# JSS SPIRITUAL MISSION



**NEWSLETTER-JANUARY 2023** 

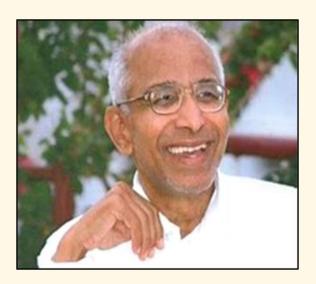




Dear Well Wishers,

The new year, 2023, has arrived with new hopes and expectations for peace, comfort, and health into our lives as we lean on spiritual guidance from HH Sri Shivarathri Dehsikendra Mahaswamiji and Divine grace of the God.

#### A Tribute to H H Sri Siddheswar Swamiji



#### **A Saint**

A giant among saints
Known to no one
He eats drinks and sleeps:
He talks walks and sings;
But none sees him,
None hears him.
He is all empty;
His "He" is dead long before.

Time-river
For ages
Meandering in the space
Flows nowhere



Thought-streams

Now and then come flowing down through him:

He resists nothing;

There is nothing to resist.

He is perfect silence

And speaks for years and years

Non-stop and with no sense.

He laughs at his own

Thoughts,

At his own word-flows.

Thousand birds

Sing around him

Chirping and dancing;

He simply laughs;

Laughing lasts

And he fades into the death of deathlessness.

This poem is taken from H H Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji's 1993 book "Songs of Silence" published by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay.

Karnataka Seer H. H. Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji left for his Heavenly abode on January 2, 2023. Suddenly, we are left with a heavy heart that is longing for something, especially when we recall that every few days, we had gotten used to his YouTube talks for these many years. We all feel the pain of not being able to see him in person. To relieve this vacuum in a small way, his month's issue is dedicated in memory of H. H. Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji. This tribute is originally published by Dr. Arati. We are indeed grateful to Dr. Arati.

Can you imagine twenty to thirty thousand people assembling to listen to a talk regularly at 6 am every day for a stretch for months, in the heart of a buzzing city?

Can you imagine pin-drop silence in such an august gathering?

And can you imagine how the huge crowds assembled all by themselves, with no marketing, no promotions ever...?

The platform, simple, with a modest chair and table, and just one flower placed upon the table entertains no welcome address or vote of thanks, no introduction of the speaker, no garlands, fruits mementoes or bouquets offered. No VIPs moving up and down the podium.

Eminent scholars, scientists, doctors, engineers or simple commoners with no academic profile rich astute politicians and businessmen or spiritual aspirants and sannyasins, householders, you sit alike in rapture to listen to this most simple speaker!

Not a single talk exceeds the time limits. The talk revolves around spirituality... But boredom is select a seen! On the contrary, none even realizes how time flies! Such is the profoundness of his talk.

One may say, "Such an assembly is too utopian an idea, to materialize in the modern world." But when and wherever Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji spoke, such an assembly personified. Not that he insisted, advised or trained anyone to conduct themselves thus.

But the intensity of his purity, calmness, simplicity, wisdom and detachment was such that even worldly crowds would effortlessly behave thus in his majestic presence!

The words of H H Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji were verily floods of peace and tranquility. He was genuinely friendly with everyone, yet never attached to anything or anybody. No one dared cross the natural borders of nirlipti he always maintained. He was the nucleus of the Jnanayogashrama at Vijayapura.

But the grandeur of the position, the protocol, crowds and endless activities... nothing seemed to seep into him. In his magnanimous presence, everyone consciously pursued their duties as karmayoga, without ever being told to. A perfect example of transformational leadership!

The saint was a voracious reader, but never 'owned' a single book. All he had was a pair of pocketless kurtas and dhoti, spectacles, and simple footwear. He was most comfortable even in torn footwear. If someone offered flowers, fruits or sweets, he would distribute them then and there with a beautiful smile.

Never had he even a bank account to his name or even meagre money at hand. Never did he find the need to maintain contact numbers of persons to 'keep connected' to, nor did he keep a phone of his own.

Never did this saint announce even the most painful illnesses he suffered. He avoided medication hospitalization of all kinds even when terminally ill.

The karmayogi performed his personal chores all by himself and was involved in relentless jnana-daasoha (dissipation of knowledge) all his life. But never did he ever cherish the sense of 'doing' anything.

Be it the prime minister or just a commoner, a revered seer or an ordinary volunteer, standing at one corner of the corridor, he would attend to them all with an identical simple smile and pleasantries. The approach was the same towards all, never more, never less than what it always was.

Never did a single abuse or rebuke or hateful word emerge from him. Countless foreign tours and interactions with VVIPs- anything was simply another 'passing experience' to him to smile and forget, then and there!

He was well initiated into the long shastraparamparaa and sampradayas, but nevertheless, he still emerged absolutely as a self-made man, with his own genuine insights and lofty experience.

His clear instruction before death was to burn his mortal remains and drown the ash in river waters and never build a monument or temple in his name! Both in life and death, he proved to be a siddha-yogi, truly sublimating into the infinite expanse of immortal existence, never to be bound into the limited identities of cult, name, form, or symbol.

Truly, his life was a demonstration of the nishkarmya-yoga preached by Bhagavan Sri Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita.

We read about the elevated lives of sages Vasishta and Dadeechi in the Vedic times, Dattatreya, Vrshabhadeva and Buddha in ancient times, Allama and Abhinavagupta in medieval times, Ramana and Ramakrishna in recent history... But we would probably proclaim, "It is impossible for people to actually live thus in modern times".

But the life of H H Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji disproves that notion. He was a living proof to establish that the legacy of rishis continues in Bharatavarsha to this day.

We are blessed to be the contemporaries of H H Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji. In the coming centuries, people would perhaps find it difficult even to believe that such a personality did exist in flesh and blood.

Not surprising that the lofty heights of H H Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji's life and thoughts amaze the moha-struck people whose minds and intellects are stuck into the frames of objects, people's incidents, and their joyous and painful memories and anxious future speculations.

Mother Bharatamata is blessed indeed to have given birth to such a mahatma! Swami Vivekananda aptly said, "There is always a brahmajnani treading the soil of my Bharat. This is the greatness of the soil. Bharat is truly a pilgrim center".

The exemplary life and message of H H Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji proves that the rishi-parampara did not end with Vedic times but continues to flow on dynamically to this day. Realization of the loftiest truth generates such great visionaries time and again.

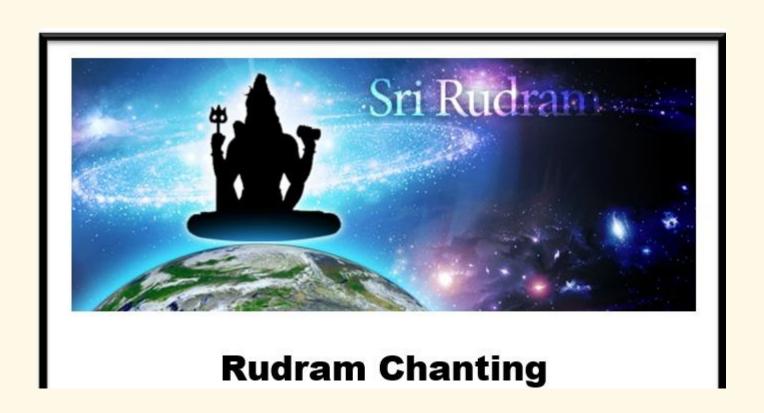
The Sanatana Sanskriti never suffocates within the limits of a person, book, rule, region, time or set of conducts. It is rather an eternal unbroken flow of spiritual experience that continues to generate jeevanmuktas brimming with wisdom and experience.

This verbal offering thus to the great H H Sri Siddheshwar Swamiji, makes me feel that all this could be a big 'chaos of words.' Such was the absolute simplicity and unassumingness the saint carried. In fact, he never lived like just a 'personality'. He verily floated around as an Astitva, a presence, sublimated into the expanse of infinity.

I offer my verbal pranams quoting the words of the saint Akka Mahadevi- Pranamas to the guru who elevated the mortal to immortal!

#### **Rudra Mantra Recitation**

Under the spiritual guidance of HH Almatti Swamiji, the Sri Rudram Mantra recitation has started in October 2022. As per the belief, recitation of this sacred mantra promotes health and happiness. Rudra Mantra removes fear and clears all the confusion and vagaries of the mind. Every human has some fears deep inside, chanting Rudra Mantra regularly in a prescribed way with devotion and concentration can help overcome all kinds of fears and stresses. If interested in participating, please contact M. Puttaraju at <a href="mailto:mpraju08@gmail.com">mpraju08@gmail.com</a> or JSS office at 301 85 2048, <a href="mailto:jss@jssmission.org">jss@jssmission.org</a>.



#### Looking for a vehicle

Please let us know if you have a vehicle that you would like to donate. We need this vehicle for personal use by our priests and prasadakara. Alternatively, we can even consider if you want to sell a vehicle.



## Meetings were conducted to discuss the new temple project and other matters. The following are the important points to be noted:

- The initial cost estimate for the new temple and community centre is \$15M. HH Jagadguru
   Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji desires to begin the understructure work by 2023 spring-early summer.
- The major challenge is the collection of donations and pledges. To start the project, there is a requirement of at least an additional fund of 5.3M to add to the collection. This will allow us to seek a bank loan for the duration of the construction period through 2025. This additional time is required for raising an additional fund of 7.5M.
- A fundraising committee has been activated. The first meeting of the committee was held
  on December 2022. Stakeholders of the JSS SPM attended the meeting. Mr Rajiv Mahajan,
  a well-known CPA in Maryland explained the ways to donate while saving taxes.
- The construction committee held a few meetings. Final discussions with the construction/project management company are ongoing.

We continue to seek your best wishes and contributions toward the new temple project. As you visit the temple and Ashram in the coming days, please ingrain in your hearts and minds the image of the new temple and begin connecting your consciousness so that the collective consciousness will materialize into a reality.



### 2023 gifting plans

As we start a new year, it is not early to plan for any year-end gifting plans and for Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), you have many options and possibilities. Please remember to include the JSS Spiritual Mission. You will be glad you did because this is your Mission. With your help, we will succeed in building a new temple and spiritual centre. We look forward to further connecting with you and answering your questions.

#### Yoga Program

JSS Spiritual Mission is conducting yoga programs for people of all ages. You can enjoy better mental and physical health by joining the Saturday chair yoga or Sunday full-body yoga program at JSS Spiritual Mission.

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8346330359?pwd=WDJTe VcyYmtBQnVwUng0aWV6UDBudz09#success

#### **Catering**

#### **Sunday School Program**

Our teachers and Sunday School coordinators (Archana Pinnepalli, Sonal Sulkunte, Sulochana Guggari, and Roopa Dasari) are doing an excellent job of helping our children in a loving and caring environment. We encourage teachers and parents to discuss views and share thoughts on the progress of our children. To know more about Sunday School Programme, please contact +1 301-414-0144.

Our Prasadakaraka, Prakash prepares delicious prasadam and other Indian foods and catering services are available for every occasion. Contact +1 240-729-1016 for catering needs.



#### **Temple**

Our temple priests Mahadeva Swamy and Rudresh are experienced and well-versed in performing poojas and rituals. Contact +1 301-875-2051, and +1 240-883-4010 for pooja needs.

#### **Ashram activities**

Based on many devotees' request, a new "Yearly Pooja Service" has been introduced with two pooja's per month for one year along with other yearly pooja options. For more details contact JSS Office at 301 85 2048 or at <a href="mailto:iss@jssmission.org">iss@jssmission.org</a> or with our priests.

#### Donate a vehicle

Please let us know if you have a vehicle in running condition that you would like to donate. We need this vehicle for personal use by our priests and prasadakara. Alternatively, we can even consider if you want to see a vehicle.

We are here to serve you and we look forward to seeing you soon at the Mission.

May the Divine grace illumine your path and protect you in all you do.

#### **JSS Spiritual Mission**

