

Conversations with . . . .

# Santa

In the spirit of the season,  
it seemed only proper to contact  
the 'jolly old man'  
to learn some inside secrets about  
his philosophy on giving. Without a doubt,  
he's a very busy boss this time of year.

**Elle:** Santa, we are aware that you have different names and even different faces around the world. Does that bother you?

**SANTA:** Ho, ho, ho! Of course not! Whatever brings joy is fine with me. It's what I stand for that is most important.

**Elle:** Well, Santa? Don't you stand for granting wishes and lots of presents.

*I can hear Santa shift a bit and when he responds, there's a bit of sadness in his voice.*

**SANTA:** That's really the problem. In this age of sound bites and PR (public relations), it seems that lots of folks use my image to sell anything and everything. Now certainly, there's no harm in that. But....

*Another long pause again before he continues.*

**SANTA:** The difficulty I have is that quite often ‘things’ don’t really make someone happy. This leaves me in a dilemma. Now young children receiving a much wanted toy, that’s easy. But as they grow older, that much wanted item often only delights for a few minutes.

**Ellie:** *(interrupting)* Speaking of toys and kids... When you hear a child ask if there really, really is a Santa Claus, how do you feel about that?

**SANTA:** Ho, ho, ho! This happens a great deal. But the answer is really very simple. I have a huge job to do and it takes not only thousands of elves at the North Pole, but it takes lots of moms and dads, brothers and sisters, friends – and even strangers, to help make the holiday wonderful for everyone...

**Ellie:** *(frowning)* Well, what does that have to do with it?

**SANTA:** *(a bit impatiently)* You see, we need to realize that Santa is real every time we give a bit of ourselves. I’m alive in the smile of a child but also in the smile of the giver of the gift. So when a child is convinced there is no Santa Claus, which is absolutely and most positively not true!

**Ellie:** *(chuckling)* REALLY!?!?

**SANTA:** Absolutely! For above all else, I am the spirit of giving. So if you choose not to believe in me, then believe in your ability to be Santa to someone. Give a gift of your time and energy to someone who most needs it. Help older children learn the gift of giving by becoming a Santa for me! Ho, ho, ho! After all, I have millions of folks – young and young of heart – hoping for the perfect gift. And do you know what?

**Ellie:** *(totally curious)* WHAT?

**SANTA:** Quite often, you are the gift someone wants. Your time, your attention, your caring, your mentoring, and yes, maybe even a small gift special from you!

**Ellie:** So there you have it from the very jolly old man, himself! Everyone at the havredegrace Magazine encourages you to believe .... and then to be.... SANTA!

## **Happiest of Holidays One and All!**

Remember that  
most often,  
the best present  
is to be  
present to those  
around us!

