

OCCASIONAL SPEECHES OF SWAMI OMKAR – I

SWAMI OMKAR

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1. PEACE AND SERVICE

(A Message delivered on Feb. 2nd, at the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Town Hall, Viziayanagaram)

Friends of Peace, allow me to greet you not as a stranger but as your own brother. I stand here not to preach or teach but only to share my thoughts of Peace with all of you. If there is anything that makes me sad it is only when I cannot help or serve others, who are no other than my own individual self. Hence, I request you all to open your hearts for my humble message of Peace. Peace - the very word Peace seems to be a mockery on the face of the earth, seeing want poverty, danger, destruction and death on every side.

On a rainy day the sky may be filled with thick and heavy clouds. Yet, the sun is there. He is always there. Similarly, my friends, whether you can feel the presence of peace or not, it is always there, for it is your birth right whether you are aware of it or not. It is the common heritage of every individual on the face of the earth.

What is this Peace my friends? It is the five-lettered word Peace? Nay, it is more than that! In a school, or a class room when the students make much sound or noise, the teacher often says:- Let there be Peace! Is that the real Peace? No, it is more than that! When war is absent in a certain country, we think that there is Peace there. Is that the real Peace about which I have been striving to speak to you? It is more than that. Then what is Peace? I cannot tell you what it is: Neither can anyone define what Peace is! No one can tell us. Can anyone tell us the taste of honey? No amount of listening to sermons or studying of books on the taste or the sweetness of honey, helps us to really know what honey is in the real sense of word. What helps us to know only, is personal experience. Put a spoonful of honey on your tongue, then only will you be able to know what the sweetness of honey is. Similarly my friends, in the stillness of your silent times, in the moments of your meditations, in your purified hearts when the little self is completely absent, you will be able to know what that Peace is from your personal experience. The greatest consolation is that whether you are aware of that Peace now or not, it is always your recognition.

Friends, to me, Peace and God have never been two, but one alone. What is God, except infinite peace! Our Scriptures also proclaimed that *santoyam atma-santia* alone is *atma* - the Soul of Peace. Infinite and Eternal Peace alone is *atma* or God. When I say God, I am not speaking of a God, who is far away or aloof from us. I am not speaking of the God, who is confined to temples and churches nor to a particular creed or religion. Neither am I speaking of the God who is in heaven or sky, but I am speaking of the God, who is throbbing in your hearts, sparkling in your eyes, flowing in your breath and who is the Life of the life and Soul of the soul and who is One without a second. With Him we are everything and without Him we are mere nonentities, nobodies, in spite of all our learning and riches.

Forgetfulness of this Universal Peace or God, alone is the root cause of all our worries and agonies of life. What is the cause of jealousies in the individuals, fights in the communities and wars among nations? The cause is only forgetfulness of God or lack of the real conception of God. How few and rare are they who are blessed with the real conception of God, the true and highest conception of God? It is only when a man is blessed with the highest conception of God, he realizes that all is *parabrahman*. As all is God, in loving any one, the least one, he is loving the One presence, in hating or hurting anyone he is hating and hurting only the One presence, or the one universal God.

What is your conception of God dear friends? Please do not give your conception of God from the scriptures you have read or from the lectures you have listened to. Let me know your conception of God from your personal experience. It is the personal experience that counts and nothing else. All else, all these big forms and names and all the empty and showy words will pass away, except the personal experience, that remains. The moments of personal experience alone are the true moments of our real life. Our age is to be counted only by those blessed moments of personal experience but never by the number of years. For a man of personal experience, everything is God and everyone is God. He sees nothing but God either within himself or without in others.

Now, coming to the theme of our message "Peace and Service", peace may still be a myth to certain materialists and outer scientists. But what about service, blessed, selfless service, which is the only royal road leading men of restlessness into the divine state of restfulness or perfection. In a way peace is formless, but not so with Service. It is tangible. What is more, you can do service with your hands. It is very easy to repeat, *paropakarammidamsareeram*, that these bodies are intended for the good of others. Let us merge within and examine our lives once to see what *paropakaram*, selfless good, we have been doing from the time of our birth, often our *paropakaram* service is centered around the little "I". It is confined to the five or six food body. Every time we do a little service the first thought is: What can I get out of this service?

Service is only possible in selflessness. It is not possible in selfishness. You may say: why this fever of service? Why should we do service? As Sri Ramakrishna said, everyone in the world has some fever, madness or other. How blessed are they who are mad after service? Service is the result of the expansion of heart. According to the degree or grade of the expansion of our heart, service also increases or expands. We see people whose service is confined to their physical bodies of flesh and blood. There are others whose service is confined just to their homes. As they grew and expand, they analyse their vision of service and include their own community. As they grow a step further, they consider the whole country as their own home. They live and breathe for their particular nation, but are inimical to other nations. This is not the goal of precious life.

As they advance and reach the heights, they consider the whole universe as their own. It is only such blessed, God-conscious souls who can explain with ecstasy :- “ The world is my home and all people are my sisters and brothers, to love and serve them is my only religion.”

Let us remember my friends that service is the fire that purifies. As gold is purified in the burning fire, so are the souls purified to perfection in the great work of desireless service. Dear friends, we too are privileged to do a little work of service in our Waltair Ashram among the poor fisher folks. We are not doing this service for name or fame not even out of pity. We have started it for our freedom and Peace for it gives us strength, joy and inspiration. Verily, selfless service leads us to freedom! In these six months we are privileged by the blessings of God to serve or rather worship six thousand poor, sick and suffering souls, the images of God.

There is also an opportunity for you, dear friends, to come and join us in doing God's work. A hearty welcome awaits you all, at the time you find it convenient to come to us. But how many of you can spare your time to join in and work with us! If you cannot come, at least endeavour to make it possible for us to continue our humble work, with your material help and sympathy. If you are poor in the goods of the world, at least give us your prayers and sincere thoughts for the progress and welfare of our Peace Cause, for thoughts are things. All that we want from you is that you should consider us as your own, our peace work as your own for those poor and suffering fisher folk belong to you as much as to us. They are related to you as much as they are related to us.

There have been two precious moments in my life when I feel most happy. One moment is, when I am deeply lost in silence or meditation, when the body is no body, mind no mind, world no world, and when it is all peace, infinite peace, eternal peace, universal peace, inexpressible and indivisible peace. Another moment is, when I can really serve the seekers of peace in a practical way. So I request you to accept my hearty thanks for giving me an opportunity to enter into your devoted hearts with this message of Peace and Service. In conclusion, I commend to all of you for contemplation the ideal of our Peace Mission :- “That it is the individual peace which paves the way to universal peace, so let us establish it first in our hearts and then share in our homes and then spread in our community and nation and finally throughout the whole world.”

We may not be able to change others, but we can change ourselves. We may not be able to establish peace in the world, but we can at least establish peace in our individual hearts! With a firm determination that we will strive sincerely to establish peace first in our hearts and thus help towards the peace of the world, let us chant the sacred syllable “Om” , for our peace, as well as for the peace of the world is my prayer. May Peace be unto all.

Hari Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Jan, Feb, Mar, 1941)

2. MOTTO SIGNS OF KAILAS

(Anniversary Peace Meeting held on 07-09-1952)

On this happy day of our Anniversary, the Twelfth Public Meeting in the Town Hall, my heart rejoices to welcome the devoted President and Learned Speaker, into my heart as well as into God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience. Shanti Ashram, the mission of Peace, has been a Universal Organization belonging to all the Seekers of Peace in the East and the West, in all the religions and the nations. We pride ourselves in having its devotees in every religion and almost in every nation, all over the world.

On this happy day of the Anniversary, I take joy once again to extend a hearty welcome not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of all its members who are all over India and in the far East in Malaya, China, Australia and also in the far West in United States of America, Germany and England etc. I wish to recall to your memory all the inspiring and helpful Motto Signs of Kailas, that I had the privilege of sharing with all of you, from last year, since the time we started these meetings.

1. Inhale and exhale peace, Thy Birthright.
2. What you have within, you behold without
3. He who wastes moments, wastes his whole life.
4. Work is worship.
5. The dogs bark, but the caravan passes on.
6. Swami is dead, Omkar is alive.
7. Do your good deed today.
8. Burn the ego in the fire of selfless service.
9. *Isavasyamidamsarvam*: All the world is filled with God.
10. *Om purnamadah*: That is always full.
11. God is Silence.
12. Be good and do good.

The Twelfth Motto Sign: BE GOOD AND DO GOOD, is the motto that I am happy to send to you today. If you visit Kailas, you will see all these inspiring mottos speaking to you, helping you to realize the goal of your life, the precious human birth. On this happy day, I offer my homage to all the Presidents who were kind enough to preside over these Peace Meetings and to all the learned speakers, who have been sharing especially their spiritual experiences of life with all of you. I also wish to convey my special thanks to those of you, who have been fortunate enough to attend all the Twelve Meetings. How rich and complete must be the lives of those who have been blessed to have these Twelve Spiritual Repasts in profound peace, assimilating the messages of life, light and love; the life which is eternal, the light which is perpetual and self-shining and the love which is all-embracing and universal! Now I leave you all, in this life eternal, light infinite and love universal to proceed with the proceedings of the happy day.

May He, the indwelling presence of your devoted hearts bless you all, with a glimpse of His love, now and always is the prayer of your brother Omkar! Let us be still now, both within and without, observing silence, only for two minutes, wishing the peace of all, in the East and the West!

OM OMOM

(Peace Oct 1952)

3. WORDS OF WELCOME

(Offered on 26-08-1952 by Swami Omkarji on the happy day of sowing the first seeds for the Institute of Indic Studies in Sri Santi Nilayam, Beach, Visakhapatnam)

This is a happy day, as it sees the fulfilment of one of my ardent wishes. As every bud is bound to bloom, whether it be today or tomorrow so also, every selfless desire is bound to be fulfilled sooner or later. I offer my homage to all the universal souls in the East and the West whose hearts throb not for themselves, but for the happiness, peace and welfare of all the humanity. Anything conducive to universal happiness draws and captivates my heart. It is in the spirit universal, that man no longer recognizes the differences of castes, creeds, colours or nationalities. It is in the spirit of universality that man recognizes the sweet face of God, in every face. In fact, everyone and everything becomes a manifestation of God.

I take joy in offering my homage to all the universal souls who are privileged to gather on this happy day, especially to Mother Jagadamba, Mrs.E.B.Hogan, who has been our silent friend and well-wisher not only of Santi Ashram but also to India, creating feelings of harmony and understanding between the East and the West.

My thanks are also due to Sri K.V.Gopalaswamy, Registrar of the Andhra University, presiding over the function on this happy day, bringing the university nearer to the cause of peace, than ever before. May God bless our K. Satchidananda Murthy, the deep thinker and profound Philosopher who is the life and soul of the proposed Institute of Indic Studies, with peace and long life to continue his silent service to the world of spiritual renaissance.

My heart longs to offer its homage to each and every one of you, to all the friends and well-wishers of the Ashram, the living images of the one indivisible God, for the joy you have given me in taking part of this happy ceremony. My words of welcome will not be complete unless I offer my thanks to brother G.K.Ramana for kindly offering his valuable building and thus furthering the progress of Sri Santi Ashram, in memory of his late lamented wife. May God's richest blessings be upon

him, on all of you, and above all on our Mother Jagadamba, who has brought America, nearer to the heart of India!

Let us repeat now, the peace chant establishing peace first in our hearts and then wishing the peace of all, all over the world.

May there be peace in heaven!
May there be peace in the sky!
May there be peace across the water!
May there be peace on earth!
May peace flow from the herbs, plants and trees!
May all the Celestial Beings radiate Peace!
May Peace pervade all Quarters!
May Peace be unto all!om shanti shantishanti

Hari Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Oct 1952)

4. THE INDWELLER – THE RELIGION

(At the parliament of religions)

Children of Immortality and Fellow Pilgrims of Different Faiths!

Let me greet you all in the name of the One Almighty God, who is expressing Himself in all of you, sparkling in your very eyes, throbbing in your hearts, flowing in your breath and who is the indweller of your very beings, the One without a second! I feel it a great privilege to place my offering before all of you who are the Advocates and Representatives of various faiths, cults and creeds of all the old and new religions of the world. That which unites man with God, the source, is considered as the real religion. I feel now that which unites the people of all creeds and religions in the name of the One God, bringing harmony, unity and understanding is the real Parliament of Religions. As the string binds all the flowers in a garland, let this Parliament of Religions bind all the people of all the denominations of the East and the West into one universal whole or completeness, making us behold the sweet face of God in everyone. What a blessed world it would be, to see the sacred image of God in everyone, ignoring the outer differences in the children of the One God!

I am one of those who firmly believe that messages that one gives oneself are more effective than those that are delivered in public with the object of reforming others. Here, in self-reformation the man begins with the reformation of himself. His message is first for himself and then for others. He is establishing peace within his heart before trying to spread it outside.

In these days of silence, I realize the importance and efficacy of this great vital truth, more than ever. As stressed by Swami Rama Tirtha, "Reformers are wanted, not of others, but of themselves." With this self-reformation, begins world reformation. Although the progress is slow like that of crawling ants, it should be noted that even crawling ants ultimately reach their goal. As a boy in teens, I memorised a little verse from Ashtavakra Gita. That was nearly many years ago, but through all these years, I have been constantly trying to practice its teaching. Let me share the essence of my little verse with you, now:

Why say: this man and that man? He and you are one. Give up this business of duality, saying He and I. Behold all as the one *atman* and thus attain eternal peace and infinite bliss now and here.

Can I see myself in you, in all creation even in those that criticize and misunderstand me? That is the real test. Here comes all the struggle, in trying to crush the human and to express the divine, to annihilate the ego and to glorify the *atman*. Only the blessed one, the one who has mastered the ego, he who is dead to the world of name, fame and other bewitching forms, can behold Himself in others. Unto him, "others" do not exist at all. All is Himself, the One Indivisible Atman, the Self-Effulgent Light.

All this sounds very grand in theory, but what one needs is the *atma sakshatkaram*, God-consciousness in practical life. Theory without practice is a mere burden to the mind and intellect. As often repeated, "an ounce of practice is worth more than a pound of theory," rather let me say a ton of theory. Let us practise and practise what we know already. Simple practice is all that is required. What is most important is constant practice of the presence of God, in all that we do, speak and think. The practice of *atmabhava*, love universal, is needed and one is to be centered in *Brahmavrithi*, God-consciousness always.

Practice of the presence of God, not now and then, but each and every moment of one's life, feeling Him within and expressing Him without, is the secret of all happiness and peace. Blessed are they who are centered in the *atman*, the indwelling light, the one indivisible self. Brahman is the same divinity, which is shining in all of us, as one without a second, though called by various names by followers of different faiths and beliefs.

There are many ways by which one can progress in the material world, as well as in the spiritual world. The worst way of progressing is trying to grow, suppressing others as we often see in the world of duality. Did you ever hear that wise saying: "Do not try to grow tall, by beheading others." One who sees Himself or oneself in others is the real sage. The ignorant man desires to conquer everybody by suppression but the sage seeks to win all by love universal, seeing Himself in all, for, the essence of all cults, creeds, nay the source and goal of all religions and faiths is to recognize the same, one indivisible light, everywhere.

Peace that passeth all understanding belongs only to those rare and blessed souls who can see the one in the many, who refuse to see anything other than the one underlying reality, the interpenetrating presence, in spite of outer differences and disparities. It is all a matter of daily practice which leads to silent growth, inner progress and gradual awakening. It is in the culmination of such that we can see man in God and God in man. It is high time for all of us, to realize that man and God are not separate and two but One. As repeated often by sages: "The selfless service of man is real worship of God." Blessed are they, who are engaged in the universal worship rising above all the existing differences of caste, colour or creed.

May the Parliament of Religions help to unite man with man, community with community and nation with nation, ignoring all the outer differences of denominations, cults, creeds and religions on the firm basis and rocky foundation of personal experience of God-consciousness, wherein all are inter related as sisters and brothers of the One Family of the One Indivisible God, the interpenetrating presence of the invisible as well as of the visible universe.

In the sacred memory of the Parliament of Religions, to each and every one who has the blessed privilege of gathering here, to every seeker of truth, I lovingly offer a garland, not of rubies and diamonds that can be lost or stolen, neither a garland of flowers that fade and wither, but a garland of pearls of peace, in the form of the Peace Prayer, which can be worn by the votaries of any religion or even of no religion for it belongs to all, the children of the One Almighty, the all-loving and the all-embracing God. The one who is blessed to wear this garland of Peace Prayer, repeats with outstretched hands with Christ "Come unto me"; with Mohammed, "Come to prayer for God is One"; with Buddha, "Come to *nirvana*, annihilating desire"; and with Krishna, "Come unto me for shelter abandoning all works."

In conclusion to make my offering complete, allow me to recall the wise words of Sri Mahatma Gandhiji on prayer. "As food is necessary for the body, prayer is necessary for the soul. A man may be able to do without food for a number of days but, believing in God, man cannot, should not live for a moment without prayer."

Indeed, as Ella Wheeler Wilcox says in her inspiring poem, it is the prayer that connects the individual with the universal and brings one nearer to the infinite. It rather makes the individual to realize that he is no other than the one universal truth.

Prayer has a sweet, refining grace,
It educates the soul and heart;
It lends a lustre to the face,
And by its elevating art
It gives the mind an inner sight
That brings it near the infinite.

Dear Friends! the following little prayer, a prayer of simple words, that even a child can repeat and easily understand, one that has helped me a great deal, which has brought solace, comfort and peace to my heart, I long to share with all of you. Its very repetition makes one feel God's presence not in the uncertain future but right now, in the present living moment as one repeats it. Please do not ignore it, because it is simple. Verily, the kingdom of heaven, the peace universal belongs only to the simple and childlike. Let us adorn ourselves now with the Peace Prayer, the Garland of Peace, and the *sutratma* that unites all the individuals in all the communities, religions and nations into one universal whole, the one substratum of all the manifested worlds.

Now, here is the Prayer for Peace, my humble offering to all of you:

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 Heart of our hearts, Mind of our minds, Breath of our breaths, Life of our lives, Soul of our souls. Bless us Dear God, to be aware of Thy presence now and ever. This is all that we ask of Thee. May all be aware of Thy presence, in the East and West, North and South! May peace and goodwill abide among individuals, as well as communities and nations! This is our earnest prayer.

OM OMOM AMEN

(Peace May 1953)

5. IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY GITA

(Sent on the occasion of the Bhagavat Gita, *Pathana Yagna*)

For a long time, I have wished to have in our Ashram a *jnana yagna*. So it was a happy surprise to see the savants of the Andhra University starting the Gita *pathanayagna* on 06-11-1955. God alone can bless us making our yesterday's dreams into the golden deeds of today and the radiant visions of tomorrow.

My heart rejoices to see learned and noble souls like Sri T. Viswanatham, Dr.K.V.R. Narsimham, Dr.Poorna Chandra Rao, Sri Ramakrishna Rao, Ubhayabhashapravina T. JogayyaSarma, and above all our Secretary, Sri Satchidananda Murty, taking part in this *maha Gita yagna*.

My homage to all of you. This body has been sick in bed since last 20 days and I do not know what message I can send you all, on this glorious occasion,

except sending my silent prayers for the complete success of your noble undertaking.

The Gita teaches us, that we are not perishable bodies, but the imperishable spirit. The immortal spirit in me longs to greet your eternal spirit. The Gita has been a musical song to full the troubled souls to sleep, an interesting song for the children to play, an uplifting song to the students to awaken the sleeping divinity, a royal song for the men of action and an awakening song for the *yogis* and *sadhus*, a God-intoxicated song for the devotees of different faiths above all. Gita has been an inspiring song to the men of wisdom, saturating their minds, hearts and souls with self-effulgence. It is with each of us now, whether we use the sacred words of Gita to put us to sleep or to play or fight, or to recognize the indwelling light and be silent before its ineffable glory. Before the Gita expounders, Gita writers and Gita students I feel like a baby in trying to express the inexpressible in these finite words.

My homage to all those who are expressing Gita Song in their daily fight, ever singing the song of peace among individuals and goodwill, among nations and also to these rare flowers of humanity who are ever listening to the song of the Holy Gita in the stillness of their purified hearts in all silence, waveless silence.

May peace be unto all.

HARI OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace Nov 1955)

6. FEEL THE PRESENCE OF GOD

(At all India Divine Life Conference and All - Religious Conference, Mysore)

Dear Children of God,

Greetings of Peace and Love!

How blessed it is to see God in all of you, nay in each and every one in all the world. What we have within, we behold the same without. If we have God within, naturally we see God without. When I speak of God, I am not speaking of the God who is far away in the sky or in heaven, who is aloof from you and who is confined to a church or a temple or a particular religion or nation, but I am speaking of the God who is throbbing in your hearts, sparkling in your very eyes and flowing in your breath now and here.

“Feel, feel, feel my friends; for, this is the place to recognize Him.” If you cannot feel Him now and here, how can you feel and recognize Him in the uncertain future? If you can recognize Him now, you can recognize Him always. Practice of feeling the presence of God not now and then but ceaselessly in each and every moment of your life is the secret of all success and peace. So, practice my friends, to feel Him always, not only when you are engaged in *puja*, worship and in prayer and meditation, but also when you are working in the garden or office, even when you are alone or in a crowd. For, He is ever with you.

Where is the moment when God is separate or absent from you? In the past you have been one with Him. In the present you are one with Him. In the future also, you are bound to be one with Him. You are eternally one with Him. *antha Rama mayam bee jagamantha Rama mayam*. All this world is filled with Rama. *Isavasyamidamsarvam*. All this creation is permeated and pervaded by Brahman.

Is it not high time to practice what we have known already? Even children repeat the above holy songs and shlokas. The way to progress is to practise what we have. If we do not practise what we have known, what is the use of learning more and more from all teachers and masters in all the world.

My heart rejoices to repeat often: -“If you use what you have, what you have will grow.” The simple Peace Prayer has been dear and near to my heart. What I am, I owe it to the Peace Prayer. It has been a great blessing to thousands of aspiring souls in all the religions in the East and the West; for it is a prayer that makes us feel the presence of God not in the uncertain future, but right now in this present living moment. Hence, instead of wasting the precious time with too many words, let me have the privilege of sharing it with all of you now.

We have been trying to spread this simple Peace Prayer from heart to heart from village to village and from town to town in the world. Therefore I request you all, in memory of this sacred conference, to memorize and repeat it as often as possible. Let all your dear ones also repeat the Peace Prayer along with your other prayers, for the peace of yourself as also for the peace of the world, for, ‘It is the Individual Peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace.’ So, establish peace first in your own heart now and here, then in your home and community, and then gradually in the whole nation and the world at large. We may not be able to change others or the wide world, but we can change ourselves by the constant repetition of the Peace Prayer. How blessed it is to live in God and to help others to live in Him!

Now let us close our eyes and repeat the inspiring Peace Prayer, feeling God’s interpenetrating presence in the very cells of our beings. As we repeat it, let us feel and feel His presence; for, God is Here and Now as He is Omnipresent. Now let us repeat the peace prayer for world peace.....

OM OMOM

- With the first OM, we filling the body with His presence from the toes to the top of the head.
- With the second OM, we are filling the universe from the tiniest atom to the biggest planet with life, light and love.
- With the third OM, all the manifested as well as the unmanifested is filled with the holy vibrations of God, who is all silence.

Silence is God! God is Silence!

May God bless you all with a touch of His Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience, Now and Here. This is the ardent prayer of your brother Omkar.

May Peace be unto all!

OM OMOM

A HUMBLE OFFERING

A humble offering to H.H. Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj with Prayers for His Health, Peace and Long life for the continuation of his Blessed Service of Spiritual Ministry in all the world.

(Peace Sept 1960)

7. THE IMPERISHABLE WEALTH

(Parting message to the members and friends of Lakshmi villa and to the devoted citizens of Kotagiri, Nilgiris)

(Lakshmi Villa Peace Centre is going to have a prayer hall of universal light for the benefit of the seekers of the East and the West and of all shades of belief. The prayer hall which is now under construction at an estimated cost of Rs.25,000/- is the type of work God loves. It will advance the cause of universal peace by providing a suitable climate for meditation and enlightenment. It offers a special advantage to the seeker from the West situated as it is on the cool heights of Kotagiri which stands 6500ft above the sea. Kotagiri abounds in scenes of poetic beauty and philosophic quite. There is an atmosphere about the place which facilitates an early realization.

The universal temple prominently features the universal symbol in neon signs representing the various faiths in different colours. The symbol is an invitation to the followers of the various faiths to seek after and secure peace there. This is Kotagiri's unique privilege.

Swami Omkarji who has blessed the undertaking by his presence at Kotagiri for the last four months has given a message to the members and friends of Lakshmi Villa Peace Centre and other devotees of the Mission of Peace on the eve of his departure from Kotagiri. The following is the text of his message - Editor)

Happiness is in relinquishment and misery is in accumulation, whether it is for a man of God or for man of the world. A man of God is after the imperishable wealth, the nectar of divinity is the life of selflessness. Whereas, the man of the world is after the perishable wealth, the carrion, the poison of selfishness

At the very outset, I want the members, the devotees and well-wishers of the Peace Centre in Nilgris to know that Lakshmi Villa does not belong to me or to anyone individual. It is the common property of all its devotees. It belongs to you and to your progeny, to all your devoted children in future also. Hence, it is not getting registered in my name or in the name of any individual, but in the name of the Managing Committee of the Mission of Peace so that it can remain as the common property of all the children of God, in every religion and nation.

These bodies are not permanent. They may perish today or tomorrow: for today man is and tomorrow he may not be. But before we giving these bodies and before the call comes from the great beyond, let us do our part for the good of the world to justify our lives, as men and women the children of God, nay His living images. Let not our joy be in living like vultures, running after the carrion but let our joy be in justifying our existence in human forms, as it has been said that, *paropakaramhamdam sareeram*. These precious human bodies are given to us only for the blessed privilege of service, not for squeezing others and accumulation at any cost.

These days I often say, Lakshmi Villa Peace Centre is a God Ordained Work. God has brought me here to help and serve you all. God has given us this rich and lovely property to serve and help His children for the good of all but not to use it for a selfish purpose. Let not our thought be what can I squeeze or get out of this valuable property. In the name of the God and of service to His children let our foremost thought be, what can I give to God's work? How can I serve God's children? Even if I give up this mortal body, after I am gone, how can I make my life memorable and helpful to all; let service be our motto. Let service come first and foremost, before the selfish self.

Ego, the little self is the root cause of all suffering and misery. Let us give a deathblow to the selfish self, the ego, for the good of ourselves as well as for the peace of all. In ignorance, if any of you think that this valuable property belongs to me, to Swamiji, you are hundred percent mistaken. Sometimes I feel, if it is God's will and in the divine plan, that I may never come here again, even to see the glorious future of the Kotagiri Peace Centre, who can tell of the morrow!

Hence all this belongs to you all! This is My Legacy to all of you. Even if you do not see me again or if I cannot come to Kotagiri, if this is my last visit to Nilgiris, I

request you all to do your part, to do your best in making the Lakshmi Villa Peace Centre, the International Centre of Peace and Health, helping and serving all the votaries of every religion and nation in all the East and the West. This is my last ardent wish and prayer to you all.

May God's richest blessings ever be upon you all and your dear ones and children and may your devotees lives be a blessing to the world of humanity.

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL

OM OMOM

(Peace June & July 1961)

8. THE HOLY MANTRA

(An inaugural offering for the *Rama namalikhithajapayagna* in Mysore)

Dear Loving and Living Images of Sri Rama,

Om Sri Rama Jai Rama Jai Jai Rama.

It is my happy privilege to take part in this holy function not only to inaugurate the 15 crores of *Sri Rama LikhithaYagna* but also to see the living images of Lord Sri Rama in all of you. I wish to offer my thanks in the first place to Sri Swami Brahmanandaji and Sri LakshmanJagat, the central pillars of Sri Sivananda Ashram for the opportunity they have given me, drawing me from a distance of nearly a thousand miles, from the wilderness of Totapalli Hills to lovely Mysore, the City of palaces and beautiful gardens.

Instead of 15 crores only, if you can all try to write next year 30 crores or even more, of *Sri Rama LikhithaYagna* I will be happy to come and inaugurate your next *yagna* also. It is blessed to be desireless. Freedom or *mukthi* is the inevitable result of desirelessness. But alas, how difficult it is to be free from all latent desires! It has been said, that all the people are mad in this world after some desire or other. Each of you know your own desires. My wish has been to spread the Peace Prayer from heart to heart, in every village and town in all the world, for it is a simple prayer which makes us to feel God's interpenetrating presence during the repetition itself. In accepting the sacred invitation for the holy inauguration, I have the longing to spread this simple Peace Prayer among all of you. In memory of the inauguration of the 15 crores of *LikhithaYagna*, may I request each and every one of you, to memorize and repeat the Peace Prayer also, along with your other prayers as often as possible. For it helps you all immensely. This Peace Prayer, has been translated

and published in 12 languages and it can be repeated in your mother tongue or in the language you wish to repeat.

Now, as I stand here facing Rama in all of you, there is only one thought in me. That thought is, what can I do to serve all of you? How can I help each and every one of you in a practical way? It has been my life's aspiration never to go anywhere or even see anyone, unless and until I help and serve you all in some way or other. As you are all the disciples of H.H.Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj, who has been dear and near to my heart since the last 40 years, and as you are the devotees of Lord Sri Rama writing so patiently the holy *LikhithaRamanama*, the least service that I can do is only to see Rama in all of you and be silent, feeling His presence. It is so easy to see Rama in all of you, for you are the devotees and emblems of Rama, but the acid test comes, when we can face Rama even in those who oppress and criticize us. The real sign of spirituality is to face God even from the Cross. How easy it is to repeat, *anthaRamamayambeejagamanthaRamamayam!*

All that we need now is only to practise to see Rama in all the world. Everything is within ourselves. There is nothing to learn from outside. We have to practise only what we have known already in our daily lives. The following adage is one of my favourite sayings that I repeat often and often. "If we do not practise what we have, what is the use of learning more and more from all the *mahatmas*, sages and saints of the East and the West? If we use what we have, what we have alone will lead us to perfection."

Coming back to our *RamanamaLikhithaYagna*, my thanks are due to all of you and to everyone who has written these 15 crores of *Rama Nama*. I feel in a way, atleast half of the virtue, *punyam* is coming to me, because you have given me the privilege of inaugurating this sacred *yagna*. But I am giving back to all of you, making my half-share full invoking Sri Rama's richest blessings on all of you. Every holy *mantra*, sacred affirmation, be it of the East or of the West is potentially divine, provided we have *shradha*, faith in it. Even the *Mantram of mantrams* devoid of faith, becomes a mere word. As our present holy *yagna* is centred now with *Sri RamaJai Rama, Jaya Jaya Rama*, this is the time for us and the right place for us to enter into the spirit of this.

May I share with you my personal experience, as I repeat this holy *mantra* word by word! As I repeat on write the first words Sri Rama, this whole body from top to toe is filled with Rama's presence. When I repeat the other two words *Jai Rama* all the earth is filled with Rama's presence. When I come to the closing words *Jai JaiRama*, I am no longer earth-bound. I am floating and flying in the skies, in the indescribable presence of Rama, where heavens are declaring His glory. With *shradha*, fervent faith by one repetition, I melt into dumb silence and my pen in the hand refuses to stir any longer. It is Rama within, without, above, below and all around. What else can I say, in these finite words? May we all feel Rama's presence now in all silence! May Rama, the indwelling light of our hearts bless us all with

Peace that passeth all understanding, which is the goal of precious human birth. May Rama bless you all with peace! This is the prayer of your brother Omkar!

MAY PEACE BE UNTO ALL

OM OMOM

(Peace Dec 1961)

9. SELFLESS SERVICE

(A message given to the Rotarians in Mettupalayam on 28-06-1961)

(The chief guest and speaker for the night was Sri Swami Omkar of Katagiri Peace Centre. Introducing the Swamiji, the Secretary Rtn. Dr. M. Venkateswaransaid; Swamiji is one who had dedicated his life to Peace-individual and collective. He left his studies and home in teens. When he was in the school and lived in Tapas in Himalayas for many years. Later in 1917 he founded Sri Shanti Ashram in Totapalli Hills in Andhra Pradesh. Later he toured U.S.A and Europe and established Centres there. He has many followers in these countries and in the East. He established the Mariya Ashram in Philadelphia. In Waltair and Tuni also there are Ashrams. The Katagiri Centre was found recently. The Swamiji has dedicated his life to Peace and to the uplift of the suffering humanity physically, mentally and spiritually.

After Prayers and songs by the Gurukula Children of the Ashram and reading of "My Legacy" by Sister Gnaneswari, Sri Swami gave his inspiring message which was listened by all with great attention. Sri Swami was kind enough to begin his soul-awakening talk by paying the highest tribute to the Rotarians whose sacred ideal service before self has been always dear and near to his heart. But he emphasized in his simple and loving words thus :)

Let me tell you my friends, selfless service is possible only where there is God-consciousness. A man with body consciousness can never render selfless service, for he is always expecting some reward or other in some form. The Swamiji spoke "Not a blade of grass moves without God's Will or Presence. He is here in me and in you all. It is "He" who is speaking in us. He is the One, Who is listening and breathing in us. When I speak of God, I am not speaking of the God, who is confined to a particular Religion or Nation. Neither am I speaking of God, who is in the far away sky or heaven. I am speaking of the God, Who is present here, Who is sparkling in your eyes, throbbing in your hearts and flowing in your very breath. If God is not recognized by you now, when will you recognize Him? God is Omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent. Feel, feel and feel His presence now and here.

He who wastes his moments wastes all his life. He who makes best use of moments, makes good use of all his life. Each one has an aspiration in life. The highest talk about "God" is silence. My aspiration these days is to not to talk of "God" but it is to help you all, to feel the presence of God. In my religion there are neither strangers nor foreigners for all are my own, because all of us have come from God, living in Him and going back to God. Hence, your peace is my peace. Your joy is my joy, for we are all the children of this One Indivisible God.

Selfless service is the greatest ideal of Rotarians. Serving others is serving our Oneself-the *Atman*. Please do not rely on my experience. Don't depend upon me. Let us not be satisfied by counting the cows of others in Mettupalayam and even in the whole of Nilgiris. Let us have Cow of our own, even if it gives a few ounces of milk. Your personal experience alone counts and not the experience of others. I am not asking you to renounce the world and to become *sanyasins*. Renounce the selfishness. When the ego is annihilated, life will become pleasant and a great blessing. Establish peace first in your heart. God is in our hearts. Man is searching for God outside, like a musk-deer searching for musk all over the forest and finally getting its heart pierced by the branch of a tree when musk oozes out. It realizes while dying that the musk was within itself.

Let us not be greedy or selfish like the Jackal. The thought of greed and selflessness reminds me of the story of a Jackal, who got into a fenced wine-yard by fasting and after greedily all the grapes got so fat, that it could not come out and hence had to fast again and get thin to get out of the fencing. Poor and naked we came in to the world and poor and naked we leave the world. Remember work is worship. If you use what you have, what you have will grow. The essence of my message is "God Realization Now and Here". Don't rely upon me or anyone else. Rely on the light which is ever shining within yourself.

(Then Swamiji explained the meaning of his uplifting Peace Prayer which begins with Adorable Presence. In memory of Swamiji's visit to the Rotary Club, he has requested all the Rotarians to memorize and repeat the Peace Prayer and thus establish Peace in their hearts and in their homes, converting their very homes in to Heavens of Peace on Earth. He concluded with the repetition and chanting of the Prayer and making us all to repeat the Prayer, along with him finally ending with the chanting of the Sacred Syllable Om with deep silence.)

(Sd).Rtn.Dr.M.Venkateswaran

(Peace June & July 1961)

10. PRAYERS OF VARIOUS FAITHS

(A Message Given On 31-05-1967 in the New Prayer Hall,
Peace Centre, Kotagiri.)

My heart rejoices to greet you all and to extend a hearty welcome not only to each and everyone of you, into the Peace Centre and into its Prayer Hall, but also into the Presence of God.

God is Omnipresent and if we believe in His Omnipresence, it is high time that we should feel His presence now and here as we have all gathered here in His name and by His grace.

In my religion there are no strangers, foreigners or outsiders, for all of us have come from Him and we live and work in Him and go back and merge in Him, when our work is finished here. As you are all my own, I wish to see each and everyone of you to feel God's presence here and now, more so as He is interpenetrating the very cells of our beings. So, my dear devoted friends, I request you all kindly to help me by feeling God's presence conscientiously as you sit in the Prayer Hall now by His grace.

We have just read the prayers of various faiths. Strange as it may sound, I feel all the followers of different faiths are sitting with us now, listening to our prayers. Let me make my point clearer. When we read the prayers of the Hindus, all the Hindus from everywhere join us. When we read the prayers of Christians, all the Christians from the East and West come to partake in our prayers. Similarly, when we read the Prayers of Jews, Zoroastrians, Buddhist, Jains, Muslims etc., the different followers of respective religions join us. We have to feel in our hearts that they are all with us now, taking part in our prayers, repeating their respective prayers. What we need now is to feel God's Presence consciously, knowing that as all rivers are flowing towards the same ocean, so also our prayers though different in words are leading us towards God, the one universal primal energy are the Indivisible Divine Spirit.

If there is anything that makes me sad and unhappy it is only when my words or messages of peace and love fail to enter into your devoted hearts, I long to awaken you all to help yourselves to feel the presence of God now and here as you sit here, for this moment alone is ours and not the next one. Please do not say, that you will try to feel God's presence when you go home and pray and meditate. This is the proper place now to feel His presence; when we cannot feel His presence here, how can we feel Him in the uncertain future or some

other place? Is he not present here now? Hence let us feel and recognise His presence in the living present moment, for, He is always eagerly awaiting our recognition in the stillness of our own purified hearts.

The essence of the practical religion of several long years which I have gained has been summed up into three small and simple statements noted below :-

I. Please do not rely upon me.

II. Please do not rely on anyone outside.

III. Please rely only on God, the indwelling light, which is ever present within us awaiting our recognition. Let us therefore merge within and feel God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience now and always.

As soon as we came into the Prayer Hall this evening we were all thrilled to see the light of the electric lights on the altar and on every side on the walls in the hall. If we get such happiness and joy at the sight of these finite lights, that appear and disappear, just imagine what ecstasy it gives to the mind, heart and soul to the imagine, nay to feel God's light, the indwelling light, which is the splendour of millions of lights! May I now leave you all quietly to feel that glory and ecstasy to your own calm imagination and introspection!

Somehow, it makes me sad to see people, so call devoted souls too, are not so thirsty to drink the nectar of God's love - the immortal drink or *amrita*. Many of them are unfortunately so restless running always after the fleeting clouds of name and fame. It has been said that we do not really live where our bodies are; but we live where our minds take us even without our knowledge. These days, however much I work hard in trying to serve you all, my heart is heavy and unhappy too, because I am not able to help you all in a practical way with mere words. You are satisfied with these finite words, but I am not at all satisfied as I feel always that God is above words.

My heart ever longs to serve you all, each and everyone of you more than ever in a very helpful and easy way. These days my inspiration is that no one should go away with empty and unsatisfied heart, from this Prayer Hall. Whoever comes here, he must take something with him filling his heart with life, light and love, the divine heritage of all of us. As it makes me disappointed to see you, atleast some of you going without assimilating Truth, identifying with the indwelling light, I request you all to make me happy by feeling the presence now and to carry the presence with you and thus to share It with all your dear and near ones, for our real happiness is only in sharing the light with all the children of God. I love to repeat often one of the thoughts or mottos that gives me joy and inspiration.

Here it is :-

If you want to be miserable, sad and worried, think of yourself. If you want to be happy, contented and peaceful, think of others. How to make them happy? Try to help and serve them in some way or other for; in serving any of the least of His children you are serving God only. Verily all of you, nay all the children in the East and the West in all the religions and Nations are really the children of God, the living images of God

We came to Kotagiri 25 days ago. When I analyse my life and daily work in all these 25 days I feel heavy and disappointed at the thought that I am not really able to help any of the people, for, the spiritual thirst is practically absent in them, as there is no real pining for God realization, the goal of human life.

In a way, I feel at least contented and satisfied now in serving the helpless, dumb animals. There is a dog here called Jimmy in the Peace Centre. When we came here, we were able to see its ribs on the body and count them, for it was thin and famishing without good care. Now with a little care, we have been able to take by His grace, we are not able to count now any of its ribs. Thus it gives one satisfaction that we have not come to Kotagiri in vain. Although we are not able to help the human beings who are not thirsty for God, we are able to help and serve atleast our Jimmy and its puppy Rammy, the dumb animal friends.

The little Rammy with all gratitude and devotion is always clinging to me, following me everywhere and sleeping where I sleep under my cot. Rammy the puppy, is under my cot sleeping at my feet as I am writing this message now. It closes its eyes and remains silent when I meditate also. When I take my food, it comes and rests at my feet. Sometimes it is touching to see the little faithful and devoted Rammy, taking one of my slippers and playing with it and finally sleeping on the slipper, keeping its head on it. I feel so deeply touched seeing its affection and devotion which is generally very rare in many of the human beings. Lovers of the dumb animals are expected to understand and appreciate the deep love and faithfulness of the so called dumb animals, who have ever been the real friends of man, the living image of God.

There has been a cow in the LaxmiVihar, Peace Centre, which was also neglected. It was famishing and not giving any milk. The gardener said that it would never give milk anymore. He therefore suggested even to sell it away, but I promised God to take all possible care of it and to see that it gives milk again by His grace we brought with us four *gurukula* children to help us here. They were lovingly cutting grass for the starving cow, each a basketful of grass everyday. My heart rejoices now to see the cow healthy, happy and strong also. I sent it for examination to the veterinary hospital. The good doctor there prescribes some tonic also and the cow, Gowri, feels so grateful for the tender care we have been able to take by His grace of her and little calf Lakshmi. Every time I see them as I pass by the mother and the baby they

both look at me tenderly and I feel that they are saying with their mute look and gratitude; thank you, dear Swamiji.

May God be praised and may all glory be unto Him for using me as an instrument in serving any of the dumb animal children.

I am always fond of sunshine, especially in Kotagiri as the rays of the sun are so vitalizing and stimulating, giving one health and strength. I take joy in repeating:-“If you wish to be healthy and happy and live long without sickness of any kind, Kotagiri is the place for you.”

Thus with such musings while I was having a sunbath in the Lakshmi Vihar looking at the flower trees around me, it made me sad to see some plant disease on their branches, some fungus or so. Immediately I requested one of the members of the Ashram to help the trees in taking away the unnatural growth called *Bhajanika*(thefungus), the over growth of the needles and harmful weeds with the help of the gardeners who were there in less than half an hour, the work of clearing the trees by cutting away the harmful growth was done. I was then happy as the trees were happy and every fragrant flower on them appeared as if saying ‘*namaskar*’, “thank you Dear Swamiji!” How can I ever describe the happiness I felt over this little service to the loving plants! I felt once again that I did not come to Kotagiri in vain, for, God has been using me at least to serve the plants also.

In these seventy three years of my life, if I have learnt anything; worthwhile, I learnt the preciousness of time, every moment of it to be spent usefully. Hence, I always take joy in repeating, that he who wastes moments wastes all his precious life. So my devoted friends, I thank you all for taking the trouble of coming to our spiritual gathering and let me take also the privilege of helping you all to help yourselves and your kith and kin in creating that great thirst for God realization now and here in this very birth and also in removing the words of selfishness, “I”ness and “My”ness and Egoism of every kind

Q. When shall I be free?

A. When the ego ceases to be.

All religions and philosophies are solved in this simple question and direct answer. My our ardent prayers and devoted bhajans and meditations lead us towards God consciousness, destroying the ego in us!

I love to conclude my message with two of my prayers that give me great joy and comfort in these days of test and trials, hoping that they will give you also the same happiness and peace

I. Dear God!Make others great and famous. Let me be always unknown and insignificant, doing silent selfless service to all.

II. Dear God! When others look at me, please let them see only The—Thy Light - but never this perishable body of blood, flesh and bones. Let them see only, Thy Self-effulgent light of the Sun of suns in me.

Let Swami be dead and Omkar be alive in all of you!

Be dead that ye may live!

This is a great illuminating truth. No man can serve two masters; that is God and mammon at the same time.

Real happiness, changeless light, eternal truth and infinite peace lie only in dying, while even living. If we really wish to live in perpetual peace, we have to die to the world of name and fame. This seems to be the living truth. No substitute are alternative to overcome all weaknesses and ignorance of every kind for anyone. The divine law is the same to one and all.

Let your ideal life speak of itself in silence without the need of any lectures or vain talks. When I came this evening into the prayer hall, the whole hall was filled with sweet fragrance. When I looked at the altar, the sacred symbol *aum* was garlanded all around with sweet smelling flowers. The flowers were not giving any lectures asking us even to look at them. Their ideal life of sweetness and fragrance itself is a great message, a living lesson.

May you return to your homes from here carrying the life giving message of the sweet smelling flowers. May your ideal life itself be the silent message, without the need of any words. May your silent life be a blessing to all the children of God in the East and the West!

As I see the lovely flowers and inhale their sweet fragrance, a helpful and inspiring thought comes to me now, looking at you all. Every one of you is a lovely flower from God. You are the living images of God. How wonderful just even to think, that all of us are the flowers of God! Today we offered ourselves before *aum* the universal symbol at the altar, the Light of lights, where anyone belonging to any religion can worship God in his own way. Let our minds and hearts be offered permanently now, in the name of one religion of love and one God of humanity, as we go forth into the world of activity to do our respective duties selflessly and lovingly as ordained by Him.

May we conclude now with the repetition of our simple and inspiring peace prayer and also the Peace Chant.

AUM !AUM !AUM !

(Peace July 1967)

11. WELCOME MESSAGE ON THE OCCASSION OF SRI V.V.GIRI'S VISIT (April 10, 1968)

I am so happy to extend the heartiest welcome to Sri.V.V.Giri and to each one of you present here on this occasion, not only to Sri Santi Ashram, as that belongs to you all, but more so to the universal peace of God, awaiting only your recognition. Although our one source is God, we solely exist in Him, and in Him we ultimately merge, yet that Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient power we are constantly forgetting. In serving every one of His children, without distinction, we are only serving God. With that recognition of God in all, for the last 50 years or more it has been my privilege to do whatever I have been able to do in His service.

It gives me the greatest pleasure today to be with my oldest friend, Sri Giri who has been watching with interest the gradual growth of the Ashram. His presence amongst us today sees the fulfilment of a desire long cherished. Sri Giri and I are not two but one, for, I see in him but myself.

It is a transcendental joy to feel that I am in the Light, the Light is in me, that I am the Light. Brahma can be seen in two ways - the manifested and the unmanifested. That which is manifested *becomes shakti*, the creative, the constructive power; the unmanifested is Brahma. Without God there can be no existence, no action. Without His will, can even a blade of grass move ever so little? Thy will indeed, My God, be done! In a song of Bhakta Tukaram of blessed memory, a sacred *mantram* leading towards life, towards realization, occurs in the words "Jaya Jaya Rama Krishna Hari Om". With each syllable the feeling of fullness with the all-pervading absolute Entity, comes first in the body, limb by limb, and then in the whole universe, within, without, above, below, and all around.

A devotee said on the occasion of the last birth anniversary that Swamiji will live for ever. He will die only when he wills. He is not like us. He lives eternally in God who is ever deathless. Death cannot approach him. I put it to you, think and ponder, can death come to anybody unless you will it? In the end, I thank you all for coming here from far and near, so that we can feel His presence ceaselessly.

(Peace April & May 1968)

12. HELPS AND HINDRANCES TO PEACE AND PROGRESS

(A message Delivered at the World-Good Will Day Mass Meeting at Grace Episcopal Church, New York City, on May 18, 1938.)

To solve this all important problem of peace and to realize the essence of our present theme we should understand three things:

- I. What is peace?
- II. What are the helps to peace and progress?
- III. What are the hindrances to peace and progress?

In the name of peace there has been too much talk, disturbing the little peace that has been left in the world in these times of war, conflict and aggression.

How few and rare are those precious souls who know what the real peace is! Is peace the five lettered word peace? Is it peace to be silent and quiet outwardly in a class room or meeting place? Is it peace not to have war in our own country?

Peace is all these and something more vital and soul awakening. We cannot speak of or describe the peace that passeth all understanding. It shines in the love of Christ, it is expressed in the compassion of Buddha; and it is manifested in the wisdom of Krishna and in the lives of all sages and saints in East and West. We cannot speak of peace, but it can be felt within, for it pervades and permeates the very cells of our being as well as the universe. It is the life, soul and goal of our existence.

It has been said that our age is to be counted not by our grey hairs but by the moments of peace we are feeling in our personal experience. Death is not the dissolution of the body, but the forgetfulness of peace. Without peace we are in a state of continuous death. Verily, peace is the only true life whether we recognize it now or in the uncertain future.

The greatest help to establish peace is the recognition of Christ-consciousness or universal love that excludes none but includes all, where the wide world is our home and all are the children of one God. The greatest hindrance to peace and progress is selfishness, identification with flesh and blood rather than with truth, the One presence. The spirit of Judas-selfishness and ignorance is making a wreck of spiritual life, dividing man from man in the name of sects, creeds, colours and nationalities.

I am never tired of repeating that it is the individual peace that paves the way towards universal peace; but we are trying to establish peace everywhere, in the whole world except in our own hearts. We are trying to reform others without reforming ourselves.

In the name of peace profound, it is high time to stop wasting our precious lives merely in talking about peace, but in living and breathing, ever having our beings centred in Peace. Look at the sweet-smelling flowers! They do not talk or preach, but in silence, in their very existence their fragrance is being felt and spread for and near imperceptibly.

Let us inhale and exhale peace not only now but always with every breath, in both silence and activity and thus by first establishing Peace in our own hearts may we make our lives a blessing to ourselves, our homes, our nations and the whole world; such is my sincere and constant prayer.

May Peace be unto all!

Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Dec 1959)

13. TRUE DEVOTION

(Given on 16 March 1972, the Telugu New Year and Anniversary Day of the Santi Ashram Branch in the home of Mr. & Mrs. ChittoorySwamy, Kakinada, E.G.D.)

My heart rejoices to see all of you and it longs to help and serve each and every one of you in a practical way. I do not wish to see any of you going away with empty hearts. I long to see that your devoted hearts are filled with light and peace, with God's indwelling presence, especially on this anniversary, which is also New Year's Day. I am one of those who believe that not a blade of grass moves without His will and presence. So may we all feel His presence now and here. This is my ardent prayer.

OM OMOM

Omnamastesatetejagatkaranaaya I

OM Namaste chitesarvalokaasrayaaya I

OM Namodvaitatattvaaya, mukti pradaaya I

OM Namobrahmane, vyaapine, saasvataaya I

Om salutations to the cause from which the world is born;
Om salutations to the pure consciousness which is the shelter of all worlds;
Om salutations to the *advaitatattva*, one without a second; to that which gives *mukti*, liberation;
Om salutations to Brahman, the Omnipresent, the eternal!

As not a blade of grass moves without God's Will or wish, it is He who has entered into the consecrated heart of Dr.PichayyaGaru and brought me in the middle of the night in the car of the devoted Smt. and Sri ChittoorySwamy for an emergency operation in the Government General Hospital, Kakinada.

It was my privilege to be under the efficient and tender care of Dr.P.Pichayya for more than two months, accepting the love and hospitality of all of you, the devotees of the Ashram in Kakinada; especially in the days when I was unconscious. By my long stay in Kakinada hospital I was brought nearer, closer to the devoted hearts of all of you.

I can never forget the day and night services of Smt. ChittooryManikyamba, Sri ChittoorySwamy and their dear ones and also of Sri Pydah Sri Ramakrishnayya and his devoted Mrs. Chandramathi Devi and other devotees. My grateful thanks to all of you and to Dr.Pichayya, who gave me a New Birth, *punarjanma* as he watched over me day and night, ceaselessly, and fought with Death itself. The loving Dr.Pichayya has brought my life back from Yama himself so I may have the opportunity of serving you all again.

Now, in this new birth, what can I do for all of you? 'How can I serve each and every one of you?' is my one prominent thought. I realize more than ever the preciousness of every moment. I long to be aloof from all the people of the world, who are running after the outer things of name and form, selling their souls for mammon worship. To justify your existence as human beings, I wish to see in all of you *daivaparitaapnana*, pining for God. How many of you are pining for God, shedding tears of ecstasy like Sri Ramakrishna Deva, just to see God! Blessed are they who are weeping for God. No more *pravritti* but *nivritti* is the message of the sages. God-realization now and here is needed in memory of the New Year and the anniversary.

As one word is enough for the wise, remember that **"Forgetfulness of God is death"**. Let me help you to help yourself, not after we leave this world but while we are still alive. Santi Ashram, the Mother Ashram, is the common property of all devotees. You are welcome there to stay temporarily or permanently! Hearty welcome awaits all devotees in the Ashram.

"Inhale and Exhale Peace, Thy birth-right. Your peace is my peace."

May I have the privilege of serving you, to help yourself establish peace in your heart and radiate it in the home, thus converting your home into a heaven 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 world at large, until peace pervades and permeates the whole universe, through your ideal life of peace!

This is the Prayer of your brother Omkar.

(Peace April 1972)

14.OM SRI GANESHAYA NAMAH

(The Essence of the message of Sri Pujya Swamiji delivered on 01-06-1975 at the time of the opening of the Vinayagar*Mantapam* in the Peace Centre, Kotagiri.)

This is an auspicious day because it is the opening day of Sri Vinayak*Mandapam*. Lord Vinayakar or Sri Ganesh is the dispeller of all troubles, tests and trials and giver of success to all those who trust Him. Our palatial universal peace prayer hall which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Sri.V.V.Giri is also blessed to have SriVinayak*mandapam* near by the prayer hall on the left side of it. Thus Lord Vinayak is blessing all the devotees, visitors and guests of the Ashram.

As they are entering into the Ashram gates, what a great privilege it is to have the blessings of Lord Ganesh as they begin to offer prayers especially in the universal prayer hall. Hearty welcome to all the devoted citizens of Kotagiri to receive the blessings of Sri Vinayakar, as they take part in the prayer hall of life, light and love, which belongs to all the children of God in every religion and nation. Hence peace centre extends to you all a hearty welcome on this holy day of opening of the Vinayakar*Mandapam* to begin a new life of universality to have love which includes all and excludes none with the blessings of Lord Ganesh.

As Haridwar is considered as the gateway to Himalayas, as Mettupalayam is considered as the gateway to Nilgris, the queen of hill stations, so also it is my ardent wish that the opening of the Vinayaka Mandir should give us an insight into the heart of the peace prayer that touches every heart leading us finally to universal peace.

May the Lord Vinayakar bless all the children of God in all religions with a heart that excludes none but embraces all.

In memory of this holy day may you all memorize the simple, helpful peace prayer also and repeat it both in the morning and evening regularly and also help us by spreading it near and far among your dear ones and friends, for the way to be happy is to make others happy.

The place to be happy is here
The time to be happy is now
The way to be happy
It's to make others happy.

May this sacred day be a blessing not only to those who are privileged to be present but also to all the devotees and children of God! Our grateful thanks to Pujya Swami Swarupanandaji the President and Founder of Sri SivanandaTapovan, for conducting the *puja* and giving an inspiring message on Sri Ganesh and for making the day successful and helpful to all the devotees who have come from far and near

and also to Sri Sadhu Markandeya, the General Secretary who is the life and soul of the peace centre and to his helper Sri Sadhu Ram. We are thankful to Rani Laxmi Devi for cutting the ribbon to open the Vinayak*Mandapam*. We are also thankful to our sister Kalyani for her Bhajan and Br. Sankar, Sri Dhonan, Sri S.K.Raman, Sri R.K.Raman and G.T.Bhojan, Sri N.V.Iyer, Sri Vasudevan the Inspector, Sri Vasudevan, the Prop. Of Modern stores, the silent helper, the President Sri Naanja Gowder and to his son Laxman. M.A and to all devotees and members that have helped not only in the function but also in the construction of the *mandapam*.

May God bless all the devotees and citizens of Kotagiri as well as the Nilgiris, India and the world. In conclusion I am never weary and tired of repeating that the God for whom we have been seeking and searching outside in temples, churches, in teachers, *gurus* is awaiting our recognition within - in stillness - in silence within ourselves. So may Vinayak bless us all with *nivrithi*, inner life, giving a death blow to our selfishness in memory of the opening day and the blessings of Sri Ganesh. How true are the wise words? If you want to be miserable, think of yourself. If you want to be happy, think of others. Remember always: "Service of man is service of God."

May our lives never be a burden to mother earth, but a great blessing to the world of humanity. Above all as you go forth from this holy function, may the blessings of Lord Ganesh be with you and may you carry His life, light and love with you and share the same with all His children and express the same in thought word and deed in each and every moment of your devoted lives.

May all the devotees and guests who receive the blessings of Lord Vinayaka be blessed with hearts of universality and all success! This is the ardent prayer of your friend, brother and well-wisher Omkar.

Lokassamasthassukhinobhavanthu!

May Peace be unto all!

OM TAT SAT OM

(Peace Sept 1975)

15. DHARMA – TRUTH AND PEACE

(FROM PEACE CENTRE KOTAGIRI)

I am very happy to tell you that God alone brought me here during this year in order to awaken you all to the real goal of human life, inspite of my unwillingness and hesitation to make this long journey in my present age of 85 years and delicate health. But some of the ardent devotees of Kotagiri attracted me here like magnets. I am very glad to notice that A.Guruswamy, B.Com., Mrs. A. Guruswamy, Smt.

Saraswathi Devi and Sri Vasudevan, Mrs. Vasudevan Smt. Radha Devi, Sri Pattabiraman, those still in service as Headmaster and his very devoted life-partner and Sri Subrahmanyam and other devotees are taking wonderful care of this peace Centre with their great devotion for Dharma-Truth and Peace.

I am sure they will attract many other ladies also with their wonderful ideal life of devotion. It is really ladies that are custodians of Dharma-Truth from time immemorial. As this is the year for the uplift of children, as mothers they have very heavy responsibilities, to bring them up spiritually by His Grace.

Sri A. Guruswamy with the hearty cooperation with a few other devotees is doing his level best to make the devotees of this centre know well the utility, usefulness and improved this peace centre. This was started mainly at the instance of late Lalitha Devi (Mrs. Lullu Wilding) an English lady, though a born Christian appreciated very well the ideals of the Santi Ashram. She visited the Mother Ashram in Totapalli Hills E G. Dt A.P. and appealed to me as it were that I should not make any delay in starting a branch of the Santi Ashram, Peace Centre at Kotagiri also in order to spread the universal message of love, peace for the happiness of all God blessed the starting of this peace centre. If she were to be alive now, she would have been extremely happy to see the progress of the peace centre and to see you all.

The main object of this centre is to uplift Dharma-Truth which alone helps to have real peace and know the goal of precious human life. This centre is to make know clearly that all religions in this world are good as there is only one God in the universe like the sun. It does not criticize any other religion as the essence of all religions is only one, love which alone helps the Peace of the world.

As we may be leaving this centre for the Mother Ashram on 5th July 1979 as there is very heavy work there and devotees there are eagerly expecting us back soon. We are unwillingly leaving you all. But I request you all heartily to cooperate with Sri Guruswamy the ideal Secretary and others to continue the good work that is being done now in order to make this peace centre really a powerful centre for the uplift of Dharma-Truth, which alone helps the peace of the world.

From the beginning I am expecting this centre to be an International Light House of love, real knowledge, Dharma-Truth and Peace, my main object in life. God bless you all to do such good service to humanity in order to achieve the above great object. We all feel deeply grateful for all your deep love and sympathy and prayers for the peace centre as well as for our welfare. Once again we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for all the good care you have taken us all during our stay in Kotagiri. My members of the Ashram also join me in offering their grateful thanks to all of you.

With God's richest blessings.

He remains in each and everyone.

May Peace be unto all!

(Peace July 1979)

16. ONE WORD IS ENOUGH FOR THE WISE

(The Convenor and Organizers of the 30th All-India Divine Life Conference, Shivanandanagar - 249192, TehriGarhwalDist, U.P. Himalayas.)

Om NamonNarayanayah !

Deeply grateful for your thoughtful invitation and for requesting to send you my message for incorporation in the souvenir on the occasion. My message has been always the message of peace which is Eternal and My religion has been always the Religion of Love that includes all and excludes none.

Inhale and Exhale Peace Thy Divine Birthright.

Peace Prayer which is essence of all vedas and all Religions in all Nations which gives me joy and inspiration, the repetition of which gives me immense happiness as I repeat it every day. I want to share my ecstatic experience of the *nirvanic* bliss with all of you the devoted and dedicated delegates for this conference from near and far in memory of our Gurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj, who has blessed this Shanti Ashram with his holy presence and sanctified this Peace Retreat with his prayers and meditations.

We are grateful to our ParamaPujya Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj, the Patron Chief of this Conference and the President of Divine Life Society Headquarters, Sivanandanagar who comes every year for the birthday to bless us all with the invisible presence of the *Gurudev* and with his divine love for every birthday on 21st January almost every year.

So I wish to see all the delegates of the East and the West to share my personal experience that I feel every day as I repeat our simple, helpful and inspiring peace prayer along with the universal prayer of our *Gurudev* Sri Sivanandaji! This world peace prayer has been translated into nearly 25 languages. We are sharing the Sanskrit and English version of the same prayer for the benefit of seekers of truth in the East and the West. Any aspiring devotee who wants to get the copy of it can obtain from the Secretary, Sri Shanti Ashram, Totapalli Hills (Via) Sankhavaram East Godavari Dt. A.P. South India and also from the Divine Life Society, Shivanandanagar.

PEACE PRAYER IN SANSKRIT

ParamaPujyaPrasannaPrakasaSwarupa!

Bhavan
sarveshamuparisarveshamadhahsarveshamanthahsarveshambahisrveshamparita
hah, sarvavyapyathishtasisada.

Bhavan *chakchushahCchakchuh,* *srotrashyasrotram,*
hridayasyahridayammanasomanah, swasasya, pranasyparanah, Atmanah Atma!
PreshtaBhagvan! Bhavantamatraiivaadhunaivajnathum, bhavadanugrahena,
sakthimdehi.

Ethadekamevaprachyateyasmabhihpratchyampradeetchyam, udeetchyam,
dakshinayamdikchuh. Janamthusarveytavasannidhyam! Prathijanampratisamuham,
prathirashtramshantihisahrudyanchavilasithameshaasmaakamhridyaprardhana.

Sarveshamshantirbhavatu

Om Shantisshantisshantihi

WORLD PEACE PRAYER IN ENGLISH

Adorable Presence!

Thou Who art within and without, above and below and all around, Thou who art interpenetrating the very cells of our beings, Thou who art the Eye of our eyes, 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 OmOm

As one word is enough for the wise, may the repetition of this simple peace prayer lead us to realize the goal and soul of precious human birth.

Let God-realization now and here be the life, soul and goal of all the delegates of this 30th All-India Divine Life Conference!

Remember that it is the individual peace that paves the way towards universal peace. So let us establish peace first in our devoted heart before we try to establish it in the world outside.

Sri Shanti Ashram, The Mission of Peace, the common property of all the children of God in the East and the West extends a Hearty Welcome to all the

organizers, Patrons and Delegates of this conference to see its life work of 62 years and with a request to spend your time in real rest and silence.

This is the ardent prayer of your Omkar who loves you all the delegates who are the form of one indivisible God who is pervading and permeating our beings as well as the entire universe! With God's richest and choicest blessings.

Hari Om Tat Sat Om

(Peace Aug 1979)

17. LIVE IN GOD

(To the devotees of Divine Life Society-Republic of South Africa, Durban)

Om namasthesatetejagatkaranaya

Om namasthechitesarvalokasrayaya

Om namastheadvaitatatvayamuktipradaya

Om namobrahmanevyapinesaswataya

Salutations to thee, the truth and causation of universe,
Salutations to thee, the formation and being of all the world,
Salutations to thee, one without a second, the giver of freedom,
Salutations to thee, Brahman, the pervasive and eternal one.

Sri Shanti Ashram belongs to you and you belong to Shanti Ashram. Our JayasoklalSoni and the twin sisters Nirmala Soni and Narbada Soni representing The Divine Life Society, Durban Branch of Republic of South Africa are in the midst of us today in Mother Ashram Thotapalli Hills. From boyhood days I live in my own world of God-consciousness. All the world is my home and all are sisters and brothers and to help, love and serve them is my real Religion. So for the peace of myself and for the peace of all to all the devotees of *Gurudev* Sri Swamiji Sivananda Maharaj in the form of Pujya Sri Chidanandaji Maharaj and Sri Swami Sahajanandaji Maharaj and all of you, my only prayer is to help me repeating simple, helpful and inspiring Peace Prayer-the essence of all Vedas and all scriptures in all religions all over the world.

Dehodevalayaprokthojeevodevasanathanah

Tyejethajnananirmalyam, soham bhavenapujeyeth !

The body is the temple of God not the outside temples in Benares or Kasi and other pilgrim places. The individual alone is God and destroying the ego, the physical

sheath and with universal consciousness let us chant *soham* and Om through love in our thought, word and deed.

I feel sad if there is misunderstanding in one indivisible God, for my love includes all and excludes none. If you want God, have love. It is very easy to speak and repeat like a parrot, love is God, where love is there is God. But it is very very difficult to see in all God and love all. Love of man is love of God. Blessed are they who speak about God.

When they can feel God's presence within, they can also very easily see Him in all. My heart longs to feel God's presence and make all to feel His presence ceaselessly. Let us not be empty, shallow and void. Let us be with God, our soul and goal. It is beginning, middle and end. Let us determine to live in God. Let us face Him in every moment of our life and let us see Him not only within but also see Him in all.

There is not even an inch of space where God exists not. He is existing from the tiniest atom upto the biggest planet and interpenetrating the very cells of all beings not only human beings but also in all the celestial bodies in the entire cosmos. Why do you want personal salvation?

Everything you see is the manifestation of God. All that you speak, see, imagine is God and God alone. God is beyond intelligence. God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient, who is the indwelling presence - the *adviteeyam* - the One without a second beginningless and changeless, and eternal reality. Who can say that the world is my home and all are my sisters and brothers and to love and serve them in silence and action is my highest religion. It is very easy to utter with lips but very very difficult to feel and put into practice. For this one should possess a big heart that loves all including all and excluding none. One should go on loving and serving whole-heartedly, because we are coming from One God, live, work, breath and bound to go back to the same God or merge in the same light.

God has no other body on earth than yours. He came to me in the form of JaysooklalSoni his devoted life partner Nirmala Soni and her twin sister Narbada Soni, now crossing two big oceans all the way from Republic of South Africa. I live in a world of God-consciousness as I told you in the beginning from my childhood days. Hence the simple Ideal of Sri Shanti Ashram is: To Live in God and help others to Live in Him. You must live in God and feel His presence and express Him in thought, word and deed. This is vedanta practical.

Lo! You are eternally in God and so feel His Presence ceaselessly. May all the devotees of South Africa and African countries be repeating and spreading peace prayer far and near for the peace of all, for it is individual peace that paves the way towards universal peace.

May Peace be unto all!

Jaya Jaya Rama Krishna Hari Om! This is the Shanti *maha mantra*. Let all feel the Light of lights - the Sun of suns - the indwelling *soham* light by constantly repeating

and feeling the interpenetrating presence of light within in the very cells from toe to the top of the head and be started with this *maha mantra* and be ever free like a *homa* Bird, for the goal of soul is freedom.

May Peace be unto all !

(Peace Jan 1980)

18. THE FLOWER OF HEART

(Short Speech delivered at Lord Muruga's temple at Nattakal near Kotagiri)

(A single day Lakh Archana *Pooja* was performed at Lord Muruga's temple at Nattakal on 07-06-1981. Sri Swamiji visited this temple and blessed the function success. The *bhaktas* of this Lord Muruga, consider Swamiji Omkar as Muruga Himself giving *darshan* in His form. So no wonder that Sri Swamiji graced the function. The short speech delivered on the occasion is published here.)

Deeply grateful for all your love and devotion with which you all have organized this Lakh *Bilva Patra Pooja* and are conducting the same. God is not anywhere outside away from you. He is residing in your own heart within you, awaiting your recognition. My thanks belongs to Him.

I am happy to see so many of you have assembled here and so much of pure flowers and *bilwa* leaves are offered at the lotus feet of Lord Muruga. This is outer *pooja*. It is easy to offer flowers and do outer worship. I want you all to offer our heart flower at His feet and make life blessed. How many of you are prepared for such sacrifice and inner worship? Don't waste words and make false promise that I am prepared to offer my heart flower. If only you are thinking continuously like *thailadhara* that God is within you, then only it is easy to offer your heart flower. When you surrender your heart flower to Him, no more of worldly thoughts will arise. You shall express your divinity in thought, word and deed. That is the highest worship. Don't be satisfied with outer *pooja* alone, be prepared to pay the price of your little 'I', all your desires and attendant selfishness.

I take joy in repeating always, I weep for those who do not weep for God. Constant remembrance of God alone and doing selfless service to God who is coming to you in the form of so many human beings will make your eyes wet, and tears of love flow from within you. Let your life be a blessing

to all the humanity in this way. Let no more outer *pooja* be performed without offering your heart flower. Every one of you are having the heart flower. Purify yourself and offer the same at His feet. Lord Muruga will certainly protect you. I shall then be very much pleased.

In memory of your holy visit to this Lord Muruga's temple and taking part in this *lakshapatraarchana*, realize yourself and remember that "Swami is Dead and Omkar is alive in all of you". Try to hear his small inner voice and practice feeling His presence. Try to forget body consciousness and feel always God consciousness, for God is not a person but a state of higher super consciousness.

I always feel I have done nothing. Sending your love and devotion, I feel my visit coming thousands of miles from Mother Ashram, Totapalli Hills and staying here more than fifty days now is not a waste. My time is precious and your time is also precious. Remember today alone is ours but not tomorrow. So let us make best use of the living present moment "now" alone in feeling His presence, SubrahmanyamGuruswamy and Pattabhiraman are offering their selfless services only to make you all feel God-conscious. Let their effort be not wasted. It requires your help and inner *pooja*.

My concluding message of love is doesn't be satisfied with outer *pooja* alone. Offer your heart flower and may you express God in thought, word and deed. I always love to help and serve you. May God bless you all.

Om OmOm

(Peace July 1981)

19. NON-VIOLENCE

(After the Steel Plant Agitation)

My Dear Children - the living images of the One indivisible God! Greetings of Peace and Love to you.

The Shanti Ashram - the Mission of Peace is your own spiritual home and it extends a hearty welcome to you, ever wishing your welfare and peace. We are surprised by the sudden visit of sixty students on a bus. Some of the members of the

Ashram were in fear, confusion and emotion, expecting needless damage and loss in the Ashram also. It was dark, they came at a late hour. But they were brought to me and I gave a short message on the preciousness of life and time and exhorted them to make best use of their lives repeating the helpful peace prayer. We all had our usual study of Cosmic Flashes, prayers and *bhajan* with the repetition of peace prayer in Sanskrit, Hindi, English and Telugu and *RaghupathiRaghavaRajahram*, *prasadam* was distributed and they all left in peace, promising to memorize and repeat peace prayer spreading it also near and far. May all glory be unto God and long life of service and peace to all the students.

As my religion of love includes all, excluding none, all the students are my children and they are related to me as much as anyone in the Ashram. I love them all wishing their welfare. Their tests and trials are my tests and trials and their problems are my problems also, hence my heart longs to help and serve them wishing their welfare. What is my message to students of *Bharatvarsha*! In the first place I want to remind you, that you are blessed to be born in the *punyabhumiaryavartha*, the Land of spirituality where love of mankind on humanity is your very foundation. The apostle of truth and non-violence has been our *pitha* father, mother, *guru* and our ideal in all our tests and tribulations. If we consider Sri Gandhi Mahatmaji as our goal and soul as our *jathipitha*, the father of the whole nation, is it not our bounden duty to walk in his foot-prints faithfully and unfalteringly bringing credit to all great sacrifices, in bringing freedom to motherland?

My heart bleeds to see so much of loss of life and great damage of valuable properties, all in the *vukkukarmagaram*, Steel Industry. Not a blade of grass moves without His will. Let us do our part and leave the rest to God. He knows what is best to everyone of us and to each provenience and nation in the world. If we were born in Pakistan or China, we can pursue the path of destruction and damage to property and life. Our duty as Indians, the children of *BharathaMatha*, is only to have, forbearance and love and to do good even to those who hurt us. Let us not be the cause of burning away or destroying even a broom stick. Hatred leads to more hatred. Violence leads us into greater suffering and loss. Where does all this burning away of the stations destroying the records and property lead us? Does these violent and harmful acts make our *jathipitha*, who has given us *swarajya*, freedom happy? Gandhi feels very sorry for us. He is blushing in shame to see his own children, steeped in ignorance, stooped to violence, irreparable loss and bloodshed. After causing the loss of many innocent lives of your fellow students after setting fire to the Government buildings, causing the loss and destruction of valuable properties, inconveniencing the public in so many ways, where does it all lead to? This may be proper way too *rajakars* and the Chines, but not to you, the children of Mother India - the land of spirituality and forbearance, the followers of Sri Mahatmaji the apostle of non-violence. Please make a retreat from the violence of love, from the unrest to the real, from the mortal to the immortal. What difference does it make, whether you have this Vice-Chancellor, that Vice-Chancellor, for all are the children of God.

What you need is to imbibe the holy principles of love, truth, non-violence, friendliness and love of all humanity. Let others be great and famous, let us be contented to be unknown, but ever walking in the path of truth always setting an example not only to the students everywhere, but to all the people of the world in the East and the West. If we believe in God the very soul and goal of our existence, basis and foundation of our very life, it is high time that we should turn from violence and destruction to love and peace. What does it profit you, if you gain the whole world losing your own precious soul? After destroying the whole of Andhra Pradesh, setting fire to all the stations and public buildings causing loss of precious lives and valuable properties does it give you joy to have even a hundred Steel Plants, in exchange to such ghastly death and destruction?

I am not trying to give you any cheap advice which is easy to give out of the fullness of my heart, considering you as my own, I am trying to share with you my inner thoughts, that are gushing from the care of my heart, wishing your welfare, success and peace. It is my wish that you should be true to your ideals and aspirations, but only remember where you were blessed to be born. Remember your motherland, remember your *Jathipitha* - Sri Mahatma Gandhi and other saintly leaders and try to walk in their blessed foot-prints, with credit and honour to the holy land that has given us Krishnas and Buddhas. Let us not be the cause of loss to any property which cannot be replaced. We are at liberty to protest and fast, but with love and prayers invoking God's blessings on us. Remember that truth can never be crushed and truth alone triumphs in the long run.

Kindly accept my fervent prayers for you assimilation and understanding, wishing your welfare, as your brother and well-wisher. Let your real *dharma*, the real ideal, the highest duty be to God, the indwelling light where it is all love to all the world of humanity, but never a trace of hatred or violence. Let us deserve and no need of desiring. As we try to be true to God, light within, all tests and trials will pass away like the passing clouds before the effulgent sun. What else can I say in those finite words, I love you dearly and deeply, for your peace is my peace and your freedom is my freedom. May God's richest blessings ever be upon you all and may your devoted lives of love be a blessing to all His children in the world. This is the ardent prayer of your well-wisher and brother Omkar.

Fast was broken, promises were made. Alas it hurts the very soul to hear of the loss of so many innocent lives and damage and destruction amounting to many crores of rupees. How can these lost lives and the irreparable loss and destruction, loss and suffering to the poor and helpless people, can ever be replaced or recovered. Such heinous crimes were done only by *pisachies* - followers of Satan, in the age of *rakshasas*, but never in the age of Sri Mahatmaji and Sri Vinobaji and other saints. Let not the blind lead the blind, inciting the innocent hearts of children filling their minds with hatred and violence.

May *Bhagavan* lead the innocent students the children of the holy land of Bharatha, from violence to non-violence from untruth to truth and from mortality to immortality.

A HUMBLE OFFERING

A Humble Offering to all those unfortunate souls who have lost precious lives in the tragedy of the Steel Plant, with prayers for the Love, Harmony and understanding of all the children of God!

May Peace be unto all

OM OMOM

(Peace May & June 1990)

20. MY HOMAGE TO SRI VISWANATHAMJI

ompurnamadahpurnamidam, purnathpurnamudachyate

purnasyapurnamadaya, purnamevavasishyate.

It is a privilege to take part in celebrating the birthday of our Sri Viswanathamji. Sri Viswanathamji's birthday always reminds me of the birthday of myself, for Sri Viswanathamji and Omkar have never been two but one. How shall we celebrate his birthday now? Sri Viswanatham does not want any words of our praise. Any finite words of praise will be little for he is ever complete. All that he wants from us is to be selfless devoted and dedicated and to be in tune with the infinite.

We often celebrate the birthdays in Shanti Ashram, by fasting and in silence with silent prayers. Many of you must have heard and read of our Peace Prayer? How many of you have memorized and been repeating the Peace Prayer, for the peace of yourselves, as well as of others. The greatness of Peace Prayer is, that it makes you feel God's Presence, during the repetition of the prayer itself. Please try it, even as an experiment in memory of our Viswanatham's birthday.

Dr. Chatrapathi M.B.B.S., from Junaghad writes that he had a taste of *samadhi - nirvana* by repeating Peace Prayer 108 times. Sri Atmananda - the Editor of our Peace in the German Language, from Germany writes that Peace Prayer has been his Talisman, in all his tests and trials, giving him added strength, joy and peace. Our Sister Sushila Devi used to say, that Peace Prayer is the golden link to unite the Individual with the Universal. It was Sri Ramakrishna Deva, who said that all people are made in this world after something or other. What is your madness? Are we mad

after name, wealth and other perishable goods of the world? By introspection and self-analysis each one should examine his desires of the mind and know his madness. I do not know your madness, but I know my madness or mania.

My mania, life's aim and aspiration has been to spread this Peace Prayer from heart to heart, in all the villages and towns, not only in India but also abroad. As it is the Individual Peace that paves the way towards Universal Peace, I request you all, first to establish peace in your hearts and thus radiate peace in your home and then in your community, in the nation and the world at large. Life is complete, it is heaven with the awareness of peace and it is hades, devoid of it and it is a mere burden to Mother Earth. In memory of our Sri Viswanatham's birthday, let us all repeat now our Peace Prayer. Let us memorize and be repeating it, not only now but also at the hour of dawn and dusk, and as many times as possible. Whenever there is a space moment and thus help to establish peace in our hearts as well as in the universe. I feel confident this way of spreading peace from heart to heart, will be dear and near to the heart of our Sri Viswanatham also, in whose name we have all met here, to pay our homage and to celebrate his birthday.

May God's richest blessings ever be showered abundantly on our beloved Viswanathamji and may our prayers be for his longest life, service and peace.

May peace be unto all of you.

Let us be still for a while recognizing Him, not only in sound but also in the waveless silence.

Lokasamasthasukhinobhavanthu.

Om Santi Santi Santi

An Offering to Sri Viswanathji. Lovingly by Omkar.

(Peace Sept & Oct 1958)

