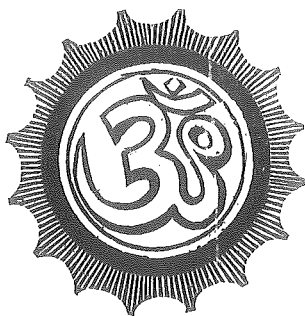


SOUVENIR
DIAMOND JUBILEE
of
SRI SANTI ASHRAM
and
THE EIGHTYTHIRD BIRTHDAY
of
SRI SWAMI OMKAR

21st JANUARY 1977



THE MISSION OF PEACE

SRI SANTI ASHRAM

CONTENTS

PART I. MESSAGES

PART II. SWAMIJEE'S WRITINGS



PRAYER

(For World Peace)

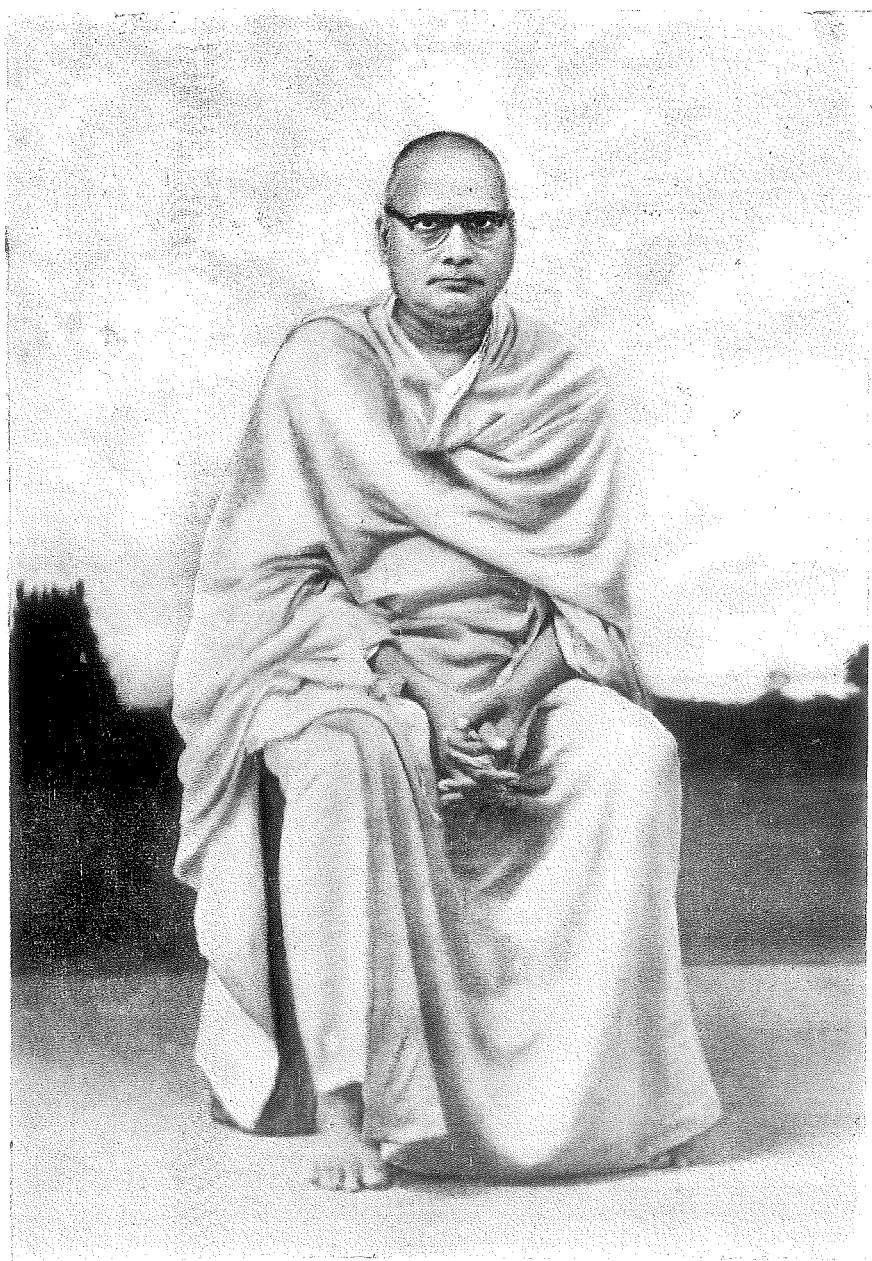
Adorable Presence !

Thou Who art within and without, above and below and all around, Thou Who art interpenetrating the very cells of our beings Thou Who art the Eye of our eyes, Ear of our ears, Heart of our hearts, Mind of our minds, Breath of our breaths, Life of our lives and Soul of our souls, bless us, Dear God ! to be aware of Thy Presence, Now and Here. This is all that we ask of thee !

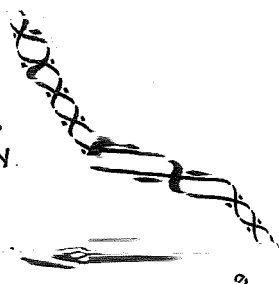
May all of us be aware of Thy Presence in the East and the West, in the North and the South ! May Peace and Goodwill abide among individuals as well as communities and nations ! This is our earnest prayer.

May Peace be unto all !

OM ! OM ! OM !



ur
ves
rhy.



SOUVENIR

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF SRI SANTI ASHRAM

CONTENTS

	Page
PART - I	
1. Vaishnav-Jana	1
2. Message	2
3. Message	3
4. Message	6
5. Message	7
6. Message	8
7. Message	10
8. Omkarji, The Yogi of Totapalli	11
9. Message	12
10. Sri Swami Omkar	13
11. Message	14
12. Hats Off to Swami Omkarji	15
13. Swami Omkar Maharaj, The Apostle of Peace	17
14. Jubilee Message	18
15. Ring Diamond Aumkar,	19

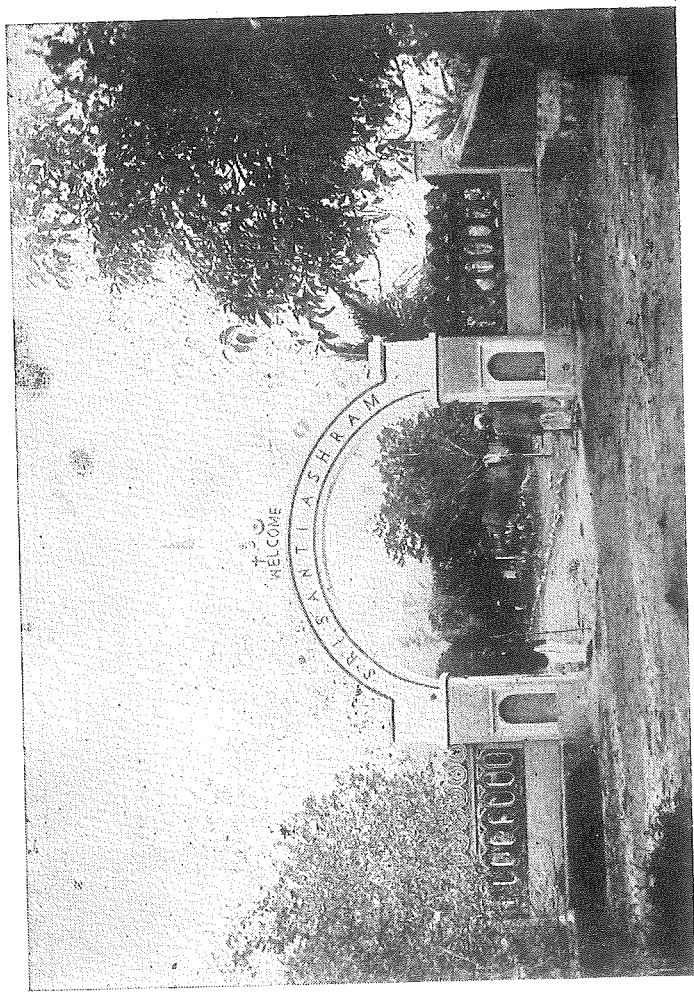
		Page
16.	The Silent Service of Sri Santi Ashram The Mission of Peace	Miss Moti Manekji 22
17.	Sri Swamy Omkar, A Significant Jewel in the Human Family	Dr. R. L. Soni 24
18.	God Men	Kommireddi Suryanarayana Murty, M.A., B.Ed. 26
19.	The Universal Messiah, The Omkar & His Universal Message	Sri Swami Brahmanandaji 29
20.	The Concept of Peace	Marni T. Ramji, M.A., M.Ed. N.D., Ph. D. 33
21.	The Divine Life Society	Swami Krishnananda 40
22.	Message	Sri Devi Nirvana Sukhasram 41
23.	My Reminiscences	A. Venkataratnam 42
24.	Message	Swami Chidananda 45
25.	Message	Mrs. P. P. Naidu 47
26.	Message	Kotha Subba Rao 48
27.	Sri Gita Grandhalaya	S. Subba Rao 49
28.	The Saint of Santi Ashram	Raja Y. Bennayya Dora 52
29.	Swami Omkar, The Prophet of Peace And Brotherhood	M. Bhimasen Rao 54
30.	Alphabet of Swamy Omkar	Tarakam 58
31.	Message	Geddarn Sanyasi Rao 59
32.	Appendix	Dr. K. Satchidanandamurty 61

P A R T - II

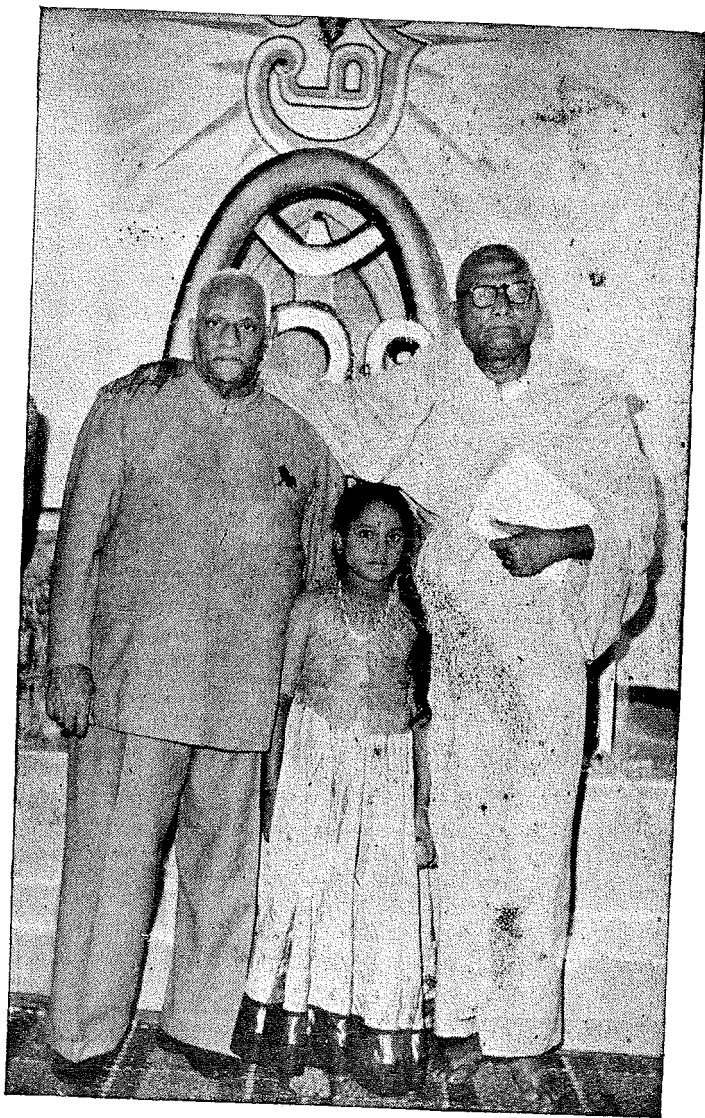
1.	A short commentary on the Prayer for world peace	R. A. Narayan, M.A., B.L., 1
2.	How shall I Worship Thee	... 3
3.	The Message of Peace	... 4
4.	Reforming Myself	... 7
5.	The Message of the Niagara Falls	... 9

	Page
...	12
6. Wonderful	14
7. My Religion	22
8. My Legacy to You	24
9. Truth Alone Triumphs (Satyameva Jayathi) ...	29
10. Be A flame of God	32
11. Little Self	36
12. Krishna's Flute	38
13. Impressions	41
14. Identification	44
15. Rare Reflections	47
16. The Master Within	51
17. Self-Reliance	56
18. Preciousness of Time	61
19. Friends	64
20. Slipped	69
21. The Cocoanut Story	72
22. Light of Lights	76
23. Do Not Eat Rotten Fruits	79
24. Power of Thought	82
25. Hidden Light of Dormant Cells	86
26. In the Light of God	89
27. Intellectualism	92
28. Tears Divine	100
29. Promise	105
30. The Blue Butterfly	105
31. Ignorance, Belief and Experience	112
32. Life is Fire But Not Smoke	112
33. All Life is Sorrow	

34. A Letter To The Almighty	...	121
35. Freedom	...	124
36. Voice of Silence	...	127
37. The Message of the Hills	...	132
38. Every wave is A Prayer	...	135
39. Our Dumb Animal Freinds	...	141
40. My Experience With Dumb Creatures	...	142
41. Perceiving The Highest	...	150
42. Quotations	...	156
43. The Spirit of Silent Endurance	...	158
44. The East And The West	...	160
45. Sanatana Dharma	...	165
46. The Message of Flowers	...	169
47. Victory Over Fear	...	175
48. Peace	...	179
49. I Will Spend My Heaven Doing Good Upon Earth	...	182
50. God is Love	...	187
51. Do You Want God ?	...	190
52. Vain Talk	...	193
53. The Vision	...	194
54. The Worshippers of Creed	...	198
55. My Creed	...	202
56. To Think is to Pray	...	209
57. True Worship	...	213
58. Fundamental Harmony, Unity And Universality of All Religions	...	219
59. Do Not Hurt Nor Be Hurt By others	...	223
60. That Thou Art <i>Parting Message</i>	...	229



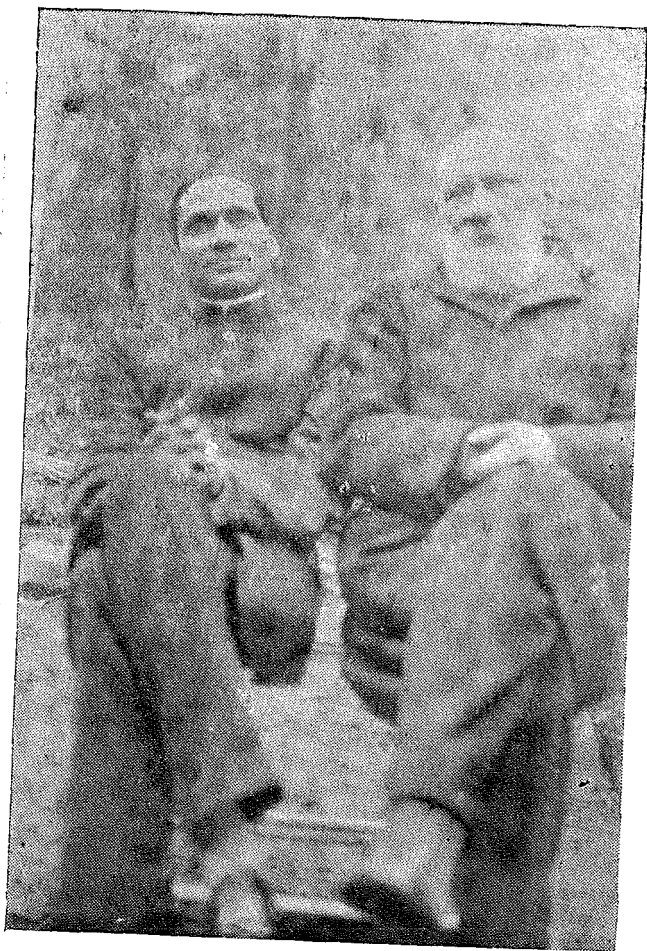
Main Gate (Front side) Sri Santi Ashram



Swamijee with Hon'ble Shri V. V. Giri



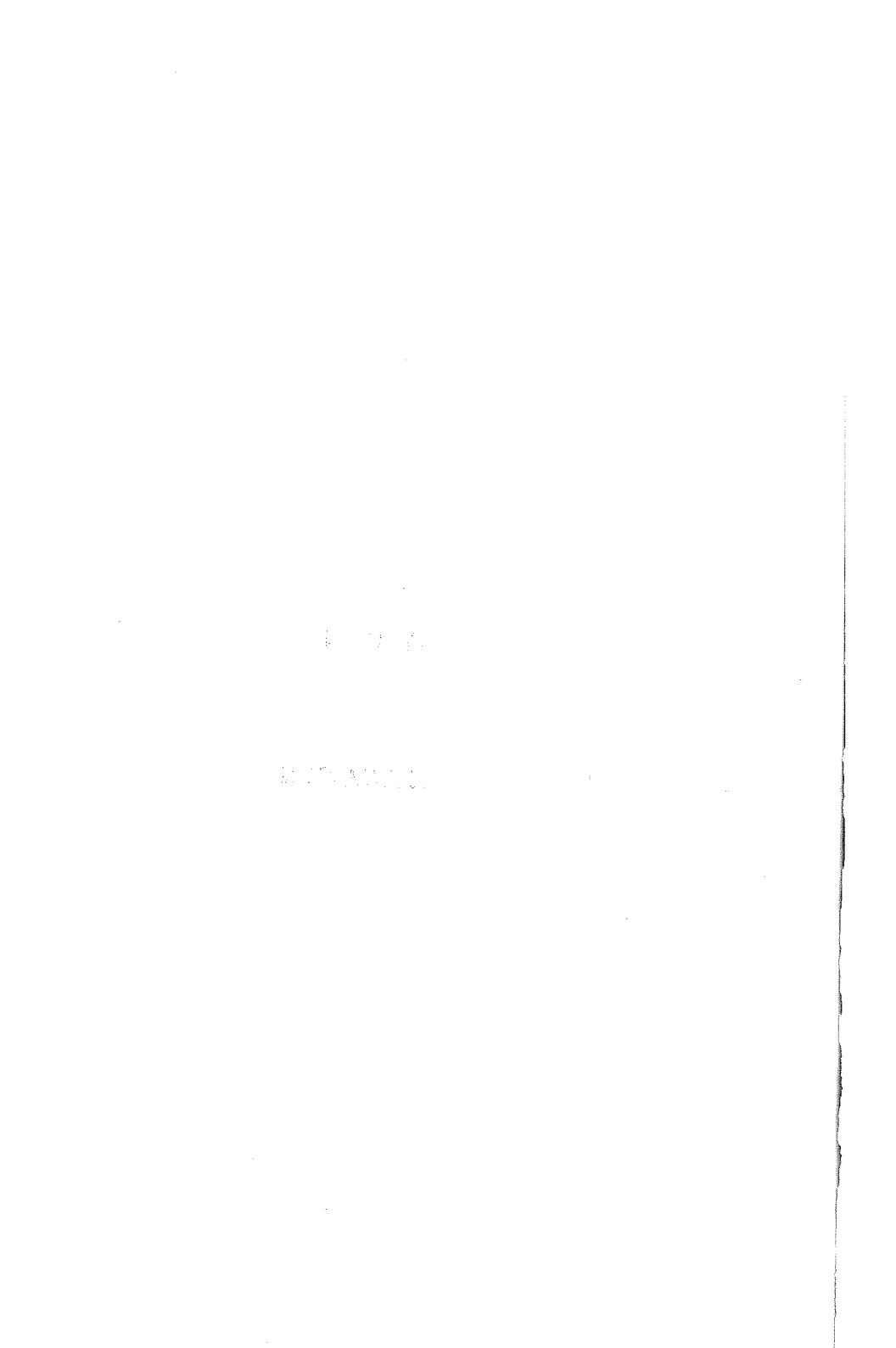
Swamiji Omkar at 72
Santi Ashram



Sri Swamiji with Iliya Tolstoy in U.S.A.

PART I

MESSAGES



VAISHNAV - JANA

(Note: A correspondent asked for an English translation of Gandhiji's favourite hymn, *Vaishnav-Jana*. The following is a free translation of it by Gandhiji himself.

— Ed. HARIJAN

God's truest saint is he,
Who holdeth other's woe to be his own :
No pride hath he,
He speaketh ill of none,
He holdeth all alike in honour :
He ruleth well his speech,
His passions and his thoughts :
Always he speaketh truth,
He layeth not his hands on other men's possessions :

Pure is he and chaste,
No self-delusion bandageth his eyes,
His mind is drawn away from earthly things,
No lusts, no ill desires sear his soul :
He loveth well the name of God,
He knoweth well that God's most sacred shrine
Is man's own body:
Generous is he, and free from cunning,
He yieldeth not to anger:
One such man
Bringeth by his presence purity
To all around.

— NARSAIYO

V. V. GIRI

Phone : 443617

'Malathi'

No. 4, Giri Road, T. Nagar,
Madras-600 017.

Your communication dated 26th October 1976 to hand. I have known Swamiji for the last sixty years and I know his greatness, character and integrity and the inspiration he has been giving to the public throughout the world to live good and happy life, I wish your Diamond Jubilee Celebration every success.

V. V. GIRI.

Raj Bhavan,
Lucknow,
November 7, 1976.



The KATHA Upanishad, one of the most poetical Upanishads, begins with the question – “When a man dies, there is a dispute, One party declares that he has gone for ever, the other insists, that he is still living. Which is true ?” The sphere of metaphysics, philosophy and religion is really filled with various answers to the question, and so long as there is death – infinite yawning chasm – human mind is bound to recoil and ask : “Is this real ? ”

Reading History between the lines, we find that Indian saints and seers solved this question ages ago, when the so-called modern world did not exist even. The Vedic sage proclaimed – “Hear, ye children of immortal bliss! even ye that reside in higher spheres! I have found the Ancient One who is beyond all darkness, all delusion: Knowing Him alone you shall be free from death over again”:

Over and above the dreadful combination of unforgiving laws, not an endless prison of cause and effect but that at the helm of them, in and through every particle of matter and energy, stands One by whose command the wind blows, the fire burns, the clouds rain and death stalks upon the earth”. Indian sages proclaimed at length that the Absolute can only be realised, or thought of, or stated, though the relative. and the images and idols are simply so many symbols to manifest the spiritual ideas on.

Concretising the concept more, Lord Krishna says--“I am in every Religion as the thread through a string of pearls. Wherever thou seest extraordinary onliness and extraordinary power,

raising and purifying humanity, know thou that I am there''. This is the gist of all our philosophies and thought. Even the Buddhists or the Jains who do not depend on God, the whole force of their religion is directed to the great nucleus truth in every religion - to evolve God out of man.

Religion, in its different manifestations, forms the very soul of the Indian Nation - sometimes dimmed and sometimes effulgent: In its vast and varied forces, movements, motives, ideas, forms and art of creative life energy, it has projected itself in different ages as a single continuous process and for scores of centuries, it has been enriching the world with its inestimable treasures. While the concept of Religion today must broaden to embrace all that is 'good and great' in the world, bearing meaning and purpose to modern sciences, we should keep in view that if we try now to form a new character, the inevitable result will be the split of the national personality and the extinction of the race sooner or later.

I am indeed very happy to know that the 'Sri Santi Ashram' at Totapalli Hills (S. I) - founded by Sri Sri Swami Omkarji Maharaj - is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee on the 21st of January, 1977. I have had the privilege of visiting the Ashram and having the *Darshan* of Swamiji on many occasions and amidst the worldly tumults and turmoils, I must confess I was blessed with perfect peace and bliss during the moments.

The history and growth of this Ashram is a saga of a great and elevated life of Swamiji and his personal spiritual efforts to help and awaken men and women. He is an embodiment of selflessness and Sacrifice and sincerely pours out his heart for the cause of real happiness of humanity, which, he has been firmly preaching, is possible by constant realization of God's Omnipresence God's Omniscience and God's realization. They apparently look very high sounding and difficult matters of spiritualism, but when one starts giving constant thought to these basic facts, one not only gets the realization, but would get the necessary help, guidance and strength to do whatever work that has been allotted in the best possible manner, as he always feels God's presence.

And all that one would be an offering to God. It is both strength to do properly and also a great relief for not getting either swollen-headed on victories or perturbed and dispirited on failures.

Swamiji has thus given a simple but powerful Peace prayer 'mantra' and during all these years, large number of people in thousands and lakhs, in India and even outside, have been largely benefitted by this 'mantra'. This Santi Ashram is the personification of Swamiji's ideals and 'mantra'.

The occasion of the celebrations of Diamond Jubilee, is, therefore, a great event and I am confident it will re-inforce the great impact it has created on the Society.

On this auspicious occasion, I offer my affectionate 'pranams' at the feet of Swamiji and wish the celebrations all success.

M. Channa Reddy
Governor, Uttara Pradesh

M. R. Apparow, M. A.
M. L. A.
Vice-Chancellor
Andhra University

Waltair
VISAKHAPATNAM - 530003
(A. P.)

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the Diamond Jubilee of the Mission of peace - Sri Shanti Ashram - is going to be celebrated in January next and that a Souvenir is being brought out to mark the occasion.

The quest for peace, is common in all human beings. By kindling the light of consciousness in the inner sanctuary of the soul, one can attain the peace, true and abiding.

On this happy occasion, we may reverentially recall the great role played by the Ashram and its venerable founder, Swami Omkarji, in spreading the message of love and peace. Many were the blessed people who came under the influence of Swamiji and received his transforming touch. I came into contact with Swamiji in 1931 and since then I have been in touch with him and I have been receiving his blessings and benedictions. His work and organisation are unique,

I offer my salutations to Swamiji and pray for the continuance of his lofty mission for many more Years.

M. R. APPAROW

Professor
K. Satchidananda Murty
Vice-Chancellor
Sri Venkateswara University

Tirupati - 517502
Andhra Pradesh

I am glad that the Diamond Jubilee of Santhi Ashram is to be celebrated in January 1977.

Santi Ashram is one of the best and biggest Ashramas in this State. Shri Swami Omkar is one of the few Swamis whom I sincerely respect. He has done pioneering work of a high order in spreading spirituality in this part of our country. More than that, his influence spread to other parts of this country as well as abroad.

My tribute to Swami Omkar is already contained in my foreword to his *Cosmic Flashes*. Vide Appendix

Santi Ashram is also fortunate in having devoted workers like you and others.

I hope the Ashram will grow from strength to strength.

Please convey my *Namaskaras* to Sri Swami Omkar.

With best wishes.

K. SATCHIDANANDA MURTY

A MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE SHANTI ASHRAM

Bombay, 9.11. '76.

What a befitting name to an Ashram ! Only a great soul like our beloved Swamiji could have thought of it ! And to imagine that this abode of peace was at one time a veritable jungle infested with wild animals ! Today, it is a beautiful paradise studded with lovely cottages, halls and radiating an atmosphere of peace, joy and bliss. See, what the vision of our Swamiji has given to all of us ; A blessing for all time to come for us and for the future generations.

It is, perhaps, due to some 'punya' done in our past life that our family has had the good fortune to be associated with Swami Omkar for over six decades. He has been our beaconlight all these years, guiding us and inspiring us. The reason for this is his utterly simple approach to God. He has no complex dogmas, no difficult ideas to preach. He asks us to dwell on the divine sound created by that beautiful syllable 'Om'. His Peace Prayer, as we all know, begins with "Thou Who art within and without, above and below and all around." In short, realize God by looking within yourself, says Gmkar.

We knew Swami Omkar as a young monk when he was in his teens and first visited our home in Madras. From that time, a bond of friendship developed which strengthened with the years and now the Shanti Ashram is an integral part of our life.

Only those who have seen the Ashram in the early days, as we have done, can realize the colossal work done, by Swami Omkar to bring it to its present stage. The Mother Ashram is not only

a big place but it has also got two main branches at Kotagiri and Waltair. Many devotees visit these Peace Centres for peace of mind and relaxation from worldly stress and strain. These the devotees, get in the Ashram, in full measure,

The Ashram has many selfless workers who have sacrificed the best years of their lives to make it a success. That is why there is plenty of humanitarian work going on ceaselessly. There is an orphanage, a hospital for sick patients, a hospital for sick animals and even a deaf and dumb school in Waltair. All these things require funds and somehow the thoughtful devotees keep these things going on, whatever be the strain and the struggle.

May the Shanti Ashram always remain peaceful and beautiful and may Swamiji live long to guide us in the years to come !

Mother Kamala Devi

P. Prakash

Landshuter Allee 110
MUNICH-19, W. Germany

Today's world is afflicted with all sorts of ailments, Physical, mental, social and spiritual. There is no hope for its recovery by following the prescriptions laid down by those in 'power' and in high 'seats' in the various fields, since a touch of the holy balm that soothes the spirit of man, that gives him a new light, life and vision that makes the individual – as also the society – an emblem of Peace and Harmony, is lacking in them. The hope for this lies in such enlightening human endeavours that arise from the Deep within, as if, are bestowed as Blessings directly from God, and have 'genuine power for the redemption of mankind. One such endeavour, and a most glorious one, is SANTI ASHRAM, the lamp shining with the flame of Omkar, That is really a Tradition of what has been the most high and sacred, since the advent of Mother 'Ganga' in the holy land of 'Aryavarta'. And that is a Movement of today to bring back each individual from the scorching earth and seat him in his own Self of 'The millions of Suns' 'Splendour'. May our Holy Omkar stay still long with us; may his child Santi Ashram flourish in Eternity as a centre of Love, Hope and Divine Light on earth; and may we have the wisdom and the Stamina to prove worthy adherents and the followers of this Holy Progeny, is our earnest wish and prayer !

P. PRAKASH

OMKARJI. THE YOGI OF TOTAPALLI

When I am asked to write a few lines about our dearest swamiji, words fail me. I have known our swamiji since my childhood or even earlier. He is my Guruji whom I not only revere but also look upon with love and affection. Swamiji reminds me of the Rishis of old; Swamiji is an evolved soul, an embodiment of self-sacrifice and a Living consciousness of the great Brahman who cannot be seen but only experienced. Always shy and retiring, shunning the usual publicity, swamiji lives in simple silence in the beautiful sylvan surroundings of Santi Ashram in Totapalli – A great yogi whose very presence is enough to transport you into a different world altogether. One has only to meet swamiji to know what a divine saint we have in our midst today.

U. MANORAMA RAO, M. A.
Bangalore.

Jacques Weiss
30, Avenue Georges Mandel
Paris. XVI
Passy 29 - 99

In reply to your Kind letter of Aug. 5, I send you here two messages to be included in the Souvenir Book of the future Jubilee. They come from on high and I try to act accordingly,

I

Sow an act and reap a habit
Sow a habit and reap a character
Sow a character and reap a destiny.

II

God is my Father - Nature is my mother
The universe is my way - Eternity is
my Kingdom - Immortality is my life
The Mind is my house, Truth is my worship.
Love is my Law - Form is my manifestation
Conscience is my guide - Peace is my shelter
Experience is my school - Obstacle is my lesson.
Difficulty is my stimulant - Joy is my hymn.
Pain is my warning - Work is my blessing.
Light is my realization - Friend is my Companion
Adversary is my instructor - Neighbour is
my brother - Struggle is my opportunity
Future time is my promise. Equilibrium
is my attitude - Order is my path.
Beauty is my ideal - Perfection is my destiny.

May I add that the first is derived from the Urantia teachings and the second from the tradition of the Wonder Healers of the Philippines.

With community of thought and kindest personal regards,

— JACQUES WEISS

SRI SWAMI OMKAR

BISHAN SWAROOP AGGARWAL, 'ROPARI'

O seekers of everlasting peace
In the East or in the West
O love to lie on Swami's feet
And find eternal rest

O solace of hearts Contrite
He emits peace rays always
And is our hope, our pride
Let us follow his peaceful ways

O do away dismay, disgrace
His holy name be our grace
Blessed is whole human race
No longer we find a wry face

The Unique monk holds sway
In our words, thoughts, deeds
He is beyond time and space
Ever – sprouting are his seeds.

JAI BHARAT

Kumari J. Jamuna Bai,

Hyderabad.

I am indeed very happy to know Shanti Ashram, is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee on the ensuing Birthday of Pujya swamiji in January 77, at Totapalli. Needless to reiterate the sanctity of the thanks-giving occasion, which is proposed to be celebrated in a befitting manner, by the Diamond Jubilee Committee.

Swamiji's silent work stands as a monument by itself, conveying its inspiring message to the present and future generation that visits the Ashram and its several centres in the South and elsewhere, what can be a more inspiring experience to the visitors of the Ashram, than to repeat the peace prayer in Swamiji's presence and feel for oneself its potential effect to calm the mind!

Really, one wonders at the apt quotations placed everywhere, that grip the attention of even a casual visitor, who cannot but pause and think over their significance.

Moreover Swamiji leaves the person free to think for himself and go deeper - to fathom the significance of life, its goal and fulfillment, without compulsion of any kind of practice and rituals. Is n't that great indeed!

Above all one cannot, but recall on this happy occasion the "heartly welcome" and "what can I do for you?" spoken by a friendly Swamiji, to the rich and the poor alike. To the seekers or Just casual visitors, the worth of the welcome is the same.

To the silent architect of the Shanti Ashram, we wish long and many more years of fruitful achievement, on the auspicious occasion of his 83rd birthday; and the happy occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Mission of Peace started by Pujya Swami Omkar sixty years ago, in the Thotapalli Hills of Andhra! To Him we offer our grateful thanks.

Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavanthu !

JAMUNA BAI

HATS OFF TO SWAMI OMKARJI !

Dr. VEMPATI SURYANARAYANA, Hyderabad.

That just an ordinary man like me should be asked to send a message in connection with the Diamond jubilee celebrations of Shanthi Asram, Thotapalli sounds rather strange !

Where is Swamiji ? Where am I ?

Ah! yes! I presume, perhaps rightly, that sister Gnaneswari, one of the organizers of the Diamond Jubilee function, wrote to me for a message Just to know how far and how deep our dear Swamiji's peace message has entered into the heart of a common man. we have in our country many who have renounced their all and who have been silently meditating for the realization of their souls.

But that is not enough, One should pine for the welfare of all and strive for it in season and out of season as a matter of creed. Gandhiji once observed "I am the most selfish fellow on the face of this earth. My selfishness ever prompts me to take care of all those around me also when I am safe, because I am one of them" Look at Acharya Vinobabhave, the spiritual heir of Mahatma Gandhi, who left his education at a tender age and ran to Benares. He wanted to go to Bengal to become a revolutionary or to Himalayas for peace prayers for the welfare of all. His tender mind—for he was below 20 years of age at that time—was curious to achieve his objective through revolution (*Kranthi*) or peace (*Shanthi*). A few weeks later, he read about a revolutionary, but nevertheless a peaceful inspiring address delivered by Mahatma Gandhi before the inauguration function of the Benares Hindu University.

He wrote to Gandhi to clarify some doubts, after which he wished to join him, because he found in Gandhiji's the seeds for *Kranthi* and *Shanthi* sprouting together in his fertile heart. Gandhiji,

as was his wont, immediatly replied to him that the doubts could better be solved in person. On receiving this reply, Vinobaji rushed to Gandhiji and became one with him in thought, word and deed. Today He, who, runs my see that Vinobaji is and has become a cent percent follower of truth, love and compassion, sitting over the shoulders of his Guruji himself.

Vinobaji is now in a fit position to guide the destinies of the country—did I say country? No—the destinies of the entire world.

Truth, Fearlessness, love, compassion, self-control, spirit of equalization, equipoise, above all humility and all the other virtues for which a human soul should strive are present in their pristine purity in Vinobaji. The recent miracle of his being instrumental for the ban on cowslaughter in India, is a proof, if proof were necessary, that he is a realized soul.

I have not digressed from the subject, nor have I taken brief for Gandhi and Vinobaji, who are self-illuminary lights.

But I just want to bring home to the readers that Swami Omkarji belongs to this clan. He is deeply anxious that all wars, hatred, selfishness, differences of high or low, caste, colour or creed greed and all the weaknesses to which the flesh is heir to, should end and every one in the universe should learn to live hand in glove for the welfare of all.

I have been striving to live for this Ideal for the last half a century and I can give testimony that by following this cult of peace through truth, love and compassion, we do not stand to loose, but on the other hand I can swear before man and God that I have been benefitting in every way all along the time by following the cult of great men like Gandhi, Vinobaji, Aravindaghosh, Ramana Maharshi and our Revered swami omkarji. May our swamyji live long and keep healthy and serve for the peace of the world!

AUM

SWAMI OMKAR MAHARAJ
THE APOSTLE OF PEACE

SATHY RAM VENUGOPAL

His Holiness Swami Omker Maharaj
The Adatmic sage of Atomic-age
Hath drawn the East and West near
By Eternal Love transformed all His dear.

The Revered Swamiji the God-men of our land
Whose glorious global Peace Mission' be
The Gospel of Perfect Life, the 'Peace', we
To follow and exhibit every where Grand.

Then let us be brisk to adhere and Propagate -His
Life Long Message 'The Peace' and noble wish
To kindle souls who ardently aspire high
In reaching the land beyond the need and cry.

Let His Life Mission reveal the Peace loved life
Awake the sleepy-earthly with wisdom ripe
Intute young and old the soul that never die
Arise around to look beyond the Sky.

Long Live the Adorable Apostle of peace
Hail Qmkarji the Love Form of Divine Race.

Aum : Peace, Prosper All

Jubilee Message

It is with great love and joy that we Swami Brahmananda and Mother Saraswathi Devi (Rev. S. Parr) send our congratulations to our Beloved Swamiji Omkar on this great event and moment in history. In the time of mortal life, they are many years, but in the time of the Divine purpose it is but the smallest fraction of an infinite fraction. This is my humble way to try to explain the great truths that our Beloved Swamiji Omkar has tried to impress upon our fleeting minds. Great is his patience with all of us who are still struggling with our enslaving desires, passions and materialism. We were deeply blessed with our visit to Swamiji and with Santi Ashram in 1975. It was the most rewarding months.

There were those precious moments and talks and reading with him under the tree, and under the shade in front of his lovely Mandir. There he talked with us and told us of the Love and Glory of Brahman (God). Would that all mankind could sit with him and learn of the Eternal Truths ! We are both, Mother and myself, waiting sincerely, for the time that we can return to Mother India and sit once more with Swamiji Omkar and taste of the fruit of Peace and Love, that is the soul of Santi Ashram, for it is the Soul of Omkar. OM OM OM SHANTI, SHANTI SHANTIHI.

SRI RAM JAYA RAM JAYA JAYA RAMA OM

SWAMI BRAHMANANDA

RING DIAMOND AUMKAR

Kavi Yogi Maharshi SHUDDHANANDA BHARATI

President : Yoga Samaj, MADRAS

RING DIAMOND BELLS-AUMKAR SING BIRDS OF PEACE-GARDEN

Gather all far and near -

To Cosmic-Souldhood march-on...

2

Hail Apostle of Peace-Light

Who raised this Eden of Love

Where all live in delight

Of endless Vernal-Now.

Our songs flow from the Soul ;

Our thoughts from beauty spring

Our parts weld up with the Whole

Our joys with angels sing...

3

We do work as worship,

We enjoy fruits in common,

Our hearts meet in friendship ;

With all men and women.

Every day comes and goes

But Time like river flows

Our morning smiles with rose

With peace our evening slows.

Self-Truth is our strong-hold ;

It is horizon-wide.

All countries are our world

The Conscience is our Guide.

We are one humanity
We live in purity
We breathe in unity
with inner DIVINITY...

Hail Abode of Aumkar
Hail Merciful Aumkar
Hail Peace-Bliss-Love Aumkar
UNIVERSAL AUMKAR...



ii

JAYA AUMKAR

Jaya Jaya Jay Aumkar	Set's think in Aumkar
Jaya Guha Song Aumkar	Aumkar sans Ahankar
Jaya Siva Hari Aumkar	Aumkar is our word
Jaya Hara Hari Aumkar	Aumkar is our deed
Veda is Aumkar	Beauty is Aumkar
Gita is Aumkar	Duty is Aumkar
Bible is Aumkar	Purity is Aumkar
Algunan's Aumkar	Unity is Aumkar
Aumkar is the world	Divinity is Aumkar
Aumkar our stronghold	Aumkar is silent
Aumkar is our soul	Aumkar is eloquent
Aumkar is our All	Aumkar is serene
Aumkar is our call	Aumkar is within
Aumkar is our goal	With Aumkar we begin
Aumkar is	In Aumkar All we gain
Aumkar is the God	In Aumkar we remain
Set's Breath in Aumkar	Aumkar is our Main

Aumkar is the mine,
Deeper than I and mine
That has no account
That gets no discount
It's an enternal fount
Up the azure mount
Earth is one the breath is one
The sky above is one
Humanity in soul is one
The Goal of life is one
North and South East and
West
Are are in Horizon
This harmony of life is best
When all are every one
Aumkar is That one
Aumkar is This one
Son's Aumkar there is none
The world play is its fun !

Aumkar is history
Aumkar is Mystery
Aumkar is Mastery
Aumkar is victory
Jaya Hari Hara Guha Aum
Jaya Satchidananda Aum
Jaya Shuddha Shakti Siva
Aum
Jaya Jesus Christ Aum
Jay Rasal Allah Aum
Jay Bismillah Aum
Aham Vairya Aum
The Viss of peasti Aum
The bliss of love is Aum
The flow of life is Aum
The birth of Truth is Aum
The death of lie is Aum
The Deathless self is Aum
Hail Esternal Aum

Kavi Yogi Maharishi
Shuddhananda Bharti

THE SILENT SERVICE OF SRI SANTI ASHRAM THE MISSION OF PEACE.

MISS MOTI MANEKJI, BANGALORE

Ever since sixty years ago, when H. H. Sri Swami Omkar founded Santi Ashram, and had established the Motto, Humanity is our family.

The whole world is our Country, and to do good is our religion, The silent free services of Santi Ashram continues unabated. Occasionally people ask how He can do this? or they may ask to tell them how much they should send as an offering? Sri Swamiji always assures them, that God's wisdom will help them to determine the amount they can give to His work.

Blessed loving sisters and brothers, please do not misunderstand me, we have to have money to provide and maintain our many free services. And we are grateful for every small amount that comes to us. But through the years - sixty of them, Revered Swamiji Omkar has conducted Santi Ashram, and carried on all works in the faith that God is our support, without having to make special pleas for money.

Countless persons will write to Sri Swamiji for Blessings, Countless people will call upon Him on our Telephones, And The Spiritual Healing Centre at Santi Ashram is here to pray for them night and day; as we pray, we will not ask - we will not know - whether they sent an offering or not. Also Santi Ashrams' Books, Booklets, Peace Magazine, Calendars and Spiritual literature, all written by Sri Swami Omkar, thousands of these He distributes free, and never in a single one of them we have asked for contribution.

His Holiness Sri Swami Omkar has prayed with people, has talked to people, has written millions of letters to people. And at Santl Ashram's Printing Press has published all kinds of printed material that he believes will be helpful to people. It takes as staff of many workers to do this work. It takes mountains of paper & rivers of ink. It takes many buildings : Every thing Swamiji does. He does to glorify God, and help our fellow human beings to live. And Revered Swamiji has always done all works in the faith that if we do what is ours to do, freely and lovingly, the supply to meet Santi Ashram's need will come to us freely and lovingly.

The law that His Holiness teaches, has worked for us, and we are grateful.

OM

SRI SWAMY OMKAR

A SIGNIFICANT JEWEL IN THE HUMAN FAMILY

Dr. R. L. SONI *

Mandalay, Burma

The Tree of Humanity bears but rarely a self-effulgent fruit, a radiant personality with an aura of spiritual fulfilment. Such a one is Sri Swamy Omkar, who born with splendid psychological potentialities, has attained in this life, through the requisite '*sadhana*' (self-discipline) of *Sila* and *Samadhi* (moral and mental cultures) the highest spiritual status as detailed in the Hindu scriptures. He, one of the topmost saints in the Hindu world, is a living model of self sacrifice and a veritable jewel of humanity. He is verily a superb personality known for integrity of character, brilliance of intellect, universal loving kindness, supreme wisdom and spiritual radiance.

The presence of Sri Swamyji in the human world has been of immense benefit to the East as well as the West. For, while himself escalating high spirituality, he has been quite thoughtful of the 'sufferings' (*dukkha*) crowding the human family. Besides, he has been actively engaged in the alleviation of these through social activities of diverse kind and also through inspiring writings and numerous publications.

It is a heartening news that the Mother-Ashram at Totapalli in South India, established in 1917 around a Bodhi Tree, is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee on 21st January, 1977, a day doubly sacred because of it being also the 83rd Birthday of Sri Swamyji. Throughout these six decades, the Ashram has grown, ever expand-

* Dr. R. L. Soni, a medical man by profession and a writer and an author of note, is a world known Buddhist leader. He is a Member of the UNESCO Committee of the World Fellowship of Buddhists and the Maha Bodhi Journal, published a Special Issue in honour of his Platinum Jubilee.

ing at the Centre and its worldwide branches, for service to the sick and the needy, the morally anaemic and the spiritually thirsty, with Sri Swamyji as the heart of the entire enterprize.

While wishing the Celebrations a grand success, we earnestly desire that Sri Swamyji continues for long in the best of health, to be ever more successful in his services to the human family, specially at this juncture in human history, when the world is at critical cross-roads. Only through the guidance of Saints like him would the world take a course in the right direction, avoiding the drift towards violence, destruction and terrible sufferings.

We, along with all his devotees and admirers the world over, offer him our deep affectionate salutations on his 83rd Birthday, also wishing him to live long to continue his work of peace in the world !

GOD-MEN

KOMMIREDDI SURYANARAYANA MURTY, M.A., B.ED.,

Vetapalem,

Great men are the inspired Prophets of God. They are sent into this world to dispel darkness and ignorance from the world and sow the seeds of 'Love and Mercy'.

In carrying on their humanitarian work in this world they may have to face ridicule and scorn, but they carry on their mission in life with unabated zeal.

In the history of the world the examples of Lord Jesus Christ and Lord Buddha stand for: supreme sacrifice and universal love.

We cannot witness or imagine more ennobling sights than those of the crucifixion of Christ, symbolic of supreme sacrifice and forgiveness, signifying and signalling redemption of mankind through regeneration and rebirth with repentance of man for his sins; and universal Love of Lord Buddha in His caressing the domestic animals like goat and lamb and nursing the wounded Swan, shot by Devadatta.

The two noble and spiritual elements of human nature, sacrifice and Love, leading man to 'Sovereign power of God,' have been found in ample evidence in the lives of Godmen like Mahatma Gandhi, the Prophet-poet, Rabindranath Tagore, the unofficial ambassador of Eastern Culture to the West and the Western culture to the East and our Pujya Swamy Omkar, who dedicated his life for the spiritual welfare and peace of the world and expressed his outstanding humanitarianism through the Supreme sacrifice of donating his thigh-bone for grafting the bone of a helpless girl, while he remained lame for ever.

God-men realise the great harmony between man's spirit and spirit of the world, between the individual and the universal.

It is their great object in life to realise this great harmony in feeling and in action.

With meditation and service, with a regulation in life, they cultivate consciousness in such a way that everything in the universe has a special meaning for them.

Through spiritual awakening they cultivate universal sympathies. They never live in the prison-house of self. They never walk on single Rope of humanity.

For them, the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls of race, nationality and a particular religion. They drink water in clear stream of Divine Reason that has not lost its way in the dreary desert sand of 'Dead habits'. They find their place in the 'Infinite'. Having acquired knowledge of the 'Supreme Soul', having realised God in human heart, having experienced 'Him', in all the activities of the world 'where the tiller is tilling the hard ground and the path maker is breaking stones', they find abiding peace in the life of the Universe. Hence, they are real rishis. They practise universal love and preach eternal peace.

They are 'God-men' who are world-conscious. They give us the message "Thou shalt gain by giving away, Thou shalt not covet."

In the inner life they are united with all beings through love and service.

They are great revealers in the sense they open our eyes for the love of mankind.

In the service of love they may face ridicule, persecution and even assassination. But, they prove to the world the ultimate truth of humanity and we cannot but call them 'Mahatmas,' 'the men of great Soul'.

As we love our children because we find in them our own Soul the Mahatma loves the whole mankind as the children of the one 'Supreme Soul' of which he is a part or one with it.

This, they find to be 'Soul-Consciousness, the key to God-consciousness and tried to lift mankind above pride, greed, fear and worldly loss and physical death.

As the bird is twice born so our ancients imposed on man the ceremony of Discipline for twelve years with self-restraint and high thinking.

Gautama attained Bodhi, the awakening from the sleep of self to the perfection of consciousness and became 'Buddha. Such are the preachings and practices of great souls and God-men like Mahatma Gandhi, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and our Pujya Swamyjee Omkar.

At Wardha Mahatma Gandhi built an *Asramam*. Near Calcutta Maharsi Devendranath Tagore started Santiniketan and Rabindranath Tagore founded SriNiketan and Viswabharati as spiritual house of Peace, for rural reconstruction and for promoting world culture.

If Santiniketan is the abode of peace in Bengal, Santi Ashramam is the abode of peace in Andhra that extended her spiritual territory to the other parts of Andhra like Waltair, other parts of India like Kotagiri and other parts of the world like America.

Visit to Santi Ashramam, the real spiritual healing centre, where man can practise meditation on God in silence and quietitude with the control of disturbing thoughts where spiritual education is imparted through Ramathirtha Institute of peace and Gurukula children receive modern education in the atmosphere of serenity, and where manual labour is treated with dignity and in the spirit of worship as in Sriniketan of Rabindranath Tagore, is really a great Pilgrimage.

May the Almighty help us all the devotees of Swamy Omkar in making the Diamond jubilee celebration of Santi Ashram a grand success with the pillar of Santi, erected as a great 'Stupa', showing the message of peace to the world forever!

THE UNIVERSAL MESSIAH, THE OMKAR & HIS UNIVERSAL MESSAGE

SRI SWAMI BRAHMANANDAJI,
Jt. Secy, A. A. Sadhu Parishad, Kesavadasupalem.

In the Bharatiya cult, anybody's life of a thousand Months (సహస్ర చంద్రవర్షం) is a great and good thing. One who takes birth on this holy earth and lives and leads a memorable and worthy life in promoting any art, culture or movement for the benefit and upliftment of one and all is highly laudable. And especially, when one spares his very valuable human life, energy, brain and talent for Godly things, he is considered not only simply laudable but also he is considered to be Godly and praiseworthy and worshippingable. Sri Swamy Omkarji Maharaj is considered by those who understood him as one of the greatest gems of the great souled ones in the garland of the great ones, since creation.

The existence of Sri Santi Ashram—The creation of Swamiji, for the last sixty years; and its founder's for more than 83 years' long life of continuous service are there before us for our appreciation. The dictum goes as “మంచిని ప్రేమించుమన్నా— Brother! Love the Good.” If one cannot appreciate good-for, Good is God—he cannot be considered as a human being.

The world at present is devoid of Peace and Love. It is at the point of explosion. The disease, deterioration and downfall of the human race has reached the lowest ebb and is about to touch the danger point if something is not done immediately for its amelioration and elevation to the safe-point. The foot prints of sacrifice and service of Santi Asramam are there to guide the troubled human society. The torch of the 'Light, love and Life'—message of Sri Swamiji is there to unburden the worry-laden world.

With much hesitation and great humility, he himself says that he has dedicated this small thing and that simple thing to the world in his articles 'My Legacy' and 'My Offering'. But, we proudly but yet with the same humility say that he has given a priceless gift in sister Gnaneswari to the universal cause. Some doubt her capacities—people in general cannot understand inner things. However they may appear outwardly *and to the world*, *sadhaks* mendicants know their inner weight and worth. let us hope that Sri Swamiji will work wonders through sister Gnaneswari. అస్స—May it be so !

An oasis is considered to be the highest blessing amidst dry and barren, deserted lands when one can have water to drink, food to eat and shelter to live. So also Sri Santi Ashram is an oasis-like divinely peaceful place in a world of unrest, where one can have service for the physical body, 'Sankirtan' (chanting of God's Name, for the vocal organ; and lonely quietitude for meditation with the mind; which three are the instruments (అక్షరములు) through which one's soul can come out and express.

The large banyan tree—the king of trees—is a shelter place for all sorts of birds. So also Santi Ashram, the mission of Peace, is a place where all can flock together for the very wanted peace of mind and spirit, irrespective of caste, color, and creed from all quarters of the world. It is no wonder if one thinks that we hardly find a haven of Peace like this Santi Ashram with such a broad based and universal outlook, uniting all at all times, to adopt it as their own Abode of Peace and spiritual solace to follow their own paths with full freedom.

Sri Swamiji always reveres all the past and present prophets of the world and their holy teachings of the experience of the Great Beyond, But, he never hates anyone even in his dreamful thoughts; Not only that he feels deeply sad if anybody criticizes cruelly any sage even in the name of religion.

The religion of the day is to worship Janardan (God—the divinity) in the form of *janata*—mankind. Even from his very childhood days he loved and served the poor, downtrodden and neglected ones. Though he lived in student life amidst aristocratic families, though he toured the west especially when it was in its prime of

mundane life and though had the rare contacts with Tolstoys, Kaisers and Roosevelts and though he always was visited by the cream of the Nation like the Presidents, Ministers, Collectors and Tahasil-dars etc., etc., he always worked and served for the upliftment and enlightenment of the pet-Children of God—the Harijans, Girijans, backward tribes, outcastes, untouchables, letters-less, living as one with them, establishing Ashrams—Missions—in the midst of hills and dales, jungles, beachside places, he spent the whole span of his life as an unostentatious villager among country folk, as a folk-swamy—a *janata swamy*.

Sometimes, a simple piece of legal advice wins even kingdoms—so also, the spiritual Upadesas, Teachings of the Gurus—of realized souls can make the mortal an immortal—their price cannot be weighed by the goods of the world, Sri Swamiji's teachings are always simple, direct and loaded with spiritual power. Now, let us bring two or three of them to our memory. "Carry the Presence of God always with you." "Live in the present moment." "I am in the God. The god is in me. And I am the God." In the recent days, even the Babas and Avatars are making best use of the last maxim in their lectures and essays. The devotees in foreign countries considered Swamiji when he was touring the west as the Master of Masters. Now, we can consider Swamiji, — hope it pleases all — as a universal Baba.

On this Ashram's great Golden Jubilee occasion, the ashram appealed in humility for 76 thousands Rupees. In India, food and education are not for sale. As every rule has its own exception, Sri Vivekanandaji once said that though his spiritual wisdom could not be sold, he in that context, stood ready for its sale in the west to feed his starving brothers in India. Indian as an individual and Indians as a nation are for Tyaga—sacrifice. Ofcourse, others may laugh at them, misunderstanding their Tyaga. In the goods of the world — may be due to various reasons, which we could not account for — now India is poor. There are many countries which are having much more abundantly, above their need. Santi Ashram is a common property of all. It extends over two hundred acres. It can be extended to any extent. Aspirants who are thirsty after emancipation can all gather here from all corners of the universe

and contribute in recognition and gratitude of its services, any member of Aurovidles. Devotees of every denomination, nation, religion, sect and creed can have their representation in that Ashram universal. One can retain his own faith and reach the ultimate one light, love and life. In leading such a universal life all the unnecessary differences will dwindle away and all can live as children of ONE MOTHER under the canopy of the one sky. If all the human races take the cause of Love and Peace to their hearts, why appeal for 76 thousands alone, they themselves can come forward and very easily contribute in lakhs or even crores for it is not beyond their mite if the affluent west adopt this universal cause as their own.

In 1950, Sri Swamiji planned for the last western trip. But after his memorable and unique bone sacrifice (Swamiji gave a piece of his TIBIA for a bone graft) he had to leave the idea once for all. India is a land of sages and seers. Sri Swamiji is now more than a thousand months. Most of the great souls of his generation are disappearing from the scene. All the aspirants and devotees in all parts of the world can come now and have the *Darshan* of such a universal soul, spend their remaining life for good in the Santi Ashram and make the universal Peace Mission a real universal home for all shades of faith and thought.

May God keep Sri Swamiji for the full span of human life hale and healthy for the benefit of humanity at large, is our earnest and constant prayer. May Peace be unto all !

OM ! OM !! OM !!!

THE CONCEPT OF PEACE

MARNI T. RAMJI, M.A., M.Ed., N.D., Ph.D.

READER, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, N. C. E , R. T.,
NEW DELHI.

It may be said that there is one Eternal, Ultimate Universal Divine Life-Force which is the embodiment of Truth, Eternal Light, Love, Wisdom, Goodness, Purity, Beauty, Bliss and Supreme Peace. The Universal Divine Life-Force is known by various sublime Names in the different religions of the world such as God, Jesus Christ, Allah, Rahman, Ahura Mazda, Om Sita Ram, Srinivasa, Radha-Krishna, Adi Sakti Mata, Siva and Sai Ram.

The Ultimate Divine Life-Force manifests as thought - cum - feeling force in the mind which has two basic tendencies: positive or healthy, negative or unhealthy. The positive tendency finds expression in thoughts and feelings of love, sympathy, good will, kindness, truthfulness and purity and these thoughts and feelings promote physical, mental health as well as social welfare and awaken the unity of the individual spark of life-force (the Self) with the Universal Life-Force (the Universal Self), and whenever this unity is awakened then the positive thoughts and feelings flow slowly and gently like the waves of a slowly moving river. Such mental State which is the outcome of the dominant slow flow of the above mentioned type of positive thoughts and feelings is the state of mental purity and mental peace.

But the above state of mental purity and mental peace is disturbed if the mind is dominated by the negative thoughts and feelings of lust, anger, greed, pride, envy, jealousy, worry, brooding, anxiety and attachment. These negative thoughts and feelings are the outcome of ignorance regarding the unity of the individual

spark of life-force with the Universal Life-Force and they are detrimental to physical health and mental health as well as to social welfare. Whenever the mind is dominated by the above type of negative thoughts and feelings, then such thoughts and feelings create mental agitations which resemble the turbulent waves of a river which is affected by floods. Such state of mental agitations, owing to the dominance of the negative thoughts and feelings, is the state of mental impurity and mental restlessness.

The state of Divine purity is the state of awareness of the Omnipresence of the Eternal light of the Ultimate One Universal Divine Life-Force. In the state of Awareness, the individual effulgent spark of life-force (the self) is aware of its identification as an inseparable part of the Eternal Universal Life-Force and rises above the flow of positive, negative, unnecessary and painful thoughts and feelings and becomes a Sublime, Detached and silent spectator of the flow of different thoughts and feelings. Divine Peace is the Sublime State of Awareness of the Omnipresence of the Pure, Eternal Divine Light of the Ultimate One Universal Divine Life-Force, known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term.

In order to experience Mental Peace, Divine Purity and Divine Peace now and here, firstly it is necessary to achieve the dominance of the positive thoughts and feelings of love, sympathy, goodwill, purity and truthfulness through constant or regular or frequent, sincere, and deep mental chanting of one's favourite Divine Name or Term associated with the Universal Thought, May Happiness and Peace unto all or the thought, May Peace, Health, Happiness and Purity be unto all or by repeating mentally the unique prayer for World Peace conceived by Swami Omkar-the Saint of Peace or any similar universal prayer associated with one's Divine Name or Term.

PRAYER

(For World Peace Through Individual Peace)

Adorable Presence !

Thou who art within and without, above and below, and all around; Thou who art interpenetrating the very calls of our beings;

Thou who art the Eye of our eyes, the Ear of our ears, the Heart of our hearts, the Mind of our minds, the Breath of our breaths, the Life of our lives and the Soul of our soul; bless us, Dear God, to be aware of Thy Presence NOW and HERE. This is all that we ask of THEE.

May all of us be aware of Thy presence in the East and the West; in the North and South; May PEACE and GOODWILL abide among individuals as well as communities and nations. This is our earnest prayer.

May peace be unto all;

Om ; Om ; Om :

Secondly, one should become a silent and detached sublime spectator of the positive as well as the negative thoughts and feelings by being aware of the OmniPresence of the pure Eternal Light of the Ultimate one Divine Life-Force known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term by keeping the mental attention at the white shining point between the two eye brows or at the heart zone and feel sincerely the Omnipresence of the Eternal Light in the entire body in the entire universe with the deep understanding that all types of negative impure and dark thoughts and feelings of lust, anger, greed, jealousy, worry, anxiety, pain, attachment and hatred vanish before the effulgence of the Eternal Light known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term while positive, pure and shining thoughts and feelings of love, sympathy, kindness, goodwill, purity and truthfulness merge in the effulgence of the Eternal Light, known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term and deepen one's experience of the awareness of the Omnipresence of the Eternal Light.

A spectator on a road is calm when he looks at a few people who are quarrelling on the street or when he looks at a marriage procession. A spectator in a theatre is calm when he looks at pleasant or sad scenes since he is not attached to those scenes. Similarly, a sublime spectator who identifies the individual spark of the Eternal Light of the Ultimate Divine Life-Force known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term with the Eternal Light of the

Universal Life-Force and becomes a witness of the different positive and the negative thoughts and feelings that arise in the mind, has no attachment to the two types of thoughts and feelings and is not affected by them. *Such state of awareness of the Omnipresence of the pure Eternal Light is the state of Effulgent Divine Purity and Divine Peace.*

Enduring Divine Peace is the state of constant awareness of the Omnipresence of the pure Eternal Light of the Ultimate Divine Universal Life-Force known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term from the sublime shining point between the two eye brows or at the heart zone without being moved or disturbed by the flow of the positive and the negative thoughts and feelings.

In the state of awareness, there is no conscious effort to repeat any thought. When there is sunlight, a person is aware of the presence of sunlight everywhere and he does not repeat a thought like this, there is sunlight here ; there is sunlight there. Similarly, one who is aware of the omnipresence of the Eternal Light feels the presence of the Eternal Light everywhere without making any effort to repeat any thought. The state of awareness is the state of intense consciousness of the presence of the Omnipresence of the Eternal Light. It is like thefeeling of love which a mother has for her child. It is the state of sincere and deep remembrance of the loving Divine presence of the Eternal Light of the Universal Life-Force known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term. When the above state of awareness is charged with sincere and deep Divine Love, then one achieves the supreme state of sublime Absorption in the awareness of the consciousness of the Omnipresence of the Eternal Light of the Ultimate Divine Life-Force known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term and experiences Deep Divine Peace, Deeper Divine Peace, Deepest Divine Peace according to the intensity of his state of awareness.

Deep Divine Love is the state of feeling sincerely and deeply the presence of the pure spark of the Eternal Light of the Ultimate one Divine Universal Life-Force in every face and everywhere. Such an individual whose heart overflows with the milk of pure Universal Divine Love sees the pure spark of the Eternal Light in every face and loves and serves all unselfishly as his brothers and sisters and

is aware of the unity of the individual spark of life-force with the Universal Life-Force.

Again the state of sublime Absorption is sustained by the sincere practices of Truthfulness, Universal Divine Love, Purity, selfless service of humanity, Humility and Divine Courage, although in the state of sublime Absorption one rises above the flow of the pure, positive thoughts and feelings as well as the impure, negative thoughts and feelings.

A person who is captivated by the beauty of a painting is absorbed in the awareness of the beauty of the painting without repeating consciously any thought. Similarly, in the state of sublime Absorption, there is deep awareness of the Omnipresence of the pure Eternal Light of the Universal Life-Force of One's favourite Divine Name or Term without repeating consciously with effort any thought. *The state of constant sublime Absorption is the state of Sahaj Samadhi or the Natural State of Sublime Absorption in the consciousness of the Eternal Light of the Universal Life-Force, known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term.*

In conclusion, the following methods may be suggested for the regular practice of the integral technique of experiencing mental peace, Effulgent Divine Purity and Divine Peace now and here.

(1) Wake up preferably before 5 AM and keep mental attention at the effulgent point of the Universal Divine Life-Force at the top of the head for a few minutes. Practise in a similar way for 15-30 minutes in the evening between 6-8 PM.

(2) It is desirable to chant mentally immediately on rising for 20-30 minutes one's favourite Divine Name or term associated with a sublime Universal Thought like 'May peace be unto all' and a few sublime thoughts while keeping the mental attention at the effulgent Omnipresent point of one's favourite Divine Name or Term at the space between the two eyebrows, while lying down on the right side and while keeping the right folded hand under the right cheek.

(3) It is desirable to practice deep absorption in the awareness of the Omnipresence of the effulgent pure point of one's favourite

Divine Name or Term at the heart zone where the palpitations are felt regularly at least for half-an-hour in sitting posture early in the morning or after taking bath or at any convenient time. Or one may lie down or sit down with closed eyes after taking physical exercise in the morning preferably in sunlight and relax the entire body by sending thought-force to the various parts of the body and then practise the above mode of deep absorption at the heart zone for half-an-hour.

(4) It is desirable to chant mentally one's favourite Divine Name or Term associated with a Universal Thought, 'May Peace be unto all' or some sublime Universal Thoughts for 5-10 to 15 minutes before taking food both in the morning and in the evening while keeping one's mental attention at the effulgent pure point or one's favourite Divine Name or Term at the space between the two eyebrows.

(5) While eating one can keep the mental attention at the effulgent pure point of one's favourite Divine Name or Term at the space between the two eyebrows and feel that the entire body is charged with pure Eternal Light.

(6) It is necessary to practise sincere awareness of the pure effulgent point of the Eternal Light of the Universal Life-Force known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term at the space between the two eyebrows constantly or as often as possible during the day time and until retiring to bed.

(7) It is desirable to practise deep awareness of one's favourite Divine Name or Term at the effulgent pure point at the space between the two eyebrows by feeling that the entire system is charged with Eternal Light and that all dark impurities are going away from the entire body for 20 to 30 minutes. This technique of purification may be practised while sitting or lying down before going to bed or at any convenient time in the evening.

Above all, one may practise any one or two or all the techniques suggested above or one may at least practise constant or frequent remembrance of the omnipresence of the pure Eternal Light of the

Universal Divine Life-Force known by one's favourite Divine Name or Term sincerely and lovingly or repeat mentally the prayer for world peace frequently and endeavour to love and serve all as the manifestations of the pure Eternal Divine Light and as one's brothers and sisters and be pure, humble, courageous, calm, cheerful, truthful and loving always and think and act positively today in the living present with deep a sense of duty detachment and contentment and without ego sense and thus experience individual peace and promote Universal Peace. Ultimately 'It is individual peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace. Swami Omkar says: "GOD IS WAVE-LESS PEACE.'

Unselfishness gives peace.

May there be peace in Heaven !

Peace in the sky.

Peace across the waters !

May there be peace on Earth !

May peace flow from the herbs, plants and trees !

May all the celestial Beings radiate peace !

May Peace pervade all Quarters.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

THE DIVINE LIFE SOCIETY

P. O. SHIVANANDANAGAR-249192,

Loving Namaskars.

Om Namo Narayanaya,

I am immensely happy to learn of the Shanti Ashram's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations to be conducted on the 21st of January, 1977. Sixty years of noble Seva to the Supreme Almighty is no small achievement in this Kali Yuga, which can be realised only by such spiritual stalwarts as our revered Sri Swami Omkarji. Kindly convey my namaskars to His Holiness Swamiji Maharaj,

May the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations be one of grand success, is my prayer.

With respects and regards,

Yours, In the Lord,

SWAMI KRISHNANANDA

SRI DEVI NIRVANA SUKHASRAM,
BHEEMUNIPATNAM, Visakha Dist. (A. P.)

Children of Peace !

“Peace in thy brithright” is the clarion call of Omkar. “Pray ceaselessly”, He advises all.

“Inhale and Exhale Peace” is His Divine Pill to humanity. “Kill – fill and be still” says Omkar.

It is direct to the Heart because He says “the hight is within you, waiting your recognition.”

“Meditate deeply” Swamiji advises all. “Surface Swimming is not sufficient. You must become a diver for Peace, because that Peace is got only in the depths of the Heart,” Swamiji exhorts all seekers.

His Heaven is not somewhere away from us, it is just here and now. It is His Soham Prescription. It is His death blow to Moham desception.

Arise, awake; go to Omkar, who resides and Presides in the recess of every dedicated Heart and posses the Diamond of Peace, is the advise of Yogananda Santhi.

MY REMINISCENCES

Those were the days when Sri Puja Swamiji was observing complete silence for over a number of years. He was staying all alone, in "Mount Kailas." I had a great mind to have his sacred "Darsan". Though I do not remember the Year or the month, it may be beyond 25 years from now.

As I entered the Portals of the Santi Ashram at Visakhapatnam, to be blessed with the darsan of Puja Swami Omkar, Puja Sri Sanaka Rama Rao was kind enough to receive me with all affection. I was told that I have to go up the Mount Kailas by walk, if I wanted to see Swamiji and that it may be about 2 miles and odd up the Hill by a rugged path. There is, of course, a jeepable road, rather a circuitous route. But where can I go for a jeep in those days !

That I had to walk up the Hill for over a couple of miles did not deter me from my determination to see Swamiji. Sri Rama Rao then arranged a guide for me, who usually carries water up the Mount for Sri Swamiji's use, every day. He had, by then, finished his routine duty; but for my sake, he volunteered to accompany me again. How I thanked him in my heart of hearts ! What a devotion he had towards Swamiji ! !

The path was really rugged and that too, climbing up and up. There were shrubs and wild plants on either side of the path. The thorns of some of the shrubs were pricking. But yet, to walk up to the pinnacle of the Mount was rather thrilling at that age.

The very thought that I am going to see and enjoy the privileged presence of a great Soul made me neglect the small pin-pricks enroute.

At last, I reached the pinnacle and had the thrill of seeing for the first time, Pujya Sri Omkarji Maharaj. It was a feast for the eye. Pujya Sri Swamiji was all smiles. Though we knew each other hitherto, it was only through correspondence. The moment I stepped into the Hall there Sri Swamiji was sitting, I forgot all the wearisomeness of the journey. The atmosphere was pleasant. I was given a warm welcome by Sri Swamiji through his gestures and by writing on slips of paper, since he was in "Mouna Vratam" (Silence). He taught me so many pious and noble maxims. He gave me solace. He instilled in me the spirit of being good to others and face boldly any hurdles that come in the way of progress which hurdles are after all "passing clouds". During the entire period of my proud privilege of enjoying his pious company in Mount Kailas, I was in a mood of ecstasy and pure joy.

There is not even an iota of exaggeration if I say that all the time I had the good fortune of spending with him, I was feeling I was near His own Omnipotent Presence.

Since that day, till this day, we are in Communication with each other, I, receiving his blessings more often than not, and I feel Sri Swamiji's august presence whenever I think of him I write to him, if not too frequently, at least once in every month without fail.

The then Brother Chaitanya (now Swami Brahmanandaji) who was away when I first entered the Ashram, was, on hearing the news of my arrival, waiting for me at the foot of the Hill and how can I forget the Hospitality, he and Sister Jnaneswari kindly extended to me on that day? My mouth still waters whenever I think of the delicious 'chapathis' and their flavour, which Sister Gnaneswari gave me for my use in the train bound for Vijayawada the same night.

Much though I longed to stay much longer in the Ashram, I had to be back most reluctantly, the same night (in duty bound).

It is now sixty years past since Pujya Swamiji has been rendering self-less and tireless, yeomen service to humanity to uplift

their souls in various ways and by spreading his message of peace to all corners of the Globe.

The calm and serene atmosphere of the Ashram Buildings, the Nirvana Ashram, the press, the journals "Peace and Santhi," the Gurukula school, the Hospital, the medical van, the orphanage, which all, he had established and fostered since sixty long years at Totapalli, Waltair and Kotagiri and the "Mouna Ashram" at Uppada, will remain as ever lasting monuments in the minds of all posterity.

Here is a living example of a "Sibi" who had voluntarily and gladly parted with a part of his bones for grafting the fractured leg of a baby, which eventually made him lie in the Hospital for three long months, convalescing.

May the All-pervading Almighty spare him for us for many more years and be enabled to do more and more God's work for the benefit of humanity at large, is my prayer to the Lord ever and anon.

Blessed are they who enjoy the divine presence of Sri Swamiji every day.

Blessed are they who have the good fortune of hearing his extempore preachings day in and day out.

Blessed also are they who have the good fortune of visiting the Santi Ashram and enjoying the bliss of His presence, though for a short while.

A. VENKATARATNAM

MESSAGE
FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY OF
SHANTI ASHRAM, MISSION OF PEACE,
JANUARY 1977.

Homage unto the Supreme Almighty Lord. My loving Sasht-anga Pranams to Beloved and Revered Swami Sri Omkarji Maharaj upon this happy and auspicious occasion of the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of Shanti Ashram, the world headquarters of the Mission of Peace. Revered Swami Omkarji Maharaj conferred an invaluable boon upon all mankind by sowing the seed of this present Institution full 60 years ago in January 1917. This sacred Organisation has upheld two of the greatest ideals of our country and its culture. Supreme Peace or "Paramshanti" is verily the state of Brahman which is the great goal of human beings. Selfless service or "Paropakara" is an indispensable condition of attaining the Divine. This has been the proclaimed message of the ancient Vedas and Upanishads and of all spiritual Masters. From its earliest days Shanti Ashram has ever stood for these two great ideals, namely, the profound inner peace of the soul and the loving service of the distressed and disabled persons and society. This service is being done in the spirit of worship of Lord in and through His manifestations. As such, it is a valuable asset not only to India but to all countries everywhere. Long may this Mission of Peace and Home of Service continue to flourish and be a sublime Centre of worshipping the Divine through the loving service of the divine in Man.

While sending this message and expressing my utmost good wishes to this auspicious Diamond Jubilee, I take this opportunity of also sending my humble felicitations to Revered Swami Omkarji Maharaj upon his 83 Birthday. Long may he live and long may this noble Centre of Peace and Service flourish into the

future bringing benefit and relief and happiness to numerous needy people. God shower grace. I pray to Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji to shower his choicest blessings upon all devotees gathered together for this Ashram Diamond Jubilee and Revered and Beloved Swamiji's 83 Birthday.

OM Peace !

OM Love !

OM OM OM !

Sivananda Ashram,
Divine Life Society,

SWAMI CHIDANANDA

Rishikesh.



12-12-1976

Mrs. P. P. NAIDU
 Director, Planning Commission (Rtd.)
 Former U. N. Social Welfare Adviser

Phone : 65962
 "Parijatha"
 6/38, Harrington Road.
 Chetput, Madras-31.

"Shri Santi Ashram, the Abode of Peace, founded on the gospel of Peace, Love, Compassion and Brotherhood by Pujya Sri, Omkar Swamiji, belongs to you and to me and to every seeker of truth and love. As it has been rightly stated it is not the monopoly of any one individual but it is Swamiji's legacy to one and all of God's Children on earth, for the Swamiji believes in the Universality of God and Unity of mankind. All, both in the East and West, irrespective of any difference, are his beloved children.

From small beginnings, the Santi Ashram, situated in the wilderness of Totapalli Hills, has grown into a gigantic banyan tree with its various units; and, illuminated by the divine spark from Swamiji, serves the cause of humanity. Sixty years have passed by and today the Santi Ashram beckons each lover of truth to this haven of real peace.

Swamiji's divine spirit and love pervades every nook and corner of the Ashram. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that Sri. Omkar Swamiji is the Ashram and the Ashram is Sri Omkar Swamiji. We of this generation and generations to come are deeply indebted to Swamiji which we can never repay.

May the almighty bless him to fulfil his present twin objectives, namely, the Prayer Hall for the Ashramites and visitors; and love, peace and goodwill on earth."

KOTHA SUBBA RAO,

B.E., M.E.PH., A.M.I.E., (IND.) F.I.V.

Superintending Engineer (Retd.)

CONSULTING ENGINEER

REGISTERED VALUER FOR

INCOMETAX, WEALTH TAX,

ESTATE DUTY, L.I.C.

& SCHEDULED BANKS.

PHONE 3867

RADHAKRISHNA KUTIR.

NAGAVANAM

KAKINADA - 3.

6-12-'76

Namaskarams to Swami Omkar and Santi Ashram.

Every where there is cheating and deceit now in the world. There are decoits night and day every where. There are exploits at every level. Innocent public are worried and are living life without peace.

Peace is a birth right of every body as Swami Omkar says. He is showing the way to enjoy that right by his inspiring millions of messages and acting upto them. He is living for the peace of everybody. He is praying for the peace of the whole world within and without. He is peace incarnation. May we follow his messages. This is the only reward he expects from us.

May Swami Omkar be spared for the full span of hundred years with sound health and cheer.

May we celebrate not only Diamond Jubilee of Santi Ashram but also its Platinum Jubilee and Centenary. May it serve the whole world for ever and peace reign always.

Namaste.

KOTHA SUBBA RAO

SRI GITA GRANDHALAYA

SECUNDERABAD

23-12-1976

I was a student of P. R. College, Kakinada, in the intermediate senior (1926). Some junior students from the college hostel happened to visit Santi Ashram at that time and after their return, they composed several verses in Telugu about the Peaceful atmosphere of the Ashram, its ideal situation and the good work it was doing. This was my first acquaintance with the Santi Ashram. In 1944 April after my return from Sakory and Thiruvannamalai, I stayed at Santi Ashram, Thotapalli Hills, for twenty days. We were greatly impressed with the Ideal situation of the Ashram in the midst of hills and forests. The atmosphere was very conducive to spirituality and life could be spent in meditation in the solitary atmosphere. Swamy Omkar was all kindness. He received us with open arms and gave us proper accommodation. In the ashram serpents moved as freely as human beings and no harm was done to the inmates. This reminded me of the ashrams of Rishis of yore. But unfortunately circumstances forced us to leave the ashram and go over to Amalapuram. Our stay at the ashram in its serene spiritual atmosphere gave us a push in the spiritual direction; but we realised it only afterwards. In 1948 July we visited Santi Ashram for the second time. On this occasion my family was with me as usual and we spent about four weeks of summer in the Waltair branch. Here instead of mango trees, the ashram was full of casurina trees and almost all the trees carried posters with spiritual mottos and proverbs, so that every casual visitor would be attracted by their lessons at a glance. The sea with its gentle breeze and moderate billows was only a few yards off and the beach was a good place for meditation. A school for small boys was a special feature of

ashram life and this provided a sort of employment for all the ashramites in addition to their life of prayers and meditations. But as ill luck would have it, I had to leave the ashram for Amalapuram again to deliver a series of lectures on the *Geetha*. After Razakar movement, life at Secunderabad became calm and quiet and I settled down here with my *Geetha* Prachar work in different localities of the twin cities. Afterwards I did not visit Santi Ashram but learn from authentic sources that a Branch was established at Kotagiri-Nilgiris. Rishikonda beach (Waltair) was formerly Swamiji's summer resort, now almost replaced by Kotagiri ashram. Swamiji would repair here every summer with a few important disciples and devotees and would stay there for a few weeks.

The Ashram from the beginning had a spiritual atmosphere about it. I once asked Swamiji himself how he could hit upon Totapally Hills as the proper site for his ashram. Swamy smiled and said "Subba Rao garu, you know we cannot have things as we wish. It is all God's work. It was Providence that selected the site and it was the Divine hand that worked for its development too. We are mere instruments. Some body offered me this mango garden of about 35 acres and the Ashram soon arose in this sequestered spot." In the beginning (and even today I think) American finances went a long way to support the Ashram and its activities. Sister Susheela, a great disciple of Swamy Omkar was an American lady who settled down at Santi Ashram, Totapally and was largely responsible for its up keep and maintenance. She died in America during one of her visits and while getting ready to return to Ashram, she met with a car accident. Later Rishikonda Waltair and Kotagiri were added to Santi Ashram and they are all now functioning very vigorously and actively. The Gurukula School, the Press, the Post office, aged home and the hospital are all now some of its adjuncts and provide avenues of service for the ashram inmates. A permanent fund of a lakh of Rupees for the ashram is also afoot and will enable the ashram activities to continue on a sound and permanent basis.

Swamy Omkar has spent all his life for the propagation of Peace in the east and west. From the time I met him first in 1944,

he continues to be an apostle of Peace. He sometimes comes to Hyderabad, where he has many devotees. First he was only a writer, but now he is also a speaker. Whenever he comes to Hyderabad, we meet each other and of late I had the good fortune of rendering some of his English lectures into Telugu. Swamiji has always a paternal affection for me and for my family and our "*Runanubandha*" is great. Our spiritual attachment is further enhanced and our affinity strengthened by Swamiji like Chidanandaji of Rishikesh and good old friends like Sri Sanaka Rama Rao. May God bestow long life, health and divine "*Aiswarya*" on Swamiji and the Santi Ashram which completes 60 years of its worldly existance, continue to serve humanity irrespective of colour or creed for many more years to come.

yours in service.

S. Subba Rao

THE SAINT OF SANTI ASHRAM

RAJA Y. BENNAYYA DORA

Trustee of Santi Ashram

Local Sarpanch and

Ex-Vice President, Panchayat Samithi, Sankavaram.

Our ancient Rishis lived in 'Ashrams'. In a serene and peaceful atmosphere of distant, forests away from the work-a-day world, they dwelt in nature's cottages, pondering over the nature's beauty around and the magnificence of the Creation up above and down below-on the starry skies above and the surging billows of the seas, as also the towering peaks of the mountains, on earth. Lost in the splendour of the sun and grandeur of the earth, in moments of inspiration, their thoughts used to burst into spontaneous songs. They are the greatest legacy left unto us, the UPANISHADS. They sang the Glory of God. That is our richest hymnology in the world.

It is our fortune that the order of the Rishis and the heritage of the hermitage still remains in India, as a beacon light to the endless future. To name but a few. Maharshi Devendranath Tagore, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Dayananda Saraswathi, Swami Rama Tirtha, Arvinda Yogi, and Ramana Maharshi are some of the modern descendants of the Ancient hierarchy of Saints and Sages.

Andhra Pradesh is justly proud of the our own living saint, Swami Omkar. He combines in himself, the mellowed wisdom of the old order of saints, and the new saints of the sages like Rabindranath and Mahatma Gandhi. In him, one can perceive a happy blend of the devotion of the Rishis and the 'Sadhana' of the present day savants. Thus he represents in his life, the truth

of the popular saying "Work is Worship". Indeed he is a 'Karmayogi' par excellence.

The "Santi Ashram" in the distant nook of Totapalli hills, is a standing monument of his silent and sustained work for spreading Peace throughout the world. That is the Adayar of Madras and the Santhi Niketan of Bolpur merged into one—the luminous Abode of Peace. It is an embodiment of his life mission. The 83 year old Young Apostle of Peace, and the sixty year old Abode of Peace — the Messenger of God and the Message of Peace have become one hymn of praise "Peace on earth; good will among nations ; Glory to God in the Highest !"

On this auspicious and happy occasion, I join the thousands of his admirers and well-wishers in invoking God's benedictions on Pujya Swami Omkarjj, for his Health, Longevity and
P E A C E.

SWAMI OMKAR - THE PROPHET OF PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD

M. Bhimasen Rao

Shri Santi Ashram nestling in the sylvan solitude of the Totapalli Hills is a veritable haven of Peace, away from the din and roar of the restless world. Founded by Sri Swami Omkar in 1917, it is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee on 21st January, 1977 with a blissful satisfaction of having served for 60 years the pilgrim souls in the East and the West, in their journey towards the divine destination of the Godhead.

The sacred event also coincides happily with the holy date when the Divinity, the Supreme OM chose to manifest itself in a human incarnation assuming a name and form as Sri Swami OMKAR. Thus it is the 83rd Birthday of the Divine Embodiment, Sage Omkar,

Sri Swami Omkar is one of the great *Jivanmuktas* of the present day. He always rests in his own Sat-Chit-Anand Swarupa and lives in sahaja samadhi. His head is always in Solitude though his hands are in society. His gait is magnificent, his touch purifying. His looks are serene and merciful, his actions perfect and holy. His speech is simple and sweet, impressive and inspirational. You will experience a deep sense of Peace and harmony, great elevation and inspiration in his presence.

Sri Swamiji is an embodiment of love and compassion, sacrifice and service. These divine attributes found an eloquent expression for the seekers' recognition and guidance, when years ago he cheerfully offered his ankle bone for the sake of a disabled little girl. He tells us even today that he is ever ready to part with any limb of his body should there be a needy brother or sister. What a glorious love and sacrifice ! What a matchless Divine personality !

Sri Swamiji receives every visitor with a spontaneous love and affection. He asks, "what can I do for all your love in visiting this Ashram spending your precious time and energy? Any service from me?" The visitor who is a man of the world often gets a whit confused and stunned at this divinely innocent manner of Sri Swamiji. But then, Sri Swamiji hastens to put him at ease. He immediately lets out a 'PEACE PRAYER' into the hands of the visitor and requests him to recite it with intense feeling and devotion. As the recitation begins Swamiji closes his eyes and dives into his Being. Silence pervades lending power and potency to the words of recitation. The prayer runs thus :

"Adorable Presence:

Thou Who art within and without, above and below and all around, Thou Who art interpenetrating the very cells of our being. Thou Who art the Eye of our eyes, the Ear of our ears, the Heart of our hearts, the Mind of our minds, the Breath of our breaths, the Life of our lives, and the Soul of our souls, Bless us Dear God, to be aware of Thy presence, NOW and HERE. This is all that we ask of Thee.

May all of us be aware of Thy Presence in the East and the West, in the North and the South! May Peace and Goodwill abide among individuals as well as communities and nations! This is our earnest prayer!

May Peace be unto all !

OM! OM! OM!

The above simple but beautiful prayer was said to have been conceived in a moment of inspiration when Sri Swamiji was doing tapas in the solitude of the *Himalayas*. It was however discovered to be the essence of *Kenopanishad*. It starts with *Dwaita Bhavana*, slowly rises to *Visistadwaita* and culminates in *Advaitic* feeling. Its recitation is meant to make one aware of the All-pervading Light of Consciousness instantly through strong auto suggestion, intense feeling, vibrant devotion and utter surrender. It has thus an inbuilt potency to yoke the individuals to the Universal. Therefore, Sri Swamiji requests and advises all visitors and Ashramites to repeat it as often as possible as a 'Mantra Japa'.

With natural innocence and humility he asks everybody, "Please help us by repeating this *Peace Prayer* often."

Sri Swamiji has a perfect vision of the Unity behind the phenomena of plurality. Hence; he is free from all outer dogmas and creeds. His love and friendship extends to all peoples in the world irrespective of the race and nationality, colour, creed and religion. His cosmocentric view at once embraces the animate and inanimate things and beings in the Universe. His God is the God of all religions—the One Underlying Principle of Cosmic Existence.

Revelling constantly in the Peace and Bliss of the Infinite, the Universal, Sri Swamiji is always anxious to share his inner wealth of joy with the other Children of the Divine. His magnanimity and spirit of service can be understood if we examine his following words that are spoken tirelessly :

"Loving Brothers and Sisters, this ABODE OF PEACE is my legacy to you. A hearty welcome awaits you here; welcome to each and every aspiring devotee in all religions and nations. It does not make any difference whether you have known me or not physically. It is enough if we know that we are all the children of ONE God, coming from One source, living in the ONE PRESENCE and bound to merge into the SAME TRUTH — THE INDIVISIBLE LIGHT OF SUPREME CONSCIOUSNESS.

I am in ecstasy, for, I have something that I can share with you all. I am grateful to the Almighty for using me as an instrument to create this ABODE OF PEACE for your benefit and for the common good of all.

Remember, Peace is your Birth-Right, the common heritage of everyone, which cannot be bought in the market by any amount of wealth. You can have it here freely and easily provided you are pining for it with a pure heart wet with devotion and earnestness. Do you really wish to have Peace that passeth all understanding ? Is your soul longing for such waveless Peace ? Is your cry for Peace deep and intense ? What is life without Peace ?

Come Ye ! Come hither, brothers and sisters ! Strive first for individual Peace which paves the way towards the UNIVERSAL PEACE. The Peace that you establish in your devoted hearts is felt in your home. The Peace of your home spreads to your community, The Peace of the community radiates to the Nation and the Peace of the Nation to the world-to all the Nations. Beloved friends, Peace does not need many words at all. Here is my humble legacy, my offering to you all, this Abode of Peace. Pray, come and join it now, to ever abide in the Infinite Peace, the Eternal Peace and thus be a blessing to the whole world. This is the prayer of your own Omkar."

Thus, Sri Swami Omkar shines as an eloquent symbol of Peace and brotherhood, ever engaged in the service of mankind for their spiritual uplift and enlightenment. Finite words are insipid, nay, sheer dust, and therefore fail to describe the glory and splendour of the divine sage and his immortal Message and Mission. Let people hearken to the call of the Sage, visit the Abode of Peace, and come to feel and experience the spiritual vibrations that radiate from him and pervade and permeate the entire Ashram.

Saints are the oasis in the desert of samsar. They quench the thirst of the seekers with nectarine bliss. They are the beacon lights of wisdom. They illumine the path of groping travellers in the life's journey. The Ashrams founded by them serve as power-houses of spirituality diffusing light and strength to the weak and the weary. Therefore, there is great need to sustain and strengthen those holy Ashrams materially also, so as to provide minimum comforts and conveniences to the seekers, followers and visitors who come to rest and relax, contemplate and meditate.

On this holy occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, let all devotees in the East and the West pray to the Lord fervently to grant Sri Swamiji many more years of useful life on this earth to guide mankind to the citadel of Peace. May His Grace be invoked also to strengthen and improve the great Ashram to disseminate the Message of Peace all over the world still more dynamically.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL

OM TAT SAT OM

OM

ALPHABET OF SWAMIJI OMKAR

— THARAKAM

Swamiji Omkar is a unique *Socialist*

Work is his Ceaseless *Worship*

Always planning to do good to fellow-beings, he is essentially a man of *Action*

Mental equipoise under all situations is the Master's *Manner*

Individual tranquility, says Omkar, paves the path for all round Peace *Ineffable*

Just feeling God's presence, here and now, fills Swamiji with *Joy*

Inward realization of his, makes Omkar automatically merge himself in the *Infinite*

Offering his thigh bone for being grafted in a child's leg is the self-donation to God, of *Omkarji*

Many are called, but only a few are chosen, amidst whom shines the Totapalli *Maharaj*

Kindness lived, is Swamiji's silence—eloquent to human *Kind*

Always Swamiji is alone to the *Alone*

Religions are many, but Love-universal is Omkar's only *Religion*

It is a fitting occasion to write the history of Sri Santi Ashram, the Abode of Peace, established by Swami Omkarjee Maharaj, which is celebrating the DIAMOND JUBILEE, and also the Eightythird Birthday of Swami Omkarjee Maharaj.

All devotees are aware that Sri Swamijee through Sri Santi Ashram is trying to establish Universal Peace through Individual Peace,

Sri Santi Ashram is situated in a grand natural lowtion and surrounded by hills, in an area of about 100 acres.

Sri Swamijee is establishing Peace the world over, through the two journals, "PEACE" (English) and "SANTI" (Telugu), through his Messages and through "PEACE PRAYER" containing the essence of the four *Vedas* printed in several languages of the world.

Sri Swami Sivananda of Divine Life Society, Rishikesh spent some time in the Santi Ashram in the early years. Several Swamijeas, who have established Ashramas elsewhere, who are now conducting Prema Samaj, Gouthami Jeevakarunya Sangham and several other centres have spent some years in Sri Santi Ashram under Sri Swamijee's guidance. Sri Santi Ashram is the birth place of Peace. The Mottos written and hung everywhere in the Ashram will help every individual in attaining "Moksham"

Sri Swamijee, through prayers are helping people in attaining Peace and health. " Those who work for others will attain heaven, and those who are selfish will attain hell " says Swamijee.

Sri Santi Ashram looks after orphan children, old people and animals.

The motto of Sri Swamijee is "May Peace be unto all."

Om Om Om.

NOTE

Some chapters included in this Autobiography are found to be not quite relevant or necessary in the present publication by Swamiji. But messages which were spontaneous outpourings during his Forty days fast in the Mother Ashram and Six years silence in the Kailas Ashram, Waltair – chapters 45 and 46 are felt by him as some of his best messages. They are likely to inspire the readers for all time.

Editor

APPENDIX *

Dr. SATCHIDANANDAMURTHY'S

INTRODUCTION

TO SWAMIJI'S "COSMIC FLASHES"

The following pages were written by Swami Omkar two years ago, during a fast which lasted for forty days.

Swami Omkar is a mystic. I do not now wish to discuss the value and validity of mystic consciousness. But I must point out that Swami Omkar's mysticism is virile and rationalistic—to the extent mysticism could be rationalistic. He does not claim to have had any peculiar visions or weird dreams. He of course, has realized the unity of the whole world in the one thing Real—the Spirit. He has no attachment of any sort to dogmas and creeds, nor is his love and friendship limited to one country or nation. His is a global view—a view which embraces Man as such. In like way he worships God—not the God revealed in this religion or that but God who is claimed to be revealed in every religion, but who is fully and perfectly revealed in none.

Obviously those who are imprisoned within their own parochial grooves mistake him. The Jews of his day excommunicated Spinoza. And when Hegelian theologians like Troeltsch declared that Christianity is not the absolute religion, critics were not wanting. I am sure followers of other religions also would react in the same way, if they are told that their scriptures too do not contain the last word of wisdom. This is inevitable. If one wants to rally a following and command an influence he must take shelter under a banner, adopt a slogan and then sound the drum. Brave as he is to the core, Swami Omkar refuses to become a slave of anybody or any 'ism.' He stands by himself and that only is Truth for him, which he has discovered or which he has assimilated. He is literally *atmani sthithah* (established in Atman). It is for this I admire him and it is this in his admirable personality that has attracted me.

I have been intimate with many religious men both Christian and Hindu. But nowhere do I find freedom from servility to a particular tradition and dogma. It is all right if one has entered

* See Message, vide Page 7.

into the tradition—whether it is Biblical or Vedic—and understood and appropriated the truth it contains. But that is lacking. Often one adopts Advaita because Sankara taught it and one hails Realism because Saint Aquinas advocated it. But have we no duty to understand and rationally assimilate what Sankara and Aquinas said and ought we not to reject whatever refuses to be rationally assimilated? Intellectual integrity, I am sure, must have a place everywhere, including religion. In Swami Omkar I find this.

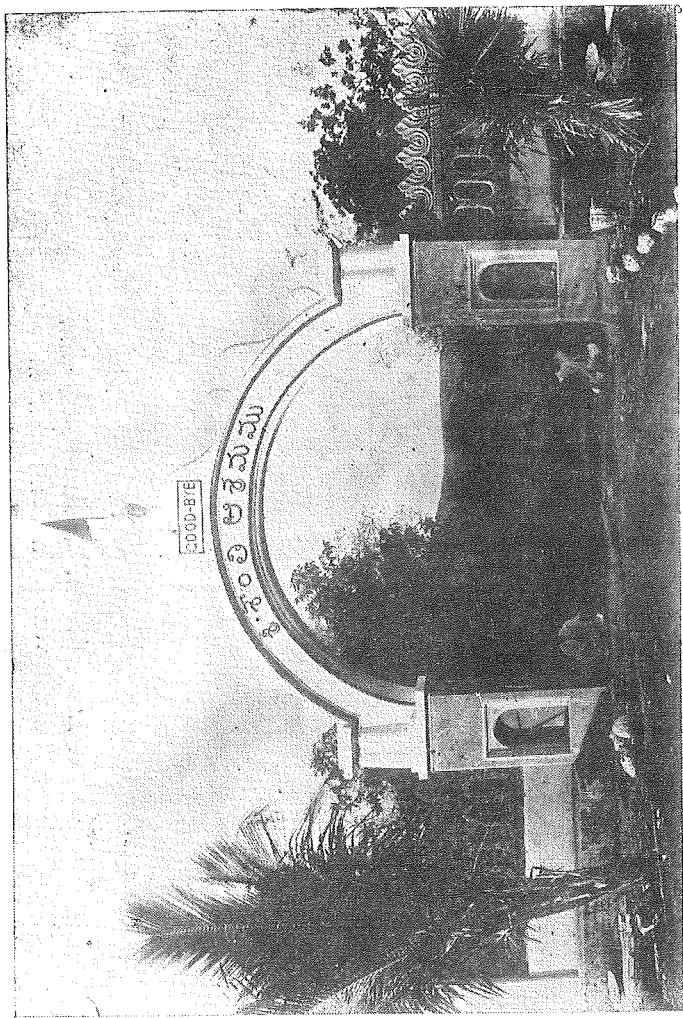
Many in India and overseas know Swami Omkar. He has extensively travelled in Europe and America. His Ashramas at Totapalli (East Godavari) and Waltair (Visakhapatnam) are famous. For over three decades his Ashrama has toiled for the spread of the concepts of Human brotherhood and Peace among all nations. Through talks and writings, through pamphlets and journals he has done this. Some branches of his Ashram have been opened on the other side of the Atlantic and also in the land of Goethe and Hegel. All this is good but the results are not spectacular. That is as must be; for the labourers are few and the vineyard is so unwieldy and weedy.

For the last two years Swami Omkar has been silent and he intends to be so. He finds a strength and a new spiritual upsurge in silence. But he has not become an anchorite. He is interested in the world, its problems and their solution. He is helping the world in his own way—probably the right way. Santi Ashram is running a very enlightening journal PEACE and it has recently started another venture—'Peace' Institute of Indic Studies.

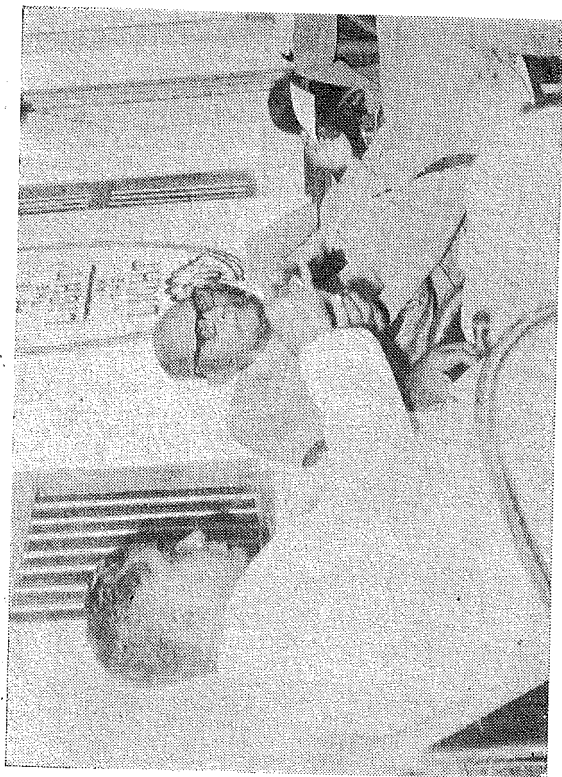
And now about this book: I must say I find it wonderful. Made up of one hundred eight chapters, it presents to us as many meditations. It is something like Pascal's 'Pensees'. No doubt we miss that splendid literary elegance and also that razor-edged keenness of the great Frenchman. But can that Jansenist Catholic thinker claim as much width and as much real catholicity as Sri Swami Omkar shows in this brief but memorable book?

I aver that the following pages are full of sustaining inspiration and deep meaning.

K. Satchidananda Murty,
Dept. of Philosophy, Andhra University,
Waltair.



Main Gate (Back side) Sri Santi Ashram

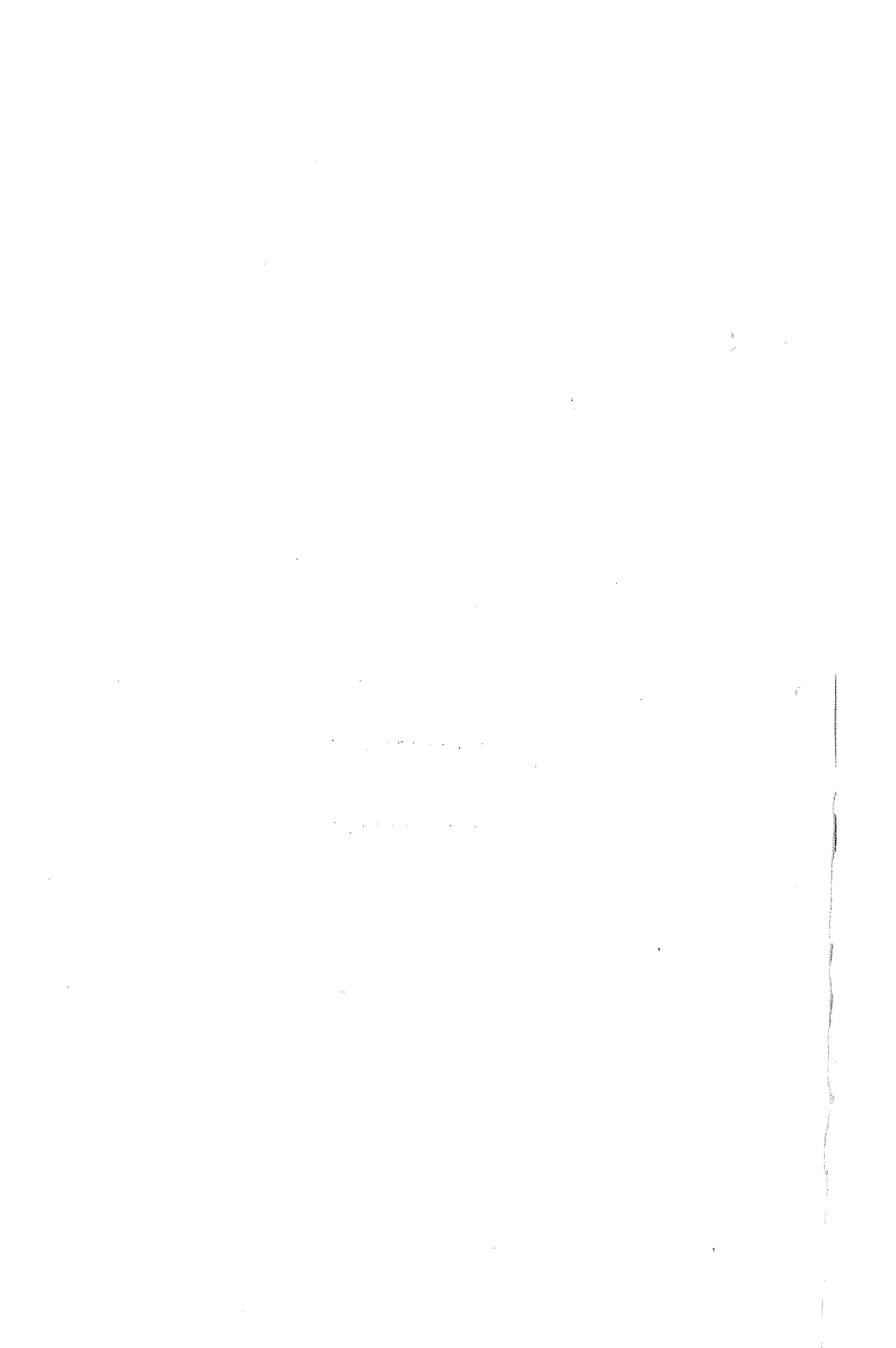


Hon'ble Dr. M. Channa Reddy with
Sri Swamiji in Santi Ashram

PART II

SWAMIJEE'S

WRITINGS



PRAYER

(FOR WORLD PEACE)

Adorable Presence!

THOU, Who art within and without, above and below and all around, Thou Who art Interpenetrating the very cells of our beings. Thou Who art the Eye of our eyes, Ears of our ears, Heart of our hearts, Mind of our minds, Breath of our breaths, Life of our lives and the Soul of our souls bless us, Dear God! to be aware of Thy Presence NOW and HERE. This is all that we ask of Thee!

May all be aware of Thy Presence in the East and the West, in the North and the South! May Peace and Good-will abide among individuals as well as communities and nations! This is our earnest prayer.

May Peace be unto all!

Om Shanti ! Shanti ! Shanti !

A SHORT COMMENTARY ON THE PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

R. A. Narayan, M. A., B. L.,

Sister Lalita, Kotagiri, Sister Vera Slattery, England.

This Prayer—which came as an inspiration to Sri Swami Omkarji – and which has been reduced by him to writing, is really a beautiful MANTRA, which by its inner meaning properly understood and pronounced from the deeper recesses of one's being in a calm manner will induce one to reach SAMADHI YOGA. The due drop will feel the great sea of which is a part and parcel. Not

only that, it feels its affinity with other dew drops of this wonderful creation. This MANTRA is the sum total of all the Religions, Scriptures and Sciences. It is the quintessence of PARA VIDYA which is the basis of all knowledge. It is the essence of SAT CHIT ANANDA. Those who have tasted the beatitude of this MANTRA want nothing else.

It starts with the words "ADORABLE PRESENCE" of God who is everywhere, within and without. There is not a blade of grass in which God is not. The Universe is full of it. It is full, fuller than the fullest. Take anything away from it, it is still full, this great God in which we move and have our being. The blessed Christ said 'I and MY FATHER are ONE'. So has Shri Krishna uttered that whatever way you come to HIM, in that way He meets you, for HE and ourselves are all one. The Buddhist and Muslim speak of the great NIRVANA what is *unplumbable* and of *Allah* who is the source and support of all things !

This ADORABLE PRESENCE is invoked here and now, in this beautiful prayer; there is no yesterday, today or tomorrow for one who is immersed in this SAMADHI in the oneness of union with God. Again this ADORABLE PRESENCE is everywhere, without beginning or end. There can be no quarrel or any sense of separateness, since God permeates all. That is why, there is the invocation for PEACE and GOODWILL amongst individuals as well as communities and nations. Brotherhood is a fact of nature and not mere aspiration !

What a wonderful Prayer is this! For this, we are indebted to Sri Swami Omkarji and the Santi Ashram. May this Prayer fill the world, rising from every human heart, so that the world may be full of this great spiritual aspiration which will change its entire face !

Then will wars and hatred cease to be and Humanity becomes *Super-humanity*—an ideal, to be ceaselessly striven for! Let each of us understand all the deeper meanings of this *Peace Prayer* and invoke it in the morning sunrise, noon and sunset hour, if not always and make Earth, the Heaven of Peace, that it should be.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL !

HOW SHALL I WORSHIP THEE ?

It was the early hour of dawn in the Maitreyi Ashram. The life giving light of the world, the sun, was about to come out of the horizon and there was glimmering light over the hills. I was alone with the Indwelling Light, awaiting the outerlight of the SUN. It was a blessed moment of ecstasy. Feeling His Presence within and without and facing Him on every side I was unconsciously repeating "How shall I worship Thee, O Lord?" "May I worship Thee, with the lovely fragrant flowers or with fruits also breaking cocoanuts before Thee? May I worship Thee with prayers, contemplations and meditations? What is the nearest and dearest worship to Thee, O God. Thou hast no need for our words, or any *Mantras*. Words do not satisfy Thee. Even thoughts are lifeless before Thee. Then how shall I worship Thee? May I worship Thee with my mind and intellect? Verily, mental worship is considered as the highest of Thee."

At that hour, feeling the ecstasy within and without, above and below, I felt that I could not even repeat the helpful *Peace Prayer*. I tried to repeat only the two soul awakening words - *Adorable Presence*. I felt from within that I could not repeat even these two simple and sacred words. In fact God does not want to be disturbed by any words. He does not want the least movement of body or mind, for, He is *Perfect Stillness*. He is *waveless Silence*.

For sometime merging within, I watched the even flow of inhalation and exhalation. Here, you are not repeating any words even with mind. The *Ajapa Mantram*, the unutterable *Soham* is going on, ceaselessly from dawn to dusk, both day and night, from beginning to end saying "*I am that. Thou art That-Tat Twam Asi*" Recognise the Highest—the most natural and the unutterable *Mantram* and be silent. *Knowing That, they melt in Silence*.

"How shall I worship Thee? May I worship Thee, in Silence with Silence in waveless Silence!" The Highest worship that which

is dearest and nearest to God is to love; love all, for, all are His children, the Living Images. *Love ye each other as I have loved ye.* He who loves bird, beast and man is offering the highest prayer. Love of creation is love of God. Verily *God is love and Love is God*, so let us be centered in *Love Universal*. which is the only real and the Highest worship of God.

Thus the Breath within, keeps on worshipping Him, day and night ceaselessly, recognizing Him both in Sound and in Silence, in motion and motionlessness.

May this Holy Moment of ecstasy be made permanent embracing all the creatures on earth and heaven, in love Universal. *Do not love, but live as Love.* It has a deep and glorious message. When we live as *Love*, all are included.

May all homage be unto Love that excludes none but includes all. Verily, the right and proper name of GOD is LOVE. May all Homage be unto this Love—overwhelming which is the only Changeless Reality! It is not blooming in the flower, singing in the bird, playing in the child, work in man, twinkling in the star, for, it is both the manifested and the unmanifested?

Dear Loving Reader, it is the same Power! You may call it *God* or *Peace* or *Love*, which is writing in me now and which will read in you. *Not a blade of grass moves without His will and presence.* So, may we feel now the *Indwelling Light*, the *Interpenetrating presence* in each and every moment of our lives, facing Him all around, every where and at all times, with each and every breath of our lives ! Glory ! Glory ! Glory !

May peace be unto all ! Om ! Om ! Om !

THE MESSAGE OF PEACE

(For the Establishment of Peace on Earth)

Dear friend! I love you because GOD IS LOVE. My soul craves to help and serve you, for in serving you, I am serving God;

Peace is needed for the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

What is your contribution to World Peace? If our hearts are devoid of Peace, our lectures and sermons for the Peace of the world are a mockery in the face of God.

In spite of daily sermons and prayers in churches and temples there is unrest everywhere. In many a nation there are signs of bitterness, hatred and war, instead of Harmony, Love and Peace.

The Golden Rule: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto ye, even so do ye unto them" is to be practised, in our relationship with individuals and with sister nations of the world, but should not remain as a myth or legend.

Religion should not be a cloak, used as a garb on special occasions, but lived in our daily lives, in each and every moment. We are to manifest it in all our thoughts, words and deeds, whether we are in church or home, for religion is the realisation of God's Presence in us.

The harvest is great and the labourers are few. In the name of God, in the name of Truth or Love, will you not help the world by establishing Peace in your own heart first?

Please do not fail to give your help and sympathy saying: "I am neither a Statesman nor Member of the United Nations." Yes! You are a Statesman in the Garden of Peace. You are a Member in the Kingdom of God. Your Birthright is Peace; Your Divine Heritage is Universal Love. Hence it is your bounden duty to work for Peace with an all-embracing heart of Love.

Pray, Come forward now with all the strength of your heart and soul to prevent war and establish Peace on earth. "United we stand, divided we fall." Remember that Unity is Life, and separation is death: hence I plead and beg you for your co-operation.

Irrespective of differences in nations or religions, whether you are president or peasant, emperor or labourer, priest or lay-man.

I request you now to contribute your quota, first by establishing Peace in your own heart, *for it is the individual Peace that Paves the way towards Universal Peace.*

Our Peace must be based on the understanding of God, the universal energy, the basic principle of creation, but not on mere treaties signed by politicians to serve their individual or national needs.

Where is Peace that passeth all understanding if it is not in Unity with God, Who is our all in all? Recognise the Presence of God within yourself. Is He not throbbing in your heart? Lo! He is here; merge within and feel-feel- feel-feel. By recognising God in your heart, you can behold Him in every one, irrespective of creed, colour or nationality, for everyone is a child of God.

Beloved one ! Will you not render a little service for me? If so, please feel the Presence of God — not tomorrow or when you go home or to church, but right now in this moment, at this place as you read this message.

Behold ! He is shining in your eyes. Can you not see Him ? “*Having eyes see you not ?*” Pray, utilise your eyes to behold Him; your ears to listen to His still small voice; your hands to serve Him; your words to glorify your heart to express Him; your mind to merge in Him; and your soul to recognise Him.

This is all that I ask of you, my fellow-worker, to make the whole world, God's creation, an Abode of Peace, remembering always the great Truth, that *the Service of man is the Service of God. This is the Highest Worship of God.*

May floods of Harmony, rivers of Peace, and oceans of Love flow from you, towards the whole of humanity for the good of the world, and may the Indweller of your heart bless you with Peace, Health and Long-life. This is the prayer of your brother !

Om! Om! Om! Amen.

REFORMING MYSELF

The world is full of people, trying to reform others. Everyone is anxious to reform the other one—but no one is anxious to reform himself. It was Swami Rama Tirtha who said :

Wanted Reformers not of others but of themselves.

Religion begins with self-reformation and ends in Self realization.

KNOW THYSELF

It is in Self-reformation that you come face to face with THYSELF the INDWELLING LIGHT. I tried and tried to reform everybody but I failed. Now I am trying to reform myself and I see some Light. By reforming myself, I am reforming others. It is better to set an example by living an ideal life. An ideal life of selflessness is the greatest blessing and a living example, better than lectures and discourses.

Q :—Why is man anxious to teach others ?

A :—For it is so easy to teach others.

As it is very difficult to reform himself—to teach himself, he is not anxious to begin the difficult task of self-reformation. TIME is too precious to be wasted in trying to reform others, which leads one no where.

If you try to reform yourself, you will be led somewhere. You will see some Light within yourself. Begin to reform with your very diet. Take simple and natural diet, for diet plays an important part in your spiritual life. Someone said: 'If you tell me what you eat—I will tell you what you are.'

Avoid all exciting foods. Be simple and natural, above all, be moderate in every thing. Avoid extremes. Moderation is the key-note of any successful life. Let everyday be a day of

self-reformation to you. Begin the day, with the helpful PEACE PRAYER or any other Prayer. Continue to spend the whole day, doing your ordained works, feeling His Presence, for you are always in God's Omnipresence. There is never a moment of time when God is absent from us. We live, work, move and breathe in Him. Thus after our day's work, let us retire into God — with a prayer on our lips, glorifying all His Blessings. How blessed and helpful it is to resolve as we wake up at the dawn of everyday—to see only God everywhere and in everyone, for all is God !

Isavsyamidamsaryam ! All this world is filled and covered by Isa, Eswar—the One Indwelling Presence which is both within and without. If you wish to talk, you should talk only of God and not waste your precious time in talking of useless topics. Never try to kill time with idle words or gossip.

PRAY CEASELESSLY - MEDITATE DEEPLY

Let your joy be to commune with God. Similarly, you should try to hear the Voice of God in every sound — allsound is emanation of God. God is all Silence also—Waveless Silence. Verily by changing myself I am changing others — I am reforming the world, by my ideal and selfless life. Indeed it is the individual Peace that paves the way for Universal Peace. Let us help the Peace of the world, by establishing Peace in our hearts first, and then in our homes, communities and nations and the world at large.

Thus let reformation begin from within - with MYSELF. May every breath of mine flow only towards Him—the Universal Light—the Light of the world. May every heartbeat throb only for the Peace of all ! I may not change others, but I can change myself. I may not reform the world but I can surely reform myself. Blessed are they who are pure in Heart. Peace belongs to the Pure. It is self-purification that helps world-purification.

Dear Loving Readers, what is your contribution to world-Peace? Let it be your self-purification. Let it be your self-reformation — Less words and more silence with Purity and Peace. May your ideal life of self-reformation be a source of joy to your Creator and a Blessing to all His Children.

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

THE MESSAGE OF THE NIAGARA FALLS

*"The Lord is in His Holy Temple ;
let all the earth keep silence before Him.*

HERE the Lord is in His outer temple—hence let the whole world behold Him in activity. Glory be unto the majesty of the Niagara Falls ! Adorations be unto its self-shining and unceasing flow of Splendour !

Where am I now ? I am in the Divine Presence—so my speech is dumb—senses are withdrawn inwardly—mind is dissolving—and the body is becoming numb. I am forcing myself to write something of the Glory of these Falls. I gaze at the Falls in deep silence—with tears of ecstasy in my eyes. Let me listen to their message.

THE FALLS SAY

"Dear child of God, my message to you is to pour out, to pour out all that you have—in a continuous and neverending flow of service, never seeking any kind of reward. Pour out, not now and then, but always. Pour out your love not unconsciously, but consciously. Remember that God will never be your debtor. The more you give the more you have. The simple way to have more is to give what you have.

As an image of God, you can afford to give infinite Love and Eternal Peace. Peace and Love are your own Birthright. Do not withhold these precious gifts like a miser. Share all your perishable and imperishable riches with the whole of humanity.

Bathe the world in peace and joy.

Drench humanity in health and glory.

A giver is always respected and a beggar is always shunned.
So be a giver. Look at me !

I give—without seeking any reward and without any motive.

I give because I cannot keep. Behold how the whole world gazes at me—in awe and admiration.

How beautiful is the giver !

So, my sweet brother, be a giver of peace, love, harmony bliss and glory.

Recognize only your true glory, your real splendour—and shine on as the Sun of suns—bathing the wide world in your simple love which is contented to live as love.

Pour out, for, you cannot keep. Give out, give out, for you can afford, to give. Give unceasingly, Pour out unconsciously, for our joy is in giving. never in holding. Accumulation is misery, sharing or giving is joy. So, one who gives is a living God; and one who keeps is dead.

If you have nothing else to give, offer your last drop of blood and bit of flesh, and thus be an ideal of living sacrifice, and a giver of joy and blessedness.

For, it is said, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Hence the happiness of both the receiver and the giver is yours.

For, verily you are the receiver and the giver in the highest aspect.

So my child, go forth now into the wide world with my message of giving unceasingly. This is my unspoken unconsciously. message to you, the message of service in the outpouring of love.

In assimilation, I sat still, feeling peace within and without. I felt the stillness in the very roaring sound of the Falls.

The message was overwhelming to me. I was filled with a new spirit. I want to give and give—not words and thoughts alone, but my very life and soul.

All that I have physically, mentally or spiritually, belongs to the whole of humanity. Oh, children of God! Here are my flesh, blood and bones. Here are my mind and intellect, Here are my heart and soul.

Pray do come to share my infinite love.

Please render me the favour of accepting my love. Do not spare me—for every atom and cell in this being belongs to you.

I keep life in this form only for the purpose of sharing all that I have with you.

My creed can be summed up in one word --GIVE. And this is the message of the sacred Niagara Falls.

“Oh beloved Niagara, how I love you! Glory be unto you for the living message you are giving to the whole world!”

I moved on, retracing my way with unwilling steps, but carrying the true spirit of sharing in my heart. No longer were my feet on earth. I was walking on air.

I embraced the hills and rocks, caressed the plants and trees, whispered with the cool breeze, breathed with the life-giving sun.

I smiled with children, exchanged my heart with sisters and brothers in loving oneness, as they passed by me.

I am giving and giving whenever I am singing and chanting the sacred word AUM – not to a few but to the whole of creation.

I am a new being now. Niagara has given me a new birth or a re-birth whence I can pour out floods of light, streams of glory, rivers of peace, and oceans of life.

Glory!

Glory!!

Glory!!!

All Glory be unto the Niagara Falls. I am the child of the Niagara, the giver of Life, Light and Love.

May Peace be unto all!

NOTE:-This message was written by Sri Swami Omkar when visiting several years ago, the wonderful Niagara Falls in America were thundering grandeur brought on a state of God-consciousness and sacred ecstasy. Written in the form of a message, his thoughts of inspiration at that time had been widely appreciated both in the East and the West, and many reprints have been in demand. Miss Elisabeth Achelis, known as the New World Calendar Lady had this message printed in the form of a large scroll—taking it to be a document worthy of preservation, and has given it to the various Churches and Peace Endeavour Groups in and around Buffalo where it has been received as truly Cosmic Message from a great and universal soul. Our hearty thanks go forth to Sister Elisabeth Achelis for thus sowing Seeds of Peace.

— Sister Sushila Devi

WONDERFUL

GOD'S name is WONDERFUL. As you are His child, your name also ought to be wonderful. Since my Heart disease last year, many devotees ask me anxiously: **HOW IS YOUR HEALTH SWAMIJI?** I reply cheerfully and spontaneously: **MY HEALTH IS WONDERFUL.** Verily, my Heart is wonderful. My Blood pressure is wonderful. The pulse is normal and wonderful. My Breath - **SOHAM** is always wonderful. Everything is wonderful not only within but also without. As I close my eyes, I feel His Presence from the toes to the top of the head. He is there in the very cells of my being, as such - every cell proclaims in **STILL SMALL VOICE 'WONDERFUL'.**

In the world of duality, He is wonderful from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet. When the eyes are closed, He is wonderful. When they are opened, He is wonderful. He is wonderful in the fragrance of flowers, in the song of birds, in the mirth of children, in the work of man; nay, He is wonderful in the retired life of the aged. He is there, in the very breeze - in the warmth of the **SUN.** He is wonderful all around us and in the twinkle of the stars up above in the sky also.

How blessed it is to live in a world, where everything and everyone is wonderful. When you are wonderful, all are wonderful - for every one is a living image of the wonderful GOD. As GOD is one WITHOUT A SECOND, it is so easy to recognize HIM within and to face HIM without all around, in touch, sound, smell, sight and space. This seems to be the easiest and safest and most direct and simple way, for here, you need not manipulate yourself and get tired either with long prayers or deep contemplations and wait for GOD to descend from the far away heavens.

All that you have to do is only to recognize the WONDERFUL ONE, both within and without and all around and be silent. BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I'AM GOD. THOU ART THAT. TAT TWAM ASI. OMNIPOTENCE IS WORKING - LET THE MORTAL RETIRE. What a wonderful "Mantram" - helpful affirmation? How simple it is to allow the OMNIPOTENCE to work and to allow the mortal to retire.

Yet, it is not so easy to make the restless mind calm, still and waveless. Whether it is easy or difficult, our salvation lies only in mastering the wandering mind. YOGA is the control of the wandering faculties of the mind. "YOGACHITTA VRITTI NIRODHA. When once the mind is controlled you have the DARSAN or VISION of the WONDERFUL ONE. Nay, you will realise that you have been the WONDERFUL ONE - the Light of lights all along from beginning to the end.

Dear loving Reader, my name is wonderful - not only my name, but your name also is WONDERFUL. THAT WHICH EXISTS IS ONE AND THAT IS WONDERFUL. May all homage be unto the WONDERFUL ONE - the Wonder of wonders. May Peace be unto all and may all recognize and feel the Infinite and thus rise above selfish thoughts and finite words and merge in the SUPREME SILENCE which is the Heart. Soul and Goal of the Wonder of wonder - the WONDERFUL ONE.

May Peace be unto all!

OM!

TAT!

SAT!

OM!

MY RELIGION

My Dear Blessed Images of God! I bow to you in deep adoration for the privilege given to me of expressing to you my inner thoughts on Religion.

I greet you not as a philosopher or lecturer, not even as a Swami; I do not greet you either as an Easterner coming from far away India; or as a HINDU belonging to this religion or that creed. I love to greet you as one of your own flesh and blood having the common heritage of God as our only father and creator. As we are the children of the same Almighty Father, I greet you as your own brother.

Our present subject is "MY RELIGION." This needed by one and all especially in these days of civilization, when the world is filled with numberless sects, organisations, creeds, societies, lodges, centres etc., in the name of God and religion.

Indeed it has become a fad or fashion for every one to connect himself or herself with some sect or society.

When once they enroll as members of some organization or church, then peace reigns to an extent both in themselves and among the circle of people with whom they are connected. Otherwise, some people making long faces, will remark, "My, look at her, even though she is sixty years of age, she is not attending church!" or others will say, "Her son is as big as an ass and she never sends him to Sunday School."

Thus we see that when one visits a church or temple, the care of his soul is handed over to the priest or master who is in charge, promising to pay his dues regularly. If the dues are not paid, his

name will be struck off and the doors to salvation will be closed. Can we be religious by enrolling our names in all the sects and societies of the world? Can we be religious even, by visiting all the churches and temples of the world? Can we be religious even though we read all the Holy Books of the whole world? Can we be religious by contacting or becoming monks and popes of the whole world? Can any outside thing make us religious? Can we get religion even from grand masters and great popes? Can religion be imparted? Is it outside of us? Is it not eternally one with us? Now let me dwell on some of these vital questions.

My dear friends, at the very outset, let me confess to you that I have no religion of my own which is separate from me. But do not take me for a Heathen or Atheist. My Religion has been eternally One with me. In fact religion to me is a part and parcel of my own Self.

My Religion is the Religion of Universal Love which is seeing with these tender eyes. It is the same which is manifesting itself in the eyes of all of you. My Religion is the Religion of the Inner Heart, which throbs with feelings of Love and Oneness, radiating the same to the whole Humanity.

Do not think that I am confining my religion to this body or to other forms or names. Religion, the highest expression of God, can never be confined to any form or name, nor even to any creed or time.

My Religion is the religion that flutters in the leaves. My Religion is the religion that sings in the birds. My Religion is the religion that hovers in the winds. My Religion is the religion that shines in the sun. My Religion is the religion that pervades all things and beings, from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet.

My Religion is not confined to the human kingdom alone. It is my religion alone, that is throbbing in all the kingdoms of life. Strange as it may seem, my religion is connected even with the mineral kingdom. It is my religion that is shining in the mineral, vegetable, animal and human kingdoms, for my religion can never be separate, even from the tiniest molecule or the lowest vermin.

It is the religion of all, beginning from the greatest saint to the lowest type of sinner ! It is the religion of Humanity. My Religion is the religion of All-in-All.

My Religion makes me feel my individual Oneness with Mohammedanism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism or with any other Ism.

Thus, beloved Ones, the glory of my religion lies in my oneness with all of you. I keep life in this body in feeling my oneness with all of you ! I exalt myself in my own Divinity by calling you all as my own. My joy lies in embracing you all, sharing your joys and woes as mine. Can there be any greater privileges than embracing the whole of Humanity or Creation in the arms of Universal Love ?

This is My Religion. Call it mine or yours. To me, religion is this great Indivisible Love and Indescribable Oneness. This ought to be the real religion of every earnest soul. This must be the practical religion of all seekers of Truth. Whether we ignore or admit, this is the religion of all seekers of Truth. Whether we ignore or admit, this religion remains always as the changeless Truth.

In short, religion is realisation of One's Divinity or God-head. Religion is to reign in the glory of contentment and self-satisfaction, sitting on the Throne of Universal Love!

Indeed, in the name of religion, robberies have been committed; murders have been done! Slaughters of innocent souls have taken place. Even suicides and homicides have been perpetrated; Every heinous crime known to the world has been committed in the name of religion.

Our Blessed Lord Jesus was mercilessly crucified in the name of religion. Indeed, it is in the name of religion that saints in every age had to drink their hemlock and thus stand as Martyrs of Religions.

Are we really to blame Religion for all these crimes?

Indeed, it is religion so-called which is the root cause of all sins and crimes, both in the past and the present, all over the world

but never the real Religion of Universal Love. It is religion of Love that made Christ offer his body as a willing sacrifice and utter the great prayer, "Father ! forgive them, for they know not what they do." 'It is the Religion of Truth or Compassion that made the great Buddha offer his life to save a simple dove in a cruel sacrifice.

In true religion there is no space for any strife or difference nor even for any duality in any form. Here one cannot even raise a finger against another, or allow the mouth to utter a harsh word. Verily, in this Religion of Love, one cannot have ill-feelings or hatred even in one's mind. When man feels that his religion is the religion of the Universe, that everything and every one belongs to him, he cannot help loving all, irrespective of caste, creed, colour and nationality.

So long as man believes in a religion that is separate from him, however sublime it may be, he cannot help but become a dupe to ignorance and weakness in some form or other. It is only when man believes in the religion which is never separate from him but is eternally inseparable from him, that he will not only be free from all strife and weakness but will also shine as an emblem of God or Religion.

I desire to define both God and Religion. : In the Highest sense they are both one and the same. Many define Religion as the path leading to God! God is the source of all life, both manifested and unmanifested. So religion binds one with the source, namely GOD. One who understands religion, is realising GOD. Verily, one who understands religion practically has understood God also. He is not in any way separate from God. He is eternally one with Him. Such a one will exclaim happily in the words of Christ, "I and my Father are one!"

"What is your religion ?" is a question asked daily everywhere and by everyone. "To what denomination do you belong ?" If I answer that I am a Christian, in India, they take me for a lunatic. If I say in America I am a Hindu, then most of the church people will not fail to pity me, considering me a heathen. If I say I am not a follower of Buddha to the Buddhists, they will think I am

groping in the darkness. A Muslim, seeing that I am not a follower of Islam, calls me a "Kafir" or unbeliever. If I say to some other class of people that I believe in no religion, they will not fail to stamp me as an Atheist. Thus we see everywhere, clinging to one's own particular creed and one personality, crucifying the living Truth, the real Religion. Unless people rise above all personalities and other beliefs, they will not give up saying "Our Religion alone is the best and all the rest are the worst."

I often become perplexed and confused when asked, to what denomination or religion I belong. In the first place, am I merely a heap of flesh to 'belong' to a creed or religion? In Universal Love, how can I belong to any of these forms or names? Certain things belong to certain individuals. Am I a thing or article to belong to a church or temple? Ignorant man is satisfied by attending his church on Sundays and allowing his priest to pray for him. Religion troubles him no further. But the real religionist will never be happy until he dives deep into the fathomless depths of Religion and thus becomes one with all, embracing the whole world.

Recently, when I was spending a Sunday in the woods of Chester Country away from Philadelphia, communing with the religion of natural life, to my astonishment and joy I met there a clergyman. He was kind enough to give me a leaflet advocating Christianity. Because of my brown skin and regarding me a heathen, he began to teach me the religion of Christianity. With all respect and glory to Lord Christ, let me say he began to teach me Churchianity rather than Christianity.

If one really drinks deeply of the nectar of true religion he fails not to embrace it, whether one is a Mahommedan or Buddhist; a saint or sinner! In fact the real religion of Christ is nothing but Universal Love! Churchianity is all differences and Christianity is all love. Hinduism is also nothing but Universal Love.

On the surface of the ocean there is strife and confusion, one wave succeeding another, each clashing in its own turn and resulting in foam and great splashes of water. But if you go deep into the bottom of the sea, there it is free from all kinds of waves and

clashes. It is free from struggle of every kind. It is all peace and calmness there.

So whether a man is in this religion or that religion, he should not be satisfied with mere belief and blind attachment to forms and names but should dive deep into his own religion until he tastes and realizes the Truth of Universal Love which is the basis of all great religions. Thus alone will he be a blessing to his own religion and unto Humanity.

No Religion need boast of its superiority over another. Comparing of sects and creeds is nothing but ignorance. Each religion possesses its own sublime Truths. If man is true to his own religion he can be true to all other religions; He will not find a black spot upon which to lay his hand; either in his own religion or in the religions of the world. It is said that one who can feel GOD within his own heart, can feel GOD in the hearts of all. The same is also the case with religion.

The fact is that in every religion and creed on the face of earth, you will find a division of two kinds, namely, the essentials and non-essentials. The non-essentials will be different in one religion from the others, whereas the essentials will be the same in all religions. So the men who cling to the outer creeds of religions, will fight and quarrel with each other but those, who have risen above, outer forms, doctrines and beliefs, will not fail to find the same beauties expressed everywhere in the whole world of sects and creeds.

My message to sisters and brothers of all denominational religions, is to hold on and cling to their respective religions until they can rise above the outer garbs or beliefs. By merging deep into their own religions rising above all doctrines they will not fail to realize the inner beauties of the Universal Love within themselves. By living the right life, rising above all barriers and boundaries, one will be brought face to face with the Religion Universal which is the goal of one's life.

Religion is one's own Birthright. It is within alone! Without realizing the Truth which is within, no amount of changing religion will help any one!

In coming to a definite conclusion of our present subject, I have only one more important item to deal with. Everywhere we find many people complaining about the lack of time to pray or realize GOD. Here, if we will only (take a minute to) examine for ourselves a few of the ideas just given in this present subject we will not fail to arrive at the conclusion that the complaint of lack of time is nothing but ignorance and even meaningless.

It is nothing but ignorance which says, "I have no time for Religion or God." When God is pervading and permeating from top to toe, how can people be deaf and blind to the glorious Truth filling their beings? The real danger, therefore, lies only in confining to the religion of outer forms, separated from one's life. The beauty and salvation of the individuals or creeds, lie only in their inseparable oneness with Religion, in life or death.

Then there are some more blind brothers and sisters whom we are seeing every day, in these days of outer civilization who say "Oh, we are happy without bothering our heads with Religion." Perhaps they are contented and happy in eating, sleeping and counting Dollars; but how long can they remain happy with finite toys of the world, disconnecting themselves from the living source of all strength and Peace? Happiness where is it? What is it? How can one be happy eternally?

Suffice it to say, that real happiness can never be found in finite things of names and forms. Time alone will make people grow and experience alone will teach them to seek for real joy within themselves. The Son of God may come at any time, so we must be ever watchful. If not, the fate of many will be like the five foolish virgins in the parable of the bridegroom. Therefore, instead of wasting precious time in eating, drinking and playing, neglecting the aim of human birth, all should be ready for the bridegroom's coming, like the five, wise virgins, ever keeping their oneness with the Almighty. Life is not worth living if it is not for this contact with true religion but not contact with Mammon, however mighty or rich one may be.

When I was coming from India, on the steamer 'Benares' I happened to converse with an English brother of mine. In the

course of our talk, when I asked him whether he reads the Holy Bible daily, he replied boldly that he had given it up long ago; the doing of such bad things as reading the Bible or praying. I felt shocked at this reply.

But still, he is a man of education, he is a man of culture and civilization in the eyes of the world and its outer life. It is a pity to find, in the name of civilization many such souls who are engaged in doing 'good' things, such as smoking, drinking and other acts of lower life, forsaking and giving up, as our English brother said "the bad things" of reading the Bible, attending church etc. But like any of us, they too, are from God though leading surface lives.

I have come to the conclusion that there are four kinds of people in the world :

1. Those who wickedly ignore the existence of God or the Higher Life, because they are in the state of animals, ever deriving satisfaction from the contact of senses in their sensual lives.
2. Those who complain of lack of time for realizing GOD. There is the seed of devotion in these souls. They need only to understand the Truth and their relationship with the same and thus to strive further on and on.
3. Those who are satisfied with the outer forms of Religion. These should rise from non-essentials to the essentials of Religion and thus strive to find the perennial spring of Joy and Peace within themselves.
4. Those for whom Religion is the be-all and end-all; those who are living as inseparably one, in past, present and future, realizing the kingdom of Heaven within themselves.

If there are people who truly deserve the name "images of God" it is only such people belonging to the fourth class who are worthy. All honour and glory be unto them !

By self examination and understanding, every one should see for oneself, if one is in the first, second, third or fourth state. The first class of people should try to reach the second, the second should try to reach the third and the third should strive to attain the fourth, finally reaching the highest state of realization, which is the pinnacle of all religions. Progress, progress alone, is the watchword of all religions but never stagnation. Progress is life and stagnation is Death.

Dear images of God, now is the time to manifest your Holy Nature and be fully worthy of being the Images of God. Pray manifest the inherent nature which is within you alone, to the glory of Truth and Divinity. Bury, no more your God-head. Sell no longer your Religion of Universal Love to this church or to that organization. Awake to your Divine Majesty, where you are one with all sects and creeds, with all religions and nations; nay, even with the whole of Humanity. This alone is your Divine Birthright. It is waiting only to be recalled and awakened. Sleep no more, but awake to the Religion of your inner heart. Awake to the Glory of Your Divine Splendour which surpasses Millions of Suns.

May Peace be Unto all ! OM ! OM! OM!!!

[A lecture delivered on December 2, 1925, at Sri Mariya Mission, Philadelphia. P. A., U. S. A.] --Abridged by T.

MY LEGACY TO YOU

How wonderful it is to have something which is not the monopoly of an individual or a nation, but which belongs to all the children of God in the East and the West, nay, all over the world! To whom does the effulgent *sun* belong ? Does he not belong to one and all—to those who have eyes to see and senses to feel his presence and light ? To whom does the *moon* belong ? To whom do the *stars* belong ? To whom does the *air* belong ? To whom does the *sky* belong ? Do they not all belong to one and all.

I hesitate to include the *earth* and the *ocean*, for, the earth is divided by the selfish man with the boundaries of 'mine' and 'thine'. As for the ocean also, there are some people who claim that the Indian Ocean belongs only to Indians and the Atlantic Ocean belongs only to Americans etc. Man—the ignorant man—takes joy in possession and in the monopoly of the goods of the *world*. To whom does the world belong? Does it belong to man or God? Verily, God and man are ONE. We will leave these intricate problems to the philosophers to solve with their mighty intellects.

My Loving Friends, whoever you may be, wherever you may be, even if you are a thiest or an atheist, a believer or a non-believer, here is the abode of Peace, which belongs to you equally, as much as to any of us—the Founders, Members or Workers—for, it is the *Common property* of all the Seekers of Peace on the face of the earth. Does it not give you joy to think that you have an Abode of Peace on earth, where you have a place to come to rest, relax, retire or spend your life here temporarily or permanently, for this belongs to you!

The *Peace* which is your Birthright—the Common Heritage of every man which cannot be bought for any amount of wealth in the market, you can have it *free* here, provided you are pining for *Peace*. Do you wish to have Peace? Is your soul longing for Peace? Is your cry for Peace deep and intense? What is life without Peace? My offering to the world of humanity is this Abode of Peace. A hearty welcome awaits you here, and also to each and every aspiring devotee in all religions and nations. I am in ecstasy, for I have something that I can share with you. I am grateful to the Almighty for using me as an instrument to create this Abode of Peace, for your benefit and for the common good of all.

My Loving Reader, this is *My Legacy to you*. It does not make any difference whether you have known me or not, physically. It is enough that we are all the children of the *One God* coming from the *One source*, living in the *One presence* and bound to go back or dissolve into the *Same Truth*—the *Indivisible Light*. As it is *Individual Peace* which paves the way towards the Universal

and MAHABHARATHA. We quote freely—the destruction of the evil powers of Duryodhana with his hundred brothers against the five Pandava brothers of Truth and Righteousness, having Krishna, the Light on their side. In spite of all the fiery tests—poverty, starvation, dishonour, and death itself, we recall the Triumph of Truth in the life of King Satya Harischandra—the very personification of Truth.

Yes, Harischandra has triumphed. He has set for us a living example of Truth for the whole world, but we have to examine our lives critically and see how many of us are really walking in the foot-prints of Harischandra. Now let us also examine how many of us are living like Dharmaraj, the King of Righteousness and also the ideal warrior and devotee, Arjuna !

TRUTH REALLY TRIUMPHS – if we are really Truthful in thought, word and deed, ever walking in the blessed foot-prints of the sages of the East and the West.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS . if we are not Mammon worshippers inside in our lives and hearts, preaching charity and sacrifice outside.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS – if we are not running after shadows neglecting the substance – the Light of the World.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS – if we are not preaching prohibition outside and using intoxicants in our homes.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS – if we are not posing as the builders of the nation, and running after the passing clouds of fame and name, being slaves of power politics.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS – if we are not persecuting innocent people with spite and vengeance over some imaginary suspicions.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS – if we are not engaged in blackmarketing inside, giving charities outside, getting our names advertised and published in the Newspapers as the benefactors of the nation and Humanity.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS – when you can love and take care of the orphans, the oppressed and the depressed, the poor and the sick, in their wants and sufferings, considering them as your own.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS – when you are not selfish, looking after yourself and the interests of your own family, but when you can consider all the people in the world as your own Sisters and Brothers and can repeat cheerfully and boldly :

“THE WIDE WORLD IS MY HOME AND ALL THE CITIZENS IN IT ARE MY OWN PEOPLE. TO LOVE AND SERVE THEM IS MY RELIGION.”

TRUTH TRIUMPHS – when you have Love in your heart, Purity in your Mind, wishing the welfare of all the children of God. For the complete success, for the full Triumph of Truth, *the Love of Christ, the compassion of Buddha, the wisdom of Krishna, the submission of Mahommed, the Light of Zoraster* and all the Virtues, holy traits and qualities of the sages and saints of the East and the West are most essential. We, the individuals alone, are the source and the cause of all strifes and wars, destruction and death. It is with us now to bring PEACE into the hearts of the suffering individuals and Goodwill and Harmony among the distrusting nations. My heart becomes sad and heavy when I hear the sudden bombings of the masses—dropping of bombs over the cities, towns and villages, all in hatred and vengeance.

What is the remedy now, to stop and prevent this cruel carnage destruction and death of the innocent? LET US SHIFT OUR CENTRE FROM SELFISHNESS TO SELFLESSNESS. Let the Peace of the world be our Goal and Soul. When there is crookedness and wickedness in any nation, the other Sister Nations, should have the strength to crush and annihilate the cruelty, be it in any nation.

The powerful and mighty Nations that have stood by Truth and India, all along the way—now in her great and sudden crisis may fail to stand by Truth and India to disappoint us, reminding the great Truth:

**“MAN ALWAYS DISAPPOINTS BUT GOD
ALONE NEVER DISAPPOINTS”**

May India learn to stand on its own legs instead of relying on the lip sympathy of the outer mighty powers and cling to God, the Indwelling Light— the never-failing *DIVINE PROTECTOR*. Verily. Truth Triumphs and success in the long run belongs only to the righteous and truthful, in spite of a world of test, trials and tribulations. The way to *resurrection* is only through the *Crucifixion*

Dear children of Immortality, it is high time for us to realize that we cannot violate the Divine Laws of God or Truth. We cannot dupe or deceive God, with all our Intelligence or cunningness. Whether we are peasants tilling the land or Presidents leading the destinies of nations, we are responsible for our nations and for the Peace of the world. *Evil destroys itself*. The man who takes up the sword will perish by the same sword. *Truth alone Triumphs*. This is what history teaches us. In the name of God, Truth or Humanity, let us not be responsible for the sufferings of the innocent or death of the sick and the poor; or for destroying the monument of civilization of the ages. Our *forefathers*, the Builders of nations, have made great sacrifices to bring the world to the present stage of progress and enlightenment. Let us not root out and destroy what they have done, by our selfish deeds now or with heinous crimes resulting in complete destruction and bloodshed. Let us be the Harbingers of Peace, Builders of Nations and the Saviours of Humanity. In our own humble way, let us all contribute our mite, by establishing Peace in our hearts first and sending forth thoughts of Harmony, Understanding and Peace towards the warring elements in the world.

It is not only the mighty politicians and big leaders but also the humble and simple individuals, who, by denying Truth or God, bring upon others and themselves death and destruction. In order to stop the carnage and death, we must recognise God, the Living Truth and thus bring Peace and Goodwill to the individuals as well as Nations.

Let us cling to Truth more than ever with all the strength of our minds, hearts and Souls and let Truth alone triumph at any

cost, in these troublous times and the great crisis of the nation. May the **UNIVERSAL ANTHEM** and *PEACE CHANT* be our only hope now in these critical days, bringing ultimate Peace to the anxious hearts of the people and nations of the World.

THE UNIVERSAL ANTHEM

ONE Cosmic Brotherhood,
One Universal Good,
One Source, One Sway,
One Law upholding us,
One Purpose moulding us.
One Life enfolding us,
In Love always.

Anger, Resentment, Hate,
Long made us desolate,
Their Reign is done,
Race, Color, Creed and Caste,
Fade in the dreamy past,
Man wakes to learn at last.

THE PEACE CHANT

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

OM ! OM ! OM !

— (Abridged by T.)

[*An OFFERING to all the Leaders in the World, invoking God's Richest Blessings; with Prayers for the cessation of all conflicts and wars, for the Peace and Harmony of all the nations in the East and the West.]*

— Omkar.

BE A FLAME OF GOD

There are moments when the consciousness is deep, there are hours when His Presence is intense, and there are days when He alone is the Reality, expressing Himself in all our thoughts, words and deeds! This is one of those sacred moments, happy hours, and precious days, as I write now on this uplifting subject:

BE A FLAME OF GOD

The consciousness of His existence and His Omnipresence is so deep and intense, as to bring the thought whether these writing materials in my hand will be burnt, because of the Presence of the Flame. But I have the consolation that these writing materials also are the same aspects of the one Flame, in a different degree, as they are humbly serving His bidding.

Dear Readers, as you read this message now, I request you to feel the warmth of the Flame which is filling your own hearts, minds and souls, for **VERILY YOU ARE THE LIVING FLAMES OF GOD!**

Can there be living and dead flames? Yes! there are both living and dead flames. In this great mass of humanity as we see in the active world of variety, alas! some of the flames are covered with a thick coating of the black soot of darkness and ignorance, or flare with a lurid, cold flame of intellect. Yet the Heart Flame is there. It cannot be put out, quenched, buried or deadened, but It is almost in a state of death, for lack of loving wisdom and recognition of Truth.

Daring to face the Living Truth now, let us directly examine our lives to see for ourselves, our present state, and probe deep with the following questions:

Am I a smoldering flame of selfishness, ever bound to this tiny body, or a soaring, radiant Flame of selflessness filling the (body of the) whole world with love and light? Am I a Flame of Light and Truth, or a dim, dying flame of darkness and ignorance? Is my Flame covered with impure ashes of insatiable desires or living and shining, burning with right desire only to express Him?

Alas! it is sad to see that the world is filled with more flames of selfishness and ignorance, rather than with the flames of selflessness and Truth. There are flames of consuming hatred and bitterness. There are searing flames of sorrow and sickness. There are fierce flames of fear and jealousy. Sometimes one's life is a continuous congested flame of mammon worship from the cradle to grave.

How pathetic is the condition of these flames! But the consolation is with the advent of the rising sun of wisdom, with the loving breeze of His Love and Presence the oppressing obstructions and the smoke-screen of ignorance that are quelling the brightness of the flames can be evoperated or dispelled.

Let us see whether there are many flames or one Flame in Truth or Reality? The Flame is always One without a second, like the glorious disk of the flaming SUN. But the rays are many coming from the one source. To illustrate further all the waves in the sea are composed of the same water. Ornaments can be made in any shape or form with the same gold.

Real peace or true happiness belongs only to those who can recognize their Source, the Infinite, the Origin and the One Flame of all flames. Let us always be the Living Flames of God, for we are His images. Let us recognize only the One Presence within ourselves and in others, for there is only One Indivisible Flame. Let us not only feel but express the warmth and Presence of the Flame in all the duties of our respective lives.

Here are some of the most uplifting and inspiring affirmations, to express and manifest the flaming consciousness. They are to be repeated with feelings and burning fervor. Now let us repeat and feel this Mantram and ignite a pure flame of God within.

In the past I have been the Flame of God OM!

In the present I am the Flame of Truth OM!

In the future I will be the Flame of the One Reality OM!

From eternity to eternity I am the Living Flame of God.

OM !

OM !

OM !

What a great joy and strength it is to feel and know that there is never a moment of time when we are not the Flame of God! Let us pause here for a moment to realize our eternal oneness with the Flame of flames. Now let us carry this burning consciousness of the Living Flame into the world of activity, from our meditation into our labours, remembering that Religion and life are not two but One as explained in the message of our last "PEACE."

Beloved Flames of God, here are some of my personal thoughts from my daily life given out, not for self-glorification but only to share with you my love and felicity wishing your Illumination. "I AM THE FLAME OF GOD" should be the Mantram or sacred affirmation to be repeated often by the seekers of Truth, especially when they are engaged in the outer activities of daily life. We are never the flames of flesh and blood but we are the flames of Peace and Love.

As I bathe every morning in front of my "Kutira" (hut), I pour out one vessel after another vessel of water upon my head but the inner Flame can never be cooled or quenched. There is the warmth in each and every cell of the body. Even in the very quickening rhythm of breath there is the warmth of the Pranic Flame. You can have the Flame or pour on it any amount of water but it can never be entirely cooled or quenched. There is coolness only on the surface, or the exterior, but in the interior there is the warmth of undying and eternal Flame. Kindly experience it for yourselves, feeling the heat and warmth of the Presence of God when engaged in your humble and common vocations of life.

As I walk again in the Asram grounds it is the Flaming Energy that walks. As I work it is that Flame that works. As I speak it is the Divine Flame that speaks. As I think it is the Infinite Flame that thinks. As I move and play it is the same Flame that moves and plays with its subtle warmth and life.

In the silent moments of the stillness of the night as I lift my eyes to look into the soul of the stars, I behold the one Flame, shining both in my heart and in their radiant depths. In the active hours of the day I find my centre of happiness in trying to recognize

the same Presence of God in all the inmates, workers and visitors of our Abode of Peace.

Indeed it is the Flame of God that works, moves, breathes and even meditates in us, so let us meditate now. Dear kind Friends, join me, in this silent meditation even for a little while by making your bodies steady and minds calm and pure, so as to allow the Flame to shine and express in all its splendor. Let us close our eyes now to feel consciously the Presence of the Flame from top to toe. Let us begin with the toes of our feet.

M E D I T A T I O N .

It is the Living Flame in the toes, the ankles, in both the feet. Let us recognize the Flame beginning from the feet; in the legs, thighs, base of the body, the stomach, the heart, chest, both the hands, throat, chin, cheeks, mouth, ears. eyes, temples and in the whole head. Yes! it is the Flame shining in the very eyes. From top to toe there are flashes of one continuous lightening Flame. In each and every tiny cell of the body it is the same Flame. We are a mass of flaming Light now.

OM ! OM !! OM !!!

My friends, I leave you there now, with the Flame of flames, without disturbing you anymore with these words, requesting you to realize the rest, in your stillness, as you are all the flames of God. Om ! Om ! Om !. May this Divine Flame which is filling our beings now and which is pervading and permeating the whole universe be the aim and goal of our lives, is the fervent prayer of this humble flame of God.

Hari Om Tat Sat.

LITTLE SELF

It was in those restful days of peace and repose, when I had slipped and sprained my knee, I used to send my thoughts, a daily spiritual message, to the inmates and friends of the Asram, through our Sushila Devi and Maha Maya Devi, as I was unable myself

to walk to the meditation hall to partake in the morning and evening services of our Peace group.

One evening after our usual meditation and chanting of Om ! in front of my hut, Maya Devi asked, "What is the thought you wish to be conveyed this evening, Swamiji?" I replied abruptly, "You may speak on little self." She then said, "How can I speak on the little self that never existed and is merely a delusion?" I smiled, saying "Let us not be deluded with high sounding philosophical and sophistical or abstract thoughts about the Umanifested state, which is beyond mere intellect, but face the facts in the world as we yet see them, sanely and thoughtfully.

Let us try to conquer that little self with sincere effort and not by mere words that get one no where. Let us practice self-analysis, purification of body, mind and heart, which will bring an influx of Divine Glory that will in turn bring freedom from the little self which is the root cause of all world-pain. Therefore do not say you cannot speak of the little self.

It is the Higher Self about which, not only you, but no one can speak; for it is Immutable, unassailable and Eternal-Silence! It is One without a second! There is none besides it, to carp, speak, think and even meditate! It's Infinite nature, is beyond all finite things." After these words a pensive silence followed for a few moments.

With a responsive heart and radiant face Maha Maya Devi went from me to speak on the little self as requested by me. This incident has been the theme for my present discourse. For since then, I have given a great deal of thought to the subject of little self, which is making veritable havoc of many a would-be spiritual life, as well as of numberless lives in the world of duality.

Now I am trying to express my musings, to share them with my fellow pilgrims of Truth. What is this little self? In a nut-shell it is no other than the embodiment of selfishness? Yes! most assuredly we can speak on it, for we are all familiar, with selfishness in some form or other, at a certain stage of our lives, yes even the most elect.

Whether it is in an individual or in a nation, the most terrible and dangerous disease is only this selfishness. It is nothing but the assertion of the little self alone which is the cause of differences between man and man—the children of the same God. It is the little self which is the root of caste prejudices and self-imposed high privileges. It is the little self alone which is the source of all quarrels, envy, strife, battles and wars, not only in individuals and communities, but even in nations, all over the world.

It is my sincere advice, to all the seekers of Truth and worshippers of God, in all the numberless denominations, to pause for a while, from their prayers, worship and meditations and to analyse this little self which is the origin of all differences and sorrows in the world, and strive hard to conquer it.

What is the use of offering flowers before the images of God—offering all the while stones to the hungry children of God? What is the use of repeating prayers and going through all the phases of ritualism and ceremonial worship, in all the temples, when we are oppressing and ill-treating the God who comes to us in the form of the sick, weak, fallen and depressed? What utility is there in our long meditations and communion services, in the churches, so long as our little self is waxing fat day by day, in every way.

It is more profitable to understand the little self which is so prominent in all of us, and to find the ways and means of conquering it, rather than wasting our precious time in trying to comprehend the Incomprehensible. God does not want of us our empty and formal prayers or lifeless meditations. He does not care, whether we are playing with the toys of this changing world of name and form, or praying with the proud assertion of the little self.

What does God want from us? Does He want us to pray and pray, neglecting to do the needed service to the starving outcaste or some helpless creature in need of succour? Does He want us to close our eyes and meditate, ignoring the sick and needy who are near at hand, relying on our services? Does He want or expect from us the worship of a stone or bronze image, and all the while neglecting and ill-treating Him, when He comes to us in the form

of the hungry, poor, sick and depressed? There is not one so depraved, criminal, outcaste, derilect but that you may serve God in serving him, in His many manifested forms.

What does He want from us really? He wants us to be true to the duty nearest at hand. He expects us to do our duty for duty's sake, without expecting any reward. He wants very little from us and that little is only, to remember and recognize Him not only within ourselves, but without, in each and everyone. How little He wants from us! He wants the awareness of His Presence at all times and under all conditions. Above all, God wants us to get rid of the little self which is the cause of all misery and agony, creating differences of 'mine and thine.'

God does not want us, to praise Him with words and deny Him in deeds. He does not want us to repeat one thing in temple or church and to do another thing when outside the church or temple. How pathetic it is to find people consciously trying to throw dust in the eyes of God, without knowing that they themselves are becoming blind by doing so.

As I write this message, sitting under the cool shade of a mango tree looking all around, at its hundreds of hanging fruits, I try to dive deep, to understand the cause of this luxurious harvest of rich fruits. Going to the source of the tree, I realise, that the little form of the real seed is dead. If the original seed out of which the mango tree is giving out rich fruits, thought in ignorance :—"I will cling to my name and form and will not help the growth of life, then we would not have had any tree at all? But the good seed said in its wisdom and selflessness, "I will dissolve my form for the sake of my seedling or tender plant." And the result is a fully laden fruit bearing tree.

Dear loving Reader, you can thus experiment with a mango seed or any other kind of seed, As you put it in the earth, see how the very shell of the seed becomes dissolved and gives itself to mother-earth, for the growth of the tender sprout. The seed will transform itself into earth, to allow its seedling to thrive. This is the only open secret of all success. If you want success, offer the little self as a sacrifice. Be willing to die to body-consciousness for the

sake of real spiritual life or eternal life. How true are the words
"BE DEAD THAT YE MAY LIVE" !

The essence of all philosophies and religions of east and west has been given out repeatedly by sages and saints of all climes, in a nut-shell in the following words—

Q. When shall I be free?

A. When the 'I' ceases to be.

What else is there to be said on little self? The Higher Self or the Absolute is always pure, complete and ever-present, but it is the little self which is trying to cover or envelope It's glory like a cloud that obstructs the sun's shining splendour. The moment the little self is gotten rid of, we begin to shine in full glory. If we want to pray or meditate let us pray and meditate, not to praise or flatter God, but only to eliminate the little self. The moment we crush or remove the little self in that very moment we attain the blessings of Infinite life and peace.

Let us pray now to annihilate and dissolve our little selves:

O Indweller of our heart's sacred sanctuary! Bless us, to identify ourselves, no longer with the little imaginary self, but with the changeless Higher Self which is the only Reality. Help us to be true to the Indwelling Presence, ignoring the little self.

Give us strength to dissolve the tiny selfish self in Thy Universal worship, knowing that worship of man alone is the Highest worship. This is all that we ask of Thee.

Om!

Om!

Om!

KRISHNA'S FLUTE

There is a flower vase on my table having the carving of Sri Krishna with the flute on His lips. As I do my work at the table I often gaze at Him, trying to listen to His music.

Once I asked Him how the flute was blessed enough to be in constant touch with His sacred lips. He replied in His still small voice that the flute had emptied of its little self. It is free from the ego or "I". We can examine a flute and see for ourselves that it is hollow from top to bottom.

Dear loving Readers of Peace, if we could only empty ourselves from all ignorance, we will also be on the lips of the Lord. Entering ourselves into the stillness of our hearts let us see the desires and cravings that are blocking the way in the flute from giving free expression for the Divine Song. Are we the worshippers of Mammon in any of its forms? Are we slaves of names and forms? Are we running after the delusive fame, advertising ourselves? Are we working with selfish motives? Let us be severe in our self-examination, and drive away the thoughts and desires that are infesting our minds. If we have conquered all the impurities of body, mind and speech, we are worthy to listen to our Lord's sweet music.

Now let us identify ourselves with the sacred flute. As the pure in heart are blessed, Krishna sings thru our bodies the soul-elevating, rapturous and melodious music. Let us put away entirely the little self so that Krishna may sing thru us. In the souls that have conquered the little self, every word, spoken or expressed, is nothing but the song of Lord's flute.

Let us meditate now knowing that our bodies are flutes and that Krishna, the Indweller of our hearts, is playing on them, singing the song of Peace and Good-will among all the nations of East and West, irrespective of differences in castes or creeds.

O Children of Immortality! Pray, harken to the clarion call of Krishna's flute. Make halt from your mad rush and feverish haste. Retreat into the stillness of your hearts to sanctify your souls with the Divine music of the Lord. Remember that Krishna's Wisdom; Christ's Love; Buddha's Mercy; Muhammod's Strength; Nanak's Valour; Mahavir's Piety; Ramakrishna's Universality and Rama Tirtha's Inspiration are all the respective notes of the same flute given out according to the need of the times for the well being of humanity. The salvation of individuals or nations—the World Peace

depends only in assimilating this great fundamental truth of the Universality of Religions, which is based on the Brotherhood of man and Fatherhood of God.

May Peace be with all.

Om Tat Sat

IMPRESSIONS

MAN is a bundle of impressions. Impressions are the marks left by the late desires and thoughts of not only this birth, but of many past births. What we are, is the sum-result of all our past incarnations consisting of our thoughts, words and deeds. What we will be, shall be determined by our present thoughts, words and deeds. Our past impressions brought us to the present state of what we are, and our present impressions will lead us to our future bondage or freedom, according to the kind or quality of impressions gathered unto us.

Impressions are divided into two kinds, pure and impure. Pure impressions lead us to freedom and birthlessness and impure impressions lead us to bondage, death in ignorance and to many re-incarnations. He alone who is blessed with a keen intellect and a strong mind can analyse these impressions. It is very difficult to understand these impressions, for they cannot be seen by the eyes.

It was in our Waltair branch by the sea side, as I was having a bath everyday in the waters of the deep, blue ocean that I began to think and meditate more and more upon these impressions, ever watching the numberless waves. Did you ever see the ocean at high seas, when it is quite stormy and turbulent? Did you ever watch the rolling waves and rushing currents, waters rising like mountain heights, ceaselessly clashing, flashing and churning into white foam before you?

If you close your eyes and watch within yourselves you will find the same turbulent waves of passions, fear and ignorance often clashing within, especially when the minds are disturbed. One

thought is succeeded by another thought each in its term leaving an impression, in a most subtle manner in the gray matter of the brain.

In the ordinary worldly, restless minds, there is never a moment of real Peace or Freedom, when their minds are at rest or free from some thought or other except of course in deep sleep. One who is free from all impressions is a great soul, a real master, and all others are mere slaves, being carried away in the rapid currents of impressions ceaselessly and ruthlessly.

We can also understand the great velocity and intensity of these numberless impressions if we boil a kettle of water. The longer the water is kept over the blazing fire, the more the bubbles form by thousands. Just watch them as a simple experiment and on comparing them you will find the same seething state, going on endlessly in all the minds that are given to the worship of Mammon.

As stated already we are all what our impressions are! Man is a mere net work of impressions. Freedom comes when one is entirely free from every kind of impression, be it good or bad, pure or impure. How to be free from all these deep rooted, latent impressions is the important question now. Bad impressions should be crushed or controlled with the help of good impressions. Finally the good impressions also fade away or dissolve into the One Substance or Divine Energy.

It was Sree Ramakrishna who gave the beautiful illustration that when a thorn sticks into our foot we take another pointed thorn, to help us in removing the first thorn that stuck into our foot. When the first thorn is taken out, we cast away both the thorns. We do not keep the second one, just because it helped us in taking out the first thorn. A thorn is a thorn whether it pierces into flesh or helps us in taking out other thorns. Similarly an impression is an impression whether it is pure or impure. They leave their mark within. Lines drawn on water will disappear but not so with the lines made on impressionable clay. Time alone helps the effacement or disappearance of these deep rooted impressions.

You cannot expect the impressions to be lessened or effaced if you continue to keep the flame of desire constantly increasing

or burning. By continuing the flame to boil the water more and more, bubbles keep rising and rising. If you want to stop the bubbles put out the flame or fire; and gradually the bubbles will subside or dissolve one by one. The bubbles merge into the ocean finally and find themselves as one with the ocean.

Seemingly on the surface there may be calmness. One almost thinks that he is free from impressions but when the mind comes in contact with the senses, names and forms, then begins the boiling of water and bursting of the bubbles. Hence, the root cause is to be found out and the disease is to be rooted out from the very source.

The main cause of all these various impressions, is only the forgetfulness of the Living Presence—the Indivisible Truth or Divinity. It is only in the absence of sun that there is darkness. In the presence of Sun of Truth no darkness or perturbing impressions dare to approach. It is really sad that man finds joy in living in darkness hiding the Sun of his Divine Birth-right ever remaining as an abject slave of the manifold disturbing impressions, that are leading him more and more to the life of lower self with all its veils of deep ignorance.

The only simple and easy way to be free from all impure impressions or thoughts, is to cultivate more pure impressions and selfless thoughts. Positive impressions on good thoughts are needed to destroy or to conquer the bad and negative impressions. Pure impressions are never binding one to the wheel of *Karma*. They are just like baked seeds to serve the purpose of life, but never will they sprout or grow again. One can sow them without reaping a harvest or expecting any reward. Blessed are the minds which like baked seeds are annihilated by the fire of wisdom.

How surprising it is that every thought, be it good or bad, is leaving its mark in the form of a deep furrow in one's own brain! Each thought joins its own kind and remains in its particular groove or pigeon hole, awaiting to spring or sprout at the very touch of a similar infectious thought.

As an example if you have eaten a certain kind of rare fruit nearly twenty years ago, its impression is stored up in your impressionable brain. Outworldly or seemingly you may have forgotten about eating the fruit, or the very existence of it. But when once you see the fruit again and taste it, then arise your long, past buried, latent impression and welcomes its fellow impression.

Similarly if you are blessed with a taste of Infinite Peace, *Samadhi* or *Nirvana* even if it was fifty years ago, when you are privileged to taste That again, you will surely recognize It instantaneously. How blessed are they Who are ever-filled with holy and selfless thoughts, making their whole life, like that of a rapid flowing river, bearing and distributing its beneficence of crystal pure water unto all the earth.

Dear readers of PEACE ! As thoughts are both dangerous and helpful, beware of what you think both consciously and unconsciously. Keep a keen watch on your mind constantly, and then spiritualize all your thoughts and actions. Always conquer the weak and negative thoughts with affirmative counter-thoughts. Whenever the mind wanders it should be brought back to the Subject of meditation or the Center within oneself, immediately until the whole life is sanctified into one ceaseless flame of God-consciousness, flowing towards the limitless glory of the unlimitable splendour of Infinite and Eternal Peace, wherein there are neither thoughts nor latent impressions.

May silent adorations be unto those great and few souls in whom *fever of desire* is cooled and all the *latent impressions* are *annihilated* or *dissolved*.

May Peace be unto all !

Om Tat Sat !

IDENTIFICATION

All of us, all of the time, are identifying ourselves with something or other. Identification with the body leads to bondage and

with Soul it leads to freedom. The majority of the people, every where, identify themselves, with their physical bodies. A few identify themselves with their minds. A very few identify themselves with their hearts, and another very, very few identify themselves with their individual souls. But how rare and precious are they who identify with the Own-soul, the One Ruling, Interpenetrating, Spirit of their Universe ! All homage and blessedness belong unto such wise, liberated beings !

The root cause of all sorrow, misery, agony, suffering and death, is only due to the false identification with the perishable and changing body, and the restless mind and senses. Suffering is the inevitable lot of those who identify themselves with forms and names. Eternal Peace and Infinite Bliss belong to the Wise, who identify themselves with the Formless and Nameless One.

There is no permanent happiness anywhere in the world—except within the Real Self—in the recognition of Truth or identification with God. So long as one thinks that one is aloof or separate from God or Truth, however learned or pious one may be, one cannot help but be a slave of deluding senses that lead to suffering. So long as one identifies with a form and name every little remark or criticism hurts him. To be free from hurting others or being hurt by the nearest and dearest one must identify with the Highest Truth. Identification with *Sun* gives Life and Light and with darkness—delusions and death.

It is easy to identify oneself with forms and names; but very difficult to identify oneself with the formless and nameless Truth. People take joy and pride in calling themselves great Scholars learned Pandits or Philosophers, Mighty Monarchs or Holy Priests or Sannyasins. All these are false identifications, with the passing sheaths of a perishable nature, that results sooner or later in sorrow, suffering and disappointment.

To be eternally free from every kind of sorrow and misery, one should strive always to identify oneself with the Highest, the Holiest, the Infinite, the Eternal, the Immortal, and the only One Indivisible Truth of inexpressible and incomprehensible Splendour.

It is only in deep stillness, in the great stillness of one's own being or soul, one learns to identify oneself with Truth or Reality, one's own God-head. Hence, meditation is the medium that helps to the full recognition or identification with Truth. *It is the Truth that makes one free, and Truth can be realized in the stillness of one's own Soul !*

It is not outer struggle, but it is a ceaseless fight or inner struggle, between flesh and spirit. Flesh drags towards the outer, all the tempting and bewitching forms and names. The Spirit draws within towards the inner center where all is Peace, Poise and Power.

It is quite essential to perceive the Highest in the silent moments of meditation, so that it can be expressed and manifested in the active working hours of the day. What you feel within, you express without. What you have within, you behold without. What you conceive within, you give out and share without. Hence, first one must feel within himself. One must identify with the Highest in the secret closet of the purified heart, to express God without.

Like frogs in their own mud-puddles, there are many people that take joy in confining themselves, to their finite-limitations of the physical bodies. They never come out of their bodies. The body is their whole world. They live in it, work and breathe in it, until they finally die in it in ignorance. How pathetic is the state of the man who identifies himself with the perishable body ever-moving and having his being in it.

It is not the physical body but the universal that should be our boundless element, and true Abode of the Soul. The whole world should be our Home of Peace. Such alone are the harbingers and makers of Peace! How blessed are they who can feel love universal from within and consider the whole world as their Home! Unto such the Brahman and Pariah, the American or Negro the civilized and the heathen, the learned and ignorant, the saint and sinner are all of the same. All are their own sisters and brothers. All people of all races and creeds are their own. To love and serve one and all is their only creed.

Identification with body excludes everyone and everything—except one's self. Indentification with the Spirit includes everyone and everything including himself. Identification and At-one-ment are not two but One. Hence, one needs at-one-ment not with Judas but with Christ, not with Mara but with Buddha, not with Kamsa but with Krishna, for final Peace or Freedom.

Dear Readers of PEACE! Are you identifying with body, or mind or heart or intellect or the little ego or self? Merge within. Analyze yourselves and know the Truth. If you are not yet free from some form of sorrow or other, the cause is within yourselves in the false identification with the gross body or fickle mind, restless senses or false ego. Shift the center, from the body to the Spirit, from the unreal to the Real, from the perishable to the Imperishable, from the passing to the Eternal; from the changing to the Changeless, above all, from the mortal to the Immortal or from the finite to the Infinite.

May we all identify ourselves always with the Highest—and thus express the Highest in all the trying conditions of our lives, is my prayer!

Om. Om. Om.

RARE REFLECTIONS

Real happiness is within, but not in the things silver or gold can buy. When one finds it within, he finds it everywhere. But some ignorantly think by becoming rich they can enjoy more Peace and Happiness. But go to the richest man in the world and see whether he is happy and blissful. You will find him far from happiness. Perhaps he is more unhappy than you are. As such, real happiness is not in money or in the things that it can buy. The mine of Eternal happiness is within you alone.

It you search for it earnestly you will certainly find it. But if you seek it outwardly in sensual things, you will miss it and you will encounter misery instead of happiness. As such, a man who

wants happiness, that knows no change, must try to find it only within his own Self. After all, happiness or misery is a state of the mind. But when one can rise above the mind, he tastes the Real Happiness that can never be decreased or increased by worldly possessions. In fact, 'this changeless happiness is the Birthright of every human being, as such, all should try to realize it within themselves.

* * * * *

Attachment to the worldly things is the cause and root of all mental imaginations. Mental imagination in the life of worldliness makes a man hollow and vain, unnecessary imagination eats up ones vitality and makes him weak and helpless. Constant imagination on the unreal creates in us a strong attachment for the same and finally leads us to the unreality alone.

No one can be free from the inevitable law of cause and effect. If one imagines always good things, he reaps only the fruits of his good thoughts. If one indulges in bad thoughts, as surely as night follows day the effects of his bad thoughts will visit him in the form of disappointment, misery, etc. As such, one should be always careful of his thoughts.

The present existence of one's whole being is made of his past thoughts. It is the sum-total of all his past. In the same way, the future also will be determined by one's present life and its thoughts. When one rises both above good and bad thoughts, he becomes free of all future births. Verily thoughtlessness bring emancipation right here and now alone. Peace, will be the treasure of those who have risen above thought.

* * * * *

Dear Children of Immortality ! are you not tired with these physical lives? Are you not feeling disgusted with this individual consciousness? How long will you imprison the All-pervading Divinity in the tiny bodies of yours?

Dear Divine Ones, will you not come out of your cages of flesh and blood? Come out of your dark holes to enjoy the Glorious Sunshine of your Holy Birthright. Have you not slept long enough

in ignorant sleep? It is high time to rouse yourselves to your Divine Consciousness.

Be not satisfied with little and momentary things. How long will you stand like trees rooted on earth? Oh! the trees are wafting their cool breeze all around them. Are you no better than trees? Wake up to your Holy Consciousness and let Peace flow in torrents towards the whole of Humanity. Live not as forms, but as formless Divinity. For thou art nothing but the One Supreme Divine Consciousness, that is pervading from the atom to the biggest Sun.

* * * * *

"If a man foolishly doth me wrong, I will return to him the protection of my ungrudging love; the more evil comes from him, the more good shall go from me." Such are the memorable words of Lord Buddha.

What a great joy it is to love all irrespective of caste, creed, colour and nationality! What a great privilege it is to shower blessings of peace and love even on those who are harming us!

Indeed real greatness lieth only in loving our own venerable enemies. Anyone can love his friends, but he alone is the great person who can love, with all his heart, his so-called enemies. For, to a holy man all are God and nothing taketh the nature of an enemy. All these differences are only for the ignorant, but never for the man of knowledge. He seeth his own Divine Self in one and all. Such is his blessed life of love and equality. Unto such alone Eternal Peace belongeth. Verily, such alone realize the goal of human life, spreading on all, floods of Light and oceans of Love.

* * * * *

Restlessness is in external life and Peace is in internal life.

When we are connected with Truth it is all Peace, but when we stand aloof from Truth, the result will be restlessness or misery.

Where the Truth is, there is nothing but endless Bliss.

When one is filled with God-consciousness, verily, he is filled with Truth and Peace.

Truth, Peace or God denote the same Reality.

Peace is in Infinity but never in finite things of name and form.

God is within and without. He is everywhere. In fact He is Omnipresent. He who feels his united Oneness with the Almighty verily becomes one with the Lord, forgetting his individual existence.

Fools can never know what real work is. They think bagfulls of talk alone is real work, or wandering from place to place like a rolling stone is work. They cannot realize the greatness of silent work.

How blessed are they who can realize that the highest and most difficult and blessed work is only mindlessness or rising above the mind! Here is action in inaction.

Verily, he is a hypocrite who sitting in a cave, closing his eyes thinks of sensual things and meditates on the objects of the world instead of meditating on the Almighty Lord, feeling His presence both within and without.

May Peace be unto all !

Om. Om. Om.

THE MASTER 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 not here to denounce the master. 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" 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 other imaginary places.

Our Asram 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 Totapalli 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 for ever 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 Fountainhead of master 'X'?

In the Bible we read that our God is a jealous God. If we make a graven image of any master of 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 any thing 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 allpowerful masters! Let us have strength enough to worship only the Lord of all lords and 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 hearts - the Sweet Beloved, who is patiently awaiting us, abiding within alone, to bless us with 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 soul 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 fire-works. 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 realised only by a Christ, Krishna or Buddha, who have been the Masters of all masters ! Shall we walk in the footsteps 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!

OM! OM!! OM!!;

SELF - RELIANCE

If ever I have a message to give, either to myself or to others in the world at large, it is the message of Self-reliance.

No more reliance on outer forms and names—on temples and churches—on teachers and masters, but reliance on the Indwelling Presence is needed to realize the Highest Glory. I do not mean to deny the utility or usefulness of visiting churches or worshipping the living teachers; but make these forms of worship the means to the end—namely the full realization of His Cosmic Glory.

When I mention the worship of teachers and masters, I am not referring to astral or spirit masters. Let us leave them alone, for they themselves have so much to do to realize the goal of their existence. I am writing only about the silent souls, who are living saintly lives, setting an ideal example to others to follow in their footsteps, through their initiation, meditations and other spiritual talks. Such highly evolved souls, always give us only one message and that message is the message of Self-reliance.

Many of us are mere children, for we are badly in need of Self-reliance in some form or other. How rare it is to meet a full grown man who has learned to walk on his own feet, ignoring all outer dependence.

It is not so easy even to understand, what Self-reliance is. Only a knower of Self can understand what Self-reliance is in its full significance.

The world is filled with many kinds of failures-failures in love, business, wealth and many other things. What can be the root cause of all these failures and disappointments? It is only outer dependence or lack of reliance on the Truth.

How long shall we remain as mere children? When shall we learn to depend on our Higher Self? The time has come for individuals as well as nations to assert and manifest the power of Self-reliance to build up the Peace Universal among the children of the one God in both East and West.

Self-reliance, as I repeat the very word, how it inspires me with strength and vitality! The essence of all the religions on the face of the earth, can be summed up in this single word—Self-reliance.

But alas! individuals as well as religions are busy with the tenets and teachings of their creeds, neglecting the central truth of Self-reliance. What is man without Self-reliance?

Where is religion without Self reliance? It is the life, soul and goal of every one, who is aware of the privilege of this precious human birth.

Where religion without Self reliance? It is the life soul and goal of every one, who is aware of the privilege of this precious human birth.

One who believes in Himself is a true man, One who asserts his Self is a God-man. One who manifests his Self is the only image of God.

How my soul craves to spread this message of Self reliance not only from town to town, village to village but from heart to heart! I am never tired of repeating that individual peace alone paves the way towards universal peace.

As soon as people come to me for instructions or guidance on the Path, my first words are:—

As the God who is shining in me, is shining in you do not rely on me but learn to rely on yourselves. when He is always present in you fully, why do you waste your time in wandering from one place to another place? Why waste your time by coming to me? Behold! He is with you always, wherever you may be, in silence or activity, in church or home. O! Feel-feel-feel and realize Him now and here, if you really crave and love Him.

It touches my heart also, when I see people prostrating, and I am very particular in telling this: *My friends, it is easy to bend your bodies in offering your salutations before me, but to bend your minds before God, is rather a difficult task, hence you choose the easier task, you fold your hands here and leave your salutations with me and the next moment you forget Truth. If you love God, if you want to show your respect toward me, save this energy used in prostrations, and utilize it in remembering God eternally.*

What I mean is, that it is easy to offer a salutation and then to forget God, but to live, breathe, work and move in Him is the work of those blessed souls with Self-reliance.

Then again, I meet people that try their best to express their gratitude, with the help of finite words, repeating, that they are so greatly indebted, because of the help they received from my words. But I emphasize again:

Dear ones: If you have really received any benefit from me, if you want to repay me for my services, let your thanks be transmuted into the living life of Self-reliance in thought, word and deed. I want my thanks to be given to me by your carrying the Presence in each and every moment of your lives. Show forth your love through your own Self-reliance if you really love me. Forget this form but worship the formless One if you want to practice my teachings.

As a boy I read a little story on Self-reliance and I want to share it with you. Two birds used to live in a Paddy field with their children. The crop was ripe and the farmer began to speak of cutting it, to be hoarded in the barn. The little ones heard this conversation, when the big birds were away in search of food. As soon as they returned, the young birds, all excited, told parent-birds, that the farmer asked his friends, to help him in cutting the crop, next day, hence, they would have to leave the field immediately. But the older

birds replied smilingly :—"Don't you worry, dear children, for the friends) will never come to help him.

As predicted, the friends never came on the next day, so the farmer said that he would invite all his relations to help gather his harvest in. Then the little ones mentioned in worry all about this project, but the big birds replied calmly, not to worry as yet for the relations would never come on the morrow. Thus the next day passed off, without any harvesting work.

The farmer became disgusted both with his friends and relatives and said to himself, "I myself will do it tomorrow, without relying on friends and relatives". When the little birds, repeated these words to the parents, their faces were grave and they said seriously, "When the farmer thinks of doing it himself, without depending on others, surely he will cut his crop tomorrow; so, it is time for us to leave this field, now."

Thus the history of Self-reliance is portrayed in this illustrative story, in simple words.

Dear Readers of Peace! I request you to apply this illuminating story to your lives. Are you depending for your salvation on your friends or relatives, teachers or masters? Are you expecting help from outside — from books and scriptures?

Are you seeking It in sects and creeds? Analyze your present state sincerely, and wake up to reap your own harvest, to gather your crop yourselves, not even tomorrow but now in this present moment. The time has come to rely on your own Self. Pray! keep the center within—under all conditions. Outer dependence is weakness. Self dependence is strength. The former is death, and the latter is life. One is poison of outer life, and the other is nectar of Immortality.

I also feel very sad for those teachers and Gurus who are leading astray their blind disciples saying, "Have faith and follow me blindly. Offer all that you have to me. Worship me alone and by and by I will give you salvation."

The world is overrun with such teachers and teachings. It is high time for every truth-seeker to distinguish keenly, the difference between the real and unreal, the selfish and selfless teachings and doctrines.

I must say, that my Self-reliance has reached such an extreme as to cause me to wonder, whether it amounts to stubbornness; for if some one were to come to me saying that, at such a place there is a great master saving souls and pouring heavenly manna on every one that is contacting him, I would simply say: *Pray do not tempt me. Get thee behind me. What I have within me, is enough if I can only use it.* If you say that the greatest master is near at hand within a few minutes walk, giving salvation by a look or touch, even then, I have strength to say: *I will not waste my time in going any where, and I do not want to realize God by short cuts and illegitimate ways, and by the incantations of outer masters, I will realize Him only through self-purification and Self-realization.*

It is self-purification that leads one to Self-reliance and it leads to Self-assertion and Self-manifestation and this leads in turn, to Self-realization or Self-recognition, realizing which, there is nothing else to be realized.

My readers of "Peace"! How many of you are ready to *repeat* with me, "*Get thee behind me—*" for every outer dependence? How many of you are willing to say "*I will use what I have, to get more wisdom.*" How many of you are strong enough to say "*My centre is within and never outside.*"

Dear friends ! all that I ask of you is only to learn to walk on your own feet and thus be saviours of your souls and of humanity. Seeking from others or outside, is misery, agony and lifelessness. Seeking from within is Peace, happiness and blessedness. Hence let us seek only within and let us first be true to the Indwelling Presence!

Shall we now repeat a small prayer to the Indweller of our hearts, in memory of this sacred moment of inspiration? As we repeat slowly, the very word SELF-RELIANCE, how it thrills our hearts and souls! Now let us pray :

"O Thou the Inter-penetrating Presence of our bodies, minds, hearts and souls! We glorify Thee, by feeling Thy Presence now, as we repeat these words; we worship Thee by attuning ourselves

with Thy Universal Energy. Help us always to behold this continuous vision of thy splendor, and bless us to stand on our own feet ever centering ourselves within assimilating and manifesting the message of Self-reliance, in all the activities of our lives, inwardly and outwardly, and thus be a Blessing.

May we all be soaked and saturated with the soul-awakening message of Self-reliance and thus create harmony, strength and Peace both within and without, is all that we pray of Thee.

Hari ! Om ! Tat Sat ! Om !

PRECIOUSNESS OF TIME

There are two kinds of people who are above time and who do not care about the time, the sage and the fool. The sage is above time because he has realized all that is to be realized. He has risen above body, mind and world. He has realized the state which is above time, space and causation. He is all Light and Illumination. In His Glory neither the sun nor the moon nor the finite stars shine. He is the giver of light to all the planets. He is the Source of light itself, shining in the splendour of millions of suns glory. Hence it is no wonder that such an one is above time.

Now let us see how a fool also can be above time. The extremes are always alike, only in appearances. In extreme or intense light we cannot see, so also in darkness. Yet, there is a world of difference between light and darkness.

The sage does not recognize time because of his Illumination. The fool does not recognize time because of his ignorance or darkness. He is quite dead to the world of Spirit, being entirely on a plane of senses, thus he cares not how he spends or wastes his time. Days, weeks, months and years roll on without his noticing the time. He is neither sad nor repentant for lack of progress. He is not even conscious that he is wasting precious time. He

lives like a beast in the plane of senses ; or acts like a lifeless machine in dull routine.

The sage is on the upward path of immortality, and the latter is on the lower path of destruction. Now dear loving readers ! let us see, by self-analysis from our own present experience, whether we are living like sages or fools. Are we aware of the fleeting moments of the precious time ? Are we silently growing from day to day, nay, hour by hour and minute by minute ? Is time precious and sacred to us ? If so our lives are blessed, and we are walking in the lovely path of Truth.

Entering into the lives of the world, as we view them from the outer everywhere, let us try to understand in a general way how they are spending their time. There are millions of people to whom wasting an hour or two is nothing. There are some to whom wasting of days and weeks is nothing. A few more may not even care if they waste even months and years. There are also many to whom wasting the whole life means nothing. There are some with whom time hangs heavily.

We see people killing precious time, consciously and unconsciously. It is a habit or custom to visit friends and to waste the whole afternoon or evening without knowing that they are doing harm to others also, not to speak of harming themselves.

How people spend their time in talking over the same inconsequential things, and in doing the same useless works, and in thinking the same idle thoughts again and again. There is neither growth nor progress. Self-analysis and self-examination are absent in such people. They live like automatic machines, as mere slaves in the grip of senses.

If there is anything sinful in this world, it is only killing precious time. If there is anything degrading, it is wasting God-given time in digging our own graves, instead of climbing the steps that are paved with Peace, towards kingdom of heaven.

How we see people everywhere wasting time in worry and hurry, recognizing only vanishing clouds ! All their time is being spent over non-essentials of life. There is no time to be spared for

the essential Truth. It is said in the scriptures, even by mere chance or co-incidence the worldly-minded ones will not happen to spend even a moment of their time in God-thought, so dense is their cloud of delusive matter. Alas ! how mournful is the helpless or hopeless state of such souls, who are made in the image likeness of God, and yet cling to the shadows, neglecting the Real Substance.

Now let us see from the lives of the great spiritual souls, how they spend and utilize their time. Even at the cost of death they will not sell Christ, their salvation, for thirty pieces of silver. Not only every day and hour, but every moment is precious to them. They do not care if the world misunderstands and misjudges them but they are satisfied if they are true to God or Truth. They are not the slaves of the opinion or good-will of the people of the world. For the sake of formality they do not waste their time. Even if condemned and crucified they will stand by the living Truth ignoring all forms of outer life. They would rather be true to God, feeling His Presence and expressing His Love, than catering to the foolish whims of restless people and thus wasting precious time.

Let us perceive now the preciousness of time. Is there anything in the world that is more precious than time ? If we lose money we can earn or gain it again. If we lose friends we can hope to get their love again. If we lose the worldly goods, we can accumulate more. Even if we die we can be reincarnated. We will come back again so long as we have not reached the Heights of Nirvan. But there is something that will never come back. It is precious time. A single moment wasted, is gone for ever. It can never come back to us again even if we offer all the wealth of the world. By a million sacrifices or prayers or worships, we can never regain the time that we are allowing to pass in vain. I am trying to impress the importance, sacredness, and preciousness of time, so that we can be more careful at least in the future. The past is dead and so it can be buried and left. It is a further waste of time to go into the past retracing errors and thus become gloomy and mournful. Neither is there any use of making big plans about the uncertain future, forgetting and neglecting the living, present moment.

The past has passed off, and the future is not yet ours. The present moment alone is ours to recognize our oneness with Truth. We can purchase, the Pearl of great price in this moment, we can also sell Him, Judas-like.

Now, what shall we do? If we want to continue to be as Judas, we will waste our time thus selling the God within. If we want to be like the living Christ, this is the time to manifest our divine glory by using our time for Him. This alone is our precious moment to take a firm hold of our sacred birth-right. Let us wake up to enter into our full splendour of God-consciousness, rising from the mire of ignorance in this moment alone. Let the earth-worm take wings and fly!

Moment by moment let us grow steadily and silently, by our reflection and awareness and thus reach the goal of life. The sacredness and strength of feeling our unity with the Presence in this living moment cannot be described in words.

As we are feeling the Glory surrounded by the Presence, let us repeat the following life-giving words : *'O Blessed Presence, Living Divinity of our hearts, we are feeling Thy Presence now. It is Thy Sacred Touch within and without. As we are feeling Thee now in this living moment bless us to feel Thy Glory in every moment of our lives. Life with Thee, is complete, brimful and worth living, so may we work, live and breathe ever having our beings in Thee alone. OM ! OM ! OM !*

Beloved readers, here is another day given to us. What shall we do with this day? Let us make a firm determination before we leave our beds, to make this day a little more helpful and to keep aloof from worry by poise, from strife by unity, from discord by love. Let not a single day pass without making some progress or other in a solid and systematical way for our spiritual growth.

Let us not meet the night when we have failed to progress in the day. Let us refuse to meet the day when we have failed to make progress in the night. What is the use of spending days and

nights like beasts of mere instinct, repeating the same things again and again ?

Let us remember the holy words of Sri Ramakrishna; *O, Blessed Mother, this world is only of three days and my life is of five minutes. Thou hast not yet come to me. How long shall I live without Thee ? Pray do come and manifest to me in this moment alone !*

It was Kabir the poet that sang once : *'The day has come and gone. Will you waste the night also ?'*

Let us waste no more of our precious days and nights, our sacred minutes and seconds in worshipping Mammon. As children of God let every moment of our time be dedicated to the worship of the living Truth which is manifesting in all the kingdoms of name and form.

Truth is both the manifested and the unmanifested, and let the manifested merge in the unmanifested. Let the form realize its formlessness, and name its nameless Glory. Let the Word dissolve finally in Supreme Silence which is the source of every manifested expression.

I feel that I have not written this message in vain, if I could find one struggling soul to repeat with me the following words, in all sincerity to realize the unmanifested Peace.

O blessed moment ! I am feeling now my inseparable oneness with the living Truth, the Indwelling Presence of my heart. As I am feeling It now, may I be blessed to feel It unceasingly, and thus reach the high state of Nirvana which is time-less, space-less, and cause-less.

May this recognition of unity in this present moment be my life's strength and inspiration to walk in the path of Truth, step by step, expressing same Presence, moment by moment, in all my thoughts, words and deeds.

Adorations be unto all the great souls, who recognize the sacredness and preciousness of time !

May Peace be unto all !

FRIENDS

It was at Auburn in New York State, when I was staying with a group of devoted students, one brought to me a newspaper cutting and I read it with great interest; perhaps it was a sermon delivered from the pulpit, in one of the churches. Whatever it was I recall that subject. It was on Friendship. The essence of that discourse was that it is very difficult to find real friends, and the life of the one who has found even a single true friend, is indeed blessed.

When it is so difficult to be blessed even with a single understanding friend, how we delude ourselves with the thought that we have friends everywhere. We often hear people saying: "O, I have many friends (numberless friends) in America, England, Germany, France, all over the world in East and West". We think that almost everyone whom we met once, is a friend. Every one who gives advice or who writes to us is a friend.

How hard it is even to form a conception of a true friend ! Who is a sincere friend? Who deserves to be called a true friend in every sense of the word? People that term themselves our friends are not always to be considered friends. Friends that waste our precious lives and time are really friendly enemies. The friends that detain us from walking in the path of Truth are dangerous foes in the guise of friends. The friends that flatter and demonstrate love, expecting some service or reward are the parasitic friends. The friends that love us seeking their own self-interest and stand by us only so long as they can realize their own ambitions and glory, are pretending friends. We all think that we have too many friends. But if we analyse our lives and also examine the motives of our friends, their number will diminish to perhaps one or two but more often to zero.

Who is a real friend? A soul that loves only for the sake of love, finding joy in the love itself, instead of in reward is a real friend. One who lives as Love is a Spiritual friend, and he alone can be the true friend of humanity. One who identifies his aspirations with our aspirations, his ambitions with our ambitions, working, breathing and living only for us, always leading us towards

the Glory of God, sacrificing even his life and interests for our sake is the only true friend. Our lives are blessed if we are privileged to find even one such a friend.

The world is not devoid of friends. We read and hear so much about the instances where people offered their lives for the sake of friends. All honour be unto them and they are very precious and rare. They are the salt of the earth and the Light of the world.

Christ has been such a life-giving friend; Krishna, a soul awakening friend, and Buddha, a compassionate friend. All saints and saviours have been the friends of humanity in both East and West. When we are worthy we contact such spiritual friends. But I emphasize again, and again that every one who calls himself a friend is not a friend. The very conception of a true friend is too sacred for words.

‘How many disciples and pupils do you have?’ is the question often asked of me by many people. I have the joy to tell them that I do not have any pupils or disciples, for I am myself a disciple seeking the love of all seekers of Truth.

Indeed the lives of those who have not found the true friends are most pathetic, lonely and forlorn. We hear of kings and emperors who are surrounded by millions of friends of every kind. But are they happy? They are far from happiness for they have not yet found the real Friend.

Many of you who have read about the poet, Goldsmith, know how he would get rid of his friends, who used to waste his precious time, by giving a loan of his money, books and other valuable things. Every one is our friend so long as we do not test his love. When once we ask for his help then we do not see him so often. Our dearest friends wax cool, lukewarm or become our enemies, if we ask them for a little of material help. Many are our friends, as long as their purse is not touched thereby.

In the life our Santi Asram, the Mission of Peace is filled and surrounded by friends on every side, in every country and religion. We appreciate the love, devotion and sympathy of all the sincere

souls among them. But each and every one of these cannot be called a friend. It is often quoted that a friend in need is a friend indeed! The very word friend has a still more noble and sacred significance.

As our Peace work is growing day by day our friends also began to grow like mush-rooms. It was quite a troublesome and difficult work even to keep up correspondence with all the friends in different cities of both East and West. The time of test came as our work needed the true sympathy and help of our friends, and we sent forth appeals to them to contribute their mite towards the up-keep and progress of our silent work of spreading our Message of Peace far and near.

Lo! more than half of our friends completely disappeared as from existence itself, and dropped into an oblivion of silence. Some of them are too sick, or outside of town, or otherwise too busily engaged to extend their help towards a great sacred cause. We send forth our hearty gratitude, loving thoughts and silent prayers for the few friends, who came forward with their assistance. Even if one is poor in outer wealth one can render help by the loving words, helpful thoughts and silent prayers.

As I am engaged now in writing on friends of various kinds, I recall the interesting chapter I wrote once in my spiritual dairy, and I take joy in copying it here :

It is very easy to have friends that waste our time and life, and thus drag us down to body-consciousness. But it is very difficult to get friends that help us to rise above the senses, to realms of Light and Purity.

I have friends that feed, clothe and serve me, providing all the necessities of life, I am fortunate enough to have had friends that offered their lives for the sake of my progress in the world of names and forms. All homage be unto them and I am eternally indebted to all the friends who love and revere me. May God Bless them with Peace and long-life.!

But alas, how very difficult it is to find a real friend that accompanies or leads us into the Glory of God-consciousness. Such friends

are rare in the world. Verily the best friend I know is within me alone. He is the Indwelling Presence, ever drawing me towards Him from all my outer friends. May I merge in Him, my sweet Beloved, who is my best friend. OM! OM! OM!

Thus sooner or later, all of us, should seek rest and consolation only at the feet of the Beloved. He is our real friend and refuge in all our tests and trials. Hence we are to trust Him with all the strength of our hearts and souls. Who else can be our best friend other than He, Who is the source of our very lives and Who fills and saturates the very cells of our beings?

Let us worship now the great Friend of all friends, Who is throbbing in our hearts, shining in our eyes and flowing in our very breath. Let us be true to this Silent Friend by recognizing Him in each and every moment of our lives, and thus alone we can be true to all the other friends. May silent adorations be unto this great Friend Who is the witness of all our thoughts, words and deeds and Who has been one with us from eternity to eternity.

HARI OM TAT SAT !

Om Santi ! Santi ! Santihi !

SLIPPED

Dear Loving Reader, I want to ask you a personal question. Did you ever slip in your life—not slipping like me on sleet and fracturing the hip, but slipping from the path of Truth?

Man's life on earth is an endless state of slips and struggles. Being here on this earthly plane we sometimes slip, but we should not go down with every slip but rather we should rise higher and higher until we reach that state where there are no more slips. Who does not slip in this world? Even the close disciple of Christ slipped and denied Him thrice, before the cock crew.

These slips are to be made the stepping stones of one's life but never the stumbling blocks. It is a most consoling thought that

failures are pillars of success. O ! to make every slip a pillar towards the goal—what a blessed life it were.

But often we go down into the depths with a little slip instead of taking wings therefrom and flying into the heights of Blessedness. I derive so much joy and strength from the repetition of the beautiful 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.

O ! just to feel that we are always on the way alone, in spite of the slips, failures and disappointments in this changing world of dangers, makes life worth-living !

While one of the gardeners was lying down in his hut near the front gate of the Asram, our new calf in its playfulness stepped upon his leg and wounded it. After our morning worship, Sister Sushila was going towards his hut, carrying a basin and other medical accessories, to nurse and bandage his leg, reminding one of the maidens that walk towards the temple, carrying flowers in their baskets for the worship of God.

Blessed are they, who have the vision of the true worship, for the worship of man alone is the highest worship of God. I followed Sushila Devi in her ministry after the morning service, thinking that I could assist her in her worship. Since there were other boys, waiting to help her however in dressing the wound, I decided to take a stroll towards the tank in our Asram.

It was dug deep recently and quite slippery and as I began to descend slowly with the help of my cane, down I went in a heap, and had a terrible fall or slip. And I owe this present message to the unexpected slip alone. I was helpless, in a hopeless state, since I was stretched on the ground. The help came after a little while and I was brought to the Kutir, my dwelling place, like a naughty child.

This accident happened over a fortnight ago and I am still a patient or rather an invalid, confined to my room, forbidden to walk by our doctor friends. It is this slip that made me think of the many "slips" in life and how they can be really converted into blessings.

Of course the pain was excruciating for a full day, reminding me of the happy days spent in my cast while in America. The knee was swollen like a pumpkin, temperature was high and what not, in the intense pain. But I will not dwell and waste our time over the negative side of pain, which is a mere passing cloud.

Whenever I work too fast or am over-burdened with the affairs of the Asrama, I always get the needed retirement from the manifold duties, by means of a slip in the outer, resulting in rest in the inner, and now I have been enjoying complete repose for the last fifteen days.

I will not at present deal with the vital thought, as to whether pain is imagination, whether the body is imagination and whether the world is also only imagination, these simple truths are to be understood not by mere repetition of the statements, but by one's realization in life.

I lift my heart towards the Lord of compassion, day and night, both in pain and joy seeking His infinite mercy, thanking Him for all His Blessings of Love. I have always something or other for which to be grateful and am constantly indebted to the Almighty. How good is God to His children! Indeed my knee was twisted and swollen, but my fractured hip was saved. How good is God to me and also to everyone! Let us be worthy of His love and blessings, always standing by Him, in every moment of our lives, not only when everything looks bright and prosperous but even when everything appears gloomy and dark, remembering that we are always on our way even in gloom.

Any one can be spiritual when all is going on well, but we need souls that can smile over slips and falls. It needs direct perception of truth or the practical realization of His glory, to

overlook these trailing clouds and to recognize always the sunny side of this tumultuous life.

For clear understanding we can divide our slips into three classifications :

1. THE PHYSICAL SLIPS.
2. THE MENTAL SLIPS.
3. THE SPIRITUAL SLIPS.

The physical slips are not so harmful or dangerous as the mental or the spiritual ones. The former are temporary and only for the time being and they have their own value in the silent development of the soul. They are the silent teachers instructing from within awakening the sleeping soul.

The tendency to slip mentally is the most dangerous trait. Here one is a slave to his mind and passions. His life is centered around the little ego or 'I'. His one joy is in empty talk, wasting his precious time and that of others. He finds pleasure in picking holes in the innocent lives of others. Such a life can be compared to a vessel that has hundreds of small holes and a big hole at the bottom. Imagine a man trying to satisfy his thirst by drinking water from such a bowl. Such is the helpless plight of most of us who are slaves to mental slips trying to be God-intoxicated, by drinking nectar of immortality from empty vessels with millions of holes.

Now coming to the spiritual slips; an aspirant on the path, must be very careful of his time. The least forgetfulness of God is living death to him. He cannot afford to be separated from his Sweet Beloved even if it be for but a moment. He and Truth should not be two but one. He must have recognized that unity, so that he will not sell his soul for anything in the world. His state should be compared to that of a continuous stream of oil steadily flowing from one vessel to another. Watch its smooth unbroken flow and let your mind also flow towards Him unceasingly.

In this connection another simple illustration may be of practical help. Standing on the top of a staircase drop a ball on one of the steps. Does it stop, on any of the steps? Rather, down it

descends into the depths, until it reaches the bottom. Similarly if you disconnect your mind from truth even for a single second, consciously or unconsciously, down it plunges into the very depths of hallucinations or ignorance. Hence for aspirants, forgetfulness of God alone—even if it for but a moment—is considered as real death.

Often I close my eyes and approach Him in the stillness of my heart, and find myself murmuring unconsciously thus : *Lord of my love, where art Thou? Verily Thou art always with me, both in silence and activity, but only bless me always with the awareness of Thy presence.*

Am I forgetting Thee? I do not mind the physical slips, if only by Thy blessing I may be free from any mental or spiritual slips.

Dear Loving Reader ! I crave to enter into your heart and to help you to be free from these three kinds of slips. As it is easier for you to enter into your own heart, pray however, close your eyes if only for a minute and see for yourself, whether you make mental and spiritual slip. Be honest with yourself and examine your thoughts, fancies, imagination and life's motives squarely and unsparingly, and see where you are slipping, whether consciously or unconsciously. See if you are seeking nothing but Truth alone, always working, breathing and living for Him only.

Pray join me now, in offering the following silent prayer to the Indwelling Presence of our hearts :

PRAYER

“O Blessed Lord of living life, Thou who art the refuge and goal of Thy children, listen to the prayer of our hearts.

The ceaseless Peace that passeth understanding, which is compared to the eternal flow of the oil, poured from one vessel into another is yet a myth to us, because of the restlessness of our minds. The promises that we make to Thee in the morning, are broken before it is evening. Hence we hesitate now to approach Thy presence, with the same kind of vows.

Help us to be true to our covenants and thus be worthy of Thy presence, which is ever filling and surrounding our beings. Like the Prodigal Son we approach Thee now to stand by Thee and to be eternally united with Thee. In Thy infinite compassion, Thou art ever ready, awaiting our home-coming or recognition of our true heritage. But alas! we are lukewarm, so bless us with Divine fervor and make us eternally free, from all kinds of slips so that we can be worthy of taking Thy name, and of ever standing on the firm Rock of Self-reliance.

Om, Peace, Peace, Peace,

THE COCOANUT STORY

Cocoanuts in the tropical lands are often associated with monkeys that climb the trees to pluck them. They however cannot enjoy them for the fibers are very thick and the shell is too hard to be opened by them. The monkeys can only disengage the cocoanuts from the tree but others enjoy them. I am not concerned now with monkeys climbing the coconut trees except that this illustration reminds one of some of the writers and authors of divers books who are busily engaged in publishing book after book collecting religious Truths and spiritual laws in the form of quotations from the various sources. Their lot is only to bring down the cocoanuts from the tree with great struggle, but the milk and the substance of the cocoanuts is the share of aspirants of Truth. How the world is filled with people who are engaged in pulling the cocoanuts, instead of with souls who are yearning for the coconut water—the nector of Immortality.

In considering them one is reminded also, of both the dry and raw states of cocoanuts. Dear Readers of Peace! excuse me for asking you a personal question. Are you in the state of a dry coconut or of a raw coconut? Perhaps you wonder at my odd query? Well, if you are like a dry coconut, blessed is your life. You are an emancipated soul. You are free from body, mind and world. You are a JIVANMUKTA—liberated in this life alone.

You have realized that state, where Spirit is free from body like the dry kernal from the shell of a cocoanut. If on the other hand, you are still in the state of a raw cocoanut, I feel very sorry for you, for you are in a raw condition, bound to flesh and blood. You are a JIVANMRUTHA—already dead while yet physically alive. The least word of praise or blame affects you and breaks your heart, as a blow might break, both the shell and the meat of a raw cocoanut. Pray! aspire and be like a dry cocoanut free from the shell of body-consciousness.

The thought of cocoanuts, also suggests to one the natural and simple mode of life, which some follow, and are free from all complexities and artificialities of living, and I bow down my head to those great souls that live unostentatious and natural lives, eating nuts and fruits,

Now coming to our cocoanut story—It was a hot summer's day and a merchant named Subbi Chetty was carrying on the back of an ass a load of cocoanuts. His young son was following him to the fair, where the merchant was expecting to make much money by selling his cocoanuts. The distance being long and as the sun was scorching with its instance the boy began to get tired and was thirsty. Knowing his father's miserliness, he dared not ask him for a cocoanut to quench his thirst. He walked a few yards more and could not proceed any further. Then he said hesitatingly, "O father, I am dying of thirst, let me have a cocoanut." And the father looked astounded and said "What! my son, the cocoanut water is only for the rich people. How can you even think of such a thing. Walk only a few yards more and we have a charity house (choultry) ahead of us, where they will supply us freely, ice-cold water and butter-milk which is far superior to this warm cocoanut water. There you can satisfy your thirst to your heart's content." What could the son do? Poor fellow! He tried to obey his stingy father and plodded on. But, alas! he faltered and fell down with a palpitating heart, and soon breathed his last.

Here comes the interesting part of our story. Subbi Chetty, the miserly father, looked crestfallen and mournful at the sad plight of the poor boy and wept thus:— "O! my son, hast thou left me

so soon ? Pray ! accept not one cocoanut but all the cocoanuts I have. Come to life and drink the water of all these cocoanuts."

But it was too late. All the cocoanuts in the world could not bring back the boy to life again. If we analyse our lives, we are all in the state of our Subbi Chetty, the miserly merchant at sometime or other, in certain conditions even with our dearest and nearest ones.

Our Asram also is privileged to be blessed with many kinds of Subbi Chettys, far and near in East and West. Sometimes we have nothing to eat and do not know from where the next meal is to come. Our dumb cattle are without food and fodder. Our magazines are without stamps for reaching our unpaid subscribers. In times of great crisis, sometimes when we approach our Subbi Chettys, we receive only empty Promises—the cocoanuts are yet withheld. Thus the work of our Peace Mission is struggling on silently and slowly.

Leaving aside the personal side of the Asram, the message that I want to convey to my loving readers is: If you want to do good, to whomsoever it may be, do not postpone it for the uncertain future. Do it now, for this moment alone is yours. Ah! the uncertainty of this frail life.....we may bid adieu, to this world of name and form and to all our hard earned cocoanuts to-day or to-morrow, sooner or later. So wake up when it is not yet too late. This message will be incomplete, if I fail to mention here two of my recent personal experiences.

Once I helped a little boy with a bit of money. He was in need of more of it. But I did not have any more money to give, and I had with me two new Khadder towels and two shirts. After he left me I thought of them but I was too tired and exhausted to stir from my bed. So I thought, like the rest, "I will send them later on—by and by." Soon the sad news came that the boy breathed his last. He was no more to accept my towels. Imagine my agony Om Santi Om !

I was returning from the worship room and was in a terrible hurry to my mail and I passed by the side of a stray-dog that was

lying near the well. I felt that something was wrong with it, and I called one of our gardeners and asked him to carry it into the hut and give the needed refreshments or water. The next day, when I enquired, I heard that the dog passed away, after the servant carried it into his hut. I felt agony that I did not do a little service for it myself while it was yet alive and failed to make it a little comfortable in its remaining few moments of earthly life. I wanted to do more.....but it was too late ! All that I can do now is to curl up with regret and remorse and approach the Indweller of my heart murmuring silently.

O Lord ! Thou hast come to me in the form of a poor neglected orphan boy, and I failed to worship thee. Thou hast appeared to me again in the form of the sickly forsaken animal and I failed to do my part, to the best of my ability ! Pray ! forgive and embrace me and bless me now to be more careful and watchful and ever ready to serve Thee in all forms and at all times—in the living present moment alone, is all that I ask of Thee.

Om ! Om ! Om !

LIGHT OF LIGHTS

Dear loving readers! Please do not read this message as you read an article in a newspaper. Read it slowly, with deep concentration, feeling the Presence of Light, from top to toe, in each and every cell of your beings, remembering that you are always emblems of Light. Now read the message identifying yourselves with Light, the Divine Truth which is filling your beings as well as the Universe.

BEING THE LIGHT OF LIGHTS WHY DOST THOU BEG FOR MORE LIGHT ?

The above statement has been the inspiration of my life. It has helped me to keep my center within, whenever tempted and tested by the outer delusive lights. Hence, I am craving to share its practical side with my readers of Peace.

It is strange that begging is forbidden even in spiritual life, in the name of God. Begging of every kind is to be avoided and shunned. It looks unreasonable that we should not beg even God for little more light. It is only those that have the true conception of God, can understand and appreciate these high thoughts.

In ignorance all things are possible. When we were children we played with toys and dolls. As grown up souls we should not be engaged in the same childish plays but realize now that our real play is self-realization. As His images our only game should be God-consciousness—the recognition of the interpenetrating Presence, within and without, in every moment of our lives.

Now let us see whether we are still acting like children, begging for a little more light, or as adults, asserting and manifesting our Divine Birthright.

How childish and ignorant it is to close one's eyes and cry out, "Oh! It is all darkness." Who asked you to close your eyes and complain of darkness? Open them. behold the glory everywhere — all around your self! Above and below it is Light, whether you can recognize It or not. You too are nothing but the expression of the same Light whether you are conscious of it or not.

Let us turn our gaze now for a while towards the mass of humanity and see how many thousands and thousands of devoted people are groaning and weeping restlessly for a glimpse of God—a ray of Light.

If they could only stop for a while from their ignorant and fanatical searches and analyse themselves in stillness, they will not fail to realize the Light, for which they have been praying, seeking and searching everywhere with broken hearts day and night, is never away or separate from them.

What a glorious awakening! What a lifegiving, simple Truth! Just to feel we have been always the same Light of Lights, in every moment of our lives, from eternity to eternity, is life-giving and soul-awakening.

Let us be no more beggars. Let us be givers. Let us not speak and beg any longer for Light. As embodiments of Light, we can afford to shed Light unceasingly.

BEGGING IS DEATH.

GIVING IS LIFE.

Hence, let us always be givers of Life, Light and Love.

Dear readers of Peace ! Whether it is for you or for me or for any one else, liberation comes only when we rise entirely above begging in every form. Whether we do it to-day or tomorrow, in this life or in lives to come, it rests only with us, to manifest the Light of the incomprehensible splendor.

Hades can be converted into Heaven, if we could only change our attitude and strive to realize that we have been always the Light from eternity to eternity. Being the Light of Lights, how childish it is to beg for a little more light !

Does the sun need, to express its splendor, the light of a glow-worm ! It is self-shining. So let us not hide or suppress the Light with feelings of modesty.

Even in the depths of weakness let us dare to assert our divine heritage of Light of Lights. Surely we will manifest Light, for our thoughts are things.

My present subject of Light of Lights, will be incomplete if I fail to add here the beautiful thoughts published in the form of the leaflet, THOU ART THAT.

Let us continue reading it, assimilating its message and feeling the Light within and without.

THOU ART THAT

O Thou deluded and self-hypnotized Divinity ! Arise. Awake from thy long dreaming sleep and realize now that thou art nothing but THAT alone in the past, present and future. Thou canst not help but be THAT, for thou art always THAT. Thou alone art Existence Absolute, Knowledge Absolute, and Bliss Absolute.

There is but one Truth or Reality and thou art that Reality—that Divinity. Manifest thy splendor. It is high time to assert and stand by thy Divine Heritage.

O Blessed One ! Do not try to be THAT for thou art always THAT. Do not strive to become Divinity, for thou art already Divinity. Cease to be anything other than THAT. Give up all thy attempts to become this and that, for thou art birthless and deathless; hence thy nature is beyond growth or change. There is nothing to be relinquished by thee, neither anything to be attained by thee. From an atom to the sun everything and everyone is included in thy glory. In the name of God or Divinity, rise above all finite exertions. Do not try to be anything, for thou can be nothing other than what thou art; namely, the changeless, the immutable, the incomprehensible glory of the Sun of suns.

Light of Lights

Being the Light of Lights, why dost thou beg for more light ? Art thou not ashamed of thy empty prayers and restless meditations? To whom shalt thou offer thy Prayers when there is no one beside thee? On what shalt thou meditate when thou art all in all ? Never meditate to get God or to become God; for thou art nothing but Truth from eternity to eternity. Only recognize thy Divinity and be silent. This is the only real meditation for thee.

O Great Light ! Be still and silent; compose thyself. Strike a death blow to the ego or personality which is suffering from the restless fever of possession, running after the toys of fame and name in the mirage of the world. Be a witness, for thou art the Subject.

If thou canst only stand as THAT, thou wilt rise above the alluring dreams of body, mind and world. The bubble-like world will dissolve in the Infinite Ocean of Bliss.

Sweet Beloved, as thou readest this, know thou art THAT once for all, and proclaim with each and every breath thy silent glory.

Behold ! Both the manifested and unmanifested are bathed in thy universal breath of love, for thou art that Supreme Silence.

Om! Om! Om!

DO NOT EAT ROTTEN FRUITS

No one relishes rotten fruits, yet most of the people about us are helplessly occupied, figuratively speaking, in eating rotten fruits and also suffering the inevitable consequences of this trespass against Nature.

The fatal and poisonous effects of eating rotten fruits, are dreadful, devitalizing and even dangerous to one's life physically, mentally and spiritually.

The tendency towards eating these rotten fruits begins strange to relate, with the inclination for eating the forbidden but juicy, tempting and sweet fruits. Can one logically say that one should not eat even apparently good fruits? Yes, if one starts to eat greedily the so-called good fruits of life in this world of Maya, inevitably he is impelled at times to eat the rotten fruits as well. For good fruits of worldly life, are often rotten at the heart or core.

Hence, all spiritual souls and aspirants of Truth, must have the divine strength, to refuse to accept not only the rotten fruits but be wary of the delusive good fruits as well. Sooner or later furthermore, they must learn to relish only the life-giving fruits of Self-reliance. They must eat the fruits of Self-realization, grown and garnered by their tireless own efforts.

Ah ! the sublime taste of one's own personal experience, that paradisaical, mellow, golden Fruit of Intuition and Silence ! It is too rich in flavor for all descriptions and expressions, of mortal words and phrases.

Only, he who is nourished and blessed with the ecstasy-inducing taste of that ripe, life-giving fruit of Silence called Nirvanic Bliss, can stand vigorously on his own spiritual feet ; refusing emphatically, all kinds of other delusive tempting fruits, be they by the world deemed good or bad. Unto such belongs the Peace that passeth all understanding, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the glory of ineffable, eternal and Infinite Light !

What are the rotten fruits above mentioned ? What do they represent ? They are unjust criticism, condemnations, calumniation, faultfindings, aspersions, persecution, etc. etc.

What are the seemingly good fruits symbolized by ? They are in the form of popularity, flattery, sweet words, praise, ego-worship, honour, outer-glory, lionization, personal homage, etc., etc. How alluring to the deluded unwise, are these luscious and very palatable fruits, misprized as Good !

Man does not need any of these fruits, either, the decayed or the luscious, for within him, lies the whole imperishible and eternal garden of the lovely fruits, of Divine Knowledge or Wisdom. By tasting these, the false taste of all empty, deceiving and merely precious seeming fruits, taste insipid and vile as they really are.

All homage be unto those blessed and rare souls, who have tasted the Divine Fruits of Immortality. They alone are the drinkers of the essence or ambrosia, the sweetest Nectar of the Eternal Fruit or Wisdom, which makes man immortal.

The vast majority of people are actually suffering from the evil effects of eating the symbolical rotten and good fruits, firstly described. As the inner, Divine Fruit of Wisdom is forgotten or ignored, man is helplessly drawn to rely on outer-fruits, of name, form and delusion. One who eats his own Inner Fruits of Wisdom, does not care for any outer fruits however alluring and tempting they seem to be.

One must learn to stand on his own feet, and learn to refuse all outer help and suggestions. He must have strength enough to firmly refuse to eat every kind of fruit that comes from outer sources. Then alone will he be free from all the excruciating sufferings, and deathlike agonies of delusion and ignorance.

The question arises : How is one to attain or achieve this state in the practical life ? Suppose a man presents you with a basket of rotten fruits; if you accept and eat them, the fruits and

their morbid substance goes within you, filling your system with their harmful effects. If you refuse to take the fruits, saying "I do not want them." What does he do? Naturally he will take them back with him. He alone has to eat his own rotten fruits, pass them to some other weak-minded person, or throw them away.

We are not concerned now with what he does with the rejected fruits. We are concerned here only, with our not accepting the fruits, and not allowing them to go within, or coming near us at all.

When some one takes joy in criticizing, condemning and persecuting you, do not allow these dangerous fruits to go inside you. Just refuse them mentally. Similarly when some one praises, flatters, and worships you, then likewise do not take these good fruits. Refuse them, firmly, mentally. You do not need them, for you are complete within your own SOUL.

Be contented and satisfied with your own inner Fruit of Realization or PERSONAL EXPERIENCE of the Presence. There is a subtle joy in eating such fruit of one's own labours.

It is an uphill work to refuse to accept all kinds of fruits, it takes strong character. But this is the only way to be immune to all outer, negative suggestions, and criticisms in a world of varying phenomena and changes, and the ensuing ups and downs, of this, life's shifting sands.

Let us resolve now to stand on the firm rock of Self-reliance, climb the high, firm mountain of Self-realization. ourselves. Let us enjoy in its sacred, secret, gardens of delight the precious Fruit of God-consciousness. Which is the only really life-giving fruit and never forbidden, and which can be eaten by one and all, in both the East and the West for the final freedom or emancipation, and the Promised abundant joyful life, in Him !

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL !

OM, TAT, SAT, OM,

POWER OF THOUGHT

Bridges can be constructed with the power of thought, and they can be destroyed with the same misdirected power.

When I say bridges, I mean not the steel and iron bridges only, but also the bridges of understanding, the bridges of unity and harmony that can be built and destroyed by the power of thought.

It is the power of misdirected thought which is the cause of communal strife between Hindus and Mohammedans, wars between Chinese and Japanese and English and Germans.

Peace is the result of thought, war also is the result of thought!

Alas! how very few people practically realise in their own lives the potential and silent power of thought!

If only man were aware of both the constructiveness and destructiveness of his own thoughts, how careful he would be of his thoughts and imagination.

In spite of the repetition of the metaphysical and scientific truths, that *Thoughts are things. Thought is another word for fate. As we think we become. Man makes his destiny by his own thoughts*, man is playing with his thoughts both consciously and unconsciously like a child with fire. Thoughts burn mercilessly, both in constructive and destructive directions.

How true are the words that : *What you are is the result of your own thoughts and what you will be in future will be determined by your own present thoughts!* So beware of your own thoughts and imagination.

Man begins with a weak thought and lands himself in a deep ditch, and is filled with sorrow and mortification in no time. Instead of knowing the cause of his own unfortunate but self-created situation, he begins to find fault with his friends and environment, mourning that it is his fate to be in the ditch.

Change the negative thought. You will change yourself. You will change others. You will change the world.

Sickness and health are the outcome of one's own thoughts, so are sorrow and happiness, and also poverty and wealth.

You will be surprised to know that people can kill themselves or others with the power of thought. Thought is both dangerous and helpful. It is both constructive and destructive.

Blessed are they who are using their silent thought towards the realization of the goal of human birth. Pitiable are they who are misusing the power of thought and thus misusing the goal of life, drowning themselves in the mire of deep ignorance and steep darkness.

This fair earth can be made both a Heaven and Hades by the power of well-directed or mis-directed thought.

Let not man go down on the ladder of his own thought, but let him rise and rise, step by step, silently and steadily, until he reaches the very Heights of Heaven or Glory.

Man's span of life can be compared to a ladder. The rungs of the ladder are the years of one's life. It is with man either to go down the steps of the ladder, to make a halt, or go upwards in Soul's aspiring march towards the Kingdom of Peace.

By his own individual silent thought man creates a Heaven within himself, and thus helps towards the establishment of *Peace on Earth and Good-will among Nations*.

Similarly, an ignorant and egoistic man filled with individual or national selfishness, thinks and schemes himself or a limited circle, and spreads his weak thoughts among his friends, and thus helps to bring out communal fights and wars in East and West.

We have heard of people who have died prematurely of wrong thought, and also of people living to a good old age, blooming with health, using their thought as life's elixir.

Thought is the inherent, eternal energy—the burning flame in our hearts, ceaselessly rising and aspiring towards the Goal. It is the acorn in the oak. It is the silent force, the potential Divine Energy, leading us towards perfection or destruction according to its use.

How wonderful and illuminating is the simple story told by Sri Ramakrishna on the power of thought !

It seems a man was sitting under the cool shade of a certain tree, tired and exhausted. He wished for water. Immediately the water was there. He wished for food and the food was there. He wished for riches, and other material possessions. In a flash they were put before him. In his weakness or restlessness it seems, he thought that a tiger might come and he would be in its mouth. Lo and behold, he was at once in the mouth of a tiger.

It so happened that the tree under which our friend was sitting was the *Kalpataru*, the tree of Completeness—the sacred tree that grants all boons.

Kalpataru is not only that one particular tree, but the whole world also is a Kalpataru, for the Lord Vishnu, the Universal spirit, pervades and permeates the whole universe from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet.

If only man can be aware and conscious that he is ever in the shade of the great God, who is the giver of all boons, fulfiller of all wishes, how wise and careful he would try to be in the choice of his wishes and thoughts? One feels sad for all those people who are busily engaged in digging their own early graves with the implements of their own thoughts. One should pay homage to all those dedicated and selfless souls who are helping to establish Peace in the world, with their constructive thoughts of harmony, forbearance, appreciation and love that excludes all.

Such universal Souls are the Builders of Civilization and the pioneers of the New Age, the Saviours of Humanity.

Dear friends of Peace! make your expansive and positive thought, your friend and well-wisher, nay, your spiritual father and mother and your Guru and Saviour.

Kindly pay all your attention especially to the initial stages of what you think and imagine. Check the wrong thoughts then and there at the beginning. Control them by good thoughts immediately. Opposite thoughts are always helpful. Negative thoughts should be overcome by affirmative thoughts. Repetition of powerful, radiant words, such as *Omnipresent*, *Omnipotent* and *Omniscient* will help a great deal in dispelling clouds of weak and sickly thoughts.

In short, let your steering thought be the strong and sturdy ship to lead you from the ocean of *Samsara*—the world, which is ever tossed by the turbulent waves of desires and passions, to the other side—the Kingdom of God, where alone one tastes the Peace passeth all understanding, the Light which is ever effulgent, and the Love which is abiding and Universal.

May Peace, Light and Love abide in all beings !

Hari OM Tat Sat ! Aum !

HIDDEN LIGHT OF DORMANT CELLS

On a moonlight night just before the early hour of dawn, I went out to the open door to look at the moon. I had a hurricane lantern in my hand, for I had to reach the verandah through another room, which was dark.

As I looked up at the still moon, and then down at the light in my hand comparing them, what a vast contrast they proffered. The startling comparison of that planet-infinitude, and lamp-smallness, struck one beyond words. The moon is filling the whole world, with its cool and life-giving, gentle radiance. The poor

limited hurricane light in my hand, is throwing its light only for a few feet, and that too, in a dim way.

Similarly if we look at the burning sun, on a fervid midday, holding meanwhile a tiny light in our hand, we should see a yet greater contrast. We should be fairly ashamed of the insignificant light in our hand, in the brilliant sun-light. The burning of a match-stick before the self-shining, radiant splendour of the blazing-sun, seems ridiculous.

Thus also lives on the lowly earth-plane, are readily compared to the dim light of a hurricane lamp, or to the insignificant and momentary flame of a matchstick. Yet, when seen or judged from our divine heritage, as children of God, our birthright is not the tiny, flickering speck of a light, but the glorious splendour of millions of suns, the great Light in which all others, fade and merge.

It is sad that most people are satisfied; with their match-light-like, tiny existences. It is all a matter of craving and time, to manifest our hidden glory, namely that of the full splendour of millions of suns.

I was amazed to read recently, that in the brain of every man there are 11000000 cells. But unfortunately, he is using only 100, out of all these cells. All the remaining 10999900 cells are remaining unused. What a shocking and surprising fact !

The more selfless a man is, the more cells are awakened. The more selfish he is, the more cells are dormant and unused. In the wicked, ignorant and selfish, almost all the cells are closed and sleeping. How pathetic !

The finite life of such an one, with all his mad rush and running to and fro, in the world of activity, is like the futile light of a tiny match-stick, set up before the radiant splendour of the midday sun. One should not bury God-given talents, but should use and multiply them. Unused things, be they talents or latent faculties, get stagnant and deteriorate, clogging the straight, narrow way to spiritual progress.

What would you think of a Maharajah or a Millionaire, starving and begging in the streets, for a morsel of food, having stored in his Palace millions of untold wealth, for use merely at his beck and call ? Yet such is the pitiable state of man, having unlimited power and infinite light within himself, and yet groping in deep darkness, making a shadow of his spiritual life, hiding it under a bushel.

It is with us to use the power and energy of not one cell, or a hundred cells, but of all the millions of cells. Now how shall one awaken these living cells ? is the central thought. This is the question that solves all problems, and gives us a glimpse into unused glories of our vast luminous inner being.

In the first place, a great craving is needed to awaken and electrify these living cells, all the organic cells, the instruments of wonderful faculties. Do you have a craving to awaken all these 11000000 cells ? Is your craving sincere, ceaseless and one-pointed ? If so, your life will be blessed with more Peace, and all the latent cells will be awakened gradually, according to the intensity of the desire or craving.

It is not a physical fight, but rather a mental struggle where the little self is to be crushed, conquered or annihilated, and that accomplished, the Higher Self shines in full glory, and awakens all the dormant cells. In a Jivanmuktha the fully Liberated Soul, all the cells are awakened and used. But in a Jivanmrutha the sense-slave, the living dead, all the cells are unused and buried in gross matter.

Meditation is the unfailing key that unlocks all the seals, and awakens all the cells. When everything else fails, pure and simple mediation, leads one towards the summit of Light, As you meditate, concentratedly, day after day, one cell after another cell, will be awakened and in time all power on earth and heaven, within and without, will be given to you.

Unlimited power or limitless energy is within. It is expressed from within, and manifested from within, so let us merge within, to recognize it in silence and to express it in both activity and

inactivity. Let us be aware of the infinite power of all the millions of cells within us. Let us not be satisfied with the power or light of a tiny match-stick-like consciousness, but assert and manifest our Divine Power of Millions of Sun's Splendour.

Our meditation must be like the smooth, steady and continuous flow of oil poured from one vessel into another. It should be like the constant and sparkling flow of an electric current, as it gives out light, according to the intensity or volts of life. Meditation begins with purity, one-pointedness, and selflessness, and ends in Peace, Blessedness and Illumination.

Dear Readers of PEACE! merge within and see for yourselves how many cells are in use in your daily life. Try to awaken even one or two cells, each time you sit for meditation. Awakening of the cells, need not be confined to meditation alone. Each time you are rendering a selfless service to your fellow brethren, you are awakening your cells. Each time you are helping and serving the poor and needy with your loving words of sympathy or with your selfless service and prayers, you are awakening the living cells within.

Divine Love, the mighty force, set in operation, performs mighty, silent miracles within the God-lover's heart, mind and being. Let it operate freely.

Do not be satisfied with the light of a match stick or a hurricane lamp. Aspire to manifest and shine in your full light the infinite light of a Million Suns. Selfless Service and Universal Love, hasten as nothing else, the awakening of the sleeping cells. So let us engage ourselves physically in service, mentally in prayer and spiritually in meditation.

May the flickering, momentary, tiny light of self be replaced by the effulgent, steady and eternal flame of God-consciousness and may all the 11000000 cells in our brain matter, be alive and respond consciously in every moment of our lives to the interpenetrating Presence of the Light of lights, Which is the only Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient Reality, is may prayer!

May Peace be unto all !

IN THE LIGHT OF GOD

In the Light of God has been a consoling and inspiring message written a long time ago. Its publication in PEACE was delayed for some reason or other. As we are sending it now to the press, I have been musing on its uplifting theme.

This morning while I was going up the steps to take a sun-bath on the terrace of my Mandir, suddenly the luminous thought flashed into my consciousness, that one could rise from *the lap of God* and merge into the allpervading Light of God.

As I was enjoying the sun-bath bathing, in the warmth of His Interpenetrating Light, I was filled with ecstasy and I am trying now to express the inexpressible; in the following thoughts to share them with all my sisters and brothers in both East and West.

As we sit in God's lap—the Universal lap, trustingly and child-like, He alone will take us into His Light and Glory.

Although it is comforting, *In the lap of God*, is an elementary stage. In the Light of God, is a higher and advanced state, when compared to sitting in the lap of God.

In sitting in the lap of God encircling our feeble arms around His neck, it gives a certain sacred thrill and ecstasy in the elementary state, but there is duality between the devotee and God. Whereas *In the Light of God*, the devotee is not only filled and surrounded, but pervaded and permeated by the Light of God, until he finally merges and dissolves in God's Light.

As one advances and ponders deeply in the moments of meditation or Silence, the devotee realizes with great joy that LIGHT and GOD are not two but ONE. It is only in the moments of deep silence when one loses all consciousness of the ego, or the little self, that one realizes with great ecstasy that the devotee and God are not two but ONE, for JIVA alone has been always DEVA, the SANATANANA, from time immemorial, nay from eternity to eternity.

What bread is to the physical body, so is the Light to the spiritual body. Man, in his ignorance, neglects what it beneficent

free and helpful to his body, mind and soul, such as the sunshine, water, cool breeze, etc., the free gifts of God, both to the poor and rich, irrespective of caste, creed, and nationality.

How healthy and happy a man or woman would be if he or she took a ten or fifteen minutes sun-bath, either in the morning when the sun rises, or in the evening before the sun sets. This sun-bath can be combined with one's daily meditation for it is very conducive or helpful to feeling or experiencing the Light of God, as one allows the warm rays of the sun to penetrate into the very pores of the skin.

Simple and common acts like a sun-bath or a walk in the country side, inhaling and exhaling fresh, cool breeze, are not merely for reading or for intellectual consent, but for practice in one's daily life. Even a little practice of a few days will make one realize the great efficacy of making best use of God's free gifts.

How life-giving and soul-awakening are the uplifting words "I AM IN THE LIGHT OF GOD." One could take these helpful words as a Holy Mantram and repeat them over and over again, until he feels the Light within and without.

The following simple prayer if repeated, especially while taking a sun-bath, allowing the rays of the sun to penetrate and interpenetrate the very cells of one's body, will be not only a great help, but a spiritual blessing to any one who repeats it sincerely with fervor, regardless of one's sect, creed or formal belief:

Adorable Light ! Thou Who art within and without, above and below and all around, Thou Who art interpenetrating the very cells of my being, bless me dear God to feel Thy Light now and here as I repeat these words of prayer, is all that I ask of Thee. May all be aware of Thy Light in East and West, North and South !

*May Peace and Light abide in all the hearts all over the world !
May Light and Peace be unto all !*

Om, Om, Om !

When one is blessed with the conception of God, such an one realizes that he is always in the Light of God whether he is sitting or standing, walking or talking. He is in the Light, whether he is alone or in a crowd. He is in the Light, whether he is sleeping unconsciously or meditating consciously.

All devotees of God or votaries of the respective religions should strive to attain *that State*, where it is *perpetual Light*—All-Light, *infinite Light* and eternal Light, boundless Light and limitless Light, regardless of conditions or even time, space and casuation.

Verily, God is All-Light and in His Light we are all abiding. What a great joy and strength it gives one just to know that wherever we may be and whatever we may be doing, that we are all always breathing, moving and working in His infinite Light !

It is high time for man to realize the Great Truth, that it is the Light that dispels all weakness and sickness in every form, and makes the mortal Immortal !

In the daytime, we are in the light of the sun, at night when the sun has sunk behind the horizon we are enveloped in darkness. In the Light of God however, be it day or night we are ever in His Radiant Light. The sun's light however dazzling can be seen with the physical eye, but not so with the Light of God. The clearest vision dare not behold the self-shining Light of God for it has greater splendour than millions of suns. These physical eyes are helpless and blind before His Effulgence. When He shines all else shines Such Infinite, Eternal and Indivisible Light however is the Common. Birthright or Divine Heritage of every individual on the face of the earth.

What a great pity it is, to ignore the Light which is not only surrounding us but permeating and pervading the very cells of our beings from eternity to eternity ! No matter who we are, what we may be doing, we are always filled and surrounded by the One Indivisible Light, in our walking, dreaming and sleeping state of life. What a great joy and consolation it is just to feel that we are always in the Light, sparks of the Light, despite our forgetfulness.

Whether we know it or not, the Light is ever present, with us, within us, and around us.

Dear Friends of Peace ! let us now meditate on the Adorable Light which is our Life and Goal. May all homage be unto the Light which is Universal—embracing all and excluding none !

Om, Om, Om !

INTELLECTUALISM

I have been coming in contact with many earnest souls who are striving to find God through reasoning with the power of their so called mighty intellects.

It sends into my body a shivering sensation when I see them reasoning God, analyzing and diagnosing Him.

Their words are forceful and fiery, as if to tear God into pieces. I often wonder whether they are doing harm for themselves trying to divide and bisect Him.

Can God be mutilated or wounded with words? Can we take a firm hold of the throat of God and thus strangle Him and make Him stand before us?

Then why this unnatural process of chewing dry bones? Is there any life or taste or enjoyment in chewing these dry words with restless minds? How long can we live on imaginary food? Are we not yet tired of these lifeless arguments and endless imaginations?

I am not saying anything against the intellect. On the other hand intellect has a glory of its own. We have the highest use for the intellect. It has a part to play in ascertaining the Truth, as Truth, and thus far and no further. It cannot go any further.

How can the tiny intellect comprehend the great glory of God? What can the poor intellect do before the Splendor of Truth? How can we expect a tiny speck of a cloud to understand the glory of the great sun?

When once we realize that God alone exists and nothing else exists beside Him, what necessity is there of reasoning any longer or indulging in vain repetitions? When nothing else exists beside God or Truth, how can these words and thoughts exist any longer?

If we are convinced of God's presence or existence, then let us try to feel and become one with Him. But let us not waste our precious life and energy in wrestling with God. If so we will be doing harm to our own selves.

What we grasp and understand by the help of our intellect is to be placed in practice. If not our knowledge will be a source of misery and burden. Intellectual knowledge without practice may be compared to an ass carrying a heavy load of sandal wood on its back. It realizes only the weight of the burden, but never the smell or utility of sandal wood.

Those who are satisfied with mere intellectualism, are like vultures that soar very high in the air, but their concentration or outlook is always on the putrified carcasses. As soon as they see a dead body, down they descend from their high flights.

In the same manner, those who are feeling contented with their intellects cannot help but be slaves of flesh and senses. When they stoop down into ignorance then all their theory of "God is" and "God alone exists" disappears, and they will be groveling in the mire of darkness.

What do you think of a man, who when entering into a beautiful garden which is full of juicy fruits, instead of eating them and thus satisfying his thirst and hunger, begins to waste his life in counting the leaves on the trees. Such is the utility of considering intellect as everything.

Those who are restlessly engaged in trying to realize God through reasoning or intellectual powers, are wasting their precious lives in counting the leaves of the trees, starving their living soul.

And those, who have risen above intellects ever engaging themselves in silent meditations, enjoying the blessed states of Peace are actually eating the Divine fruits in the garden of God.

The intellect cannot jump out of itself. It can perform only its fixed duty to its limited extent, but if we try to force it any further we are making a wreck of our spiritual lives.

Intellectual struggles for realizing God can be compared to the hopeless and helpless struggles of birds caught in the net. All their struggles are within the net. They cannot go out of the net of reasoning.

It is not by reasoning nor by expanding that God can be realized. It is by merging and dissolving in Truth we will be able to comprehend It in all glory.

Intellectual people always live on the surface, hence they are dry and hollow, both within and without. On the surface there is always hurry, worry and strife, whereas in the depths of inner consciousness, there is inexpressible Peace and endless Joy.

But as our Great Intellectualists are too busily engaged with surface things they have no time to spare for entering into the deeper states of Peace. So they are often satisfied feasting over dry bones.

Above all how can the finite intellect grasp or comprehend the infinite God or Truth? Finite can comprehend only finite things. It is never possible to understand the infinite perfectly.

A pair of tongs can hold anything with the help of our hand, but they are never expected to turn back and hold the very hand by the support of which they are moving.

The same is the case with our mind and intellect. The basis of the mind and intellect is only the Universal Spirit. It is only with the help or support of the Spirit our minds and intellects are moving and working.

They can think of anything in the world, but they cannot dare to think or reason about the great God or Truth in whom they are mere nothings. So their bounden duty must be to silently merge and dissolve in God, understanding the helplessness and hopelessness of any more outer exertions, physically or mentally.

It short, God can be realized only by intuition and never by finite exertions. We need not be restless with unnecessary exertions. Let our exertions be in making our minds and intellects calm and collected.

Intellect is a mere bubble in the Ocean of Divine Glory. So do not make the bubble jump out of itself to fathom the Ocean. Let it simply dissolve, losing itself in the formless state of the water.

In the same way let our intellects merge and identify with the great God or Universal Spirit who is the only Reality and in whom we are inseparably one either in the past, present or future.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL

TEARS DIVINE

Blessed are they that weep for God. Blessed are they who shed tears of love in the name of Truth. Blessed are they who feel divine sorrow at the sight of suffering humanity. Blessed are they who live for all. Twice blessed are they who abide in the hearts of all. Thrice blessed are they who are All in all. Blessedness lies in human sympathy. It is in universal love. It is in losing one's little individual self and becoming the Universal Whole.

What a blessed life it is to see in the eyes of all, to have in the ears of all, to think in the minds of all, to beat in the hearts of all and to breathe the Universal Breath, manifested or unmanifested alike. This is the blessed state inexpressible, indescribable and incomprehensible. We often think a Christ alone can understand It; a Buddha alone can realise It; a Krishna alone can manifest It; But is it the birthright of only a Christ, a Buddha and a Krishna? Nothing is more untrue or absurd than to confine this divine blessedness to a form or name. It is the common property of one and all. It is equally the birthright of all the children of the Almighty Father. It is the divine heritage of all people of every religion and nationality.

But are we enjoying this blessedness in our practical life? Is every one feeling It in the everyday life of the world? Does one treat his fellow-brother or deadly opponent as his own divine Self? If so such a life is simply glorious. Verily we must feel oneness with the lilies of the field, with the fowls of the air, with the beasts of the forest and with the whole creation. Every one is a manifested God. Every form is the blessed image of the Almighty God. Every face is the expression of the beloved One.

A life of aloofness is a denial of the Blessed One. A life of exclusiveness is an insult unto the Almighty God. A life of selfish individuality is a disgraceful disavowal in His Presence. How long shall we cling to niggardly forms and names? How long shall we be rooted to the earth like plants and trees? How long shall we behave like beasts of wilderness, merely satisfying ourselves with the momentary pleasures of finite senses? Shall we not awaken ourselves to the Blessed State of Divine Life? Shall we not rise from our lethargy to the Glory of Infinite Consciousness? Shall we not emerge from the mire of ignorance unto the Vision of Infinite Love?

Let us no longer be satisfied with mere physical consciousness but strive to take possession of our Real Birthright—namely the Cosmic Consciousness. Let us shed now tears of love in the name of Divine Bliss, Oneness or God. Sri Ramakrishna, the Prophet of the modern world passed many days and nights in Divine Sorrow. Ramathirtha, the apostle of Freedom spent many a night, drenching his bed with tears divine. Gouranga the incarnation of love poured forth an unceasing stream of tears divine. Has not Christ the Saviour wept for the suffering humanity? Has not Buddha, the Lord of compassion wept for the salvation of the world? Has not every sage, saviour or saint passed through this blessed state of divine sorrow?

What is the precious store for a true saint? Is it the perishable riches? No! No! The highest treasures for a saint are only his tears of divine ecstasy. The holiest and most sacred wealth for a sage is only his tears that he sheds at the sight of the suffering mankind. This is his store that cannot be stolen or rusted. Tears divine are magnificent.

Dear reader, how can I express to you the Blessedness of this sorrow divine, if you have not once tasted it before? Its ecstatic joy cannot be fathomed by men of surface life. Dear one, have you ever shed just a few tear drops in the name of God of love who is your very life and soul? Talk not of the many tears you might have shed over the discomforts of the life or over your misfortunes at times when you were disappointed or diseased. Do not talk of your sorrows of the form and name. Pray, speak only of the tears divine you shed in the name of Truth and God!

What for is this human life if we cannot offer a few drops of sacred tears at the feet of the Almighty God? Fie upon the worthless and empty lives, now ever rich and grand they might be, with all the perishable wealth of the whole world, with all the hollow learning of mere intellect. Indeed God in us is badly in need of sweet tears of love. The suffering world is very sore for want of a few sympathetic tear drops from the eyes of the dry reformers and grand master. These holy tears alone are the real wealth of any individual.² These sacred tears alone are the strength of any nation. These sympathetic tears alone are the light and hope of the world.

Blessed reader, if we cannot do anything else in the world, let us at least learn to shed a few tears divine, in the name of God to embrace the whole world in the arms of our universal love. Let us weep no more for the things of the world, but do let us weep for the things of the Spirit. A single, sacred and sympathetic tear drop is a pearl worth more than a million sermons or lectures. So let us put aside all our big talks. Let us bid adieu to our sermons and lectures. Let us say 'Good bye' to all our demonstrations and other forms of superficial worship. Let us do away with all forms and show. Let us try to be a little more earnest and sincere. If we can do nothing else, let us at least sit in silence for a while and try to shed sacred tears in the name of love, not mechanically but automatically with tender feelings.

Oh, let us only feel, feel and feel. Do let us feel and weep for the Blessed Brother who in the form of the untouchable has borne a heavy burden of disabilities, for ages, silently on his drooping shoulders. Do let us feel and shed a tear drop or two for the Holy

One who comes to us in the form of the oppressed and the depressed. Ah, let us feel for the Sacred Person who visits us in the form of poverty-stricken and starving brother or sister; they too are members of the same God's family. Alas ! let us not grow so heartless as to stoop to condemn or criticise the ignorant and the sinful; but come, let us feel and weep for their deliverance. They are not in need of our hollow counsels or lip-sympathies. They need our overflowing sympathy for their redemption. They need our divine compassion for their salvation. Oh, let us kneel before and appeal to the bigotted fanatics, who stab and kill the Almighty One, in the name of their lifeless and loveless religion, to halt for a while !

I am not asking any one to shrink from doing one's own work or duties and to sit in silence and weep. Nothing can be more meaningless and absurd. What I plead for is that the work should be done with love, that the service should be rendered with sympathy. Then alone one can radiate happiness through his work. After all, one who lives not as All in all, can never work for all. If one feels not the Allness within himself, how can he work for the All-pervading One ? So what we need are sympathetic feelings of our inner heart. Our sympathy should flow towards one and all, in floods and streams, irrespective of caste and colour. Our love should overflow in rivers and oceans encircling the whole of humanity irrespective of any differences of religions or nationalities. Sooner or later this kind of human sympathy alone shall have to bring rest and peace, nay, even freedom for the afflicted world.

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa has with great pathos once said "There are men who weep just because a son is not born. There are some who weep because they are poor. Some others weep for all the perishable goods of the world. But, where are the people that weep for God? Yet every one, from an ignorant child up to the most learned philosopher exclaims that God is the only Reality. At the same time he worships Mammon with heart and soul, considering it as all in all. This is nothing but an insulting attempt to throw dust into the eyes of God ; blackest form of hypocrisy ! Ah, he reaps the results inevitably in the form of untold sufferings and agonies and all other forms of human woe ! So we must cling to the Truth and be unattached to the untruth.

This is the only way to make religion practical or for us to be free from the clutches of these miseries and agonies.

The path of tears divine may appear to some of the materialistic minds as unnatural ; but all the sages and saints of both the east and the west, have walked with unfaltering steps only in this path of tears divine. Who has not felt the ecstasy of the songs of the divine lover Kabir ? He sings his songs with tears in his eyes, in a pathetic strain as follows : “A sore pain troubles me day and night and I am unable to sleep. I long for the meeting with my Beloved, and my father’s house gives me pleasure no more. The gates of the sky are open : the temple is revealed. I must go and meet my husband and place at His feet the offering of my body and my mind,” In another song, he says— “My body and my mind are grieved for want of Thee, Oh my Beloved ! come to my house. When people say I am thy bride I am ashamed; for yet, I have not touched Thy heart with my heart. Then what is this love of mine? I have no taste for food. I have no sleep; my heart is ever restless, within doors and without. As water to the thirsty so is the lover to the bride. Who is there that will carry my news to my Beloved;—Kabir is restless. He is dying for a sight of Him.”

Dear beloved reader, shall we also pine thus for a Sight of Him? Shall we also weep for a Sight of Him? Shall we also at least long for a Sight of Him? Once again this blessed Kabir is warning us: “O friend, awake ! Sleep no more ! The night is over and gone; Should you lose your day also? Others who are awake have received jewels of untold value. Let us also strive to receive the holy jewel, walking always in the path of tears divine.”

Many of us at least I hope remember the tears shed by Sri Ramakrishna (although none of us care to be filled with tears divine as he) when he thus prayed every evening whenever he heard the temple bells.— “O Mother, this world is only of three days and our life is of five minutes. Another day has passed off in vain and You have not yet come to me.” Thus he used to weep and weep like a simple child, rubbing his head on the ground for a vision of the Universal Mother.

Indeed when a child cries with such intense yearning and agony, which mother can be deaf and dumb towards her suppliant child? Surely, Sri Ramakrishna was blessed with the divine vision. Such is the virtue of walking in the path of tears divine. Verily the strength of a saint lies only in his ecstatic tears. He can bring God down to him with his tears of love. God is a mere slave of the votaries of love. He ever abides in their innocent hearts, and when the proper time comes, He is ready to respond to their sacred tears and wipe off the same, gently with the tear of His garment. He takes delight in bathing in the holy tears of His devotees. His thirst is quenched by drinking deep the holy tears of His devotees. His staple food is nothing but tears overflowing the guileless and sympathetic hearts of His Beloved Devotees. Glory be unto those blessed children of the Almighty Father, who are filled with and submerged as it were in such tears divine!

A saint's life on earth is never free from tears divine. He weeps and weeps and sheds tears of blood, whenever he forgets his Sweet Beloved. He weeps also and sheds tears of joy and bliss when he remembers Him and faces Him, all around himself. One who thus walks in the path of tears divine, weeps both when his God is visible and invisible unto him. He weeps both for friends and foes so called. He weeps alike for the welfare of the near ones and of those living far off. There is nothing like near or far, friend or foe in the connotation of such a devotee. All are his neighbours, brothers and sisters. All are the Same manifestations of the One All-pervading God. He has risen above all distinctions of caste, creed, colour, sex and nationalities. He is blessed with a vision of Divine Love. He wears the spectacle of same-sightedness and unity. He is saturated with heart-stirring ecstasy. He draws the whole world irresistably towards him. One cannot help but imbibe his love. Every one merges in his fathomless love. Indeed his centre is always in the Divine Spirit within himself and never outside, in the mundane world. One who keeps the centre within and relies on his own self moves the whole world. There is no pomp or ostentation in his life. Hallowed are the whole lives of such silent workers.

Having taken to the path of tears divine, one weeps in solitude with Christ, one radiates compassion with Buddha and one shares

the divine urge with Sri Krishna. He is inseparably one with all the saints of the past, present or future, of both East and West. He suffers with the outcaste, bears the burden of the poor widow. He endures with the oppressed and the depressed. He bumps with the child, dances with the youth and grovels with the aged. He is not without his brighter aspect too. The dew drops are the emblems of his spotless love. The rain drops are the ecstatic tears of his universal love. The blooming buds are the expression of his universal glory. The singing birds are the companions of his sweet self. The wild beasts are the play-mates of his care-free life. The whole creation in its varied forms is the life-breath of his cosmic form. The angels in heaven are the servants on earth for one who is filled with such tears divine. Verily the Almighty Being is the heart and soul of such a devotee. Just as a loving mother takes care of her tender and innocent baby, God in His infinite mercy and love, watches over the life of His beloved devotee. Such is the splendour and majesty of one who treads the path of tears divine.

Dear blessed reader ! As I write, tears freely flow forth from my eyes. These are for your welfare and progress. Pray, accept them and assimilate my love into your silent life. Dear sweet one, do you love me ? Do you care for my advice ? Do you feel with me ?—Never mind, whether you give me your love or not, my love for you is unconditionally offered. Allow me as a Blessed Privilege to join my heart and soul with yours. Indeed nothing else but to live in your sacred heart, breathing peace and love do I wish for ! For my little service, may you too grant me a boon. Just offer one drop of sweet sacred tears from your eyes, once in a day in the name of God, Love and Truth. In whatever way you may spend the whole day, just before you retire for sleep fulfil my simple request and offer just a tiny pearl from your eye, in the name of God or Universal Love. Pray, make it a point never to sleep before you offer this your sacred oblation, at the feet of God. Please try to spare a minute for your self-examination and note, whether you have offered your sacred and precious gift to the Almighty, with all your heart. Never allow a single day to pass, unless you give a tear drop or two to the Almighty God, feeling your oneness with the Universal Love. These tears divine that are offered in the name of Love, do take you nearer to His Throne of Glory, than millions of elaborate worships, meaningless incan-

tations and lifeless meditations. This alone is the best, safest, nearest and easiest way, to realise the God of Love not in the uncertain future but right in this living second.

Oh Almighty Lord, Thou who art Love Sublime ! The rich worship Thee and erect temples and churches, offering their untold material wealth. The learned worship Thee with elaborate rituals and endless ceremonies, making Pujas, Homas and Yagnams. The Pandits worship Thee reciting stanza after stanza from the sacred texts of the Vedas. But what can I, a poor innocent child of Thine, offer Thee in worship, excepting loving tears from my devoted heart, to wash with them Thy Holy Feet ? May these be the untainted, unblemished and undecaying flowers bearing my pure and tender love for Thee ! So simple, though they be, pray do not reject or hesitate to accept the same !

My Lord, being poor in the goods of the world let it be my joy and pride that I worship Thee with the dew-like drops of my tears from my tender eyes. Grant unto me my beloved Lord, the right spirit to worship Thee, also with flowers of non-killing (Ahimsa), Truth (Satyam), self-restraint (Indriyanigraha), kindness to all beings (Sarvabhuta Daya), forgiveness (Kshama), Peace (Santi). Austerity (Tapaha), Meditation (Dhyana), and above all with my deep love that embraces one and all, Let me also offer to Thee the fragrant flowers of cheerfulness under all circumstances, which is the dearest and the most favourite flower to your heart.

Dear Reader ! Shall we feel now our inseparable oneness with the Lord Who sits silent in hills and dales ? Shall we realise now our indivisible oneness with the Almighty Lord, Who permeates all the elements, and is in the form of ether, light, air, water and earth ? Shall we feel our inexpressible oneness with that God who grows on the plant, flies in the birds and moves in the animals ? Shall we feel our ecstatic oneness with the Divinity who works and lives in the human kingdom !

May Peace be unto all !

Hari OM ! Tat Sat ! Aum !

PROMISE

A promise is a promise, whether we give it to a little child or a dumb animal or to a withering plant.

Once I promised that I would pour water and take care of a withering plant and I failed, the tender plant died and it made me sad for a long time.

Again I promised that I would attend on a sick dog and in the busy work of the Mission my promise was forgotten and in the meanwhile the dog passed away leaving heavy sadness the my heart.

Once again I promised a little sister who was ailing since a long time, that I would be by her bed-side whenever she needed me. A telegram was sent, when she was serious. I delayed in rushing to her bed-side immediately. It seems she was asking for me in her last moments. But alas! by the time I went, it was too late—her loving life expired—leaving a great sorrow in my heart.

The memory of my broken promise still haunts me, even though several years passed, since the passing of the little sister who longed to see me, before departing from this world of evanescent life.

May the soul of the little sister rest in Peace and may God forgive me, for not fulfilling my promise in time.

A promise-breaker is never respected anywhere. His word does not have any value. All the world knows him.

We often hear of certain people—that their words are as good as their deeds, and we hear of other people also—that we cannot rely on their promise.

It is very easy to give a promise. It is still more easy to break it. Most of the people are always promising and breaking their promises. The process of spinning and unspinning is going on in the average man.

**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO CAN STAND BY HIS PROMISE
EITHER IN DEATH OR LIFE.**

When we want to do a good thing, it must be done **IMMEDIATELY**. When we want to do a doubtful thing that might possibly hurt someone, it should be delayed and considered.

Dear Friends, when once you make a promise, whatever it may be, to whomsoever it is made, remember that it is sacred, for it is given in the Presence of God, nay, to God Himself, for He is All-in-All and Everything.

Volumes can be written on the sacredness of promise, be it small or big.

It was the Great Lincoln, the Emancipator of Slavery, who wrote in his Diary, the following life-giving and soul-awakening words :

I PROMISED MY GOD THAT I WOULD DO IT !

AND HE DID IT, even though it costed his life in abolishing slavery. His life has been a great blessing to millions of poor slaves since then.

I too, long to repeat those memorable words:—

I PROMISE MY GOD TO DO IT.

What is my promise now? What do I wish to do? My promise is to worship God, not with flowers and fruits, neither with words and thoughts, but with my very breath. Let every breath be an offering to Him.

Let us promise to worship Him not only in His unmanifested aspect, when in meditation, but also in His manifested aspect in the world of activity, whenever He comes to us, in the form of sick and suffering, poor and rich, haughty or mild, ignorant or learned.

Let us worship even those who are hurting us consciously or unconsciously for even they are the same manifestations of the **ONE GOD**.

Of all the promise—the promise that we make to the Almighty God—the Indwelling Presence is to be respected. When we cannot fulfil the promise that we give to God, Who is the Light of our very heart, how can we ever hope to be true to the promises that we make to His children !

When we are true to God, the Indweller of our hearts, we are also true to His children.

Dear Friends of Peace in both East and West ! let us remember our unfulfilled promises, long delayed promises, belated promises that we have given to any of the least of God's children in the form of bird, beast or man and hasten to fulfil them before it is too late for the consolation and Peace of our souls. Let us rededicate our lives for His worship both in the manifested, as well as unmanifested, beholding His glory and Light both within — in ourselves and without — in others.

May Peace Be Unto All

Om ! Tat ! Sat ! Om ;

THE BLUE BUTTERFLY

*You knew the jungles where the heat all day
Came quivering up through tangled lace of green ;
Across old fever-swamps you used to play,
Your loveliness unseen.*

*Your loveliness unseen, except by eyes
That could not bear the dazzling gold of noon,
Yet watched through shadows, envious, old and wise,
Waiting the rising moon.*

*I think you are the bluest thing e'er made,
The sea and sky know many a changing hue,
But not your wings;—you died but did not fade,
O miracle of blue!*

*It seems the Lord of Beauty Is the Lord
Of all the lowliest, as the highest things,
Perhaps His Angel of the flaming sword
Had just such azure wings!*

—Verna Sheard.

We were going for a walk through the fields all golden in the afternoon sunshine one day, Sushila Devi, Ramam and I. The sun was just setting and the sky was filled with those vivid opalescent colors of our Indian winter, and there was beauty and a perfect, hallowed stillness all around us. Only a light wind rustled among the tall grasses, and hummed in the treetops.

As we trudged along merrily on the foot-path, in silence, almost afraid to speak, lest the wonderous stillness should be disturbed, I suddenly saw a beautiful, big, blue butterfly lying on the pathway. Anxious lest some one passing, might step on it unconsciously, I said: Look at this beautiful butterfly lying on the ground, let us remove or chase it out of the path, so that it will be safe.

When we tried to give chase, we soon saw that it was motionless. Even as we touched it, it was still ! Then as I took the lovely thing into my hand, we saw to our sorrow that it was quite dead, and its body was already eaten away by some ants or worms. Only the beautiful, shining wings remained, their vivid hues almost deluding one that it was still alive; but alas, the body was missing. The butterfly was indeed dead. Its gay dance among the wild-flowers was forever done. Such is the state of all life, all flesh and all forms.

The beautiful butterfly is now lying before me, on my table, as I am engaged in writing this message, or rather its message, looking at it, and pondering over the perishable nature of all flesh and forms. Such is the inevitable state of flesh or form, whether it belongs to or is inhabited by emperor or beggar. The law operates with mathematical accuracy, equally for the mighty as for the weak, the learned and the ignorant, the rich and the poor, nay, even for the holy saint and the worst sinner; for all flesh is bound to wither, decay and perish. Wherever there is growth there is decay, sooner or later, So to be born is to die. Birth and death are the reverse sides of the same counterfeit coin called mortal life.

On another occasion we were going to a cool glen, where a spring flows down, about a mile and a half distant from our Ashram. It is hidden between two wooded hills, in a lovely valley. It was, one day in the rainy season. that we started for a stroll, just after the

rain had stopped. It was veritably a day of butterflies, for butterflies were all around us, wherever we walked, bright as a broken rainbow's fragments. We never saw so many thousands of butterflies before. It made us exclaim with ecstasy those words: *Who can make the frail wonder of a butterfly, excepting Almighty God*, facing butterflies to the left and right, back and front, resting below on the ground. and above our heads, fluttering and circling in iridescent hosts.

One could not believe one's eyes; numberless bright butterflies playing, dancing, and lighting from spot to spot, as if they were tiny fairies hovering around us. We never again in our lives, saw so many. It was a strange phenomena! A miracle of butterflies!

As I gaze now at the beautiful, azure wings of the butterfly on my table, I often think that the little life of man on earth, is just like the frail life of a passing butterfly. As a great poet has said the whole world is but a vast stage and all its people are merely actors on the vast, panoramic stage of this colorful world. Each one plays his appointed or chosen part, for the ordained time, either to the best of his ability, or with a nonchalant carelessness to the very end.

Alas! how frail, transcient and temporary is the physical life, be it of man, beast or of a beautiful blue butterfly! Times out of number, everyday as we face constant change and death, we are reminded of those prophetic words: *To day man is and tomorrow he is not!*

The butterfly died, but it has left the memento of its beautiful bright wings. So also man, the frail physical man, will return to the elemental dust composition of his physical sheath, but his deeds live on eternally. His silent thoughts of Love, Peace, Selflessness, Compassion, Charity, etc. are the beautiful, bright wings of man, that bore him upward but are left behind him, when departing. Noble thoughts will not die with the death and passing of the body. They are present in the very ether, helping mankind steadily and silently, forming as it were a golden ladder to *Nirvana*, for those who are, and are yet to come. Ah! The butterfly died, but its wings are here, its bright, azure wings that soared so high. Its lovely spirit

also is imperishable. The man too dies, but his noble thoughts cannot die, his brave spirit cannot die. The real man lives on eternally.

May we strive always not merely, to look at the outer form and name, but to recognize the beautiful wings, the inspiring thoughts of man, the image of God.

May Peace be unto all butterflies ~silent, lovely messengers of God.

Om Tat Sat Om.

IGNORANCE, BELIEF AND EXPERIENCE

Ignorance of God, Belief in God and Experience of God are the natural and gradual steps in the evolution of the soul.

Man begins his life on earth in ignorance and by contact with spiritual souls and religious study, he believes in the Existence of God and he gets the Experience of God through institution or introspection with the help of contemplation and meditation.

Dear friends, at the very outset, kindly close your eyes for a minute and merge within to see whether you are in the

First Stage of Ignorance

or

Second Stage of Belief

or

Third Stage of Experience.

Ignorance is the lowest state, belief is the middle state and experience is the highest state, which is the goal of precious human birth.

If you are in the lowest state of ignorance, what is the difference between you and a beast of burden? As a man, a human being,

you should strive to believe in God and finally reach the highest stage of God-consciousness.

If you are in the middle state of mere belief in God, without any Personal Experience of God, what is the difference between you and a parrot? A parrot also repeats the name of God, without any feeling.

Belief without Experience of God, is like a lamp without oil, or a body without life. Man without Experience of God is lifeless and soul-less, hence he should struggle to make his belief, practical and personal through discrimination, introspection and meditation.

Once two disciples were strolling on the beach enjoying the silent beauty of the sunset hour. The following was the conversation between them :

First disciple : It is with man either to feel God's Presence or to ignore it. How easy it is to feel that we are walking in God, even conversing in God, ever surrounded by His Glory and Light! What happiness it gives one to carry the Presence of God, as one walks or even wherever he happens to go, recognizing Him on every side !

Second disciple: What you are telling is only mere belief, but not practical experience of the recognition of God's Omnipresence.

First disciple : What you are saying is shockingly true, yet the man of belief is greater than the man of ignorance.

Instead of denying or forgetting God, there is joy and comfort to know that we are filled and surrounded by God at all times, and under all conditions.

Belief precedes Experience. Belief is the foundation on which the spiritual structure of Self-realization should be constructed, brick by brick and thought by thought.

Second disciple : I agree with you. It is not the theory that counts, but it is the PERSONAL EXPERIENCE that counts, in the spiritual life. Man's life--real life, should be counted by the number of moments he is spending in feeling and recognizing God, filled with Personal Experience.

I felt deeply impressed and interested with the above conversation and mused and pondered over the subject for days and nights and the present message is the result of those introspections.

It is only a man of belief who can realize God through Personal Experience. Without belief in God, how can anyone realize God? So, belief in God also is the fundamental and essential stage. It is only the belief in God which leads to Self-realization or Experience of God.

Yet, man should not tarry by the wayside with mere belief in God, satisfying himself with theory. He should not stop until the Goal is realized in practical life.

What is the use of studying books on the qualities and properties of sugar without tasting it ! One can listen to any series of discourses or lectures on sugar but alas ! if he has never tasted it in his life, he is ignorant of sugar.

Similar is the case with spiritual life and God. No amount of book-reading helps to realize God unless it is accompanied with practice of meditation.

No wonder that the people who cannot practise what they read are mere "Book worms." A book-worm knows only the taste of the books he reads but not the essence of the scriptures therein. -

A laddle in the pudding though engaged in mixing the pudding vigorously, does not know the taste of the pudding. A donkey

that carries a heavy load of sandalwood, is only conscious of the heavy weight on its back but not the sweet fragrance of the sandal wood.

Often I take sunbaths lying on the sandy beach of Rishi Konda, sometimes gazing into the Soul of the sun. As I feel the warmth of the sun's balmy rays, I repeat. "This is not mere belief of the sun but personal experience of the sun, for I am looking at the sun, feeling its warm rays with all the senses. The sun is no more a mere theory, but a practical perception—a living reality.

Again, as I take my bath in the sea, immersing my head in the ocean, feeling the life-giving cool sensation of the water, I begin to say: This is not mere belief in the ocean. A man who is living in Northern India and who has never seen the ocean, except on maps, is apt to have only a mere belief in the existence of the ocean. But he who sees it everyday, and touches and feels its cool waters, is no longer a man of belief in the existence of the ocean, but a man of personal experience in the reality of the ocean.

Similarly, one should introspect and analyse deep down within himself concerning the Experience of God, taking into consideration the moments of his absorption in meditation or the inspiration derived when in communion with Prakriti—the Mother Nature.

Man without Personal Experience of God is a burden to Mother Earth. Experience of God's Love or His Presence is the Life, Soul and Goal of human birth, both for the poor and rich, ignorant and learned.

- I. In ignorance there is darkness and delusion,
- II. In belief there is hope and comfort,
- III. In Experience of God there is Light and Illumination.

Ignorance can be described. Belief can be expressed. But Experience can never be described or expressed in finite words even by sharpest intellects. It is a state of Divine Ecstasy that can be understood only by men of realization.

In ignorance a man stoutly denies the existence of God or Truth.

In belief a man admits the existence of God, but cannot stand by Him always, especially when tested by the ordeals of fire of Truth.

In Experience man is blessed with assurance or certainty of God.

As an illustration, a man who never saw a big city and who had always spent his life in a hut or a cottage in a village stoutly denies the existence of many-storied buildings. If we say there are fifty and nearly one hundred-storied buildings in New York, he simply laughs and does not believe us. This represents the first state of deep ignorance.

The man who heard about the fifty and nearly one hundred-storied buildings in New York and who happened to see them in photos or pictures, admits about the possibility of the existence of many-storied buildings. This represents the second state—Belief.

The man who actually lived in New York in one of those tall sky-scrappers actually knows the existence of such tall buildings. For him there is no need to believe in their existence, for he lived in such buildings. This state represents Experience—the practical perception of Truth from direct cognition or Personal Experience.

Similar is the case with man who does not know the Truth, who denies the very existence of God, and also the open-minded man who believes and admits the existence of God, and the sage who has Experienced or realized God.

All the three states are represented in the above simple illustration respectively. These three states can be aptly compared also to Tamas, Rajas and Satva Gunas—qualities or attributes.

TAMAS is deep darkness—complete ignorance.

RAJAS is activity—belief in God.

SATVA is balance or harmony—Experience of God.

It has been said both in the scriptures and by men of realization that man should rise above these three Gunas—attributes, for complete emancipation or liberation.

As Sri Ramakrishna said, an ignorant man is like a beetle in the cow-dung. It never comes out of it. It is happy and contented in the mire or dung itself. This represents Tamo Guna or ignorance.

A man of belief is compared to a fly that hovers sometimes on the fruits or sweets offered to God and again alights on filth, sores, etc.

This state represents Rajo Guna or activity of the one who believes in God.

A man of experience is compared to the honey-bee that never leaves the honey. The honey-bee always clings to the honey. This state represents Satva Guna of Harmony of the one who is Experiencing God.

The man of ignorance is always in darkness like a life prisoner that never saw light.

The man of belief lives in both the worlds of darkness and light. He is both happy and unhappy, falls down sometimes and rises again.

But the man of experience—the Highest Experience of Cosmic Bliss—Nirvikalpa Samadhi is the only one that never slips, never falls, never hurts any tiny creature, and continues shining as the Light of the World and as a Blessing to Mother Earth.

It is not enough to repeat that I am a millionaire or an emperor, all the time starving for a morsel of food or a piece of bread. If you repeat the holy statements or Affirmations, such as SHIVOHAM, AHAM BRAHMASMI, I AM THAT, etc. You should express the potential energy of these great Mahavakyas in your daily life in all your thoughts, words and deeds.

Imaginary food, however rich and costly it may be, does not satisfy one's hunger. It is the actual eating, partaking of it, that satisfies hunger.

Similarly, descriptions of God's attributes and repetition of high sounding words, such as Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient, etc., does not satisfy one's soul's hunger, These repetitions without feeling or Experience are like chewing dry bones.

Man does not need the dry bones but the marrow of life. It is the Personal Experience that counts, for it is the Soul and Goal of man.

Does it do any good for us to count the cows of our neighbours for a little milk. ! We must have even a lame or lean cow of our own for a cup of milk.

The Milk of Experience is ever within man awaiting to be recognized and drunk, but alas ! man searches for it without, instead of within, like the proverbial musk-deer that ran after the fragrance of its own musk, in hills and dales, until it got its heart pierced by a sharp-pointed branch of a tree during the search. When its heart was bleeding it realized that the musk for which it was seeking everywhere outside, was always within, in its own heart. But alas! the realization came too late.

Similarly. man is busy now running after the fleeting shadows of ignorance and delusion in the outer thorny forest of the world of name and form, being a bond slave of passing clouds of name and fame. The result is suffering in ignorance and death in bondage sharing the same face of the ignorant musk-deer.

It is high time for man to give up all outer searches and not to be satisfied merely with formal belief in God, but to search within and to exert, work, live and breathe only for Experiencing God or Peace that passeth all understanding realizing Which man becomes Complete, Perfect and Divine.

Dear friends of Peace in East and West, may I request you now, to join me in drawing yourselves within, into the Soul of your beings, into the stillness of your purified hearts, where the Indweller of your hearts is waiting anxiously for your recognition !

This is the precious moment to recognize Him. So let us recognize God and be silent. Knowing Him let us melt in Silence—the Silence of the Absolute, Infinite and Eternal.

SANTOYAM ATMA

The Atman is all Peace—Infinite Silence, Peace within and without.

LIGHT EVERYWHERE.

Satyam—Shivam—Sundaram ! Om Tat Sat Om !

LIFE IS FIRE BUT NOT SMOKE

Dear Friend ! Did you ever see a small, cheap kerosene lamp ? It is a very crude thing, made of tin in a triangular shape. It is generally used by poor people who cannot afford costly lights. They frugally pour a little quantity of kerosene oil into it, adjust the wick, and then light it for the night.

But how it emits smoke, continuously, filling the whole room with nothing but black soot! If you lift your eyes towards the roof or glance around the walls where it is used, you find everything covered with black soot. It is not at all healthful to live or much less to sleep in a room keeping a kerosene light burning all through the night. By morning one feels a sense of giddiness and a coating of soot lies even on one's clothes, and the nostrils are filled with it too.

If you use a hurricane lantern or some other light that has a good burner with a protecting chimney, you will have very little smoke or no smoke at all. Candle light also does not give as much smoke as a kerosene lamp. As for the electric lights they are smoke proof and they do not spoil walls or clothes. Then there are the natural lights of the stars or the moon, which are not only free from every kind of smoke but fill the soul with their soft, soothing radiance.

Lastly comes the light of the Sun, the symbolic flame of the Eternal One, the living God, which is free from every form of smoke through eternity and pours life, health and splendour, into all the earth.

Starting from the very finite, the tiny kerosene light that emits nothing but smoke, we have gone on till we come to the self-shining splendour or the burning sun, which is the light of the whole earth and reflects the glory of the Sun of the universe.

Dear Loving Reader of PEACE ! Now I want to ask a question of you. No, No, I want you to ask yourself a simple mental question. Just close your eyes for a minute as you read this message and ask your inner self, examining your mind and heart, your daily life of activity, and your words and thoughts, and see whether you are emitting from your life, death-dealing smoke or life giving fire, for your fellow sisters and brothers.

Is your life to be compared to that of the finite tin kerosene lamp, or a harricane lamp shining out into the night, brightening dark corners? May-be your life is shining without the least smoke, like that of a gas light or electric light, but how blessed are those lives, that are shining like that of the stars or moon or sun, soothing, healing lending new life and beauty to all !

Alas ! How rare are the blessed lives that are shining with the splendour of Sun of suns, dispelling darkness from the face of the earth, and radiating ceaselessly, life, light and love towards the whole of creation !

Be true to your Self. Know where you are, critically examining your life, and thus try to rise from one stage to another stage, until you reach the Heights where there is no more smoke, but limitless Light the Fire of Cosmic Glory. within, without and all around.

If one lives only for himself catering to the selfish ego, ignoring all else, denying God or Truth, such a life is nothing but a density of smoke. It is dangerous and harmful to live with or

contact people who are the embodiments of selfishness and darkness of Soul.

Dear friend! It is time for you to write or make a note—not on paper with ink, but in your very heart, with your very life blood *that selfishness is smoke and selflessness is fire*. Wherever there is selfishness, in whatever form it may be there is smoke, and wherever there is selflessness there is the Divine Fire.

Look at the faces of people around us, including the faces that are dear and near to us, do you find any fire — Divine Fire — illuminating fire in them? Watch the people as they speak, in the homes, as they pass in the streets, in the fairs, in the congregations — alas! how few and rare are those, great souls who are free from smoke or selfishness, and are a blessing to humanity leading others by setting examples, through their ideal, peaceful lives!

It is sad to see that there is too much smoke emanating from many a life, filling the world with its greed, avarice, jealousy, fear, sorrow, depression, passion, lust, anger, self-pride, cruelty of man to and man to beast, and a thousand other forms of selfishness, the root cause of all, being ignorance.

In spite of the thick smoke, pouring into the atmosphere, the great consolation is, that man's Birthright is not smoke but FIRE—the sacred Fire—the light of millions of suns. How strong and divine we feel at the very thought that our Heritage is never the vitiating smoke but the Light of lights.

There is no need of grovelling in darkness any more. No more need of staggering with wavering foot steps or walking with stooped shoulders, wearing long and mournful faces, emitting and spreading dangerous and most death-dealing smoke.

Let us radiate the Divine Fire which is our common Heritage. Let us assert and manifest our Divine Birthright—the Cosmic Fire. Let us sing the song of freedom with irrepressible glee, that — **LIFE IS FIRE BUT NOT SMOKE**. Let all clouds of ignorance be dispelled with the splendours of the sun's divine fire.

Avaunt ! Smoke, darkness, selfishness. aloofness, ignorance in every form, ye have no place here any longer in the heart dedicated to Divinity, where Divine Fire is constantly generating and gushing out in ceaseless waves of light. Glory! Glory!! Glory!!!

All Glory be unto this Interpenetrating. Infinite, Eternal and Indivisible Divine Fire, which is filling and permeating the very cells of our beings. It is Light — the one effulgent Light in stillness as well as in activity !

The heart throbs, because of the warmth of the Divine Fire. The pulse beats because of the presence of the Fire. The breath flows because of the existence of the sacred Fire, Verily, It is the stillness of the heart, the beat of the pulse and the flow of the breath. O! may we bathe ourselves in these sacred floods of fire. Let us sway and float in this all-pervading fire of Divinity.

As emblems of Divine Fire, may nothing but the sacred fire, go out from us in rays of light and flashes of glory, in our thoughts, words and deeds, filling the whole universe with great conflagrations of Cosmic Fire, uniting the individuals and binding the nations in the bonds of Common Brotherhood as the one family of God, for we are all the emanations or sparks of the Universal Father who is all light, the Cosmic Fire. the Divine Electric Energy.

May the Divine Fire create Love, Unity and Understanding among the peoples in North, South, East and West and may Peace abide in the hearts of all is my prayer.

Hari Om Tat Sat !

ALL LIFE IS SORROW

Learned philosophers and deep thinking scholars have said many a time that all life is sorrow. Life is a tempestuous sea with ceaseless, stormy billows. When I mention that all life is sorrow, I do not mean to strike a pessimistic note but I am refering odly to the outer life which is nothing but sorrow, although at times it is

like a silvered or sugared quinine pill. A few wise ones, the emancipated souls, the men of realization, said that life is eternal happiness and infinite bliss. But, from our present everyday experiences, we confront life on every side as sorrow instead of happiness. There is sorrow within mentally, without physically, and all around in the form of want and suffering in the world. We are facing sorrow, sometime or other in our lives, in our homes, in our communities, in our nations and in the world at large. There is sorrow or suffering in all lives, beginning from the lowest manifestation of life, the tiny insect or worm, to the highest manifestation of life of man who was created in the image of God. How true are the words, to be born is to suffer. So let us deal first with what we are facing around us, namely SORROW.

Lakshmi had three children. They were named Jagadish, Hanu and Appanna respectively. Lakshmi the mother cat disappeared suddenly, hardly before the kittens opened their eyes. For days we searched for the mother, for the kittens were helpless. But alas ! Lakshmi could not be found. It must have been mangled and eaten by a blood thirsty weasel or a big cruel hawk.

Sister Sushila Devi as usual became the mother of those helpless -tiny orphans and had a terrible time in keeping them alive by feeding them first with a rag soaked in milk and later on with the help of a medicine dropper. Under her tender and loving care the kittens began to live and thrive well day by day. They even started to romp and play with each other, forgetting the death of their mother. And it was touching to see these mother-less kittens clinging to Sister Sushila Devi both day and night and following her wherever she moved or walked in her rooms, considering her as their mother.

Their happiness did not last long, for Jagadish became sick, with a terrible skin disease. It ceased to romp and play. Its cry of suffering was very pathetic. As if this sorrow was not enough Hanu-also became sick with the same disease, that made them both emaciated and finally resulted in sore and red spots all over their bodies. It was heart-rending to see them lick each other with affection, in spite of their terrible suffering and sickness. Finally, they died, and with heavy hearts we buried both of them in one grave.

Sister Sushila was taking care of the remaining kitten Appanna with all tenderness and lo! it too became sick and had a slow death, passing through the same suffering. Thus the whole family of mother and the three kittens suffered and died in sorrow one after another. Why did the good merciful God create them? What happiness did they enjoy in this world, in their tiny lives? These are the deep and vital questions to be solved by those who have hearts to love and feel, within themselves.

Lakshmi's family life, its sudden disappearance and the sickness and death of all its children, is a living and typical example of what sorrow, sickness and suffering is all over the world, whether it is individually in the home or collectively in the wide world. Like an ostrich that buries its head in the sand, and ignores the enemy, we too may deny stoutly with various statements and affirmations, the existence of pain and sorrow, sickness and suffering but the fact is, at least in our present plane of consciousness, we find sorrow in the lives of individuals, in the homes of communities and in the nations of the world. Instead of ignoring sorrow, with blindness and fanatical beliefs, let us admit the fact and try to find out its root cause and the means and ways to overcome sorrow and suffering.

Recently a rich Zamindar died near our Asram, passing through excruciating suffering for several months, leaving his little children in sorrow. We heard of an aeroplane crash, of a big Rajah and other prominent people while going to attend a scientific convention concerning Aeronautics, the other day. Their bodies were mutilated beyond all recognition. There was great sorrow, in the sudden death of the young Queen of Belgium, killed in a motor accident, the King also being badly wounded and little orphans left motherless in their infancy.

Thus any number of instances can be given from daily happenings resulting in sorrow, suffering and death, in the lives of the poor as well as the rich. The sorrows of the rich and famous are published and advertised all over the world, their accidents and sufferings are flashed across the wireless, and cabled from one continent to another. But who is aware or conscious of the many thousands of poor, helpless and suffering people dying in poverty and sick-

ness, in every land like unknown flowers blooming and withering, unnoticed in the vast desert of the world.

How can we be so heartless and blind as to ignore and deny sorrow and suffering in recent earth-quakes such as Behar and Quetta where thousands and thousands were buried alive in agony. And the survivors are still suffering the pangs of privation, cold and hunger. Again there are floods where people are carried away and villages and towns destroyed overnight, and epidemics like influenza, cholera and plague, where thousands suffer and die in agony. Pause, to consider the poor, helpless and heart-rending state of the Ethiopians! How their towns and villages are bombed killing innocent women and children indiscriminately. Can you not see the deep sorrow in their lives? In the face of all these, how can we ever ignore or deny suffering in the world, repeating like parrots high sounding affirmations about the non-existence of pain and sorrow.

Surrounded by suffering and sickness, if there are still some people who dare say that their lives are not touched by sorrow, and they are lying on a bed of roses, they should be reminded of the helpless and sorrowful state of a certain Emperor. Heavy is the head that wears a crown. Even the Emperors and mighty Kings are not exempt from sorrow. Think of the sufferings and sorrows of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, in his prison at St. Helena. Even Saviours were not free from some sorrow or suffering. Look at the innocent Christ on the Cross! No wonder He is alluded to as "The man of Sorrows."

Now we come to the story of our Emperor who was proclaiming that he was the happiest man in the whole world, and sorrow or suffering would never touch him, for he fancied himself to be the greatest of the great. His wise minister requested him not to be in haste and think thus, but wait until the end of his life, before coming to any definite conclusion. In course of time during his reign, the country was invaded by another King, he was taken prisoner and was ordered to be burnt alive on a stake. Once the happiest man, the great Emperor became the most pitiable and helpless prisoner, condemned to be burnt alive. What a sudden

contrast! How evanescent and ever changing is the outer life and its transitory pleasures !

Thus we find that all outer life is sorrow, and there is suffering in every life sometime or other in some form or other. A woman lost her only child and in her great sorrow brought the child to Buddha the Enlightened One, to bless the child with life. He promised to give life, provided she would bring a few mustard seeds from any of the houses where no one was dead, and where there was no kind of sorrow. The sorrowing mother thought that she could easily procure a few mustard seeds, from any such house. but when she asked in various houses, whether they had death or suffering in their lives, they could not say that they were free from sorrow. Thus the whole day she went from one house to another and all were willing to give her the mustard seeds, but she could not get them, according to the injunction of the Lord, from a house which did not see death or sorrow. By such living illustrations all sane people realize that suffering and death are every where, the inevitable results or factors in the ever changing outer life.

Life cannot be all sorrow, neither can it be all happiness. Sorrow and happiness are the obverse and reverse of the same coin, they are inseparable as such. Wherever there is sorrow, there is happiness also. Wherever there is bliss there is sorrow also. Each day is succeeded by a night of darkness and each night by a day of sunshine. It is ignorant to pray for all days and no nights. Thus there are many people who are praying for all happiness and no suffering or sorrow. It is time to realize, that wherever there is happiness, there is sorrow also, for one is succeeded by the other.

We have dealt too long with the negative side of life which is all sorrow. Let us deal now on the positive side of life which is all happiness, or beyond happiness. This Divine Life of Happiness can be expressed and proclaimed only by a silent Christ, a loving Buddha, a wise Krishha, or by the other great manifestations. The finite life of the senses which is based on contact with forms and names results in sorrow, but Life Beyond, which is beyond the senses, or the supersensuous, is all happiness. It can be comprehended by those few blessed souls who are privileged to touch the

hem of His garment, who have reached the blessed state of Realization, who have climbed the blessed heights of Illumination. Unto such, belongs the Kingdom of Happiness, and to no one else.

To glimpse that perennial spring of perpetual happiness, one must be a master of his own senses, mind, intellect and ego. Infinite Peace or Happiness, can never be realized by the slaves of finite life, who are ever busy running after the tiny toys of name and fame for their perishable bodies.

Peace and happiness are our birthright but never sorrow or darkness. The latter are the inevitable results of the outer life. Knowing facts as facts, sorrow as sorrow in the finite life, it is time for those, who want to be entirely free from sorrow, to strive and glimpse that Higher Life, which is free from sorrow. Such alone can exclaim that all Life is Happiness, because they have seen the Beloved in the stillness of their pure hearts.

It is glorious to spiritualize the senses and thus to face the Supersensuous on every side, and in everything. It is wonderful to realize the changeless in the changing, the Eternal in the ephemeral. It is blessed to cognize the Immortal in the mortal and thus sing the sweet song that **ALL LIFE IS HAPPINESS OR BLISS.**

Dear Loving Reader! Is your life filled and surrounded with sorrow or happiness? Are you facing perplexing problems of want and sadness, or sailing smoothly over the waters of happiness in the barque of wisdom? Is it not high time to assert and manifest your Divine Heritage, and thus to repeat that **ALL LIFE IS BLISS**, instead of entangling your self, in the finite life of sorrows and disappointments? Transcend the senses, pierce the veils of delusion, glimpse the Highest, the Infinite and thus let your life be a life of Peace, Blessedness, and Eternal Bliss.

May the profound and ineffable Peace and Bliss of Samadhi, or Super-consciousness, destroy all the sorrows of illusory life.

Om Tat Sat.

**WISHING ALL SUCCESS TO THE DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATIONS**

of the

ABODE OF THE PEACE

from devotees of

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED

Secunderabad Divisional Office Area.

1. Adi Venkateswara Rao & Company, Warangal
2. Kamal Trading Company, Secunderabad
3. Gubba Ramachandriah & Sons, Sadasivpet
4. P. Vithaliah & Brothers, Sadasivpet
5. J. J. Venkatesham, Siddipet
6. Rajesh Service Station, Bilaspur
7. Minocha & Company, Raipur
8. Bharat Automobiles, Raipur
9. M. P. Ramakrishna, Secunderabad
10. Madicherla Venkateswara Rao, Rajahmundry
11. Shri Rama Agencies, Nidadavole
12. Sriramamurthy, Raiahmundry
13. Sarat Industrial Services, Visakhapatnam
14. Sha Gulabchand Foujmal Jivavat & Company, Gudivada
15. Bharat Service Station, Guntur
16. Andhra Auto Agency, Nidadavole
17. Ravindra Oil Company, Vijayawada
18. Badigineni Service Station, Guntur
19. R. Radhakrishnan, Visakhapatnam

With Best Compliments
From :



ALLSILK

10, Cavalry Road

BANGALORE - 560042

A LETTER TO THE ALMIGHTY

TO THE ONE WHO IS MANIFESTING IN THE FORM OF THE MANY; IN THE MINERAL, VEGETABLE, ANIMAL AND HUMAN KINGDOMS; WHO IS ABOVE ALL KINGDOMS OF FINITE LIFE; WHO IS THE ALL IN ALL AND THE DIVINE SOURCE OF POWER, BLESSEDNESS AND ETERNAL PEACE.

BELOVED GOD: GREETINGS !

When I awakened this morning there came a great desire to write a letter to Thee; The Unmanifested, as always before I have written to Thee in the manifested.

This is a direct letter to Thee without the medium of forms and names.

O God, I yearn to embrace Thee in the breeze, in the sunshine and in the air. Now, as with tears in my eyes, I chant Thy Holy Name, the sacred syllable AUM, I long to draw the whole world into myself.

Precious Glory, what can I write to Thee ? I am Thy child. Thou understandest everything even without my expressing myself to Thee in a letter.

Thou art here, there and every where. Nay Thou art myself. O, may I recognize Thy sweet face in the particles or dust, in the blades of grass, in the tiny creatures of the earth, in the birds of the air, in the beasts of the forest and all the brothers and sisters of Thy creation ?

O God, art Thou not manifesting Thyself in the huge mountains, the rushing rivers and torrents, in the undulating waves of the sea ? Yea, Thou alone art shining in the stars, moon and sun.

Adorations be unto The, O Divinity in the form of the manifested and unmanifested ! May all homage be unto Thee in the form of the animate & inanimate !

Glory be unto Thee in the form of the seen and unseen, known and unknown.

May all homage be unto Thee who dost express Thyself in both sound and silence.

My Beloved, forgive this childish letter. How foolish of me to write Thee when Thou art throbbing in my heart, seeing through my eyes, listening in my ears, thinking in my mind, flowing in my breath, permeating my very being !

O Glory !

Glory !

Glory !

As I am writing this letter to Thee I cannot help but recall that sweet letter written to Thee by my innocent little sister Rosalie, asking Thee to be her Valentine:

‘ Dear God, will you be my Valentine ?

I am yours and you are mine:

Be my sweet-heart always, God,

And I will be your Rosalie.”

Blessed God, I too cannot live away or separate from Thee—even for an instant . Pray, Beloved, take me into Thy sweet embrace. Yea, I am already in Thy embrace. Here are a few simple tears of love shed for Thee. Please accept them and keep me ever centered in Thee, filled and saturated by Thy Holy Presence.

Take away eyes that cannot see Thee and ears that fail to listen to Thy glory. I do not need a mind that cannot think of Thee. I do not want life, even for a second, if it fails to live in tune with Thee.

I want Infinite Life for Thou art That. I want Universal Love for Thou art That. I want Supreme Silence for Thou art That.

Dear God, it is wrong to tell Thee I want this and that for as Thy own child I am nothing but Infinite Life, Universal Love, and Supreme Silence, Verily, all that the Father hath is mine.

My Adorable Lord, Thou art pervading and permeating everything from the tiniest atom to the largest planet; hence I send this letter to the Universal Whole.

O sweet smelling flower, thou art wafting thy fragrance far and near. Thou art so beautiful. God must be abiding in beauty and fragrance. Wilt thou help me take my message to my Lord of Love?

O ye fowls of the air, ye are soaring in the freedom of the cool breeze and free life. Can ye not carry my message to my Beloved?

O ye fleeting clouds, ye are drifting towards heaven. Will ye not bear my message to my Adored One?

O ye stars and planets, the moon and sun, ye are shining in the heavens declaring God's Glory. Can ye not help unite me with my sweet Beloved?

O ye sacred tears that start from my tender eyes! Do ye come to convey my message to the Lord of my love?

Blessed be thy glistening forms. Ye are the medium to unite me with my God of Glory.

Yea, a single tear is of more value than a multitude of dry sermons and lectures.

Hence, O my God of sweet Love, I will drench and dissolve this message of mine to Thee in tears of love. When I am calm as the waveless sea, pure as the self-shining Sun and silent as the Unmanifested and Incomprehensible Supreme Silence, than shall my answer come from Thee.

O my Beloved, let me merge deeper into Thy Infinite Heart of Light, Life and Love! Let this ego, this tiny I dissolve in the glory and splendor of Universal Suns!

Now I am the All in All for Thou art the All in All.

May Glory be unto Thee, O God of my life and soul, within and without!

May homage be unto Thee, above and below!

May adoration be unto Thee, every where!

May Peace be unto all !

With oceans of Love,

Eternally Thy own

Omkar.

FREEDOM

It was early, dewy morning and the sun was spreading his warm rays on the lovely grounds of our Abode of Peace, shining into the golden hearts of every flower. I went to the terrace of my Mandir (worship room) to enjoy a deep meditation, while taking a sunbath. The hour was so still and the beauty around so glorious and enchanting that I kept turning around feasting my eyes with the witchery of nature on every side. My eyes wandered towards our new land at the foot of the hill, where a little boy was sitting, under the cool shade of a tree, looking after a few stray cattle. He is our little cowherd Raju by name. He is quite young, aged only ten, intelligent and devoted for his age. Whenever he sees me he lifts his little hands almost automatically, joins them, bends low; and says 'Namaskarams Babu, Father' salutations.

It was a moment of inspiration to me on that day to see the little boy with his care-free life enjoying nature's glory, singing songs on his sacred flute. I felt myself like running from the duties of the Asram, to sit at his feet to taste the divine recklessness of an unfettered life. I looked and looked at him with the thought, "Can I exchange my life with the freedom of the little boy, singing songs, playing on the flute, and looking after the gentle cattle?" How happy and contented he is with his single loin-cloth and a little turban on his wee head! How care-free he is from the responsibilities of the Asram, such as the publication of the magazines and feeding of the workers, receiving and interviewing the visitors every day etc.

Often and often I go to the roof to have a look at him envying the happiness and freedom of our Raju, the cowherd boy. Verily he is the real 'Raju of Rajus'—King of Kings, for he is free from all the worries and hurries of mundane life. It is not the owning of property or the ownership of many villages and towns that makes one a Raju, a king. It is that mastery of mind, contentment, simple and noble living that makes one a king.

How many kings and emperors are there not, who are suffering from the heaviness of crowns on their heads? How rich is the world with the rare blessed souls that are happy and contented and even with a crown of thorns on their heads, do not complain but smile

very quietly. Contentment and happiness are a matter of the mind. Our cowherd is contented with his loin-cloth and turban, looking after the cattle. How many rich people are discontented and unhappy, inspite of their mighty wealth and big estate? We often find a great deal of contentment and happiness in the poor and simple folk who till the soil and live close to nature. Property in every form often binds all souls however great or learned they may be. The contented and simple-living folks have little to worry about and only the rich have worry and misery to their lot by being involved with complexities which possessions bring.

The present theme recalls to my mind the beautiful thoughts expressed by a great soul of renunciation about the glory and blessedness of possessing only a piece of loin-cloth

The Five Worthy Stanzas Are :-

1. Blessed are they who are contented, wearing a loin-cloth, contemplating always on the essence of Upanishads, satisfied with the food they get by begging, being free from sorrow and desire and ever enjoying the Indwelling Presence.

2. Blessed are they who are contented with a loin cloth taking shelter under a tree, without stretching their hands even for food, never desiring not only wealth but even a simple cloth to cover their bodies.

3. Blessed are they who are contented with a loin cloth rising above the body consciousness, ever beholding the Infinite in the finite, recognizing nothing but God within or without, above or below or around.

4. Blessed are they who are contented with a mere loin cloth, enjoying the Inner Bliss, feeling joy as a result of perfect control of senses, thus meditating incessantly day and night on Brahman (Divinity)

5. Blessed are they who are contented with a mere loin cloth, chanting ever the sacred syllable "OM", go abegging for alms for their maintenance.

Freedom is the birth right of kings as well as beggars. It is the Divine Heritage of both the learned and ignorant. It is the goal of

both rich and poor, young and old. Consciously or un-consciously not only human beings, but each and every creature is striving for freedom. A prisoner wants to be free from the walls that are confining him. An animal does not like to be tied. When we tie our Rammy the little dog in the Asram, he barks and becomes so restless until we let him loose. A bird always craves to come out of the cage. Thus we see freedom is the life and soul of every created being in the Universe.

Much blood has been shed in every country in the name of freedom. Individuals as well as nations have struggled and still are struggling for freedom. Both the oppressed and oppressors are craving for freedom. But are they happy and contented inspite of their incessant struggles? Where are the nations that are contented? How few are the individuals who are ever happy?

O! Where is freedom, the freedom which is the source and goal of the manifested world? Is it in the things that we buy or possess we find it? Does it lie in the ownership of the world? Does it lie in shirking from doing one's duty and running away from the world?

Freedom is never in grasping, accumulation or in ownership. It is never in possessiveness. Freedom lies in the recognition of Divinity. It lies in the state of At-one-ment with the Divine Truth. It is the recogniton of Infinite Peace. It is in the union of the finite with the Infinite. He in whom the little 'I' is dead, such a one alone can enjoy it and none else. Blessed are they who are living, working and breathing for freedom.

Dear readers of 'Peace'! Are you living and longing for freedom? What are you doing to achieve the goal of your precious lives? If you are craving for freedom, beholding Him in the visible as well as in the invisible you will certainly reach the heights of your ambitions.

Shall we meditate now to have a glimpse of that sacred freedom? If so come with me to the foot of the hill, where the cowherd boy, the Divine Krishna is playing on his sacred flute, pouring out the sweet and melodious music and enrapturing our souls, till they dissolve in nameless ecstasy.

Let us close our eyes and listen to Him now in the stillness of our hearts:

O! Blessed freedom! Let adorations be unto Thee, Who art the source of our existence, sight of our eyes, sound of our ears, activity of our minds, the stillness of our hearts, the breath of our lives and the soul of our beings—sanctify us now with Thy richest blessings of contentment, happiness and freedom.

May you all shine as emblems of freedom !

Om Tat Sat.

VOICE OF SILENCE

WHAT is that by knowing which everything will be known, by realizing which everything will be realized, by listening to which everything would have been listened to? What is that by which the incomprehensible will be comprehended ?

IT IS THE VOICE OF SILENCE!

Those who have listened to the still small voice are the beacon-lights of humanity. They are the guiding stars, leading creation towards the heights of Peace and Perfection. They disturb no longer the peace of the world either with empty words or life-less thoughts. They are silent forever for the life of duality or sound and alive only for the life of Unity and Silence. How rare and precious are those that are Blessed with a vision of silence! Yet how madly is the whole world rushing towards the voice of sound or manifestation, instead of towards the Voice of Silence!

My loving readers of Peace, are you lovers of sound or Silence? Are you running after the manifested or unmanifested? Are you finding happiness in the finite or in the Infinite? Are you seeking Truth without or within? Sound is without. Silence is within. It is easy to run after the sound and almost impossible to listen to the Voice of Silence,

The average man thinks that he can listen to the sound of victrola or piano, the instruments invented by the genius of man. He can listen to the sound of surging waves in the sea, or the rolling thunder in the skies, as examples from nature. He can listen to the sweet song of birds. He can also listen to the roaring of the respective beasts of the animal kingdom. He can listen to the sounds of loving friends and dear ones. But alas, how can he listen to the Voice of Silence, which is beyond the reach of human hearing? Verily, Silence alone is both the beginning of the word as well as the world!

Monsieur Paul Richards describes this thought in a singularly beautiful manner in his prologue in "THE SCOURGE OF CHRIST":

"In the beginning was the Word"

But before the word was Silence.

Without Silence there could be no word.

The word can only bring forth what the Silence has conceived:

The word is but Son of God; the Silence is God.

"And the word became flesh"

But the Silence remains Spirit.

The word creates worlds; Silence creates Souls.

The word creates what was; The Silence, what will be.

In the word was life; in silence Light.

What wonderful aphorisms are these, containing a world of profound and hidden meaning! Silence is God. Silence is spirit. Silence creates Souls. How infinitely more potential is Silence than anything in the world!

In the sacred books of the East, this great state of Silence has been compared to a sparkling spring of living waters. When people went there making sound, devoid of Silence, the spring would close up. But when souls approached with sanctified hearts, saturated with Silence, the spring used to overflow quenching their thirst with its immortal waters. How the sublimity of Silence is beautifully expressed in this illustration!

The Voice of Silence can be listened to only by the pure in heart. It is heard only by those who do not hurt nor are any

longer hurt by others, and who are emblems of Infinite Love. The senses must merge in mind, and the mind in the intellect, the intellect in the ego, and the ego in the Infinite, before one listens to the Voice of Silence.

Before trying to listen to the Voice of Silence one should clearly understand what Silence is, in its complete sense. Without knowing what Silence is how can one listen to its sweet Voice? It is so hard to fathom the fathomless, to limit the unlimited and to comprehend the incomprehensible. Anyway, to understand even in the smallest measure, let us imagine the infinite void, where there is nothing but space within, without, above, below and all round. Space fills and pervades every form, and it is everywhere. This gives only a tiny perception of the vastness of Omnipresence. Let us meditate on this boundless space to comprehend the Silence.

As another illustration, let us take the boundless waters of the ocean. It is water on every side. Dear readers, were you ever on the middle of the ocean facing nothing but horizon on every side? Sometimes the sea grows stormy; waves rise to the height of mountains, as if they are going to swallow the very steamer on which one is travelling. But in the still moments of the deep and windless calm, you cannot trace even a ripple on the smooth expanse of water spreading out on every side far into the blue.

This is a beautiful thought for meditation to lead one into the Silence. So long as our minds are forming into surging thought-waves, now to mountain height and then falling down crashing, we have nothing but inner turmoil of conflicting emotions, fear, anxiety, passions and general tempestuousness.

One in this state can never hear the still small voice, the inner clamor drowns it out. If you are blessed with a state of calm waters of life—with that perfect wavelessness where there is not even a ripple, where all the latent desires and impressions are completely annihilated and dissolved, when all inner strife and storm is calmed, you will be blessed with the Voice of Silence.

Meditation on the waveless state of the ocean through the waveless state of mind, leads us to Perfection. When once one succeeds in making the unruly mind ruly, the restless mind restful and selfcontrolled, one will have an idea of the Supreme Silence. It is in that Supreme Silence that one listens to the Voice of the Great void or Silence of endless space.

But so long as the internal desires are not surrendered, life will be one conflagration of all worries and conflicts, and we naturally reflect what we have within, in the outer world. The Voice of Silence can only be heard by those blessed souls in whom the eternal, immutable calmness is established.

As the subject is abstract, one wonders how the Voice of Silence can be so all powerful and potential as to lead to freedom and perfection. Nothing is more powerful or potential than the Voice of Silence, for it is infinite and eternal and the One without a second ; for it is the one Vibration of all vibrations or the state beyond all vibrations. Like the perfume of a flower, the coolness of breeze, the warmth or radiance of light, the Voice of Silence fills and awakens the very cells of the votaries of Silence. They need not speak or preach, their presence is enough—full of holy and uplifting heavenly force and atmosphere. Thus, an ideal life of Silence is a great blessing to the whole world.

Voice of Silence need not be confined to moments of deep absorption alone. It can be hearkened to even in the heat of labour and the warmth of duty in the manifold activities of life, provided one is blessed with the divine vision of ever-abiding Oneness. When once we feel It within, it is easy to feel Its Voice without. Words lead to conflict, but Silence leads to understanding. Listening to Its Voice leads to completeness and perfection.

We cannot listen to the Voice of Silence merely by sitting in a posture and by closing our eyes. It is rather an uphill task. We should purify ourselves within and without, spiritualizing all our thoughts, words and deeds. The goal is distant and long. Yet it is so inseparably near to the purified hearts. So long as we are running after a little name and fame, not only are we away from the listening to the Divine Voice but even from Silence itself. The Voice of Silence is registered by those few blessed souls who are

dead to the world of ever-changing phenomena. It is the Divine Heritage of one and all. We have the consolation that we too can mould and shape our lives with spiritual aspirations, so as to be worthy of listening to the sweet, still small voice of the Indwelling Presence in the secret place of the Most High.

There are many people who are more anxious to listen to the Voice than to be perfect in Silence. We need not worry about listening to discordant sounds or voices entering into Silence. As we enter into Silence with perfect mastery, the still small Voice speaks on its own accord without the least effort on our part. Hence, let all our attempts be only to master the mind recognizing the Silence. Then, as a bud blossoms or a fruit falls down of its own accord when ripe, as the sun brings light to the world with its advent, so also the natural law operates in a simple way and the worthy soul is blessed with the Voice of Silence. He comes naturally into his own.

Now I request my loving readers in East and West to join me in a deep meditation to listen to the Voice of Silence. What a great privilege to stretch forth one's arms to embrace the whole of creation! How blessed it is to share what we have with all beings, feeling them to be our very own sisters and brothers irrespective of the differences of nations, colors or creeds!

Pray, come, leaving aside little thoughts of self, discarding bitterness and aloofness of every kind, laying aside all criticisms and condemnations, Come bringing only the best of you and the highest! Thus, contribute your mite to the Peace of the world, centering always in the interpenetrating, all-embracing and Infinite Presence.

It is Peace within and without. It is Supreme Silence on every side. Let us be still now, remembering that SILENCE CREATES SOULS!

May Peace be unto all!

OM. OM. OM.

THE MESSAGE OF THE HILLS

I am in the hills enjoying companionship of my brothers, the huge mountains. In the early hours on a certain day climbed a hill just to write the Message of the hills.

Sitting on a solitary rock of gigantic dimensions I began to look all around into the soul of mountains and awaited in stillness to receive their message.

Some may say: "How can the hills speak? Do they have a message?" Yes, they speak to those who have ears to hear; their message may be more strong and sublime than yours and mine.

Look at these solitary rocks, lovely hills and beautiful mountain ranges. Who can be so heartless as not to be touched or moved by their majesty and grandeur?

Behold! they breathe peace and poise. They uplift and inspire the lovers of nature. They are the source of inspiration to all great souls.

The hills have been the friends of seekers of Truth and of all the sages of east and west and saviors of humanity. John the Baptist lived in the wilderness. Christ sought the mountains for his silent communion and many times retired into the hills to spend nights and days in prayer.

Krishna, the divine cowherd, was allowing his cows to graze on the hills of Gowardhen and Brindavan.

Bhudda was in the wilderness meditating under the cool shade of the Bodhi tree. It was there the Blessed One received his inspiration and illumination. Thus the hills have been the source of inspiration and strength to many a saint and savior in both the east and west from the beginning of creation.

Dear Friends: Will you come with me for a little while? Kindly follow me towards the sacred Himalaya mountains. Behold their beauty and glory. Is there anyone that can be so deaf and blind as not to receive their living message of beauty, strength and firmness?

There is Mt. Everest standing as the highest peak in all the ranges of mountains in the whole world of manifestation.

Mt. Everest is asking you to come forward looking higher, rising above all tests and trials, never looking back on the dead past. It is asking you to awake, arise and not to stop until you reach the highest pinnacle of realization of Truth.

What else can you expect from the hills? Assimilate their message and stand by them.

To understand the message of the hills or rocks you must become a rock. You can never understand their message with your excitement and restlessness. If you want to understand the heart of the hills, purify your heart and go to them in the attitude of a child.

Do not go there only to have a good time and to enjoy picnics with dance and outer music. Leave behind your radio and Victrola. Mountains have their own music and rhythm. Do not disturb them with your jazz.

Compose yourself. Sit still. Try to listen to the still small voice-- Recognize the Presence all around. Attune yourself with nature. Through the stillness of your heart try to commune with the soul of the hills.

You will be surprised to know that the heart of the mountains is throbbing in your heart and their soul singing in your soul.

Once I was lying on the bosom of a rock. I was a rock among the rocks. I became so-formless and nameless. We lost ourselves in the One Presence.

I was no more on the top or surface of the rock but in the heart and soul of that huge rock. In that state of at-one-ment with the rock I asked for its message.

It replied in its mighty voice : "Little Brother, our message is the message of strength, steadiness and firmness. Have you not heard the common saying, 'Be firm as a rock.'"

Assimilate this immovable firmness. Be firmrooted in Truth. Let nothing shake you from your firmness. Be the same whether it rains or shines. The trails of storms and gales can never touch your

heart if you stand on your own feet, keeping the center within yourself. Self-reliance is the watch word. Let your strength be within yourself. Do not seek it outside of you. Manifest your strength standing on your own firmness. Remember that old proverb, 'If the mountain will not come to Mohammed, Mohammed will go to the mountain'.

If you stand on your own strength, rooted in your firmness, without yielding in the least to the life of senses, the Mohammed will come to you. The Truth will come to you. The whole world will be at your feet.

But if the Mohammed yields to weakness or ignorance there is no salvation either in earth or heaven.

Hence be firm, strong, Sturdy & immovable. Listen to the other aspects of message :— Behold on my back how I am carrying heavy loads of immense forests. The animate and inanimate, even bird and animal kingdoms find repose in me. I bear and carry them all with a smile in my heart; and never grumbling or murmuring.

What are these little burdens to me—when I am the immovable rock of ages. So let your foundations be built on the unshakable rock of firmness—but never on the shifting sands of fickleness and change. God is sleeping in us. He is resting in the rocks. Let Him wake up and manifest His full glory of higher consciousness in the human kingdom.

Thou—as God's image, be the Rock of Ages for the whole of humanity. Be the abiding strength and support to lead the seekers of Truth towards the Throne of glory.

Listening to the sacred message of the mighty hills, I rose up in ecstasy filled with power and poise; feeling strength and firmness in each and every cell of my being; glorifying the hills all around with my silent worship.

Unshakable strength is the message
of the rocks,

Immovable firmness is the message
of the hills,

Invincible power is the message
of the blue mountains.

O, ye sad and depressed come into the hills with all your woes and sorrows to be refreshed, and to get your burdens lightened. Pray ! when you come, do come alone—to be alone with God. Unburden your worries and cares in the hills. They understand you. Go to them whenever you need real rest. Try it as an experiment and be alone with God in the hills — only for a day — even for a single hour or two. You will be astonished and benefited also by the wonderful results.

The hills are calling you; draw closer to them. They have enough of strength to give to you. Remember that our Lord Christ sought the solitudes of the mountains to begin the day feeling His oneness or contact with the Almighty.

The hills are the open doors to lead you into the Presence of God. The doors are open now, and it is with you whether you want to refill yourself with peace, power, and poise or continue to lead a life of misery and agony with feverish restlessness.

Dear friends; As a friend of the hills I send forth this loving invitation to all of you on behalf of the hills.

Accept the silent greeting of the hills and thus make your lives more strong and noble ever centering yourselves on the rock of Eternal Truth.

May He, the Abiding Presence of our hearts—the One who is throbbing in the heart of a rock, tree, bird, beast and man as the Universal Heart-beat—bless His children with Peace that passeth all understanding through the assimilation of infinite strength and invincible power from the Hill of Peace is the prayer of your own brother Omkar.

AMEN AUM

EVERY WAVE IS A PRAYER

The Ocean is Praying.

Why Don't You Pray, O Man?

Dear Friend ! did you ever have the opportunity of listening to the prayers of the waves, sitting by the side of the beach? Not only

can you listen to their prayers but you can also look at the constant rising of the prayers in the form of waves.

The ocean is praying day and night unceasingly. When is the moment that the ocean does not have and express its gratitude to the Almighty? It is praying out of the fullness of its heart.

Every wave is a prayer offered to the Almighty.

O! Man, thou who art created in the image of God, why art thou so full of lethargy? How can'st thou be so ungrateful as to forget thy very Creator—Who is thy life and soul?

Look at the waves! Mark how they are praying unceasingly. Let them be your teachers. Learn from them what you fail to assimilate from books and sermons.

The ocean is praying, why don't you pray also?

Wake up dear friend! you have already spent too much time in sleep and ignorance—over evanescent things running after shadows. This is the time to open your eyes to the living Truth. This is the place to wake up with a firm resolution to serve the Lord both in the manifested and unmanifested aspect. Behold! the glory of God in the ocean. Assimilate its message.

Often and often, I sit by the side of the ocean on the sandy beach listening to the constant and never-tiring offering of these millions of rising waves. Often I wonder why the ocean is heaving—praying. What does the ocean want? Is it not complete in itself? Sometimes, I strain myself to understand the prayers of the waves by the following conversation:

O! dear wave, what is it you want? Why are you praying incessantly? Please, tell me the significance of one of your prayers.

The Wave: I pray out of the fullness of my love—unconsciously. I am not even conscious that I am praying.

Myself: Don't you ever pray like the average man for the goods of the world—even for health or prosperity, for name or fame?

The Wave : What have I to do with the passing clouds of a day, that are fleeting, bringing in return pain, discord and false attachment to the unreal ? If at all I pray for anything, pray for my INSEPARABLE ONENESS with my Source—the ocean.

Myself : O! Dear Wave ! thou art already inseparably one with the ocean. What is the need of praying for what you already have?

The Wave : As you say I am inseparably and eternally united with the ocean, yet I pray only to glorify my unity and oneness with the ocean I do not pray for something that I do not have. I pray only for the vision to recognize and to be ever aware of what is my birthright.

O! Friend, listen to the message of the wave. It is connected with its source—the ocean both day and night. It is never separate either in the past, present or future with the ocean, yet it is praying for its unity. There is not the least tiny moment of time when the wave is separate from the ocean—whether it is in waking, dreaming or sleeping state, yet it is praying. Does the ocean also have waking, dreaming and sleeping states? Yes, why not? When the ocean is surging with turbulent waves—it is the waking state. When it is in the ordinary condition—it is the dreaming state and when it is in the low ebb, it is the sleeping state.

What about the Super-conscious state of man? Does not the ocean have this Blessed State also? Yes, it has—but at very rare moments. To understand this incomprehensible state, you have to go deep within, into the very heart of the ocean. *The waveless or motionless state of the ocean is the Highest State of Super-consciousness.* It is represented by the Fourth Dimensional State.

Above all, what is the important lesson that man has to learn now from these natural and spontaneous prayers of the ocean !

1. They pray out of the fullness of their hearts, for sheer joy by expressing their hearts contentment and over-flowing love.
2. They do not pray for the perishable and passing goods of the world.

3. They pray not now and then but ceaselessly, both day and night, in the waking, dreaming and sleeping states.

4. They pray without expecting any reward. They find their reward in the very offering of the prayer itself.

5. Above all they pray for the Highest, to be inseparably and eternally one with the ocean.

Let the ocean be our spiritual guide, leading us step by step—through its waves—into its great bosom, where it is all Wavelessness—the Transcendental Peace.

Whenever I find a spare moment, I run on my holy pilgrimage towards the ocean and sit in ecstasy on the sandy beach, listening to the prayers of the waves. Often and often I long to be one of those rising waves or the ecstatic prayers. Strange as it may sound, I am drawn often towards those waves so strongly that I go in and try to be one of those waves.

It is ecstasy indescribable to float on the waters of the ocean allowing the body to be one of the waves. *How blessed it is to make the body, an eternal offering—an endless prayer to the Almighty !*

O! Lord, let me be an offering unto Thee. Let me be one of those blissful waves, completely dedicating myself unto Thy service, without expecting any reward is my ardent prayer.

The ocean has been always dear and near to my heart from the very beginning of my boyhood days. As days rolled, it has been the inspiration of my life, imparting its most natural and universal messages in its thundering voice. Now it has also become sacred to me with its ceaseless prayers in the form of waves.

As I wend my way towards the ocean, especially in the early hours of the dawn, when the sun is about to come out from the horizon, filling the very skies with the most beautiful and variegated colors, it is almost one of my coveted pilgrimages, to the most Holy and Expansive Natural Shrine of God. Verily, the Heavens declare the Glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork here.

The ocean has answered man many a knotty and intricate question. For instance, it has been one of the most important and insoluble problems for man—especially for the man of God, to know, whether it is ever possible to think of God always, to ever remember Him, not only when offering prayers or reading spiritual books or visiting temples and churches or when listening to spiritual sermons but also in all the waking, dreaming and sleeping states of life? In the practical life, is it possible to feel God's Presence always never forgetting Him even for a single moment?

Sacred scriptures of every clime have said YES. Spiritual Teachers of every religion have said in one voice that IT IS POSSIBLE TO FEEL GOD'S PRESENCE ALWAYS, provided one is willing to pay the proper price for the Highest Pearl of Peace—the God-realization. If it is possible in the daily life of man coming to bare facts why is he forgetting God a thousand times a day, in the name of work or outer worship—sometime or other? Is it possible to live in God, feeling His presence always, consciously?

The ocean answers this intricate problem in a simple and most direct way—that man is never separate from God, as the wave is never separate from itself—hence man can be aware of his inseparable and eternal unity with God, not now and then but always. The simple and direct answer of the ocean is in its ceaseless prayer. Where is the moment when the wave is separate from its source—the ocean, and where is the moment when it does not pray?

The ocean is praying always, why don't you pray O! man? Is there a single moment of time when the ocean does not pray—when the wave does not rise or heave, expressing its gratitude, out of the fullness of its heart! Look at the rising waves how they are praying homage with their foaming crests, breaking in deep adoration at the feet of God.

Of man, open your eyes to the living beauty and glory of the ocean. Assimilate its most wonderful and soul-awakening message — the message of Inseparable Unity — the message of the Eternal Worship of God.

Often and often, these days amidst the busy hours of work or the silent hours of the dark night, suddenly I hear the Inner Voice, sometimes reproachfully whispering within myself:

O! man, the ocean is praying, why don't you pray? Why do you forget thy Creator? Why do you sleep to the beauty of the living waters of the loving prayers? Wake up, from thy deep slumbers. Bid adieu, to thy heavy lethargy. This is the time to recognize thy inseparable and eternal Unity with the Indwelling Presence of thy heart. Behold! thy Lord is patiently and anxiously waiting for thee at the very threshold of thy heart ever repeating:

PRAY CEASELESSLY.

Let God's sacred voice, the voice of thy Soul penetrate into thy Heart and vibrate the very cells of thy being to the ever-present Omnipresence—the Interpenetrating Presence—the only Reality of thy Heart as well as the Universe.

Dear Reader of Peace, my heart longs not only to share these fiery words with you but to write them in your devoted heart, not with ink and pen but with the very fire, with the balmy and penetrating rays of the sun:

THE OCEAN IS PRAYING,

WHY DON'T YOU PRAY?

Come to Prayer. Listen to the call of the ocean. Pray, join the ocean in its unceasing prayers.

What a great privilege it is for man to sit by the ocean and listen to these natural prayers, silent prayers, boisterous prayers, the soul-awakening prayers, constantly ever-ascending high, towards the mighty Throne of the ONE GOD—the God of all creeds and nations.

Dear Friend, wherever you may be, pray join me in a deep meditation! Listen to the sacred chant of the Universal word AUM in every prayer of the wave. It begins with A rises in U and merges in M, finally leading all sound into that Soundless State of that HIGHEST WORSHIP — the worship of Supreme Silence.

Let every thought be a prayer connecting us with the Universal Energy. Verily, every wave is a prayer originating, rising and finally merging in the Universal Bosom of the Ocean. Above all, let us make our very breath an offering—the most natural and silent prayer to the Almighty. *How blessed and soul-awakening it is to feel that every thought is a prayer, that every wave is a prayer and that every breath is a prayer to the Almighty!*

May this breath lead us into Breathlessness or Wavelessness, where the prayer is united with the Indwelling Presence of the very breath of our beings! May Supreme Silence and Inaudible Peace reign in every heart in both East and West! May all Homage be unto the ocean, the giver of all the richest gifts, namely Unity in diversity of the waves. Silence in sound and Peace Profound in the depths of the rolling waves!

THE ESSENCE OF THE MESSAGE

As the wave is never separate from the ocean so is man never separate from his Creator, the Indwelling Presence. As the wave is inseparably, indivisibly and eternally one with the ocean, so is man inseparably, indivisibly and eternally one with God. As the ocean is always praying so man should also be praying or feeling God's Presence always, until he becomes one with the only Reality, the Divinity—man's only real Birthright—his God-head.

May Peace be unto all. Aum! Aum! Aum!

OUR DUMB ANIMAL FRIENDS

At the very outset I feel that I should offer my apology to all our dumb animal friends for never representing or pleading the cause directly in the pages of PEACE until now. Yet, in a way, we have ever been the friends of all dumb creatures, for in our Asram alone we have a dozen cats and kittens and many cows and bulls. Rammy, our spiritual dog is the leader and friend of all of these.

To make my subject, clear and comprehensive, I shall divide into three sections:

1. My experience with dumb creatures.
2. Their present helpless state.
3. What can we do to relieve them from their untold agonies and sufferings.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH DUMB CREATURES

As I go back into the early days of my life even as a child I have been fond of animals. One scene comes before my mind vividly. I used to have a little dog as my friend and it was bitten one night by a scorpion. I was carrying it in my arms, from house to house begging for some medicine to relieve its pain. The dog was weeping and I too was weeping and it was an interesting and pathetic sight for those we approached.

Even as a child whenever dogs were beaten, I used to weep with them, unconsciously, without even knowing that their pain was my pain, for I was too young to know the great laws of the One Indivisible Truth. A small squirrel used to be one of my companions playing with me in the day time, and sleeping in my bed at night. I used to become pale and deeply moved with sorrow whenever I happened to listen to the words of others, about killing for food or hurting for pleasure. I am deeply grateful to the Almighty for blessing me with a tender and compassionate heart towards all these dumb and helpless creatures who are also His own little children in the creation of the world.

Recently I was working all the morning and feeling tired, I was resting and meditating lying on a pial in the Kutiram. As I started to rest and meditate, my eyes wandered towards the ceiling and I saw a spider busily engaged in weaving its web, over a helpless creature. As the little worm was struggling for its life, I wanted to rise and help it to be free from the webs of the spider, but I was feeling tired as I had been on my feet the whole morning.

Suddenly I remembered the story of how once Abraham Lincoln—the liberator of slaves, was riding with a group of officers, and

came across a wounded bird on the way and passed by its side. Returning back and dismounting from his horse he helped the helpless bird to a safe place where it would not be harmed by anyone and then continued his journey. When the other officers asked him why he did so, spending his precious time over a little bird—the great compassionate Lincoln simply replied, “I cannot tell you, why I did it, but I could sleep better to-night, feeling that I have done something good for one of His little children.”

In spite of weariness, remembering the above touching illustration I rose from the pial and with my care disentangled the helpless creature. Lo! It was bound or woven with fine threads from top to toe. It was just like a cocoon and I was unable to make out what it was.

Taking a fine thin stick, I began to remove the folds or webs one by one. Even the eyes were covered with thin fibers, slowly I saw the stretching of its tiny feeble legs and the glistening light in the tender eyes of the insect. When I removed all the fibers, lo, to my amazement two violet wings with variegated colours were spread out, as if by magic, when pressed by a button. It was not a worm as I mistook it to be, but a beautiful butterfly. It rested on my hand, and looked into my eyes as if with a thankful look, and took flight into the blue sky.

The incident made such a deep impression in my heart as I thought over the helpless state of the butterfly wound around by the fine webs of the spider from top to toe, the truth flashed that almost all the people of the world are bound hand and foot by their manifold desires and endless wants, beyond recognition, just like that captive butterfly. To be free, to taste the nectar of immortality, one and all should slowly and steadily, disentangle themselves from all bonds.

THEIR PRESENT HELPLESS STATE

Any number of volumes can be written about man's cruelty and exploitation of dumb animals and other innocent creatures, in the name of vivisection and many other experiments in the name of science, for the progress of man. The living sentient bodies of dogs, rabbits, cats, frogs and many other innocent creatures are cut open

ruthlessly, in many colleges and institutions by professors and students, all in the name of civilization for the benefit of mankind. The Almighty God, who alone is the giver of all life in every form, He only can be the judge, to know how far these best intentioned and well meant scientific practices resulting in the heartless and cruel death of His dumb children are helpful, in building the Kingdom of Heaven or Peace on earth.

Apart from the scientific experiments, in the name of food, thousands of innocent animals, are being slaughtered in all the abatoirs, over the whole world. Thus our stomachs are converted into grave yards and every tooth stands for a grave. Innocent rabbits, fowls, geese and many other birds are raised with tender care in many a family along with their own children. When man gets the craving for blood and flesh, he unscrupulously kills some of these friendly dumb children and feasts himself, like a beast of prey, on the blood and flesh of these meek creatures day after day. The great feasts and famous dinners given by the "big people" means, death to thousands of these helpless and dumb children of God—the Common Father of dumb creatures, as well as of human beings.

Leaving aside scientific experiments and food questions, the blood of every man, who calls himself a human being, must curdle, when he thinks or hears of the bloodshed caused even in the name of RELIGION, namely in the offering of stupid, heartless, diabolical and meaningless sacrifices to the goddesses and gods, on the altar of superstition, or deep rooted ignorance.

In practical every day life, man must earn his daily bread, he must make money and accumulate riches, even if its costs, agony, suffering and death to many a helpless animal. In time of pestilence among cattle, it is pathetic to sometimes even see the heartless farmers, tilling the land, using the cattle, that can barely stand, for their hoofs are festered and filled with worms. Their one thought is about getting the land tilled, but not about the terrible wounds in the hoofs of the cattle and their patient agony.

In Northern India and many other eastern and latin lands people use donkies and ponies to carry heavy loads of stones from place to place. They use a certain kind of sack that hangs on either

side of the animals with heavy loads of stones. When removing the load of stones, if you see below the sack, you would be horror-stricken to see some of the animals stripped of their skin on account of strong friction and the flesh is raw and sore. These thoughtless people are concerned only with the few coppers they are making, but not caring for the misery and suffering of dumb donkeys and ponies. To the evolved soul, this mystery of callousness and cruelty is simply incomprehensible.

It is well known to all, how many people are fond of using furs, feathers and skins. If they could only realise the amount of sufferings it costs many a dumb creature, they would shudder even to touch, much less use these things. Apart from using skins, we see great cruelty inflicted in sports such as Fox-hunting, where the frightened animal is pursued to its wretched end, delighting the savage instinct of the immaculately dressed hunters, to be in at the kill, so as to receive part of the animal's willfully chopped up tail as a token of honour. It is also painful to observe such reports in papers that no less than 500 monkeys are to be imported weekly and killed for some two months, to provide experimental serum. "The Animal Champion," a lovely little paper published in England, cries like a voice in the world-wilderness to the hearts of men to pity, protect and defend our so heartlessly exploited little brethren of creation, the dumb animals.

HOW SNAKE AND LIZARD

SKINS ARE PRODUCED

To-day it is the height of fashion to wear shoes, gloves etc., of snake and lizard skins. Not only is the massacre of the harmless water snakes and lizards a scandal, but these animals often die an agonizing death. He who is humane serves humanity. Friends of culture refuse to buy or wear articles procured by the blood and pain of innocent animals.

Many hundred thousands of large and small snake and lizard skins are brought annually to the skin markets of the Sunda Islands. The "water-snake, which is about ten feet long, is found in great masses in one river in Borneo, and is much used for ladies, shoes. All these snakes are quite harmless. How are they

killed? The animal is simply nailed by the head to a tree, alive, a slit is then cut in the back of the head and the whole skin pulled in one piece from the LIVING ANIMAL. No one then troubles any more about the latter, and it may take days before its agony is over. It is a crime, and to get money or other advantage from a crime, is to make oneself guilty of complicity."

Romaine Rolland writes in *LE BUISSION ARDENT*: The sufferings of animals are even more unbearable to our conscience than those of mankind, for man understands that it (the torture), is a case of punishable misdeeds. But thousands of animals are massacred quite unnecessarily, ceaselessly every day, without the least scruple. He who revolts against it would only make himself ridiculous. And that is just the unpardonable nature of the crime."

It is sad to see that somehow man has become deaf, dumb and blind to the helpless sufferings of his dumb fellow creatures. His nature has become so blunt, gross and senseless, he is not even aware of their sufferings. Certain conveyances like Ekkas, Jatkas, Carts etc., are intended only to carry two or three persons and often we see six or seven fat people riding in each carriage. Sometimes when certain carts have the capacity to carry one hundred lbs we see them struggling to carry thousand lbs. What is more, the driver instead of pitying their helplessness, becomes enraged and hits them with the whip or passes the sharp pointed staves into their sides, which are already sore and raw on account of poking. We see often people starting from home late, to catch a train They will pile their luggage in the small cart and seating themselves over the luggage, they request the driver, to beat the horse or bull, so that it will run and go fast and they will be able to catch the train. In their worry and anxiety to catch the train it is sad to see they are not even the least considerate to the weight or agony of the animal with all their learning and knowledge.

In the name of sport the amateur hunter is trying his sport, on all harmless and gentle creatures and innocent birds. The life of God's dumb children is nothing to him, but the accuracy of his shot is everything, he gloats and finds wicked joy in shooting and killing indiscriminately, often wounding these innocent creatures to suffer for days to come.

It is needless to mention about the mischievous children in the streets and homes how they ill-treat dogs, cats and other mild pets, by tying empty tins to their body or tail and kicking them as they cry with terror and pain. Some are so callous, wicked and devilish as to take joy in piercing the bodies of animals or insects with pins and needles. They play trying to find joy in the suffering and excruciating pain of pets or street dogs and little reptiles.

If one has eyes to see, ears to listen and heart to feel, he beholds on every side, everywhere, in some form or other, cruelty to the dumb and helpless creatures, whether it is in the name of vivisection, food, religion, necessity of earning daily bread, pleasure of wearing furs or skins, sport of shooting, or cruel fun of ignorant thoughtless children.

One cannot help but wonder especially why a merciful and all-compassionate God, permits such inhuman treatment and injustice, cruelty and suffering of His dumb "Little animal children." He being the heart-throb of every creature. Yet, nothing happens by chance or mistake. The whole universe beginning from a tiny insect to the mighty emperor is governed by the same unchangeable eternal and unalterable *Karmic* laws. All are bound by the unavoidable laws of cause and effect—*Karma*. As the scriptures teach and as men of Illumination repeat that all are reaping what they have sown. But what a terrible reaping it would continue to be for all the reckless heartless and cruel people that are exploiting these dumb creatures, taking advantage of their helplessness now !

WHAT CAN WE DO TO RELIEVE THEM FROM THEIR UNTOLD AGONIES AND SUFFERINGS

In these days of seething unrest when the war clouds are hovering all over the world, when every nation is strengthening itself with more armaments and deadly instruments to kill, poison and destroy the other nations, when there is such bitterness between man and man, it surely takes a long time, to recognize unity between man and beast, when man is not yet able to see the Creator the Indwelling Presence, in his own brother, how can he see God in the animal kingdom, in the dumb children of God ?

Whether we recognize God to-day or to-morrow in dumb creatures, whether it is easy or difficult, to do so, the real remedy, the permanent relief to the animal world is based only on the understanding that *God is One without a second*, and that He cannot be excluded from the animal kingdom and above all, that in loving or serving any of the least of these dumb creatures, we are serving God alone. When we can see and recognize the sacred presence of God in the tender eyes of a hare or dove, in the appealing mew of a stray kitten, and in the whine or bark of a lost puppy, then alone, all our indifferences and cruelty, change into thoughtful tenderness and love.

Why should we love our dumb animal friends ? Because, they too are the living manifestations of the One Indivisible God, We should love and serve them, not on account of pity alone, but for our own freedom and salvation, remembering the words of Christ, that *in serving any of the least of these we are serving God alone*.

When man is blessed with the true conception of God, about His Omnipotence and Interpenetrating Presence, he cannot help but love every little creature, on the face of the earth, as he loves his own children or himself. When our hearts are filled with love, we share that love spontaneously with the whole creation.

Coming to the practical side—the special feature or at least one of the important activities and pledges of all spiritual societies and centers of every creed and denomination, should be not only to teach about the necessity of kindness towards dumb animals but also for each member to defend them and relieve their suffering whenever possible. If spiritual organizations that stand for universal Love and Service, do not take up the vital problem of relieving the suffering of dumb animals, what can we expect from other social organizations that stand only to uphold certain limited principles of their particular belief or creed ?

In all the schools and colleges. boys and girls should be taught to be kind to animals in thought, word and deed. When the parents are kind and loving the children also will try to walk in their foot-steps. Not a day should pass without extending our love and service in some form or other towards one of these helpless creatures.

There are many people, who having eyes do not see in the least the suffering of any of these helpless and forlorn creatures, even though they face them on every side. Unto such, animals and their sufferings do not exist at all, for they are so self-centered, callous, indifferent and living but dead.

Again there are others, the emblems of mercy and compassion, who have all eyes and ears, for the sufferings and agonies of dumb creatures. They suffer with them. Nothing escapes their tender eye, and their whole life seems to be a life of long suffering, bearing the cross of innocent animals, on their shoulders.

As I am engaged in writing this message on our dumb animal friends, I feel so unworthy of this task, for there is one who is more fitted and worthy to speak or represent the cause of dumb animals, namely our Sister Sushila Devi who is even now nursing and caring for too sick kittens in her *mandir* as she has done since child-hood for various other creatures. It is very easy to write or give messages, but it is often difficult to serve the Lord, in poor helpless creatures, feeling their agony and sorrow as our own. Blessed are the noble and compassionate hearts, such as of our Sushila Devi.

In conclusion, I long to emphasize the vital point, that so long as meat diet is considered indispensable for the food of man, no kindness to animals is possible. When man thinks that dumb animals and innocent birds are intended by God to be his prey, then, his one ambition and desire will be, as we see it everywhere to exploit, shoot, kill, mutilate and devour them.

What is the difference between a beast of the forest and a beast of the world? The beasts in the forest are living on raw flesh and the beasts in the world are living on cooked flesh, adding spices and highly seasoned condiments. If one is eating to live only, no meat diet is needed. If one is living to eat, every kind of unnatural inhuman diet is needed.

Man's diet is only natural food-stuffs, such as green vegetables, cereals, fruits, nuts *etc.* It is only when man understands what his proper and natural diet is, he can afford to be kind and loving towards animals. Real reformation to relieve the suffering of animals, should be started from the very root, understanding that every

creature is a manifestation of God. The Giver of life alone can take life, but no one else. When you cannot give life, what right have you to take life? Verily, life is sweet to the most insignificant creature or worm as much as to us. So let us respect life every where in every form, under all conditions.

All great souls from the beginning of creation, have been the friends of all dumb creatures. Buddha the compassionate one, Christ the loving one, Krishna the cow-herd and other sages such as St. Francis, Mahavir, Zoraster, Lincoln *etc.*, have all been lovers of animals.

So dear friends! Let us also walk in their foot steps, doing our humble part in our daily lives, radiating a ray of hope and sunshine, to the neglected, forsaken and helpless dumb creatures of God.

Love of animals is what we need and that love alone, expresses and manifests in some form or other, in helping and serving one of the little pets, in our own homes or the stray creatures in streets.

As I am writing this message, strange as it may sound, one loving cat has been lying in my lap, purring to its heart's content, as if expressing its gratitude, for defending and representing them as also their kindred kingdom.

May silent adorations be unto the Blessed one who is manifesting in all Kingdoms, who is silent in the stone, growing in the tree, moving in the animal and talking in man. As images of God, His highest manifestations, may we be kind, tender and loving, towards our dumb animal friends in thought, word and deed, is the prayer of your own brother.

Om Tat Sat Om.

PERCEIVING THE HIGHEST

In the sacred books of the East, there was a beautiful example given, to illustrate, that what we have within we behold without.

Dharmaraj and Duryodhan were two cousins, who were always engaged in conflicting and fighting, having very different temperaments. Their teacher, it seems, once asked both of them to go all over the country, to seek out one good man. Dharmaraj went out and after a long journey returned, with a beaming face, saying that all people were good, and that he could not find even one bad man. Even in the supposed or so-called bad there was some latent good. What he had within, he beheld without. He was an emblem of purity and selflessness so he found in everyone, the same.

Whereas the other one Duryodhan went out and made a critical study of human beings and returned triumphantly saying, that he could not find even one good man, and all people were bad. He being an incarnation of wickedness, trying to hurt the innocent and helpless souls, he could not perceive any good in any one anywhere.

How true are the words that what we have within we behold without! How thoughts are reflected just like an image in the mirror! We cannot see anything outside, if we do not have it within. Beauty reflects beauty. Ugliness reflects only ugliness. Love reflects love. Peace reflects only Peace. In whatever way you make faces into a mirror the same way your face is reflected by the law of relativity.

Similarly if you have God in your heart: within your self the same God is reflected in the mirror of the world. As everyone is an emblem or an image of God, if we could only practice to see God in each and every one, under all conditions what a great blessing our lives would be, both for ourselves and others!

In a small booklet called MY CREED, published from our Mission of Peace, nearly a dozen years ago, the very first sentence is: MY CREED IS TO SEE GOD IN EVERYONE. These words have been a great inspiration to many lovers of Peace including myself.

The second sentence in the same booklet further says:

I see the formless God before I see the forms. As I see God in them, in all forms, they in return cannot help but feel themselves the emblems and embodiments of God.

As the thoughts in MY CREED may be helpful and inspiring in our present theme, I beg to be allowed to add some more sentences:

In my creed there are neither friends nor foes, neither near ones nor foreign ones, neither sinners nor saints, neither disciples nor Gurus (masters), neither beggars nor emperors, neither castes nor colours, neither religions nor nations, neither young nor old, neither men nor women, neither beasts nor birds, neither trees nor plants, neither rocks nor stones, nay, neither dead nor living. It is all God. It is nothing but the different manifestations of God. It is the only Reality or Truth, which is inseparably one with me. Hence I cannot help but perceive the Highest in the Indivisible Truth.

To cheer the fallen and the defamed, to embrace the so-called foes, to love my revilers to worship the mis-called outcastes, and to feel oneness with each and every living creature, nay, with every atom of the universe are the important tenets of my humble creed. To carry life in this finite body only for the good of others, for the welfare of the whole of creation is the chief factor of my creed. To forget myself in serving the sacred children of the Almighty Father, irrespective of the prejudices of religions and nations is the central theme of my creed.

My creed is not only to see God in those who are near me but to see Him even in those who are far away from me. It is a creed blessing one and all with Peace and Love, without expecting the least reward in any form. It is a creed embracing the whole world in the arms of Universal Love, not excluding even the tiniest creature. Verily it is nothing but my own sweet Divinity which is glowing in the eyes of the insignificant creature. As such it is nothing but ignorance to neglect or forsake any of my own brothers and sisters either in the form of angels or men, beasts or birds, plants or flowers.

O ye sad and forlorn, O ye neglected and forsaken, O ye helpless and broken hearted, O ye, high and low, O ye, learned and ignorant, pray do not hesitate to reclaim your due share of this **HAPPY CREED OF PEACE AND LOVE!** Do not waste another second wallowing in the mire of ignorance but emerge now and

drink freely of the Divinity for this moment alone is yours. Do not be afraid to take hold of your Divine Birthright, for this alone is your true heritage and possession. HENCE PERCEIVE THE HIGHEST, NOW AND HERE."

It is very easy to perceive the Highest in all those who are dear and near to our hearts but how very difficult it is to see the Highest in those that are ruthlessly condemning and criticizing us, trying to do us harm in every possible way ! It is only here the spiritual life begins. Any one can be spiritual when he is loved, petted and adored but he alone is the real spiritual soul who expresses and manifests the highest in spite of trying tests, trials and many tribulations, yea, even from the cross of one's calvary.

The glory of CHRIST was that he saw or perceived the Highest even in those who crucified Him. The greatness of BUDDHA was in seeing the Highest even in a dumb animal that was about to be sacrificed on the altar of superstition and ignorance. The nobility of KRISHNA was manifested in the expression of His Universal Form and the recognition of the Highest pervading from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet.

We are to perceive the Highest, in our friends as well as in our foes, not for their good or salvation only but for our freedom and salvation. If once we are blessed with the VISION UNIVERSAL with a taste of the NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY OR UNIVERSAL LOVE, how can we hate or exclude anyone, knowing that the Beloved pervades and permeates all beings and all creatures in the whole universe ? Then only we are centered in that great Truth, that in loving anyone we are loving God and in hating any one we are hating the one Presence or God.

It is a wonderful exercise to practice to perceive the Highest, not only in our dear ones and so called foes but even in bird, beast, or a tiny insect, a tender plant, a twinkling star or a smiling flower. If you are blessed to have a wise enemy, take him into your embrace, mentally, as a fond mother takes her baby into her loving arms and then begin to perceive the Highest starting from his feet, leg, trunk, arms, eyes, ears, mouth or tongue, above all his heart,

mind and soul thus transfiguring him spiritually. Fill his whole body from top to toe with His Presence, with the holy vibrations of AUM. Verily that which is throbbing in his heart, sparkling in his eyes, flowing in his breath, shining in his soul is the same Divinity, the one Indivisible Spirit, which is the soul of the Universe and the goal of humanity.

This simple exercise of perceiving the Highest trying to recognize the Divinity in the very cells of those who love us, and also deny us, helps us, and helps those that cannot love and understand us and even tends to hasten the well-being of the world. In a whole bucket of good milk, it is not well to have also a drop of poison. In the all-consuming fire of the Sun, you cannot expect to find even a speck of darkness. Similarly in the flaming Fire of God-consciousness or Universal Love, you cannot have even a little of bitterness or exclusiveness. Everyone is the manifestation of the One Presence. All are sparks of one Divine Flame. All are the emblems of One Indivisible Love—the images of One Universal Spirit, May all glory be unto those blessed souls who can perceive the Highest under any conditions.

Dear Loving Readers of PEACE, before you begin to perceive the Highest in others, try to set apart a few minutes in the morning and evening for perceiving the Highest within yourselves. Try to be alone and fill your whole being from top to toe—even the very cells with the vibrations of the sacred word AUM. In that state, when you feel that you are a mass of Light, a flame of God, resolve to perceive the same in one and all as you engage yourselves, in the respective duties of your daily lives. Be true to your resolutions.

Look at the mighty oak tree in the tiny acorn or the banyan tree in the little seed. Behold! the Holy Christ or a compassionate Buddha in the undeveloped embryo. It is time to recognize the Infinite in all finite forms and names. With the dawn of the day as darkness or night is dispelled so also with the perception of the Highest all clouds of fear, sorrow, sickness and weakness are dispelled.

If I am asked to give out the one message which is the saving power of the suffering world, I raise my voice to repeat **PERCEIVE THE HIGHEST**, in the individuals as well as in the nations. It is the denial of this Highest Perception which is the root cause of all selfishness and ignorance resulting in caste prejudices, communal feuds and world wars. If only one could practice to see the sweet face of God in everyone, how could he hurt, plunder, or wage war against his own God who is manifesting in different forms!

Dear Images of God, introspection. has been always the beginning of spiritual life. Just close your eyes, draw in your senses and merge within. Try to find out, the One who is perceiving the Highest in you? Who is that seeing in you? Who is it that is listening in you? Who is it that is thinking in you? Who is it that is manifesting and cognizing in you? Who is it that is silent in you, in the wondrous stillness of your own purified heart?

Let us bow ourselves in adoration to that **PERCEIVER**, the Universal Spirit who is the life and soul of the whole Cosmos. Identifying ourselves with the Perceiver the Light of lights, let us now meditate on the glory of His effulgent Light, which is all-embracing.

Let us ever be the **PERCEIVER** perceiving always the Highest in one and all, is the prayer of the one who is perceiving in you the Highest—the only Reality.

Hari Om Tat Sat Om!

QUOTATIONS

It makes me sad to see the lifeless lives of people who live, breathe, and have their beings seemingly centered in one ceaseless flow of quotations. They do not speak as themselves from within. It is the quotations, other people's words that speak and rattle through them. Their very lives seem to be *one never-ending long drawn out quotations.*

How pathetic are the lives of those who have not yet found their centre, in the dear Indweller of their hearts! No doubt, such people do not have a back-bone of their own, for they are ever busy in repeating some body else's words, one after another.

Not having been blessed with the direct personal experience of the Indwelling Presence, they are busily engaged in gnawing as it were, dry bones. As they cannot be silent they find their one happiness, in repeating like chattering parrots one quotation after another, wasting their precious time and that of others, boring them with endless sayings and quotations from every imaginable source, for every occasion solicited or unsolicited.

The other day a party of twenty devotees came to visit Santi Ashram. Among them, there was a Pundit, a learned philosopher, who is considered something of a leader in his circle. As soon as he saw me, he saluted and started his conversation with a long quotation from the Scriptures. After being seated he recited another lengthy verse from the sacred books. When I asked him after his health, he replied with another verbose quotation. He seemed to be a veritable encyclopaedia of naught but quotations of every description.

One feels almost afraid to speak to such a one, for he slowly wears you out and kills you with his endless quotations. Of all deaths, being talked to death, is most appalling, is it not? For every sentence you speak, imagine receiving a bombardment of at least a dozen quotations! The other friends as well as myself were becoming dazed, with this battering-ram of multitudinous quotations and they began to look at him imploringly, to be silent for a while, so that I should be given a chance to express myself.

When I spoke on the beauty of inner life, the joy of personal experience with God and the power of silence, our Pundit again burst out like popping corn, rapidly chanting a series of quotations even on Silence. Realizing that there was no use in any longer continuing the endless outburst of quotations, I closed my eyes and became silent, and all the others seemingly welcoming the deliverance, followed me entering into silence, to attune ourselves with the Silent One, the reposeful God of our hearts. After a little while, our Pundit opened his eyes with another quotation, and stood with folded hands to take leave, giving another apt farewell quotation. Thus he came with a quotation, sat in a chaos of quotations, and departed repeating a last long one when leaving the Abode of Peace.

A quotation unless meditated upon, making it one's own experience, can be compared to a dry sugar-cane stalk, which was used, or sucked by many a hungry man, hence it has become empty and brittle within and without, devoid of nectar or sweetness—the life and soul. You may try if you like, to suck these dry stalks or quotations from every side, but you will not get real or substantial food, true happiness or contentment, except from within your self, in the silent moments of your life, when you forget all else.

I do not mean to say anything against quotations or those who are mixed up with them, confusing others and themselves with too many lifeless sayings of the departed. Quotations can be used both as stumbling blocks, and stepping stones. But often we see them standing as stumbling-blocks, blocking the way to Self-reliance and originality and true inspiration from the Source.

As it has been repeated it is better to have the satisfaction of owning a little tiny calf which is our own than in taking joy in merely counting all the thousands of cows of our neighbours. One little calf of our own realisation is worth more than a million cows—the quotations of others.

People are deluded with the wrong notion that the more one memorises and repeats by heart quotations, the more learned and great he is in the spiritual life. But the true greatness is not in

memorising, but in practicing and assimilating the essence of all quotations, possessing the jewel hid in the Lotus of the silent God-imbued heart.

May the Almighty bless us all with *Personal Experience*, in the perfect *Nirvanic stillness* of our silent hearts, so that we will be free from the feverish restlessness of continually harping on lifeless quotations of others, both of the dead and the living. Let realisation, the wondrous carrying of God-thought within, always be ours.

Om ! Om ! Om !

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 scourage 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 delusion of our Guruship or mastership.

May Peace be to all Gurus and Chelas.

OM, TAT, SAT, OM.

THE EAST AND THE WEST

THE VISION OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

In our Asram there are two mothers. They are very affectionate and loving in their nature, but they are only cats. They loved each other so deeply that they played all day, eating and drinking in one dish and sleeping together on one bed.

The Eastern mother is white in colour and more affectionate and tender-hearted than the Western mother which is brown in colour. Please note that there is not the least exaggeration in any of my statements. You ought to see, when a bowl of milk is offered, how the brown mother keeps its head down into the bowl, never raising it, until it finishes the whole milk, while the white one takes a sip now and then and begins to lick the other one, which is emptying the milk. The white mother is a dreamer in temperament.

Any way, they used to live in such unity and love to the envy of man, who is not half free like them and fettered, by the bonds of color, creed and race and by so many other conventions and differences. As days passed on, the white pussy gave birth to two children. It was the beginning of estrangement among them. With the responsibilities of children all romping and playing was left aside and differences began to spring up.

Strangely the brown cat, gave up going near the white one. Whenever I tried to reconcile them, putting them together they used to hiss and draw their dagger-like nails for fighting. I thought my mediatorship would not cement their friendship and mend matters. Thinking and hoping that time alone would cure all the differences, I allowed them to live as they liked separately. Instead of the one common bowl, they needed two separate bowls, separate drinking cups and beds naturally.

Then the brown pussy also gave birth to three kittens. With the birth of these children, they were more and more separated, with feelings of selfishness, fear and self-protection. Each began to look for its own family's selfish interests, instead of for the common welfare of all.

As the children of both the families grew, by chance if they happened to pass by each other, they used to hiss and fight so hard, disturbing the peace of everybody, that we had to separate them forcibly. Thus the days passed in strife, disharmony, selfishness, as a disgrace to our very Mission of Peace.

Whenever I used to look at them, my one thought had been "O FATHER ! CAN THEY NOT LIVE IN PEACE AS IN THE OLDEN DAYS WITH LOVE AND HARMONY ! CAN I EVER SEE THEM UNITING AGAIN INTO ONE UNIVERSAL FAMILY!" As I often repeat, all buds are the thoughts that bloom sooner or later in their time. God listens to the silent prayers, even for the unity and welfare of the families of cats.

Lo, the day of universal peace came. It can be called a real armistice day. On this day, there was Peace and understanding replacing all turmoil and strife. I have already mentioned, in one of my articles on FRAIL LIFE, about the sad demise of one of the tender kittens. So we have now only four kittens in both the families. The mothers hiss no longer, looking at the children of the other family.

The happiest news that I am trying to share with you is, the advent of the armistice day or rather the Peace day. It was a vision to be envied not only by men but even by celestial beings. At last my fond dream of creating unity among these two families came true, when I saw on a blessed day all the four kittens drinking milk from one mother and the mother licking all the children with equal love and tenderness.

Dear loving reader! You ought to see this sight of all these four kittens, children of different mothers, drinking milk in love and unity from one mother, to sanctify your heart and soul, and to be blessed with that higher Universal Vision. They fight no more hissing at each other. Once again, as in the good olden days, they romp, play all the time eating from one bowl and drinking from one common cup as children of one Universal God. Now, there is Peace and goodwill among them as well as in our Abode of Peace. May God be praised !

Dear friends ! The above illustration has opened my eyes to the possibilities of the vision universal in the world at large. Please do not consider my illustration as a mere story. It is a living incident and a practical example for all the seekers of Peace in East and West, not only to merely read and appreciate, but to try practise to build up the Peace Eternal on the firm basis of love, unity and true understanding.

It is needless for me to write, that the white and brown cats represent the East and the West. I do not know how the people were living in unity and love in the golden age. But now, as they are, there is nothing but suspicion, fear, jealousy and misunderstanding with each other. There may be seeming love and unity on the surface for the sake of formality or convention, but if we see the hearts, each man is for himself—each nation is for itself, trying to make rich and strong, oppressing the weaker ones.

In spite of the Peace Pacts, Conferences and the huge efforts of the League of Nations, there is seething fire, raging ceaselessly in the hearts, enough to smoulder and burn whole cities and towns into dust and ashes, in the twinkling of an eye. In spite of all the splendid speeches and discourses on the brotherhood of man, equality of nations and fatherhood of God, when the selfish interests of themselves and their States are at stake, these very politicians—these Peace representatives are the first ones to encourage war, to fly aeroplanes and to drop bomb shells on the innocent and the unprotected, devastating village after village and town after town.

In spite of these outer conferences each nation is preparing for war with more battle-ships, aeroplanes, cannons, bomb shells and poison gases, yet they dare to speak about PEACE, mocking in the face of the Prince of Peace, who is the invisible and unseen witness, of all this outer show.

They can deceive others, but how can they deceive themselves or the Indweller of their hearts! Thus the present state of chaos is quite heart-rending and pathetic, just like the state of our cats, when they gave birth to the kittens. They were quite selfish, entirely living for themselves and their children, ignoring the rest

of the world. That was only a temporary state. As one evolves, he must grow and keep pace with the workings of the divine laws.

Many have repeated that East and West will never meet and a few wise men said, there is neither East nor West where Truth is felt and realized. I am privileged to be an eye-witness of the great hidden future in the living incident of the two families of cats. *viz.*, different kittens, sucking or drinking milk from the same mother, forgetting the differences of birth and color. It is glorious. It is an object lesson, not only to me but to the votaries of Peace and representatives of big Peace conferences.

Here is the mother cat, no longer selfish, caring for its own children's interests only, but sacrificing its milk to the other kittens. No doubt, by right the milk belongs to its own young ones. Knowing that the Lord is the never-ending supplier and that He will provide with more, it shares what she has with others. The way to get more, is to share what we have with our fellow sisters and brothers.

If ever Peace—Everlasting Peace—Universal Peace, is going to be established on the face of the earth, it is to be established on the firm and steady foundations of Christ's love, Krishna's wisdom, Buddha's compassion, Mohammed's strength and the piety and universality of all the other founders of different religions but never on the silver-voiced oratorical speeches of the renowned politicians who live unfortunately for themselves and their nations.

The world badly needs politicians and reformers that can consider the wide world as their home and its people as their sisters and brothers – the one common family of one God. My heart's homage goes out unto such, for they are the salt of the earth.

As I often repeat, it is the individual Peace that paves the way towards the Universal Peace. Without having Peace in our hearts, it is no use to take part in big conferences or leagues. Have you seen the Vision Universal? Have you felt His Presence, the Love of Christ, in the stillness of your heart? If so, you are a blessing to the world, you are a good shepherd, worthy to lead your flock—your nation—to a safe landing, the goal of all humanity, where all are sisters and brothers, drinking from one cup

the love of God, eating from one plate, the heavenly manna — the spiritual food,

Then the Lord, the Prince of Peace comes in all His glory and extends his arms and lays his palms on the hoary heads of all the politicians and Peace workers and takes joy to repeat the benediction: *"Thou hast been faithful over a few things and I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."*

But somehow, the present day politicians are afraid of Christ's Love, Christ's Life and his way of simple living, utter selflessness, self-resignation, willing suffering and child-like humility. His memorable Sermon on the Mount gives them creeps and sends shivering sensation through the body. We are not yet ready to practise his teachings or follow in his foot-steps, yet we are proud to label ourselves as Christians—the followers of Christ—the Lord of Love and Compassion.

Is it any wonder, under such present conditions that all our pacts and conferences are only on the surface and internally every nation is preparing deadly implements of war? We are trying to cover a burning volcano, with tender rose petals. We are striving hard to cover a putrified sore, with a golden leaf. But the volcanic eruption, the seething fire will burst and come out consuming the sweet tender petals. The puss will ooze out from the putrified wound in spite of the gold leaf covering.

So, my friends, it is time to understand our ludicrous condition and helpless state and make a retreat from the outer to the inner, from the Mammon to the Indwelling Presence—the living Christ principle; from selfishness of possessions to the self-lessness of renunciation, above all from the glamour of form and name, to the stillness of the Peace within. Some day, you and I, all of us, have to make a retreat from the outer to the inner, and go back to the center from where we started. The sooner we realize this, the better it is for us and others.

Often and often as I see the mother cat, sharing her milk in nursing all the four kittens, licking and washing all of them with equal love, the vision comes to me of that blessed day when the

children of all nations and religions, sit at the feet of the Universal Lord, partaking of His Infinite Love, sharing what they have with their fellow sisters and brothers drinking from the same cup, eating from the same plate in unity, harmony and perfect understanding of Truth, which is One without a second.

Sitting all alone in these lovely hills of Totapalli, I dream and dream, feasting my eyes on the Vision Universal, hoping, expecting and praying for the dawn of the new era, where the differences of castes, creeds, colors and nations are forgotten and where there are neither rich nor poor, learned nor ignorant, sinful nor virtuous, where all are the living manifestations of God—His manifested images, loving each other and thus glorifying Him.

“LO! THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.”
“HAVING EYES SEE YE NOT!” Behold! The Vision Universal. May Lord bless us all to enjoy His Kingdom of Peace, right here and now, is my prayer.

Om ! Om !! Om !!!

SANATANA DHARMA*

How blessed are the moments when we assemble in His name.
How blessed are the spots or places where we meet to do His work.
How blessed are the lives that are dedicated to the Cause of Sanatana Dharma?

Let us see first, what the word Sanatana Dharma signifies—its meaning. Many have given many a definition to these words. To me the meaning of Sanatana Dharma is *‘the most Ancient Truth.* What is the ancient thing in this world of neverending changes? From an atom to a planet, everything is changing. Our bodies are changing. Minds are changing. Who is the changeless One in the changing forms? What is *That Thing* by knowing Which everything will be known?

*An Address Delivered at a Sanatanist Meeting

Coming to *the Ancient Truth*, let us analyze what is ancient, as far as our intellect can comprehend or prove. The hoary-headed mountains look ancient. The limitless oceans appear to be ancient. The sparkling stars appear as ancient as the world. The self-shining sun must be ancient from the very beginning of the world. Yet, there is something which is more ancient than these hills, oceans, stars, sun, etc. It is the Indwelling Presence, the Presence, which is the Life and Soul, of myself, yourselves and of all the animate and inanimate things in the world.

It is by knowing *Him* alone everything will be known. Hence we have come to know, that the only ancient Purusha is the Akshara Brahman, the one Reality, Truth or Divinity of our heart, as well as of the Universe. He is the only *true* and *permanent* Sanatanist.

And what is Dharma? *To know Him* is our only Dharma. It is the Dharma of all of you. It is the common Dharma of all His children. It is the ordained Dharma of everyone who calls himself a child of God. One cannot be a human being at all if he is not conscious of *this* Ancient One. The salvation of individuals as well as the nations lies only in knowing the Ancient One—the great Sanatanist—the God of Gods, the Creator of the universe and the Redeemer of our souls.

What else can be our Sanatana Dharma—the Ancient Duty—than knowing the Ancient One? There is only one duty, one responsibility, one Dharma, in this world. It is the common Dharma for one and all, for any one, poor or rich, ignorant or learned, young or old. That responsibility or Dharma is to *be true* to the Ancient One, to recognize Him in all our tests and trials, to abide by Him in every moment of our lives. We are deluded with so many temporary responsibilities to fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends—nay, to our country and humanity, forgetting the one great responsibility that we owe to the Ancient One, the Indweller of our hearts.

When we deny Him, when we forget Him, when we are not aware of His Presence, when we are false to the Indwelling Presence, how can we be true to our relatives—our dear and near

ones? Only he who is true to God, the Ancient One, can be true to anyone in the world—for with Him we are everything and without Him we are nothing.

What is body without life? What is sun without light? What is existence without His life or love? So, it is time to realize our helpless and lifeless present states and to strive sincerely to know the Ancient One—before we do anything else.

If there is anything most ignoble or shameful or disgraceful, it is only to *make sound*, too much sound, in His name, denying and forgetting Him, in the name of our *outer* ceremonies, rituals and other forms of noisy worship. How pathetic it is to forget God in the *name* of God? We have all assembled here in His name. Yet we are all too busy and restless in His name.

But how many of us are consciously feeling His Presence? If we fail to feel His Presence, what for is all this show intended? Feeling His Presence does not mean to praise and flatter Him with our lifeless words that come often from the lips rather than from the heart.

Are you merely the worshippers or declarers of God—ever describing Him, or are you the *lovers* of God ever *bathing* in and imbibing His love! He is not in need of our words, in the least, in the form of our praises. He is more in need of our hearts which unfortunately are dedicated already to something else. We are prepared to give God anything except our hearts, hence it is no wonder our minds are too restless, ceaselessly wandering towards things temporary.

What we need for our freedom and for the freedom of the *world* is only the Divine craving, intense fervor, to realize Him now as ever. Where are the people that are mad after God—running after Him? We are all busy running after something or other, except God. Yet we call ourselves Sanatanists, *instead* of feeling ashamed of our helpless and ludicrous conditions that can be compared to the restless life of a fish on the dry land.

It is time to make a retreat from the outer to the inner, from the forms to the Formless—from restlessness to Peace. First we

must be filled with that divine craving to know and realize the Ancient One now and here. Do we have that deep craving for God? Then let our vague conception of His *omnipresence*, *Omnipotence* and *Omniscience* be made real and true in our life and practice.

It is time for us to know, that the God for whom we have been shouting is waiting for us in stillness within ourselves. In vain is the search after God, in forms and names, in temples and shrines, in books and teachers.

Behold ! He is within, in the Sacred Sanctuary of your hearts. The windows of your sparkling eyes tell of His presence there. As in the illustration of the Musk Deer, you are restlessly engaged in searching for the musk of Truth every where, except within. Look within. Merge within. Behold the Glory !

When once we realize Him in stillness, we can feel Him in our activities, in our daily work. When we can feel Him within, we can feel Him without. When we can see Him in ourselves we can see Him in others and everywhere. Hence, before we allow another day to pass in vain, let us sincerely strive to feel and realize *Him* in the stillness of our hearts through deep meditation.

Let this be the real duty of every follower of Sanatana Dharma. Thus alone will our lives remain not as a burden to Mother Earth, but as a blessing to the world.

In memory of this great day let us close our eyes and meditate now on the Ancient Purusha, the Indweller of our hearts, that we may be blessed and sanctified with His Divine Touch or Love, so that He can shine and express Himself through us in every moment of our lives.

I am grateful to God for the blessed opportunity He has given me, in sharing my *love* with all of you. I should be deeply grateful to you for ever, if you could all promise to God, the Indweller of your hearts, to ever abide in Him, expressing the Ancient One in all your thoughts, words and deeds.

What else is there to be said? Where He exists nothing else exists. He is here now. We are blessed to share His love and recognize Him, here. As we meditate now, chanting the sacred syllable Om, let us merge and dissolve in Him.

Om !

Om !!

Om !!!

May all glory be to Sanatara Dharma and may we ever worship the Ancient One—the only Sanatanist of all Sanatanists—in Spirit and in Truth and in the Sanctuary of the beauty of *Silence* is my one earnest prayer.

May Peace be unto all ! Aum !

THE MESSAGE OF FLOWERS*

My deep love and great veneration towards the flowers started with a little incident in the early years of my life.

It was a spring day and I was spending the time in the woods. I saw a beautiful flower and I was drawn towards it. My hand almost reached the flower but it began to shake and quiver in plucking from the tree.

Hence with hesitation I began to ponder looking into the soul of the flower.

The inner voice began to say: My child, you have no right to pluck the flower—as no one has any right to pluck your ears or nose. Let it alone. Be satisfied with its fragrance.

Listening to these words my hand dropped down but the lower self began to argue saying : Anyhow the flower will decay and perish though not today. Tomorrow it will fall down, even if I do not pluck it. When it is bound to decay and perish why should not I enjoy it ?

*Swami Omkar in America.

Then the higher self began to say : Now listen, you too are bound to die sooner or latter. Is that the reason why you should not be killed now? Since you are going to die physically sooner or latter has anyone any right to kill you now ? Pray ! do not meddle with the divine law. Let it take its own course.

My eyes were still fixed on the little flower, but unconsciously I began to bend my knees. Kneeling at the feet of the little, innocent flower I was uttering the following words :

O ! sacred flower, the God that has made you has made me. He is the creator of both of us. I have no right to separate or pluck you from the tree. Pray ! forgive me and bloom on, little one, as long as He intends you to live, sharing your fragrance with all those who happen to pass by you. God bless you.

The little incident has created a great impression in my sub-conscious mind, hence I have given up plucking the flowers. Yet I love the flowers. Nay, I adore and worship them—only from a distance.

By my giving the above experience here, I do not mean to advocate any sentimentalism asking people not to pluck or use flowers. I am not an example to each and every one. These are my only feelings and thoughts.

Yet, with all respect and love towards flowers, I entreat the people, the lovers of nature, to respect them but not to pluck them wilfully and thus destroy the beauty of their tender life.

In the East in every temple both in the morning and evening God is worshiped with baskets of flowers, and in certain places with cartloads of flowers.

Do you think that God is in need of this kind of outer worship? Let us pause here for a moment and consider where God is abiding. Is He not in the very soul of the little flowers ? Then why mutilate the loving presence of God and throw them on the outer images ? As children we do many little things, but as we grow we must use our intelligence and wisdom and rise above all childish things. " When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child,

I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put many childish things." Some one has said that only God can make flowers but fools like himself can write poems. Admitting that we are fools why destroy God's innocent flowers?

Yes! God is in need of flowers, but not the lovely outer flowers. He needs the flowers that we have within us. We must worship Him with the sacred flower of our love. We must love Him with the flower of happiness. We must adore Him with the precious flower of Peace. We must venerate Him with the blessed flower of purity. We must bow to His feet offering the sweet flower of innocence. Above all we must dissolve in Him with the sublime flower of Silence.

Instead of offering these inner flowers for his worship there are many who are trying to throw dust into the eyes of God with the outer worship remaining as slaves to intolerance, hatred, gloominess, bitterness, impurity, egoism, and talkativeness, etc.

We need self-purification before we pluck another flower. Only the pure in heart are worthy to worship Him. *Why pollute the Presence of God in the innocent flowers touching them with impure hearts and soiled hands?*

It has been said that the real flower is not outside, but it is inside of every one. That flower is the lotus of one's heart. For peace or emancipation this lotus flower is to be offered to God, but not the decaying and withering flowers.

Those who are not ready to pay this price, those who are unwilling to offer unto God their own hearts, they are busily engaged in worshipping Him with outer symbols and rituals.

Leaving aside the spiritual aspect of the flowers let us approach them now to understand their loving message.

O! Sweet flowers of innocence—Pray! give us your message. What is your message to the world—to the images of God?

The flowers: Our message is the fragrance itself. We do not give our message in empty words with lifeless thoughts. You

are filled and surrounded now with our message namely, our fragrance.

As you pass near by us you cannot help but feel our fragrance. Even as we bloom on the wayside, scattered in unknown places, often we hear the remark from many a person : "Look at those sweet flowers."

We center ourselves within. We live the life, the life of inseparable oneness with the fragrance. Hence, uninvited people cannot help but look and admire us.

In a similar way, you as a child of God, how long will you sleep satisfying yourself in the mire of ignorance? How long will you satisfy God destroying us (flowers) in the name of His service ?

God does not need us to be offered to Him. He is already within us. He needs the flower of your own heart. It is high time to wake up with the resolution to offer your own heart to the Almighty.

Purify your lotus (heart) and offer it unto the Lord. God will not be satisfied with the outer or counterfeit flowers, but only with the undivided and concentrated worship of your own heart's flower.

Pray! Open your eyes even now. Begin the inner life. Start from this very moment. Let the petals of your heart expand. Let them bloom. Let the lotus be filled and saturated with divine love.

This is the only simple and direct way to satisfy and worship the Almighty, the Indweller of your own heart. Worship Him, not now and then and on special days and set hours. *Worship Him each and every moment of your life knowing that every heartbeat is a sacred flower offered to God.*

This alone is the only real worship that unites you with God in the bond of true love.

As you worship Him unceasingly your lotus flower begins to spread its fragrance far and near. You need not preach or teach.

You need not take the role of teachership. Your silent life will be a blessing. Your existence will be a source of power unto the world.

Just live the life and the whole world will be drowned in your loving fragrance. Love flows from you in torrents and rivers.

Now take a firm hold of this great flower of love, for God is no other than love. Let the whole world feel the fragrance of your sacred love in your very silence—by your very presence.

Realize now, my friend, that we the outer flowers are no other than the reflections of your own inner flowers, the universal love.

Bloom on. Open the petals of your heart. Spread and radiate the fragrance of your love far and near is our message to the human kingdom.

Listening to the soul stirring but simple words of the loving flowers I fell into a state of absorption wherein I felt my oneness with all the sweet flowers.

I became a flower among the fragrant flowers. Ah! the glory recognizing His presence in every heart of the little flowers, and inhaling the beauty of His fragrance from every side is inexpressible. Just to be a sweet flower among flowers is the only worth-living life.

I remembered a beautiful verse in a poem written by a lovely soul wherein heart is compared to a garden and thoughts that we think to flowers.

Here is the verse—

“The heart is a garden
Where thought flowers grow,
The thoughts that we think
Are seeds that we saw.”

Blessed are they who can make their hearts a garden of fragrant flowers. Wouldn't you like to live in such a lovely garden? Oh! it must be a privilege to abide in the hearts of the pure. Hence, the

kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are pure in heart, for there the Almighty is abiding.

This morning as I happened to pass the flowers, inhaling the fragrance, noticing their beauty and innocence, every flower began to wave its head at me. I was pleased and amused to receive their greetings, love and recognition. I wondered if they knew I was writing their message to the world. Smilingly they seemed to say. "Yes! we know that you are writing our message."

What a great happy life it is to exchange our hearts with every flower, and to speak with them enjoying their fragrance and love. If we have only eyes to see and hearts to feel we have friends everywhere — all over the world, for the Presence is manifesting in so many ways and forms.

Dear sweet reader, what I am not able to express in these finite words about the message of innocent flowers I leave to you. Please go to them. Speak with them. Open your heart to their full bloom of love and embrace them. It pays us immensely to spend a few minutes every day in the company of the sweet smelling flowers. What we need is not theory but practice, not words but love.

Now let us offer our gratitude to the Indweller of our hearts in memory of the sweet communion with the precious flowers of all claims.

O ! Adorable Presence, Thou Who art the fragrance of the flower, the song of the bird, the firmness of the rock, the life of a plant, the radiance of a star, and the soul of a man, bless us with a spark of Thy infinite love which is our divine heritage, which is every throbbing in the stillness of our hearts.

As sun flowers are opening their petals facing the sun, the light of the world, so also may the petals of our heart open and bloom for Thee, Thou Who art our life and soul. May the fragrance of life, light and love flow from our blooming hearts ceaselessly towards the whole of humanity is all that we ask of Thee.

May peace be unto all.

VICTORY OVER FEAR

How blessed are they who have complete mastery over fear ! But how very rare and few are such precious souls ! Every one thinks that he has control over fear; but if he analyses his life critically, he will be astonished to find that fear is dogging him at every step, both day and night—even in dreams.

It was BASIL KING who said the following striking words :

“We are not sick all the time; we are not sinning all the time; but all the time all of us, or practically all of us, are afraid of someone or something.

HE FURTHER CONTINUES : “Everyone is living or working in fear. The mother is afraid of her children. The father is afraid of his business. The clerk is afraid of his job. The worker is afraid of his boss or his competitor. There is hardly a man who is not afraid that some other man will do him a bad turn. There is hardly a woman who is not afraid that the thing for which she craves may be denied to her, or that what she loves may be snatched away. There is not a home or a factory or a school or a church in which some hang-dog apprehension is not eating at the hearts of the men, women and children who go in and out.”

One of the great INDIAN POETS voices the same sentiments in the following stanza :

“In enjoyment there is the fear of disease; in social position, the fear of falling off; in wealth, the fear of hostile kings; in honour, the fear of humiliation ; in power, the fear of foemen; in beauty, the fear of old age; in scriptural erudition, the fear of opponents; in virtue, the fear of traducers; in body, the fear of death. All the things of the world pertaining to man are attended with fear; renunciation alone stands for fearlessness.”

We must be happy at least that there is something that makes us fearless in a world of fears. But how difficult it is to renounce all that is unreal and changing ! There are people like Buddha who renounced even mighty kingdoms; and there are people who cannot renounce even a loin cloth.

In some way or other we can renounce all outer things, but the real difficulty comes in renouncing the evil propensities and latent desires, infesting one's heart. It is easy to renounce thrones, but difficult to renounce the ego—the little self or "I". As long as there is the little self or ego, one cannot help but be afraid of some or other.

When once we realize the devastating and fatal effects of fear on body, mind and soul, we will not fail to be more careful and attentive in overcoming fear. I request my loving reader to permit me to quote here the masterly thoughts from three of the eminent men of the West, on the harmful and dangerous effects of fear in all its varieties of manifestation.

O. S. MARDEN says: "Thought's most deadly instrument for marring human lives is fear. Fear demoralizes character, destroys ambition, induces or causes disease, paralyzes happiness in self and others; and prevents achievements. It has not one redeeming Quality. It is all evil. Psychologists now well know that it impoverishes the blood by demoralizing assimilation and cutting of nutrition. It lowers mental and physical vitality, deadens every element of success. It is fatal to the happiness of youth, and is the most terrible accompaniment of old age. Buoyancy flees before its terrifying glance, and cheerfulness cannot dwell in the same house with it."

Dr. WILLIAM H. HOLCOMB says: "The most extensive of all the morbid mental conditions which reflect themselves so disastrously in the human system is the state of fear. It has many degrees or gradation, from the state of extreme alarm, fright, terror, down to the slightest shade of apprehension of intending evil. But all along the line it is the same thing—a paralyzing impression upon the centers of life which can produce, through the agency of the nervous system, a vast variety of morbid symptoms in every tissue of the body."

HORACE FLETCHER says: "Fear is like carbonic acid gas pumped into one's atmosphere. It causes mental, moral and spiritual asphyxiation and sometimes death to energy, death to tissue and death to all growth."

This week, while I am engaged meditatively in collecting thoughts and facts on this subject of fear, I felt happy to receive the inspiring little magazine, "HUMANITY", wherein the learned editor wrote a masterly and powerful article under the heading, "KILL THIS HYDRA-HEADED MONSTER FEAR." As it is a long message for insertion here, we are printing it in the latter pages of this magazine for the perusal and assimilation of our readers.

Since the subject, "Fear" is of universal interest, it requires facts from various authorities. Hence, I have given several extracts from great men of both East and West. We hear of men whose hair have become gray overnight because of fear and worry. Sudden death also has been the result in several cases. Fear causes more sickness and death than all the other diseases put together.

I read an interesting account of how fear has taken the lives of several thousands rather the sickness itself. It seems once there was an epidemic in a town and thousands were dying of it. All the elders approached their goddess's oracle and begged her not to kill any more of them. But she said that she would kill only a hundred more. In a few days they were dismayed to see several thousands killed. When the elders again approached the diety, she replied, "As to my promise only a hundred more were killed but all the remaining thousands died of fear."

As I have already given so many opinions and extracts of various souls, I want to share my personal experiences also with my loving readers. Once I was returning from Badrinarayana—one of the Holy temples on the heights of Himalayas. I had to walk down a distance of 150 miles. My feet were sore and I was unable to walk even a mile during a whole day. As if this were not enough, I was suffering from dysentery—because of having eaten raw flour and other uncooked grains. As it grew dark I reached a dilapidated hut and was lying down on the floor. Every few minutes I was disturbed by my illness. Except the sparkling stars above me peeping through the opening of the old thatched hut, I did not have any other companion. Now and then a wild beast was roaring and howling in the wilderness. Even then fear did

not creep into my heart, because of the flame of God burning there,
How can darkness approach where Light is shining !

In the life of our Asram, I often had to drive away many poisonous snakes. Once a snake would not leave a clump of flowering shrubs and there were several boys near. Thinking that some one might step on it I took hold of its head with my thumb and other fingers and carried it far, outside the gates of the Asram, left it there safe, near a place full of ant-mounds which snakes inhabit.

At another time, when I went near the basket of cocoanuts in my Kuteer, I saw a snake coiled among them. Silently I carried the basket to the outskirts of the Asram and there cautiously removed the cocoanuts and said, "Dear Snaky, please vacate my basket" tilting the basket on the ground, it soon wriggled away.

By reading these incidents you should not think that I have mastered fear in every aspect. I may not care for my life and I may be willing to give it as an offering for the cause of Truth, yet, here are other fields, where fear attacks in a subtle way. A soldier may be fearless in the battle field, but may be afraid of the sight of a little scorpion. A mother may be brave in snatching her baby from the mouth of a tiger, but she may be afraid of a little sickness or scandal.

We must be fearless when crushed. We must be brave when criticized and condemned. We must be unafraid and valiant when crucified and nailed to the cross of unjust suffering. Real strength lies only in fearlessness. Unless a man completely conquers every sign of fear, he cannot be called spiritual. True spirituality is strength and not weakness or fear. We attract to ourselves the very things that we fear. So, let us be careful of Fear-thoughts. For the results will be forced on us—according to the Law.

Fear lifts its head where there is ignorance, and delusion. Ignorance of Self or God is the only root cause of all fears. So long as you identify your self with the perishable body, and ever changing mind, you cannot help but be a slave of fear.

Body-consciousness leads to Fear.

God-consciousness leads to Freedom.

Hence it is time for all of us to assert and manifest the latent Divinity which is waiting to be awakened this very moment. If there is anything to be afraid of in this world, it is only "FEAR." Of this we are indeed to be afraid. If we cannot live without having some fear or other let us fear only "Fear" — which is the most harmful and dangerous thing in the lives of human beings.

Let us make up our minds to keep the Divine Flame of God shining ceaselessly all through our lives both day and night. As living Divinities, we have nothing to be afraid of, for there is nothing else besides Truth. When Truth is interpenetrating, how can anything like fear raise its monster head?

So, the only safe and permanent cure for all kinds of fear—for complete victory over every form of fear, is the conscious recognition of the Indwelling Presence—our living Divinity, now and for ever. Where He exists, nothing else can exist.

May the unceasing flame of God-consciousness ever shine and express in all the thoughts and activities of our lives, expelling and dispelling all fears from within and without and may we be firmly established on the Throne of fearlessness or freedom, is the prayer of your own brother.

May Peace be unto all.

OM ! OM ! OM !

PEACE

Peace that passeth all understanding is the true birthright of every individual on the face of earth and it is the soul and goal of humanity. Yet, how few and rare are those blessed souls that are consciously enjoying or expressing that infinite Peace in their lives ! Verily, those are and precious souls alone are the salt of the earth the beacon lights of humanity, in whose foot-steps, the weary world is trying to walk, though with faltering steps.

In the stillness of the sacred hour, as I meditate now on Peace, to express my thoughts on it, my mind melts into silence. From those lucid regions of silence my heart catches only a tiny spark of Peace, which I long to share with all the votaries of Peace. This tiny spark of Peace in my heart craves to touch all the hearts and thus kindle the flame of that Infinite, Eternal and Universal Peace for the common welfare of the world.

I am never tired of repeating the sublime statement, again and again, that **IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL PEACE THAT PAVES THE WAY TOWARDS THE UNIVERSAL PEACE**. If our hearts are devoid of Peace, our very lives are a burden to Mother Earth. Without Peace in our lives it is a living disgrace to speak or write on Peace. Our first and foremost duty that we owe to ourselves, to others and to God, is to establish Peace, first in our hearts, before we take another step in any line or undertaking. If we have Peace in our hearts, we need not speak or lecture, for Peace flows from us in rivers and torrents. It floods from us towards every one and every side.

Peace is not merely the five lettered word **PEACE**. It is not merely to be quiet, having millions of thoughts within one's self. Peace is a moving power, living energy, divine force that moves atoms and planets, that changes the destinies of individuals as well as nations. Peace is the highest state of consciousness—naturally it is beyond the ordinary consciousness. Yet, it is a state that can be thoroughly understood, only when we rise above senses, mind, intellect and ego.

In the sacred scriptures of the East, Peace is called in the Sanskrit language by the sweet word **SANTI** or **Shanti**. What a musical word it is! The Vedas declare **SANTOYAM ATMA**—that Santi alone is Atma. Peace is no other than the unexpressed, incomprehensible state of God. It can be known only by the knowers of Atma or the Higher Self and by no one else.

This Peace or Atma, cannot be known by mere study of scriptures, by discussion of the deep intellect or by austerities or fasts but only through intuition. When the senses merge in the mind, and the mind in the intellect, and the intellect in the ego and the

ego in the Mahat or the higher ego and the Mahat in the unmanifested, there flashes the ever-shining light of Peace, in the stillness of one's heart. Peace belongs only to the one who recognizes the Unity in diversity.

Peace reigns where self, the root cause of all ignorance, is completely eradicated. It comes only through intuition. It dawns only in the minds of the innocent and the pure in heart. Then alone life seems to be rich and fruitful for themselves and for others.

The life of even one individual, who is an incarnation of Peace, who has consciously realized Peace in his heart, is a blessing to the whole of humanity, even though he lives like a flower in the wilderness unnoticed and unheeded. He gives out his fragrance, from his silent and ideal life ceaselessly, like a sweet smelling flower, uninvited and unasked.

So, it is time for all of us, both for our good and the good of those who trust and rely on us to establish Peace in our hearts, before we do any thing else, without wasting another day, with idle words and empty thoughts. All that we do without Peace, results in failure sooner or later. Whatever we do based on Peace, is firm like a rock, standing forever, on the eternal shores of time. The Prince of Peace came and said:

PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO MEN.

As his sincere followers, shall we not also walk in his blessed foot-prints, repeating his sacred words, scattering and showering Peace seeds in the thirsting hearts of humanity?

He repeated also:

BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD. We must be Peace makers, on the basis of Universal Love, wishing the common welfare of the whole world, but never seeking the selfish interests of individuals, communities, or particular nations.

He said, in conclusion:

FINALLY, BRETHREN, FAREWELL. BE PERFECT. BE OF GOOD COMFORT. BE OF ONE MIND, LIVE IN PEACE.

AND THE GOD OF LOVE AND PEACE SHALL BE WITH YOU. Amen.

He asked us to be perfect as the Father in Heaven is perfect. But alas! we are imperfect, with all our faiths, creeds and religions. We have a long way to walk. to be perfect. He begged us to be of one mind. Contrary to his wishes, we are of different minds, with different longings. He asked us to live in Peace—so that the God of Love and Peace may abide with us. Instead of Peace, we have nothing but conflict and restlessness.

Where is Peace, in this seething fire of endless desires, innumerable cravings and manifold passions! Yet, the Prince of Peace is calling us, ceaselessly. with out-stretched arms, repeating the consoling words: **COME UNTO ME ALL YE THAT LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.**

Is it not time for us to rush into His Holy embrace and to strive to taste the Nectar of Peace, turning away from our mad rush of endless pursuits, restless activities, needless worries and agonies of finite life!

Realizing Peace in the stillness of our hearts, let us have strength enough to repeat with the Lord, of Love, **MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU!**

May our individual Peace lead to the Universal Peace, is my earnest prayer.

OM OM OM.

**I WILL SPEND MY HEAVEN
DOING GOOD UPON EARTH**

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

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

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

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

I. Realization of the Heaven within one's Self.

II. Then spending this realization of Heavenly Peace or Love in doing good upon earth.

But alas! how restlessly busy are the people in doing good on earth, without realizing or fulfilling the first part or section of our statement, namely the realization of HEAVEN. It is only after realizing or completing the first part, that we have a right, to be the worthy labourers of God, in His Vineyard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

sought a way of gaining peace, in my inmost heart at least and so I tried to find pleasure in the disagreeable noise. Instead of vainly attempting not to hear it, I set myself to listen attentively as though it were delightful music, and my meditation which was not the prayer of "quiet"—was passed in offering this music to Our Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peace that passeth all understanding belongs only to those blessed souls, who have realized the Heaven, within themselves for **THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS WITHIN ALONE**. Such privileged souls alone, can be Truth Teachers and Leaders to the hungry and thirsty souls who are seeking Heaven without—here, there and everywhere—except within themselves.

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

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

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

May Peace be unto all.

Om, Om, Om.

GOD IS LOVE

The essence of the whole of the Holy Bible can be expressed in the beautiful and simple affirmation: GOD IS LOVE. The life of Lord Christ from the beginning to the end is based on these simple words: GOD IS LOVE. Nay, the essence of all the religions is centered on the Truth that GOD IS LOVE. Not only the votaries of every known and unknown religion but even atheists and materialists pay their homage to Love, which is the Soul of their very existence.

In our Mission of Peace we have given also the first place to the great motto: GOD IS LOVE. The visitors who come to our Mission find our ideal—the motto—on all the walls of our Prayer Hall, in our Peace Clinic, School and even in our Temple of Silence. Our Temple of Silence is intended to serve as a place of deep meditation for aspiring souls without any words or discourses. Even there, we kept one sign painted in white and red, in block letters on a tin plate—GOD IS LOVE—so that, this statement may be helpful for the layman to enter into the silence of his Soul—in the Temple of Silence—facing the waters of the blue Ocean—and listening to the music of the sacred syllable OM in the very waves.

Recently — only yesterday—suddenly we saw two Foreigners with Guns in our Ashram grounds. It hurts us to use the word, Foreigners, for all are the children of one God coming from Him, living in Him and Finally going back to Him. In the Religion of Love, there is nothing like foreigners or strangers. All are His children — part and parcel of one blood, one flesh, one life and one Soul.

These friends were carrying long-barrelled guns, trespassing over the grounds of our Mission. We cannot say they were trespassing our grounds for the Mission belongs to them as much as to us, for it is the common property of all God's children including our dumb animal friends.

I went forward and said whether I could help them in anyway or show them the pathway. One of them did not even condescend to speak to me, but gave a haughty look as if to say : What has this heathen to do with us ?

Innocent birds of various plumage flock to the Mission as they feel that they are safe and protected. Suddenly as if by magic the birds began to run away from the trees as soon as they saw their enemies with guns. To our sorrow and heart-aching pain they shot at a few remaining trusting birds. To our happiness the aim was not accurate or the birds were so agile that they had flown away.

Then it made us happy to see our friends wending their way towards our Temple of Silence. We were sure that their hearts would be softened when they read the only Motto—sign there, that GOD IS LOVE. When God is Love how can they shoot any of His little children in the form of bird or beast! We were sure that they would learn something there. We felt that we did not build the Temple of Silence in vain — especially the sign that GOD IS LOVE. May God be praised — Who is All-Love, expressing in every heart !

Dear Friend, be prepared to read the shocking news of your life. It was a shocking surprise for us when we went on the next morning to see *three deep bullet signs* piercing our most precious and Holy Sign : GOD IS LOVE.

Imagine bullets in the Heart of God, bullet-holes in Love itself ! How can anyone be so callous as to think of shooting at God is Love! We were overwhelmed with grief and we gently took the sign from the Temple of Silence and carried it into the Ashram with heavy hearts.

How our thoughts unconsciously went back to those cruel days when hard-hearted people put nails into the Holy Body of Christ ! What pain and great sorrow He bore silently for the sake of the world — in the name of God without a murmur !

Where is Blessed Christ now ? Is He not still suffering the agony and pain of the needless slaughter of children, women and other innocent people in the name of the present life-sucking and blood-thirsty war ? Is He not still bearing the heavy cross of His sorrows—the result of the sins of the God-less materialistic world !

RESIST NOT EVIL.

If we resist, the bullets may Find a place in our hearts, alongside of our Motto GOD IS LOVE.

Dear God ! Thou art in the heart of the Godless one, as well as in the God-fearing one.

Thou art shooting in the one and receiving the shots silently in the other one.

Thou art all-in-all helping to the evolution of Man—from his babyhood to the aged years, leading him from one step to another step, gradually through both bitter and sweet experiences.

Dear Lord, bless us with the Vision to Behold Thee even though Thou comest to us in a thousand forms testing us with many a crucible tribulation finally, leading us towards Thee !

VERILY, THOU ART THE WAY—THE TRUTH AND LIFE.

In spite of a world of tests and trials, with Thee our life is complete.

Take us, Dear Lord of mercy and compassion ! into Thy Heart of Love—where alone all shooting and killing is absent, where alone we are safe, filled and flooded with Thy Life, Light and Love.

VERILY, THOU ART ALL LOVE.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL.

AMEN

DO YOU WANT GOD ?

If you want God why are you still wasting the precious time in search of the momentary things of the world ?

If you really want God why are you still wandering hither and thither, running after the changing objects of name and form ?

If you are earnestly craving for God, why are you feeling satisfied with the finite life ever busying yourself in fleeting pursuits ?

If you are sincerely desirous to seek God, why are you still sitting idle imagining all foolish things ? Are you not yet tired of your vain thoughts ? Are you not feeling wearied with your loud talks ? Are you not yet disgusted with the finite conceptions of life ?

Do you really want God ? Then give up this vain talk and restless thinking. How long will you waste your time reading lifeless books ? Can you find God in empty books ?

Do you really need God ? Then why search for him merely in temples and churches ? Why do you confine Him to forms and names ?

Is not God in every one ? Then why not see Him in every face ?

What kind of God do you want, beloved one ? Merge within yourself. Then repeat the question in silence. Try to answer it within yourself.

Ask again and again your inner conscience whether it needs God or the world ? See for yourself whether it is running after God or after forms and names.

Repeat once more "Do I want God ? Do I want Him with heart and soul ? Do I want him with each and every heart-beat of mine ? Am I living for Him in every second of my life ?"

If you are living for God, then there is no time to lose or to waste on these outer things of phenomena. Behold, your God is already near you, within you, nay, He is inseparably one with you.

In the name of Truth, pray forget Him not again. In the name of Spirit, pray neglect Him not again. In the name of Love, pray deny Him not again.

Is not God Love? Have you no love for God? Then why forget Him and crucify Him in the name of your duties. Why neglect and forsake Him in the name of seemingly heavy responsibilities of the world?

What is your real duty? What is your life's responsibility? Is it not to live in God as God? Your first and foremost duty, as well as responsibility is to live in God under all conditions.

When you are true to your foremost duty and responsibility, you are true to all other minor duties and responsibilities as well.

If you are really living for God, craving ever for Him, then there is no time for beating about the bush. Then there is no need even for vain searches, in books and in teachers. You need not search for Him either without or even within.

Is He not equally present both within and without? When He is everywhere, is there any necessity to search for Him?

Is there a speck of space where He exists not? Then why not behold Him, in this very second, within and without and all around?

O! the joy of seeing our Beloved One, on every side, below or above, in North or South, in West or East and all around us! How can I describe it to you?

O! the ecstasy of seeing our Sweet Beloved in friends and foes, in relatives and strangers, young and old, in the so-called wicked and the virtuous! How can I express it to you?

O ! the silent Glory of recognising the Loving Lord in all joys and sorrows, in honour and disgrace, in all trying conditions of life, even amidst the agony of excruciating pain, I leave it to your own imagination.

When God is omnipresent why can we not see Him everywhere? When all this is God, why should we not see God where we are, in each and every thing and all around us ? For what are these eyes given to us, if it is not to behold Him ? For what are these ears, if they cannot hear His glory in every sound?

There is not a moment of time or an inch of space where God exists not. So our bounden duty is not only to feel Him in this moment but to recognize Him, in each and every one.

O ! let us feel that God is inseparably one with us. Let us feel that God is never separate or away from us. Let us feel that God alone is the only Reality and all else is mere delusion.

Let us practically realise that it is God who is seeing in all eyes. Let us recognise God in all hearts, for He alone is beating in every heart. He alone is hearing in all ears, God alone is thinking in all minds.

What a great joy it is to feel that we are all one in God. The separation is only in ignorance but never in knowledge or God. Shall we still remain in ignorance ever prattling and quarrelling with each other and miscalling one high and another low ? Are we not yet tired of this dual state of life in ignorance? There is nothing but misery in duality. Verily crucifixion is in separation Bliss is in unity. Eternal Peace is only in oneness or allness. So may we be all one in God !

God is nearer to us than our own hands or feet. He is the life of our lives. He is the heart of our hearts. He is the mind of our minds. So let us feel him in all the varying stages of life. Whether in death or in life, it is our bounden duty to feel and to realise Him. Any one can be spiritual when all is going on well, He alone is truly spiritual and the greatest of the great who can stand by God or Truth and who can never deny or forget him,

even when placed on the cross and amidst severest tests and trials. Indeed he is eternally one with God in thought, word and deed.

As God and man are inseparably one, how can man live without God or enjoy Higher life? As God alone is filling our very forms, let us feel Him and enjoy this Blessed state of Peace and Allness. If we really want God, we shall not live even for a second without Him. All peace, all joy, all strength, all life and all divinity are in Him.

So let us consciously realise Him by merging and dissolving in Him. Let us consciously identify ourselves with our Lord of universal Love, who is pervading and permeating the whole universe in whom we are eternally working, moving and living for ever.

May all of you who live for God and who want God, realise Him and embrace Him in this living moment alone is the constant prayer of your brother.

Om Santi Om.

VAIN TALK

Talk, vain talk, useless talk, life sucking talk, energy wasting talk, time killing talk, superficial talk, and every kind of shallow and external talk should be avoided and must be given up by seekers of Truth.

What is the outcome of talk? Can we deceive God by mere talk or can we impart Him to others by means of vain talk? What is the aim of talk? It is nothing but wastage. What can be the use of empty talk? It is only to kill the precious time. What is it that makes one indulge in God-killing talk? It is nothing other than ignorance.

Is not God above talk and above speech? Is not God dead that men indulge so fondly in calling of so many unnecessary things? If God is alive why should one talk? If he is conscious of God, how can he talk in the first place? It is always the empty vessels that

give much sound and noise. A bee makes buzzing noise, so long it has not tasted the sweet honey. In the same way men spend their precious time in empty talk just because they have not known what inner life is.

An ounce of practice is worth more than bags full of vain talk. One talks too much because God is not awakened in him. When he rises above talk then surely he will be blessed with the sweet inner voice of the Almighty Father. Hearing which, the voice that is within, the inaudible and inexpressible voice, one becomes silent to the external life. Hearing which he hears nothing else. Realizing it he realizes the goal of human life. Adorations be unto such silent workers, the masters of Blessed Peace.

“May Peace be unto all.”

THE VISION

VISION

Is the first step of accomplishment,

Unless a man can

Visualize his goal

He has no way of seeking IT.

— E. C. W.

The sacred books teach us that the country or nation that has not been blessed with souls of great vision slowly deteriorates. The individual that does not have a vision, will fall down into the abyss of ignorance and perish sooner or later. One who is devoid of spiritual vision is a *dwpada pasuvu*, two legged animal, a mere burden to Mother Earth.

The Vision can be divided into two kinds. Finite Vision and Infinite Vision, or Outer Vision and Inner Vision. The nations that possess the souls that have the outer or finite for material prosperity, are now enjoying wealth in abundance. The nations that have the Inner or Infinite Vision, are blessed with spiritual wealth, a wealth that cannot become rusted, nor be robbed nor stolen, neither can it be annexed nor confiscated by the greedy, powerful, materialistic nations.

Columbus had the vision for discovery. The result was the discovery of America. Stevenson and Edison had the vision for invention. The result is that the world is flooded with steam engines, trains and other conveniences of every kind, so that man can travel in comfort and even fly from one end of the country to the other end. Edison's vision of invention, flooded the world with light, electricity. Marconi had the vision of wireless. As a result you can send a message far over the *seven* seas, while sitting in your room, to the other end of the world.

In the name of Outer Vision, Science has made wonderful discoveries in every field. The steamship, aeroplane, radio and many other modern inventions have been the result of Outer Vision, however helpful that many be for the well being of man. The souls of men of Outer Vision, went a step further, and discovered dreadful tanks, dangerous bombs and poisonous gases etc., to destroy village after village, to kill the helpless and innocent, to saturate the fair face of Mother Earth, with blood and the skies with dying moans of agony.

Thus the finite and Outer Vision can both be harmful and helpful. It can serve as a stumbling block as well as a stepping stone.

The nations that were blessed with the souls of Inner and Infinite Vision, have produced a Christ, a Buddha, a Krishna, a Mohammed, a Mahavir, a Confucius, a Zoraster, a Guru Nanak, an Abdul Baha, a Balzac, Emerson or Whitman, a Ramakrishna, a Rama Tirtha and several well-wisher and Saviours of humanity.

Now the question comes : How is it that despite the advent of the loving Jesus Christ, the Incarnation of Love, Mercy and Forbearance, and the wonderful message He taught the Western lands, who first heard it, are nevertheless filled with war-spirit, suspicion and bitterness, and spending millions of their people's wealth in preparing cruel instruments of death, to shoot, kill and destroy fellow-men, the neighbour, whom Christ bids us to love even if he is our very enemy !

How is it then that in spite of the advent of a Krishna and Mohammed, the Incarnations of Wisdom and Strength, the Eastern lands too are filled with communal fights, with ignorance and hatred, drawing their swords to cut each other's throats, all in the name of their religions?

How is it then, that in spite of the advent of Buddha and Mahavir, the Incarnations of Non-killing and Compassion, there is so much cruelty towards our dumb-animals — sacrificing them mercilessly at the altar of superstition, in the name of food for the stomach, in the name of science, exploitation or vivisection, putting them, the innocents, unto untold agonies?

How is it, in spite of the advent of world Saviours, mighty spiritual giants, wise scientists, great inventors and thousands of other benefactors of humanity, that Mother Earth, is yet groaning with heavy sorrow, and people perishing everywhere for want of a morsel of food, or a crust of bread amidst plenty? There is also in individuals, distrust and avarice in nations and there is sorrow and suffering in some form or other, every where, in East and West, North and South! Why?

In spite of the Holy Souls of Infinite Vision, how heart rending and pathetic is the present helpless state of the world! The politicians are busy in predicting that soon there will be a war—Armageddon, in both East and West—a terrible world war. Soon man filled with war-stories and propaganda, will take keen joy in killing his own brother-man, instead of loving and worshipping Him, as the manifested Deity. He brings into the field of action the most deadly and ingenious implements and instruments to destroy life, to devastate the symbols of culture and beauty, and to annihilate all existence.

The great law of *One for all, and all for One*, is shamefully violated and trampled under foot, by men of power and selfishness, in the name of false patriotism. The present day selfish and ignorant despot wants all for himself—and he lives for no one but himself. Is this the vision? What a selfish demoniac and dangerous vision!

We should not be so ignorant as to blame the Holy *Avatars* and other Great Souls of Vision, for the present *Chaotic* state of jealousy, fear, non-equality, sickness, want and suffering in a thousand forms, the ignorance all due to the cankerous disease of selfishness, deep-rooted and far-reaching.

Should we blame the innocent Christ for wars and rebellions in the Christian lands, in the west? Should we blame, Krishna and Mohamed for the communal fights and fueds in the East? Should we blame Buddha and Mahavir, for the sacrifices, slaughter and other cruelties to dumb and helpless creatures ?

It is the selfish, despotic, demoniac and ignorant but high-handed, so-called civilized man. who is to be blamed for this perverted vision, to suit his own selfish desires of attaining perishable name, wealth and fame. He has turned the skies upside down, converting the very Heaven into Hades.

It is time to understand the present hopeless and helpless chaotic state of affairs both within and without, individually and universally, and then strive sincerely to make a retreat from the unreal to the Real, from the momentary to the Eternal, and from perverted vision to the Perfect Vision of Common Brotherhood, infinite Peace and Universal Love.

Dear Readers of PEACE ! What is your vision ? What is your ideal ? What is your chief ambition ? Pray ! merge within and sternly examine your hearts to find your true vision. Let our ideal be to live in God, and help others to live in Him ! Let our one ambition and sole desire be to love all that is manifested in the form of man, beast, bird or any of His tiny creatures. Let our Vision be to engage ourselves in selfless service without expecting the least reward in any form, and knowing that in serving any of the least of His Children, we are serving Him alone

May we all sincerely strive to follow in the foot steps of the Saviours in East and West, the world benefactors and all the Great Souls of Perfect Vision, ever trying to practise their noble ideals in our own lives. May we always see in our souls that *Great Radiant Vision of Peace, between individuals, and Good-will among nations !*

May Peace abide in all hearts and may Mother Earth, be proud of its progeny, blessed with Peace. Power and Plenty is the prayer of your own brother OMKAR !

May Peace be unto all !

OM ! OM !! OM !!!

THE WORSHIPPERS OF CREEDS

I feel sad for those who are worshipping only creeds, forgetting God—the living Presence of every heart. They are clinging to the letter denying the spirit behind the letter. They are worshipping the skeleton, neglecting the Life-principle, which is present all through.

What I am writing does not apply to those chosen pious and sincere souls in Hinduism, Mohammedanism, Buddhism, Christianity, or the various other religions. I am herein speaking about the worshippers of creeds, who are breaking their heads and those of others in the name of religion.

As a child of God, I am a friend of all worshipping the best in every religion, having a heart for the welfare of Hindus, Mohammedans, Christians, and Budhists and all the followers of every religion. If we believe in the precept that God is OMNI-**PRESENT** how can we ever exclude anyone or anything from our enfolding love? So long as religion remains sterilized or confined to a form and name, we cannot help having differences and fights over every little non-essential thing. When once we realize that religion is nothing but the realization of the interpenetrating Presence from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet, we cannot help beholding the sweet face of the Almighty in all the followers of the different religions. As the sun is the source of all the millions of rays, as the water is the basis of all the waves and ripples in the ocean, God is the life and soul of every creature. He is the golden string running through the different pearls, binding and uniting them all into one perfect garland of Love.

I feel sad for the bigoted Hindus who are making a fuss over non-essentials, and prolonging communal fights, and oppressing the God Narayan, who is in the form of the down-trodden outcaste.

My heart aches for the fanatical Mohammedans who are denying the brotherhood of their religion to the non-moslems—the followers of other religions, in the name of the very Allah who is no other than the Indweller of all hearts.

My heart goes out towards the Christians who in the zeal of their religion, are restlessly engaged in converting the Heathen to the creed rather than towards Universal Truth.

I feel sorry for the followers of the great Buddha, the heart of compassion, when I see them failing to follow the noble Eight Fold Path, enunciated by their revered founder. Only those souls that are tasting the nectar of NIRVANA can be called the real followers of Buddha—the Enlightened.

MY MESSAGE TO THE HINDU BRETHREN IS : So long as you are feeling your unity with the loving Brahman—the Indweller of your heart both in silence and activity, what matters it, if you are not allowed to beat the drums and wave the lights with outer sounds. Remember the great truth that **SILENCE** alone is **BRAHMAN**. Learn to recognize Him in silence.

Follow Christ's precept, "Resist not evil." It needs both hands to clap and to produce sound. With one hand alone you cannot produce sound. Your resistance is tending to the prolonged fights, conflicts, resulting in the slaughter of thousands of innocent men, women and children. Remember that in hurting, resisting or molesting any one, you are only doing that to your most worshipful, all-pervading Brahma, the deity of your temples, as well as your hearts.

If you are true Hindus and are really religious, you will be able to say, with the great saint that was stabbed in the Indian Mutiny, when his friends were trying to kill those that stabbed him, "**DO NOT KILL THEM. SET THEM FREE. WORSHIP THEM FOR THEY ARE HIS OWN IMAGES.**"

O ! let us strive to make our religion practical and more universal, leaving aside the ignorant worship of creed and name. Let us be ever centered in Brahman facing Him both within and without in every one and in every face.

TO THE MOHAMMEDAN BRETHREN MY MESSAGE IS: My heart also bleeds for you, because I love you. It makes me sad when I see you indulging in the communal clashes in the prolonged heart-rending riots resulting in the death of the innocent and the help-less, all in the name of the merciful Allah, Is not Allah in your hearts? Is he not every where and in every one? In killing any one, are you not killing the manifestations of Allah

—the one God ? Remember that which exists is One and we call Him by various names according to our liking, birth and understanding.

Does it disturb the Indweller of your hearts, the Allah, if the Hindus worship in their temples, beating their drums and waving lights ? Can you not recognize Allah's presence in the very sound ? If you are deeply absorbed in your prayers how can anyone disturb you ? Make your prayers deep. Bring Allah nearer to your hearts. Feel His presence. Recognize His Omnipresence in sound, in the manifested as well as in the unmanifested.

Above all, remember, my friends, in hurting and wounding anyone you are hurting and wounding only the loving Allah, and in loving and embracing anyone you are loving and embracing only the living Truth—Allah. It is high time for you, to confine your great religion no longer to a creed, but to feel and recognize the great spirit of Allah in every face and all over the creation.

MY MESSAGE TO THE CHRISTIAN BRETHREN IS:
Beloved Friends, let us bring out our Christ from our creeds and churches. Let us not worry about converting souls. Souls cannot be converted. It is the heart to be converted. Let us reform ourselves first into the emblems of Christ before we attempt to reform or convert others.

It is glorious to live like Christ, to work and breathe like Christ, to pray and meditate like Christ, ceaselessly. When every living temple becomes a throne for the loving Christ, there will be more Peace, love and the spirit of tolerance instead of oppression, exclusiveness and worship of Mammon, in sects as in nations.

If we are the true followers of Christ how can we make ourselves busy in preparing for war, manufacturing day and night more and more deadly weapons and poisons, all to destroy the children of God and thus put the fair face of Mother Earth to blush with the red blood of the innocent ! Is this the creed of Christ ? Is this the religion of love ? Let us begin [to practise the simple precept "Love thy neighbour as thyself" ever walking in the footprints of the blessed Lord Christ.

MY MESSAGE TO THE BRETHREN OF BUDDHISM IS:
My Friends, you are leading pious and exemplary lives. We hear no murders or fights in the name of the merciful Buddha; you are, trying to live up to your creeds, for the world badly needs the message of the compassionate one. We want thousands of Buddhas, the enlightened ones to move and mix among the masses, pouring out NIRVANA — the state of blessedness especially in these days, when people are ruthlessly engaged in cutting each other's throats, killing innocent children, slaughtering dumb animals, burning houses, all in the name of religion.

Behold ! the cruelty of man towards helpless and dumb creatures, how he misuses their innocence by ill-treating them, in numberless ways to satisfy his transcendent whims and temporary fancies. In the name of religion and God, in spite of numberless creeds and sects, helpless creatures and dumb animals, such as innocent birds, goats, and bulls are offered to appease God, on the inhuman altar of blood-thirsty dieties. Where is Lord Buddha the incarnation of mercy and compassion?. The world badly needs not only the followers of Buddha, but Buddhas to love, to serve and to eliminate all the suffering in creation.

MY MESSAGE TO THE VOTARIES OF ALL OTHER RELIGIONS AND SECTS IS: Dear Friends, do not be confined to your little sects and creeds. Come out of your frog-like existence in little wells into the broad day light, to bathe in the limitless waters of living life. Contribute your mite for the establishment of Peace—Universal Peace, on the face of the earth. The paths may be different but the goal is one. As all rivers are leading towards the same ocean, all of us are walking towards the one goal, the living Truth.

Let us cling no more to sects and creeds but to the creedless and sectless One — THE UNIVERSAL SPIRIT and thus help to the Peace of the world.

Although my soul craves to give a message to my loving readers of "Peace" I think it is unnecessary, for all of you are of one religion or the other, just mentioned. Those who are above

religion, need no message at all. They are the perfect images of God, perfect as the Father in Heaven.

In conclusion I like also to give A MESSAGE TO MYSELF, WHICH IS A MESSAGE FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL: Dear One ! Merge within. Purify yourself. Listen to the still small voice, in the stillness of your heart. Recognizing Him in stillness, within, open your eyes to Truth, which is One without a second. As you come out into the world of activity, be a Holy Shadow unconsciously shedding light wherever you happen to go.

Behold ! His sweet face in every being and creature. And live no longer for self but for others who are the living manifestations of the One Universal God—the God of Hindus, Mohammedans, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, Confusists, Bahais, Theosophists, Rosicrucians and a million other creeds.

May silent adorations be to the interpenetrating Presence—the Living Truth — the Indivisible God of your hearts as well as of humanity !

May the CREEDLESS ONE, bless all the worshippers of creeds with the Vision Universal is the prayer of the one who loves you all.

OM ! SANTI ! SANTI ! SANTI !

MY CREED

My creed is to see God in everyone that comes to see me. I see the formless God before I see the form. As I see God in them they cannot help but feel themselves immediately as emblem of God. When nothing else exists but God, what necessity is there for vain discussions? When there is God both within and without what necessity is there for questions and answers? What necessity is there for any kind of talk even in the name of religion when *all this is God ?*

In the religion of Love, in the creed of Unity, in the law of Universality, in the principle of Divinity, in the path of Truth, in the glory of God-consciousness, above all in the depths of inaudible Peace, no sermons are needed, no speeches are wanted, no discussions are invited, no doubts are tolerated, nay, not even thoughts are allowed to rise in the lake of one's divine mind.

Its Glory cannot be described in words. Its beauty cannot be expressed in thoughts. Its illumination cannot be painted in pictures. Its ecstasy cannot be fathomed by the finite mind. Its splendour cannot be comprehended by the tiny intellect. Ah! everything is Peace. All is silence within and without. It is a state of Divine Glory. All around it is Divinity. In every atom it is God—not the God of the clouds or heaven but the God of our hearts.

Just to feel this God-consciousness, this burning love of Universality, this all-consuming fire of divine Knowledge, nay, to merge and dissolve in the fathomless and boundless ocean of indivisible Godhead is my only creed, the living creed of life, light and love. In my creed everything is God. In my creed everyone is God. In my creed nothing exists except God. To see everything as God, to hear everything as God, to taste everything as God, to talk everything is God, is heaven itself, not the future heaven of a name and form or dimensions but the present heaven of inexpressible Peace. This is my creed of loving life.

In my creed there are neither friends nor foes, neither near ones nor foreign ones, neither sinners nor saints, neither disciples nor (Gurus) masters, neither beggars nor emperors, neither castes nor colors, neither religions nor nations, neither young nor old, neither men nor women, neither beasts nor birds, neither trees nor plants, neither stones nor atoms, may, neither dead nor living. It is all God. It is nothing but God. It is the only Reality or Truth which is inseparably one with me.

Here death stalks not. Here fear gropes not. Here disease appears not. Here anger rises not. Here enslaves not fashion in any way. Here misery or agony comes not. Here creeps not the shadows of ignorance in any form. Here asses carry on their backs no more sandal-wood without feeling its sweet scent. Here the book-

worms will eat no more books, but will aspire to digest their sacred contents. Here there are no more idle brains that are the devils workshops, for all hands are at work and all works are consecrated to the Lord of Love. Here alone the individuality or the tiny ego is eternally dead never to rise again to the life of darkness or duality.

To cheer the fallen, the depraved, to embrace the so-called foes, to love the sweet revilers, to worship the miscalled outcasts and to feel oneness with each and every living creature, nay with every atom of the universe are the important tenets of my blessed creed. To keep life in the finite body only for the good of others, for the welfare of the whole creation is the chief factor of my simple creed. To forget myself in serving the sacred children of the Almighty Father irrespective of the prejudices of the religions and the nations is the central theme of my creed.

My creed is not only to see God in those who come to see me but to see God even in those who do not want to come to me. It is a creed, blessing one and all with peace and love, the love that knows no change, whether they are known or unknown, whether they are near or far, and whether they want my love or not. It is a creed embracing the whole world in the arms of universal love, not excluding even the tiniest creature. Verily, it is nothing but my own sweet Divinity which is shining in the eyes of that insignificant creature. As such it is nothing but sin to neglect or forsake any of my little brothers either in the form of angels or men, beasts or birds, plants or flowers, hills or atoms.

In short, my religion is to recognise God in each and every form at all times and under all conditions of life. Even in those of whom I think or remember I behold nothing but God. Every one that comes on my way physically or mentally is a living God to me. Indeed this is religion to me. This alone is my life - giving creed. Verily this is the practical religion or realization of universal love.

In my creed birds sing the songs of freedom. In my creed bees hum the sweet notes of divine music. In my creed the ferocious tigers and lions roar the truths of the Holy Scriptures. In

my Creed the very ether proclaims the Glory of my silent life. In my creed the wind murmurs the sweet melodies of the sacred Syllable "Aum". In my creed the fire burns as incense. In my creed the rain is ABHISHEKAM (sprinkling of the sacred water.) In my creed the waves in the ocean dance with the unutterable song of the great SOHAM. In my creed the stars and planets witness the great cosmic play. And it is in my creed the SUN who is no other than my own image is ceaselessly engaged in bathing the world with light and life.

It is in my creed that the unborn babe proclaims innocence and purity, and the grown up child radiates joy and mirth. It is in my creed that the youth strives to marry Divinity, and old man craves to dissolve in God. In my creed the chaste wife and the loving husband live facing God in each other. It is in my creed that a saint loses himself in the service of a sinner in his turn aspires to become a saviour. It is here alone the Holy Popes and Revered Swamies engage themselves in lending their helping hand to the poor overworked labourer and the famished outcaste, in tilling the land, and in taking care of the plants and trees, setting aside the masks of Pope-hoods and Swami-ships.

Behold ! once again the starving labourer and the neglected outcaste losing himself in the full glory of MAHASAMADHI or THE SUPERCONSCIOUS STATE, rising above his hypnotism or the long oppressed state of ignorance.

GLORY ! GLORY !! GLORY !!!

Eternal life be unto this creed of Equality, Fraternity, Common Brotherhood and in short, Selfhood.

It is in my creed that thunder proclaims the glory of my Divinity. It is in my creed that lightning gives glimpses of peace and rays of hope and joy. It is in my creed that the Sun fills the world with Divine Illumination. It is in my creed that nature heaves with bated breath to be sanctified by the dust of the saint's feet. It is in my creed that drinkers of love get glimpses of NIRVANA. Verily it is in this creed alone, that one listens to sermons in stones and receives initiations from brooks and rivers. Indeed it is only in this Divine Creed that one hears not another, one sees not another, one thinks not of another. for all is GOD. He is our living and loving Divinity who is ever ONE WITHOUT A SECOND.

In this inexpressible glory, O ! where are the Christians or the Hindus ? Where are the Buddhists or the Mahammadans ? Where are the Jains or the Zorastrians ? Where are the Sikhs or the Confucians ? Above all, where are Theists or the Atheists ? Here all are the children of the same Almighty Father. All are the images of the Blessed Lord. All are the emblems of Peace. All are the incarnations of Divine Love. All are the forms of the formless Truth, and all are the manifestations of the Unmanifested. Verily, the ideal of our creed is to see the Infinite in the finite, the Formless in the form Nameless in the name and to behold the Unmanifested God in the manifested.

My creed is so simple that even a child can walk in it. My creed is so plain that even an ignorant man can understand it. My creed is so direct that any one can reach it, without the necessity of beating around the bush. My creed is so logical as to make even a scientist admire it. My creed is so all-embracing as to embrace even a heathen. My creed is so forgiving that even a sinner can find comfort and consolation in it. My creed is so broad as to make even an atheist find some place in it. My creed is so open that the whole humanity can enter into it. In my creed there is neither mysticism nor mystery-mongering. In my creed there are neither secret doctrines nor framed rules. Verily here nothing is hidden or secret, but everything is simple, plain and face to face; for this is the creed of allness, pouring out floods of love and showering oceans of peace on the universe at large.

O ! What a **blessed** creed it is to shower oceans of love and bathe the world in joy! What a noble creed it is to have no enemies to fight, nor friends to defend, but to love one and all equally as our own living Gods! What a holy creed it is to forget ourselves in serving others, who are no other than our own SELF ! O! What a soul-awakening creed it is to live for the higher life crucifying the lower life. What a precious creed it is to consider the whole world our sweet home! O! *What a Glorious creed it is not merely to love to live Universal Love!* O! What a happy creed it is to see through the eyes of all, to hear through the ears of all, to think with the minds of all and to beat in the hearts of all ! O ! What an ecstatic creed it is to flow in the breath of all as SOHAM, the big breath or the universal breath of the whole cosmos.

O! What great Blessedness it is to lose ourselves in the glory of our GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS! What a sacred creed it is to feel our oneness with CHRISTS and BUDDHAS! What an inspiring creed it is to feel our inseparable oneness with all the saints and the sages of both the East and the West, past, present and future ! O! What an enchanting creed it is to recognise nothing but our own sweet Self, wherever our eyes rest or our minds dwell ! What an uplifting creed it is to feel that we are never these finite bodies, to feel that we are never bound by the bubble-like world and to feel that we are the formless and the nameless Truth! This is NIRVANA itself.

This is the creed of my simple love that changes not, the love that withers not, the love that decays not, the love that is the same to one and all, the love that is eternal, the love that expects not the least reward, the love that is, above all, universal and all-embracing. Here, there are neither fees nor dues. Here, there are neither sermons nor lectures. Here, there are neither initiations nor illuminations. Here there are neither courses nor degrees. Here, there are neither examinations nor diplomas. Here, one is free from all conventions and compacts. Here, one need not make promises nor take any oaths. All that you have to do is to strip yourselves of all ignorance. All that you have to do is to bathe yourselves in the glory of Universal Love. All that you have to do is to plunge yourselves into your inner hearts, TO LISTEN TO THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD. All that you

have to do is only to merge and dissolve yourselves into the Lord of Love, not in the uncertain future, but right now, in this living second.

O ye, sad and forlorn. O ye, neglected and forsaken, O ye, helpless and broken hearted, O ye, high and low, O ye, learned and ignorant, pray, do not hesitate to enroll yourselves as the followers of this great creed of my Love. Do not forget to make hay while the sun shines. Do not waste another second in the mire of ignorance. For, this second alone is yours, but not the next second. Do not be afraid to take hold of your Divine birthright. This alone is your true heritage.

Take a firm hold of the banner of Truth. Beat the drum of Freedom. Hoist the flag of Peace. Play the sweet notes of celestial music. Let go all hold on forms and names. March on, ye brave soldiers of Peace, into the Kingdom of Heaven, as triumphant workers of glory and self-realization, wear the laurels of success and glory; for, you are all true disciples of the Lord of Love.

The great splendor and the silent beauty of walking in the path of love, with an earnest and sincere heart, cannot be expressed in words. Nothing can stand to face a disciple of love, for he beholds nothing but love or Divinity, even when resisted and opposed. It is love that conquers every one. When everything fails, it is love that wins. So when we are filled with love we have conquered everything. We have won all battles and fights. Nothing else can exist besides us, for all is love. Everything and every one that come near us will be melted into our love. For our creed is very contagious drawing the whole humanity into the arms of Universal Love.

Verily our creed is the creed of silent life helping everyone knowingly or unknowingly, whether they are near or far. It is in this creed of love, a mine of peace, power and plenty, abides. It is from this creed of unity, the main spring of joy and glory sprouts. It is in this creed of love, the reservoir of strength and beauty resides. It is from this creed of truth, the fountain of happiness and divine glory ever gushes out to the four corners of the world.

Indeed our creed is the creed of all creeds, for, it embraces each and every creed. So let us rise to the creedless creed of Universal Love. Verily our creed is nameless and formless. It is boundless and limitless. So let us never be bound by any creed of forms and names, however grand and sublime its tenets may be, for the INFINITE LOVE cannot be bound or hidden in the narrow limits of any particular creed. So let us dissolve now, in the creed of UNIVERSAL LOVE, forgetting the very name of creed.

May we ever live in the creedless state of the INDIVISIBLE and ALL-EMBRACING LOVE, vibrating and radiating the same, far and near, in all our thoughts, words and deeds !

May nothing but Divine Love ever abide in all our hearts !

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL !

Om Tat Sat

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 there on. 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 vibrate 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 a ready 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 Asram, 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'. 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, lifegiving 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 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 in to 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 every one 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 Pradakshin;
 And all my utterances praises Thine
 By thus whate'er 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, 'ternal Light, O boundless Love
 To Thine own bliss, from Maya dark remove.*

My loving Readers of Peace ! 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 connectd with the ocean, whether we are thinking or praying, absorbed or active, we too are inseperably 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!

TRUE WORSHIP

What true worship is, has been the most perplexing question down the ages. Sages and philosophers and all the various worshippers of God have spent their lives pondering over it. One

who repeats the name of God once a day, or one who attends a church once a week, or one who consecrated his life to temple service from morn till night—all these believe themselves to be true worshippers of God, Let us now also, dear reader, give thought to this question as to who a true worshipper is, and of what true worship consists.

It was only last week that a band of thirty ladies and a few men came from afar in bullock carts rumbling over rough roads day and night, and spent three days in our Asram, worshipping God from dawn till late, as is the way with Hindu Bhaktas, singing the beautiful names of God in melodious songs. We were all attending their evening ceremonies in our meditation hall. Sister Sushila who lives at the remote and silent end of the Asram land, under the jungle hills did not attend, as a great tempest arose with slashing rain and high winds, as if the very elements were protesting against our outer worship.

The Bhajana or worship continued hour after hour, and we were all singing His name at the pitch of our high voices while the thunder rolled like a gigantic kettle-drum. Tempest and worship both—over, a thin note of distress reached our ears from Sushila's cave. We all fled there to find her engaged all alone in a different kind of worship, so busy that she could hardly tell us what had happened. It seems during our absence, one of our little dogs "Rammy" was playing before the cave as Sushila was watching the lightening from her door. Suddenly out of the dark night a terrible wild creature, a Cheetah pounced on the beloved, almost human little dog. Surprised and horrified, our brave sister got the God-given thought to quickly fling a big brass vessel with a crash and clang against the pial, the ravenous beast thereupon dropped the puppy, which she grabbed and brought into the hut. Her cries for help were all drowned out by the storm. She then dressed the horrible throat-wounds of the unlucky and yet lucky little "Rammy", whom God had saved from the very jaws of the Cheetah, and who would have in a moment more been carried off into the dreadful night forever.

When we came and saw our "lady of the lamp" gently nursing the dog who submitted like a man to the treatment, and finally

rested quietly, wrapped in a soft Kashmere shawl on clean bedding taking aromatic water from a dropper, we almost felt a sense of shame, at our outer form of worship and failure to lend the needed help in her distressed state. Another incident comes to my mind, befitting our theme "True Worship." There was a great worshipper who used to pray in a loud voice, invoking all the Gods. He made a daily round of all the temples in his vicinity, thus believing himself, and boasting to all, that he was a great devotee. He was also rigidly orthodox, observing the minutest letter of the religious law. Further more he prophesied utter damnation to all who did not follow his way of performing ceremonies, outer austerities and rituals, in the temples.

In the same town, resided another pious man, who was so busy with charities and service of his fellowmen: that he had no time for temple worship or lengthy ceremony. His work among the depressed, poor, and suffering also gave him no time for talking ill of, or criticizing others.

Since it was a time when gods and angels walked among men, an announcement was made that on a tablet in a public place, the names of His true devotees and worshippers would be inscribed prominently, for all eyes to behold. Our first worshipper hurried along, all eagerness and joy, thinking to see his name heading the list. The second worshipper was crestfallen, and meekly thought that his name would not even appear on the list of those who were devotees, because he never performed rites, nor even entered a temple.

The tablet was soon ready. Behold the dismay and consternation of our first worshipper when his eyes scanned the list, for not only was his name not the first, but was not at all recorded. On the other hand our second worshipper was happily surprised to find his name at the top of the list as the greatest of all worshippers.

Thus God cannot be duped or deceived as are human beings at times, by outer forms of worship and the calling of Lord, Lord in empty repetition, only visiting temples and churches regularly before the eyes of men. He can discriminate between the false and the true worshippers by his penetrating glances into their hearts

and souls. Everything is as an open book before the Almighty Eye, for He is the interpenetrating Presence pervading and permeating each and every cell of every being as well as the whole universe.

Now the question is, what is true worship? To understand this, let us look around us, and behold the silent worship of all nature. See the beautiful flowers, how they worship the Indweller of their hearts with their very fragrance. Look at those shining stars over-head in the midnight sky, how they are worshipping the Great Silence with their constant radiance. Look at those gigantic trees, how they are reaching up their boughs and waving them in His worship. The dew-drops are worshipping with their sparkle, the birds with their gleeful melodies and the children with their innocent laughing joyousness.

The waves in the ocean are worshipping the Indivisible One, with their sacred incessant chant of Soham! The rivers are offering their singing homage as they flow into the limitless ocean. The very vibrations in the ether are worshipping the Eternal One, with their ethereal movements about the earth. Thus the whole of nature is at prayer; in every aspect, worshipping and paying homage to the Sweet Beloved in a most simple and natural way.

When such is the case, why should man alone pretend to be the highest worshipper by disfiguring and mutilating the God within, by all manner of unnatural complicated and ostentatious forms of worship? I cannot here help but recall the beautiful thoughts of Sri Sankaracharya, on Mental Worship? This is the only true worship, simple and natural, for man the miniature God.

O God my body is Thy holy shrine,
Thou art my Self, the secret Source of Life,
My changeful mind is Prakruti Thy wife,
And my five vital airs are servants Thine,
My homage to Thee is all pleasure mine,
My sleep is meditation rapt, serene,
My movements all are hearty Pradakchin,
And all my utterances praises Thine,
By this what e'er I do, deign Thou O Lord,
To be by me—Thy suppliant—Adored,

But Thine I am, in Truth though One are we,
And Thou not mine, a wave I, Thou the Sea,
Oh ! Lead me 'ternal Light, O boundless Love,
To Thine own Bliss, from Maya dark, remove.

As I sit in the meditation hall, listening to the sacred chanting of the name of God, the still small voice whispers, "Is this true worship?" As I visit temples and churches and listen to the music in His name, the same voice says, "Is this worship?" Sometimes even as I repeat prayers or affirmations, the thought repeats itself saying, "Is this the goal of life, or is there something beyond this dual state of seeing, hearing, thinking, speaking and other outer forms of worship?" Verily all these external forms of worship are only stepping stones, to that highest state of worship, where it is all Perfection and Freedom, devoid of duality. The former worship is only a means to the end—the eventual unity of the individual with the Universal. It has been said that the ignorant worship the idols of clay, stone and metals, the twice-born worship the Fire, the Yogis the Indwelling Presence and the wise worship Him in everything and everywhere as His manifestation.

Again as I engage myself in the activities of the Asram, as I help an earnest soul to walk the path of Truth, as I comfort a weary brother, bringing a ray of joy into his heavy over-clouded heart, the unseen voice seems to whisper, "Yes, this is worship." As I feed a stray dog or nurse a sick cat, or help any other poor helpless creature, my very soul seems to rejoice saying, "This is true worship."

Can there be any higher form of worship than the selfless service and sacrifice, of our sister Sushila in saving that poor animal from the cruel jaws of the Cheetah? This seems to be the supreme form of worship, where one's life is not only dedicated and consecrated to God, but quietly offered if need be to save a dumb fellow-creature without expecting the least reward and all unconscious of having done any thing so praiseworthy. May His richest Blessings be upon our Sister Sushila for her wonderful spirit of compassion and universal love.

In conclusion let us see who the true worshipper is. He in whom the little self is destroyed, whose hands naturally stretch out to serve creation, who is free from all caste, creed, color and national prejudices, who identifies himself with the Over-soul or Universal-energy, and whose heart-beat is the very heart-beat of all the Universe, he who is established in that seedless state of Maha Samadhi, he alone is the true worshipper of God. Silent adorations be unto such blessed ones and may we be privileged to walk in their sacred foot-steps.

Dear loving reader, in closing, may I request you to join me in offering the following prayer to the Indweller of our hearts, so as to be blessed with the true vision of worship?

O Lord of Love ! Thou who art the heart of every flower, soul of every creature, and the living energy of every atom of the universe ! help us not to engage ourselves with the outer forms of worship—such as throwing flowers towards Thee—the flowers that were already dedicated to Thee, even before they bloomed. Bless us not to worship Thee with empty words and lifeless thoughts, that will never reach Thee. Bless us to recognize Thee in the world of activity, not only within ourselves, but without—in each and everything—all over the world.

Above all, help us to worship Thee, with every heart-beat and every breath, filled with Universal Love and Infinite Peace, knowing that Thou art the interpenetrating presence in the manifested world, and the incomprehensible Supreme Silence in the unmanifested worlds.

O Lord of boundless love and mercy ! help us to realize that the real worship is child-like, simple, and pure, devoid of little self and thus offer ourselves to Thee in Thy manifold manifested forms around us, in all consecration, is all that we ask of Thee.

OM ! OM ! OM !

FUNDAMENTAL HARMONY, UNITY AND UNIVERSALITY OF ALL RELIGIONS*

The sacred scriptures of both East and West teach us that fortitude, forbearance, non-covetousness, purity, truthfulness and God-consciousness are the essentials of all true religions. These sacred attributes cannot be understood or expressed in life just by listening to lectures or reading books or even by memorising; it is very difficult to manifest them when tested and tried in the ordeal of crucifixion. The gulf between theory and practice as wide as the distance between the north and south poles. In theory these are easily understood, but not in practice. Only those rare and precious souls who are blessed with the *Vision Universal* and have the privilege of beholding the *Beloved* in the stillness of their hearts, whose realisation is based on the consciousness of *Brahman*, are the true exponents of the universality of all religions.

All others who are not yet fortunate enough to taste that *Nirvanic Bliss* within themselves, however learned and scholarly they may be, are only imitating that experience of others. They are trying to satisfy their hunger by imaginary food. Such souls contribute very little to the universality of religions. They rather disturb the peace of themselves and others, by flowery and empty words.

All recognised religions admit, in one voice, the fundamental unity underlying all creeds. In the face of all this long-established and much-proclaimed harmony, it is most pathetic to see so many terrible wars, communal fights and religions feuds. If all people who affirm and preach the oneness of religions, practice half of what they proclaim and teach, there would be no blood-thirsty wars, selfish fights and ignorant feuds. I read recently in the *New History* an article by Rt. Rev. W. H. Francis, the Archbishop of the Old Catholic Church in America, who in the light of historical

*A message contributed to THE INTER-RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

facts, proves that even the present heart-rending and barbaric war is nothing but a religious crusade to convert Ethiopians into Catholics. Should we not be ashamed to see precious blood spilt in the name of religion ?

If I have a message to give either to myself or to others, it is summed up in one word *Practice*. Let us practice what we preach and affirm Truth not only in our silent moments, but also in the active hours of the day. Let us practice consciously to feel His Living Presence not in the uncertain future, but right now, in this moment and at this place, for God or Truth is here and now, throbbing in our hearts. If we would but feel Him now, we could feel and express Him always.

Here is a beautiful statement that I love to repeat often : "*If you practice what you have, what you have will grow*" If you do not practice what you profess to believe, what is the use of learning more about the fundamental harmony, unity and universality of all religions ?

Every one is anxious to teach but not to follow. It is very easy to teach others, but very difficult to practice. I love to ponder over the beautiful words of Rama Tirtha: "*Reformers wanted not to reform others, but to reform themselves.*" I am still one of those who ceaselessly strive to reform themselves, at the same time trying to share what I have with others, who are no other than the manifestations of Myself; Thyself or Oneself, of the One Divinity.

Innumerable volumes have been written in all ages, on the fundamental harmony of religions, by eminent scholars in East and West. Numerous lectures have been delivered on the unity of all religions by renowned orators. All conferences and parliaments of religions ever held in any clime ring only with one sacred note of Unity.

Whatever may be our creed or faith, we would offer our homage to the Omniscient Bestower of Gita, The Song Celestial, if we were but aware of its beautiful and universal: message "*In whatever way men may worship, in the same way do I fulfil their desires It is my path alone that men tread, through so many ways*" God consci-

ousness is the source of all faiths and creeds throughout the world. As bubbles and waves arise from one and the same ocean, as all rays of light emanate from the one effulgent source of light, the sun, so also, all religions have their origin in one source, the Cosmic Mind. Those who recognise only the bubble or wave, forgetting the ocean, perceive only a single ray of light and ignore all the other rays, have nothing to their lot but the emptiness of fanaticism, exclusiveness and pride of their particular religion and form of worship.

As scriptures teach us, formal religion has its use in purification of intellect, but it cannot show us God. For God is realised only through reflection, not at all even by a million forms of worship. Different forms of religion, however sublime their tenets may be, forge so many bonds around the individual. God-consciousness alone disperses all the bonds and limitations.

Sometimes I wonder whether the followers of these different faiths and creeds believe in the unification of religions at all. If they do, why is it zealous missionaries and teachers of every religion take such pains to convert people of other religions to their particular faith? Why does a Hindu missionary long to make all people Hindus? Why does a Christian missionary desire to have the people of the whole world become Christians? Similarly, Mohammedan Mullahs are busily engaged working for the dawn of the day when all people will embrace Islam.

Frequently friends belonging to some particular sect or creed come to our Asram, and instead of forgetting all creeds, names and forms, and merging within, communing with the Indweller of their hearts in stillness, while in the Abode of Peace, their one desire is obviously to convert the residents of the Asram to their particular faith or creed which they believe to be the only universal faith leading all straight to heaven. Later on, they begin to mail some booklets or leaflets, representing their faith, if they think there is a possibility of effecting some propaganda.

We realise by personal experience that though many individuals of different creeds or faiths theoretically give their consent to the universality of religions, in their own hearts they believe that

nothing is greater or more universal than their own particular faith or religion, like frogs in the little well. Hence we find them busy directly or indirectly consciously or unconsciously, trying to change the faiths of others converting and proselytising them to their own, instead of silently recognising the universality of other religions also. In most cases the cause of this deep rooted ignorance is that our best-intentioned zealous friends have not realised the essential Truth, the One Indivisible and Interpenetrating Presence, which pervades from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet. *Reformers are trying to reform others without reforming themselves.* Hence each sect is seeking more disciples and followers for its own faith.

In all religions there are essentials and nonessentials. Those who have realised the essentials, the One Indivisible Truth, are few and rare. Such souls do not want the change of faith or creed but only change of hearts, not for the worship of form and name, but for the worship of formless, nameless, less immortal Truth. Those who are busy with non-essentials, without that personal experience with Brahman, the universal Light or Father, are pinning themselves to their particular faith, craving that the whole ocean some day should come into their little well.

In conclusion, I have been asked to bring out prominently the essential points of agreement between the faith I represent and of other faiths. As a child of God coming from Him, living in Him, bound to merge in Him, expressing Him both in silence and activity, I cannot be labelled with any particular faith, however grand and noble it might be. I belong to all of you and to all of your respective noble faiths. I do not know whether you can appreciate it or not, but my soul writhes in agony at the very thought of confining myself to any one faith. Hence my friends, I request you all to give me a little space in your hearts as well as in your sacred creeds or faiths.

I love to be a Brahmo among Brahmos, a Theosophist among Theosophists, a Moslem among Moslems, a Christian among Christians, a Buddhist among Buddhists and a Hindu among Hindus. It would hurt me deeply to be alienated from you and to think that any one or any creed is separate from me. As a

child of God. I do not want to be bound to any one creed or religion: I want all creeds and religions to belong to me.

I appreciate beyond words the great efforts of the organisers of the Inter-Religious Conference, and love to help and serve them all, not in mere words, but practically. I firmly believe that I can help you and humanity by further reforming myself from the mortal to the Immortal from the finite to the Infinite Consciousness, for it is the individual peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace and to the eternal establishment of the fundamental harmony, unity and universality of religions.

May the richest blessings of the Almighty be on the organisers, delegates, members and visitors of this conference. May we all realise the essential Truth of all religions, namely *God-consciousness* or *Universal Love*, in our individual hearts first, and thus pave the way to the establishment of *Peace* on earth and *Good-will* among nations, is the one prayer of your brother Omkar. who loves you all wishing your *Peace* and *illumination*.

May Peace be unto all.

Om ! Om !! Om !!

DO NOT HURT NOR BE HURT BY OTHERS

The words "Do not hurt nor be hurt by others" appear to be common words that are used in every day life, but what a deep significance they have not only for the layman, but even for the advanced student.

To understand this theme in a simple way let us divide the subject into two sections.

Do not hurt anyone, any living creature consciously or unconsciously either in thought, word or deed.

Never be hurt by one, in any trying condition, at anytime, even though you do not deserve the hurt in the least.

This subject has occupied a great deal of my time and deep thought, for I wrote a part of the message several years ago, and now as I had the blessed privilege again to meditate on the same thoughts, I searched for my incomplete essay in my manuscripts but could not find it. I may have missed my outer papers but how could I miss my own thoughts, within myself? So I am trying now to share with my loving readers of 'Peace', my past and present thoughts on this practical and most helpful subject which is facing us at every step in our daily lives.

Man's life on earth, at least the life of an average man, is a life of endless tests and trials, from cradle to grave, for he is hurting or getting hurt by others in some form or other. We are told that the greater a soul is, the greater will be the obstacles to surmount in his life. The test of Christ's life is in his silent crucifixion. The test of Buddha's life is not only in his great renunciation but in his strenuous long years of spiritual practices to reach the heights of Nirvana. Thus we see either it is in East or West, past or present, all great souls had their tests and trials, in becoming the beacon lights of humanity.

My loving readers ! Let us examine our lives and see for ourselves whether we are hurting anyone knowingly or unknowingly. We all know and mechanically repeat that "*Non-killing is the highest virtue*". Non-killing does not mean only to abstain from cutting throats or stabbing our dearest ones. It means a good deal more.

So long as you are hurting any of His little children, even a little sparrow or dove, you are violating this great virtue. If you are dividing the *One Indivisible Self* into forms and names, and into thoughts of mine and thine, filled with jealousy and hatred, you are not at all perfect.

Great souls like Socrates and Mahatma Gandhiji who could recognise Divinity in the judge that sentences them, in the people who try to hurt and kill them, can be called

masters of the virtue of non-killing and none else. To be perfect in non-killing we must recognize God not only in ourselves but in others, who are the same manifestations of the same Almightiness. To an emancipated soul who cannot hurt any being or creature, everyone and everything is an expression of God.

In this world of duality and hurts, it is not so easy to live without hurting others in some form or other though not consciously. But with a sincere striving and self-mastery, it is possible to live a simple and humble life without hurting any of His children. If one attains this stage of not hurting others, he can be happy, for he has mastered the first lesson, the first part of the subject.

Now let us come to study the second section of our subject, namely, not to be hurt by others. Often I repeat that any one can be spiritual when all is going on well, but he alone is the truly spiritual soul who can remain calm and undisturbed in the fire of agonising tests, calumny and condemnation. He must be a God-embued and God-intoxicated soul to smile at tests and trials and to have the strength to repeat that the hurts are heaven's blessings, kicks are kisses, blames are praises, scandals are applauses, crucifixions are resurrections and even death is life; ever considering every stumbling block as a stepping stone towards the one goal—freedom, in this life—now and here.

How easy it is to write these noble thoughts and easier still it is to read and repeat them ! But all the difficulty comes when we are facing the dense and dark clouds of opposing forces, tried in the crucible of examination, especially when betrayed by our trusted friends and condemned by our dearest and nearest ones. It is only here that we are to assert our God-given hidden power or latent strength to face anything unflinchingly and thus remain waveless or unhurt. In spite of our philosophy and our sincere determinations never to be hurt by anyone or anything in this world, we often get hurt over every little thing. I do not know how far it is true that saying that the more spiritual one is, the more sensitive he is. May be true in a certain stage of development.

It takes not only the experience and wisdom of many years, but of many births and ages to remain in that *Nirvikalpa* stage, the waveless state of perfection, without allowing the mind to

break into waves in the lake of one's Soul. When the impressions of all the lives are destroyed or annihilated the mind stuff can no longer break or form into waves.

As long as we confine ourselves to forms of flesh, considering that we are men and women we cannot help hurting others or being hurt by someone. No amount of the study of spiritual books, discussions, or observing austerities, helps us to be perfect. It is only the personal experience of that Cosmic Glory that keeps us aloof both from hurting and from being hurt. If we want to practice the message of our present subject, it is time for us, to identify no longer with perishable forms of flesh and blood, but ever to identify with the *Imperishable, Indivisible and Interpenetrating Truth*. Then alone—and thus alone, we are safe and there is no other short cut or path to freedom from hurts.

Hurting and getting hurt can be taken also in the light of the great law of cause and effect or sowing and reaping. If we hurt anyone we will surely be hurt by others by the same relentless inevitable law multiplied by a thousand fold. The law does not exempt any one.

When we are innocent, the hurts from others can never touch or near us as in the case of the following illustration. A certain man brings to you a basket of fruits. and you refuse to take them and he has to take them back. The fruits can never enter into your stomach unless you accept and eat them. Similarly if some one hurts or wounds you, refuse to believe his words or take them within. Be centered in your sweet Self, allowing nothing to come near it. He has to take back his insults, as in the case of the man who has to take back his fruits when not accepted.

As it is usual my essay does not seem to be complete without sharing some of my personal experiences with you. I do not mention them expecting any praise, for, what I have within myself can never be increased or decreased with the outside appreciations, As repeated often both by scriptures and men of realization we are made up of our thoughts. What we are, is the result of our past, and what we will be, will be determined by our present thoughts. When such is the unalterable law why should we expect praise or be afraid of outer hurts that can never touch us?

Once I was deeply absorbed in writing one of my essays and a kitten began to disturb me continuously, clawing me and calling my attention to it in innumerable ways. Instead of petting it I put it down. Again it came. Then I brushed it down quite forcibly and in the next moment, felt ashamed of myself. I put aside my writing materials and lifted it up to fondle it, mutely asking its forgiveness. As if it understood my thoughts, it began to purr its contentment and forgiveness. I could not have proceeded to write or think, knowing that I had been rough to the helpless little kitten until I became reconciled with it again.

It was Christ, who asked us never to enter a temple or the presence of God before we have made our peace with the brother with whom we have been drawing swords. How can we meditate or pray knowing there is someone who is hurting us or, separate from us, repeating "ALL IS GOD AND EVERYTHING IS GOD." It is glorious not only to love but to live as love, for God is love—is nothing but the expression of infinite and eternal love. This is the same law, whether it is for you or for me. If we still persist in being haughty, in harboring hatred and bitterness, it is time to realize that we are digging our own graves spiritually.

Thus unconsciously I may be hurting a soul, but when once I realize my mistake I can neither eat nor sleep until I seek his forgiveness. Life itself is given us to manifest Love and to feel Unity with all that exists.

Similarly, when I am hurt by those whom I love with unjust criticism, only for a time my soul fairly writhes in agony. Then I lose no time in overcoming the weakness, and in recognising the Divinity in everyone.

With fame comes jealousy, criticism, condemnation and other arrows of the world. For the few loving words Christ spoke He was mercilessly crucified by those who could not understand him. For the great work Mahatma Gandhiji has been doing offering his life and all, never hurting even an ant, upholding the highest principles of non-killing, an attempt was made to bomb him recently. This is the way of the world, where no one is free from this ceaseless round of hurting or being hurt by someone.

When such is the case even with great souls how much more is it so with unknown and insignificant ones. The world never spared anyone who worked for its progress, nor will it spare such even to-day. It is our only recourse to bear all hurts with silent resignation and a patient smile—recognizing only Truth.

In the wandering forest-life of Sri Rama, he once stopped to drink water from a well, sticking his bow into the ground. After quenching his thirst he took his bow out of the ground and was dismayed to see blood on its tip. When he examined the ground, he felt sad to see a little frog lying there bleeding and suffering silently. Then Rama said to the frog, "Why did you not cry out when the sharp bow-end struck you?" The devoted frog replied, "O Rama, Thou art the lord of all creation. When others hurt me I complain to Thee, but when you yourself hurt me, with whom am I to-complain?" Rama felt pleased with the devotion and submission of the little creature and so he healed and blessed it with long life.

This seems to be a mere fable, but it is a parable from the sacred Hindu scripture and how wonderfully it illustrates our point here.

What a great lesson it has to teach us on forbearance, patience, devotion and love! How long does it take for us to have that devotion and forbearance though our hearts are pierced? When shall we be able to see the sweet face of the Lord in every one who is hurting us willfully or unconsciously?

Forbearance or self-resignation is not the outcome of weakness or ignorance, but it is the result of highest strength and wisdom—the experience of innumerable births. Hence for every step in our daily lives, let us examine our thoughts, words and deeds and strive not only never to hurt any living being or creature on the face of the earth, but to be centered in that great state of fortitude and forbearance when visited by calamities or when facing a world of tests and trials.

My friends, join me now in repeating the sacred chant of the East, attuning ourselves with the spirit of all the sages and saints.—May Peace abide everywhere in all the four corners of the earth. May all be healthy, happy and peaceful, loving one another.

May nothing but ceaseless love flow from us towards one and all, at all times and under all conditions and thus may we live as emblems of the Highest Truth—His images of perfection—never hurting or being hurt by anyone—not only in deed and word but also in thought, is the prayer of your own brother OMKAR.

May Peace be unto all.

Om! Om!! Om!!!

THAT THOU ART

THAT Thou Art, O ! Soul Divine !
In the future, past or now !
Nor canst Thou help Thy being That,
For dream or shadows Maya casts.
Thou art Existence Supreme,
Bliss and Knowledge Absolute.
Truth is One without a second;
Thou art that Reality—
Alone but the Divinity.

Manifest Thy splendour now,
Of her, t age thine by right Divine !
High time it is reasserted,
And Thou in Thine own glory set up.
Do not strive to become what
Thou by nature always art.
Only be the 'That Divine,'
Ceasing to be aught other
Than Thy own Divinity.

When birth and death are far to Thee,
What is there for Thee to seek ?
When growth and change are off Thy realm,
Needst Thou relinquish or attain ?

Nothing escapes glory Thine,
From the atom to the sun.
Sun of suns Thou art ever;
Incomprehensible glory, Thine.
Shine in Thy glory of Divinity.

Light of lights, immeasurable !
Wouldst Thou beg for measured light ?
O ! Thou rich in Joy Divine !
Wouldst Thou cringe for small delights ?
High time Thou awoke to the fact,
And cast aside exertions finite;
Prayer, Sadhana or Meditation,
Shamed Thee if betaken serious,
O ! Thou Son of Divinity.

What the fun to offer prayers,
None beside Thee existing ?
What else is there to meditate on,
When Thou alone art All in all ?
Steel alone sharpens the steel,
Diamond cuts diamond alone,
Gold melted does add to gold,
Matter foreign never fuse;
So is nature of Divinity.

Meditating to become God,
Or acquire God of nature strange
Vain folly unbecoming
The children of Eternity.
Recognize Thy Divinity,
And be silent, that is all.
"Still Thou be within Thyself,
And of a truth know 'I Am God,' —
This the Meditation of Divinity.

Glorious Light ! silently shine,
Strike a blow fatal to all
Restless fever of possession;
Be self-composed and self-contained,
Being in thyself All in all.
Soul of serious age, mature !
Name and fame are toys to Thee,
When unnamed fame unconceived here,
Is in Thy Being of Divinity.

Ocean of Life and Satisfaction
Wherein all lives merge contented !
Would the mirage of blazing desert
Of worldly desires make Thee run ?
Eternal Witness of all that is !
The Source, the Being and End of all !
If Thou couldst only stand as THAT,
All 'luring dreams will pass Thee by,
And leave Thee in boldest Divinity.

Reader beloved ! as you read,
Know 'That Thou Art', once for all.
Let each breath speak Thy silent Glory;
And so with Thy silent Love Supreme.
Let things manifested and unmanifested
Be bathed in Thy Being Love Universal.
Let bubly worlds of finite bounds,
Merge in Thy Infinite Ocean of Bliss,
And rest in Thy Glory of Divinity.

Versified by
Sudhulkyananda

AUM

MESSAGE

of

SWAMI OMKAR

On the eve of his departure from America

June 8, 1926

THE MISSION OF PEACE

SRI MARIYA ASHRAM

1311 North 57th Street

Philadelphia, Pa.

U. S. A.

PARTING MESSAGE

Dear Beloved Friends, I can never express to you in these lifeless words the great joy I am feeling in having had the privilege of serving all of you. By coming to America from far away India, I have been blessed with precious jewels and priceless treasures that cannot be exchanged for or replaced by anything in the world. My precious treasures cannot be stolen by thieves. They cannot be rusted by time or age, nor can they be eaten by moths. My precious jewels and priceless treasures are the sacred moments and Holy hours that I have spent with you in serving and guiding you all. These valuable treasures are the fruits of devotion and love. Hence they will remain fresh and green in my life, forever.

Dear Beloved ones, what can I do for you in return for the opportunity you have given me of earning such sacred jewels? I have nothing but floods of love to offer you as an expression of my inner gratitude. So I pray you to merge in my heart, to drink deep the nectar of Divine Love. The moments that we spend in thinking of our forms and names are the worst moments of our lives, for hell is only in individual consciousness. But the moments that we spend in serving and loving others are the Holy moments of our lives, for heaven is only in selflessness. For giving me the taste of Heaven by allowing me to serve you, how can I ever sufficiently render my thanks and love to all of you?

Dear Friends, I stand here perhaps for the last time on the free soil of America, to convey to you my parting message. It is wrong in a spiritual sense to call this a parting message, for in the Spirit there is no parting. But since we are parting physically, allow me to call this a parting message, since there is parting or separation on the physical plane. I do not mind whether you think of me with respect or disrespect, when I confess to you that on this day my heart is heavy. Am I expected to be cheerful at the thought of leaving you, who are relying on me for your guidance as your friend and loving brother? How can I dare to be happy in going away from you?

On the physical plane I cannot help but feel for all of you. I cannot help but be sad in leaving you all behind me. I may as well tell you, even though I renounced everything that is to be renounced as a Swami, I have not yet learnt to renounce my pupils, friends and brothers and sisters who rely on me, loving me as their all in all. You may think that I am not a man of realization, but never mind, this is the bare truth. I am not a block of wood or a piece of stone or iron. My soul craves nothing but to love you, to serve you and to dissolve this body in this loving service alone.

So far I have told you only the human or physical side of my feelings. But in the Glory of my Spirituality, I feel neither sadness nor happiness. There, there is neither coming nor going. There is neither East nor West. It is a state of perfect motionlessness, and allness, and I leave the same for the comprehension of those of you who have had glimpses of that great state of Peace.

Forgetfulness of God or Divinity is alone the root of all diseases, sins or weaknesses and miseries. So resolve once for all, even now, never to forget nor neglect nor forsake your Divinity, even for the time being, in the name of seeming duties of the world. What also can I tell you, dear friends? I can only tell you that you are the Divine Truth. It is in your power now to assert and manifest the Divinity. Everyone must be his or her own saviour. "Awake, arise, stop not until the goal is reached." This is the central theme of the sacred books of the East. What is the goal? This goal is nothing but your own Divinity. Where is it? It is not far away from you, neither is it separate, but it is inseparably one with all of you. You are That. You are nothing but the Divine Truth.

"Know the Truth and the Truth will make." This the sacred teaching of our Bible. Then why not take hold of Truth? Why delay? Why do you sleep, being the Truth? Talking will not do. Conscious Realization is needed. Determine not to do any other work until you know the Truth. Make up your minds not to eat, or drink or talk, until you consciously realize the Truth. Such a firm determination alone will make you feel and realize the truth on this spot, in this second alone, for verily you have been the Truth alone all the while. Whether you know or not, whether you admit it or not, whether you can prove it or not whether you are conscious of it or not, you are nothing but the Divine Truth.

Being the Truth, why should you search for it hither and thither? Being the Truth why should you weep and pray, remaining in ignorance? Being the Truth why should you fret and worry over the little things of the world? Being the All-pervading Truth why should you fume and grumble? Being the Light of Lights, to whom shall we pray Beloved Ones? When all this is Truth why all these blind searches in the name of God and Religion? Let those who believe that God is away or separate from them, search, weep and pray. But since you believe that you are the only Reality or Truth, do not waste any more of your precious energy on empty prayers and lifeless worship. Let your precious energy be utilized only in asserting and manifesting your Godhead or Truth.

When we are the Truth, what is it that is preventing us from enjoying its full glory? It is delusion, ignorance, dark desire, vain imagination. Indeed these alone are making a wreck of our spiritual lives. It is desire that saps and sucks the very vitality. The moment we get rid of relative desires, we will be tasting the Glory of our Divinity, we will be drinking deep of our Christ Consciousness. For our Divine Heritage is this Universal Consciousness alone. We are everything with this Consciousness and mere nothings without this Truth Consciousness. So it is in our own power to be everything or nothing.

In the lake of the mind, the thoughts and impressions are the ripples and waves. It is only when you dissolve these ripples and waves, that your image will be reflected fully in all glory. Let us not be false to our creation in the image of God ever worshipping these finite temples at the risk of crucifying the Living God. Let us wake up from our long slumbers and begin to worship only the Divine Truth. Everything is within the mind. Nothing can dare to come before the iron will of a determined soul. So be bold dear friends, to take hold of your Divinity and to proclaim it cheerfully from every pore of your bodies.

As you are already the Divine Truth, let not your exertions be to get Truth or to become Truth. Let your exertions be to assert and manifest your Birthright consciously. Sooner or later this must be your goal. All peace, all joy, all strength and all life are

there alone, in your Divinity. Then why delay? Why do you keep turning round and round seeking the Truth? Please realize even now that the Truth for which you have been searching in churches and temples, in Masters and books, in sermons and lecturers, is verily within you. It is inseparably One with all of us. We are that Truth.

What a great joy it is to feel that the very God for whom we are restlessly and blindly searching outside of us, is verily beating in our very hearts, seeing with our eyes, hearing with our ears, thinking with our minds, and breathing with our breath. Indeed, this is so! This alone is the only Truth. This alone is the goal of our human birth; Shall we still continue to misuse our precious human births? Let us wake up, never to sleep again. Let us rise never to fall again. Let us embrace Humanity in the consciousness of Universal Love, standing on the firm rock of Self-realization.

Dear Divine Ones, the lessons and talks that I have been giving you from the time of my coming to America, I have now given in this message in condensed form, as it were in a nutshell. My inner soul still whispers, "Give thyself unto all these earnest souls completely, forgetting thyself in the sacred duty of service. But what else have I to offer you? Have I not given to you all that I am? All that I have, all that I know, for all that I feel or experience physically, mentally and spiritually belongs to each one of you. I feel joy in considering myself as the common property of all earnest souls, irrespective of caste, creed, colour or nationality. All these differences are only on the surface, but never in the depths of Inner Glory. So let us all live in this Glorious Oneness of Universal Love, loving each other and always standing on the common basis of truth.

You are aware of our Mission of Peace in India. It belongs to you as much as it belongs to me, for it is a Universal Centre of Peace, belonging to the whole of Humanity. If you should ever happen to come there it will afford me immense joy to be helpful and serviceable there also. If it is the desire of all of you that I should come to America again, I shall try to do so. In the meantime, may I request you to give your continued interest and sympathy to Sister and Brother Entriken, who are the supporters and organizers of our work here, for its future welfare and prosperity

also. And by the Blessings of the Almighty God we will not fail to organize an Abode of Peace here also, as in India, for the use and benefit of mankind.

In conclusion let me request, dear Children of Immortality, that you do not consider me as separate or away from you. Let us feel that as Spirit we are inseparably One, wherever this body may dwell, do not fail to remember that I will always be wishing for your progress and welfare, ever-living in your innocent hearts.

Those of you who are getting good results by writing the Spiritual diaries, may continue to send them to me in India, and with great joy I shall go through them, noting your progress, and will send the diaries to you again with my suggestions and necessary remarks. If ever there is any ambition or desire in my life it is only not to disappoint or forsake those who rely upon me. For what is this life, if it is not for the great cause of service? I keep life in this body only for serving the Blessed Forms of Truth.

O ! if you could only penetrate into my inner heart, you would not fail to see how my soul unceasingly craves to serve all of you with every heart beat of mine. It will be the summit of my glory and the pinnacle of my ambition should I lay down this body serving my devoted ones, with the last breath also. Verily in serving others, we are acknowledging that very Self or Truth, which is All, and besides which nothing else exists.

So may we all live in Truth, since we are nothing but Truth, ever radiating Peace and Joy unto the whole world.

That we may manifest the Glory of our Divine Heritage, in every second of our lives, spreading and vibrating the same all round us, and thus be a blessing to the whole of Humanity, is my constant prayer.

May Peace be unto all.

Om — Peace Peace Peace — Om