My dear associates in the path,

- 1. I am very happy that we all gathered again on the occasion of the 114<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Master not only to celebrate the most auspicious aspect of our lives but to also evaluate our progress in the path. Rev. Babuji Maharaj put a question and answered himself in this sentence "What is the Destination, where we have to reach? It may, preferably, be called insignificance. If you chose to designate it as such, it is an insignificance, of which we know nothing! (Reference: SDG 39)"
- 2. The main problem is that we have very exalted notions about ourselves and our capacities in many fields make us also feel that we are invincible and go on inflating the ego. This pulls us in exactly the opposite direction to the goal of our life. Though we feel that we have fixed our goal to be 'oneness with the Master' the development of our ego structure does not enable us to reach the goal.
- 3. The books of the Masters, particularly those on the "Ten Commandments" are meant to help us progress. It is always stressed that we must be

grateful to those who show us our faults and so we must be grateful to them for enabling us to a step towards humility one of the corner pillars of spiritual life. If a fault is shown we should feel that a great treasure is shown us and be grateful. Each time a fault is shown we discover in us a fault, an incapacity, lack of understanding, or insufficiency which prevents our progress in the path. Once we realise our fault with our determination to reach the goal firmly established it should be easy for us get rid off the fault. This is mainly because we have the required disciple for doing the same as also we have the boon of Pranahuti of the trainer to help us in the path. We should understand that to discover a fault is an acquisition. It is as though a flood of light had come to replace the little speck of obscurity which has been driven out now.

4. Once while we were discussing the problem of 'refractoriness', my revered father said that " it is a very common human weakness, although it ought not exist in sadhakas whose progress largely depends on their recognizing what has to be

changed in them. Not that recognition of the defect by itself is sufficient, but it is a necessary element in solving the problem. It is of course a matter of pride or vanity that considers the weakness as necessary for strength and standing. Not only they will not recognize it before others, but they hide their defects from themselves or obliged to look at it with one eye look away from it with the other. Or they veil of words and excuses and weave a justifications trying to make it something other than what it really is." It is thus necessary to observe and know the wrong movements in us, for they are the sources of our troubles and have to be persistently rejected if we are to be free.

5. But we should not be always thinking about our defects and lapses. We need to concentrate upon what we are to be and the ideal with the faith that since it is our goal before us it must and will come. To be observing faults and wrongs always, bring depression and discouragement to the faith we need to have always in ourselves and the Master. We need to turn our eyes more to the influx of

Pranahuti that brings lightness and less to any immediate darkness. Faith, cheerfulness and confidence in the ultimate victory are the things that help; they make our progress easier and swifter.

6. Success is possible only when we are committed to be true to ourselves and are determined to change our past and be firm in the new found path of Satyapad. We have to be friends with ourselves; otherwise we would ourselves be inimical to our reaching the goal. This is what Lord Krishna stressed in his famous Bhagavad Gita in the sloka '

'Bandhur aatma aatmanastasya

Ye naatmaiva atmana jitaha ;

anatmanastu satrutve vartet aatmaiva satruvat:'

B.G. Chap 6, sloka 6.

 On this auspicious day I pray that we again pledge ourselves to work for our betterment and joyously participate in the transformation of humanity.