

## **Pujya Guruji, Swami Tejomayananda's Speech at the Handover Ceremony**

**Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

I have spoken on many occasions, but today I do not know where to begin; luckily this short documentary ('Ever in His Service, Ever at His Feet') helped express my sentiments. Thank you for making it. I have been most fortunate and privileged in serving Pujya Gurudev and the Chinmaya Mission.

Chinmaya Mission has many strengths. Firstly, it has the strong foundation *Vaidika* knowledge; an unbroken chain of spiritual Realised Masters have verified the truth of this Knowledge and confirmed it. This is a great tradition. Secondly, Chinmaya Mission has a strong foundation in the form of the great penance of our Param Gurudev, Swami Tapovanji Maharaj. It has the blessings of Pujya Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj and foremost is the most powerful *sankalpa* of God, which took a form, a human form, as our Pujya Gurudev. This is God's *sankalpa*. Just as Mother Ganga starts as a trickle, but continuously flows and expands; taking many tributaries unto Herself, she blesses those on Her banks and takes everyone to the great ocean. Pujya Gurudev did exactly the same. He transported millions to the great Ocean of Bliss that we call God. We are all recipients of his grace and beneficiaries of his work.

I was so fortunate to be part of this strong Chinmaya Mission and will always remain there, because जाऊँ कहा तजि चरण तुम्हारी – where will the devotee go other than the Lotus feet of the Lord? What I received was just pure love from everyone. It is difficult to lead a life; such that no one is ever offended or feels

hurt but to me the best thing is that I never had to apologise for anything that happened in the Mission. In spite of some drawbacks or imperfections they forgave me all the time! Pujya Gurudev was of course, always forgiving and so were members across the world. I thank you all.

Another strength is our hundreds of Acharyas – Swamis, Swaminis, Brahmacharis, Brahmacharinis; now we have householder Acharyas as well. Each one is engaged in the spread of this message in different parts of the globe. Among the Acharyas, some were senior to me; some were contemporaries, my batch mates in the Vedanta Course. All of them, including our householder devotees have fully supported the Mission. The beauty and strength of the Mission is that *sannyasis* and *grihasthas* can work together to take it forward.

People have been asking me how I feel today. On one hand, I feel great satisfaction and fulfillment that I did whatever work came to me to the best of my ability and knowledge – as they say यथा मति यथा शक्ति. This makes me very happy. On the other hand, there is eagerness to do something, which I always loved – studying, learning, doing *sadhana* and teaching. This is what I love and will now have more time for. I look forward to it. Thirdly, I am very, very confident of the continuous growth of Chinmaya Mission. I do not have any doubts because, as I earlier said, the Mission's inherent strength does not depend only on one particular individual.

Someone once asked 'What is the biggest capital that Chinmaya Mission has?' I replied, "Chinmaya Mission's biggest capital is its credibility. It is respected by people, from all walks of life and so its growth is sure." I have full confidence in Swami Swaroopananda. I have known him for many years, ever since he first came to Sidhbari. He has the blessings of Pujya Gurudev; love, devotion,

dedication, the right attitude and the full support of you all. People sometimes say, I did a great job but he will do greater. Some say, ‘Swamiji it is a big day for you’. My reply is, ‘Yes, but it is a bigger one for him because with position come many more responsibilities. In the Chinmaya Mission Pledge Gurudev has said, ‘We know our responsibilities, give us the ability and courage to fulfill them.’

Lastly, on this occasion, I have been asked, ‘What is your message?’

The message is very simple – Let us be always in His Service, Remain always at His Feet. There alone lies our welfare and wellbeing. That is what I said in the invocation song, which you earlier heard:

**गुरु की शरण मे सदा ही रहना ,  
सदा गुरु की सेवा करना,  
गुरु की शरण मे सदा ही रहना,  
यही है मेरा व्रत जीवन का, गुरु कृपा से इसे निभा ना..**

If we live in Guru *sharanam*, there is no fear; there is no worry.

Thank you all very, very much.