had the vision of God. Feel the presence of God here and now. Let us all repeat peace prayer and peace chant for our peace as well as for the peace of all. Prayer is the only bridge which connects you with God. Individual peace paves the way to Universal peace.

Love is God and God is love.
Light is your birthright.
May peace be unto all.
Om OmOm

Presented by: Pattabiraman, Head Master, Kotagiri.

(Peace July 1978)

47. THE LIFE OF SWEET SMELLING FLOWERS

I woke up early greeting the luminous unfolding presence of God on every side. After a silent meditation I went out, and lay down on one of the pials in front of my Mandir (building) basking in the mild rays of the rising sun in the early hours of the dawn.

When I turned my head towards the right I felt happy to see clusters of morning glories looking at me in all their freshness and beauty. Watching them for a time, unconsciously; my lips began to utter silently, the following prayer to the Lord of men as well as of flowers.

O Lord! Bless me with the life of a sweet-smelling fragrant flower. How fresh, tender and beautiful it is, shining with variegated colours, drawing the minds of one and all, towards its sweetness! Who can make a flower except Thee, the Creator of vast universes as well as of little flowers? How the flowers silently bloom and live their care-free, life, without worry about the tomorrow! Hast Thou not said through one of Thy sons, "consider the lilies, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin" yet they are splendidly clothed by Thee. O Father! Bless me, with the life of a sweet flower, radiating beauty and fragrance, towards all those that pass by me, without expecting the least reward. Above all may Thou bloom in my heart, as Thou art blooming in the golden heart of a little flower, is all that I ask of Thee!

It is such a great ecstatic joy to lose one's self in the deep, still, heart of nature. After a while there came a whispering from within, saying, the life of a flower is only for a day, Art thou prepared to wither and perish as the flower, for it closes its fragrant life a day? I replied yes, nor does the life of this body, this physical life-sheath last forever. This life too is only temporary and evanescent. Instead of living like a banyan or an oak tree for a thousand years, better to live a life of fragrance, beauty and service even if it is for a day and then to pass on to higher realms.

Some advocates of fasting have remarked that in observing a long fast the first, second and third days are the most troublesome days. In my case, I felt happy on the first day, strong on the second day and quite cheerful on the third day. When one identifies himself with the spirit, the indwelling presence - all days are alike, are they not?

As our Peace Magazine is being prepared for publication, I had to work hard over the proofs etc., for nearly five hours. But work is mere play so long as the mortal retires allowing the Omnipotence to work through him. After my work, I rested for a time, meditatively which refreshed and strengthened me a great deal.

I often wondered what to do with myself, having so much time, that I could call my own! It was really a happy coincidence that a beautiful picture of Lord Christ was put up in front of me, on the wall, only a little while before I thought of taking to this fast. Needless to say it helped me when I looked and gazed into the face of the holy One who fasted forty days, spending all the time in prayer and meditation.

I often silently asked him several questions regarding His fast of forty days. Dear Lord! How did you spend all your time, both day and night? Did you pray and meditate throughout the twenty four hours? Did you not rest or sleep? Pray, help me to spend my days also as you spent them in those blessed days of your memorable fast. I long to pray and meditate like you, spending every moment of my time just as you did in those days of your fast. As I may never get this blessed opportunity again, let me not waste even an hour or a minute in vain, but make the best use of every moment in reaching higher and higher and thus coming nearer to Thee day by day, is all I pray of Thee.

Several times a day, whenever my eyes wandered towards his picture, I conversed with him, trying to feel his tender love and spirit, and await an answer. But he neither spoke nor smiled but continued to look into my heart and soul with his penetrating eyes of love as if asking me, to merge within, to be still-to listen to his answer in the stillness of my heart.

Thus, my, day, started with the sweet, message of, fragrant flowers and ended in the embrace, an enfolding love of God.

Let us to sweet flowers turn,
Holy lessons from them learn,

How to lead a lovely life,
In this vale of tears and strife,
Like a flower -face each day,
Lift our hearts to God and pray,
Give out fragrance, never craving
Human praise or things enslaving,
Live for God and nothing more,
Saint-like pure our days outpour.
Brief life, flowers pass away
But in Him, both bloom always.
Let us to sweet flowers turn,
Sacred lessons from them learn.

Om! Tat! Sat! Om!

(Peace Aug 1985)

48. THE WORLD AN EMANATION OF GOD

Everything that we see is an emanation of God. Everything that has a form and name is an emanation of God. You and I, one and all are the emanations of the one Omnipresent God.

Then why do you look upon the world as something different from God? Because you have separated religion from life the everyday life confining God, to form and name to time and place.

You only admit in theory, in your grand eloquent talks about God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience, repeating that God is everywhere and in every one. But in the practical life, do you see God in every one especially in your revilers and sweet foes? Do you see God in the sunset, sunrise, green fields, lofty hills, blue sky, above all in all the dumb animal friends?

Does it create any impression in you when a driver is beating a poor tired bony horse or twisting the already bent tail of a weak tottering bull, lest he might miss the train? Does it create any feeling in you when you see an innocent man needlessly persecuted and openly or publicly disgraced? Does it move your heart in any way when you see an ignorant boy throwing stones at a bleeding dog or ill-treating or choking a starving kitten in the street? Yet, we say that all life is one and all are the manifestations of the one God!

Somehow through deep darkness and delusion, we have forgotten the great fundamental truth, that “Religion is Life and Life is Religion,” hence is all the chaos, struggle, strife and confusion. In our practice we have forgotten that God is the God of light, life and love, nay, the very interpenetrating presence of our beings as well as of the world. We have put God above the world far away in the skies or in the heavens or confined Him to temples, churches and mosques. Naturally He has become a separate and a faraway God. Hence, the agony and suffering and life in darkness and death in ignorance.

Is not an atom of earth the emanation of the Mother earth? Is not a ray of light the emanation of the burning sun? Is not the fragrance of a rose the emanation of the sweet smelling flower? Is not a spark the emanation of fire? Is not a flame the emanation of a light or of a candle? Is not an unborn baby the emanation of a mother? How can you be so ignorant as to think of separating them? Above all, is not the wide world the emanation, the outcome, nay, the projection of the one stupendous whole, the incomprehensible God.

Then why do you separate the cause from the effect? Why do you cling to the shadow denying the substance? Why do you worship the ephemeral, the changing neglecting the eternal, and the changeless?

Are not the gold rings, bangles and necklaces made of the same gold? Are not the earthen pots, dishes, jugs, etc. made of the same earth? Are not all the threads in a cloth made of the same fibre or cotton? Are not the bubbles, ripples and waves composed of the same water of the ocean.

Similarly, men women and children of all castes, religions and nations the rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant the foe and the friend, the sinner and the saint are not all these the living images of God, the emanation or the projection of the one God? When everything, the whole world is only an emanation of the projection of God how can you see anything other than God in any one or in any thing?

Whether it is in individuals or in families or in communities or in nations, the happiness or peace that knows no change, belongs only to those blessed souls who can see God within and without, and behold Him everywhere and in everyone. If man see anything other than God, His own divinity in any one, even in his so-called bitterest enemies, agony and suffering will be his inevitable lot. In all his tests and trials, sufferings and tribulations, even at the bayonet's point man has to learn by constant practice only to recognize and see nothing but God, for all is God both within and without.

How soul-thrilling and life-giving is the very thought that the world is an emanation of God! The very repetition of this theme fills one's being with strength and inspiration. Since the world is an emanation of God, all that we do is an emanation of the power for we are all the part and parcel of the same world. **All that we think, speak or do is the emanation of God.**

How inspiring and wonderful it is to know that every word we utter, every thought we think, and every deed we perform is an emanation of God. Let charity begin at home. Let us practice this religion of emanation, the truth of this interpenetrating presence, in our very homes, in our daily lives.

Hence, is it not high time for the parents to see God in their children and for the children to see God in their parents! How blessed it would be for a lady to see God in her husband and for the husband to see the same divinity in his wife, in spite of the passing clouds of outer differences, for all is the expression of one God.

When individuals can see God in each other in their families, they could easily extend to behold God in other families and communities. Thus the God vision of love universal extends to one and all, spreading all over the world. This is the only way for establishing peace in the individual heart first and then spreading it far and wide in the world. **Verily it is the Individual Peace which paves the way for Universal Peace.**

Beginning from a blade of grass, a tiny dew drop, the sweet flower, the green field, the blue hill, the singing bird, the gentle cow, the roaring lion, the innocent baby, the great warrior, to the mighty planet, and the sun, are not all these the living emanations of the one God!

Dear friends, shall we close our eyes, for a moment and begin to practice to feel this individual peace in our very hearts, knowing that the very heartbeat is the emanation of God, the universal power. It is He, who is throbbing in our hearts and flowing in our very breath for. He is the Breath of our breaths, our Life of our lives and Soul of our souls.

As our very breath which is so close and inseparably one with us, in all the waking, dreaming and sleeping states, is only an emanation of God; hence let us have the strength to watch and to follow it steadily and concentratedly, so that the finite breath, alone will lead us to that Infinite, Breath, the Goal and Source of all emanations. Verily God is the Breath of our breaths. May the bubble of the world merge and dissolve in breathlessness, the effulgent and ineffable glory of God.

May all, Homage be unto all the living images, the emanations of the One God.

OMOMOM

(Peace July 1986)

49. THE GREACE OF GOD

The Grace of God is on me now more than ever. Why on me alone on you also, nay on all the people in the world. Because God is Omnipresent. His grace is in all without excluding even the tiniest creature, for He is interpenetrating the whole universe. Recognize this One simple fact or truth and be silent. No more words, just feel God's presence within, without, above, below and all around. It is all God, nothing else exists besides God.

Verily, He is One without a second. Face Him in the saint and sinner. See Him in the pious and ugly, nay even in the dumb animals.

No more forgetfulness. When God is within, why look outside and feel Him in the very cells of your being from the very toes to the top of the head.

When God is without, why look within. Recognize Him in all in the manifested world. In all the kingdoms of life, in Human Kingdom in man and woman.

Even in children and in Animal Kingdom, in the gentle cow and ferocious tiger, for nothing exists except God. God alone pervades and permeates all kingdom of life and lifelessness, for it is God in bird, plant and every form and name in life and non-life or lifelessness.

Grace of God means expression of God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience not now and then but always, ceaselessly without a break like oil poured from one vessel into another vessel.

In the Grace of God, there is no more forgetfulness. How can there be any delusion or forgetfulness. How can there be any forgetfulness in the Light of lights, the Sun of suns, the splendour of millions of suns.

In the Grace of God, one lives in the present tiny moment ignoring the dead past and the dim uncertain future. Glory! Glory! Glory! It is the splendour of millions of suns within, without, above, below, all around and everywhere, for God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient.

With every breath it is *soham*. It is *soham* in the beginning. It is *soham* in the middle. It is *soham* in the end. You are eternally in *soham* from, the beginning to end I am writing now because of the presence of the *soham*.

Dear Loving Reader, you are reading now, wherever you may be near or far, because of the, indwelling presence, interpenetrating presence of *soham*. The eternal witness. The incomprehensible splendour of millions of suns!

Waveless Silence of the Self-effulgent Light of lights.
Hari Om Tat Sat Om

AN OFFERING

An Offering to all the *soham* worshippers in the East and the West!

(Peace Dec 1986)

50. The One World

Is there one world or two worlds? There is only one world, but ignorant man by his endless desires makes the One World into two worlds, nay into many worlds as per his wishes and aspirations. Vedanta the end of knowledge also recognizes only one world of truth or God consciousness. It teaches that rope alone exists and never the snake. Man in ignorance forgets the rope, rather mistakes the rope and imagines that it is a snake and thus suffers endless worry, agony, and pain with fear and weakness, all because of darkness.

How blessed it is to live in a world of God-consciousness, where all is God within and without: this vital thought came into prominence now, because of the wise and loving remark made by our Pujya Ramananda Thirthaji who was staying recently nearly a fortnight in the Lakshmi Vihar, Peace Centre, Kotagiri, Nilgiris. The Peace Centre was blessed to have him, with his silent and ideal life of love and peace. We had long conversations everyday not with words but in silence. Sometimes I listened when Swamiji spoke about our favorite pet-scheme Sri Rama Thirtha College of Peace: and its great future. How blessed it is, to have the special blessings of the living saint Sri Vinobaji, on the glorious future of Sri Rama Thirtha College of Peace.

When I see Sri Ramananda Thirthaji, I see in him, his revered Guru Sri Narayana Swamiji, as well as Sri Swami Rama Thirthaji the apostle of God-consciousness. Thus it gives me joy to see Swami Narayana and Swami Rama Thirtha working now, through the vehicle of our Pujya Swami Ramananda Thirthaji. Once during our recent spiritual communions, I felt deeply touched and happy when Swamiji remarked thus; Swamiji you live in a world of your own: Indeed, how blessed it is to live in a world where everything is God and everyone is a living image of God! To justify Swamiji's words of appreciation and love often I go within myself to see whether everything is God, to me from the toes to the top of the head inside! How wonderful it is to feel His presence, the infinite light in the very cells of one's being! Again I open my eyes to see whether everything is God, whether I am seeing Him outside, in flower, bird, beast and man.

Verify nothing exists but God for the God-man, the man of God-realization. In the very cool breeze, in the warm sunshine, it is the presence of God. Indeed, as scriptures teach us, it is because of Him, the sun shines, the breeze blows, the flower blooms, the bird sings, the child plays, the man works and the saint meditates. Glory! Glory! Glory!

We are to feel God's presence, not only in meditations in the unmanifested but also in the manifested, for all the world is an emanation of God. The world like a bubble in the ocean comes from God, stays in God and finally merges in God. Blessed are they who do not recognize the evanescent bubble but only the real and permanent ocean of *akhandasatchidananda*—the Existence Absolute, Knowledge Absolute and Bliss Absolute.

Yes! As Swamiji says- Live in a world of my own it is He, who writes in me. It is He who reads in you my loving readers of Peace magazine. In this one world God, all are the living manifestations of God. Nothing else exists except God, *ekamevadviteeyam Brahma* or God is One without a second. He is all silence to waveless silence and supreme silence. May we bow our heads in deep adoration to Him who is all silence!

Now coming to the practical side of my message, as it is all one world of *sat chidananda*, I am trying to feel His presence both in pain and pleasure or joy. Where is pain or joy in the world of God-consciousness. Going a step further: I am trying to express Him, to be aware of His presence not only in the waking state, but even in the sleeping state. Verily, there is One who never sleeps, He is God or the indwelling light, which is no other than the One indivisible *soham* light, which is One without a second.

Going still deeper, I long to feel His presence not only in pain and sleep but even in death also.

Q:- Is it possible?

A:- It is more than possible, if you live in the One world of God, where nothing else exists except God, the only changeless reality. The eternal truth, from eternity to eternity.

After all, where is pain in God? Where is sleep in God? And where is death in God? It is all so easy, simple, plain, direct and face to face, for the man of God-realization, who is blessed with personal experience. But for the learned man of dry intellect, all these truths are mystical and mysterious, incomprehensible and unbelievable too. We are concerned now with the One world of cosmic light or God-consciousness. Coming down from the sublime heights of cosmic glory, into the daily life of common things, let us try to practice and feel His presence, in little things, as well as in big things, for it has been said the practice of the presence of God now and always is the secret of all happiness. So let us practice now to feel His presence within and without even in the least movement of the hand, as I write now and you my loving readers, try to feel His presence as you read.

Verily, He is sparkling in our eyes, thinking in our minds throbbing in our hearts and flowing in our very breath as *soham*, the one universal energy. May we now follow this simple

visible *soham* faithfully and ceaselessly as it naturally leads us into the invisible *soham* - the soul and goal of One world of God-consciousness or Cosmic Light. May the good Lord, bless all His children with Cosmic Light, which is our Divine Birthright, which is same both in pain and joy, in sleep and waking state, nay even in death and life!

Indeed the world of God-consciousness is free of all changes and duality of every kind. If ever peace in the world and goodwill among communities and harmony among nations is going to be established in the world, it must be established only on the firm and rocky foundation of the one world of God or truth. It is the one world of God, which destroys ignorance and annihilates ego, dispels pride and bitterness and establishes Peace in the heart of individuals as well as in the different nations, all over the world in the East and the West!

May all Homage be unto the One World of Cosmic Light!

May Peace be unto all.

OMOMOM

(Peace Feb 1991)

51. THIS TOO SHALL PASS AWAY

There used to be a millionaire through his *poorvajanasukrutam*, because of the good karma the good deeds that he had done in his previous births, he is blessed with devotion, the richest gift of God. He had a good *guru*, preceptor from whom he received *upadesam*, initiation also. But through contact with men of the world and things of outer life, he became a slave of the senses and ruined his health and reputation. The millionaire had all the money in the world that he could not use it, for he could neither eat nor drink. How true are the words? When wealth is lost nothing is lost, when health is lost something is lost, when character is lost everything is lost. Thus our Millionaire lost his health and character too. Because of his vices and high-living and low-thinking, he lost his appetite.

He could neither eat nor drink anything for days. He was getting emaciated without sleep and food. Thus in his agony and helplessness, he remembered his Guru Dev and wrote to him a letter to save him from the grip of suffering. The *guru* thought over the matter deeply and wrote a *mantram*, divine statement, on a page and rushed it to his *chela* the Millionaire asking him to repeat it day and night and also to get it written on the wall. When the Millionaire opened the holy slip, he found the following life-giving words. "This too shall pass away." His sickness and weakness, misery and agony, sleeplessness and suffering is only momentary. It is a passing cloud. It will pass away. How helpful and wonderful! Thus these days lying in casts, as I see Cement

Plaster casts, the covering from the toes to the top of the left leg all the way covering the left leg and the other covering from the top to the elbow smile and repeat unconsciously the soul-awakening words, "This too shall pass away." Are the casts going to remain forever on the body? Why casts alone, what about the body? Is it not also unreal? That which comes, goes. When the body itself is going, why speak of the casts on the body? It is only a matter of time. Everything that has a name and form disappears. Casts disappear. Diseases also disappear misery and agony disappear. Even the body which the man has been worshipping day and night considering it as his own, all in all, disappears. What is that thing that never disappears? It is the indwelling light, the ever present self-effulgent light that neither comes nor goes for it is the only ever-present reality. These days in spite of the casts sickness and sleeplessness. I live in a world of my own repeating cheerfully "This too shall pass away."

Dear loving readers of Peace Magazine! What is that thing by knowing which everything is known? What is that thing, when everything passes away, that will remain as the Beacon Light of Humanity?

It is the infinite, eternal and universal light, the light that includes all and excludes none. It is your birthright. "Thou art That." Everything passes away except the *atman*, Thyself. In Shanti Ashram there is the following aspiring motto sign, "Life is not smoke but fire."

Is your life full of smoke or fire? Dear loving readers! Thy birthright is not smoke but fire. Make it the all-consuming fire but never the passing cloud of smoke which makes you and others blind. Life is fire but never smoke. Assert it. Manifest it Now and Here, for the peace of thyself as well as for the peace of the world. The smoke will surely pass away but not the self-effulgent fire, the splendour of millions of suns. The Plaster Casts will pass away, the passing shadows of sickness and sleeplessness will pass away but not the *soham* light the light that covers all, embracing all. Let us cling to the One who neither decreases nor increases who is same in the casts nay even in death and life. I love to live in a world of my own, where there is no more smoke of death and destruction and where it is all light, the Omnipresent light, the Omniscient light and the Omnipotent light! Let us meditate now on that Light of lights! Nay it dispels all passing clouds of smoke and suffering, establishing peace and love in the hearts of all His children.

This is the prayer of the One who loves you all for you are all my own the One without a second. *Ekamevaadviteeyam Brahma*. The Light or Truth is One without a second. May Peace be unto all!

OM OMOM

(Peace Oct 1994)

52.THE MASTERS WITHIN

I am never tired of repeating that the Master of masters is ever within. I plead and beg all, to love and worship the inner Master, instead of outer masters. I pray and request one and all, to concentrate and meditate only on the Master of humanity who is the Indwelling Presence of every heart!

But alas! I do not know, what is wrong with some of my friends! In spite of my repeated appeals, they still cling to, and worship the outer masters, imaginary masters, finite masters, ethereal masters, astral masters and spirit masters. I do not deny the existence of all these masters. They may exist in ether or air or at least in one's own mind. I am nowhere to denounce the masters. But my point is, why not worship the One Master of all masters, who is the life and soul of the very universe?

It touches my heart with sadness when I see the wrecks of innocent lives in the name of masters. How many poor and deluded souls are wasting their precious lives, with sleepless nights and restless days, to contact some of these pitiable finite and illusory masters. My Readers of Peace Journal have to excuse me for calling these masters, finite. Are they not finite and pitiable, being masters, yet unable to attain the Highest of the highest, and thus merge and dissolve in God, instead of leading separate lives from Him, hovering over snowy peaks and either imaginary—place.

Our Ashram gates are open to one and all, as the Peace Mission is the common property of all children of God. I wonder why some of these masters do not come to our Thotapalli Hills? Perhaps they may not like silence and solitude, and above all, the company of those who are worshipping the highest Lord, instead of pining for them. Nevertheless our love goes out towards one and all, whether they are masters or slaves, fools or saviours, spirits or angels, for God is love.

It is my weakness to have bitterness against the very word contact. Deluded souls are restlessly engaged in contacting masters in some form or other. "Contact is possible only in separation and duality. There is nothing to contact in Truth or God, for He is One without a second. Hence contact is ignorance, delusion, weakness and childishness."

When truth is pervading and permeating our very beings, filling the whole universe, instead of recognizing truth. Why grope in the mire of darkness and ignorance, contacting masters? Pray, give up contacting forms and names! In the name of God, give up contacting spirits and elementals! Cease from contacting, in the name of truth, entities and other hob-goblins which are given most astounding names! Assert and recognize the nameless One, the formless One the giver of your lives, the soul of your dreams, and the God and ideal of your existence.

I am afraid the masters and their deluded worshippers may not relish my thoughts, but I have the consolation that my sweet beloved, the indweller of my heart, the Master of masters, loves and sympathizes with me for my firm conviction of Him as the One presence. When we were mere children, we were happy in wasting our time playing with little toys of names and forms. Shall we remain forever as mere deluded children worshipping entities, elementals, spirits and finite masters?

One of my devoted and earnest friends, has been telling me the other day that he has forbidden the worship of any kind of master in his lodge; so far, I felt highly pleased and elated, but he ended the sentence by saying, “except lord ‘X’”

How pathetic! When we give up worshipping all other masters, why cling to this Lord ‘X’? Why sell our souls to this particular master? Who is the source of this lord ‘X’? Why not worship the very source and fountain-head of master ‘X’?

In the Bible we read that our God is a jealous God. If we make a graven image of any master or worship any Lord except the living presence. He will visit us in the form of iniquities. He will never forgive us. It is blasphemy to worship anything other than God. It is an unforgivable sin to worship anything other than the highest truth. Away with masters, lords, finite masters, common masters and most worshipful and all-powerful masters! Let us have strength enough to worship only the Lord of all lords master of both the visible and invisible worlds!

If we want to taste the peace that passeth all understanding, to drink the nectar of immortality, it is not in the hands of these, entities and spirit masters, but it rests with the indweller of our heart—the sweet beloved, who is patiently awaiting us, abiding within alone, to bless us with the highest state of *nirvanic* bliss.

Once when I mentioned in the ordinary course of conversation, to a friend, that I had a deep meditation that day; he immediately asked me whether I went to the “Lodge”. My began to shiver and quiver at the mere mention of this “Lodge”. What kind of a “Lodge” is it? Where is it impending? Is it on land or sky or water? Am I to meditate and waste my precious time to visit and hover around these lodges?

My Lodge is within me, in the sacred sanctuary of my heart. My Lord is ever abiding in the stillness of my heart. I need not chant incantations or use pass words, or invoke special spirits aid to soar into the cold, icy regions to meet my dear Lord who is ever with me and within me. In stillness I feel Him and in activity I manifest Him. I live, work and breathe in Him for we are inseparably One.

This master business, is flourishing well, far and near, in both East and West, in spite of the exemplary lives of ideal saviours. What can be the cause of this spectacular empty brilliancy, which lasts but for the moment like fireworks. The cause is simple for the mind is ever restless and unruly, always striving to grasp or contact some master or other outwardly. To still the mind,

is the work of a master-mind, but not of the worshippers of masters. Inward gaze is impossible for all the followers of masters and lords.

“Be still and know that I am God”. This stillness can be known and realized only by a Christ, Krishna or Buddha, who have been the Masters of all masters! Shall we walk in the foot - steps of these saviours or be caught in the quagmire of darkness and be lost in the slime of astral planes, and other spirit worlds?

My heart’s sympathy goes out towards all these deluded followers and second hand worshippers, and also for their worshipful lords and masters. In all sincerity I plead the venerable masters also, not to lead astray the ignorant and undeveloped children of God, these blind sheep, from the Center of Truth, but to help them to rely on their own self, instead of allowing them to blindly contact finite masters, neglecting the living reality of the One presence, in the stillness of their hearts. I extend my love to all of them, both to the worshipped and the worshippers and stretch forth my arms to the whole of humanity with the earnest and entreating request, “to be true, first to the indwelling presence, the Lord of lords, the Master of masters, the Highest of the highest, the Sun of suns who is the source and soul of the very universe.”

May He, who is the inter penetrating presence, the substance and the over soul of both the microcosm and macrocosm, lift our veils and open our eyes, to the true vision of the, sweet beloved in all stillness, who is inseparably, eternally and indivisibly one with us! May glory be unto Him, both in the manifested and unmanifested forms, in stillness and activity! May silent adorations be unto the great Master of masters: who is ever within us, as One without a second! May peace be unto all!

OMOMOM

(Peace Dec 1995)

53.THE ATMAN (SOUL) IS NEVER BOUND

- The *atman* is never bound, because it is free. The *atman* is never bound, because there is nothing besides to bind it.
- The *atman* is never bound, because it is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient
- The *atman* is never bound, because it is One without a second.

Freedom and bondage, Light and darkness, Wisdom and ignorance, Strength and weakness, nay even Life and death cannot exist together here one attribute exists, the opposite attribute of quality does not exist. Light dispels darkness. Where, there is Knowledge, there cannot be any ignorance.

Can you see both rope and snake at the same time, in one object? As long as you mistake the rope, for a snake, the rope disappears from your vision and only the snake exists. When you recognize the rope, illusion, of the snake is dispelled, just as darkness is dispelled by light.

Thus, man cannot be both free and bound at the same time. As *atman*, he is eternally free. As mind he is ever bound. Can the Sun, the Light of the world, be ever bound? Then, how can the Sun of suns, the light of all the manifested and unmanifested worlds be bound? Man in his colossal ignorance, makes the sad mistake of attributing freedom and immortality to the mortal body and mind and thereby makes a complete mess of his whole life and suffers untold agony and pain.

Let the wise man learn to identify himself always with the eternal and imperishable *atman* and not with the perishable body and mind, for his own peace as well as of others, for all is one self, One without a second. The *atman* is never bound. It is eternally free. What a life-giving, soul-awakening and deep thought is this! This great thought contains the essence of all religions the experience of all the sages of the East and West in a nut-shell. The *atman* is never bound and it can never be bound, in spite of man's forgetfulness or non-recognition. "The pure self was never at any time bound nor will it ever be."

In the presence of the effulgent splendour of millions of suns of the indivisible self, the body, mind and world are burnt up and consumed. They are like mere froth on the waveless Ocean of Knowledge, Existence and Bliss-Absolute. May we center ourselves in the *atman* as we are nothing but the *atman* and thus express the soul's inherent attributes: -Freedom, Immortality, Fearlessness, Happiness and Peace rising above the dreamy hallucinations of the body, the mind and the world.

May all Homage be unto the Free Souls of Freedom! May Peace be unto all!

Om OmOm

(Peace May 1952)

