

*Date: 29th Dec 2015*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*Sai ram,*

*At the outset, let me personally wish each one of you a very happy new year, full of Divine Bliss, Peace and Happiness.*

*I am indeed overwhelmed with the love, affection and confidence that you have expressed for me and I am indeed grateful to Bhagwan for considering me fit to take up this task assigned to me and I pray to Sai to continue to guide us all with His Immense Love and Anugraha.*

*On the onset of the New Year, Let us pause here and reflect on some important points :*

*Indeed the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation is the best Organisation in the world as this is the only Organisation that gives us an opportunity to transform ourselves and by transforming ourselves inspire a change in others. Hence, the motto of our Organisation "Transforming self to transform the world." is a path setter in many ways.*

*Bhagwan has given us the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation and has lent His Name to it, so that we are afforded an unique opportunity to have a one to one relationship with Him and proceed with the self confidence that He is always with us.*

*What is the Message, in essence, that Bhagawan wants us to practice?*

*Bhagawan has repeatedly told us that we are not ordinary beings and that we are Divine. Bhagwan has referred to each one of us as "Divyatmaswaroopas" and thus we must live our daily lives with faith*

*in this message. However, to experience this, dear brothers and sisters, mere rhetoric is not enough. No amount of sycophancy, nor plagiarism, nor splash of grandeur or wealth can help. We can experience this only by practice ,practice and practice of His message.*

*Every wing of the Organisation is important for our realization of the Divinity within each one of us.*

*Bhajans and Nagarsankirtan are an essential part of the process of Namasmarana that helps us to control our mind, fills our hearts with love and sweetness and helps us to hear the Voice of God from within each one of us.*

*Sadhana Camps and Study Circles help us to understand that Truth never changes.*

*Educational Programmes and Balvikas are necessary to promote character and virtue .*

*Seva rendered must be done selflessly for seva in our organisation has no place for ego . Seva must be rendered without any sense of doership or attachment but purely as a humble offering to God.*

*Dear Brothers and sisters, in the next 10 years , our goal must be to come together and realize this Divinity in each one of us , change ourselves, inspire others by our example and ensure that the name of Sai reaches every nook and corner of this mighty nation called Bharat. Such a lofty ideal requires that we must practice 3 simple things:*

- a) Remember Sai is always within us and in every other person*
- b) Speak sweetly, politely and if possible speak less*

*c) Spread love through selfless service*

*Thus our endeavour must be to ensure that every individual, be it a woman, man or child, must be provided with an opportunity to undertake some service in the Organisation .*

*Hence, we must make every attempt to have bhajans in every home in our city , town or village ,Study Circles and Sadhana camps must be held regularly to promote ways of controlling the vagaries of mind and promote peace. Balvikas and value classes must be held in every home and school so that children grow up with strong character:*

*In the field of Seva, two points must always be kept in mind*

*a) See His Divine Hand in all Seva*

*b) At the end of Seva, assemble and assess how the Seva has impacted you.*

*Narayan Seva can be promoted in every household, regardless of color, caste and creed . Every woman of the home must be encouraged to set aside a fistful of raw uncooked grains every morning and finally at the end of the week /month, cook the same and offer it to the poor and needy in the vicinity of her home.*

*The practice of the message of ceiling on desires is a dire need of today, not only for personal happiness but also as a national duty to the environmental concerns.*

*Swami's Message of respect of all faiths must be a norm of behavior in our day to day life.*

*By adopting a full throated inclusive attitude at all levels of the Organisation, I am sure that we can inspire all mankind to practice the universal and secular message of Sai to every nook and corner of our motherland.*

*However, with all the work that we are doing or are going to do, a word of caution is necessary at this stage for all of us. We must keep our focus on our Lord and Master who is the Indweller and not be led away or carried away by claims of people who claim to assume Divine Powers or who claim to be mediums. Remember Sai has always vehemently taught us to be self confident, this will promote self satisfaction and lead us onto self sacrifice and eventually to Self Realization .. which is the goal for all of us.*

*Bhagawan came to make us all self confident, to listen to the Inner voice ...the voice of conscience, "Prerna" which is the Truth and when this Truth is put into action, it is Dharma , and the resultant effect is peace or shanti .*

*Remember Sai never wanted to start a new Religion, He always said there is only one Religion,... the Religion of Love. There is only one caste... the caste of Humanity . There is only one God...He is Omnipresent.*

*Let us join hands today and spread this message of Love throughout this year, so that we become true reflections of His Glory and our lives become His Message.*

*Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu*

*Jai Sai Ram!*