



NEW YEAR MESSAGE 2011 LIFE IN FINITE

All of us are aware of the fact that the life span of every living entity of this earth is extremely limited when compared with the flow of infinite time. Since the human existence is bound to meet its nemesis at a point of time, we are therefore known as mortal beings. In the past, some mighty rulers as in the case of ancient Egyptian civilization tried to get immortality. The pyramids of Egypt are nothing but odes on immortality sung by history. The rulers of the ancient times perceived of returning to their human bodies of the past life at a later point of time through a process of alchemy and magic. In Hinduism we often read about '*Puranic*' personalities who achieved immortality like Lord Dattatreya and others. Even if we believe in the existence of timeless saints, they have to be exceptions within the nature's general framework of birth and death of the living beings.

However, for lesser mortals like us life is limited and we live that limited life with lots of limitations. There are three, somewhat meaningful things that remain when a man winds-up his mortal coil and departs from his physical existence. The first is children, if he has any. The second is his name – good, bad or neutral. And the third thing is his material and intellectual property.

With the process of time, say about five-six generations after his death, his name is forgotten. The material property that he builds around him goes to other hands, from generation to generation, if he is lucky. Even those persons who build Temples and charitable organization go to oblivion. If we re-visit the history of great men we find that in the process of time there has been no value addition to the great products they claimed to have created on this earth. We only remember these people through codified literature, generally known as history. As yet we don't have a list of the brilliant Hindu intellects who created the '*Vedas*'. However, we are thankful to them for the knowledge they have left behind for the posterity. This has not only been the situation in the Hindu civilization but is true for all civilizations on this Globe. These great men lived a finite life but left behind the essence of their existence for a far greater period of time. The knowledge they gave sustained itself through centuries. What I mean to say here is that only knowledge has the capability of sustaining itself. The material forces cannot sustain themselves without the knowledge that creates them and sustains them for some period of time. Such material forces may be defined as kingdoms, power in any form, property etc.

Thus, the perceptible life forms on this Earth will always be finite in their existence even if they try to achieve immortality. Spiritual Science, at times, speaks about the immortality of the Soul. Even if one agrees that the Soul is immortal because it is a part

of the over Soul or God yet it cannot be called life infinite on the Earth with a human embodiment. In the backdrop of such an assumption I am inclined to believe that we should make our finite living existence happy and meaningful to the extent it is possible.

May Shri Sai Bless us all