



Lead The Divine Life

Rejoice that God has given you a New Year, a blank book on which you can write whatever you want. You can write in letters of gold. Fill it with letters of gold and become your own greatest well-wisher and friend. Become a real yogi, become a real *bhakta!* Thus connect yourself with God. Be it so!

Start this New Year feeling the Divine presence everywhere. Constantly offer prayer to the Lord. Feel He is your very own. Turn your gaze within and enjoy the eternal Bliss. Set apart some time in the morning and evening for prayer and repetition of God's name. Start the day with the thought of God, fill the entire day with the thought of God and retire to bed with thought of God. Practise *japa* every day. Sing the Lord's name every morning and evening. Take regular morning exercises. Speak the truth. Serve the elders. Study the Gita and Ramayana. Develop *Bhakti*, This is divine life. Live this noble life. You will attain God-realisation. Your only sole purpose in life is to attain God. All else is useless and worthless. Strive to attain the Supreme by leading a noble life of simplicity and purity.

Let the year that stretches before you be to you an ascending upward stairways of 365 steps that lead to supreme height of evolution, culture, spirituality and noble living of sublime selflessness, sacrifice and service. May you scale these heights and go beyond into God-consciousness, Divine-awareness. Let each day be to you an upward, ascending step towards that great pinnacle, and let the 31st of December of this coming year find you way above where you are at this moment.

In this New Year, move forward. Determine to make a steady, upward ascent of the spirit towards its great, divine destiny. And it will be what you wish to make it. For the Supreme Power abides within you. There is nothing impossible for an aspiring soul, for a really determined *sadhaka*. All things become possible with persistence, perseverance, patience, and above all, sincerity. Having unwavering faith in yourself and with steady, continuous effort – slow but steady, little but ceaseless, you will find yourself rising higher and higher. By steady, persistent and patient effort, you will find yourself in that supreme peak of perfection. That is the key.

Believe in yourself. Have faith, and know that nothing is impossible to attain for a true aspirant. For you are made for it, and this life is meant for it. This is your birthright that you can claim.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*