



## NEW YEAR MESSAGE 1998

Yet another year has passed. All of us are older by one year. Our souls have evolved by one year through the varied experiences we gained during this period. When the universe was not created, there was no concept of time. The universe-matter was there in Him and He was alone. When the only permanent one wanted to multiply Himself in millions of forms, primordial particles appeared, and then grosser universes were created. The concept of time evolved then. The concept of time is thus directly related to divine creativity. All species controlled by time in terms of birth and death, including human beings, are a part of that creative process. Life after life they evolve ultimately to reach that state of God where from they emanated.

Saints and the people truly following this spiritual path always think not only of their own evolution but also about the evolution of all human beings or other species around them. Any action (in thought, speech, activity), which helps in the evolution of the self or others, is a good act called '*Punya*' and any action detrimental to such growth is an evil act called '*Paapa*'. It is very difficult to follow such a path in a world as our's and therefore, the process of evolution of human beings is so slow, that is spread over a number of lives. No man on earth has evolved beyond a certain point without a help. For that support/assistance from a guide and complete faith in him is essential. Only one who has treaded the path and crossed the obstacles can correctly guide others. And who is that guide who has treaded the path and knows the secrets of nature? It is the Perfect Master or the *Sadguru*. Sri Sai had once said that there are many paths of spiritual evolution, one path is through Shirdi. He also said that one can cross the jungle path with a proper guide. The path obviously means the path of evolution, which winds through the thick forest of *maya*. When the path ends one merges with God, and to such a person there is no meaning of time as he has gone beyond it. To conquer time, therefore, we have to hold on steadfastly to our *Param Sadguru*, Sri Sainath Maharaj, who has gone beyond the concept of time.