



Sri:mathe: Ra:ma:nuja:ya Namaha

SRI SWAMIJI SPEAKS

JAI SRIMANNARAYANA!

We offer our Mangala:sa:sanams to you all for a bright, happy and prosperous New Year 2003.

According to the English calendar, we are entering the third year of this new millennium. In Bhagavad Githa Lord Krishna says "*Ka:laha kalayatha:m asmi*" which means 'I am time', which is the cause of all the changes. The wheel of time revolves by the will of the Supreme Lord. Hence, He is called as "*bhu:tha bhavya bhavath prabhuhu*" which means the master of the past, present and future. The Lord, in the form of time, solves all our uncertainties in the due course. Hence, let us seek the Supreme Lord to bestow happiness and success, in all our virtuous undertakings.

Normally, we celebrate the beginning of every new phase of time. People of a certain civilization usher in the New Year, by blowing off the lights instead of lighting them up. When we turn the lights off, the darkness creeps in. Darkness means

inauspiciousness and ignorance. Ofcourse, they also rejoice by doing all sorts of impure things.

We are not against the celebrations, but, we advocate healthy celebrations. We normally start all the auspicious things by igniting an oil/ghee lamp. Light indicates knowledge. Hence, let us celebrate this New Year by igniting the Lamp of Knowledge. As Va:lmiki says in Ra:ma:yana, nobody can overcome the influence of time. This is the right time for us to introspect ourselves, plan for the future, adopt good resolutions and to make an attempt to overcome our miseries.

In his pursuit to gratify his senses, man is causing three sorts of destruction. They are

- 1) He is destroying the environment in which he lives.
- 2) He is destroying the other beings around him.
- 3) He is destroying his own self.

It is the responsibility of the people in the society to prevent the first two types of destructions.

Unfortunately the

leaders of the present day society are promoting such destruction, by encouraging strife among various sections of the society and by disrespecting the age old established practices. It is the duty of each and every individual to oppose such misdemeanors.

Whereas the third type of destruction is an internal aspect, hence no external pressure or effort can prevent it. The main cause for all our miseries and this destruction is selfishness and desire to enjoy. That arises due to an uncontrolled mind. The mind that is the slave of the senses drags us in different directions and finally leads us to miseries. By listening to the dictates of the mind and senses we are destroying our own selves.

The mind is the best friend of a person who has it in his control. Whereas it is the greatest enemy to one who is a slave to it. We should always elevate ourselves with the help of our mind. We should not degrade ourselves by listening to the dictates of the senses and the mind. However it is impossible to regulate our mind with our own efforts. Hence, we have to seek the support of a person who is competent to control it. Lord Krishna who is the indweller of everything is the master controller of the mind and the senses. For the same reason He is also called as Hrishiki:ke:sa.

Hrishiki:ke:sa means the controller of all the senses. Hence, let us celebrate this New Year by praying the Supreme Lord to help us to overcome the mind and senses. Thereby let us make this New Year celebration more meaningful.

For having born as human beings, we should aspire to practice *Dharma* and adopt good practices. We have to be compassionate towards all the beings around us. We should learn to share all the good things **that we have**, with others. We should have the will and capacity to oppose the injustice prevailing around us. These qualities are the real wealth of the human beings. They lead us towards eternal bliss and immortality. Hence, let us resolve to adopt or enhance these qualities in us. Let us aspire to live in harmony with all the beings around us. Let us aim at making this world a better place to live in.

May the Supreme Lord grant us the discriminative knowledge, mental strength and determination to practice *Dharma*(Righteousness). May He always create favourable circumstances for us to practice *Dharma*. May we always tread the path of *Dharma*.

We offer our Mangala: sa:sanams and best wishes for the New Year to one and all.

JAI SRIMANNARAYANA!

