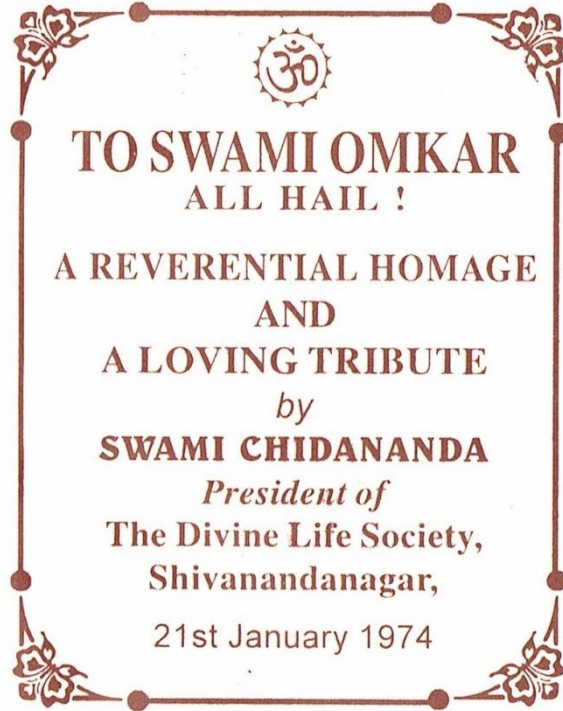


TO SWAMI OMKAR

The Mission Of Peace - Sri Santi Ashram



TO SWAMI OMKAR

The Mission Of Peace - Sri Santi Ashram

TO SWAMI OMKAR

ALL HAIL !

A REVERENTIAL HOMAGE

AND

A LOVING TRIBUTE

by

SWAMI CHIDANANDA

President of

The Divine Life Society,

Shivanandanagar

21st January 1974

TO SWAMI OMKAR

The Mission Of Peace - Sri Santi Ashram

AUM

**SWAMI OMKAR - A LIVING
EMBODIMENT OF COSMIC LOVE
AUM SHANTI !**

Loving Salutation! And reverential homage to beloved and worshipful Sri Swami Omkar Maharaj, the saint of Shanthi Ashram. Sri Swami Omkarji is a Messenger of Divine Peace. He is himself Peace Personified and Love in a living form. The LOVE that infills this Man of God is no ordinary love of earthly kind but it is God's Love manifesting in and through him enveloping the entire Universe and extending to every living creature and even going beyond to include in its all encompassing cosmic embrace everything that exists. Even inanimate things, nay every atom in existence comes within the orbit of this godly man's vibrant spiritual Prema (Love). This holy Sage of the Totapalli Hills is a Cosmic Benefactor who is verily God's boon bestowed upon mankind and a rare treasure to the World and a blessing unto humanity. Sri Swami Omkarji's sublime mission in life is bringing to mankind the blessedness of PEACE. This noble service Sri Swamiji has been engaged in doing for the past nearly half a century through THE MISSION OF PEACE which Revered Swamiji founded to fulfil his irresistible inner urge to be of service unto all mankind and thus give expression to the boundless LOVE that filled his entire being. The Shanthi Ashram which constitutes the headquarters of

TO SWAMI OMKAR

The Mission Of Peace - Sri Santi Ashram

THE MISSION OF PEACE is sanctified by the Holy Presence of Revered Swami Omkarji Maharaj and the spiritual love and peace that Swamiji emanates pervades the entire Ashram. The very plants and trees and their flowers and foliage seem to absorb this peace and love and put forth their very best in a living response to this divine influence which he radiates. Swamiji's spiritual mission and his message of peace and love and the spiritual unity of all mankind is well known throughout the World. His numerous books as well as the monthly journal PEACE have been bringing his soothing as well as inspiring message to modern mankind in all parts of the globe. His holy name has thus become a byword in the homes and hearts of countless people of many countries who have come to cherish great love for him in whom they see a Christ-like apostle of God's Love and peace. The present writer first came to hear of and know about Revered Swami Omkarji through the Sage of Rishikesh, Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj while he (the writer) was at his feet in discipleship and holy service. This sevak of Sadguru Sivanada then came to perceive the great love and admiration Sivanandaji Maharaj had for Revered Swami Omkar and the terms of spiritual fellowship with which he referred to him. Thus, this servant conceived a deep reverence for beloved Swami Omkarji. This was so far, back as 1945. Since then there had been an eager desire to have Swamiji's darshan and to sit in his presence and receive his blessings. However, for a very long time, this was not to be. This servant's longing for Swamiji's darshan was fulfilled only a few years back. More than twenty years after first coming to know about Swamiji and his MISSION OF PEACE through Revered Sadgurudev Sivanandaji, this servant had the rare joy and unique good fortune of

TO SWAMI OMKAR

The Mission Of Peace - Sri Santi Ashram

obtaining the first darshan and holy satsang of Swamy Omkarji Maharaj at the Ashram. Revered Swamiji received our party with the greatest love and welcome. That night at the Satsang he spoke with much love and admiration regarding Sri Swami Sivanandaji and recalled the latter's visit to the Santi Ashram and his stay with him more than thirty years previously. This visit and darshan gave me very great joy and I felt blessed indeed.

The next time I managed to visit Santi Ashram and meet Swamiji, he was convulsing from a painful major surgical operation and the doctors had forbidden even the least exertion. They had implored him to take complete rest and to avoid even talking. Hence, Swamiji Maharaj was observing silence. Yet, nevertheless, he made an exception when I met him and broke his silence and spoke to me inquiring about my health, welfare etc. I was overwhelmed by this special consideration thus extended to me, a mere junior and a sadhak upon the path while Swamiji belonged to that generation of spiritual teacher contemporaneous with my worshipful Guru Swami Sivanandaji himself! I was therefore actually in the position of a servant and devotee in the spiritual sense and in no wise merited any such consideration from revered Swamiji. If they had just told me that Swamiji was keeping silence under the doctors' advice, this would have been quite sufficient to me who had come for his holy darshan and to sit for a while in his Presence. For I had come to hear of his serious ailment, hospitalization, and bed-ridden condition and had journeyed to see him and inquire after his progress in health. Yet, here he was treating me as though I was someone, treating one who was in the position of a

TO SWAMI OMKAR

The Mission Of Peace - Sri Santi Ashram

servant and a junior to him, like an equal. This moved me intensely. It also strongly reminded me of this selfsame trait in Sri Gurudev who was to me the living personification of the significant term "amaaninaa maanadena". At the same time this noble trait of Swamiji made me realise why he had become so especially dear to Gurudev, who ever admired simplicity of nature and humility wherever He saw it. No doubt this was one of the reasons that had endeared Swami Omkar to Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj who was Himself like child in artless simplicity and of unassuming nature. Swami Omkarji is a simple Child of God and he has so "emptied himself" that now GOD has filled him. Sri Swami Omkarji Maharaj is thus a living shrine Of the HERE-AND-NOW GOD and this Divinity Swamiji lives to radiate into all the world.

And also, Swamiji sees this selfsame Divinity in all beings, in all things, everywhere. I have seen him speaking to plants and addressing them lovingly and asking their pardon for having forgotten to water them upon some hot day. And to pour out on them an extra dose of water accompanied by much love in order to compensate and make amends for neglecting to water ("as promised") the previous day. For, to Swamiji, wherever his mind moves there he encounters the Divine Presence. Wherever his senses alight, whatsoever they perceive there and in that Swamiji perceives that the Universal Presence Divine. He literally "lives, moves and has his being in GOD" all the time. No wonder therefore, that anyone who draws near to Swamiji Maharaj and sits by his side is immediately in THE PRESENCE which Swamiji carries with him and behold before him every moment, verily with every incoming and outgoing breath of his. It would not

TO SWAMI OMKAR

The Mission Of Peace - Sri Santi Ashram

be far fetched to say that SWAMIJI LIVES GOD. To be in his persence therefore, is to simultaneously enter in to the Living PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT DIVINE. And in this GREAT PRESENCE all find Oneness. For in GOD all are indeed One. This, the Grace of PEACE, of LOVE and of UNITY are being bestowed upon present day HUMANITY through SWAMI OMKARJI MAHRAJ by the ALMIGHTY BEING. Swamiji is God Grace made manifest to show the man the path to Peace through a life of Love and loving, Service.

Upon this joyful and most auspicious occasion of his, Holiness' 80th Birthday I greet him with love and pay my homage with devotion by these lines I have penned as a votive offering placed at his feet. May Swami Omkarji live long to radiate love to grant Peace and to teach the way of Service which is love in expression and an unfailling and effective means of experiencing Oneness. ALL these are the bright rays of the radiance which Swamiji is. My silent homage unto him, the spiritual messenger and apostle of LOVE, PEACE, SPIRITUAL ONENESS and SERVICE. Hail to thee, beloved Swamiji!

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti

Swami Chidananda

