

**Inauguration of the
Activities of the JSS Spiritual Mission-USA**

Monday, Sept. 4, 2006

Benedictory Address

by

His Holiness Jagadguru

Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji

Jagadguru Sri Veerasimhasana Math

Suttur Srikshetra, Karnataka

ಅಖಂಡಮಂಡಲಾಕಾರಂ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಂ ಯೇನ ಚರಾಚರಮ್ |
ತತ್ಪದಂ ದರ್ಶಿತಂ ಯೇನ ತಸ್ಮೈ ಶ್ರೀಗುರವೇ ನಮಃ ||

*I bow to the Guru who helps me realise
God by whom this entire Universe of
movable and immovable objects is pervaded*

Sri Siddheshwara Swamiji, Bijapura, Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswathiji, Rishiksha Sri Gurumatha Amma, Bangalore, Dr. Sri Shivananda Shivacharya Swamiji, of Sri Hiremath, Tumkur and other revered spiritual heads, Sri B.S. Yediyurappa, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of the Government of Karnataka, Sri M.P. Prakash, Hon'ble Home Minister and Hon'ble Minister Sri Kattasubramanya Naidu, Sri Amaranatha Gowda, President, AKKA, Legislators and other dignitaries from Karnataka, the President, the Secretary and the other office bearers of the Spiritual Mission, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an auspicious occasion. JSS Spiritual Mission which has its roots in our Sri Math should find itself established here causes us both happiness and surprise. As Allama Prabhu says:

ಎತ್ತಣ ಮಾಮರ ಎತ್ತಣ ಕೋಗಿಲೆ -
 ಎತ್ತಣಿಂದೆತ್ತ ಸಂಬಂಧವಯ್ಯ?
 ಬೆಟ್ಟದ ನೆಲ್ಲಿಕಾಯಿ, ಸಮುದ್ರದೊಳಗಣ ಉಪ್ಪು -
 ಎತ್ತಣಿಂದೆತ್ತ ಸಂಬಂಧವಯ್ಯ ?
 ಗುಹೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗಕ್ಕೆಯೂ ಎನಗೆಯೂ
 ಎತ್ತಣಿಂದೆತ್ತ ಸಂಬಂಧವಯ್ಯ ?

- ಅಲ್ಲಮಪ್ರಭುದೇವರು

*What is a mango tree to a cuckoo-
 Of what relation is one to the other?
 And, yet, they come together,
 The gooseberry on top a hillock,
 Of what relation is it to the sea - salt?
 And yet they come together.
 Tell me, what kinship is there
 Between me and Guheshwara Linga?
 And, yet, have we not come together!*

What the vachana of Allama is saying is that apparently unrelated relationships happen in a miraculous way. If a cuckoo and a mango tree, the gooseberry and the sea - salt get related, surely people who live in different cultures and different time-zones can come together.

Sri Suttur Math, located on the banks of the river Kapila in down South Karnataka, had not thought of founding a centre for spiritual activities here; there was no such intention; nor was it imagined a few years ago. And yet the centre has come into being! We attribute the successful realisation of the Centre to the far-sighted vision of our spiritual teacher, Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Mahaswamiji.

This math established by Adi Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara Bhagavatpadaru has a long and unbroken history of spiritual glory. Each seer who headed the Math has contributed his share. Sri Shivarathreeshwara Swamiji, known as Mantra Maharshi, and Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Mahaswamiji through the strength of their spiritual meditation, have phenomenally enriched the Math. And we believe that the establishment of the centre became possible through their blessings.

The relationship between India and America is like a happy coming together of the wealth and happiness of the worldly and the non-worldly.

India by devoting itself to an unceasing spiritual quest for over several thousands of years has gifted the world with philosophy and metaphysics of rare value. Saints and seers of the stature of the Buddha, Mahavira, Shankara, Ramanuja, Basava, Haridasas, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Gandhi and others have among them created a glorious spiritual tradition. It is because of these that Indian spirituality has become a perennial river, a river which never goes dry. Naturally, therefore, spirituality and India have become interchangeable words.

America has a history of more than two and a half centuries. But its amazing achievements during this short period, in the fields of science and technology and in medicine, are breath-taking. Carrying on most sophisticated scientific research in several areas, America has contributed enormously to the growth of human happiness and health. Through on observance of punctuality and honest work-culture, America has become a role model to other countries.

The world moves in the right path, in the right direction, only when spirituality and science develop not in a lop-sided fashion but harmoniously, and go hand in hand. The Bhagavad Gita rightly says;

ಇದಂ ತು ತೇ ಗುಹ್ಯತಮಂ ಪ್ರವಕ್ಷ್ಯಾಮ್ಯನಸೂಯವೇ |
ಜ್ಞಾನಂ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಸಹಿತಂ ಯಜ್ಞಾತ್ವಾ ಮೋಕ್ಷಸೇಶುಭಾತ್ ||
- ಭಗವದ್ಗೀತಾ 9-1

*To thee who dost not cavil,
I shall now declare this,
the greatest secret, Jnana with Vignana,
knowledge and experience,
which having known thou shall be liberated
from evil.*

- The Gita: 9 - 1

D.V.G, a celebrated Kannada poet, says;

ಹೊಸಚಿಗುರು ಹಳೆಬೇರು ಕೂಡಿರಲು ಮರ ಸೊಬಗು |
ಹೊಸಯುಕ್ತಿ ಹಳೆತತ್ವದೊಡಗೂಡೆ ಧರ್ಮ ||
ಋಷಿವಾಕ್ಯದೊಡನೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಕಲೆ ಮೇಳವಿಸೆ |
ಜಸವು ಜನಜೀವನಕೆ - ಮಂಕುತಿಮ್ಮ |

- ಡಿ.ವಿ.ಜಿ.

*The tree looks beautiful when its roots are old,
and the shoots new;
Dharma is a mix of new strategies and ancient
principles;
When words of Saints go along with those of
Scientists
Life glows bright - Manku Timma.*

- D V G

Today an awareness of this kind of spirituality is most necessary, and each man needs to have it. It is through moral and sincere living that man can feel, have access to inner happiness. It is the spiritual wealth within the heart of man that enables him to live his daily, routine life efficiently and economically. To bring into meaningful harmony the demands of the work-a-day world and the world of the spirit must be every one's objective. It is only this which will make the present day world pleasant and non-stressful.

The Spiritual Centre will work in this direction. Many wrong notions about India which were current have rightly been dispelled through the efforts of people like Swami Vivekananda and other

spiritual teachers. But it is work which needs to be continually done. The centre, in its own humble way, proposes to carry on this spiritual endeavour.

One of the major objectives of the Spiritual Centre here is to enable men to achieve contentment and inner mental health. The world we live in has many temptations to offer and we are pulled in different and often in conflicting directions. This centre hopes to offer men caught in the situation a true, tranquility - inspiring spiritual centre.

The AKKA convention has ended successfully. During these three days members representing India, political leaders, writers and artists have actively participated in the programmes of the Convention and made it a memorable event. Shri Amaranatha Gowda, the President, has ably managed this rather demanding job.

Sri Siddheshwara Swamiji will be with you for a few weeks here; your thirst for knowledge he surely will satisfy. His is an exceptional personality.

And he lives a simple and beautiful life. A moving encyclopedia of philosophy and spiritual wisdom, he has outgrown normal human limitations and is tall, like your Empire State Building or the Statue of Liberty. You are fortunate in having him here with you.

The number of non-Indian Residents today is very large. We are happy they are here in large numbers. We wish that many Organisations and Associations of the NRIs, Veerashaiva Samaja of North America and America Kannada Koota Association, will work with this Centre and offer their much-needed cooperation. The Spiritual Mission will only be too happy to work in association with all our NRIs of India, and the joint effort, we are sure, will help us preserve and promote Indian culture and spiritual thought. Happily there are here a large almuni who have settled down in various parts of America, and they have made the Math and JSS Institutions proud. If these alumini works with the Spiritual Mission, many of the goals can be realized sooner than expected.

We are happy that many leaders, including the Deputy Chief Minister Sri Yediyurappa, are here.

From his boyhood days, Sri Yediyurappa has been a fighter for all just causes. Ceaselessly he struggled for the rise and growth of a genuine National Party. It is because of his sincere efforts that a coalition government has come into being in Karnataka. And his government has the objective of all round development of Karnataka.

Sri M P Prakash is an intellectual, a good orator who has cultivated to perfection the habits of reading and creative thinking. Sri Subramanya Naidu, Minister and other dignitaries are also present. Their presence has made us happy.

It is our good fortune that Sri Swami Dayanda Saraswati Acharya who has done spiritual work in India is here with us today. Sri Guru Mata Amma of Atma Sakshatkara Kendra of Sridharagudda, Bangalore too is here. Both in the area of Yoga and Meditation, she has done commendable work. From Tumkur Dr. Sri Shivananda Shivacharya Swamiji is also with us here today.

The JSS Spiritual Mission has devoted, dedicated and extremely efficient senior members to run it. The President and the Secretary are able and gifted and so are younger members of the Mission. Many have offered their help to the Mission and such help and cooperation are continually needed. We are sure they will be forthcoming.

Many well-known and distinguished writers and artists have come and their participation has made the inaugural event meaningful .

May God bless you all.

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