



Messages for Special Occasions

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Peace Prayer

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!

Peace Chant

*May there be Peace in Heaven.
Peace in the sky,*

Peace across the waters!

May there Peace on Earth!

*May Peace flow from the herbs,
plants and trees!*

*May all the celestial being radiate
Peace!*

May peace pervade all quarters!

OM TAT SAT OM!

Note: Please add these two prayers in appropriate places, as they are not repeatedly added in the document.

Dates given are the month and year article was published in *Peace* magazine. Unpublished articles are noted as such.

Part One- New Year's Messages

January 1st

1939

My beloved!

The dawn today was extremely bright and beautiful with variegated colours as if the sun also knows that it is a New Year Dawn of Joy.

As I gaze at the Baby Krishna on the wall in front of me, though His eyes are closed, He seems to say, 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!'

Lord Christ also is repeating from the heights of Kailas, 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!'

Lord Buddha through every leaf of the Bodhi tree, says 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!'

All the sages and saints, even the invisible celestial beings, seem to say, 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!'

Even the departed and the living are saying, 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!'

The sparrows, squirrels and crows also are singing and chirping, 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!'

More than ever, what about the Ocean? Hearken! Every wave in the ocean is dancing with the song of 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!' Not only to me, but also to you all, wishing peace on earth and good will among all mankind.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

1939

Jan. 1939

My heart is longing to give a new message for the New Year, to you, blessed readers of PEACE. Last year we had the instructive message of the New Year's Snow Fall, the snow that had covered all the dirt and dust of the old year.

Now, I am in the sunny lands of warm India and I look in vain for the snow-falls. But, in our Ashram, there are rows of big jasmine trees. Nowadays they are full of blossoms. How sweet and fragrant they are! Dear Loving Readers, can you inhale their fragrance?

Pray! Close your eyes and feel the sweet fragrance of the Presence of the Lord, Who is within, without, above, below and all around.

Ever surrounded as you are eternally, by His ever-present Presence, what else can you inhale other than the sweetness of His Harmony, Love and Peace?

Hour after hour, everyday, I spend my time under the cool shade of these sweet and soul-awakening trees, communing with the heart of their souls. It touches my heart to see these tall and stately trees dropping their sweet smelling flowers, one after another, over my head and at the feet, in all veneration and love.

We understand and love each other, with perfect unity. I serve them by giving water and manure for their food. They, in their gratefulness, shower flowers on me with homage and love.

The footpaths are often filled with these long, white flowers. This is my New Year's Snow-fall in India. While I walk, I always avoid stepping on these fragrant and sweet flowers. As there are so many flowers, sometimes my step is misplaced, crushing some of them. It hurts me to trample over these precious souls. Yet, they are so tender, sweet and

forbearing, giving out ceaselessly their own natural fragrance, even though crushed under the feet.

Dear Friends of *PEACE*! Let us be like these innocent flowers, that are giving out nothing but sweetness and fragrance, even when crushed under the feet.

What a beautiful and illuminating lesson, to practise this in our daily lives! Let this be a New Year's Message for us, the message of the crushed flowers giving out ungrudgingly sweetness and fragrance, without expecting any reward. Their nature is to give out fragrance, whether you crush or worship them.

In the sea of the world, while facing tempests and storms of life, let us give out life-giving waters of Peace and Blessedness, even when opposed and crushed, or criticised or condemned, by men of outer life.

Let the sweetness and fragrance of Love Universal, Peace Eternal and Forbearance, deep as the ocean, under all conditions, be the Message of the New Year.

Above all, dear friends, may I request you for a moment to close your eyes and bend your heads, so that our sweet and fragrant flowers may be sanctified by falling on your devoted and dedicated forms.

Now, you are covered with Flowers of Universal Peace, Flowers of Cosmic Joy, Flowers of Eternal Hope, Flowers of Boundless Love, Flowers of Endless Sweetness and Infinite Fragrance!

Pray! Inhale and Exhale their sweetness and fragrance, recognising His Presence in the very breath, for He is the Breath of all breath.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1940

Dec. 1939, Jan. 1952, Dec. 1959, Jan. 1962, Jan. 1968

The old year has come and gone! The New Year, 1960, is fast approaching. Years may change, but the Message never changes.

What is the Message of the New Year? Its Message is always new and fresh, for it is the only everlasting Message of the Sparkling Splendour of the Sun of suns. There always exists Eternal Light and no passing clouds of darkness or ignorance, such as ever darken the finite world of names and forms.

Our New Year's Message is a Message of all Light, and no darkness! It is of Unity and Love, and not of hate and strife. It is of harmony and co-operation and not of discord and disintegration. It is of Life and Happiness, and not of death and sorrow.

Let the perpetual Message of Life, Light and Life be felt in our own hearts, and from their luminous Centre radiate near and far, filling the world.

Let us realise that this Message of light is not only for New Year's Day, but for every day of the year and at all times. How blessed are souls who can realise that every year is really a New Year, that every month is a new month and that every day is a new day. Every hour is a new hour, every minute is a new minute and every moment is a new moment of hope, joy and inspiration! It is with us now to make best use of the precious moments for His service.

The old year has silently passed away with all its tests and trials, and rich experience that bring us nearer to Reality with every quickening steps. Let us learn to bury the dead past and live in the living loving present!

Unfortunately, the average man takes joy either in living in the dead past or in taking vague flights into the uncertain future; all the while he is neglecting the life giving and soul-awakening present moment.

May we resolve on this New Year's Day to make the full dedication of the New Year to God, to make best use of not only every day of the year, but every precious hour and every moment of all our time!

May the New Year also be a Year of health, happiness and infinite Light for all the Readers of PEACE and may Peace and goodwill abide all over the world!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

OM! OM! OM!

1955

Jan. 1955

Strange how I woke up, as if someone woke me up, exactly at the precious moment of the midnight hour, with feelings of joy and ecstasy, when the old year was passing into the New Year,

I sat for an hour outside on the veranda looking into the Soul of stars, wishing a Happy New Year to every star in the sky and also to all the people in the world, nay to every creature on the face of the earth and even to all the trees, plants and huge mountains that are around me in the Totapalli.

A Happy New Year to all of you, my dear sisters and brothers, the blessed readers of PEACE who are scattered all over India and abroad, in the world, in every religion and nation! A Happy New Year to the dear and near ones and to known and unknown! May He, the Indweller of your devoted and dedicated hearts, bless you all with health, peace and illumination throughout the whole year of 1955 and in all the years to come, is my prayer at the dawn of the New Year.

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

My message has always been a message of self-reliance. No more reliance on outer forms and names, be they incarnates or discarnates, but only reliance on the indwelling light. Do it not in the dim future, but right now and here, in this present moment. Self-reliance gives you peace, poise and power. It gives you comfort, contentment and cosmic joy.

The one who relies on the indwelling Light will never have any cause to be disappointed. Sometime or the other, each one gets disappointed in life, in little things or in big things, from dear ones, foreign ones, from friends, relatives, even from children, servants and disciples.

But there is someone who never disappoints us!

Question: Who is He?

Answer: He is God, the indweller of your own devoted and purified heart.

So long as you rely on the indwelling Presence, you are safe and sound, happy and contented. However, when once you give yourself to outer dependence on names and forms, be they the sweetest of the sweet or highest of the high, down goes your fall and the result will be disappointment and heartache.

Ashtavakra says that the sage is happy even in disappointment.

Question: Why is he happy in disappointment?

Answer: Because, he is relying on the One, the Eternal Light, the Indweller of one's heart, who never disappoints.

Blessed are they who have the strength to rely on the Light in their own hearts! The Indwelling Light is the only ever-present Reality, that never disappoints us, for it is Eternal, being One without a second.

There is sorrow in Change.

There is happiness in Changelessness!

The indwelling light, being Omnipresent, is ever there, in all your tests and trials. It is, being Omnipotent, there in you, always giving strength in all your undertakings, be they small or great. The Light being Omniscient, is the source of all your intelligence.

The Light is ever protecting you, whether it is day or night, in all the waking, dreaming and sleeping states, as it is the Eye of your eye, Ear of your ear, Mind of your mind, Heart of your heart, nay, even the Breath of your breath.

Dear friends of Peace, kindly ponder on these simple words. Do not merely read them. Introspect within. Meditate on the Light, nay, identify with Light Itself.

Light is your Birthright.

Thou art in Light.

The Light is in you.

Thou art That-Tat Twam Asi.

May the Year 1954, be the end of all weakness and outer dependence. May the year 1955 be full of Life, Light, Love and Wisdom, helping you to rely on the formless and nameless One, the Indwelling Presence of your dedicated hearts. May He bless you all with illumination of the Sun of suns and may Peace and goodwill abide among individuals as well as nations. This is the prayer of your brother Omkar!

Today is our day of rejoicing.

Today we are very Happy!

Our anxieties have departed,

Since we have met God.

Today, spring is in our hearts!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1973

Jan. 1973

My heart longs to touch the devoted and dedicated hearts of all the loving Readers of 'PEACE', the aspiring devotees, with a touch of His Presence in memory of the New Year.

I feel that every day is a new beginning; I am born afresh. Every month I feel that I am having a new beginning. I am blessed now with another New Year of Love and Peace. My Peace and Love include all the people in the world, in the **Love Universal and Peace Eternal** which includes all.

In memory of the Happy New Year, I resolve to feel His Presence in the very cells of my being, from the toes to the top of the head. When the eyes are closed and when the eyes are open, I try to feel His Presence and to face Him, from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet. For, *Isavasyam Idam Sarvam*: all this world is filled and permeated by Isa, Eswara, the indivisible God of all the worlds.

May this be a real New Year of Peace, Happiness and inspiration, not only to all our devoted and dedicated Readers of 'PEACE', but also to all the leaders of Nations in the East and the West, is my ardent prayer.

Let there be Peace in the world

And let it begin with me.

Every moment is precious, more so from the dawn of the New Year. Therefore, without wasting any more precious time, let us chant now our *Vedic Peace Chant*, wishing the Peace of all the children of God, in all the Kingdoms of Life.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

1979

New Year's Message

Jan. 1979

1-1-1979, Happy New Year's Day to all! Congratulations over your Ekaham, singing the Name Divine from 5 PM until 5 AM. May we all make best use of every moment of our lives, from the beginning of the New Year.

Remembering that He who wastes moments wastes all his life, let us make best use of every moment in service or deep meditation. Let Taila Dhara be our motto and ideal. With the dawn of the New Year may God bless you all more than ever to make best use of every moment. Read Chapters 30, 31 and 32 from *Cosmic Flashes* and *Hours of Silence*.

May Peace be unto all in the New Year of 1979! May God give us strength to serve all His children selflessly, for the sake of Love, for **God is Love and Love is God**. May we be eternally centred in God as He is within, without, above, below and all around.

*A tiny offering to all the Members of the Ashram and all
Gurukul children, wishing their Peace!*

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

OM TAT SAT OM!

1980

Jan. 1980

Today the 1st January 1980 is a Full Moon Day and New Year too. May this year commence with a good beginning of Light, Peace and Love!

God has no other precious body on earth than
ours.

So, let us experience Him in every moment of our lives Now and Always, not only on this Happy New Year Day but also throughout our lives.

Be dead that we may ever be alive to God, the
Light within.

This is the Message to be practised now, in this present living moment as well as eternally.

This is the ardent Prayer of your own Omkar, who lives you all, wishing your welfare.

HARI OM TAT SAT OM! AUM! MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

On 1-1-1980 Happy New Year to all, congratulations to all who partook in Nagar Sankeertan, singing the Name Divine, *Jaya, Jaya Rama Krishna Hari Om* from the Prayer Hall up to the Nirvana Mandir. May we all feel His presence ceaselessly like Taila Dhara, oil poured from one vessel into another vessel.

Love to all. May God bless all with Health and Peace. Happy New Year to all the children of God and to all the Members and children of the Gurukula!

My God bless us all more than ever with the dawn of the New Year, to make best use of every moment.

In the New Year of 1980 may God give us renewed vigour and strength to serve all His children selflessly for the Peace of the world, *for God is Love and Love is God.*

Our religion should always be for Universal Love and the Peace of all: this is Vedanta practical. Let us not forget that we are eternally centred in God, as He is within all of us.

A tiny offering to all the seekers of Peace all over the world, wishing a Happy New Year of illumination for God-Realisation.

AUM! AMEN!

OM! OM! OM!

1981

The New Year Message for 1981

Jan. 1981

Today the 1st of January 1981, is Ekaadasi and New Year day. May this New Year commence with a good beginning of Light, Peace and Love!

God has no other body on Earth than ours. So let us experience His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience in thought, word and deed. My heart longs to say HEARTY WELCOME to old and new devotees into the Omnipresence of God.

Our ideal and hard-working Secretary, Jnaneswari, is requesting me to give a Message for the Birthday in this New Year. Today I wanted to tell all my inner thoughts of ecstasy to all the children of the One Indivisible God in the East and the West.

There are three things in Vedic language, very easy to repeat but very, very difficult to feel. These are Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. We have to fully understand the real spirit behind these life-giving and soul-stirring Vedic aphorisms. Yet, people generally repeat them like parrots. We do not realise the actual meaning of them.

How difficult to practise these three 'in actual life, and also to feel, feel His Omnipresence in thought, word and deed! I want you all to know IT fully and feel His omnipresence in yourself. If you introspect yourself, you can notice that you fail to feel His omnipresence in yourself in your daily life.

Hence, let us at least decide now to practise and experience what is this Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience in this New Year. This is my Message for this 87th Birthday to all of you.

I am feeling since sitting in this Sunday Satsang, that God is speaking through the two Swamis (who came as guests). Practice, practise, practice to feel His omnipresence in all, at all times. Let this be the message for this New Year 1981, and for Birthday too. Let all feel God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience within and in all, for **All is God and God is all.**

Let all feel, feel His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. **God is Love and Love is God. Where Love is, there is God.** So, try to develop pure love towards all. Kill your deadliest enemy with such unquenchable, platonic and motherly Universal Love. **Love of man is love of God.**

Cosmic Flashes and In the Hours of Silence are two very inspiring and helpful books. In the early hours of dawn every day, I read them and have three chapters read in our daily evening Satsang prayers in Nirvana Mandir.

In one of the Chapters it is explained that *Brahma* and *Shakti* are not two but one. So the good news that I want to tell you is that whatever we speak it is due to latent hidden Shakti. It is because of that Shakti both Swamis Chirantanandaji and Pranavananda Giri have spoken; and all of us have listened also because of that Shakti.

Don't worry that you are forgetting God, for you are already in God and in His Omnipresence and the same Shakti is functioning through all of us and shining in the entire Cosmos. When we are silent we are Brahman and when we are working we are exhibiting Shakti.

Hence, there is never a moment of time that we have forgotten God even for a moment in our lives. So, let us be happy at all times and in all conditions of life. Be saturated with His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience.

Our ideal vice-president Sri Sriramji often times in Satsang Prayers tells us Avatar Meher Babaji's words: *Don't worry, be bold, be happy and be cheerful,*

Sri Swamiji spoke thus: *The bubble comes from the wave, wave comes from the ocean, wave is the world and ocean is God.*

May we feel His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience ceaselessly, like the unbroken flow of oil poured from one vessel into another vessel. Let all be happy!

This is my Message for this New Year 1981 and for the 87th Birthday to all the children of God in the East and the West!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM! AUM! AMEN!

Greetings of Peace and Love and Good Wishes for a peaceful and Happy New Year 1981.

Every day is a fresh beginning.

Every morn is the world made new.

Ye who are weary or sorrow and sinning,

Here is a beautiful hope for you.

A hope for me and a hope for all.

May the Pathway of your lives be ever bright and luminous with the radiance of the Sun of suns: this is the prayer of your ever-loving Brother Omkar, and all the Members of the Mission of Peace Totapalli Hills, as well as Branches at Kotagiri, Ashok Nagar Kakinada, Uppada Mouna Ashram and Waltair and also newly started Peace Centres at Mysore, Bangalore, Anantapur, Kalluru, Madras and Hyderabad.

JAYA JAYA RAMA KRISHNA HARI OM!

Hail to our Parama Pujya Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj, President of Divine Life Society, Rishikesh for his trip to Mother Ashram after his return from abroad. HEARTY WELCOME to His Holiness, to glorify this Birthday and Sri Shanti Ashram!

OM! OM! OM! AUM! AMEN!

In Memory of the Happy New Year, let us meditate Now in Silence, wishing the Peace of all! May the Peace of others be our Peace. May the World Peace be our lives Soul and Goal!

LOKA SAMASTHA SUKHINO BHAVANTU!

OM! OM! OM!

Part Two- Birthday Messages

January 21st

1947

(Unpublished)

Every day is a Birthday unto Universal souls, the souls who love all, who feel for all and who consider all as their own. For, somewhere, someone or the other is born in the broad home of the wide world.

Wherever there is birth there is death. Wherever there is death, there is birth, for birth follows death and death follows birth. Verily, they are the inevitable connecting links in the chain of endless life.

It is blessed to remember—if not every day, at least even once in a year, the object of the precious human birth, its soul and goal. Man is restlessness, with attachment to form and name and does not realise the goal of his existence. He is ever running after the shadow, forgetting the substance, the living truth, the inherent Divinity, his very birth in the human form. Living like this is a disgrace to humanity and a mere burden to Mother Earth.

Hence, let us strive to make the Day of our birth, the day of rejoicing as this very day. Let us centre our minds on that Transcendental State of birthlessness and deathlessness, where alone abide the Perpetual Joy that knows no change and Peace that passeth all understanding.

The wise make everyday a day of happiness, every hour an hour of glory and every moment a moment of God-consciousness. Remembering the great saying that '*He who wastes moments, wastes his whole life.*' Let us sincerely try to make every moment a precious moment of Cosmic Joy or God-consciousness, filled with Love Universal, Life Eternal and Light Infinite.

In memory of our Birthday, let us close our eyes and introspect our lives and turn back to the Source of our existence, where it is all Light, the Light of Millions of Sun's splendour. May we meditate now on that Effulgent Light, for the welfare and Peace of our souls as well as of all the other souls in East and West, all over the world.

It is Light within, without, above, below and all around. May all Glory be unto the Light of Lights!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1950

(Unpublished)

Strange as it may sound to the ears of the worldly, I often do not know the age of this body, even when the Birthday is celebrated every year. For, I am one of those trying to live identifying with the only Reality, the Living Spirit, forgetting all forms and names, including the body, mind and the tiny age.

On the other day while going through the old papers in a wallet, I saw the horoscope of this body and was surprised and shocked to see the age of this life is a full fifty six years.

Today I sat in Kailas, basking in the warm and balmy rays of the sun, looking at the limitless ocean and the breaking of the waves and listening to their ceaseless music of the sacred syllable OM. I heard the song of the sweet birds around and inhaled the fragrance of beautiful wild flowers.

The mind began to dwell in heavy sadness on the thought of passing fifty six years. Did I really live 56 years? I feel that I am only six years old. What have I done with all these long 56 years? Now I have to give an account to the Creator, the Lord of our existence.

What is there that a man cannot do in a long period of 56 years? What have I done, in all these years, besides starting Ashrams, Abodes of Peace, Peace Foundations and running around the world many a time?

Have I done any concrete, helpful and lasting service in all these years? With such a question, I was perplexed and felt sad too. Tears began to flow from my eyes remembering a thought of a friend in a letter that **'Worrying is burying in deed ignorance.'**

I wiped my eyes and looked down at my broken leg. Physically, in a concrete and solid way, all that is left of me now is this broken leg. I could see the long cut of 16 inches and nearly 25 marks of the stitches, the knots that were tied when the surgeon closed the deep cut, and also a little hallow space from the place where the bone was cut and taken out.

Is this not at least a little practical service, to a selfless child in her daily life? Thus, I began to console my mind and justify my 56 years of long life. It is of little use to worry over spilt milk, over the long years of dead past. I promised God again to make best use of the remaining years, every moment of them, as long as He wishes to keep this form on earth.

How true are the words that, **'He who wastes moments wastes his whole life.'** So, let us make best use of our time, by making the highest use of our moments in His service, more than ever.

Now my Loving friend, the all-important question now is: What can I do for you, in a helpful and practical way? For, I wish to make best use of my time, every moment of it, more than ever now.

Here is Mt. Kailas. Here is myself with the vow of silence. Kailas is calling you, for silence is your soul and goal too. Kailas is calling you, to realise the Goal of your life in its blessed solitudes, before the light goes out and the Call comes from the Beyond.

My Loving Readers, may the Almighty, the Indwelling Presence of your hearts, bless you to feel His Presence, the Interpenetrating Presence not only now, as you read this message, but in each and every moment of your lives, is the prayer of your brother Omkar.

OM! OM! OM!

1950

(Unpublished)

In the early hours of dawn I sit all alone, musing over the advent of another Birthday for this body, on Saturday, the Twenty first of January, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty.

How to make this the happiest Birthday, is the prominent thought now. I long to go to Mt. Kailas and meditate on the Heights today on the effulgent Glory, the Light of God! But, does that make me happy? Does it make the happiest Birthday, when others are ignored, and when I am only thinking of my own Peace?

The way to be happy is to make others happy. How to make others happy? Can others be made happy by feeding them with physical food? Can we satisfy people by giving them the perishable wealth? Can we satisfy even the sick people, by helping them to be healthy? After getting food, wealth and health too, man longs to have something more. What is that? It is Peace, for Peace is the birthright of every man and woman on the face of the earth.

Now, I long to share this Peace, this Infinite and Eternal Peace, with all the people in the Ashram, in the District, in the presidency, in India, in Asia, in the East, West, North

and South and with all the people in the world, without excluding even one individual, even if he is a so-called foe, for this is a Birthday for all!

As I meditate, I meditate only on the Universal whole, filling all forms and names, the whole Universe with His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. Thus, dear, dear ones, verily, my Birthday is your Birthday! It is everybody's Birthday, for my happiness is your happiness. Your happiness is everybody's happiness.

Pray! Come on, to eat the Birthday cake of Love. Let us light the candles of illumination in every heart. Let us rejoice my friends, for this is a Birthday belonging to all, even to those who live on the heights as well as in the depths.

May Glory be in the Highest, good will among nations and peace on earth, on this Happy Birthday! Once again, I wish a Happy Birthday to bird, beast and man, nay, to every living creature and even to every departed soul in the creation.

My Loving Reader, as you read this message, may you celebrate in your devoted and dedicated heart and in the stillness of your sacred sanctuary, the happiest Birthday by recognising the Light within you now and here, is the prayer of your own brother Swami Omkar.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1957

Feb. 1957

It has been said *that Silence is gold and speech is silver*. I feel it rather strange, undesirable and even regrettable that I should exchange my gold for silver. However, what consoles and delights me is the thought that, if by my speech, I can serve my Ashramites and devotees effectively, I do not hesitate to exchange my gold not merely for silver but, if need be, even for iron.

Since we have by God's Grace attained the precious birth, what is incumbent and imperative upon us is Self-Realisation. It is our duty to strive to our utmost to regain our birthright and identity of our Self with the Divine directly, not in some unknown future but now and here only.

What stands in the way of our attainment of that Blissful state which is our goal, support nay, everything, are the three-fold tendencies and dispositions inherent in us from our very birth (vasanatraya). These are the attachment to the body (deha), scholarship (Shastra) and locality (loca). These veil our realisation.

1. **Attachment to our body:** if we recall how we mistake in the dark a rope for a snake, we see that though there is actually a single object, a rope, its misapprehension that it is a snake fills us with fear and dread. So also it is in our life. With the correct apprehension of the one fundamental Truth, of the Radiance of the One without a second, we will be lead to the state of ineffable Peace and joy. Might and radiance will shine in us.
2. **Attachment to our scholarship:** Infatuated with the idea that we are highly learned, making a display of it to others day in and day out, always praying upon the ideas of others, we end merely in making a huge sound like empty and hollow tins.
3. **Attachment to our locality:** Possessed with the idea that he is a glorious personality, the man filled with egoism and the thought of *my* and *mine* always wants to be adored by the world. Such a man barter his precious Self for the temporary and ephemeral glory of name and fame.

The lives of those who exchange ambrosia for poison are not only pitiable but sometimes even harmful. God is Truth Absolute, Knowledge Absolute and Bliss Absolute.

This whole world with its nationalities and earthly rulers is compared by the wise to a mere drop in the vast ocean.

If this apparently mighty Universe be just like a bubble, where is the place for our attachments to our bodies and learning? What can be the worth of petty things? The light of these fireflies is indistinguishable in the effulgence of millions of suns.

The lives of those which are constantly filled with devotion to God, however much their senses, minds and bodies are occupied in their routine daily activities, are very holy and sacred indeed. This feeling and attitude is the very support, foundation and substratum of every human being. Blessed are they who feel such unique Divine experience, not only in silence but even give expression to it for the benefit of the world.

That which is vital in both the states of Soundlessness and sound is the one Divinity only. The wave is in no way different from the ocean so far as the water content is concerned. Blessed indeed are they who are able to discern the Infinite in the finite, Divinity (Narayana) in man (Nara) and transcend the attachment to body, scholarship and locality.

Dear Readers! Just attentively examine once how you have been spending your precious lives. Do you still feel confined to your body by your attachment to it? Do you still hanker after name and fame, being slaves to attachment to your learning?

The whole world is like a mere bubble. Never allow yourself to be confined by it. Ambrosia should never be exchanged for poison and so also, Eternity should never be exchanged for transitory things.

Awake, arise! May you manifest here and now, your Eternal Unchanging and Infinite birthright of Omnipotence and Divine Radiance, for the renascence of humanity and the glory of the world!

May you, in memory of this Birthday, realise the truth of the wise sayings.

1. *He who wastes moments wastes all his life*, and thus live for the welfare of humanity.
2. *He who is too idle to work has no right to eat*. Devote yourselves in the service of man or in the service of God, with a spirit of selfless service and thus make your lives blessed. Enjoy the constant communion with God, loving yourselves in Divine splendour.

Always, in memory of this Birthday, ponder over the affirmations

I am in God.

God is in me.

God and I are not two but one and the same!

Wake up in time, while light is just peeping in, and reach your goal.

In memory of this day, may all the Ashram devotees who happen to read this message, be blessed, filling their pure hearts even now with Peace. May they radiate that Peace and goodwill all over their country and over the world around them.

The Whole is all that, the Whole is all this.

The Whole was born of the Whole.

Taking the Whole from the Whole, the Whole only remains.

OM PEACE, PEACE, PEACE!

1958***Jan. 1958, Jan. 1985, Jan. 1996***

It is good that every person has his or her Birthday as one among the 365 days in the year. Birthdays are grandly observed among the rich and the poor alike, even in the West. They are observed in the case of little children also.

In our country too, the old and the young celebrate their birthday with great joy and merriment. Is it not a matter of singular good fortune that there is a fit occasion for every one, even on a single day in the year, to review one's life and form some new and pious resolutions? They can do it at least in the name of the birthday and thus strive to progress day by day. It is sad however to see that generally they are wasted in mere festivity and pomp.

Only the lives of those are blessed, who ponder over the idea as to how the rare human existence with which we have been fortunately endowed, has to be well utilised in all directions, and strictly adhere to that path.

This year's Birthday occasion is indeed sad. The usual festivities, conferences and other celebrations are conspicuously absent as has already been announced. However, in memory of the radiant life of the departed soul of Sister Sushila Devi, all the Ashram devotees have been extorted to utilise the time in concentrated prayers and meditation. There should be fasting and silence, so that individual Peace might first be established in their hearts.

1. What is the Message that I have to deliver to myself?
2. What is the Message that I have to convey to the inmates of the Ashram?
3. What is the Message that has to be extended to the devotees of the Ashram?
4. What is this year's Birthday Message to all the brothers and Sisters in the world?

1. The Birthday Message to myself:

My Message to myself is to become perfect, even as the Upanishad Shanti Mantra indicates:

*Poorna Madah Poorna Midam
Poornaat Poorna Mudachyate
Poornasya Poorna Maadaaya
Poorna Mevaa Vasishyate
Om Shanti Shanti Shanti*

*All that is invisible is verily the infinite
Brahman.*

All that is visible also is the infinite Brahman.

*The whole Universe has come out of the infinite
Brahman.*

*Brahman is infinite, although the whole
Universe has come out of it.*

Om Peace Peace Peace!

So my Birthday message to myself is to become like Paramatma (Supreme Self), ever complete and perfect. Completeness is the soul and Goal of human birth.

2. The Birthday Message to the Inmates of the Ashram

The blind cannot lead the blind. So the inmates of the Ashram should be full of devotion, spiritual enlightenment and detachment, and always enjoy the bliss of Divine Presence or Awareness. This they should cheerfully and ungrudgingly share with their less fortunate fellowmen that happen to visit the Ashram. Not only should they thus progress for themselves but also should help others to become spiritually benefited.

Live in God and help others to live in Him, should be their watchword.

3. The Birthday Message to the devotees far and near:

They should try to spend even a single day in the month at the Ashram, which has been solely established for the spiritual uplift of interested people, in silent prayer and undiluted meditation.

Constant repetition of the Name of God confers Freedom. In the Ashram, Ekaham (non-stop repetition of God's Name for full one day) is observed on every full moon day in the month. So they should try to attend it at least and heartily partake in the Sankirtan (chanting of God's Name). They should completely forget their physical, mental and emotional selves and become blessed with new Power and Peace instead.

4. The Birthday Message to all the people in the East and the West:

Dear brothers and sisters! Only today is ours. Tomorrow is not ours. We have been graciously blessed with these rare human lives only to serve all children of God, as a means of God-realisation. Service to God should take the concrete form of Service to Mankind. Never put off till tomorrow what has to be done today, since that tomorrow may never present itself to us. So let us endeavour, only today, to our utmost.

The past is dead and buried, the future is dim and uncertain. Hence, let us realise God now alone. This is the right time for our efforts to be happy and for the enjoyment of Peace. This is indeed the best way.

As a token of this Birthday, all the inmates, devotees and sympathisers of the Ashram should repeat the Peace Prayer 108 times, wishing the Peace of the soul of Sister Sushila Devi and the world at large, and enjoy the consequent bliss of Peace. Let Peace be firmly established in the individual hearts and then spread to all the countries of the world.

OM PEACE PEACE PEACE!

1960

Feb. 1960

It is blessed to have even one day in a year as the Birthday, so that one can think of the source and the Goal of his birth, consciously or unconsciously.

How blessed are they who can make everyday a Birthday and thus commune with God ceaselessly! Wherever there is a birth, there is a death. For, both of them are inseparable. As the day follows the night and as night the day, birth and death follow each other. How interesting is the inspiring thought that every inhalation is a birth and every exhalation is a death. Thus, they are inseparable. However, that which is beyond birth and death is the Changeless Reality, the Indwelling Light, the God within.

Blessed are they who identify and cling to the Changeless Reality, the Self-effulgent Light, rising above birth and death. Birth and death are only for the body and never for the Atma. Strange as it may sound, every year I think in advance thus:

Let there be no more birthdays for the body.

For every day is a Birthday for the Atma, the soul.

Somehow the Birthday is forced upon me by some of the Ashram members, devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram. So, here is the Birthday coming, only tomorrow.

Only last night, I was asked to write a Birthday Message. Hence here I am, busy with it, wishing the welfare of all of you.

There is a sheet of paper on my table written last week about the Birthday with the following words

May Happy Birthday be unto all!

Question: What do I want for the Birthday of 1960?

Answer: For my Birthday I want all the half-completed works in the Ashram to be completed.

All the promises that I ever made, to the young or old, to the poor or rich, should be fulfilled in memory of this Birthday.

Let the Birthday Gift of 1960, be the Self-effulgent Light that gives out Light ceaselessly, never expecting any reward from anyone, at anytime, in any form. As Self-effulgent Light, I can afford to give out, nay pour out Light, Life, and Love on one and all.

OM! OM! OM!

Yesterday I received the following verses on World Peace from Brother Vyasa of Germany.

*If there shall really be Peace of Earth,
It must be found on the Love of Christ.
It must, if to become in truth perennial,
Be one with Krishna's holy thoughts so wise.*

*This Peace must be like a loving flower,
In which the pity of great Buddha shines.
And further, it must be hard like a rock.
Possessing Mohammed's high power wide.*

*When love and piety, wisdom full of power
Will really take root in many soul
That they may be the holy Priests of God,
The real Peace will spread in our world.
And sorrow, war and tears will be no more,
And what we all long for is then fulfilled.*

(Versification from the Words of Sri Swami Omkar)

The verses were ended with the above words.

My own words on World Peace were made into verses and offered to me as the Birthday Gift, wishing World Peace, along with a Heat-felt Greeting Card of roses.

In this connection, I wish to offer my thanks to all those who have generously contributed for the Birthday function, especially to feed the poor and the sick and to clothe the aged and the naked. My thanks are also to all the devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram in the East and the West, who were kind enough in sending several gifts, telegrams and letters of Birthday Felicitations.

Last year my Birthday Gift had been a New Hospital to serve the sick and the poor. This year my heart rejoices to see my Birthday Gift in the form of a Lady's Ward and Men's Ward, to serve the helpless, the sick and the poor. How good is God! MAY ALL GLORY BE UNTO HIM!

Question: What is my Birthday Message?

Answer: My Birthday Message is Peace unto all, Love unto all and Light unto all!

My Birthday is your Birthday, for we are all the children of God, coming from the same source and working and living in Him

May this Birthday be a Happy Birthday of Peace, Health, Love, Life, Light and Power to all the Sisters and Brothers in the East and the West!

Above all, may you strive to make every day a Happy Birthday of Peace and illumination, the Source and Goal of the very birth and thus make your Birth a blessing to Humanity!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1961

Birthday Message

Jan. 1961

Today is the 19th. The day after tomorrow is Saturday, 21st Jan. 1961. It is considered as the Birthday of this body. Many devotees from far and near are expected. Lakshapatri Puja, the worship with a lakh of bilva leaves, is going to be performed. It is for all the richest Blessings of God on the Ashram. It is to invoke His Blessings on all of you and on all His children in the East and the West.

Now it is the early hour of dawn. I am feeling His Presence within and without, and facing Him all around. What can I write about the coming Birthday? The inner voice says, *Let Him write!* Verily, it is He who writes, for not a blade of grass moves without His Will. ***Omnipotence is working, let the mortal retire.*** Freedom or salvation lies only in the complete annihilation of the ego. The ego is the root cause of all worry, trouble and misery.

Swami is dead, Omkar is alive. This has been one of the important mottoes in the Ashram. It has given me strength, joy and inspiration. In memory of this Birthday, let there not be any trace of the Swami in any form, more than ever. Let Swami die year by year and let Omkar be alive in all of you more and more, day by day, in every way. May all glory be unto the Omkar who is expressing and alive in all of you!

OM TAT SAT OM!

1961

Message

Jan. 1961

Dear Blessed Images of God! Do you believe in God, not in the God of the sky or heaven or a particular creed or religion? Do you believe in the God who is Omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient, and who is interpenetrating the very cells of your beings?

If you really believe in God, then He is here and now. Belief means personal experience of God's Presence now and here. The essence of my 66 years of spiritual experiences can be summed up in three words: ***God-realisation now and here.***

If you cannot feel Him now, how can you feel Him in the uncertain future? The time to feel Him is now. The place to feel Him is Here. If you love me, if you believe in the birthday, please help me by feeling His Presence now, even in the memory of the Birthday. I take joy in repeating ***the way to be happy is to make others happy.*** So let this Birthday be the Birthday of you all, for as I often say every year, My Birthday is your Birthday!

et my Birthday Puja, the worship, this year be to help and serve you all. To feel the Presence of God now and always! Let my Puja, the worship be to face Him, to see Him in all of you! let my worship be the worship of you all, for you are His living manifestations. Verily.

God has no other body on earth now than yours.

May this Birthday be the happiest Birthday of Peace, health, and love to each and everyone of you! May it be thus to all the children of God, establishing Peace and goodwill among individuals as well as communities and nations all over the world!

This is the prayer and the Birthday offering of your brother Omkar!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

P.S. In memory of the Birthday, let us repeat the Peace Prayer as many times as possible. It makes us feel His Presence during the repetition itself. Let the Birthday be ended with the chanting of the Vedic Prayer, the Peace Chant, for the Peace of all!

1963

Birthday Resolutions

Jan 1963

Dear God, let others be great and famous and let me be unknown and insignificant!

Let me speak less but meditate more!

Let me keep service before the little self!

Let the annihilation or destruction of the ego be the goal, whether it is in work or meditation!

Let every moment with Thee be more precious than all the wealth in the world!

Let me love Silence. It is the essence of all the religions, more than all the scriptures of the world.

Let Swami be dead more than ever, and Omkar alive, for the good of all!

May every breath be inhaled only for the benefit of others. They are actually not others but only oneself, the One Indivisible Atma.

May I close the Birthday Resolutions with the Peace Chant.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1964

Birthday Message (Everything is a Birthday)

Feb. 1964

For the great meritorious service rendered by Hanuman, the ideal devotee to Sri Rama and to His Divine Consort, Sita Devi presented to Hanuman a pearl necklace, a very valuable and priceless jewel. Hanuman, the great Bhakta, accepted the necklace gratefully. However, Sita Devi was surprised to see him breaking each pearl with stone.

Sita Devi in consternation said to Hanuman: "Although you are a great learned and intelligent devotee, you have not yet given up your monkey habits." Hanuman replied: "Oh Divine Mother! I am breaking these pearls to see if any of these contain the essence of Ram Nam, to see whether they are repeating Rama's Holy Name."

Thus like Hanuman, I take everyday and examine it to see whether it is a Birthday or not. If you are selfless living for others serving them selflessly, without seeking any reward in any form, then it is a Birthday to you. If you are selfish, living only for yourself, hurting innocent people, full of pride and egoism, praising yourself and condemning others, then it is a death day to you.

Every day is a Birthday for you when you can live for others. Every day is a death day to you when you live for yourself. Selfishness leads to death. Selflessness leads to deathlessness or immortality. Bodies have a day of birth and death too. Yet, where is the birth for the Atma, the indwelling light?

Day are many and that which passes through the days is the one Presence. Like Hanuman I like to have a different kind of rosary, consisting of 365 beads. That which passes through all these beads, days, is the string time of life. It is always one. May I meditate on the one string of always one. May I meditate on the one indwelling Presence. It binds life in the mineral, vegetable, animal and human kingdoms of life. For, it is one without a second.

May all homage be unto those precious souls to whom every day is a Birthday! May this Birthday make me cling to the indwelling Light more than ever! May the awareness of the Self effulgent light be ceaseless. Above all, may nothing but love flow from me. May it flow like an unceasing flow of oil, towards all His children known and unknown. May all feel His Presence now and always! This is the prayer of your own Omkar.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1965

Birthday Tribulations

Dec. 1964

How true is the saying, *'The medicine of one man may be poison of another'*! When we were young, we were happy over the Birthdays, for we get plenty of praises and gifts too. Now as we grow in age and experience, when we feel complete, all the praises and gifts in the world appear to be meaningless.

One of the Happiest Birthdays in my life was the last Birthday. I had it in the comfortable quarters of Dr. Ramani, the Superintendent of Victoria Hospital, Visakhapatnam. There was Bhajan, prayer and meditation while I was lying in the Bed of Roses. Will I ever have such a lovely and peaceful Birthday again in my life? Some of my Doctors and friends thought that I would never see another Birthday, for my heart malady seemed like such a dangerous and treacherous disease. I learnt that in such maladies, many would die while walking or sitting and some would never return from their bath rooms. Thank God! How good is God, to keep me still alive, with health and strength too, to have the blessed privilege of serving you all!

My heart longs to serve you all, even with the last breath and to repeat cheerfully *Not my will but may His will be done*. I can say this even if the call comes from the great beyond, any day even this moment or in the years to come! Now as for the Birthday Tribulations Karma. Which is to be reaped from what was sown, must be experienced to the last particle.

Our Jnaneswari never wants to have any Birthday Celebrations, or any fuss made on 13th October. She wants the Birthday to be like any other day. Yet, she was compelled by her friends, devotees, Ashram workers and members to sit long hours accepting praises

and garlands of flowers etc. I felt sad for her because the people did not fulfil her simple request. She wanted only to be allowed to spend the day alone in Peace, instead of with Bhajan, prayers and commotion with crowds of people.

We were in Kotagiri Peace Centre. In the name of her Birthday, Jnaneswari and Shanti had the Karma of cooking and serving some of the distinguished guests of the East and the West too. The only happy hour of the day was when poor people, most of them disabled and deformed, were fed and clothed in the memory of her Birthday.

Now as 21st January is fast approaching, Chy. Jnaneswari is already getting busy, writing letters to all Mahatmas, Swamiji's and Yogis, to send their blessings and prayers on that day. Is not God's Omnipresence, the indwelling light, the greatness Blessing? Just to feel that He pervades and permeates the very cells of our beings now, here and always, is the greatest Blessings of all Blessings.

These days the wise saying, *Be dead, that ye may be alive*, gives me great joy and consolation. It is impossible to worship God and Mammon at the same time. No man can serve two masters. One must die to the world of fame and name, if he wants to live for God alone. Another favourite saying of mine is, *Swami is dead and Omkar is alive*, which makes me to avoid and shun the birthdays. When devotees garland this body, the thought comes unconsciously, 'Why garland the dead Swami?' I live in a world of God-consciousness facing God within, without and all around. You are all the living images of God to me. Therefore, I feel unwilling and unpleasant when people prostrate and touch the feet. There is not need for the living images of God to crawl, cringe and prostrate to any outside personality, forgetting and neglecting the indwelling Light.

Self-reliance on the God within, is the life-giving and soul-awakening message of the day. These days, day by day my heart longs to be alone with God, in silence. I want this instead of wasting the precious time in entertaining the people, gossiping, observing formalities and wasting the valuable time with mere words. These days I realise more than ever, the preciousness of each and every moment. How true are the words that *He who wastes moments, wastes all his life!* What a great strain it is, besides wasting precious time, to sit hour after hour, in the name of Birthday, sometimes with out food and sleep too. I shiver and shudder even now, at the very thought of the coming Birthday and the crowds of people who gather here. Some of them grumble and complain over the lack of comfortable accommodation and good food etc.

When God is within, awaiting your recognition in your own devoted heart, why deny and forget Him and wander here and there, wasting precious time in hustle and bustle? Hence, I request and appeal to my friends who love me, to stay at home, and pray ceaselessly and meditate deeply. It is helpful to fast on that day or take at least fruit juice or butter milk, to have deep meditations. To be alone with God with Mouna, silence helps a great deal as silence is God.

As on the Birthday of our Jnaneswari, my heart longs to feed and clothe all the poor and helpless people, at least in the name of the Birthday, as it is the real worship of Narayana in the Daridra (poor) Narayanas. In memory of this Birthday, I request all my loving readers, all those who love and respect my wishes to repeat the helpful Peace Prayer at least 108 times. Do it sitting in Silence in your own homes, feeling his Presence in the very cells of their beings.

May the Birthday, 21st January 1965 be a Happy Birthday, giving me less strain and worry. May it give more Peace and Joy to all the devoted readers of Peace and to all the devotees and well-wishers of Shanti Ashram, the Abode of Peace. This is the prayer of the one who loves you, wishing your welfare and Peace.

May you all help me on this Birthday, as well as on all the days to come, as everyday is a Birthday. You can do this by repeating the Peace Prayer and thus feeling His Presence without a break, ceaselessly!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1966*Birthday Message of Seventy-First Year***Feb. 1966**

As God, the Atma, the Indwelling Light is one without a second, my Birthday is your Birthday and your Birthday is my Birthday. The real Birthday celebration is merging in the source of our very birth, the Infinite. May every day be a Birthday to the seekers of Truth!

In memory of the Birthday, my heart longs to touch the hearts of devotees and to be in tune with the Infinite, wishing you all the happiest Birthday with success and peace. As the years roll on, I realise more than ever the preciousness of time and I take joy to repeat that **he who wastes moments wastes all his life.**

Knowing the preciousness of every moment, let us make best use of it, either in deep meditation or in selfless service. Verily, in serving others, we are serving the indwelling Light, which includes all and excludes none. Thus, God is not aloof or in the far-away sky or Heaven. Verily, he comes to us in the form of you all, visitors and devotees. It is our privilege to love, receive and worship Him, in all possible ways. We have to serve those who come to us, considering it as the greatest opportunity of our lives.

These are not the days anymore for mere words, running after the shadows of name and fame. These are the days to do selfless service, in silence, without expecting reward in any form. Our real reward is Universal Love, profound Peace and supreme silence. It has been said, *Mauna Sarwardha Sadhanam*, when everything fails, it is Silence, Mouna that wins.

Question: Why am I longing to observe silence after this Birthday?

Answer: There is dissatisfaction that I am not able to serve you with my words. There is also an urge from within to help and serve you now and in the future, more than ever with my silence.

Be dead that ye may live. My heart longs to be dead to the world and alive for all of you. Then I can serve you better to help yourselves to realise the goal of our precious human birth, namely God-consciousness now and here. Let Swami be dead and Omkar be alive in all of you!

Hence, may I have the privilege of loving and serving, to lead you my loving friends on this day of new birth, into the Infinite Light, Universal Love and Eternal Life!

Happy Birthday of Health, success and Peace unto all!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1967*Message for the Golden Jubilee***Jan. 1967**

In memory of the Golden Jubilee my Heart longs to touch your loving heart of devotion with God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience, not tomorrow or in the uncertain, dim future but right now and here. How blessed it is to live in the living present moment instead of in the dead past or in the uncertain future! The present moment NOW contains the past, present and future. It has all eternity in its tiny bosom. **God-realisation Now and Here** is the Message for the Golden Jubilee. For God realisation the price is to be paid, just as we pay some price or other for anything we wish to buy in the world.

Question: What is the price for God-realisation?

Answer: Its price is complete self-surrender, the annihilation of the ego.

In memory of the Golden Jubilee let the ego be burnt up. Let the mind be destroyed. Let there be Vijnana, the knowledge of the Atma. If you wish to taste the Peace that passeth all understanding, the goal and soul of the precious human birth, three things are essential. These are Mano Nasana, dissolution of the mind, Vasana Kshayam, destruction of the vasanas, and to be established in Vijnanam, the splendour of millions of suns.

Dear friend, let me have the privilege of serving you, no longer with finite words but with supreme silence which includes all. Please help me in memory of the Golden Jubilee, by feeling His Presence always, ceaselessly. Feel Him not only in deep meditation but in active work too, for the indwelling Light is ever present eternally. Thou art the Light in the past, present and future. Let us repeat in ecstasy, *I am in the Light in the past, I am in the Light in the present and I am bound to be in the Light in the future also.*

Where is the moment when I am aloof or separate from the self-effulgent Light, the only changeless reality, the splendour of millions of suns? Less words and more selfless deeds in deep silence. Write less and think more. Read less, meditate more. Shall we meditate now in memory of the Golden Jubilee and the 72nd Birthday also? Imagine 72 long years. One cannot believe that this body has been here 72 years.

Sri Swami Rama, in whose sacred memory Sri Shanti Ashram was established in 1917 nearly 50 long years ago, lived only 33 years. It was a short life, but he had done immense, lasting service to India as well as to all the world. He did it by his simple and ideal life of Divine recklessness and God-consciousness. Sometimes, unconsciously I think within myself that this life is already more than twice the life of the blessed Rama Tirtha. What have I done in all these 72 long years? When compared with the short span of life of Swami Rama, I feel even now that I ought to have done more, ever living as a blessing to all His children.

My consolation is that Shanti Ashram, the Mission of Peace is my humble contribution to all the seekers of Peace in the world. Here a hearty welcome awaits one and all of the aspiring souls, irrespective of the differences of caste, creed, colour and nationally.

Another contribution that gives joy and justifies my long life of 72 years is the offering of our simple and inspiring Peace Prayer to all the seekers of Truth.

Dear fellow pilgrims in the path of Truth, service and Peace! Please help me no longer with words, but with deeds of selfless service. Repeat the helpful Peace Prayer every day. Spread it far and near among your dear ones and friends. Radiate it from heart to heart, village to village in all the communities and nations, until Peace and goodwill are established on earth and in all the nations. This is my ardent prayer to you, in memory of the Golden Jubilee.

Question: What is the Birthday message?

Answer: May this Birthday make you deathless, leading you towards the heights, where there is neither birth nor death.

In conclusion, I wish to offer my thanks, grateful thanks to everyone who has helped and contributed towards the progress of the Ashram from the very beginning to the happy day of Golden Jubilee, all these fifty years. My heartfelt thanks not only to all the sisters and brothers of the East and the West in the human kingdom, but also the dumb animal friends. My heartfelt thanks also to all the insects and to the lovely hills around the Ashram. My thanks to all the trees, plants, shrubs, nay, even to the ever sweet-smelling flowers. Happy Birthday to each and every tiny insect, and every sweet flower!

Sri Krishna, Lord Christ, Bhagavan Buddha and Gandhi Mahatmaji in front of my dwelling place in Nirvana Mandir are also blessing you with a Happy Birthday. Our Rammy

the little dog and tiny kitten Sabhari are now at my feet, as if saying *Happy Birthday* to all of you, in memory of the Golden Jubilee.

There has been a drought by which the fields, the trees and all the lands have been getting dry. Strange as it may sound, the heavens are drizzling now, as if in memory of the Golden Jubilee. I feel every rain drop is saying *Happy Birthday to you!* My loving readers of Peace, the heavens declare God's Glory. The firmament showeth His handiwork. All is Glory above and below, within and without and all around!

Alas, man alone, the living Image of God, makes himself miserable because of his insatiable desire. It is desire that binds you. destruction of desire gives you freedom. Give up desire and be the happiest man in the world. In memory of the golden Jubilee, I love to sing the following inspiring three affirmations that have been an inspiration in my life.

I am the richest man in all the world!

I am the healthiest man in the world!

I am the happiest man in the world!

May all Glory be unto God, the bestower of all the Blessings, the blessings of God's light, Life and Love, the Light Infinite, the Life Eternal and the Love Universal. It is my ardent wish and prayer that all the devoted visitors who have taken the trouble of coming to the Golden Jubilee, to take part in its celebrations, should make their visit worth while and happy by establishing a Peace Centre in their devoted hearts of dedication. From there Peace should flow in torrents and love in rivers, in all nations. My Message for the Golden Jubilee and for the Birthday, will never be complete without the repetition of my favourite Peace Prayer and Peace Chant.

A humble offering with ardent prayers for the complete success of Sri Swami Rama Tirtha Institute of Peace. May God-realisation and selfless service be the Ideal of its students and trainees. May longest life of health and Peace be to our Sri Swami Ramananda Tirthaji, its loving Chairman, the Soul of the Rama Tirtha Institute of Peace.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1968

74th Birthday Message

Jan. 1968, Jan. 1988, Jan. 1993

Dear Friends of Peace in the East and the West and all over the world! On this Happy Birthday my heart longs to touch your devoted hearts of dedication, with God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. May you all feel God's Eternal Life, Infinite Light and Universal Love, now and here, as you read this message, wherever you may be. This is my ardent prayer and earnest longing, wishing you the happiest Life of Peace, on this Birthday as well as on all the Birthdays to come in the future.

Verily, my Birthday is your Birthday, for there is only one Birthday, the Birthday of Illumination, re-birth into God-consciousness. Every day is a Birthday for wise souls of aspiration. In memory of this Birthday, let us repeat now the following simple, helpful and inspiring Peace Prayer, as many times as possible. Let us also make all our dear ones and children also to repeat it with heart and soul.

May the Birthday Message be concluded with the repetition of the Vedic Peace Chant, wishing the Peace of all. Let us also invoke God's Richest Blessings even on the dumb animal friends and other creatures, as all life is One.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1968*Precious Birthday Gift**On the 74th Year***March 1968**

Year after year, the Ashram Members, devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram in the East and the West, have been too good, thoughtful and generous by offering to me many generous gifts. Their offerings are not only in the form of the goods of the world, but also in the form of silent prayers and good wishes with hearty felicitations, wishing me the longest life of service and Peace. May of the devotees say that I should live at least a hundred years. A few say that I should live eternally with many Happy Returns of the Happy Birthday.

Of the Messages and Speeches given on 21st January 1968 this year, I felt deeply inspired by one of the original and soul-awakening thoughts given by an ardent devotee of the Ashram. In the course of his speech, the learned devotee said,

Swami will not die like other mortals of sickness or any other cause, but he will leave the body, the physical sheath only according to his own wish.

What an exhilarating thought! I need not die like others, I need not leave the body suddenly and unexpectedly. The very thought of it gives me longevity, strength and joy. I feel like running now! There is no need of hobbling any more. God is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. He is here and now, pervading and permeating the very cells of my being. Therefore, I feel so strong and full of pep, with a new lease of active life.

There is no need to die suddenly or unexpectedly. How true are the words that, 'Man is the master of his own destiny.' I feel like flying with the birds in the sky, shining with the stars in the heavens. You ought to see how my companions, Chota Rami and Bada Rami, run as if chasing for their very life. When I see both the Ramis running, I too feel like running with them. How blessed it is to identify oneself with all that lives, with all the forms and names nay, even with things animate and inanimate!

These days when I hear of so many sudden deaths from heart failure, I feel sad for all of them. I wonder where the need is for their dying so unexpectedly. I have a new vision now, the vision of immortality. I feel so grateful for all His Richest Blessings. I also feel thankful to the learned speaker who has given the immortal thought of the immortality, that I can leave the body only when such is my wish to leave this mundane world.

It was the sage Guru Nanak who said,

*The death which is a terror to the world, is a joy for me.
for in death you find Peace, bliss and joy.*

As a boy I learnt a sloka from Ashtavakra Gita the essence of which is, *Let the body remain a thousand years or let it dissolve now there is no harm for me, for I am eternally one without a second. The wise never give any thought to the perishable and changing body, for their minds are eternally fixed on the changeless and immortal.*

My homage goes unto such souls of illumination! Blessed are they who can repeat with ecstasy, *There is no death.* I love to close my message with the helpful and inspiring poem,

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be

Humbly offered, all, to Thee.
 Take my hands and let them be
 Working serving Thee, Yea! Thee.
 Take my heart and let it be
 Full saturated, Lord with Thee.
 Take my eyes and let them be
 Intoxicated God, with Thee.
 Take this mind and let it be,
 All day long a shrine for Thee.
 MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1969

The Birthday

Feb. 1969

The Birthday has come and gone like lightning. There was big conflagration like that of fire-works, and after that, the usual serenity. The memory of the feeding of the poor and the Lakshapatri Puja is still fresh, giving joy to the mind and heart. Lakshapatri Puja is the worship of Siva with a lakh of bilva leaves. It was performed by the devotees and well-wishers of the Ashram, who had come from far and near.

Blessed are they who are engaged in the Puja worship of the indwelling presence, offering every breath as a sacred flower. Unto such every day is a Birthday of worship of the Almighty, for they are inhaling and exhaling Peace with every breath.

How blessed it is to feed Narayana, the Lord who comes to us in the form of the poor and sick, not only on the Birthday but on all other days! It is our privilege, with the help of the well-wishers of the Ashram who are in far-away Hong Kong and America, to have the blessed opportunity of continuing to give clothes to the poor, sick and the aged.

We take joy offering our grateful thanks to those who have come from far and made the Birthday successful. Our grateful thanks also to all the devoted souls who have sent their generous love offerings and gifts in the name of the Birthday, to serve the sick and the poor.

Our special thanks to all the friends and devotees of the Ashram who were kind enough to send their prayers and felicitations. They sent Birthday telegrams from every province of India, also from Mauritius, Africa, Hong Kong, Malaya, Germany, England, France, United States of America and many other countries.

Blessed are the rare souls unto whom every day is a Birthday, who consider the wide world a their home and to love and serve the children of God in all the world as real service and true religion.

Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with us! Happy Birthday to all of you!

OM! OM! OM!

1970

Jan. 1970

Dear friends of Peace in the East and the West! On this Happy Birthday my heart longs to touch your devoted hearts with God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and

Omniscience. May you feel His Presence, wherever you are, as you read this message! I will begin this Birthday Message with the following inspiring poem on TODAY.

TODAY

With every rising of the sun,
Think of your life as just begun.

The past is cancelled and buried deep—
All yesterday. There let them sleep.

Concern yourself with but TODAY.
Grasp it, and teach it to obey.

Your will and plan. Since time began.
TODAY has been the friend of man.

YOU and TODAY! A soul sublime
And the great Heritage of time.

With God Himself to bind the twain,
Go forth, brave heart! Attain, attain!

OM! OM! OM!

It gives me joy to repeat often that my birthday is your birthday too. There is only one real Birthday: the birthday of God-consciousness. May we be reborn into that real birthday with Love Universal, Light Infinite and Peace Eternal! *Selfless service* is the soul, and the goal of precious life.

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

In commemoration of this 76th birthday, let us memorise and repeat the simple and inspiring Peace Prayer, as it helps to lead us from the finite to the Infinite and from birth to birthlessness.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

May there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with us, as it is the individual peace that paves the way to Universal Peace.

May the Birthday Message be concluded with the repetition of the Peace Chant:

OM TAT SAT OM!

1971**Jan. 1971**

Dear Friends of 'PEACE' and 'SHANTI,' and well-wishers of Shanti Ashram, the Mission of Peace! Greetings of Peace and Love with Good Wishes for a Happy birthday to all of you.

By His Grace and your good wishes and prayers, I feel so young that I cannot believe myself that this is the 77th year. I am Seventy-seven years young. I feel that I am born today alone. How life-giving are the following words:

Every day is a fresh beginning.

Every morn is the world made new.

Ye, who are weary of sorrow and sinning.

Here is a beautiful hope for you!

A hope for me and a hope for all.

Behind the Nirvana Mandir where I stay, there is a lovely Neem Tree. It is a big tree which gives cool shade and has a large cement bench for the members and visitors to rest on, relax and meditate. I always feel when I sit under its cool shade, that the shady tree is like a big umbrella and that I am privileged to sit under the canopy of the heavens. Often I spend the afternoons, nearly half a day, under its shade, alone and also seeing visitors under the cool and shady tree, meditating with some of the devotees in Silence.

In my attachment to the big Neem Tree, I often think within my self thus: 'If there is Heaven anywhere on the outer world, it is here!' Every leaf of the Neem Tree speaks to me. I say unconsciously,

Happy Birthday to the Neem Tree!

Every leaf on the tree represents to me a Birthday.

For health reasons. Sometimes in the early hours I eat a few tender leaves of the Margosa or Neem Tree. It gives me joy to eat also the efficacious Tulasi leaves with a glass of water.

Do you know what is the secret of my health? In one word, I never drink tea or coffee, which are harmful and as the Nature Cure advocates say, they are poisonous to the Health. I never take also medicine or harmful injections.

I take joy in doing a little physical exercise for a few minutes every morning, regularly and then take a walk towards Sivalayam, climbing the small hill even against the injunctions of my several doctor friends. Glory be unto God, who is my life-giving and soul-awakening Doctor of doctors!

Now let me come down from the heights of health to the cool shade of the Neem Tree and to my Birthday of the 77th year of Health and Peace. On the other day, I was basking in the lovely ray of the Sun, rays that were penetrating through the leaves of the Neem Tree, wishing me a Happy Birthday. I happened to have a copy of last year's issue of the New Year Number with Birthday Greetings of January 1970. As I read it, I felt highly inspired, for the message was simple, practical and illuminating.

After writing so far, all that I have within me, sharing with my loving Readers, I felt that I have nothing more to write. The message was complete and inspiring with the illuminating Peace Prayer and Vedic Chant. May there be peace on Earth and may it begin with me, for it is the individual peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace!

Yet, my tender heart longs to share with all the loving readers of 'PEACE' and 'SHANTI', nay all the children of God in the East and the West, of all religions, a word of my Love, that excludes none but includes all, in the 77th year too, the coming Birthday on 21 Jan. 1971.

Dear Loving Sisters and Brothers, my Living Images of the Indivisible God, how can I help you in a practical way? Some wise man said, 'All words are mere stones.' There may be soft and hard words too. I do not want to feed you with stones. So, let me have the joy of feeding you now with my Love Universal and Infinite Peace, in waveless silence, by sharing with you one of the illuminating meditations that I practise every day with great benefit. I have the hope and prayer that what is beneficial and helpful to me is going to be helpful to you also, provided you are pining for God and standing on the firm rock of self-reliance, which brings God Realisation Now and Here. Let us meditate now, repeating the following Holy Affirmations:

I am in the Light.
 I have been in the Light in the past.
 I am now in the Light in the present.
 I am bound to be in the same Light in the future.
 I am eternally in the Light of Lights in the past, present and future.
 Where is there a moment when this eternal and self-effulgent light is absent from me?
 The Light is in Me.
 The Omnipresent light is ever in me.
 In the past, present and future.
 Where is the moment when this Omnipotent Light is absent, even for the tiniest fraction of a second?
 When the Light is not in me?
 I am the Light.
 Finally, I have been the same, indivisible and eternal light always.
 Glory be unto the light of lights on every side!
 Within, without, above, below and all around.
 Which is permeating and pervading the very cells of our beings.
 As well as the Universe, from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet.

OM! OM! OM!

What else is there to be written or said in these finite words, of that Infinite Light? Let me leave you now, my Loving Images of God, the only changeless Light, the Self-Effulgent Light, the Splendour of Millions of suns, in Peace and Waveless Silence, in the Love Universal that includes not only the Human Kingdom but all the Kingdoms of life.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM! AUM.

An Offering

A tiny, humble offering to our Kumari Jnaneswari, Soham Devi, and to Bada Rami and Chota Rami They both cling to me, following me like my shadow, even into

the Jnana Guha, the new Jnana Guha, where I find joy in these days in the stillness of my heart. I repeat there, silent prayers for the welfare and peace of all of you, the children of the one Divine Energy, which is One Without a Second.

OM! OM! OM! AMEN!

1972

Birthday Epiphanies

From Sri Swami Omkar, to the Members and Friends of Sri Shanti Ashram.

Jan. 1972

Dear Narayan,

It is very kind of you to have come for the Birthday to see me. As I often say, *My Birthday is your Birthday*. May you feel God's Presence, the Indwelling Light ceaselessly. This is my prayer, wishing your welfare and Peace. OM!

My heart longs to help and serve you. I do not wish that anyone should come to call or see me without receiving some help or inspiration. In memory of your kind visit, let me help you to feel His presence now and here. This is the greatest service that I can render to you. Feel God's Presence in each and every moment of your stay in the Ashram. This is my prayer to you. OM!

In this new birth my soul is on fire to help and serve you. Life is not smoke but all-consuming fire. As this moment alone is ours and not the uncertain tomorrow, the dim future, let me help and serve you now alone. Please help me by feeling God's Presence now only, at least for the satisfaction of my soul. No more words. Breathe Soham deeply and ceaselessly.

OM! OM! OM!

To the Devoted Visitors:

Thank you for your kind visit. Do you love me? Do you love the Ashram? Do you wish the Peace of the world? If so, what is your contribution to your Peace, as well as to the Peace of the world? Are you ready and willing to make a simple incense stick your guru, the teacher?

Wherever the incense burns, it fills the place with sweet fragrance, never seeking any reward. What more is there? Can you see the incense? No! No, it burns itself. You cannot see it. Your life also must be like the incense. Let the incense be your guru, the teacher. It is teaching you selfless service and complete annihilation of the ego, the I, the root cause of all agony and misery.

OM! OM! OM!

In memory of the Birthday let us at least follow the living, helpful and practical message, the real initiation of the statuette of the three monkeys:

Hear no evil

Speak no evil

See no evil.

If we could only practise these three life-giving messages in our daily life, we need nothing more to learn, either from teachers or from the scriptures. All that we need is to practise. We must practise what we have known already, while we are alive now, not when it is too late, after the life has gone out of the body.

Please help for the Peace of the world by establishing Peace in your own devoted heart first. May your Peace be the Peace of all!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1974

Birthday Message

At the dawn of 80th Year

Jan. 1974

How true are the words that *time and tide wait for no man*. How time is flying! There is an inspiring following motto in the Ashram: ***The serpent time is opening its mouth which is death. It is devouring selfish and lazy people.*** For selfless and dedicated people, time is a silent friend and a great blessing too. ***May this day be the friend of man*** is another inspiring motto. I am also drawn towards another uplifting motto: ***You have wasted the night in sleep. Will you waste the day also with words?***

You have wasted 80 years: will you waste the remaining years also? Will you waste it with words, talking, preaching, bustling and hustling, always busy with something or other in the name of the Ashram and service? The long expected blessed day of Mouna, silence begins from tomorrow, already one full day has passed with words. Words create confusion. Only silence creates souls.

Some wise man said, ***words are mere stones***. All these years I have been feeding you with stones. Some of you are also satisfied with stones. Now after the 80th year, one of my resolutions is to feed you all no more with mere stones. I want to feed you with real food, heavenly manna, God's substance. This is His life-giving and soul-awakening food of ***silence***. I want to feed this especially to those who love me, considering me as their all in all

Happy Birthday to all of you at the Dawn of the 80th year. Verily your Peace is my Peace. May I have the privilege of serving you to help yourselves to establish Peace in your devoted hearts? Then you can radiate it in the home, converting your home into a haven of Peace! May you express Peace in thought, word and deed and help us to radiate it from heart to heart. Then we can radiate it in the community, nation and the world at large. We can do this until Peace pervades and permeates the whole universe, through your ideal life of Peace. This is the ardent prayer of your Omkar.

If I have learnt anything in these 80 years of long life, I have learnt only one thing, that is I have learnt that I know nothing. These are also the wise words of Sage Socrates. Before His stupendous splendour, the glory of millions of suns, what are we, the tiny speaks of ignorance? How can we comprehend His incomprehensible splendour? Silence is the only real lesson that the wise can teach. It is also the only thing that helps in the onward March of Truth.

Knowing That, they melt in silence. He who knows does not talk. He who does not know, cannot be silent. He keeps on talking, disturbing himself and others by too many words. He has the ignorant zeal of reforming others, everyone but themselves. I have learnt also in all these years that everyone is superior to me in some way or the other. I have so much to learn even from a child, from a bird or from a tiny sweet-smelling flower. The kingdom of Heaven belongs to the childlike, to children. Be free like a care-free singing

bird. How blessed it is to be fragrant like a simple, innocent flower, to give out fragrance, even though crushed under the feet!

In these days, I find great joy in Nothingness. If you want to be something, there is always something to be criticised. There is someone to find fault with you. How true are the following wise words of sages: ***If you want to be free from criticism of every kind say nothing, do nothing, be nothing.*** If you say something there is someone to find fault with your words. If you do something, there are some people who find some fault or the other with your being. Thus, the wise man finds his real changeless happiness only in nothingness, in rising above words in complete supreme silence.

Another thought that gives me great joy and comfort nowadays is, so far I have done nothing in all these 80 years. My real life begins now at the dawn of the 80th year. So far, how I wasted all these years in running after the shadows, the will of the wisp of the world, the passing clouds of name and form! But I have the consolation and comfort, burying the dead past that I can begin my new life, real life of God-consciousness from this moment onwards.

You are dead when you are thinking of yourself. You are alive only when you are thinking of the welfare of others. Happiness is the only good. ***The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here,*** are the wise words of a wise man. How real and true are the wise words, ***if you want to be miserable, think of yourself. If you want to be happy think of others.***

In memory of the 80th Happy Birthday, my heart longs to share with you that lovely inspiring poem composed on *Others*. Here it is, as I want you all to carry this life-giving and soul-awakening poem. It is to be taken as my Birthday offering to each and everyone of the devotees and visitors. It is given here below.

Others

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayers will be for Others.

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I do for you
Must needs be done for Others.

Let the self be crucified and slain
And buried deep and all in vain
My efforts be to rise again
Unless to live for Others.

And when my work on earth is done
And my new work in Heaven begun
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of Others.

Others! Lord! Yes, Others,
Let this my motto be.

Help me to live for Others
That I may live like Thee.

Blessed are they who are always thinking of others in life and death! Such real souls are already liberated. They are real Jivan Muktas. **God realisation now and here** is their Divine Heritage. It belongs to them now and always. One illuminating sloka from the scriptures has been the inspiration, strength and joy of my long life of 80 years. In conclusion may I share it with all of you, my Loving devotees, the visitors, friends and well-wishers of the Ashram!

Jyatham Jyathavya Madhunah
Drastam, Drahstavya Maddbhutham
Chiram Sranthaha Visrothosmi
Chinmathra Nasti Kmchana.

I have known what is to be Known.
I have seen what is to be seen. It is wonderful.
I have suffered enough because of duality.
As nothing exists except God, the Light of
lights.
I am resting now in the ocean of Akhanda
Satchidananda, the Existence, the
Knowledge Absolute and the Bliss
Absolute.

As silence speaks louder than all the words in the world, may this Happy Birthday of silence, at the dawn of the 80th year, be a happy day of rejoicing. May it bless each and every one of you with Health, Peace and Longevity. May we feel His Presence within, in the very cells of our beings as well as facing Him wherever our eyes are resting. This is the ardent prayer of your own Omkar. No more words. Silence. Deep silence. Supreme silence, waveless silence.

GLORY, GLORY, GLORY!

Verily, God has no other body now on earth than yours!

Offering.

*A tiny and humble offering to Pujya Sri Chidananda
Swamiji. Also offered to all the aspiring children of God
in the East and the West, who are alive to the real life of
Nimitti, the Splendour of millions of suns, the Supreme
Silence! May Peace ever abide with you all!*

OM TAT SAT OM!

1975

Jan. 1975

Dear Loving Readers of 'PEACE,' as every day is a Happy Birthday to seekers of Peace, may you all feel His Presence, the Indwelling Light, not only at the dawn of 21st January 1975, but also on every day. This is the prayer of your own Omkar. OM! OM! OM!

May every day be a Happy Birthday of God consciousness, Health and Peace to all our loving readers of 'PEACE' in the East and the West.

For you, for me and to all our friends and well-wishers of Shanti Ashram (The Mission of Peace) there is only one Birthday, the birthday of Cosmic Light with Love Universal that embraces all, excluding none. How blessed it is to repeat with great joy and strength and proclaim to the world of devotees the following inspiring words:

*The world is my home and all the people in it are my
sisters and brothers; to love and serve them all is my real
religion.*

These day not only 21st January 1975 is my birthday but also all the days in the year are my Birthday. Hence I take joy in repeating:

Every year is my Birthday
Every month is my Birthday
Every hour nay, every minute is my Happy
Birthday.
Verily, every moment is my Birthday!

As I close my eyes and watch the even flow of my own breath, the still small voice whispers that in every secohd, with every breath we are born. How true are the words of the sages who have said,

*Births of breath are as many as waves on the sleepless
sea.*

The past is dead and buried. We are born new, with this breath in this precious present moment.

Someone has written that one is born as a mineral and grows into a vegetable and then becomes an animal and at least finally a human being—the living Image of God.

Let us chant now the inspiring slokas from the Upanishads:

Deho Devalaya Prokto
Jeevo Deva Sanathanah
Tyajeth Ajnana Nirmaalayam
Soham Bhavena Pujayet.

Body is the Temple of God,
The individual alone is the Universal
Jiva is the Living Image of God, the
Paramatma.
Destroying the ignorance of duality,
Worship Him with Soham: God-consciousness
now and always.

If we believe in the Holy words of the sacred Vedas, that *Jiva is Deva*, that the indivisible alone is Deva, the Universal Sanathana, eternally, we can proclaim with ecstasy that we have been Krishna, Buddha, Christ, Mohammed, Zorasteria, Guru Nanak, Gandhiji,

Ramana Maharshi, Sivanandaji and all the saints, sages of past and present in the East and West.

Let us not hesitate to take a firm hold of our Divine Heritage, the true Birthright of the Son of sons, now and here, in memory of this Happy Birthday of Jan 21st 1975, of the 81st year.

Dear Loving Readers! As there is only one real Birthday, the Birthday of God-consciousness, and Universal Love, eternal Peace and Infinite Light, it makes me happy to shout at the top of my voice, *MY BIRTHDAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY!* It is the Birthday of all the aspiring children of God in the East and the West. Pray, join me in celebrating it in a Universal way: with Love Universal.

OM! OM! OM!

Let me now repeat the Peace Prayer—the essence of Vedas and all scriptures and close our Birthday message with Vedic prayer.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

Please help us by repeating the Peace Prayer often.

OM TAT SAT OM!

1977

Birthday Message

*(The Diamond Jubilee of Sri Shanti Ashram, the
Mission of Peace, on 21st January, 1977)*

Jan. 1977

Happy Birthday to you! Your Peace is my Peace.

May I have the privilege of serving you, to help yourself to establish Peace in your heart? Then you can radiate it in the home, converting your home into a Haven of Peace!

May you express Peace in thought, word and deed and help us to vibrate it from heart to heart, in the community, nation and the world at large. We will do this until Peace pervades and permeates the whole universe, through your ideal life of Peace! This is the prayer of your brother Omkar.

OM! OM! OM!

Out of the depths fresh strength.

Out of the dark new Light.

Even in the gloom we are on the way.

This is the richest wealth that I received from America, during my tour trips to USA. These are the wise words of the sage Abraham Lincoln. They have been the strength and consolation of the Ashram, especially in the tests, trials and tribulations of the life of sixty long years.

Yes, as not a blade of grass moves without God's will, it was all in the Divine Plan as Prarabdha Karma, in deeds that were done in the past. Man has to reap it silently with a smile, for he is reaping only what he has sown in the past.

Omnipotence is working, let the mortal retire.

Yet the mortal, the ignorant man does not want to retire. He is busy day and night in the name of the Diamond Jubilee of the Ashram. He is planning and scheming to

construct a Peace Pillar of Light and Peace Prayer Hall of Meditation and Service etc., etc. There is no end for the endless desires of ignorant man.

Knowing that desire binds, one is going down and down with endless desires. This is all in the name of the Ashram, which is the property of all the children of God in the East and the West, in all religions and nations. Omnipotence is working ceaselessly both day and night, from the beginning to the end of the creation. Then, who are we and what are we to disturb nay, to teach the Omnipotence, the all-knowing God, with your finite and restless thoughts and schemes? Wake up oh man! Wake up even at the dawn of 83rd year, to the Glory of God, the Light within, the Splendour of millions of suns!

Remember that you are a lion, your nature is to roar with every breath *Soham*. With every breath you are *Soham*. You have God-consciousness, do not bleat like a sheep. Do not always cling to the cage of blood and flesh in the name of Shanti Ashram. Do not be a beggar of beggars in the name of anything in the world. Be a giver always, like the Niagara falls or the mighty ocean of Satchidananda. That ocean is ceaselessly praying with every wave. It is repeating *Om Namah Sivaya, Om Sivaya Namaha. Inhale and exhale Peace with every breath*. When you inhale with every breath, it is *Nama Sivaya*. When you exhale it is *Om Sivaya Namah*!

What else can I say or write in memory of the memorable Diamond Jubilee, of the 60 long years of service? I wish the Peace of all of you, the children of one indivisible God of the world! Let us not worry over spilt milk. The past is dead and buried. Here is the nectar of immortality. Time is too precious to be wasted in words. Remember that ***He who wastes moments, wastes all his life.***

Visit our Rishikonda Beach in Waltair and also our new Mouna Ashram. Come and see that ***The ocean is praying, why don't you pray, oh man!*** May every breath be a new birth, for the dawn of the Diamond Jubilee of 1977.

In memory of the Diamond Jubilee let us inhale and exhale Peace, making every breath a new birth of *Soham*. We have come from *Soham*. We live, breath, move and work in *Soham*. Finally, whether we know it or not, we merge and dissolve in *Soham*, for *Soham* is our life, soul and goal of your precious birth, as well as the final destination or end of all the creation.

This is the message of Light, Life and Love, the message of *Soham* for all seekers of Truth in the East and the West. The Message of the Diamond Jubilee of 1977 is to cling to *Soham*, to follow *Soham* ceaselessly like Taila Dhara, oil poured from one vessel into another vessel without the least break.

Deho Devalaya Prokto

Jivo Deva Sanathanah

Tyajeth Ajnana Nirmalya

Soham Bhavena Pujayet

The body alone is the temple of God,

The individual alone is the Universal

Hence destroying the ignorance of duality.

Let us worship Him with *Soham* consciousness!

Verily, *Soham* is one without a second. As *Soham* is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient, let the finite mortal retire in the infinite and eternal *Soham*.

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

*A tiny offering with love that includes all, to all the
Soham devotees, the worshipers of universal energy in all
the East and the West, with prayers for World Peace.*

LOKA SAMASTHA SUKHINO BHAVANTU! OM! OM! OM!

1977

The 83rd Birthday Message

Jan. 1977

The years are rolling on, In silence recently I experienced a new birth. I realise now more than ever the preciousness of every moment. It gives me great joy, strength and inspiration just to read some of the mottoes in the Ashram.

God is Love and Love is God.

Where Love is, there is God.

He who wastes moments wastes his whole life.

When wealth is lost, nothing is lost.

When health is lost, something is lost.

When character is lost, all is lost.

When time is lost, as it is invaluable and
priceless, it never comes back.

Religion and Life are not two but one.

Seeing, nay facing God in everyone, kindly help
for the Peace of the world with Love
Universal.

The serpent time, opening its mouth which is
death, is devouring selfish, talkative and
lazy people and also those who are not
able to find their own faults but are
always looking at the faults in others.

If we could only practise some of these ideal mottoes, it would give us happiness and Peace, now and here.

Every time the Birthday comes I feel the old life is finished and the new life dawns, and I long to serve you all. At the dawn of the 83rd year, my heart longs to touch your devoted hearts with God's Presence and to fill you with wisdom, devotion and love universal and thus help for world Peace. I am never tired of repeating, ***My Birthday is your Birthday.***

There is only one Birthday, the birth of Cosmic consciousness, when we feel oneness with the indwelling presence of God.

In memory of this Birthday let us all repeat the helpful Peace Prayer 108 times, or as often as possible. This is the prayer of the one who loves you all.

May there be Peace in Andhra Desa, India and in the whole world. May we establish Peace first in our own purified hearts of dedication.

LOKA SAMASTHA SUKHINO BHAVANTU!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

An offering to all the guests and devotees of Diamond Jubilee, with silent prayers for their welfare and Peace.

OM TAT SAT!

1978

Birthday Message (84th Birthday)

Jan. 1978, Jan. 1984, Jan. 1991

Happy Birthday to you my Loving readers, for my Birthday is your Birthday. Verily, it is the Birthday of all!

Birthdays come and go. However there is one Birthday that neither comes nor goes. It is the Birthday of Cosmic Light. Let us cling to it, the Birthday of illumination ceaselessly, for it is the only real Birthday of Light that never goes out.

Swami is dead and Omkar is alive in all of you.

Question: If Swami is dead, how can he write now these words?

Answer: It is not the Swami who is writing now. It is God, the Indwelling Light, the All-knowing Light, the Omnipresence which is working. It is the one supreme power, the supreme silence which is trying to express the infinite and eternal Light in these finite words.

As Swami is dead now, let all the world be silent for a minute now in memory of the dawn of the new year. May all the movements of the body be an offering to Him. Let every step lead you towards God, the Supreme. May every word of yours unite you with Him, who is all silence. Let every thought lead you into silence, which is the goal of all words and thoughts.

Let every breath lead you into God who is all silence. Verily, God is the breath of the breath, leading us towards breathlessness which is motionlessness. It is the transcendental, incomprehensible state of glory, the splendour of millions of suns. Words do not come any more. Only silence supreme, waveless silence.

I am in the Light always.

The Light is ever within me.

I am the Light eternally!

Life is not smoke but fire.

We are the sun of suns.

Progress is life, stagnation is death.

Let each breath lead us onwards God, who is nearer to us than our feet or hands.

Question: Where is God?

Answer: He is within. He is the breath of the breath. He is the Soham breath, both within and without. He is the one invisible Soham breath.

Let us follow Soham ceaselessly like Taila Dhara, without a break. Soham is Universal, All-knowing and one without a second, Adviteeyam.

I need not close my eyes and meditate to see God, for He is coming to me in the form of my loving visitors. For, everyone is a living image of God.

As our Peace Prayer is the essence of all scriptures and Vedas, in memory of the Birthday and your visit to the Ashram, the Abode of Peace, let us memorise it. Let us also spread the simple Peace Prayer near and far, all over the world.

This is the message of the 84th year, wishing the welfare of all the devotees of Sri Shanti Ashram, the Mission of Peace and to all those who are ready for the Call of Silence.

Let us repeat now the Peace Prayer and Peace Chant for our Peace, as well as for the Peace of all!

OM TAT SAT OM!

Offering

*A tiny Birthday Offering to all those who love silence in
all the world, both in the East and the West.*

1980

Jan. 1980

Happy Birthday to you, my Loving Readers! May you feel God's Presence ceaselessly now and always. Lo! You are eternally in God. May you express Him in thought, word and deed. Years change but God's Love never changes, for He is ceaseless and eternal.

My Birthday is your Birthday! Happy Birthday to all of you! Our New Year's Message is a Message of all Light and no darkness. It is of Unity and Love and not of hate and strife. It is of harmony and co-operation and not of discord and disintegration. It is of Life and happiness and not of death and sorrow.

Let the Message of Life, Light and Love be felt in our own hearts and from that luminous Centre radiate near and far, filling all the world. Let us realise that this Message of Light is not only for New Year's Day but for every day of the year and at all times.

How blessed are souls who can realise that every year is really a New Year of Hope, that every month is a new month of Peace, that every day is a new day of Light, that every hour is a new hour of Joy, that every minute is a new minute of Life and that every moment is a new moment of strength and inspiration!

It is with us now to make best use of the precious moments in His service. Verily, service of man is service to God. **Love of man is love of God, for God is love and where love is, there is God.**

May we resolve, on this New Year's day, with the full dedication of the New Year to God, to make best use of not only every day of the year, but every precious hour and moment of all our time!

May the New Year also be a Year of Health, happiness and infinite Light for all the readers of Peace and may Peace and goodwill abide all over the world!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1981*87th Birthday Message***Jan. 1981**

As usual I take joy in repeating *My Birthday is your Birthday*. I repeat it feeling His presence in all, for *God is Love and Love is God*. We should repeat it feeling His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience within and without in every cell of our beings; within in the body, without in all the world.

This year may we not feel satisfied like parrots repeating with lips *God is Omnipresent, God is Omnipotent, God is Omniscient*. Let us feel, feel, feel God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience in the very cells of our being now and here. Let us feel it with every Soham breath, in each and every moment of our lives. Let us always remember that *'He who wastes moments wastes all his life.'* Verily, forgetfulness of God, Dharma, is real death.

Note this New Year of 87th Birthday! We are born just now, never to forget Him any more, even for a millionth fraction of a second. We are alive with every breath living in God, the Universal Energy. We are loving all and seeing Him in all. He is *Adviteeyam*, the one Indivisible God. *The light within* is the life-giving and soul-awakening motto of the 87th year. Let us ever feel Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience in the very cells of our beings!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

1981*The Essence of the 87th Birthday***Jan. 1981**

These days I feel that my life is a burden to Mother Earth, for I am not able to help the devoted children of God more and more, in a practical manner. I do not want to help and serve the people with mere words, as I have been doing in all these 86 years.

Hence, in my 87th Birthday, in this New Year Birthday Message, I want to practice God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience and His Interpenetrating Presence *now and here*. I want to see Him in each and every one, in all the world and in every moment of my life, whether the devotees are faraway or near.

Dear Reader! In the first place, whoever you may be, wherever you may be: are you feeling God's Interpenetrating Presence in the living moment now and here? to begin with, I want to help you feel His presence without need of empty words.

God is the breath of the breath, life of the life and soul of the soul. Let us feel His presence now and here. To feel His interpenetrating Presence of the indwelling Light, in this very moment, always remember that *God is Love and Love is God*, and *where Love is, there is God*. Also remember that *He who wastes moments, wastes all his life*.

So, let us start your good deed from this moment onwards, avoiding speculations and false imagination by playing with empty words, which are like chewing bones or like empty bullets without inherent power.

God is the interpenetrating, indwelling presence or light within, that which is writing through me to share all these eternal truths with all of you and that which is reading through you all.

If you believe in God and you want God, feel Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. Practise this Presence ceaselessly in thought, word and deed. Think that you are born just now, forgetting the past. Let the past be buried and let the Infinite Light, Universal Love and Eternal Life begin from this moment onwards, even in the memory of this 87th Birthday.

This is the ardent prayer of your own Omkar, wishing you all God Realisation, the Goal of every human being.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

1981

Birthday Message

Feb. 1981

Deeply grateful for all of your love offerings and felicitations. My heart longs to die to the world and live alone in God.

Swami is dead and Omkar is alive in all of you.

God is beyond words. He is all silence and He is full of Love. I offer my homage to all those silence souls who are leading their lives in silence, for God is silence. Let me help you all in silence, with no more words.

Om Namaste Satethey Jagat Karasayah

Om Namaste Chitethey Sarva Lokasayah

Om Namo Advaita Tatwaya Mukti Pradaya

Om Namo Brahmaney Vyapiney Saswathaya

My salutations to Lord Almighty. If you want to be miserable think of yourself. If you want to be happy, think of others. But you are always thinking of yourselves. Hence you are all miserable. There is only one moment in my life which is precious. It is done by God's Will. It was when bone was given to a helpless girl from my body. I think of this as an offering to God. It was done by God's blessings, because it cannot be done without God's Will.

You have all come because of His will. You are doing good deeds because of His will. I am deeply grateful for all your love and love-offerings. I want to be more worthy now, with God's blessings. I feel that I am not worthy except that time of giving my bone. I wish to share all my remaining bones with you all, so I can justify you being with me. I want you to make me worthy to do such deeds. I don't want to do things through speech, instead I want to do it silently. So make me worthy of my life so that my life will not be burden to Mother Earth. When each and every one of you are saying that I am doing something, I feel ashamed. For, I am burden to Mother Earth, doing nothing now. So I request all of you devotees to make me worthy with your prayers.

I feel so grateful to our ideal Janaka, the greatest devotee, our Sri Sanka Rama Raoji, the greatest soul who is the vice-president of the Ashram. Only God speaks through him. I am also grateful to our Lion, Tirupathi Raju, and Sri Chinna Swami Pujya Sri Swami Devanandaji of Rishikesh (Divine Life Society, Sivanandanagar). My one thought is *may I be worthy of their loving words*. Sometimes I think that to be fully worthy of all your love, I may have to take more births. So may God keep me, making me more and more worthy. May He make me selfless.

What else to say in these finite words? Let me be silent to be worthy of your love. Let me do whatever I do in silence and in love. *Let me consider the whole world as my home. All are my sisters and brothers, to help and serve them is my real religion.* It is very

easy to talk but it is very difficult to keep silence. Anyway, I appreciate that it has been done by God, for not a blade of grass moves without His Grace.

My heart longs to help you all. I can do this by seeing you all as the one indivisible God, who is within all. There are inspiring words to repeat in Vedantic language and they are easy to repeat. They are **Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient**. Do you know what is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient? You repeat them like parrots. You do not know the meaning of them. Time is too precious to be wasted for today man is, and tomorrow he is not. What do you gain by repeating these mere words? So wake up with the preciousness of time and wake up, for God is beyond time, space and causation. You have chewed enough bones, it is high time to take the marrow of the bones.

Time is too precious to be wasted with idle gossips and useless prattles. Life is not to be wasted faltering with empty words. Make best use of time. **God is Love and Love is God and where love is, there is God**. I love you all, hence I am requesting-rather, appealing-to you with my heart, to lessen your words which are a mere waste.

Our Parama Pujya Sri Swami Chidanandaji has gone to all places in the Ashrams. He then told me, "Swamiji! Out of all the mottoes in the ashram, I like this one motto viz., **I weep for those without do not weep for God**." This is an appealing motto which is face to face with God, facing God who is Omnipresent. If you examine critically we fail, for we want everything except God. We do not want God at all.

If you touch your heart and you fail to see God, you are deceiving God. You cannot deceive God and repeat parrot-like these words *Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient*. You tell these words. But you are not understanding His presence. In memory of this 87th Birthday, try to feel the Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience, God's presence ceaselessly.

Deho Devalaya, this body itself is a temple of God. Therefore, from this moment onward try to feel God's Presence ceaselessly. What else can I tell you with these finite words? Let me not waste your time with words, for you do not want God. You are only trying to deceive God and thus spoiling yourself and wasting your life. There is one word that means God, and that word is **silence**. That word is also **peace**. Let us chant OM thrice and be silent forever.

I feel for all of you. I thank you also for your patience. I am always abiding in your devoted hearts. If you repeat the Peace Prayer once, the essence of all religions, I will be there in your devoted hearts. Now the essence of this Birthday is *Let us be repeating the Peace Prayer*. Let us now read the Peace Message and conclude this function peacefully.

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

My Peace is Your Peace

Dear Readers of Peace in the East and the West! Dear well-wishers of 'PEACE' and The Mission of Peace, Sri Shanti Ashram! In memory of this Birthday may you all feel God's Presence ceaselessly. My Birthday is your Birthday. In this New Year may God come first in your lives. May God bless you all with Peace and prosperity.

In the past 86 years we are repeating with lips like parrots that God is Omnipresent, God is Omnipotent and God is Omniscient. We are merely satisfying with repetition of these three powerful words. Now is the time for all to feel the interpenetrating presence of the all-pervasive force, **God**. It is high time to reconcile that not even a single inch of space is there without Him. He is not only interpenetrating our cells but also existing in all beings. The same Omnipotence is the root cause for our motions and movements of all our limbs in this human structure. Let us therefore try to experience God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience.

In memory of this Birthday let all experience God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. May God bless you all with Vijnana (Aparoksha Jnana) or intuitive perception to visualise God within and in all.

Please remember always *He who wastes moments wastes all his life*. This present moment now is ours and not the next moment. Anything may happen at any moment. Realising the preciousness of this present moment, try to make best use of each and every moment with Soham consciousness. Always remember the indwelling presence of God constantly, in all conditions of life and at all times. Try to lead a Divine life with Universal love, compassion and Dharma during your span of life upon Mother Earth, doing good to others always.

Dear and blessed Immortal Atmans in the form of sisters and brothers, our Readers of 'PEACE'! May you all feel God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience in this present living moment now. May you also try to reach the goal of human life, viz., God-realisation. This is the ardent prayer of your ever-loving brother Omkar, on this Birthday

Om Sarvesham Swastir Bhavathu
Om Sarvesham Shantir Bhavathu
Om Sarvesham Poornam Bhavathu
Om Sarvesham Mangalam Bhavathu
Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

Decide whether to chew God or Mammon. what can you do when life goes away? Death may come in next moment. So try to wake up when you are alive. If you really love me and love the Ashram, remember my pathetic words, *I weep for those who do not weep for God.*

You are suffering because of your callousness. Try to arise and awake! What is the use of staying in the Ashram or repeating the Peace Prayer without feeling God in the very cells of your beings? When we repeat it, let us feel the interpenetrating presence of God in the very cells of our beings. Try to feel it, because this moment is ours, not the next moment. Hari Om!

OM! OM! OM!

1982

The Message of Sri Pujya Swamiji

on his 88th Birthday 21-1-1982

Feb. 1982

I am happy to see you all taking a lot of strain to be here on this day. God has blessed Sri Pujya Chidanandaji Maharaj to be here. He has vast experience not only in our sacred Bharat but also abroad. He is now going to give us practical instructions as to how a person can live a divine life. This is very necessary especially during these days when there is so much unrest in our country, due to unnecessary strikes and misunderstandings.

If everyone was eager to know the actual goal of precious human life, there would not be so many unnecessary quarrels that worry people and cause lack of peace. All people from all walks of life and especially those who are the devotees of this Shanti Ashram, should adhere to Dharma. Then they would be sure to help the establishment of peace in our sacred country once again. It would also set an excellent example to the world, as in the past.

No one should forget that our Shanti Ashram is an international power house of Jnana (spiritual wisdom). This alone helps the establishment of real peace in the country. Shanti Ashram alone cannot do it unless all its branches and its devotees undertake the responsibility in the matter. All the devotees are therefore expected to co-operate whole heartedly with the objects of this Shanti Ashram. It has been trying to establish Peace in the

world for the last 64 long years. The aims and objects of Sivananda Ashram and this Ashram are the same.

All the spiritual institutions like the Divine Life Society, Theosophical Society, Bhakta Samajams, Ashrams etc., in the country have to co-operate whole heartedly with our popular government for the establishment of Dharma. Then there would not be any need for ordinances and strikes in our Bharat.

There is only one God in all the religions in the world. He has been given different names such as Rama, Buddha, Christ, Allah etc. From immemorial times sages have called Him by different names. Of course, all are preaching Truth and love alone. If these are practised it would establish universal brotherhood in our country. This is also the real and urgent need in the world.

The following words should be remembered by all:

Wanted: reformers, not of others but of themselves.

If everyone tries to lead a virtuous life, Dharma will certainly be re-established once again for the real peace of the world. Constant repetition of the world *Peace Prayer* will help us all to establish Peace in our hearts, as well as in all the universe,

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

Part Three-Independence Day Messages

August 15th

(Undated)

Message for the Republic Day

(Unpublished)

The real Republic Day is the Day of Independence. Independence is only in Atma Bhava, in God consciousness, in Universal Love. It is not in body consciousness and selfishness. A selfish man or woman can never be independent, whoever he or she may be, wherever they may be, to whichever country they may belong. Only a God consciousness soul can be really independent and free, physically, mentally and spiritually.

My homage to all the God-conscious souls of every religion and Nation in the East and the West. Blessed are they who can repeat cheerfully,

*Now the world is my home and all people in it are the
children of God. To love and serve them is my true
Dharma: my real religion!*

In memory of the Republic Day may we all strive earnestly and sincerely to be selfless. May we pine for God both day and night. That is the goal and soul of precious human birth. Let the happiness, independence and peace of others be our happiness and peace!

LOKA SAMASTHA SUKHINGO BHAVANTU!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

(Undated)

A tiny short Message on Independence Day

(Unpublished)

Real independence belongs only to selfless souls who are dead to the world of name and form.

However, it is not so easy to die to the world and live for God, ever centred in Universal Love, thus basking in God consciousness.

Blessed are they who are dead to the world and alive to God, the God who is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient.

In memory of our Independence day on 15th August, let us give a death blow to selfishness of every kind and live in God helping and serving God's children. This is the ardent prayer of your ever-loving Omkar, wishing the Peace of all in the world. My love to all the children and members of the Ashram.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

LOKA SAMASTHA SUKHINGO BHAVANTU!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM! OM SHANTI, SHANTI, SHANTI!

(Undated)*Independence***(Unpublished)**

This is the great day of freedom, independence, for all devoted Hindus, nay, for all those who love the Motherland. Blessed are they who have the Motherland enjoying Independence in thought, word and deed. Blessed are they who are Masters of Independence physically, mentally and spiritually.

Physical Independence is to be free of all sickness, to be fully healthy. Mental Independence is to be free of all weaknesses of every kind, to be Masters of ones own mind.

He who controls himself controls all the world.

Spiritual Independence is to be God-conscious in every moment of one's life. It is never to forget God, the Light within, and to follow Soham Light ceaselessly. May the all-knowing God bless us all with Independence: freedom physically, mentally and spiritually! This is the ardent prayer of the one who loves you all, on this Independence day. Verily, God is love and love is God. Where love is, there is God. The heart devoid of love is a cemetery.

May God bless us all with Love Universal that includes all and excludes none. Jai Hind! May you all feel God's Presence ceaselessly on this Independence Day!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

1957**Sept. 1957, April 1967**

Residents of the Ashram and other devotees who are the very embodiments of devotion and love! Today is our Independence Day, may you all be happy enjoying Independence and Peace.

Selfish and attached people are slaves to their desires, Such persons can never enjoy Independence. True Independence belongs therefore only to the selfless and unattached people. Slavery lies in selfishness while Independence and happiness lies in selfless service.

May you all therefore fill your precious lives with Peace, happiness and health and progress day by day in your service to the Ashram! May your selfless and free lives be helpful to the progress of the country and peace of the world. May Indian Independence serve as the Beacon Light to the welfare and Peace of the world. Our Ashram has been for long proclaiming that it is only the individual Peace that paves the way towards Universal or World Peace, a cardinal article of the Mission's faith.

May the Almighty be pleased to establish Peace and equality in the heart of every individual and among all races and religions, in memory of this Independence Day. May you all, in the name of this sacred Independence Day, repeat the Peace Prayer 108 times or at least 54 times. May you thus be filled with devotion and enjoy radiant effulgence in your innermost being. May you all be Happy!

OM SHANTI SHANTI SHANTI!

1962*Independence Day*

Sept. 1962

*(A Message sent by Sri Swamiji and read out by
Kumari Jnaneswari, in the Meeting on the day of
Freedom.)*

Today is not only the Independence Day but also the Birthday of our Dr. Prasad Rao. It is not only the Birthday of Sri Prasad Rao, but also a birthday of the world-famous Yogeeswar, Sri Arabindo. To add to all these sacred days, it is also a full moon day.

In Shanti Ashram on every full moon day, some of the members and children of the Gurukul do 'Ekaham,' the ceaseless repetition of the name of the God, the whole day. To take part on such a holy day is a great privilege. There is no freedom for the slaves of the mind. Freedom belongs only to those who have full control over their restless minds. After all, the real freedom is only in union with God, the Indwelling Presence of their hearts.

Sri Arabindo has written many illuminating works. He has given to the world many inspiring messages. One word is enough for the wise. I was deeply drawn towards the following three short sentences which contain the Essence of all Vedas.

1. To know is Good.
2. To live is Better.
3. To be THAT is Perfect.

This can be aptly compared to Sravanam, Manana and Nidhidhyasa. Sravanam is to know the Truth. Manana is to live in that Truth. Nidhidhyasa is to become that Truth.

It is good to know God. It is helpful to live in God. To be inseparably one with God is completeness or perfection. My silent Adorations be unto all those who are ever full and complete!

In memory of this holy day of freedom, let all the members, workers, children and visitors and all the devotees who are taking part in this meeting, feel the Presence of God within, without, above, below and all around.

Our real happiness is in sharing what we have with others. How true are these following thoughts!

*If you want to be miserable, think of yourself. If you want
to be happy, think of others.*

Therefore, it is our privilege on this memorable day, to share our freedom with all the children of God. We share it irrespective of the man-made differences in caste, creed, colour and nationality. Let the Peace of others be our Peace. Let the World Peace be our ideal and goal. Verily, it is the individual Peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace.

After all, the essence of all religions is

God is love and love is God.

Where love is, there is God.

Real freedom is in Universal Love. Freedom is in God-consciousness. It is never in selfishness or in body-consciousness but in complete selflessness.

Once again, I repeat, in memory of this happy day, may we all establish Peace first in our hearts. Then we can establish it in our homes, communities and nations all over the world!

Let us repeat now our simple, helpful and inspiring Peace Prayer, feeling His Presence in the very cells of our beings! As we repeat now the mystic syllable **AUM**, let

light, life and love alone go forth from us, towards the whole creation! This is the prayer of your brother.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1964

Independence Day

Sept. 1964

It is blessed to have Independence, freedom even if it is only on one day in one's life. Every day is a day of freedom because some where, some one is free in every nation, some time or the other.

Pious, selfless, devoted and God-loving people make a free nation. Independence or freedom is in selflessness and love Universal, but never in selfishness, separation and ignorance.

Glad to see that the members and Gurukul children are busy celebrating the Independence day in Shanti Ashram, Totapalli.

Children are more interested in what they are going to get, like sweets to eat. As for the grown-ups, the elderly people, they should examine their desires, minds and hearts. They should see for themselves whether they are really enjoying freedom today.

What is freedom? Where is freedom? Are you really free?

1. Freedom is God-consciousness. One should rise above body, mind and world to enjoy real freedom.
2. Freedom is never in the body-consciousness. It is there where it is all Light or God.
3. You are free, if you are a master of your senses. A slave can never enjoy freedom.
4. In memory of the Independence Day, please try to be free physically, mentally and spiritually.

Verily, real peace is only in freedom, the time to establish freedom is now. May this day be a Happy Day of Freedom. May it help to establish Peace in your devoted hearts, paving the way to the Peace of others.

May the individual Peace lead to the universal Peace. Establish freedom first in your hearts. Then establish it in the home, community, nation and world at large. May your independence be the independence of all in the East and the West.

Freedom

Oh freedom! Where art thou?

Thou art there where the selfish self is dead.

Where the latest desire is burnt with root and branch.

Thou art there, where the love of self-the worship of mammon is overcome, or burnt in the fire of God-consciousness. Freedom is in love universal that includes all.

Verily, my freedom is your freedom. Your freedom is my freedom. For, there are not two freedoms. There is only one indivisible freedom! Thou art That, Tat Twam Asi.

OM! OM! OM!

My heart rejoices to see that Shanti Ashram is blessed today to have Madame Betty Forster, our Smt. Shanta Devi from the far away Switzerland, the land of freedom. She is

taking part in the celebrations here and will unfurl the flag of freedom on this independence Day.

My homage to all the departed and living souls patriots who have contributed to the freedom of Motherland and the Peace of the world.

May you all feel God's Presence, the inner Peace in the true freedom. It is the only changeless reality of truth, in memory of this Happy Day. This is the prayer of your own Omkar.

1969

Independence Day

Sept. 1969

Happy Day of Independence to the children, members, and devotees of Shanti Ashram and to all the aspiring children of God in India, as well as in all the world. Let one man's joy be the joy of all. Let one man's sorrow be the sorrow of all!

Where is Independence for the slaves of the senses? Where is Independence for the people who are running after the fleeting clouds of name and fame? Yadha Rajah Stadha Praja. As the king is, so are his subjects. As the leaders of the nation are, so are their followers. Often many are like the blind sheep following in their foot-steps, irrespective of whether the path laid down for them is genuinely good or otherwise. Yet no one should act against his conscience, if one wants to be really independent and loyal to sacred Bharat.

In the name of Independence, if we really love Mother India, Bharat Mata and our National Flag, let us remember *always Satyam Vada, Dharma Chara*. Let us speak the Truth and follow Dharma always. Let us also try sincerely, within all our heart and soul to be ever selfless. Let us strive to serve the poor and the sick, the oppressed and the depressed selflessly, without expecting any reward. The golden opportunity for selfless service is in itself the greatest reward and comes by His Grace. Why miss it?

How blessed it is to be Independent, physically, mentally and spiritually! I am writing this message in the early hours of dawn on this Independence Day, wishing the Peace of not only the members of the Ashram, but also the loving readers of Peace and Shanti. As I am doing this, a good many moths and insects are hovering round the lamp, some of them perishing in the flame.

Thus it is with each and every one of us. we can perish in the fire of desires, to be burnt up being slaves of egoism, living for self-aggrandisement. Or, alternatively we can make the best use of our precious lives in worshipping God. He comes to us in the form of the sick and the poor, the oppressed, suppressed and depressed and even in dumb cattle.

Blessed are they whose hearts are ever bubbling with feelings for all humanity! In memory of this Independence Day, let us give a death-blow to the tenacious ego, Mr. Hyde. Let us be a blessing like Dr. Jekyll, working and living always for others. Selfishness leads to Hades or Hell. Selflessness alone leads to real independence, happiness and Peace.

Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with us! It is the individual Peace that paves the way to Universal Peace or World Peace. Let it begin now and here with every heart throb and with every breath of ours!

It is SOHUM, the Universal breath, that leads us towards God, the indwelling Light, the Universal Energy. Shanti Ashram, the Mission of Peace, is blessed to have with us Sri Pujya Swami Ramananda Tirthaji. May we listen now to him carefully and assimilate his inspiring message on this Independence Day. May our Sushila Hospital and Shanti Gurukul, Aged Home and other institutions of the Ashram be a blessing to all His children! May the devoted services of our present doctor of Sushila Hospital, Dr. Ramana Murphy, be a blessing to all the sick!

Let me close my simple message on this Happy Independence Day with the Peace Chant.

OM TAT SAT OM!

*A tiny humble offering to all the leaders who are privileged
to lead the motherland towards harmony, success,
prosperity and Peace.*

1970

Independence Day

Sept. 1970

It is unfortunate that my heart should be heavy and sad on this day of Independence, the day of freedom. Yet where is Independence, freedom, in our thoughts, words and deeds, in our daily lives? Are we free now, still running after the fleeting clouds of name and fame? Are we free, chasing our own shadows, forgetting the substance, the light within? Body consciousness is dependence, God-consciousness is Independence, real freedom. Have you ever read the following lovely poem, published by the Voice of Kurukshetra?

To whom can I speak today?
The gentle man has perished.
The violent man has access to everybody.
The iniquity that smites the land
It has no end.
There are no righteous men.
The earth is surrendered to criminals.

Does this poem mean anything to you? Does it not touch your heart to see the sad state of the country and the world too? How to reform these criminals, selfish people who live for themselves? How to be a Blessed Peace Maker, filling the world with Peace, the Peace that passeth all understanding, which is the goal and soul of precious human birth?

Let us begin to establish Peace in our own hearts first, remembering that it is the *individual Peace that paves the way to world Peace*. Do not think that I am trying to preach and teach you, or trying to reform you now. I feel that by the added experience of my seventy-five years, there is so much to be reformed within myself alone. It makes me sad that I am still wasting my valuable time in *weeping for those who do no weep for God*.

Let the past be buried. Let us not waste any more of our precious time in worrying over spilt milk. Let this day have a new beginning of true freedom and real Independence. Verily, *God is love and love is God*. Where there is love universal, there is God infinite, the truth eternal. Let *God-realisation now and here* be the vital message of this day. It means loving all selflessly and ever doing selfless service without expecting any reward. Let the Independence of India be the Independence of all the nations of the world.

With every rising of the sun
Think of your life as just begun.

The past is cancelled and buried deep

All yesterdays, there let them sleep.

Concern yourself with but Today.
Grasp it and teach it to obey.

Your will and plan, since time began
Today has been the friend of man.

You and today, Soul sublime
And the great heritage of time.

With God Himself to bind and twain,
Go forth, brave hearth! Attain! Attain!

Freedom for me, freedom for you, freedom for all is the goal of human birth. Let the message of the Independence day be pining for God, the living Truth, no longer running after the flimsy, bewitching shadows. Let Love Universal that excludes none but includes all, be the living message of the Independence day. Let me have the joy of repeating with all of you now, the Vedic Peace Chant.

OM! OM! OM!

1971

Independence

(Unpublished)

Where is Independence? It is in selflessness. A selfless soul is always free and happy. A selfish man who is ever thinking of himself is always miserable. How true are the wise words,

If you want to be miserable, think of yourself.

If you want to be happy, think of others.

May the Sushila Hospital be a blessing to all the poor and sick people. It is in memory of our Sister Sushila, who lived a completely devoted life of selfless service and dedication. She had a big heart of universality that included even dumb animals.

May God's richest blessings ever be upon the devoted Doctor and the Staff of workers on this Day of Freedom, as well as on all the days! This is the Prayers of your own Omkar!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1972

Independence-Freedom

*(A Message of Sri Swamiji's given on 15th August 1972
in Sri Shanti Ashram.)*

Aug. 1972

Real Peace is in Freedom, the true Independence. How blessed it is to be free, physically, mentally and spiritually!

Physical Freedom is: Food and Shelter for all.

Mental Freedom is: Universal Love, wishing the Peace of all.

Spiritual Freedom is: Remembering that we are the Living images of God and not two-legged animals, forgetting and denying God. It is to realise Him now and here. It is to feel God's Presence with each and every breath. It is expressing Him in thought, word and deed.

May all homage be unto the dedicated souls of Freedom, Independence!

It was Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa who said in this Kali Yuga three days alone are enough to realise God, with self-surrender and in Silence.

God has given us the Blessed privilege of having 25 years of freedom. How far have we felt and realised our freedom and Independence in body, mind, heart and soul, in all these 25 years? This is a question for introspection by each and every one of you. Merge within and know where you are now!

Here is Shanti Ashram, the Mission of Peace, the common property of all devoted and dedicated souls in all religions and nations. This is my legacy to all of you! A HEARTY WELCOME awaits you all to spend your time not only for three days but permanently in Shanti Ashram. It is to realise the goal of your precious human birth, before the Call comes.

My heart longs to help and serve you all, for all of you are the children of the one, indivisible God. My other legacy is the simple, helpful Peace Prayer. It is the individual peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace. So, let us establish first Peace in our purified hearts. Then, let us help others in establishing Peace in the home, community, nation and the world at large. May our Independence, freedom, be the Independence to all the children of God in all the world!

In memory of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Independence day, let us memorise, repeat and spread the Peace Prayer among the children of God for the Peace of all in the East and the West.

This is the prayer of your own Omkar who longs to see you all Free, living in God now and always and helping others to live in Him ceaselessly!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1974

Independence

(Unpublished)

Today is the Day of Independence to all India. The happiest day of freedom from bondage. However, where is happiness for bond slaves, who are the slaves of their finite senses? Where is Independence for selfish people? Where is Independence for lazy people? Where is Independence for those who live for themselves? Where is Independence for those who are running after the passing clouds of fame and name, forgetting the substance or light within?

A selfish man who is living for himself can never be happy. Those who neglect the poor and sick who come to him can never be happy. A lazy man who lives for himself can never be happy. He wastes his precious time and that of others.

Happiness is in union with God. God is in the heart of every man and woman, nay, in the heart of every dumb animals, birds and beasts. God is in the heart of every tiny

flower, for He is pervading and permeating all the universe. He is Omnipresent. Hence, love of man is love of God. In serving man you are serving God. This is real freedom and Independence.

Let us be a blessing to the Independence Day by loving man, the living image of God. Let us love him irrespective of man-made difference of caste, creed, colour and nationality. Let our ideal and motto, the basis and foundation be the following.

The world is our home and its people are our sisters and brothers. To love and serve them is our true, highest religion.

In memory of the 28th anniversary of the day of Independence, let us give a death blow to the bothersome ego, which is making a havoc of our Divine Life. In one word,

Question: When shall I be free?

Answer: When the ego ceases to be.

On this Independence Day may God's Richest Blessings ever be upon all His children in the East and the West. May our lives and our Shanti Ashram be a blessing to all the humanity.

In memory of the happy Independence Day, may our Sushila Hospital with its devoted Doctor and hospital staff be a blessing to the sick and suffering. May our Akhanda Nama Sankirtan and Spiritual Healing Centre also be a blessing to all the devotees in all religions in all the world.

In memory of this Happy Independence Day by God's special Grace and Blessings, may we all sincerely strive to be free of all sickness and weakness. May we wish the Peace of all. May we always remember that it is the individual peace that paves the way to Universal Peace.

May we establish Peace first in our hearts before we try to establish it in the world. May we do this at least on this happy day, in memory of our Independence. May the day of Independence begin with Peace Prayer and end with Peace Chant, for the peace of all!

LOKA SAMASTHA SUKHINO BHAVANTU!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM TAT SAT OM!

Part Four-Messages on Sri Swami Rama Tirtha

(Undated)

Sri Swami Rama Tirtha

(Unpublished)

Peace like a river flows to me,
Peace as an ocean rolls in me.
Peace like the Ganges flows,
It flows from all my hair and toes.

These have been the inspiring words of Swami Rama.

Peace is our birthright, nay, every man's birthright in East and West. Yet, Peace seems like a myth or a distinct cry in the wilderness of the world. In ignorance and arrogance man is preparing for strife and war instead of for harmony and peace.

At a time of rejoicing over the freedom in India let us Welcome Rama's Message into our very hearts, for the Peace of the Individual as well as of the world, verily, it is the individual Peace, that paves the way to world Peace.

Welcome Rama!

Welcome Rama to thy native home,
On ever height is hoisted Om,
On every door now waves thy banner,
Pattering with breeze in perfect manner.
On every eye is glistening Ram,
On every tongue is Sivoham.
The busy bees, green trees, rustling streams,
The brides of birds with golden beams.
Rosy maidens hum sweet the Om,
With love supreme the juice of Soma
That trickles from thy benignant sight,
In Light, in Dew, in lotus bright.

When Rama speaks, the world speaks, nay the whole world becomes silent, let us listen to him now.

In Me

The oceans surge, the rivers roll
In me, in me, in me!
The flowers smile, the zephyrs blow
In me, in me, in me!
The mountains heave and Nature blooms
In me, in me, in me!
The comets fly, the meteors dies,
Cold winds sigh and thunders cry,

In me, in me, in me!
 The foe contends, the friends defends,
 The mother sleeps, the baby weeps.
 In me, in me, in me!

My friends, what else is there to be said or written? Rama's message is deep and complete, it does not need any commentary. All that it needs is only assimilation in one's practical and personal life Now and here.

Rama has been a soul of God-consciousness making everyone to feel that he or she is an Image of God. He had predicted Freedom for India a long time ago. Unto Rama, Nations and religions never existed. All the world has been his Home. Behold! It is Rama who is listening or reading in you now, for his spirit is above, below and all around.

GLORY! GLORY! GLORY!

No one can dare to oppose or differ from Rama, for listen to his wise words of harmony and all-embracing love.

I shall shower oceans of love
 And bathe the world in joy!
 If any dare oppose, welcome! Come,
 For I shall shower oceans of love.

All societies are mine! Mine welcome! Come!
 For I shall pour out floods of love.
 Every force is mine, small or great, welcome!
 Come!
 Oh! I shall shower floods of love
 Peace! Peace!

Peace that passeth all understanding, the thrilling Peace and the undulating Bliss belongs to those rare and precious souls who recognise God alone everywhere, within, without, far and near. Let us hearken to Swami Rama again!

God, God, alone.
 Everywhere! within, without
 Far and near!
 Oh Joy!
 Thrilling Peace!
 Undulating Bliss!
 What a heaven!

Here is the National Anthem written by a Rama's lover.

God bless our ancient Hind,
 Ancient Hind, once glorious Hind,
 From Sagar Island to the Sind,
 From Kashmir to Cape Comorin,
 May perfect Peace e'er reign therein

God bless our peaceful Hind.

*Let all her sons in love unite
And make them do their duty aright.
Fill them with knowledge ever true
And let their virtue shine anew.*

*Your aid the country doth implore.
Give her a hearing, oh, once more.
National Spirit in her do pour,
Extend her fame from shore to shore.
God bless once powerful Hind.
Oh Krishna of mighty deeds untold,
Oh Rama ever so brave and bold.
Forsake them not in evil days,
Unworthy though in many ways.
God bless our helpless Hind.*

Swami Rama's patriotism is brimful and over flowing, he compares his body to Mother India. His love of humanity is complete, excluding none and including all.

In memory of Swami Rama's anniversary may his spirit of freedom abide in every heart. May his infinite joy radiate from every face. Above all, may his infinite Peace flow all over India and flood the whole world. May it thus unite man with God and bringing heaven to earth. This is the prayer of a humble devotee of Swami Rama.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1934

Sri Swami Rama Tirtha Celebrations in Lucknow

Nov. 1934

Beloved Rama in the form of Sisters and Brothers! Greetings of Peace and Love.

How blessed are the lives that have the privilege of assembling here on this sacred day to commemorate the day of Swami Rama Tirthaji, who had been a living flame of God-consciousness!

Before great souls like Narayana Swamiji Maharaj and other holy ones, who had the blessed opportunity of knowing Swami Rama in the flesh, it will be mere child's prattle if a try to give Rama's life. I leave that to these who are more worthy and efficient to install his spirit into your hearts. I want to share with you only my personal experiences of what Rama had been and meant in my life.

I was at the age of sixteen years when I happened to come across a book on the life and teachings of Rama. At eighteen, I embraced Rama leaving the world of duality. In his name, I owe what I am, nay, all that is best and noble in me, only to Rama's divine life of renunciation and illumination.

These physical eyes never beheld the physical form of Rama, yet it is his love and inspiration that pervades and permeates the very cells, filling my whole being. Such is the

glory and power of an ideal life of even one single soul. Rama's clarion call *Reformers Wanted, not to reform others but to reform themselves* has made a deep and lasting impression on me in my very tender years. Since then I have been ceaselessly engaged in reforming myself within and without.

I always trying to share what I have with my fellow sisters and brothers, both in East and West. As we look around with open eyes, how busy are the people trying to reform others instead of reforming themselves! All are anxious to remove the mote in front of the eye of others, ignoring the beams in their own.

It is high time to realise that it is the *individual Peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace*. We may not be able to establish Peace on earth but we can establish Peace at least in our own hearts. We may not be able to change the world but we can change ourselves. We may not be able to change the conditions or environments in the outer life, but we can mould our inner life in such a manner as to ignore the externals.

So my friends, I raise Rama's voice again in repeating that we should reform ourselves through self-purification. We should ever walk in his foot-steps, identifying ourselves with immortal Rama both for our benefit and for the good of humanity.

I love to end my tiny message repeating the soul stirring prophecy of Swami Rama which is the soul and goal of all humanity.

PROPHECY OF RAMA TIRTHA

Oh Princes, Priests, Shudras and Ruling classes of India! Can you conceive the state of affairs a few years hence? Call it odd and curious, yet I see before me a world of Swamis. Gods walking on the face of the earth, clay-classifications of man swept away in India, China, America, England, etc. Those are dissolved and new crystals are springing up, to be dissolved again in their turn.

Oh dreaming darlings! Cast away the scales from your eyes and see the highest Sanyasins joining hands with the lowest Shudras. Lo there! The begging bowl converted into a spade or a hoe, Sanyasins shorn of their laziness and shudra-labour exalted to the dignity of Sanyasa. The spirit of renunciation will actuate all.

The shameless boldness of a harlot and the purity of Rama will be combined; the tenderness of a lamb wedded to the resolute intrepidity of a lion. The extremes will meet and the intermediate unnatural distinctions will be dissolved. The world will become one family. See all this, look there and see! AMEN.

This is a message to me, to you, to the lovers of Rama, to all the seekers of Truth and to the whole of humanity. What a great privilege it is to be blessed with a universal vision and to feel and exclaim, *the world is my home and all its people are my sisters and brothers. To love and serve them is my religion.*

Dear friends, this can never be Rama's day if we cannot feel his presence or fail to identify with him. Even in memory of that great soul, oh! Let us forget our tiny forms and little names, and recognise the one presence of Rama everywhere.

In conclusion, I request you all to join me in a deep and silent meditation, recognising Rama's presence within and without, in the stillness of our hearts as well as in the outer activities of our lives. It is Peace within and without. It is illumination above and below. It is Rama's presence all around!

May we ever abide in this eternal oneness and indivisible love, always feeling the Spirit of Rama, is the constant prayer of your own brother Omkar.

OM! OM! OM!

1936

*A Message delivered in Lucknow on the Birthday of the
Saint*

Sept. 1936

Dear Beloved and Blessed Ones! Sriman Narayan Swamiji has been a loving father and preceptor to me since many a long year. I am deeply grateful to him for giving me the blessed opportunity of meeting you all on this sacred occasion.

It has been my one long-cherished ambition to take part in the celebration of Sri Rama Tirthaji and to exchange my heart with your devoted and selfless hearts.

As you know, we have come from a long, long distance, motoring 1500 miles, only with a desire to be serviceable and helpful to you, and not to waste your precious time with empty and lifeless words.

As I stand here, looking into the devoted and loving faces of all of you, I am wondering what I can say to you now.

As a boy I tried to learn a simple rule, namely, to pay all my attention to the matter at hand, forgetting all else. Hence, to me now, Shanti Ashram of Totapalli Hills of Godavari District, does not exist. We do not live in the past, but live only in the present moment. I see before me now only the Divine Rama in all of you and no one besides. Only two things are existing here now: Rama in all of you and myself. I long to dissolve in your love, in Rama.

It was Rama who said 'Let one man alone live for God, the whole nation can be united through him.' Through the silent life of one single individual, a whole nation can be united. If that is so, if so many hundreds of us live in God, what is there that cannot be done in the world? The very Kingdom of Heaven, the new world of Peace, will be very near at hand. It will no longer remain a dream, but be a living fact.

Calling ourselves Rama's followers, admirers and devotees, if we cannot live in God, who else can live divinely? It is not enough to repeat that Rama is a great soul, and an Avatar etc. He is not in need of our praises or words. He is more in need of our universal love. He expects not our empty words but our devoted hearts, to be consecrated to His worship.

If there is anything sad in this world, nay utterly deplorable, it is only to forget God in the name of God. How many people visit temples, shrines and leagues, keeping their minds somewhere else. As it has been said, we do not live where our bodies are but where our minds are. How many of us are feeling the presence of Rama, having gathered to commemorate his day? If we cannot feel his presence now, where else can we feel it?

If we analyse our lives, we often see that from morning till evening, it is filled with nothing but idle talk. If there is nothing to talk of, we begin to think of all unnecessary things. Thus we perceive many a life is being wasted from cradle to grave, with useless words and lifeless thoughts.

Yet, we have been told by scriptures as well as by sages like Swami Rama, that God is in Silence. He is above all these words and thoughts. However, we never give a chance for God manifesting in us by rising above clamorous words and thoughts.

Where are the moments when we are alone with God? There are moments when we are alone with our friends, relations, dear and near ones. There are moments when we are alone with our so-called foes or enemies, and when we are alone with our fears, anxieties, worries, sorrows and sicknesses. Yet where are the moments when we are alone with God, the living Truth or Reality?

If we admit that God alone is the living Reality, should we not have at least an hour out of twenty-four hours for His conscious meditative worship and recognition? Hence comes the necessity for regular meditation. It may begin with four periods a day, but ends finally in a ceaseless flow of God-consciousness.

When I was a boy, nearly fifteen years ago, I wrote a booklet on *Meditation* and Rev. Narayana Swamiji was kind enough to write a foreword for it, ever encouraging me in every way. I always consider his foreword as a foreword to my Spiritual life. Hence, once again I love to offer my deep gratitude to him, for all his tender love and care throughout all these years.

We seldom find a man without some ideal or the other. All of you have your own ideals. Similarly I too have my own ideal and ambition. My ideal is not to build up more Ashrams or to earn a little empty fame and name selling my soul. My aim is only to ever feel His Presence consciously, and unconsciously and to share it with others, with all of you. I do not want to reach or teach of God; I long to make you feel His Presence, not in the uncertain future, but right now and here.

Our God is not the God of the dead past or of the uncertain future. He is not the God of skies or heaven, but He is the God of our hearts, the indwelling Presence. He is pervading and permeating the very cells of our beings. If He is present here, why can we not feel Him now? If we believe in His Omnipresence, are we not filled and surrounded by His presence now?

Leaving aside all our religions and philosophies, if we believe and cling to one word OMNIPRESENT, it is enough for our freedom and salvation. He is omnipresent. Wherever we may be, we are in His presence.

God need not be confined to a temple or church, to work or rest. He is at all times within, without, in you, in me, here and now.

GLORY, GLORY, GLORY!

Let us recognise Him and be silent. Recognise what? No more names and forms, no more differences of high and low, but the sweet all-pervading Divinity. He is not only in everyone but in every creature, nay in every atom. How blessed it is to recognise Divinity and be silent!

What can I say of Rama, before great souls like Swami Narayan who had the privilege of working and living with him? All that I can say of him, whether to myself or to you is: let us be silent and feel His presence within, and then we can serve him in others, without.

This I have been practising for the last 25 years but alas, it is so hard. Yet, whether it is easy or difficult, it is our goal and soul for you and me, whether we do it today or tomorrow, in this birth or in the births to come.

If ever I have a message to give to myself or to you or others, it is only to repeat Rama's message, the message of SELF-RELIANCE. When devotees come to me for guidance, my first words are always, '*Do not rely on me or on anyone else, but rely firmly on your own Self.*' Self-reliance has been, is and will be the one living message for the whole world to rise from sorrow to bliss, sickness to health and death to Immortality. Our only responsibility in the world is to strive to be true to the Indwelling Presence. When we are false to the Indweller of our hearts, how can we be true to anyone else?

Let the centre be within you always, under all conditions. Thus we are safe and sound. While starting from Shanti Ashram and its branches, several devotees gave us Farewell Addresses. Among those one friend said in a simple way, that those that are living in Lucknow are blessed, for he divided the name Lucknow into two words LUCK and NOW. He said that the inhabitants of Lucknow are privileged to enjoy LUCK right NOW, not in the uncertain future.

What is the greatest luck for a man created in the image of God? Is it not to enjoy God-consciousness, consciously? So you are privileged to enjoy that luck, God-consciousness, now alone. Are you feeling and expressing it my friends? It is your Divine Heritage. Let not even a day or hour or minute be wasted without enjoying God's Love and Glory.

The same devoted soul in his address, requested me to bring from Lucknow not Rama Tirtha's works or the report of all the learned and inspiring speeches that are given there, but he asked me to bring Rama's God-consciousness.

Oh, what an uphill task is entrusted to me! If there is any desire in my life, it is never to disappoint those that rely on me trustingly. So my friends, where shall we find that God-consciousness of Rama, except within and in you who are the embodiments of Rama.

Pray, give me a little space in your selfless, devoted and God-intoxicated hearts, so that I can bathe myself in your infinite love and carry with me Rama's message of God-consciousness. I request you to be allowed to speak a few words about our Peace Mission which is striving to propagate the message of Rama in its humble way. For every effect there must be an underlying cause. There is never an effect without a cause. Even for our coming to Lucknow there is the cause. Similarly for the existence of our Peace Mission, the Universal Home or the Abode of Peace, there must be an underlying cause.

Considering the world as my home and all people in it as my sisters and brothers, I long to share with one and all, the Peace which is the birthright of every individual on the face of the earth. The Peace Mission belongs to you as much as it belongs to me, for it is the common property of all seekers of peace in the East and West, in every religion. So it is needless to say that a hearty welcome awaits you all.

The harvest is great and the labourers are few. I feel quite ashamed of myself for the little work that is done so far. There is immense work to be done ahead of us, for the peace of the world. I am never tired of repeating again and again that it is the *individual peace that paves the way towards the Universal Peace*. Without having peace in our hearts, it is nothing but waste of time either to speak or to write of peace. Hence, let us help the world before we speak or write another word, by establishing peace in our hearts first.

It is wonderful to live without desires but I have still the great ambition and desire of starting Ashrams and peace Missions. I want to start them not only in every town and village, but in every heart. From there peace will flow in rivers and torrents, and flood ceaselessly towards the whole of humanity. Imagine the establishment of an Abode of Peace in every heart!

In conclusion, in memory of Swami Rama's sacred Birthday will you help me by establishing an Abode of Peace in each and every heart, that had the blessed opportunity of assembling here?

I am not asking of you perishable riches or any other baubles of the world. I am asking of you very little. What a wonderful and memorable commemoration day it would be for the great memory of our beloved Rama, if we could all establish now and here, in this very moment, an Abode of Peace in our hearts!

Pray, let us do so, without allowing another moment to pass in vain. With a firm determination to convert our hearts into Abodes of Peace, let us chant the sacred syllable OM which has been so dear and near to our Rama, with all the strength of our minds and souls. With the first OM let us fill every cell of our beings with Presence or Divinity. With the second OM, let us fill the whole world with that Divinity. With the third OM, let the little 'I' dissolve in the glory of the Sun of suns, the Light of lights and the God of gods.

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

1936

Sri Swami Rama Tirtha Anniversary Message

Nov. 1936

It does not seem possible that a whole year has passed away so soon. Is it really a year since we had the privilege of sharing the love of all of you at Sri Swami Rama's Birthday Celebrations last year?

It seems as if it was only yesterday that we were sitting in the sacred company of Sriman Narayana Swamiji and other devoted souls on the raised platform. We were then longing to enter into the open hearts of the lovers of Rama, gathered in a kindred spirit of unity and devotion.

Yet one full year, consisting of twelve months or three hundred and sixty-five days has passed away. How time is fleeting! It has been said *Time and tide wait for no man*. They ebb and flow in Eternity as do all created beings and things.

Blessed are they who are above time, but how few and rare are such God-intoxicated souls full of self-realisation! Unto such, either days nor months, neither years nor centuries exist. They live in eternity and abide by no laws.

It was Rama who said that days pass with him merged in God. Those are days without the need of even a morsel of food and nights without even a wink of sleep. Such is the Divine ecstasy of emancipated souls who have risen above time.

Time hangs heavy on the heads of lazy people, and all those who have no ideal or goal in life. They try to kill, as it were, the precious time, the incalculably valuable time, that fleeting time. Time cannot be regained by any earthly sacrifices, tears or fervent wishes.

The most vital point with which we are concerned now is how far we have neared the holy spirit of Rama since we celebrated his anniversary in this place a year ago? How far have we grown, assimilating the Infinite Love of Rama? If we are devoid of silent and steady progress, if we are not reaching the Heights that were trodden by Rama and if we are not trying to lose ourselves in Rama, forgetting the little selves, what practical benefit is there in meeting year after year to commemorate Rama's Anniversary?

Dear Beloved Lovers of Blessed Rama, if you believe in the statement that we do not live where our bodies are but that we live where our minds are, then we request you to believe that we are with you now mentally and spiritually, taking part in Rama's celebration with you and bathing in his love. How blessed it is to live in Rama all the year round, each and every day, celebrating his anniversary not only once a year, but every day and in every moment of our lives!

What is Rama's message? What is his highest message? His real message can never be given in words, neither can it be understood through words. To understand his sublime message we must become still and silent. It is in silence, the deep and nameless silence, where senses are not senses, mind is not mind, and intellect is not intellect. There the ego or the little 'I' dissolves like a mere bubble in the mighty ocean. Then, we can feel, understand and comprehend the holy message of God-imbued Rama.

It was Rama who has given us that beautiful and instructive illustration of how a king was testing the skill and workmanship of two artists. He asked them to paint some pictures on walls opposite to each other in his palace. One man painted the most exquisite picture in a most wonderful manner, drawing the attention and appreciation of the king.

However when the king with his courtiers went to see the workmanship of the second artist, lifting the screen on the opposite wall, they all became speechless and dumbfounded with ecstasy over the dazzling beauty of the second Divinely inspired artist.

Rama relates that the second artist did not paint at all but he was all the while engaged in rubbing and polishing the wall again and again till in its transparent smoothness was reflected the first painter's picture with a thousand-fold beauty, grandeur and ethereal softness.

Similarly my friends, you have been listening to all the sacred songs and holy speeches of the renowned speakers and the sermons of great saints. Now, I beg you to give me the privilege of not making a speech but of helping you with my humble request to scrub and rub the mirrors of your hearts to reflect His full glory! *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* Oh! Let us purify our hearts. Let us be still and silent so that these beautiful speeches and melodious songs will be reflected in the inner sanctuary of our hearts. Let us attune ourselves with Rama's silent spirit so that his message will be indelibly imprinted in the sacred centres of the sanctuary of our hearts.

Receptivity is what the world is sadly in need of. We read, hear and speak of many noble things almost every day. But they are not going within us. As some say, all the teachings and messages are entering into us through one ear and are passing out through the other ear. Let our hearts be not like iron, hard and inflexible but let them be as soft as butter. Then, any good impression can be easily imprinted and deeply moulded therein.

In memory of Rama's celebration shall we make our hearts pure and receptive so that his message enters in? Not only in, but soaks and saturates through every atom. Then it will become a part and parcel of the very blood and flesh of our beings! Let us be still and in the great stillness, let us realise that Rama's spirit is never separate, aloof nor away from us. It is within and without, pervading and permeating the very cells of our beings. Let us now feel, feel, feel Rama's love, life and light in stillness. Let us also express him in our activities and duties of the outer world. May all our thoughts, words and deeds be in harmony with the message of Self-realisation so dear to this great saint.

May the Universal Spirit of Rama ever reflect and eternally abide in the receptive, purified and consecrated hearts of all of us! This is the prayer of your own brother Omkar.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1959

An Offering in Memory of Sri Rama's Anniversary to all the Devotees of Rama and Lovers of Peace.

Sept. 1959

Blessed and Beloved Rama in the form of all Ramas! How blessed it is to behold Rama in all of you! Are you not all the living manifestations of the One Indivisible, Infinite and Eternal Rama? That which exists is one and sages called it Christ, Allah, Zoroaster etc., etc. I take joy in calling you all the emblems of the living Rama, for Rama exists within, without, above, below and all around. As the scriptures declare, *Isa Vasya Midam Sarvam*. All this universe is pervaded and permeated by Eswar, the Lord of Light. There is a song in Telugu, *Antaa Rama Mayam, Ee Jagam Antaa Rama Mayam*. All this is Rama. All this world is filled and saturated with the Glory of Rama.

What is world without you all! Is there any world apart from you all? World consists of you all. As such, world means all of you. When we say all this world is filled with God, Eswar or Rama, we should feel His Presence within us now and here. Is it not so? Yet, are we feeling His Presence now? This is up to each and everyone of us to introspect and know whether we are feeling His Presence now or not. What is life without feeling God's Presence? It is empty, void and hollow. With God we are everything and without Him we are mere nothings. Before we proceed further, may each and everyone of us feel Rama's Presence now and here, in this very present moment is my prayer!

It is very interesting to see even in small things how history repeats itself. It was in 1934, nearly 25 years ago, that we came with Sister Sushila Devi and some of the Ashram workers. We came all the way from Shanti Ashram, East Godavari District to Lucknow, at the pressing request and invitation of His Holiness Sri Narayan Swamiji. My soul rebels to say Swami Narayan is no more. Physically he may be no more, but spiritually he is alive more than ever.

Similarly we can never say Rama is no more. Rama is alive now in all of you, more than ever, for you are all the living images of Rama. How life-giving are the potent words that *Rama has no other body on earth, other than your body!* Rama is sparkling in our eyes. Rama is throbbing in our hearts. Rama is breathing in us all. Rama is working and moving in all of us. It is Rama within, without, everywhere and all around, for nothing else exists besides Rama, the one living Truth.

If you could only recognise and feel this simple Truth, the awareness of Rama's presence now and here, you do not need to know anything else either from me or from anyone, for you are all the living manifestations of Rama, the moving temples of God.

Forgetfulness of Rama or the Light within is death.

Awareness of the inherent Light is Life Eternal.

Rama's whole philosophy is summed up in the following simple words:

Denial of the little self, the ego.

Assertion of the real self-the Atma.

Rama has given out the essence of all his religion in one word: **Self-reliance**. He does not want us to rely on outer forms, names and personalities. He wants us to rely even in the face of the so-called death, at bayonet's point, only on the Infinite, Eternal and Ineffable Light. My offering to Rama is myself. Hence, he pervades and permeates the very cells of this being. As Rama pervades all this universe, may He express through you all, in thought, word and deed, Infinite Peace, and Universal love, is my ardent prayer!

My heart longs to help and serve you all, for in serving you I am serving myself, the one Indivisible Rama. It has been said one word is enough for the wise. That one Holy Word is **Rama**. Thou art the living manifestations of the living and loving Rama. Thou Art That! Tat Twam Asi. Silence! Supreme Silence!! Waveless silence!!!

Our simple Peace Prayer has been a great blessing to God's aspiring children in both the East and the West. Hence in memory of Rama's Anniversary I request you all to memorise and repeat it often, as it helps you to feel God's Presence while repeating itself, for it is a prayer that helps to unite the individual with the Universal. Let us all repeat the Peace Prayer now.

OM! OM! OM!

1967

Sri Swami Rama Tirtha

Nov. 1967

Those who realise the immanence of God reach beyond the clutches of death; so says Mother Shruti. Swami Rama Tirtha had freed himself entirely of all worldly ties. Death could not touch him. He lives in eternity, now more so than ever. Should you wish to verify this, a visit to Shanti Ashram will provide ample proof. The Ashram is nestled in the beautiful valley of Totapalli Hills. It is enveloped in a spotless mantle of green shrubbery. The *Swami Rama Tirtha Institute of Peace* has sprung up in the holy precincts of the Ashram. The infant Institute basks in the gentle sunlight of the saintly guidance and affectionate blessings of no less a saintly soul than Sri Vinobaji Bhawe.

Through the untiring, devoted efforts of Pujya Swami Ramananda Tirthaji, the Institute was inaugurated by the great Sarvoday leader, Sri Jaya Prakash Narayan on 21-1-1967. It was inaugurated in the presence of his devoted life-partner Srimathi Prabhvathi Devi, as well as Sri Tenneti Viswanadham, Prof. Satchidananda Murty, Dr. Ramakrishna Rao and many other learned and eminent souls, who very kindly graced the occasion.

Swami Rama Tirtha wanted to have a Vedanta Colony somewhere in India. He wanted this for the good of all, for spreading Peace. He wanted Peace spread from heart to heart, near and far, in the East and the West, all over the world. This long-cherished dream of Swami Rama Tirtha of blessed memory has at long last been realised in the holy grounds of Shanti Ashram, the Mission of Peace. Shanti Ashram was established over fifty years ago. Now the Institute has been started in the sacred memory of Sri Swami Rama Tirthaji, so that all may be enabled to realise the Ashram Ideal, *Live in God and help others to live in Him.*

Rama lived in God every moment of the meteoric span of his physical life. Now he is helping all mankind to live in God. *Let one man alone live in God and the whole Nation can be united through him.* This is one of the holy sayings of Swami Rama. Another dynamic saying with almost touching appeal to all the world, is for *Reformers not of others, but of themselves.*

Wanted

Reformers,

Not of others

But of themselves,

Who have won,

Not University distinctions,

But victory over the local self.

Age: the youth of Divine joy

Salary: Godhead

Apply Sharp

With no begging solicitations but commanding
decision

To the Director of the Universe,

Your Own Self.

OM! OM! OM!

As we see now in the world everybody is busy trying to reform others, forgetting the Light within and the need for one's own reformation! Where does it all lead to, except to greater confusion and deeper chaos? On the occasion of Sri Swami Rama's Birthday Anniversary, may we give up our attempts to change the world and reform others. Let us try and begin from this holy day, to reform ourselves!

By establishing Peace in our hearts now, we are helping to spread Peace in the world, for it is the *Individual Peace that paves the way to Universal Peace.* We may not change the world, reforming others but we can surely change ourselves by self-reformation. So let us begin self-reformation now and here, which alone will lead us from the unreal to the real, from darkness into Light, the Light of the Self-effulgent Splendour of Millions of suns.

Blessed indeed is Sri Shanti Ashram in having the selfless services in this holy cause, of our Pujya Swami Ramananda Tirthaji, who is the very life and soul of the Rama Tirtha Institute of Peace as its Director. I feel deeply grateful to Sri Swamiji and also to all the innumerable admirers of Swami Rama, in India as well as abroad, for their sympathy and love,

Now let me have the privilege of leading you all into a deep and silent meditation in regions where it is all Light. There, there is the experience of the Peace that passeth all understanding. As we open our eyes now, we are in a new world of renaissance, where everyone is Rama and where everything is Rama. It is Rama expressed in the mineral, vegetable, animal and in human kingdoms of life!

May all homage be unto Rama, who is blossoming in flowers, singing in birds and roaming the forests in beasts. He is aspiring in man, and above all expressing as Rama in all of you, my loving friends, God's own Living images! Let me close this message with the Peace Prayer and Peace chant, glorifying Rama in all of you.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1968

Inaugural Speech

*On the occasion of the inauguration of Sri Swami Rama
Tirtha pillar of Light on 20th June in Tehri, Tehri-
Garhwal District, Himalayas.*

July 1968

Dear Living images of Blessed Rama! My heart longs to touch your devoted hearts with the Infinite love of Rama. His Love is Universal and excludes none but includes all. On this auspicious day of the inauguration, I feel the Presence of God. He is closer and nearer than ever because of His Richest Blessings. It was a miracle how He has brought us from the far away south to far off north, giving us the blessed privilege of serving not only you but all seekers of truth and peace in the world, in the name of this inauguration. I take joy in repeating often that there are two kinds of people in the world.

1. Those who are dead already even though they are alive physically. For, selfish people are dead always.
2. Those who are selfless and God-loving and God-intoxicated like our Swami Ram, are ever alive even though their bodies are disembodied.

It is with us now to introspect our lives and to see for ourselves whether we are dead or alive. May the dead be alive and may the alive continue to be a blessing to the world!

There is only the one indivisible Atma to inaugurate, as He is the only changeless reality. As Upanishads teach us, that which exists is one and sages have called it by various names. It is that reality or God, that has brought us all together now. It is because of His Presence I am able to speak and you are able to listen. So let us feel His Presence now more than ever, in memory of the inauguration.

I would love to call this pillar of Rama as *Ram Tirth Pillar of Light*, for Rama lived in Light and the Light was in Him and He is the Light Himself. In memory of this inauguration let us carry with us three inspiring statements, the following.

We are in the Light.

The light is in us.

We are the light.

For, nothing exists besides the Light, either in the past, present or future.

This is the Holy Day of the inauguration of Swami Rama Tirtha Pillar of light. It is the international spiritual light house of Jnana. My heart longs to start now a Rama Tirtha Peace Centre to diffuse knowledge and light far and near, all over the world, for peace and

happiness. As these are not the days for talking mere words, but of deeds, I love to begin my gesture for the foundation for Rama Tirtha Peace Centre, with a loving contribution of one thousand one hundred and sixteen rupees. May it be a tiny beginning and may it grow into floods of Light, diffusing the world with Rama's Light, Life, knowledge, love and above all with his God-consciousness.

Although we Sadhus do not know from where the next meal comes, yet I am grateful to God for the great opportunity He has given me to make a good beginning for the Rama Tirth Peace Centre in Tehri. One of the well-wishers of the Peace Mission and a close worker has been saying, 'When we have Shanti Ashram in India and even in foreign lands, why we do not have any by the river side anywhere in India?'

Now my heart rejoices that God in His infinite mercy and understanding is fulfilling that great wish of the patriot saint of Bharat, by starting Rama Tirth Peace Centre on the banks of the Holy Bhilangana. What other place can be more sacred and sanctimonious than the Holy place where Swami Rama left his body to be dissolved? It is a perfect place to establish a Peace Centre in his name. From there Peace will flow in rivers and floods, to fill all the world with Rama's practical Vedanta, God-consciousness. This is done in order to end all racial discrimination and wars in the world!

You will be surprised to hear from me that I never had the privilege of visiting Tehri. Yet, I had the good fortune of spending six long years in my early years in Swargashram, Rishikesh. I was in a lovely Kutia on the top of the hill. I spent my days in Tapas, penance spiritual study. My only books then were of Swami and Rama's writings and messages and also a copy of Ashtavakra Gita.

What I am now, I owe it to the simple God-intoxicated, ideal life of Swami Rama. With my six years stay in Swargashram and the study of Rama's works, I was getting ready for the great work lying ahead of me. Before I came to Swargashram as a mere boy of less than 20 years, I had already visited America once to study medicine. It was on my way to the USA, in London, that I had the joy of meeting Honourable Mr. V.V. Giri. He was then studying Law in England. He was very kind and loving to me, and predicted even then that I was unfit for the mundane or outer life.

In those blessed days, Swami Rama was my soul, goal and ideal and I was trying to walk in his blessed foot-prints. Having read that Rama walked 40 miles a day in the hills, I too tried to walk 40 miles a day and even 44 miles the next day, but was dead tired through over-exertion. Since Swami Rama went to America, I too wanted to go there and went four times, all around the world also.

In a fertile valley in Totapalli Hills, E.G. Dist, an Abode of Peace was started in 1917. It is for the benefit of all seekers of Truth, in all the religions and nations. It was there that H.H. Swami Narayan, the direct and ideal disciple of Swami Rama visited the Ashram and highly appreciated its silent work. Its Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 1967 by His grace.

While thus busy, day and night with the fever of service, for the Peace of the world, I had the heart malady. I was confined in bed in the Visakhapatnam hospital, where I had the good fortune of the visit of our Puja Ramananda Tirthaji. Swami Ramanandaji has always been very kind and loving towards me, respecting the least of my wishes. One day lying on my Hospital bed, I was speaking to him thus:

"Dear Swamiji, I feel depressed and sad not because of the heart malady, but because of the thought that more than 70 years of my precious life has been wasted in doing nothing. Even now, before I close my eyes, in my last days, it would give me joy if you can help me. Help me in starting a Vedanta Colony as desired by Swami Rama and train every year a few students, God-consciousness souls like Swami Rama. We can do this in order to spread practical Vedanta for the Peace of the world, with the hearty co-operation of all lovers of Practical Vedanta. This alone will save the world now from all unnecessary misunderstandings and mutual hatred and suspicion."

Thus with one hundred percent zeal and fervour, the *Ram Tirtha Institute of Peace* was started on a 25 acres, a lovely spot in Shanti Ashram. It received the blessings of Sri Pujya Vinobaji. It was inaugurated by the great Sarvodaya leader Sri Jai Prakash Narayana. It has already trained two batches of students and the third year course begins in the coming August 1958.

I was often introspecting my long lease of 75 years of life and worrying, comparing it with the short span of life of 33 years of Swami Rama. The prominent thought has been:

When Swami Rama did so much good and accomplished immense work in 33 short years, what have I done in all these long 75 years of age?

As if to console me in my closing years, the all-knowing God has sent to me our Pujya Ramananda Tirthaji, to fulfil the long-cherished dream of the Vedanta Colony of Swami

Rama. God knows what is best, not only for the individuals but even for the whole Universe, for the good of all His children in the respective religions and nations. May we cling to God more than ever, leaving the results to Him!

Have you seen Swami Rama? This was a perplexing question often asked by the friends of Swami Rama, both of West and the East. How could I see him when Rama passed away when I was a mere lad of a few years? Yet, my very soul hurts to say that I have not seen Rama, for to me all of you are the living images of Rama. I try to live in Rama, breathe in Rama, work in Rama, move in Rama, ever having my being in Him. When such is the case how can I ever say that I did not see Rama?

Rama is expecting big things from you also. He has brought us here not only to inaugurate Rama's pillar of Light but to start the Rama Tirtha Peace Centre on this auspicious day, at this sacred spot. It is where Rama left his body to merge and dissolve in the elements of nature. It has made me very happy to hear of the great sacrifices and silent work of some of the workers in these parts. Hence I feel that God has brought us here knowing that the great future of the Tehri Peace Centre will be more safe in your hands, than any where else in the world.

My heart rejoices to mention here that our Peace Mission, the abode of Peace, was already blessed to have a Peace Centre in the devoted heart of Swami Anandaji Maharaj, the secretary of Bharat Sadhu Samaj, New Delhi. Because of his great services, we are now here in Tehri. The great future of our Swami Rama Tirtha Peace centre also is with our Pujya Ananda Swamiji. It is also with each and everyone of you, who are the Living Images of Swami Rama. I believe more not in the Peace Centres started on land outside, but in the Peace Centres started in the hearts inside. Hence let me have the great joy of starting a Peace Centre in the devoted and dedicated hearts of all of you, for the Peace of all.

As this is only my Inaugural Speech, I do not wish to worry you with too many words. Yet my heart longs to share my inner thoughts as well as my aspirations with you all the devoted lovers and advocates of Swami Rama. I have done my part now and it is with all of you to do the rest. These days one small prayer gives me comfort and consolation. Let me share it with you.

*Dear God! Let others be great and famous and let me be
unknown and insignificant.*

Be dead that ye may live, is the essence of Rama's teachings and the essence of all religions. *If you want to be a miserable, think of yourself. If you want to be happy, think of others.* This is another thought that has been an inspiration of my life.

Now let me close my Message with the helpful Peace Prayer. It has been translated into more than 20 languages in India, besides in the foreign languages. This is a simple Peace Prayer that makes you feel the presence of God, while repeating the prayer itself now and here.

In memory of our visit to Tehri and the establishment of Rama Tirtha Peace Centre, may I kindly request each and every one of you, to memorise this Prayer along with the Peace Chant. Repeat it as often as possible, along with your other prayers, as it helps all to establish peace in the heart and then in the home, community, nation and the world at large. Please join me as I repeat the Peace Prayer now, with eyes closed, feeling His self-effulgent light in the very cells of our beings, from the toes to the top of our heads.

OM! OM! OM!

Swami Rama Tirtha Memorial Committee Tehri-Garhwal has Sri Mahendra Shah, the Maharaja of Tehri Guharwal as its Treasurer and Sri Bhakat Darsan and Swami Ananda as Secretaries.

It is with Sri Rajah Saheba and other committee members to see that the Holy Place where Rama lived and did penance, saturated with God-consciousness, should be made a shrine of holy pilgrimage to all the seekers of Peace and especially to the followers of Swami Rama in the East and the West.

May this Rama Tirtha Pillar of Light and Rama Tirtha Peace Centre ever be kept as sources of inspiration leading to Meditation and silence. Let it thus spread Rama's simple message of God-consciousness to all in four corners of the world.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1971

Swami Rama Tirtha

Oct. 1971

Sri Swami Rama Tirtha's birth anniversary is fast approaching. His very name is an inspiration to all the devoted souls in India and abroad, for he has been an embodiment of freedom, joy, strength and inspiration. His religion and philosophy may be summed up in one word: **self-reliance**.

It was Rama who proclaimed boldly that it is a sin not to say **I AM GOD**. It was Rama who called for self-reformation, saying ***Wanted: Reformers, not of others but of themselves.***

It is not enough to repeat that *Rama Tirtha is a great soul*. He is great and famous. I take joy in using the word **IS**, the present tense, for Rama is still alive to me. He is always alive. He is eternally alive.

How can Rama die? Rama is immortal. It was Rama who said, *'Births of breath are as many as waves on the sea.'* One is born with everyone in every birth. One is dying with everyone in every death. One is above birth and death too.

Sri Swami Rama Tirtha's Centenary is also coming in 1973. How days, months and years are rolling by! Our Puja Ramananda Tirthaji has been working hard, in spite of his frail health to make the Centenary the greatest blessing to all the devotees and admirers of Swami Rama.

Our Rama Tirtha Institute of Peace in Totapalli Hills, Mother Ashram, is offering every facility to help aspiring souls. It is to giving training in practical Vedanta, with the study of comparative Religions. It wants to train the students to be the embodiments of Swami Rama and send them as Bearers of Light, Freedom and Universality all over the world. Then, *The Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of One God* may be created in all religions and nations. What a wonderful and illuminating aspiration and ideal!

If ever Peace is going to be established in the world, it is only through realisation of the individual Peace which paves the way to Universal Peace. Welcome to all the aspiring

souls who are blessed with hearts of Universality, to join the Rama Tirtha Institute of Peace!

May God, the indwelling presence of our hearts, the Light Universal, bless our Pujya Swami Ramananda Tirthaji, Sri Keshava Tirthaji and other selfless and dedicated workers in the East and the West, with the realisation of their fond dreams for World Peace. This is the prayer of your own Omkar, your silent friend and the well-wisher of Humanity. It is on behalf of the members of Sri Shanti Ashram, the Mission of Peace. Let us conclude now our Rama's Anniversary Celebrations with the Peace Chant from the Vedas.

OM! OM! OM!

1978

105th Jayanthi and Vardhanthi

Nov. 1978

We are on the eve of the 105th Jayanthi and Vardhanthi of our poet monk of Mother India, Swami Rama Tirthaji Maharaj. May the darkest day be the happiest day, because it is the happy day of the birth of Swami Rama Tirtha, the God-aspired soul. Let everything I do lead me towards God, the Light of lights. Heavens are declaring His Glory by singing His name with every rain drop.

GLORY, GLORY, GLORY!

Let every thought that we think lead us towards God. May this be the legacy beginning of a new birth, the real birth into Cosmic Consciousness. Above all, may every breath lead us into God's Glory. Inhale and exhale Peace our Divine heritage, the real birthright. Let your eyes see God. Close the eyes when they fail to see Him in all that you see. Let your ears hear God's voice in every sound! Verily, all is God, nothing else except God.

Follow Soham ceaselessly, there is no other way to feel God's presence now and here. Indeed, God is interpenetrating the very cells of your being. Recognise and be silent. *Tat Twam Asi, Thou Art That*. The way to be happy is to make others happy. You can do this by helping all to repeat Peace Prayer. Practise, practise, practise! Ceaseless practise is the only way to reach the goal of the precious human birth.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

Part Five-Christmas Messages

December 25th

(Undated)

(Unpublished)

Within and without, there is nothing but the spirit of Christ shining in me! I have been the Christ in the past generations; I am the same Christ now and will remain to be the same changeless Christ even though ages will roll on.

The spirit of Christ is the same in the past, present and future. There is nothing blasphemous in the thought that 'I am the Christ.' It is the only living truth and eternal principle. However, in the thought of, 'I am not the Christ' and 'I am separate from Christ,' there is nothing but weakness and misery.

In the thought that, 'I am the Christ, the living truth,' there is immortality and life-giving strength. Verily, whether in the past, present or future, one thing, one truth, one reality, one diving principle alone is existing; and that is God. 'Tat Twam Asi. Thou art that.' So am I!

As living Christ, I represent the past, present and future. In the *thought* that 'I am the Christ,' in the *feeling* that 'I am the Christ,' and the *realisation* that 'I am the Christ' alone there is all joy. There is all strength and there is all peace; no where else.

As Divine Christ, I am one continuous flame of burning consciousness. No thought of fickleness or weakness can every dare to approach near me. As living Christ, there is no room in me for anything smacking of sensuality or worldliness. All around I am surrounded with a glory of my own. Within and without, it is verily all Divine Glory!

Oh, the bliss of Christ's spirit is simply inexpressible! It cannot be painted by the best artists of the world; neither can it be described by the greatest intellects and poets of the creation. It is without, it is near, it is far. It is everywhere and verily, we are that!

The Christ-hood is ours by our very birthright and we are never separate from it. We are eternally one with it.

May the spirit of Holy Christ manifest in every form of the Almighty, making us all realise our united oneness with the all-pervading Truth or Christ consciousness.

May Glory be unto the Lord who is both within and without of every one of us!

OM SHANTI SHANTI SHANTI!

(Undated)

(Unpublished)

Is not the Spirit of the Almighty Christ Omnipresent and all-pervading, filling from the tiniest atom to the biggest sun? is not our Lord living in every thing and in every one? Verily, the Almighty is in me. If He is in me, I must be Him alone. Indeed, I am the Christ. What a great joy it is to feel that I am the living Christ!

Christ is not to be confined to a form or name; neither is He to be bound to time, space and causation. He is from eternity to eternity, He is all in all. As He is in everyone, each and everyone is a form of Lord Christ.

But, people consider it a blasphemy and sacrilegious thing to feel or consider themselves as Christ. The reason is they have not understood the Lord Christ. They take

Christ for a personality; be it even the Son of God, it is still a personality. Actually, Christ is neither the person nor personality.

Lord Christ is a Divine principle. He is a state of Divine consciousness. To realise God, everyone not only must feel that he is the Christ, but also, should work up to rise to that highest state of consciousness. There is no salvation for anyone, unless he realises that he is the living Christ.

To say that he is not Christ is a sin. It is killing God or Christ-hood. But, repetition with lips won't do. One must feel and realise the Christ-hood with heart and soul, in every breath of his life and under all circumstances.

Verily, everyone must reach the Almighty through the name of Christ alone. Taking the name of Christ does not consist in attaching ourselves to some congregation and thus attending Sundays, and making clean confessions of the sins that can be repeated for the next weeks confessions.

Taking the name of Christ is living in Christ, as Christ alone. Indeed, the Christ is a state of holy consciousness through which we realise the Glory of our birthright namely, the Divine splendour of millions of suns.

As such, no one should be afraid of taking the name of Lord Christ. But, they must be afraid of taking His Holy name in vain, only for empty show and exhibition.

Indeed, we are to realise the Almighty Father through the Son alone, the state of Christ. Lord Jesus is everything with His oneness or contact with the Almighty God and He is nothing when He is separate from the Heavenly Father.

May we re realise our Indivisible oneness with the Almighty, ever being filled with the Holy consciousness of our Beloved Jesus Christ, in thought, word and deed and in every second of our lives!

AMEN. OM TAT SAT OM!

(Undated)

(Unpublished)

I would rather call this a Christmas Offering, that a Christmas message, for I feel somehow that I do not have any message to give. However, as a humble pilgrim on the path of Truth and as a worshipper of Christ, I long to contribute my mite in the form of a poor offering to Him. It is not a rich offering in the form of gold, frankincense and myrrh. My gold, frankincense and myrrh are only Love, Peace and Silence.

The Christmas Season is crowded with Christmas messages. Everyone is anxious to give out or write a message to others. Yet, how few and rare are those who are willing to follow Christ's message, ever walking in His foot-steps of Holiness and Perfection!

What is the Christmas message of the civilised Italians to the so-called uncivilised and poor Ethiopians? What is the Christmas message of all the mighty Christian Nations, to commemorate the sacred birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace in this Christmas Season?

Calling ourselves Christians, the chosen disciples of the Lord of Love, for the last two thousand years, ought we not to be ashamed of ourselves even to repeat His name, all the while denying Him, in thought, word and deed?

Should our Christmas messages be given out through armaments, battleships, tanks, dreadnoughts, submarines, aeroplanes (for bombing innocent people), cannons, bombs, poisons gases etc.? Are these fitting preparations to receive the Prince of Peace in the Holy week of Christmas?

It is time to realise that our Christmas celebrations are a mockery in the gentle face of Christ, who taught us to turn our right cheek if someone smote us on the left. Our long

sermons and the fine speeches from the pulpits of churches and cathedrals are a blasphemy against the sacred memory and birth of Christ.

We are encouraging war directly or indirectly instead of denouncing it, as utterly wrong and hellish. War is causing mother earth to convulse with pain at the spilling of blood indiscriminately, killing, shooting, bombing even the babes and innocent children of God, devastating village after village and town after town.

1929

Christmas Message

Aug.-Oct. 1929

It is a great privilege for me to stand here on this great day of days, namely the sacred Birthday of our Lord Jesus the Christ, and share with you the Christmas Message. However, I feel that I have nothing great to convey to you; nothing new to tell you and nothing beautiful to give you. I can only repeat some of the life-giving and soul-awakening statements given to the world by that God-man, the Great Nazarene, nearly two thousand years ago.

The Message of Christmas has always been a message of hope and joy to one and all, radiating the Light, Life and Love of the new born Christ. Above all, it is a message of Peace and goodwill unto the whole of humanity. Where shall we search that we may find such a message of hope and joy, except in the birth of Christ?

Where shall we find the joy that knows no change, the peace which is eternal and the love which is all embracing, except in the heart of Christ? Can we find these in the things of name and form in the outer world? Vain indeed, is our search in all finite things. How can we expect to find the Infinite joy in the finite?

We will be doing an injustice to our Lord Christ if we fail to feel His Presence and His glory on this great day. Our Christmas will not be complete unless we have a glimpse, a taste or some realisation of His Glory.

So, our hope now is to enter into the promised Kingdom of God, for only there do we find all real joy and glory. If we have any love in our hearts, if there is any devotion in our hearts towards Christ, then our ideal on this great day of His birth is to strive to enter into the very Life of Christ. However, it is not so easy to enter into this Holy State. Who are the rightful heirs to enter into His Kingdom? And what are we to do to become worthy of entering into the Kingdom of Heaven, wherein we behold God?

Let us see what the Lord has said in his memorable words:

**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see
God.**

How simple it is when one begins to walk in the path of Truth! There are many who want to see God, but there are very few who are willing to pay the price. Are we pure that we may enter into the Kingdom of God? Are we pure in thought, word and deed, to behold God in the depths of our hearts?

Blessed are the pure in heart.

What is this purity? Ah! purity has a meaning of its own. It has a world and a glory of its own. *Unity of heart* does not only mean to be free from the so-called sins of the world. Purity, the virgin purity, the all-consuming fire of purity, dispels all clouds of ignorance. It sheds a lustre of its own on the path of Truth and thus takes the seeker into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Have you ever realised that we are becoming impure each time that we forget God? Have you ever thought that we are becoming impure each time we cling to names and

forms? Have you every thought that we are treading the path of darkness or impurity each time we assert our individual "I" and "Mine?"

The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the pure in heart. Each time we are loving a name or form, however dear or near it may be, we are becoming impure. This is nothing but gospel truth. By this, I do not want you to misunderstand my words. I am not asking any of you not to love, but I am trying to impress upon you that you should love the formless Truth in the form and the Nameless One in the very name.

By all means I want you to love each and everyone, nay, every creature on the face of the earth. I request you to love with all your heart and soul, and with all the strength of both the body and the mind.

In loving you must recognise the all-pervading and ever-present presence of the Lord. In this way you can remain pure in all your loves and in all your joys.

If you are loving a dog more than God, you are becoming impure. If you are loving your baby more than you love God, you are becoming impure. If you are loving your body more than you are loving God, you are becoming impure.

Heaven belongs only to the absolutely pure. Love your dog, but in doing so, recognise God in the same. Love your baby, recognise God in your baby. Love your body but in doing so you should recognise the presence of God and His Glory in your body, or form.

This is the proper way that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven, by seeing and recognising the manifested in the manifested and the Infinite in the finite. In this way, you may reach the Kingdom of Peace, right now, at this moment.

Verily, those who are filled with the purity of heart will surely be blessed with a God-vision, wherein they behold nothing but God both within themselves and in others. On the taintless and spotless mirror of their inner consciousness, nothing but Glory and Blessedness will be reflected.

So, let us always be pure by seeing the Blessed One, both within and without. If we are pure in thought, word and deed, walking in the path of Truth, then where can we find the Kingdom of God? Is it to be found in the sky or clouds? Is God in any sense away from us? Is He separate or apart from us? Let us see what our Lord has said about the location of the Kingdom of God, as recorded in Luke,

The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation. Neither shall they say, 'Lo here' or 'Lo there.' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you.

Yet, alas! How few are they who are searching for the Kingdom of God within themselves, in the stillness of their hearts! If we can find the Kingdom of God in the stillness of our hearts, what need is there of wandering from one place to another? What need of going from one teacher to another? What need of any of these outer teachings from the finite teachers? The good Lord is all the while waiting for us in the finished Kingdom, which is ever within.

Whether we have realised the Glory of the Kingdom of God or not, it is within. When once we understand that it is within, we cease searching on the outside and we begin the inner search. It is then that we begin to realise where the true religion is found.

However, we have been all the while restlessly and unceasingly engaged in searching for God in the finite things of name and form. In short we have been searching for the Infinite Heaven in the finite things. We have been searching for Heaven and for the Kingdom of God everywhere but the place where it exists and where it is possible for us to realise it.

How vain and futile are these outer searches! This reminds me of the story of an Indian lady who was searching in the street, under the light from a street lamp as she was trying to find a lost pearl. A man watched her searching for quite a long time and then he approached and asked if he might help her.

Some of you may know that in India every lady whether she is rich or poor, high or low, young or old, is addressed by the sweet and loving name, 'Mother.' It may appear strange how even young ladies are addressed by the holy name *Mother*. Whether it is strange or sacred, it is nothing short of glory to recognise the Motherhood of God in every face we meet, even though they are young or old.

Perhaps it may be the universal aspect of Motherhood in ancient India that has caused our dear sister Mayo to call her dangerous book by the sweet name of "Mother India". But we are not now concerned with the book of Miss Mayo, except in recognising the same Motherhood of God, even in her.

So the man who desired to help the lady said "Oh Mother, may I help you in your search?" She replied, "Yes, most assuredly." The man then asked, "For what are you searching?" and she said, "For the pearl which I lost."

Thus they both began to search for quite a long time. The man became tired and as the pearl had not been found said, "Mother, are you sure that you lost your pearl at this place?"

Then the lady innocently replied, "Oh my good man, I lost it in my house." The man feeling disgusted, exclaimed, "Oh foolish Mother, how ignorant of you to search for a pearl in the street when it is lost in the house!" However, she replied quite ignorantly, "Oh, I did not have any light in my house. It was quite dark and as I had to search somewhere I was searching here in the street where there is light."

Kindly follow the argument of the lady. It was dark in the house and as she had to search somewhere, not being able to be still, she was searching where there was light, whether the thing lost was there or not.

With all her ignorance and innocence, could she ever expect to find a thing in some other place than where it has been lost? Could she find it where she had been searching, even though she searched for years and years? Whether it is dark or light, she must search only where she has lost the pearl, then there is some possibility of her finding it.

In the same way most of us are unable to search within. We become restless in the search within, which is dark and difficult. Meanwhile the search without is not so difficult as the search within, for it is in the broad daylight where the path is wide. This path is chosen by the many but it leads to darkness and restlessness.

In the words of our Lord we read as follows:

For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction. Many there be who go in there. Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life yet few there be that find it.

So it is no wonder that we find many going the broad and wide way, for the wide way leadeth without but the narrow way leadeth within. It is in the narrow path within where the mind is to be made still, the passions conquered and the senses subdued.

It needs a Christ, a Krishna or a Buddha to walk in the narrow path that finally leads to the God within. But as we cannot be still and always must be doing something or the other, ever talking and listening, we are constantly engaged like the old lady in the illustration. We search for the Kingdom of God in teachers and masters, in temples and shrines, in doctrines and dogmas, everywhere in the outer world except in the right place and that is in the sanctuary of our sacred heart.

Is it not a pity having the Pearls of Peace and Diamonds of Glory within our reach in the sanctuary of our heart, that we should run after glass beads in the outer life? Why run after glass beads in the outer life? Why run after the poison that makes us restless instead of drinking the nectar that gives us immortality?

So my dear ones, it is high time that we should seek to find and realise the Kingdom of God in the stillness of our hearts in the commemoration of the Birthday of our Lord Christ. Blessed are they who are seeking within in the stillness of their hearts, for theirs is the Kingdom of Immortality where the nectar of Peace is ever flowing unceasingly.

Verily, the Kingdom of God or Heaven is within alone. If heaven is within then the next question is how to approach and realise it. Let us see what has been said regarding the approach to the highest state of realisation. Let us consider this great statement taken from the Holy Scriptures:

Be still and know that I am God.

When once you enter into the Kingdom of God within, you need not grovel any more in the depths of the egotistic consciousness. You need not be bound any longer with the thoughts of mine and thine. You need not repeat here any axioms or aphorisms, or murmur any holy words. All that you need to do is to be still and know that you are the God, for whom you have been searching in the outer life, perhaps all over the world.

Yet, it is sad to see that the world is filled with people who are preaching and repeating, 'I AM' or, 'I AM GOD' without fully realising the glory of the first part, namely, 'BE STILL.'

In what way will such teachings be useful and serviceable, either for themselves or for others? For, it is the same as if they're built upon the sand. Sooner or later, without the foundation of the first part namely, the stillness, their teaching will crumble and be washed away as the building that was built upon the sand.

*The rain descended, the floods came, the winds blew and
beat upon that house and it fell and great was the fall of
it.*

However, the one who teaches with the stillness of self-realisation has passing through the first stage. His teaching will be most natural, systematically, every lasting and helpful. For, he has built his teaching on the firm rock of his self-realisation. His house cannot be destroyed, either by floods or winds.

*The rain descended, the floods came and the winds blew
and beat upon that house and it fell not, for it was
founded upon a rock.*

So, before we begin to teach others we should see that we ourselves have that stillness. If not, we have no right to teach others until we have first realised that which we are teaching. However, as it is very easy to teach and very difficult to follow, it is no wonder that we find teachers everywhere yet no where do we find pupils who are contented to sincerely follow.

I am again reminded of an illustration wherein a disciple asked his Guru or Master to make him also a Master. It seems that once a disciple approached a Master and bowing his head reverentially at the Master's feet said, "Oh holy sir! I have come to thy holy feet to be thy disciple, so please make me thy disciple."

The Master replied, "Oh dear boy, it is not so easy as it appears, to be a sincere disciple. The path of discipleship is harder than that of walking on the sharp edge of a razor. One needs the implicit obedience of a warrior, the patience of a loving mother, the purity of an unborn babe and above all the faith and determination of a sage."

Hearing these unpalatable words the disciple said, "Oh Sir, if the discipleship is so hard, what about the Mastership?" The Guru replied, "It is not so difficult as the discipleship." The disciple then declared, "Then why not make me a Master? I too am willing to be a Guru or Master."

Thus, my dear ones, as the state of discipleship or the making our minds to be still is quite difficult, many are rushing toward the easy path of Mastership.

The stillness is neglected and the repetition of "I AM" or "I AM GOD" is encouraged. No one is willing to pass through the difficult state of the first part. Everyone rushes towards the repetition of the holy statements which are beyond the comprehension of the restless minds or tiny intellects.

So, let us build no more houses without. Laying the firm rocky foundation of stillness, let us try to reach the upstairs only by climbing in the most natural manner, one step at a time, one after the other, but not in any unnatural way, lest we may be hurt or harmed.

Be still and Know that I am God.

What a great joy it is, what a great privilege it is to be still and then to know that you are no other than God! In that stillness one no longer need say, "I AM GOD." If they come into that state where they really are still they will not say anything at all. But one's very stillness speaks for itself and no words or statements are necessary.

It is only those who are not still that can say or repeat statements. When one has attained stillness, the very stillness reveals to them their own glory without the least necessity of any repetition. It is then only that one can be contented, knowing that he has no further desire to know. Realising the stillness, he is realising everything.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness

And all these things shall be added unto you.

The Kingdom of God is ever within us and the only way to be righteous is to be pure and still. This is the only royal road to the Throne of God.

This is the simple and direct path leading into the heart of Christ. Unless we enter into the heart of Christ we never can expect to be happy. So the only straight way opened to us is to enter into our own hearts in all stillness and there to enjoy the full glory of the real Christmas in that inner Kingdom.

If your happiness is anything other than the happiness that knows no change, anywhere other than in the stillness of your hearts, you will be disappointed as was the old Indian lady who was searching for her lost pearl in the street.

My Dear Beloved Ones, the Truth for which we have been searching hither and thither is ever within us. The Christ for whom we have been praying and worshipping is ever within us. When He is within why search for Him anymore without?

Just be still and you will understand Him in that very stillness. If you were to ask me to give you the whole teachings of Christ summed up in one word, I unhesitatingly say that that word is STILLNESS.

One who has realised stillness is the ruler of the world.

One who has realised stillness is the Master of masters.

One who has realised stillness is no other than a Christ himself.

Christ is near you. Christ is within you. Christ is thyself. Will you neglect and forget your own Christ Consciousness any longer?

He came unto his own and his own received him not.

Are we not His own? Do we not belong to Christ? Or at least are we not saying that we are His followers, that we are Christians? It is a mighty privilege to be a Christian, but it is not so easy as it appears, it is rather a hard and difficult task to be a real Christian.

One who lives in Christ as Christ alone is to be called, is entitled to call himself a Christian, but no one else. It matters very little whether you are the mighty Pope ruling half of the world, or the ordained priest waving the incense, or the chosen servant preaching the gospel. To be a worthy Christian one must live unceasingly in Christ, enjoying Christ-consciousness in every thought, word and deed.

If you are binding Christ to a form or name or to a time or place, no matter how great you may be considered by the Church, you are not a real Christian at all. Unto such the Kingdom of Heaven is but a Bible myth and the stillness is but an airy castle.

Whether we live in Christ in every second of our lives or not, whether we recognise Him in every face or not, whether we feel and realise Him in the stillness of our hearts or not, the fact remains a fact and the Truth remains a Truth. That great fact, that eternal Truth is Christ is ever abiding in all our hearts, repeating *'I came unto my own and my own received me not.'*

Pray, let us apply these statements to our individual lives. Let us sink deep within ourselves and meditate upon this part only. *'I came unto my own.'* He came to you because you are His own. Will you receive Him now? Will you not recognise Him now, ever to forget Him again? Will you not take Him into your very life? If so, your life is blessed but the moment you forget Him, He is there repeating, *'I came unto My own and My own received Me not.'*

So Dear Friends, in memory of this great day of His Holy Birth, the Sacred Christmas, let us receive Him now, with heart and soul, in all humility and willingness. Let this moment not only commemorate the birth of Christ but let it also be the moment of our re-birth, for one must be reborn. If not, he cannot enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

We should become as little children. That is, our minds should be as clear as a mirror which perfectly reflects all the light that is shed upon it. In order to do this our minds should be as clear, as calm and as desireless as that of a new born infant. This can be accomplished only through the avenue of stillness. When our minds are still and calm, and as desireless as a new born babe, then we can be reborn into that Inner Kingdom and recognise our new birth in Christ.

The birth of Christ takes place when the hearts are pure and innocent. Christ is born whenever the restless minds are made calm, whenever the senses are stilled and the tiny ego merges in the glory of the Universality. I rejoice that this day should be not only Christ's Birthday but also the day of our rebirth.

Dear Sisters and Brothers, this rebirth is Christmas to me. Let us not only enjoy and recognise this holy rebirth once in a year. Let us try to feel the spirit of this rebirth or Christmas, all through the year. Every day is a Christmas Day for one who lives in Christ.

Since Christ is living in our hearts now, let us make every moment a Christmas moment, every hour a Christmas hour and every day a Christmas day. Thus, our whole life will be a continuous and never-ending Christmas. This is the only living message of the endless Happy Christmas.

Blessed are they who are making every second of their lives a Happy Christmas! Blessed are they who are walking in the footsteps of the Blessed Christ, radiating Peace and Joy both far and near.

Blessed are they who are living silent and ideal lives, embracing the whole world in the arms of their Universal Love. May glory be unto them and may I be privileged to bow my head unto their Lotus feet, in all adoration.

Dear Sacred Ones, in conclusion allow me to end my message by repeating a small stanza which will be helpful to all of you, in case that you forget all else that I have so far said. As it is such an inspiring and important verse, I request you to write it, not with pencil on paper, but in the innermost recesses of your heart.

Deho Devalaya Prokto
Jivo Deva Sanathanah
Tyajed Ajnana Nirmaalayam
Soham Bhavena Pujayet

This is only a short stanza containing four lines, but it is a message containing the essence of all Vedas and Bibles. Allow me to translate it to you, in the spirit of our Christmas.

Deho Devalaya Prokto: This body is the temple of the living God. This body is the temple, the true church of the Christ. So, He is now in His Holy Temple.

Jiva Deva Sanathanah: The one who is living in the body is none other than Christ, the individual alone is the universal. He is the Christ.

Tyajed Ajnana Nirmaalayam: Destroy now all delusive ideas that Christ is outside of you, away from you or separate from you. Give up the ignorant and limited life of Judas.

Soham Bhavena Pujayet: Worship the Innocent Lord with 'I AM' or 'SOHAM' consciousness, in the stillness of your hearts. Worship Him in every second of your life. Worship Him with each and every heart-beat. Worship Him with each and every breath.

According to the Yogis, who are the practical psychologists of India, a man inhales and exhales 21,600 times in a day. Now, my dear beloved ones, if there is any sincere love left in you for the worship of our sacred Christ, let our lives be offered now.

Even though it be but for a single day, let us offer not partly, but fully dedicating and worshipping the Lord 21,600 times with our very breath. We should not allow even a single breath to be used for the worship or for the service of Judas or duality. If we worship Christ but for one day 21,600 times, that is with every breath inhaled and exhaled, we will see a great change, a marvellous reformation that will come from within.

Verily, it is then that all of us will be filled with the Spirit of the Holy Ghost and we will begin to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gives us utterance. This will be the ultimate Glory of Christmas and the day of our new birth. What else is there to be said in words?

Dear Blessed Ones, you know how the star appeared in the East to the wise men. I too have had the privilege of seeing its glory within the stillness of my heart. I have come to the West to behold the Birth of Christ, in all of you, in the manger of your hearts.

Now will you not help me by recognising Christ within you? Will you not make me happy by manifesting the Christ within you also? If you are loving me, let that love be shown in the complete realisation of the Christ consciousness.

Pray! for the sake of the love you are bearing towards Christ, for the sake of the love you have for me and for the sake of the love you have for the whole of humanity, do not bury the new born Christ within yourselves. Manifest Him in every thought, word and deed, not only now but for ever. This is my only request and constant prayer to all of you.

Let us pray.

*May the Heavenly Father, the Indweller of all our pure
and simple hearts, help us to make our minds still. May
the power and glory of our stillness establish Peace and*

*goodwill among all nations and religions. May Peace ever
abide and radiate from every heart.*

May Glory be unto God and may peace be unto all, reborn in the name of our new born Baby Christ.

As the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him.

So, let us enter into the Silence.

OM! OM! OM!

1931

Christmas Message

Dec. 1931, Dec. 1960, Dec. 1972

This is the Christmas season, and all the periodicals and magazines, as well as the monthly, weekly and daily journals are filled with Christmas thoughts. I do not desire now to add any more to the already existing literature on Christmas. However, my soul craves to express the true spirit of Christmas. I want to give out the message of Christ and thus to share my love with all the lovers, devotees and worshippers of Christ.

In the first place, Christmas or the birth of Christ need not be confined to Christmas only. True Christmas is a state of spiritual awakening, a matter of rebirth, the individual regaining his Divine Heritage, namely Christ consciousness. When we come to know that, we will all realise that Christmas is our common property and all of us have a right to be happy, thus realising the Kingdom of Heaven within ourselves. We will then become universal.

What is the message of Christmas? It is that of the new born Christ? It is the message of Cosmic consciousness. It is the message of universal love.

As often repeated, a Christ is needed to understand a Christ. A Buddha is needed to comprehend a Buddha. A Krishna is needed to recognise a Krishna.

Hence, to assimilate the message of Christ let us all transform ourselves into emblems of Christ. At least for the time being, let us all endeavour to know that the mind that was in Christ is also in us. Now let the Christ mind manifest itself. Let us be still and listen to the message of Christmas.

We do not need the words that are repeated over and over again, anyway, with all statements, quotations, aphorisms and expositions that lack the spirit of Christ. We have need of hearing something original, unique and inspiring.

Dear readers of 'PEACE'! Do not expect to hear that real message, either from me or from any other outside source. It must come only from deep within yourselves, from the Indwelling Christ. So let us step aside, allowing the holy Christ to speak. Let us crush the personal self, to give place to the spirit of the Universal Christ. Let the 'I' dissolve. Allow the infinite Christ to shine in full glory.

Now dear friends, let us enter into the sacred closet of our hearts where He is abiding. In the stillness, let us hear what Christ has to say. Let us listen to His still small voice.

Verily His message is the message of profound and waveless Peace. It is the message of inexpressible glory. Indeed, it is the message of unutterable splendour. If Christ appeared in the manifested form, what would He say? Let us first learn stillness to understand and assimilate His message. He is not far away or hidden, so let us give Him a chance to repeat His message in His own sweet words of love, mercy and compassion.

Here is Christ expressing Himself in the manifested. Let us listen in all silence, to His wise but simple words. He speaks now:

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself

*Verily, I say unto you, in as much as ye did it
not to one of the least of these, ye did it
not to me.*

*For I was a hungered, and ye gave me no meat.
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink.
I was a stranger and ye took me not in,
naked and ye clothed me not, sick and in
prison and ye visited me not.*

Dear friends! How many of us can assimilate and express the essence of these words in our lives? Abiding in the sacred temple of our hearts, He is repeating for nearly two thousand years, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'

How many of us are weary with the mundane life? How many of us are preparing to go to Him, loving our neighbours as we love ourselves? How many of us are worshipping Him in serving our needy brethren? There are many who crave to enter His kingdom but they want to do so without love in their hearts. Can we reach Christ having bitterness, racial hatred, and religious intolerance? Only the pure in heart can attain to these heights. Only those who can love their neighbours as themselves can reach Him. Only those who are filled with Universal Love can reach the loving Christ.

Although Christ is repeating unceasingly His tender words, waiting for us, at the very portals of our hearts, how is it that very few of us are able to reach and realise Him? Ah! It is because there is a great price to be paid to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

This price is no other than the expression of love towards our fellowmen. However, love is absent where selfishness reigns. It expresses or manifests only in selflessness. It is not enough to love our own friends and relatives. It is not enough to love those of our particular church and creed. It is not even enough to love our country. Christ demands from us our undivided love towards the whole of humanity, for one and all are God's children. It is only those that can love the wide world as their home and its people as their own sisters and brothers, who are allowed to enter into the fold of Christ.

In the wilderness of the world, it is no wonder that many a wearied soul recalls these words so full of pathos. *'He came unto his own and his own received him not.'* How long shall we deny Him, neglecting our neighbours? How long shall we oppress Him, crushing the poor famished labourer? How long shall we crucify Him, filled with the ignorance of duality, binding Him to a name or a form? How long shall we fetter Him to a religion or a nation? How long shall we ignore His Omnipresence by failing to see Him in other religions and nations? Let Him say now, *'I came unto my own, and my own received me.'* May the whole of humanity receive Him with open arms.

Is not the Christmas season a proper time to receive Him? Are we not to commemorate His Birthday, by allowing ourselves to merge in the common welfare of the world? My heart aches for those poor deluded politicians, statesmen and the so-called benefactors of mankind. They are calling themselves the followers of blessed Christ, but are busy only in celebrating Christmas with sumptuous turkey banquets, ignoring the Christ within.

Is this Christmas? Where is the presence of Christ? Where is His spirit? Where is Christ-consciousness? What is Christmas without Christ-consciousness?

We try to be happy at the expense of others. We want to win and succeed, oppressing the weak and helpless. We want to be wealthy, depriving the poor man of his crust of dry bread. In spite of all this injustice, inequality and bitterness, the world is busy in preparing for the celebration of Christmas. Ah! Do you think that Christ can be deluded?

Can anyone deceive God, the all-wise and the all-seeing? Is it not high time to practise the noble precepts of the Sermon on the Mount, before we engage ourselves in the Christmas celebrations?

The world is in need of Peace, it is badly in need of the Spirit of Christmas and the Love of Christ. It needs re-awakening in every corner.

The saving power of the world is only in Christ spirit. It lies only in manifesting His Love. Impending wars can be prevented by practising His teaching even now. It is not yet too late. Christmas alone is the best time to work for the world's peace.

It is the proper season to sow the seeds of love among the members of all religions and nations. It is the bounded duty of all representatives of Christ, irrespective of the differences in the sects and creeds, to propagate the message of Peace. Some may say, are we not giving out messages of Peace and goodwill from our pulpits? Are we not teaching and preaching fiery sermons every week? Yes, all homage be unto them for doing their part. Yet it needs more than mere sermons and lectures.

Peace is a moving power. It is a living force. It is the only Reality. It can be felt and expressed by Christ-like souls. We need no more futile Peace conferences. We need only a few more souls who can walk in the foot-prints of Christ.

If we are the well-wishers of humanity, if we want Peace and harmony among the nations, it is time for us, especially for all lovers of Christ, to preach no more empty sermons on Peace or to write no more lifeless essays on World Peace. We should save that energy for the manifestation of Peace, consciously in thought, word and deed in our very lives.

When we can feel Peace within, we can express it without. The destiny of humanity lies also in the hands of the ruling powers of the world. As they are the representatives of the people, it is the duty of every king and monarch, every ruler and president, to strive, to walk in the footprints of Christ. To bring about World Peace they should first manifest Peace within themselves.

Can there be anything more glorious both for the church and the state other than to express this Spirit and Love of Christ at this happy Christmas tide? Let us not make our Christmas a mockery, lacking in the true spirit of Christ.

Once again, I raise my voice to repeat that the spirit of Christ is nothing but Universal Love. The message of Christmas is nothing but Peace and goodwill among all the nations. It has nothing to do with the exchange of Christmas cards, gifts, restless activities and heavy dinners. It is a living disgrace and mockery to the spirit of Christ to busy ourselves with non-essentials, forgetting the Soul of Christmas which is the essential truth.

Dear Beloved Readers of 'PEACE'! Shall we celebrate our Christmas now by sincerely feeling Christ's presence in our hearts? Let us celebrate it by loving our neighbours as ourselves and by serving the Lord who comes to us in cold and hunger. Let us commemorate this Christmas by practising the noble precepts of the Sermon on the Mount and by glorifying the golden rule, for the good of ourselves and the world at large. May this Christmas be a Christmas of Cosmic consciousness, Universal Love and Infinite Peace for one and all.

Now let us pray.

Oh Indwelling Presence, Adorations be unto Thee! Thou who art in the form of Moslem, Hindu, Chinese, Japanese, Jew and Christian, nay, the manifested and the unmanifested!

As Thou art the universal heart-throb of the world, help us to attune ourselves with Thee, recognising Thee in everyone. Lift our vision, remove the scales of duality, racial pride and false patriotism. Bless us to open our hearts to Thy encircling Glory and to stretch our hands to take Thy children of all nations and religions into our fond embrace.

Above all, on this sacred day, may every cell in our beings be awakened and our lives dedicated to the service of Thy children. May the message of this Christmas be the worship of Thee in Thy Universal Form. May nothing but floods of Love, streams of Peace and rivers of harmony ever flow and inundate the whole universe, is our common prayer!

May Peace and goodwill abide in the hearts of all, in the name of the new-born Christ, for ever and ever! Amen.

OM! OM! OM!

1933

Waiting for Christmas

Nov. 1933

There are thousands of people who will be pining after and waiting for that Great Day of Christmas, even though it might be distant by a few months ahead. As the day approaches nearer and nearer, there will be not thousands but millions of souls who will be expecting the same with anxious hearts.

Why are all these millions of souls awaiting for Christmas? Let each soul put the question for himself or herself thus, "Why am I expecting and awaiting Christmas? Is it to make myself merry and more worldly or is it to feel the great Spirit of Christ?" If it is for feeling the Spirit of Christ, why should we not feel it in this very second? Why should we put it off until the Christmas day dawns? When we cannot feel the Spirit of Christ today, in this second, how can we feel it even on Christmas Day?

Oh, let us pause for a brief while and try to understand what Christmas is intended for. If we could only know that Christmas stands to make us realise the Spirit of Christ and manifest the latent Christ within us, how happy would be the world, filled with the images of Christ everywhere! I do not want the Christmas that fails to make me feel the Spirit of Christ. Then, is Christmas to be blamed for lack of my feeling the Spirit of Christ? No, no! I alone am to be blamed if I am relying on the outward day of Christmas, neglecting the inward Spirit of Christ.

Oh! When will people realise that Christmas is not Christmas until and unless they realise the Christ-consciousness? Let people know that in waiting for Christmas, they are waiting for Christ-consciousness. Thus alone they will be nearer to Christ, nay, inseparably one with Christ.

My Awaiting in America

When I was in the western lands, I too had waited for the glorious day of Christmas like the rest of the people, especially commencing from the month of November. I used to feel even when it was still a few months more: "Oh, it is only two months more. Let me be nearer to the Christ-consciousness with each and every day." Thus the month of November passed off and December came up, making me more eager and anxious. Then I used to feel, "Oh, it is almost nearing, only a few weeks more; let me prepare to be fully worthy of Christ."

Almost the Christ-week came. I began to spend day after day and hour after hour in feeling the Spirit of Christ. The day before Christmas I was almost in a state of sacred and Divine ecstasy. As the day began to face me nearer and nearer, only by a few hours more, I began to feel all the more spiritually agitated. When it was almost at hand I began to exclaim with bated breath, "Oh, why is it nearing so soon? Am I worthy of it? am I fully prepared to enjoy the great Christmas day of Peace?" I almost wished that I would be given a few days or at least a few hours more to be more worthy of this great day.

Without manifesting the Christ within and without, how can I dare to face the Christmas day? Is it not sinful to make myself merry, forgetting the Christ within me? Is

there any other blasphemy more than this? Oh, let the little 'I' be dead to live for the great and holy Christmas day!

Ah! The Christmas Day

When the great day began to dawn, the Christ within me began to manifest in all glory. The bliss of contacting the first few moments of the holy day cannot be expressed in words! It is a state of Divine transition, passing from one state to another state. Oh, the great joy of enjoying the Immortal Spirit of Christ on this holy day, how can I ever describe it in mortal language? It is beyond words and expression.

This is the holy day of Christ. This is too sacred to be wasted either in writing or reading. This is the only real day in our lives, if we could only feel the Spirit of Christ now and here. Had it not been for the taste of this holy day, life is not worth living. If we could only hold on to this great glory of Christ, we can make every day a Christmas day. Days, months and years will be converted into Christ-consciousness. So, let us cling to this great Spirit of Christ, until we merge and dissolve in His great eternal spirit.

Oh, the unspeakable joy of feeling this time of Christ-birth or Christ-consciousness, makes me lose all mundane consciousness of body, mind and the world! Verily, during the blessed birth of Christ, there is neither duality nor separateness. It is all bliss, it is all strength. It is all Peace, it is all Divinity. May we ever enjoy its great Spirit of Peace, Bliss, Strength and Divinity forever!

Alas! Passing Away of Christmas

Where is Christmas? Millions will tell us with a single voice that it had passed away, not to return again until one big and long year passed by. Has Christmas really gone away? Has the long, long expected day passed away after all? Has it come and so soon passed off? Alas, are there not even a few souls who could boldly say, 'Here is Christmas, ever living in Christ'? How can the Spirit of Christ pass off?

Real Christmas neither comes nor goes. It is eternal. It is ever there, deep down in the innermost heart of lovers of Truth. However, for all those who are blindly relying on the external day or Christmas, it will be coming once in a year just for merry making. Is this Christmas? No, this is not real Christmas at all. This is only a mere shadow of Christmas.

We should not rest contented with mere shadows. We should never place our faith on fleeting shadows. We must go to the very source of shadows. We must dive deep into the heart of Christmas. What a pitiable sight it is to see millions and millions of people burying the great Christmas for 364 days and trying to enjoy it blindfolded in one single day! Oh, let us try to feel the Spirit of Christmas not only in one day but in every day of our lives, all through the year. Thus alone we can be ever happy. Let us not allow Christmas pass, but let us hold to it, firm and fast. For everyday is a Christmas day for a real lover of Christ. May the whole world enjoy the birth of Christ, in every moment of its existence!

Christmas is Cosmic-Consciousness

To many, Christmas means exchanging of mutual gifts, receiving customary presents, sending fanciful Christmas cards and nothing more. Is that all? To many, Christmas means enjoying repast and going out to movies or picture places. To a few, Christmas means to serve the Lord in cold and hunger by clothing the naked and feeding the poor. Such souls are blessed indeed.

How very rare and few are those for whom Christmas means to manifest and enjoy the great Spirit of Christmas or Cosmic-consciousness! True Christmas is the manifestation of God-consciousness.

Indeed, Christmas is not for the exhibition or show, to display pomp and our restlessness and be busy in merry making. It is for the realisation of the Spirit of Christmas, and for enjoying Peace, Bless and Love within our hearts.

MAY CHRIST BLESS US ALL!

Christmas is All Mercy

The Birthday of our holy Lord of Love is, in general and according to the way of the world, the death-day for millions of turkeys, fowls and other innocent creatures. How sad it is that the Spirit of Christ becomes fatal to these dumb birds and animals!

Christ is not the Master of human beings alone. He is the Lord of man, bird and beast. Christmas is not death to the meek and dumb but love and mercy to all. Even on this great day of the birth of Christ, let all the innocent birds and creatures rejoice in the name of Christ. Let us not rejoice in eating and devouring them in the name of Christ. Let us learn to be happy and blissful in the happiness and freedom of all creatures. In the name of Christ, let us abstain from drinking blood and eating flesh of the innocent creatures, especially to keep this day sacred and holy.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL THE KINGDOMS OF LIFE!

Christmas Within

The more I think of Christmas, the more I am feeling that the real Christmas is never outside in years, months or on a particular day, but it is within every individual. The birth of Christ takes place in the heart of every pure Christian. Before the birth of Christ, one should pass through all the preliminary stages of simple life and right living in the world. Christ is to be conceived in all silence, in the stillness of one's heart. His life is to be developed and His love is to be manifested. Such a one alone will be able to enjoy the real Spirit and glory of Christmas. May all of us unceasingly live in Christ, ever enjoying the never-ending Christmas! This is the ceaseless prayer of your own brother Omkar.

AMEN. OM! OM! OM!

1934

The Soul of Christmas

Dec. 1934, Dec. 1953, Dec. 1984

Here is Christmas again fast approaching. Our 'PEACE' contains a message every year on Christmas. It can never be a Christmas to me if I cannot give my Christmas message, by merging within, in the Soul of Christ.

All are getting busy with the Christmas celebrations, the rich with their elaborate preparations and the poor with their humble and simple festivities. Christmas is a busy season for one and all, especially in the West. To realise how restlessly busy is everyone, one should only go out to see the streets and stores during the Christmas week.

My homage to those few blessed souls who are getting busy to serve the Lord in cold and hunger. It is blessed to serve Him not only on one day but on all the days of the year! Alas! How sad it is to see that most of the people should be occupied with the outer formalities, to meet the demands of Christmas instead of preparing to be worthy of the spirit of Christ and to realise the Soul of Christmas.

What shall I eat on Christmas day? Whom shall I invite to Christmas dinner? What presents shall I give to my friends and other dear ones? How and where should I entertain my guests on Christmas day or after Christmas dinner? These are some of the thoughts prominent in those that are getting ready for Christmas. Is this the proper way to celebrate the birth of Christ?

As the Christmas is approaching, I try to merge deeper and deeper within myself. I try to thus feel the spirit of Christ in the stillness of my heart, so that I could share a true message with all of you.

I have a beautiful picture of Virgin Mary in my room. Often my eyes wander towards the Holy Mother and I gaze at her innocent, pure and blessed face. As I look at her blessed face, the message flashes that it is only the pure in heart that can conceive Christ. In spotless purity, universal love and infinite Peace Christ is born.

What is Christmas, dear friends? It has nothing to do with the outer formalities of exchanging Christmas gifts, greetings and entertaining friends and relatives etc. It has very little to do with the outer activities, but everything to do with the inner life.

How many more years shall we allow to pass without realising the true spirit of Christmas? Let each one of us ask this vital question in the silent moments of his or her life. What is the soul of Christmas? The answer comes in stillness that the soul of Christmas is *Christ-consciousness*. Christ is the soul of Christmas. Where is Christ-consciousness in our endless hurry, needless worry and restless activities? How pathetic it is to forget and deny the Christ on his very Birthday in the name of outer Christmas!

Dear friends! I request you to join me in the name of God, the indweller of our hearts, to purify ourselves to be worthy of the great day of Christmas. Let us crush the little self, the selfish ego, to face and behold Christ. We still have time to celebrate this Christmas in the proper way. Let us not allow this Christmas to pass away without consciously recognising the living Christ principle. Time is too precious to be wasted in little things or in doing nothing. Let us make this Christmas a real Christmas, assimilating Christ's Life, Light and Love.

Let us try to understand now, what is a real Christmas gift. The only Christmas gift that can never be rusted or stolen by thieves is the living Truth. It is the assertion and manifestation of one's Divinity. Hence, in the stillness of our pure and loving hearts let us kindle that flame of Christmas consciousness. Let us share it not only with our dear and near ones but with the whole of humanity. This is the only real offering that we ought to offer and share with those whom we love.

Let us not be sad and dejected for being poor in the goods of the world, with the thoughts '*Oh! I cannot entertain my friends*' or '*I am not rich to give proper presents to my dear ones*'. Let us instead be happy with the thought of sharing Truth or Christ with all those whom we love. This is the richest gift, the immortal life-giving and soul-awakening offering that you can give to one and all, to kings or peasants, to friends or foes, nay to the whole of humanity.

My dear readers of Peace in East and West! I beg you to draw nearer, pray, open your hearts and attune yourselves with the Universal Energy. May you thus accept my humble gift, Christ consciousness, the soul of Christ, on this blessed day of Christ's birth.

The Christ for whom we have been waiting and waiting is verily throbbing in our hearts and sparkling in our very eyes. He is expressing in our minds and pervading in our bodies. He is permeating our very cells and surrounding our beings at all times, from eternity to eternity. May silent Adorations be unto the soul of Christmas, the living Christ, who is shining in all of you. May Peace and good-will abide forever all over the world!

AMEN! OM TAT SAT OM!

1936

Christmas Message

Nov. 1936, Dec. 1971

Christmas time is fast approaching. Our November and December 'PEACE' journal will be incomplete without Christmas thoughts. Our loving Readers of 'PEACE', especially those who are in Western lands, will be disappointed if they do not find Christmas messages, for the glad Christmas season.

What message can I give now? It is not that I can give the message for it is the blessed Christ that gives the real message, because it is His Birthday. Hence I try to approach Him. I stretch forth my hand to touch the hem of His garment. I long to be sanctified by the dust of His sacred feet. Above all, I strive to feel His presence in the stillness of my heart's temple, in that great and profound Cosmic Silence. Where Christ exists, nothing else exists.

Ah! When He speaks, the worlds are silent, the Heavens declare His glory and the firmament showeth His handiwork! All is silence, the supreme silence of the infinite, hushed calm. Let us hearken to His sweet message of blessedness and joy!

What is Christ's central message? What has been His message from the beginning of creation? What was His message two thousand years ago, when He was born in sacred Bethlehem? What has been His one message all these two thousand years? What is His message now, once again in this sacred season?

In the silent and calm hours of midnight I merge within, identifying myself with His blessed spirit. He seems to whisper in the stillness of my heart, the one same, simple and often repeated message: *As I have loved ye, love ye each other!*

Are we loving each other as He loved us? Are nations loving each other, whether professed Christians or non-Christians? Is the Dictator of Italy loving the Emperor of Ethiopia? Are the fighting Spaniards loving each other? Are Japanese loving with Christ's love, the Chinese? How are the Mohammadans and Hindus loving each other? Is the high caste Brahman loving the low Pariah, with His love? How are the capitalists loving the poverty stricken, starving people?

Where is Christ's love between individuals or communities or among nations? Where is the imitation of His love or sacrifice, on the face of the earth in East and West? Christ's sweet and simple message of love has been trampled under foot mercilessly by men of power, the Mars and Mammon worshippers. It is sad to see over and over again that selfishness and despotism is reigning almost everywhere. It is in individuals as well as in nations, instead of His eternal love or infinite Peace.

Blessed are the Peace-makers! Most of our Peace-makers are at present confined unfortunately to the League of Nations. They are anything but Peace-makers. In spite of their fiery speeches, well-meant proposals and resolutions for the Peace of the world, individuals are fighting. Nations are also drawing their swords at one another and selfishness is reigning everywhere in every hideous form. Bombs are still thrown from the air and the helpless and the innocent are shot and mutilated. Villages and towns are burnt and devastated, and man's eyes are ever fixed on coveting his neighbours goods and territory. Man is ever busy in stretching his hand not to give and bless, but only to strike and take.

In vain the still small voice of the Man of Sorrows speaks from the pulpits of Churches and Cathedrals: *Love ye each other as I have loved you.* Alas! Times out of number, again and again, He continues to repeat, patiently and reproachfully, with a heavy laden heart,

For I was a hungered, and ye gave me no meat. I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink. I was a stranger and ye took me not in, naked and ye clothed me not, sick and in prison and ye visited me not. In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

Christ's voice so full of loving pathos continues to repeat in the wilderness of the world,

A new commandment I give unto you: that ye love one another, even as I have loved you; that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

He is entreating us repeatedly,

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which use you and persecute you.

In spite of Christ's sweet and tender words of Peace, Love, Mercy and Forbearance, it is most heart-rendering to see how in the name of greed for power and possession, ignorant people are trying to curse those that are blessing. They are hating the innocent and the good and persecuting and using the helpless and the oppressed. They are looting and confiscating fresh territories, to add to their earthly and perishable kingdoms.

As this is the season for rejoicing, let us not dwell on the dark side of earthly life any longer. Yet the festering sore is not to be ignored, covering it with scented rose petals or gold leaf. The bad humours will surely ooze out sooner or later, in spite of the gilt and rose petals. So let us go right to the root of the world's malady and apply their permanent, universal remedy. This is nothing but Christ's all-embracing, healing Love, wherein all are common children of the Almighty Father.

Let these days of our rejoicing be free from personal quarrels or misunderstanding, communal fights and world wars. With a clean slate, let us celebrate Christmas, praying for Peace on earth and goodwill among nations. Before we begin to partake in the celebration of Christ's Birthday, let us strive sincerely to love each other as He loved us. Then alone we can call ourselves His disciples, worthy to celebrate His Holy birth.

There was a time when primitive man entertained a wrong conception of God. He imagined that He was a hard-hearted, relentless and cruel anthropomorphic master, sitting on a throne in Heaven and inflicting punishment on the innocent and helpless.

With the progress of science and the evolution of life, the average man has now an entirely different conception of God. It is a conception which is more nearly real and true to the Highest. As far as his great intellect can comprehend, he thinks of Him now as a God of Love, rather than of Fear.

Verily, God is Love and Love is God. Where God is, Love is and where Love is, there is God also. God and Love are not two but one, hence they are inseparable. The one ever gives evidence of the other.

It is not enough to repeat with the lips that 'God is Love and Love is God.' His Presence and Love are to be expressed and felt in the very day life, and in one's dealings with one's fellowman. Theory should be united with living practise. Then only will one's life be a blessing and the very word about us will be converted into heaven, with its harmony and Peace.

In memory of Christ's birth, in this Holy Season, is it not high time for individuals as well as Nations to practise the law of Love? In the silent moments of our lives, in the stillness of our hearts, when our minds are flooded with Love and when our beings are saturated with His infinite Light, the Blessed Christ is conceived in all His Glory with the benediction,

Peace on Earth and Goodwill among mankind!

Let this Christmas be a Christmas of Universal Love, Infinite Life, Eternal Love and all-embracing Love. There, all tiny forms and names of religions and nations are forgotten

and the diverse people of the wide world become as one big family. All are loving sisters and brothers, in the splendour of Christ's Holy Birth, within the sacred sanctuary of each realised heart.

May His Loving Spirit and Living Presence ever abide in the heart of all of us, is the prayer of your own brother Omkar!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1939

Christmas

Dec. 1939

The very repetition of the sweet word Christmas bring back the sacred memory of the gracious birth of the Holy Child, Jesus, who grew to be the Man of Sorrows. In His universal love he bore the sins and sufferings of the world. Finally he became the Saviour of the world, giving rest and salvation to all the wearied and heavy-laden who follow his illumined way to God.

What a sweet consolation and inspiration has been His life from the manger to the cross, to all the lovers of Peace and seekers of Truth in both East and West!

Facing death and destruction on every side, hearing of agonising pain and excruciating in East and West, resulting in the death of millions of innocent souls, what can one write or say of Christmas in these days of bloodshed and death? Yet to the lovers of Christ, He alone is the only Reality. Christ's Love and Sacrifice alone appear to be the saving principles of life. They try to see the changeless One in the changing forms. They behold the shining lord of resurrection even in their suffering and death.

On the wide, expansive shores of a sandy beach, two families of children were building castles with the sand particles. A discussion led to a quarrel and a quarrel into a fight and they began to demolish with vengeance the precious castles that were built so patiently.

During the conflict or fight there was only one thought, that of hurting the other party, demolishing the castles of their foes. They were serious and resolute forgetting all else. All their mutual love and friendship of the past was forgotten and ignored in the heat of fighting.

They fought and fought until they could not fight any more, for both the parties were tired and exhausted. There was nothing else to be destroyed. The hard work of their tender hands, the monuments of their creation on the sands, was no more, for they were all demolished during the vindictive fighting.

Now the war was finished and they too were finished. They looked at each other with pity and shame. They were ashamed of their weakness in fighting over nothing, which had resulted in pain and loss on every side. After they fought they looked at each other lovingly as in the olden days. They stretched their hands for the hand-clasp resulting in mutual love and understanding. Thus the fight was forgotten and love reigned supreme again, in the hearts of all the members of both the parties.

Similarly, a lover of Christ whose heart is ever centred in Christ's love and spirit, looks at the present war and destruction as a more horrible version of that childish battle on the beach by the sand, with nations fighting each other and demolishing their monuments of civilisation, only to regret and realise their fully later.

All of these warring nations are mere babies when seen from the heaven-souring flights of Christ-life. They are children, gathering pebbles and fighting and killing each other in the possession of mere stones. Some day they will realise through their bitter

experience, how childish and ignorant they were in fighting over the perishable goods of the world.

Where are the Neros, Alexanders and Napoleons who ruled more than half of the world, causing death and destruction of millions of innocent people? In the dust! Their memory is a living disgrace to the present day world. The same will be the case with the mighty rulers and dictators of today.

Take again the innocent lives of Christ, Buddha and Krishna. Where are they? In the hearts of people *Now* and *Here!*

There are two kinds of people in the world, namely, Jivan Muktas and Jivan Mrutas. The former are very rare and few and the latter are common and everywhere. Jivan Muktas are liberated souls while in the body, and Jivan Mrutas are dead already, though possessing bodies.

Life is precious and human birth is a rare privilege. Why miss this great privilege and be a Jivan Mruta, a dead one, denying and ignoring the Christ Spirit! The strength and salvation of an individual or nation lies in knowing its own drawbacks and faults, but never in covering and stifling the weakness with arrogance.

Individuals or nations of East and West, may not be able to comprehend today, but they have to realise some day the great Truth. Their freedom and salvation consist only in Universal Love and in the great spirit of forbearance and infinite compassion towards all beings.

How thrilling and sublime are the words of the Lord, the Prince of Peace, when he spoke to his disciples! However, alas, how impractical and impossible they appear even after two thousand years of practise of the Lord's teachings. This is especially so, in these dreadful days of war resulting in the destruction and death of numberless innocent souls!

In memory of Holy Christmas, let us hearken again to His sweet and sacred words of all-embracing Love and Universal compassion.

I say unto you who hear, Love your enemies. Do good to them who hate you. Bless those that curse you and pray for them who spitefully use you.

Unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek, offer also the other. Him that taketh away thy cloak, forbid not to take thy coat also.

Give to every man that asketh of thee, and of him that taketh away thy goods, ask them not again. As you would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

May we now celebrate our Holy Christmas, by practising the above Holy precepts of the Saviour in our everyday life, loving our fellow men irrespective of the differences in castes, creeds, colours and nationalities in the name of Christ, the Merciful is my humble prayer!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! AMEN!

OM! OM! OM!

1941

Christmas Musings

Oct. 1941, Dec. 1979

Days roll into weeks, weeks into months and months inevitable into years. Every year brings the happy memory of the sacred birth of the Blessed One, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Christ, to every pious Christian and lover of Christ, both in East and West.

The happy day of Christmas is fast approaching again, despite the death and destruction of millions of lives and property of immense value in the present day world of wars. So terrible in their death-dealing and destruction.

How are we going to exalt in the memory of the Prince of Peace, who has so lovingly and tenderly taught *Love thy Neighbour as Thyself*? He asked us to give way our cloak also, when someone request our coat. He asked us to offer the right cheek also, when struck on the left cheek.

How are the people in the war-ridden and blood-drenched areas going to celebrate the birth of the gentle, loving and non-violent Saviour? How are the mighty potentates and dictators going to celebrate it? They who have been the instigators of this spreading and consuming horror that is engulfing the flower of virile youth of every land. What about the helpless aged, the infants and the agonised women. Down, down they are all going, into the open, red-fanged maw of that monster called-WAR! How are these war-mongers going to commemorate the Birth of Christ, whose greatest message is PEACE and LOVE?

The ideal and self-sacrificing life of Jesus Christ has ever been near and dear to one all, whether they are mighty monarchs or destitute peasants. Christ has a place in every heart that has really heard about His life and ministry. All ponder on the great good that has been done on earth by those who have been His followers; not in name alone but in deeds also.

It was no wonder that last year on Christmas day, the shooting and killing was suspended in memory of the Blessed Christ, the Prince of Peace, even by the hard-hearted war lords. Even they, puffed up as they are with cruel death-dealing vanity and the thirst for earthy power, feel some compunction about their deeds and bend their proud heads secretly to the memory of the Blessed Christ.

Christmas day, that comes once a year, is supposed to be a happy feast of great rejoicing. How can we rejoice now when sickening waves of world-pain cast their black shadows over our hearts and death, destruction and chaos of every kind threatens the whole world?

What does the Prince of Peace say, when He sees the destruction of monuments of civilisation and the cruel and untimely death of His children? What does He say when He beholds thievery, and the earth under His feet wet with the red blood of the innocent victims of hate and greed?

Verily, the whole world is a House of Prayer to the seekers of truth and the lovers of Christ. Does not Christ say now to the war-mongers of every land, *My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations, but you have made it a den of thieves and robbers.*

Instead of loving the neighbour as the self, they are hating their neighbours, filled with selfishness and jealousy. They are ruthlessly devising ways to murder the neighbour in the name of war. All respect for life has gone and there is only the madness of annihilation of the man on the other side of the fence.

One really wonders how and where all this ghastly carnage is going to lead and end. Beholding the vanity of all worldly possessions and desires, from His illuminated heart came also these words of the great teacher Christ, *For what shall a man be profited if he shall gain the whole world and forfeit his life?*

In this ghastly war, man is selling not only his life and soul but also all that is near and dear to him, for a mess of portage, for again we hear the warning from those sage lips: *Who takes the sword shall fall by the sword.*

How consoling and life-giving are the words of the Lord, especially for all those who are passing through the fiery ordeal of war: *He that endureth even unto the end, the same shall be saved. I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die.*

Let our rejoicing in the Christmas tide be only to hold the consciousness of Christ, closer and closer to our hearts. *Knowing that while ye have the Light, believe on the Light, that ye may become sons of the Light.*

The more the war spreads far and near, the more destruction and death spreads over the face of the earth, the more let us cling to Christ consciousness in the stillness of our purified hearts. Some day we may hope that the individual peace growing and enlarging and bearing fruit in our own hearts, may lead to Universal Peace.

May the blessed Peace of the anointed one abide in the hearts of all the wounded, maimed and victimised souls of all the warring nations and kingdoms, all God's children. May Peace, even Christmas Peace and a touch of joy that a wonderful Saviour came to earth, pervade and permeate the whole Universe in memory of the Blessed Christ, is our prayer!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

1951

Christmas Offering

Dec. 1951

These days, as the Christmas Season is fast approaching it is strange that I should be dwelling on the memorable words, the last words of the blessed Lord Christ.

Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.

These simple but most powerful words have changed the life and destiny of many a man in both the East and the West, amidst all tests and trials.

Imagine the pain, agony and suffering caused by the hard, long, cruel nails passing through the body! Even then Christ never said, 'Father, punish them!' Rather he said, 'Father forgive them.' He prayed this even in pain and suffering. It was for the welfare of His persecutors who had betrayed and crucified Him. In His own gentle and loving way He has taught us sublime philosophy in the following simple words:

*We have heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye
and a tooth for a tooth.*

*But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil but whosoever
shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other
also.*

*We have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy
neighbour and hate thine enemy.*

*But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that
curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for
them who use you and persecute you.*

*For if ye love them who love you, what reward have ye?
Do not even the publicans do the same?*

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans do so?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

It is wonderful to be perfect like the blessed Christ. The goal of every man, nay the whole of humanity, whether it is today or tomorrow lies only in the perfection, like that of the Holy Christ.

My Christmas offering will be incomplete if I do not recall the first words of the Blessed One. We have now remembered His last words and the pregnant words uttered in the middle of His life. The first words too were full of love universal:

Love Thy neighbour as thyself.

Alas, how difficult it is to love those who misuse our love and trust, who stab us in the back and who take joy in hurting us in every possible way, without the least mercy or compassion! Yet, our strength lies only in seeing the sweet face of God in those who take joy in persecuting and crucifying us. How narrow and rugged is the path of Truth! Heaven belongs only to the loving and daring souls who surrender themselves to God's will, repeating with complete self-resignation

Father not my will but Thine be done!

Now let us recollect also the words uttered by Him in the middle of His ministry:

The Kingdom of heaven is within.

What else do we need to realise God here and now, to reach the goal of precious human birth, other than to know clearly that the kingdom of God is within us? Let us feel and realise Heaven in stillness!

Be still and Know that I am God.

Let us practise to be still, to realise in perfect stillness that we are One with God, nay that we are That.

My message will be incomplete if I fail to recall to you, the Lord's Sermon on the Mount:

1. Blessed are the pure in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
2. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the weak, for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
5. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for they shall inherit the kingdom of Heaven
9. Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake
10. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your regard in Heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

In this Holy season, may our offering for the Christmas to the Blessed One, the New born Christ, the Light of the world, be our ego, the source of the world of forms and names!

May all Glory be unto Blessed Christ and may there be rejoicing both in Heaven and Earth! May Peace be unto all in East and West!

OM! OM! OM!

1957

Christmas Day

Dec. 1957

Christmas Day is fast approaching. My heart longs to wish a Happy Christmas to one and all the worshippers of the Blessed Christ, in all the religions and the nations all over the world.

When I celebrate the Birth of Christ, I feel like an ardent Christian, for I see Christ within, without, above and below. When I celebrate the birth of Bhagavan Sri Krishna, I am again an orthodox Hindu, beholding Him in the very cells of my being, as well as in all the Universe.

When I celebrate the Birthday of Buddha, I become absorbed in His Nirvana. I face nothing but His illumination all around. When I celebrate the Birthday of Mohammed, I become a passionate Muslim filled with the valour, strength and self-surrender of Mohammed.

As I celebrate again the birthday of Zoroastria, I feel infinite and eternal Light within and without. In that great Light of lights all forms and names are burnt up and only the self-effulgent Light shines in all Glory, dwindling everything else into nothingness.

In the silent and calm hours of midnight as I merge within, identifying myself with His blessed Spirit, He seems to whisper in the stillness of my heart, the one same, simple and often repeated message: *As I have loved ye, love ye each other!*

Are we loving each other as He loved us? Are nations loving each other, whether professed Christians or non-Christians? How are the Mohammadans and Hindus loving each other? Is the high caste Brahmin loving the Harijan, with His Love? How are the capitalists loving the poverty-stricken, starving people?

In vain the still small voice of the Man of Sorrows speaks from the pulpits of Churches and Cathedrals: *Love ye, each other as I have loved you.* Yet, alas! Times out of number, again and again, He continues to repeat, patiently and reproachfully with a heavy laden heart:

For I was a hungered, and ye gave me no meat. I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink. I was a stranger and ye took me not in; naked, ye clothed me not. I was sick and in prison and you visited me not. In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

Verily, God is Love and Love is God, and where God is, love is. Where Love is, there is God also. God and Love are not two but one. Hence, they are inseparable. The one ever gives evidence of the other.

In memory of Christ's birth, In this Holy Season, is it not high time for individuals as well as Nations to practise the Law of Love? In the silent moments of our lives, in the stillness of our hearts, when our minds are flooded with love, when our beings are saturated with His Infinite Light, the Blessed Christ is conceived in all His Glory with the benediction:

Peace on Earth and Goodwill among mankind!

May all Homage be unto the Self-effulgent Light, the Christ Light which is the only reality, the one without a second, which is shining now in the stillness of your devoted hearts, my loving Readers! Christmas is Christ-consciousness and Christ-consciousness is God-consciousness! Happy Christmas to you all!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

GLORY! GLORY! GLORY!

OM TAT SAT OM! AMEN.

1960

Christmas Message

Dec. 1960, Dec. 1980

Beloved one, Greetings!

Belief

Belief is one thing and living an ideal life practising what we believe, is another.

What is the use of repeating vainly, 'I believe in the birth of Christ,' without feeling His Presence? Let our belief be expressed in every thought, word and deed.

Christmas

Do you believe in Christmas, the birth of Christ? Do you realise that He is in the holy temple of your heart, the Kingdom of heaven is within? Merge within and feel His Presence, with every heart beat, even on this sacred day and make every day a Christmas Day.

Christ-consciousness

Christ-consciousness is our Life, God consciousness is our soul and Cosmic consciousness is our goal. Hence, let us feel the inexpressible glory for ever and ever.

As the Peace that passeth all understanding is our Divine Heritage, let us assert and manifest our spiritual birthright on this blessed day.

Dear friend, as you read this message, may He be born again in the sacred sanctuary of your heart and may you be inseparably indivisible and eternally one with Him. This is the prayer of your brother Omkar. AMEN!

OM! OM! OM!

1966

Christmas Offering

Dec. 1966

Dear Beloved Ones! To complete the full glory of our Christmas, shall we now offer our homage to the living Christ?

Oh Lord, Thou art the living Christ of our hearts! Let us recognise nothing but Thee, either within or without. Let us see nothing but Thee in every face that we meet, and feel nothing but Thee in every second of our lives. Help us Oh Lord! To walk in Thee, to move in Thee, to work in Thee, and finally to dissolve our little selves in Thee. May this be our Christmas Offering!

May we ever shower Thy Holy Consciousness far and near, on the whole world, not only now but forever. May Thy Holy Blessings of love and peace ever abide in the hearts of Thy children. May we all consciously feel and realise Thee whether in rest or performing our manifold duties, whether in temple or home, in spite of any un-congenial environments or trying circumstances.

May Thou forever be our Shepherd, our way and our goal. May we realise now, in the stillness of our hearts, that we are ourselves the living Christ, the quintessence of the great precept, ***Be still and know that I am God!***

OM! OM! OM!

1967

Come Unto Me

(In the Holy Christmas Season)

Jan. 1968

In the room where I sleep, all the four walls are decorated with the pictures of Avatars and Holy Saints of the East and the West. Some of the pictures include Krishna, Christ, Buddha, Gandhi, Shiva, Rama, Guru Nanak, Chaitanya, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda and Rama Tirtha etc., etc. What a great privilege and inspiration it is to live amidst so many Avatars, saints and sages of the present and the past! Especially on the front wall there is a big coloured picture of Blessed Christ with out-stretched hands. He is calling humanity towards Him with the most compassionate and sweet words ***Come unto me!***

Often and often I gaze at Him, longing to merge and dissolve in His Infinite love. On this particular day, I was lying in bed, being weary with the many activities of the Ashram and strained by seeing too many visitors. Yet I was looking into His face of love and innocence, and was almost listening to His sweet and lovely words ***Come Unto Me***. Is it not high time to heed and listen to His words and rush into His embrace, forgetting the tiny play with the toys of the world, even in the name of Ashram and public service?

There is only one service, the most important service. That service is Love of God, to be true to the Indwelling Light.

*Seek ye first the kingdom of Heaven and his
righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto ye.*

As a blind man cannot lead the blind, first realise God before you try to teach or lead others from darkness unto light. Reform yourself before you reform others. With such thoughts, I was looking into the face of the Blessed Christ, who was calling me ceaselessly towards Him, from my depths of playing with the outer world.

On that particular night, as I was too tired to heed to His loving call of ***Come Unto Me***, unconsciously I was holding the following conversation with the Blessed Christ, the Eternal Christ, the Light of the world, who is never tired of calling all humanity towards Him.

*Come unto me, all that are weary and heavy laden, I will
give you rest and Peace.*

My Peace I give unto you. People rather rush towards cinemas and outer shows, and look at the bewitching outer things. They do not rush towards churches and temples, to

listen to the still small voice of God. Such is Maya, the dark delusion of attachment to form and name, even in the wise. Now, let me share my conversation with the Lord in that sacred hour of supreme silence and ecstasy.

The Lord Christ: My child, Come unto Me!

Myself: Dear Lord, I am so tired and weary that I cannot move
and take even one step to walk towards Thee.

Christ: That shall I do, my child.

Myself: Dear Lord, take pity and compassion on Thy erring
child and come towards me.

As the Lord, the Loving Christ, is all compassion, forgiveness and Love, you will be surprised to read that I felt that He was walking towards me! He was respecting my childish wish and silently entered into my weary and tired being. That was a Holy Moment of Divine Ecstasy, too sacred to be described in these finite and cold words. As he entered into me, all my weariness disappeared. It was holy moment of New Birth or Re-birth. It was my real Christmas, the Holy Feast of Divine Communion. I was full of Light, Life and Love. Unconsciously and cheerfully I was repeating,

Christ has no other body on earth now, than my
body.

He is filling my body with new Light, Life and
love, from the toes to the top of the head.

GLORY, GLORY, GLORY!

Indeed it is He who is writing in me now, to share my inspiring thoughts with you, my Loving readers of Peace. How very inspiring it is to feel that He is looking through our eyes and listening in our ears! He is thinking in our minds, throbbing in our hearts and even breathing in our breath as Soham, the Universal Breath that includes all! I love to close my experience with the inspiring words of St. Teresa.

Christ through You.

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours. He has no
hands but yours and no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes
through which Christ's compassion towards the world
flows. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about
doing good and yours are the hands with which He is to
bless you now.*

May Peace and goodwill abide among individuals as well as communities and nations! This is the pray of the one who loves you all and you are all the Living Images of the One Indivisible God!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

1968

Come Unto Me

Dec. 1968

There is a big sized portrait of Blessed Lord Christ in the room where I sleep, with out-stretched hands, as if calling me into His Embrace, repeating the loving words *Come Unto Me*. These days I am drawn towards it more than ever. I feel such joy, strength and ecstasy to identify myself with the Holy Christ.

The Lord has no other body on earth than yours. He is working, breathing and moving in you. What a blessed privilege it is to express Him in all our thoughts, words and deeds! I long to be dead to the world and stretch my arms also, repeating the loving words *Come Unto Me*, to all the children of God in the East and the West. Come unto me, ye, who are sad, weary, heavy-laden and depressed!

Here is the inspiring prayer of St. Teresa:

Christ through You.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours. He has no hands but yours and no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion towards the world flows. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands with which He is to bless you now.

Here is a poem of our sister Sushila Devi:

Come to Shanti Ashram, the Universal Home
Oh, come to Shanti Ashram
Abode of rest and love.
To visit, stay or meditate,
And find the Peace that's incarnate.
The gates are wide,
There's room for all.
We welcome folks both great and small.
Come to your gardens full of flowers,
And tarry in its fragrant bowers.
High, lovely hills to soothe the eyes
At Shanti Ashram where Peace abides.
There wild birds fill the air with song,
And learned Sadhus linger long.
They'll share with you the truths so dear
That make mere man a saint or seer.
Then flock to Shanti Ashram,
The Universal Home.
Its gates are standing now ajar.
To friends from near and far.
Come Unto Me.

OM! OM! OM!

1977

Holy Christmas

Written on 24 November, 1977 at 7 AM

Dec. 1977

Holy Christmas is fast approaching. Today is 24th November. The Christmas Day comes on December 24th.

Holy Christ was supposed to be born at the midnight hour of 24th December. That sacred moment of His Holy birth has been most dear and near to the hearts of all Christians, nay, to all the followers of Blessed Christ.

Blessed Christ has been repeating since the last 2000 years the following words, *Come Unto Me. Ears have they, yet they hear not.* Having ears, can you not hear the pathetic call of the Blessed Christ?

Only one month more for the Blessed Christ to be born, in the selfless purified hearts. All time is ours. Let us make best use of every moment to get ready for the Christ to be born!

Repeat *Ye the Kingdom of Heaven is near at hand*, within in the hearts. Let us purify ourselves by having selfless and good thoughts. Let every thought lead us towards God. Let every word lead us towards God. Let every deed lead us towards the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they who are pure in thought, word and deed. Verily the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the pure in heart. Christmas belongs to the pure in heart!

May we all be happy during the Holy Christ by preparing ourselves by establishing Peace in our devoted hearts of purity and love!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

1978

Holy Christmas

Jan. 1978

I feel the urge from within to write. It may be in the memory of Holy Christmas, even though I do not like to write little things, finite thoughts or messages.

I do not wish to waste my precious time, after being born with Christ only 5 hours ago in writing letters to finite man, for *Man always disappoints and God alone never disappoints.*

So let me write now in memory of the holy birth of Christ in my heart. May I also be blessed by Bhagavan Sri Krishna, who is throbbing in my heart and flowing in my very breath. Verily, God is in the breath of the breath.

Let us only feel and feel and practise the presence of God in each and every moment of our lives. What all of us needs is only to practise and practise in our daily lives, now and here.

May this be a promise and offering to Lord Christ and Bhagavan Sri Krishna, in memory of the Holy Christmas!

OM! OM! OM!

Part Six- Miscellaneous

Sri Rama Navami, 1974

Sri Rama Navami

April 1974

Today is the Holy day of the sacred birth of Sri Rama. How blessed it is to be fully alive at least on this day, feeling His Presence within and without! Blessed are they in whose purified hearts Rama is born today. Rama is the Light of the world. May this Light dispel all clouds of darkness, weakness and sickness! Where Rama is, it is all light and health, even in the very cells of one's being. It is all Light within, without and everywhere, all around us.

Antaa Rama Mayam, Ee Jagamanta Rama Mayam!

All this is Rama, all the world is filled with Rama's Presence. This inspiring song should be practised by facing Rama within, at least on the Birthday of Rama. We should face Rama in the very cells of our beings and without, in all the world from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet, in all that we see.

May Rama bless us all with the vision of Rama consciousness, for Rama is One without a second and nothing exists besides Him.

Esaa Vaasya Midam Sarvam.

All the world is filled with Eswar, Rama, alone.

OM TAT SAT OM!

Sri Krishna Jayanthi, 1978

Oct. 1978

As Krishna Jayanthi is nearing day by day, we too are coming nearer to Krishna day by day. The more his Jayanthi is far away, the more it seems we too are far away.

Every day in the early house of dawn I go towards His statue. Often Krishna seems to say, 'Oh ignorant child! I am in within you, I am throbbing in your very heart, sparkling in your eyes and flowing in your breath as Soham. Why then do you seek me outside and why do you come over towards my statue? When I am pervading and permeating the very cells of your being, how ignorant of you to neglect Me within and to search and search for Me without!'

In silence I speak with Sri Krishna, "Oh Lord! Thou art Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient. Thou art pervading everywhere from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet. It gives me joy to see Thee everywhere, not only within in the very cells of my being, but also in all the Universe. For, there is not even an atom of space where Thou exist not. Every step I take, takes me only towards you. I walk only towards Thee.

Om Sri Krishnaya Namah!

I, the worshipper, and the form of worship are never two but only one!

Day by day as Sri Krishna Jayanthi comes nearer to me, I too feel that I am getting dearer and nearer to Bhagavan Sri Krishna. He is the giver of Sri Bhagavad Gita. All Glory be unto Him, to Lord of the world, the giver of Gita, the immortal nectar of Peace!

When I am ever before His statue I become numb and dumb; words will not come. I can only whisper in silence, 'Lord! I come to you to merge and dissolve in Thee!'

In utter silence, in incomprehensible silence, Lord Krishna seems to whisper, 'Oh child! Make your body empty like that of a flute. It is near to my lips, for it is empty and hallow. Empty thyself of all ignorance of duality. Be hollow and annihilate the ego to be like myself.' The Message of Krishna Jayanthi is complete self-surrender.

Be dead that ye may live.

Glory be unto the Lord of wisdom, the giver of Gita, the Message of Light, Life, Love and illumination!

May Bhagavan Sri Krishna bless you all with health, Peace and Love longest lives of service, seva. This is the ardent prayer of your own Omkar, who loves you all!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM! OM! OM! OM!

Sri Krishna Jayanthi, 1979

Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Krishna

Oct. 1979

In every Jayanthi-Birthday, there are two important things: 1. non-essentials and 2. essentials.

1. Outer Pooja is happy in observing non-essentials such as receiving visitors and serving them with various Prasadams etc.
2. Whereas Spiritual Pooja is very loving in feeling Krishna's Presence within and without, with each and every breath. One tries to experience Lord Krishna in each and every thought, word and deed, all through their lives. Unto such every day is a Holy Sri Krishna Jayanthi. Unto such rare souls, Peace is their birthright. They inhale and exhale Peace with every breath! How true are the words, **Peace is Brahman**, Knowing that the wise melt in silence.

Antaa Krishna Mayam!

It is Sri Krishna within and it is Sri Krishna without. All the world is a manifestation of Bhagavan Sri Krishna. With each and every breath, may all feel and express Sri Krishna the Light within!

How inspiring are the wise words: ***Sri Krishna has no other body on earth than yours.*** He is speaking through you. He is throbbing in your devoted heart. Sri Krishna is sparkling in your very eyes and the same Krishna is breathing in your very breath. Verily, Krishna has no other body on earth than yours!

As Sri Krishna is our life, soul and goal, let us merge in Him. If I am writing now, it is because of Sri Krishna's Presence. If you are reading, it is because of His Presence. Indeed, Krishna is writing through me. The same One Indivisible Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient Sri Krishna is reading in all of you. Knowing Sri Krishna in silence, let us melt in silence.

No more words. It is Sri Krishna both within and without. May all Glory be unto Sri Krishna on every side and in everyone, for everyone and everything is Sri Krishna. Nothing else exists besides the one indivisible, omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient Sri Krishna, the one without a second. May all homage be to Sri Krishna on every side and in everyone, Krishna Paramatma!

An offering in memory of Sri Krishna Jayanthi on 13th September 1979, to His Lotus feet, invoking Sri Krishna's Blessing and Peace unto all. May we end this offering repeating Peace Prayer and Peace Chant.

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

Sri Buddha, 1956*Bhagavan Gautama Buddha**(Rendered from the Telugu Original of Sri Swami
Omkanji, by Dr. Vepa Narasimham)***June 1956****Buddham Saranam Gacchami-** I go to Buddha
for refuge.**Dharmam Saranam Gacchami-** I go to the
Law for refuge.**Sangham Saranam Gacchami-** I go to the
Brotherhood for refuge.

The wise have said that it is only a Buddha that is required to understand him and that is only a Krishna that is necessary to enjoy the bliss of Sri Krishna. They also say that it is only one filled with the spirit of Christ that can know and interpret aright the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As I write this article I feel that my inner voice is questioning me, how I presume to write anything about Buddha. My simple reply to it is that even from my childhood I have been seeing the images of Buddha. I have well acquainted myself with the life and teaching of Buddha. More than that, I also had the good luck of seeing at Gaya even in my early days the very Bodhi Tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment. Not merely seeing it, I too had the supreme satisfaction of sitting for some time under the very tree in serene lotus (yogi) posture like Buddha, and became absorbed in contemplation. What a unique fortune! Not satisfied even then, I tried during those moments of meditation to contact that Infinite spirit with my own limited mind. I had the good fortune of visiting numerous kinds of stone and metallic images of Buddha, not only in this country but even abroad as in Burma, China and Japan.

Last year in the vacant space near a hill among the Totapalli Hills, we established an Ashram named Nirvana Ashram. There we installed a multi-religious symbol about 15 feet high. It is composed of a red Lotus, the Cross, 'Om' and a crescent which was worshipped with a lakh of Bilva leaves. This year, in connection with the recent **Diamond Jubilee** celebrations at Totapalli, this multi-religious symbol was worshipped with a crore of Bilva leaves.

Behind this symbol, life-sized statues of Buddha, Christ, Sri Krishna and Mahatma Gandhi were put up on high pedestals. I have the whole scene before me as I write this article. Behind the life-sized images of these incarnated beings, there is a Mandir. It is *Nirvana Mandir*, as is inscribed in big cement letters. Along with that is inscribed the Holy Buddhist Mantra (formula) *Om Mani Padmi Ham*.

Yes, the crest jewel is in the Lotus only. That precious Self is ever shining resplendently in the form of an effulgent light, in the Lotus of your own heart. Oh foolish man, with that jewel of Self in your heart-lotus, why do you look for it, deluded by ignorance and filled with illusory ideas in the many names and forms outside? That jewel is in yourself only, in your own heart-lotus. It is eagerly waiting for your acknowledgement and acceptance. Recognise it in your still moments and with an indrawn spirit and contemplative vision.

While I am writing this article, I see as if looking at me, the image of Buddha, born as a prince but with the fullest spirit of renunciation, going about with a begging bowl. Now even in my room, wherever I cast my eyes, I see nothing but the images and pictures of

Buddha. Buddha is outside, he is also all around. Wherever we see, we see Bhagavan Buddha only. How lucky it is to derive inspiration in his proximity! It is the constancy of the sights of his images, idols and pictures that have helped me immensely to breath this inspiring atmosphere.

It is extremely difficult to recognise in stillness the precious spirit of Buddha in the inner recesses of our hearts. It is only by following his Eight-fold path that it would be even possible to realise it in our hearts. The core of his life lies in his teaching, *Love your enemy win your foe by love*. His love flowed not only towards mankind but it even extended to beasts and birds. Did he not offer his own life to save a simple dove?

Unlike preachers of other religions and those who profess today to be Vedantist in the country, Buddha never indulged in verbal descriptions about the Reality for the simple reason that it is indescribable. Nowadays we see Vedantists indulging in wasteful logical discussions about the Reality. How can Existence, Knowledge and Bliss Absolute, the all perfect, at once both manifest and unmanifest, the Infinity, be ever defined at all in precise and limited terms? Who can describe the taste of sugar? One must only taste it to know it. That was the reason why Buddha kept strict silence in regard to that matter. In fact to him, Dharma (law) was the way.

Beat the drum of Dharma.

Hoist the flag of Dharma.

Blow the conch of Dharma.

Express Dharma in the form of non-violence
and Truth in word, thought and deed.

Love in life is the most precious jewel. A heart devoid of the feelings of love, mercy, pity, and compassion has been compared to a garden devoid of flowers. It has been said that such a heart is indeed a funeral ground.

What has Buddha taught mankind and what have we to learn finally from his incarnation? He taught us that sensual desires or cravings are at the root of all our misery. They reduce man to the level of a brute and cause him to be born again and again without peace or cessation. According to Buddha, it is only desire that is our bondage and desirelessness, freedom or emancipation. Salvation is the birthright of those that conquer all desires. Nirvana is only for those who are free from desire. Nirvana is not mere Nirvana or death. It is Nirvikalpa Samadhi or total absorption into God-consciousness. It is the vision of that brilliant Light of Divine knowledge.

Buddha insisted on a life of Holy and sacred Love, purity of mind, self-control and self discipline. This includes interest in the welfare of all living things and a spirit of righteousness and regard for Dharma (law). Obeisance to Lord Buddha who shines as the embodiment of Truth!

The Buddha, after attaining Enlightenment, gave his first sermon at Sarnath, to a group of monks. This is the Sermon, unfolding the Eight-fold path:

1. Now this, oh monks, is the noble truth of pain: birth is painful, sickness is painful and old age is painful. Sorrow, lamentation dejection and despair are painful.
2. Now this, oh monks, is the noble truth of the cause of pain: that is craving, which leads to rebirth, combined with pleasure and lust, finding pleasure here and there. Namely, the craving for passion, the craving for existence and the craving for non-existence.
3. Now this, oh monks, is the noble Truth of cessation of pain: the cessation without remainder, of that craving; abandonment, forsaking, release, non-attachment.
4. Now this, oh monks, is the noble truth of the way that leads to the cessation of pain. This is the noble eight-fold way, namely right views, right intention, right

speech, right action, right living, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration,

Enlightenment, Peace, Love, kindness and mercy! Om Mani Padmi Hum. Salutation to Buddha, the incarnation of Paramatma.

MAY THE WHOLE WORLD BE HAPPY!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM!

Dedication

This is lovingly dedicated to all devotees and followers of Buddha in the East and the West, with the pious wish that they may attain Nirvana and Eternal Peace.

MAY THE WHOLE WORLD BE HAPPY!

OM PEACE, PEACE, PEACE!

Mahatma Gandhi, 1969

Mahatma Gandhi's Centenary Birthday (Oct. 2, 1969)

A Speech by His Holiness Swami Omkarji at the Evening Prayer Meeting

Sept. 1969

In the world of today Gandhiji's name stands synonymous with Truth and Ahimsa. For those who have studied his life and followed its developments in a spirit of devotion, his precepts and practice have become a part of their being, like their blood and nerves. To understand a Christ, a Christ alone is needed. Similarly to understand Gandhiji fully, another Gandhiji is required.

We hear so many speeches about Mahatma Gandhi and are so happy with merely the words. However, what is required is the practice of what we hear and assimilate. Gandhiji's meteoric progress coursed to the skies. It flew on the twin wings of Satya and Ahimsa, Truth and Non-violence. If we all could adopt Satya and Ahimsa world peace would no longer remain a problem, but would become a fair accomplishment in no time. The greater the number of people who followed the two great principles of Truth and Love, the nearer would universal peace be.

Although these physical eyes never saw Gandhiji personally, his precepts have always been the guide-lines for my belief and practice. So has it been in many other cases. Our greatness depends, not in falling down, but in rising each time we fall, and never to fall again. We must get above any lapses that there may have been. To err is human, but to persist in evil is not manly.

I would like to share with you some details as to my practising the principles of Gandhiji. It is not with a desire for earning encomiums. The other day some milkmen stole milk. I understood they were in the habit of doing so. I decided not to touch milk for a month. It had a very salutary effect. If we are careful in small things, big things always take care of themselves.

Some school children stole some bananas out of a big bunch, and no one would admit having done so. So I decided not to eat bananas till the erring children got courage

enough to admit their mistake. Quickly came the moral strength in the delinquents mind, and they owned having done a wrong act. This is the Gandhian technique to correct social misdemeanour.

It is no use merely hearing about the things Gandhiji did. We must mould our own life on the pattern set by Gandhiji, to purify and elevate our nature, and be of service to fellow men. Gandhiji's immense faith in God's great love and the inherent goodness of man are the guiding factors of all his great work. He never worried about tomorrow. Today was enough, one step at a time. But that step must never deviate, ever so slightly, from the strictly correct path.

Whenever, as only rarely happened, Gandhiji was in two minds on a course of action to be followed, he would at once enter the avenue of heart-felt prayer. He would be alone with God for guidance and light, through the still small voice within. Never was there an occasion when this failed. Unfailing faith in the Kindly Light led him on even in the stormiest weather. It lead him on most solitary roads of life, to pinnacles of success, even where success seemed so elusive. Food for the next meal did not worry him. Is not that the province of loving Providence?

Gandhiji took up various schemes of social regeneration, and had to collect money for the work. In my own humble way, I also put in my mite for the noble causes. Some dollar bills had once been received from America. I transferred the amount to him for his work of Harijan Uplift, were not his work and mind the same? Similarly some money was on another occasion, received from Hong Kong and was sent to Gandhiji for Harijan uplift work. In both the cases he acknowledged the sums personally with letters. These letters have been cherished as my richest treasure.

His Maha Mantra was *Ram Nam* and his gospel the *Bhagavad Gita*. The latter he called his mother. His spiritual life grew under the inspiration of the mother's life-giving smiles. Ram Nam was his most unfailing support through thick and thin. Even his last utterance was Ram Nam. Faith must be unflagging, not finding a change even when bullets are lodged in the heart.

Sri Rama and Gandhi are one. They were never separate. His strength was his. His being was in Him. That is why we must unceasingly practise feeling the Presence. Practise, practise, practise! Who knows, at the last moment the tongue may be tied. It may not be possible to utter His name. The long-standing practise will stand one in good stead and the Presence will then be not missed.

If you want to follow Mahatma Gandhi in life, religion and life must be one and not two or separate. Our words, thoughts and actions must be in accord. The principles for which Mahatma Gandhi stood must be chewed, digested and assimilated. They must become a part of our being, even like our blood, nerves and existence. His teachings must percolate into our day to day life. Let the world not say that were not worthy to claim him as our dear Bapu, the Father of the Nation. We must at all times be careful to see that we are not betrayed into any action that would not have Bapu's blessing and that would not tend to mar the fair name that he has earned for the Matru Bhoomi (Motherland).

Gandhi and Rama are one, present here and everywhere. Although not physically present in our midst, Pujya Swami Ramanandaji's heart is present here likewise. Let us repeat Ram Nam always. When we do so, His light shines through us. However, we lose the light daily for failing to live in the Presence. Hence arise all our troubles and evil in the world.

At the death of Mahatma Gandhi, we published a pamphlet *Gandhiji is alive now more than ever*. It brought home the fact that the Mahatma, although physically dead, is now alive more than before. He has secured immortality. It undoubtedly is our great good fortune that he chose us to be the proud guardians of that immortality. As worthy custodians, let each one of us, singly and collectively, strive not to prove unworthy Of Bapu, and his greet love for us. Let us be vigilant and preserve the proud privilege he bestowed upon us.

Mahatma Gandhi, 1970*Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi***Oct. 1970**

When I think of Mahatmaji, I forget everything, even these outer celebrations in his memory. Only **Truth** and **Non-violence** stand before me. I feel them in the very cells of my being and I face these ideals all around; not only within but even without. How blessed are the rare and precious souls who are centred in Truth and non-violence, even in the tests and trials!

It is very easy to praise and flatter the greatness of Sri Gandhiji, but all difficulty comes when we try to walk in his blessed footprints. Narrow and rugged is the way that leads to Heaven, to Rama Rajya. Body-consciousness leads to bondage and ignorance. God-consciousness gives freedom and Peace. To me Mahatmaji is still alive. He is always alive. He is eternally alive, so long as Truth and non-violence exist in the world.

Happy to see on this holy day, that some of the devoted sisters and brothers of the Ashram are spinning in memory of Sri Mahatmaji. May this spinning lead to the concentration of mind and of the unity of life and Peace of all! It is the individual Peace leads to and paves the way to universal Peace. Therefore, may this individual spinning unite us with **Sutratma**, the universal breath. May it thus make us all one with all the children of God, in all religions and nations.

May all homage be unto Sri Mahatma Gandhiji, the idol of millions of his devotees and the ideal and inspiration of all the seekers of Truth in the East and the West. May we show our homage and worship to Sri Mahatmaji, not with mere words but by following his loving ideals of Truth and non-violence, in thought, word and deed. May there be Peace on earth, and in heaven and may Peace be unto all! This is the ardent prayer of one who loves Gandhi Mahatmaji.

OM! OM! OM!

Mahatma Gandhi, 1979*Sri Gandhi Jayanthi**(The Blessed Day of Independence, Freedom)***Oct. 1979**

My life is blessed to have in front of me, before Nirvana Mandir, the life-size statue of Sri Mahatma Gandhiji. His life-giving Message was of Truth and non-violence. On the other side is the holy statue of Bhagavan Buddha, with His loving message of compassion. Then there is opposite, the statue of Lord Christ with his life-giving message of love. He is stretching his arms with the inviting words of **Come Unto Me**. Finally, there is also the statue of Avatar Krishna with all-knowing wisdom.

On this Holy Gandhi Jayanthi day, it is my privilege to sit in front of Sri Gandhiji. As I sit and meditate on Sri Gandhiji, his form, name and statue disappears and only his soul-awakening words **Truth** and **Non-violence** appear before me. Purity is Truth, it is complete in itself. It is full.

Om Poorna Madam, Poorna Midam

Poornaat Poorna Mudachyate

Poornasya Poorna Maadaaya

Poorna Mevaa Vasishyate.

Om. That is full, this is full.
From the full springs the full.
Of the full is taken from the full,
Only the full remains.

As for the non-violence, if you see anything other than God, the one indivisible Truth, you are violating the great Divine law of Sri Mahatma Gandhiji.

My heart longs to live in this great Truth, clinging to God the only reality, the One Eternal, Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient Truth.

Live in God or Truth and help others to live in Him. This has been the only simple ideal of Sri Shanti Ashram, the Mission of Peace, when it was started, established in 1917, 62 years ago.

How blessed it is to have the strength to repeat,

*The world is my home, all the people in it are my own
sisters and brothers. To love and serve them is my
religion.*

My homage be unto such pure and precious souls, the real followers of Sri Mahatma Gandhi.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL!

LOKA SAMASTHA SUKHINO BHAVANTU!

HARI OM TAT SAT OM! OM! OM! OM!

Swami Vivekananda, 1970

Birthday of Swami Vivekananda

Feb. 1970

Today is the Birthday of Swami Vivekananda, the Lion of Vedanta. He is the Sannyasin bold, nay, the prince of Sannyasins. The very thought of his Birthday gives me joy, strength and inspiration. Today I take joy in repeating that *Vivekananda has no other body now on earth than mine*. I feel his great spirit of renunciation and realisation in the very cells of my being.

Whenever I take part in the celebrations concerning any Avatars, Saviours, or of any great souls, it has been my nature to identify my self with that particular soul whose Birthday we are celebrating. If we are celebrating Sri Krishna Jayanthi, the Birthday of Krishna, I feel Bhagavan Krishna is with me, and within me with all his wisdom. When I take part in the Christmas celebrations, I am the blessed Christ. I repeat with joy, *Christ has no other body on earth now than mine*. He has such his deep love for humanity! He is stretch my arms, repeating the loving words *Come Unto Me*.

Similarly when Buddha's Birthday is celebrated, the Buddha is in me with his great compassion towards all the children of God, including the dumb animal friends. While taking part in the centenary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, I feel Gandhiji is expressing Truth and Non-violence in my very thoughts, words and deeds.

When Guru Nanak's Birthday is celebrated, he is in me with his great love for all religions. When Swami Rama Tirtha's Birthday was celebrated, Ram was there within me

with his message of Divine recklessness and God-consciousness. When I am blessed to take part in the Birthday celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the God-mad saint, he is there with me, with all his catholicity and universalism. No wonder now as I think of Vivekananda's Birthday, I feel his presence in the very cells of my body, and I long to sing his famous song **Sannyasin Bold!**

I love to begin my message now with the explanation of his very name *Vivekananda*. He is the embodiment of Viveka, discrimination. Know what is real and what is unreal. Turn your mind from Pravritti, outer life, to Nivritti, the inner life. Avoid the poison, the life of the senses and drink deep the nectar of immortality, now and here. He alone is Vivekananda who lives for the happiness of others, serving the poor and the sick, considering all as the living images of the one indivisible God. Vivekananda has given to the world his famous four Yoga Paths.

- A) Karma Yoga teaching selfless service, without expecting any reward, for service itself is its own reward.
- B) Bhakti Yoga is the path of devotion, the devotee merging in God, who is Sat-Chit-Ananda. It is like salt dissolving in the Ocean or like Taila Dhara, the unbroken current of oil poured from one vessel into another. In Bhakti Yoga the devotee lives, works and breathes for God, like a ceaseless flame of God-consciousness.
- C) Now comes Vivekananda's famous Raja Yoga with the following Eight steps to God-realisation.

Ashtanga Yoga.

1. Yama: Abstinence from injury, theft and avarice; veracity, continence.
 2. Niyama: Observance of cleanliness, contentment, purified action, study; making the Lord the motive of all actions.
 3. Asana: A posture of the body in Yoga.
 4. Pranayama: The regulation and restraint of breath.
 5. Pratyahara: Abstraction; withdrawal of all senses from external objects.
 6. Dharana: Concentration, stead-fastness of the mind on the object of worship.
 7. Dhyana: Meditation, withdrawing senses like ears etc., from the sense objects like sound etc., and meditating on the object of worship like the incessant flow of oil, by stilling the mind.
 8. Samadhi: Trance. There, the mind becomes identified with the object of meditation. The meditator and the meditated become one.
- D) Now comes finally Jnana Yoga, the pinnacle of all knowledge. It is the soul of Vedanta, and the essence of all wisdom. Man is no longer human but Divine, centred in the essence of the Maha Vakyas of the Four Vedas:
1. Tatwam Asi: Thou art That.
 2. Prajnana Brahma: The intelligence alone is Brahma, the God within.
 3. Aham Brahmasmi: I am becoming Brahma, the Sun of suns.
 4. Ayamatma Brahma: Myself is Brahma, the Light of lights.

In Jnana Yoga there is nothing more to be said in finite words. Having known Him, realising That, he becomes silent.

Swami Vivekananda's Message can be summed up in one great thought on truth: *Let the lion of Vedanta roar.* But alas, man has forgotten his Divine Heritage, the real Birthday of the Light within. Hence, no wonder he is bleating like a sheep instead of roaring like a lion.

Let the past be buried, as it does not help to worry over spilt milk. In memory of Swami Vivekananda's Birthday, let us begin to roar now, remembering that we are lions and not bleating like sheep, full of fear. As one word is enough for the wise, and as every moment is precious, I love to conclude my message with the repetition of the well-known and famous song *The Song of the Sannyasin* by Swami Vivekananda, the ideal monk.

The Song of the Sannyasin

(1) Wake up the note! The song that had its birth

Far off, where worldly taint could never reach;
In mountain caves, and glades of forest deep,
Whose calm no sigh for lust or wealth or fame
Could ever dare to break; where rolled the stream

Of knowledge, truth and bliss that follows both,
Sing high that note, Sannyasin bold! Say:

OM TAT SAT OM!

(2) Strike off thy fetters! Bonds that bind thee down

Of shining gold, or darker, baser ore;
Love, hate, good, bad, all that dual throng.
Know slave is slave, caressed or whipped not free;

For fetters, though of gold, are not less strong to bind.

Then off with them, Sannyasin bold! Say:

OM TAT SAT OM!

(3) Let darkness go; the will o' wisp that leads
With blinking light to pile more gloom on gloom.
This thirst for life, for ever quench; it drags,
From birth to death and death to birth, the soul.
He conquers all who conquers self. Know this
And never yield, Sannyasin bold! Say:

OM TAT SAT OM!

(4) Who sows must reap, 'they say' and cause must bring

The sure effect; good, good; bad, bad; and none
Escape the law, but who wears a form
Must wear the chain.' Too true, but far beyond
Both name and form is Atma, ever free.

Know Thou art That, Sannyasin bold! Say:

OM TAT SAT OM!

- (5) They know not truth, who dream such
vacant dreams

As father, mother, children, wife and friend,
The sexless Self! Whose father he? Whose child
Whose friend, whose foe is He who is but One?
The Self is all in all, naught else exists;
And Thou Art That, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

- (6) There is but One, the Free, The Knower, Self!
Without a name, without a form or stain;
In Him is Maya dreaming all this dream.
The Witness, He appears as nature, soul.
Know thou Art That, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

- (7) Where seekest thou? That freedom, friend,
this world
Not that can give. In books and temples vain
Thy search, Thine only is the hand that holds
The rope that drags thee on. Then cease lament,
Let go thy hold, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

- (8) Say, Peace to all; from me no danger be
To ought that lives, in those that dwell on high,
In those that lowly creep, I am the Self in all!
All life both here and there, do I renounce,
And heaven's and earth's and hell's; all hopes
and fears.
Thus cut thy bonds, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

- (9) Heed then no more how body lives or goes,
Its task is done. Let Karma float it down.
Let one put garlands on, another kick
This frame; say naught. No praise, no blame can
be
Where praiser, praised and blamer, blamed are
One
Thus be thou calm, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

(10) Truth never comes where lust and fame
and greed

Of gain reside. No man who thinks of woman
As his wife can ever perfect be:
Nor he who owns the least of things, nor he
Whom anger chains, can pass through Maya's
gates

So give these up, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

(11) Have thou no home. What home can hold
thee friend?

The sky thy roof, the grass thy bed; and food
What chance may bring, well-cooked or ill,
judge not,

No food nor drink can taint that noble self
Which knows itself. Like rolling river, be
Thee free ever, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

(12) Few only know the truth. The rest will hate
And laugh at thee, great one; but pay no heed.
Go thou, be free, from place to place, and help
Them out of darkness, Maya's veil. Without
The fear of pain or search for pleasure, go
Beyond them both, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

(13) Thus day by day, till Karma's powers spent
Release the soul forever. No more is birth,
Nor I, nor thou, nor God, nor man, The 'I'
Has all become, the all is 'I' and bless.
Know thou Art That, Sannyasin bold! Say:
OM TAT SAT OM!

This is a song not only for Sannyasins but for all the aspiring children of God in both the East and the West. May every child of God aspire to be a Living Vivekananda. In memory of his Birthday, may we ever be walking, working and breathing like Vivekananda. May we be broadcasting his message of fearlessness and freedom, good-will and Peace among individuals, as well as communities and nations!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL! OM! OM! OM!

Swami Vivekananda, 1978

Swami Vivekanandaji's Birthday

Feb. 1978

Today is the Happy Birthday of Pujya Sri Vivekanandaji, the Lion of Vedanta. His one Message has been *Be a Lion of Vedanta*. Let the Lion of Vedanta Roar. Identification with Truth, to the life within, makes us to roar. Identification with body makes us to bleat.

Let us not bleat like sheep, but roar like lion. Maya is so deep that even a wise man forgets the Light within and bleats in fear like a sheep, instead of roaring like a lion.

It is the Happy Birthday of Pujya Sri Vivekananda, the Lion of Vedanta who roared Vedanta, the end of knowledge all over the world. He especially roared it in the Parliament of Religions in Chicago, USA. In memory of this special day, let us all try to live like him, breath and work like lion. Let us roar like Swami Vivekananda the Vedanta Truths of Life, Light and Love. For, we are all the living images of Sat-Chit-Ananda, the Existence Absolute, the Knowledge Absolute and the Bliss Absolute. Let us remember this in thought, word and deed and in each and every moment of our lives. This is the prayer of your Omkar.

OM TAT SAT OM!