



SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI

सबका मालीक एक

श्रद्धा

सबुरी

ॐ श्रीसाईनाथाय नमः ॐ श्रीसाईनाथाय नमः ॐ श्रीसाईनाथाय नमः ॐ श्रीसाईनाथाय नमः ॐ श्रीसाईनाथाय नमः

SHRISAILEELA - JULY-AUGUST-2005

Vithu-mauli, Sai-mauli
In Sai's Proximity

Shree Dattatreya Sahasra Nama
Is Baba Living & Helping now

Shri Pant Maharaj as a Teacher

PANCHAMUKHI SADGURU

SHRI PANT MAHARAJ

ASATEACHER

Shri Pant Maharaj (Datta) decided not to go in for higher study knowing the financial condition of his family. First, he got a clerk's job in a government office; but he could not continue it; because the absurd way of working, dubious dealings, bribery and all false irritating functions did not suit him. So, he applied for a teacher's job in London Mission school. He did not get the job. So, he took up teacher's job in Marathi school with salary of Rs.12 per month. Rev. Smith of London Mission school - when he came to know that his school student is working in Marathi school - it did not please him. He took Datta as a teacher offering him Rs. 20 per month salary.

Thus, in 1880, Dattopant Balekundrikar became a teacher in London Mission school, where he learnt for 8 years and passed Matriculation. At that time a teacher had to teach almost all the subjects to different standards. What he learnt from his mentor, Mr. Khot teacher, he faithfully followed and served as an ideal teacher for almost 23 years. He sincerely taught the subjects and helped each and every student. He helped his co-teachers also. He could take their classes, when they had some problems.

He was an extraordinary teacher. Students as well as his co-teachers liked him very much. Being simple and noble person he always adjusted even with the office staff of the school. Pant excelled as a teacher not only in teaching subjects but also systemising the fundamentals of education and attaining academic excellence. He was honoured always by students and colleagues. Even the school management adored him for his formidable knowledge and compassionate attitude towards students and others. He served from 1880 to 1903. Many students passed and after studies got higher posts; but none of them ever forgot their only one affectionate and humble teacher. He was always busy either in correcting the note-books or in solving the difficulties of some students. In his free periods he could help the office staff also.

In 1881-82 his brothers and cousin brother came to Belgaum for education. So, Datta had to shift to bigger place. He stayed in Mr. Gokak's compound on rental basis along with his brothers. In the following years the house of Datta almost slowly transformed into *Gurukul*. Wherever he stayed that place became almost *Annachhatra* and *Vidyadan Graha* for distressed, helpless, poor, orphans, devotees, relatives and wards. Even in the house Datta had a regular and rigid schedule and format. He used to get up at 5 a.m. to wake up inmates. He helped them to fill up water, to make water hot, to see that all the inmates and others could take bath. Each and every one had to perform *Sadhya Vandan*, *Namasmaran*, *Pooja* and physical exercise. Datta in the morning also did correct the homework of the students and inmates and also helped his brothers in the daily choir.

In the year 1882 he married *Shri Padmama's* daughter Yamunakka, who was just like Mahalaxmi, Mata *Sakshat* Annapurna Devi. Datta as a strict disciplinarian had laid down rigid rules to be followed by each and every member of Pant *Wada*. Datta as a teacher insisted on physical fitness doing *Suryanamaskar*, *Yogasan* on regular basis. Datta used to take lunch at 10 a.m. before going to school along with all his inmates in one *Pangat*. There was no discrimination or favouritism. Promptly few minutes to 11 he could start to school and took many of the inmates along

with him. He usually returned from school at 5-30 p.m. Again he used to solve difficulties and correct the homework. An ardent, untiring teacher all the way, he started coaching class of Mathematics to meet the financial need.

In the year 1886 his father left for heavenly abode. So, full responsibility of household of Balekundri also fell on Datta's shoulder. He did well with support of all his brothers and the understanding life partner *Sau. Yamunakka*.

Datta was very knowledgeable of almost all subjects. He used to read almost many books of different languages. He was very conversant with literature, spiritual texts and epics and even the righteous scripts. He could guide and discourse on different subjects. In the school he was very honest and attentive teacher. In the house also he was ardent and formidable teacher.

In the year 1891 Gopalrao after passing B.A. examination, he started working in collector's office. In the year 1893 Vamanrao passed L.L.B. and started practicing Law in Belgaum only. In the year 1894 Shankarrao and Narasinharao passed B.A. and L.L.B. and started practice. After seeing all his brothers well settled he decided to resign and finally in 1903 June he resigned and further fully devoted himself to Avadhoot *Sampraday*.

Academic teaching work got over *Adhyatmic* teaching activity continued which was his humble mission, not only just as a teacher or preceptor but as an individual full of pure love and pure mind, dignity, compassion did a lot to the mankind. Society and people adored him in many ways. Many thronged and could come to him to get their difficulties solved, some for guidance, many for getting blessed and for salvation.

He remained unique, always ready to be of some help in whatever way be, to others.

– Naresh Dharwadkar



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Mainpage



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In Sai's Proximity

— Mrs. Mugdha Diwadkar

MHALSAPATI

From the time Baba arrived in Shirdi till His *Mahanirvan*, Mhalsapati was an ardent devotee of Sai Baba. It is very difficult to evaluate his services. He had turned his back on his family life and had devoted his entire life at the Feet of Sai Baba.

His full name was Mhalsapati Chimnaji Nagare. Though particulars about his birth are not known, it is estimated that at the time of his death he was about 85 years old. He was a goldsmith by caste and his several generations had resided at Shirdi. He had a house consisting of about 14-15 rooms and land admeasuring nearly 7-7.5 acres at Shirdi.

His family Deity was Khandera. Because of this, he was a dedicated follower of Khandera of village Jejuri in Pune district. At least once every year, he went on a pilgrimage visit to Jejuri temple. Basically, he was disinterested in worldly things. He managed his household expenses by carrying on the business as a goldsmith. However, later on when his business was not doing well, he started supporting his family by collecting alms as advised in a vision by the God. After he placed his entire faith in Sai Baba, he totally gave up all the worldly pleasures.

Mhalsapati had four daughters. Their names were – Janakibai, Seetabai, Rakhumbai and Vithabai. Their grooms were respectively from Asnagaon. Dochale, Dorhale and Sei. Mhalsapati also had two sons. The first son died at an early age. Because of this, Mhalsapati further lost his interest in worldly things.

Later on, due to the blessings of Baba, second son was born to Mhalsapati – though against his own wishes. As suggested by Baba, he was named 'Martand'. He raised his own family of sons and daughters and died recently in 1986. Mhalsapati has narrated his experiences to his son Martandrao, who has written them down.

Three residents of Shirdi - Kashiram Shimpi, Appa Jagale and Mhalsapati were very thick friends. All the three were loving, hospitable and had similar natures. This was the reason for their close friendship. These three collectively took the responsibility of providing food, shelter and other requirements of any saintly or pious persons, who visited Shirdi. They greeted *Gosavi* with "Namo Narayan". *Bairagi* was welcomed as "Jai Ram" and if the visitor was *Fakir*, he was received with "Jai Sai". The guests were always received with utmost respect and affection. Kashiram Shimpi provided the foodstuff. Appa Jagale gave firewood, utensils etc. Mhalsapati used to massage the tired feet of the visitors.

As is well-known, at the age of sixteen, Baba had suddenly appeared in Shirdi and equally unexpectedly He disappeared. After a lapse of three years, Baba once again came to Shirdi. This time He came as a member of the marriage procession of the household of Chandbhai from the village Dhoopkhed. The marriage party had halted in Mhalsapati's farm opposite Lord Khandoba temple. Seeing the radiant young *Fakir* has come back, Mhalsapati, as per his usual practice, welcomed Him with "Aao Sai" and bowed down in front of Him.

After completing his *Pooja*, Mhalsapati partook *chillum* with Sai and then he took Baba to the *Masjid* in Shirdi. He made Him comfortable there and also introduced Baba to his friends - Kashiram Shimpi and Appa Jagale.

Thereafter, Baba and these friends used to sing songs, play games and smoke *chillum*. Very soon, Kashiram Shimpi and Appa Jagale became ardent devotees of Baba.

As narrated by Mhalsapati, when Sai Baba first came to Shirdi, His attire was saffron *Kafani*, saffron *topi* and saffron *dhoti*. Later on, Kashiram Shimpi stitched a green *Kafani* and *topi* for Baba, which He used to wear. After a few

days, Baba started wearing white *Kafani* and tying *dhoti* around His head. He continued to do so till the end.

The *Masjid*, where Baba was staying, had become very old and dilapidated. Nana *Saheb* Chandorkar decided to reconstruct it. One day, after Mhalsapati arrived at the *Masjid*, Baba called him and asked him, "O *Bhagat*, who is that person standing outside ?" Mhalsapati replied that "He is Nana *Saheb*". Baba said, "Are *Bhagat*, I wanted to ask you one thing. This Nana, who is standing outside, says that he will reconstruct a new *Masjid*. What do you think ? Should we get a new *Masjid* constructed ? Or is our old building good enough ? Why construct a new one ?"

Mhalsapati very affectionately and humorously said to Baba, "Let him construct a new one ! It will be convenient to both of us – to sit, as well as sleep".

This conversation took place between the two while smoking *chillum*. Baba gave permission to repair the *Masjid* only after first asking Mhalsapati. As directed by Baba, Mhalsapati called Nana *Saheb*, performed the *muhurta* by breaking a coconut and the work began.

As is well-known, Baba used to sleep on alternate days in *Masjid* and *Chavadi*. Since the time Baba went to stay in *Masjid*, Mhalsapati and Tatyapa Patil started sleeping with Him there on alternate days, when it was not the day of *Chavadi*. Only these two had the good fortune to sleep with Baba in the *Masjid*. In fact, Baba always kept Mhalsapati and Tatyapa awake ! In the secluded atmosphere, Mhalsapati spent several nights in sitting with Baba and chitchatting till it was daybreak time. After the *Mahanirvan* of Baba, Mhalsapati continued his custom of sitting in the *Masjid* and sleeping there on alternate days. This continued till he breathed his last.

The relation between Baba and Mhalsapati was really strange, as well as intriguing ! It seems that, because of this, their extraordinary conversations took place in isolated surroundings. The discussions used to become more and more interesting while enjoying *chillum*. Baba was fond of smoking *chillum*. He was not used to finishing entire *chillum*. Mhalsapati, Tatyapa and Madhavrao Deshpande alias Shyama used to take 2-4 drags and pass it on turn by turn amongst the other people present at that time.

Late Kashibai Kanitkar has narrated her 1906's experience in the regard, which is worth reproducing here. She says.....

"On alternate days, Baba used to come to *Chavadi* for sleeping. On that particular day, as per His custom, Baba and Mhalsapati came to *Chavadi*. They sat in the darkened area at the entrance of the *Chavadi*. My husband Late Govindrao Kanitkar also went and sat there. They were having a pleasant chat. While carrying on the conversation, Baba lit His *chillum* and shared it with Mhalsapati. It was also passed on to my husband.

It was difficult to know what they were talking about. But, from time to time, Baba was asking, "Ka Mhalsapati ?" (Isn't it Mhalsapati ?) And Mhalsapati was repeatedly saying "*Beshak, Beshak*" (without doubt, without doubt) – repeating the words twice. However, a third person was not able to grasp, what they were talking.

Then, it was time to light the *chillum* once again and it was noticed that the piece of stone, required for the purpose had been lost somewhere. This was reason enough for Baba to become livid with anger and as if, He took the *Avatar* of Narasimha and started showering abuses....."

Because of the continuous association with Baba, Mhalsapati was able to understand the meaning of outwardly weird actions. On several occasions Baba's other devotees were puzzled by His strange and intriguing utterings. Many of them, therefore, approached *Bhagat* (as Baba used to call Mhalsapati lovingly), and sought clarifications in the matter. He was able to explain Baba's symbolic signs or mysterious words.

While talking about this once Kaka *Saheb* Dixit said to Baba, "*Maharaj*, shall I bring a wooden plank for You to sleep – like the one You had earlier ?" Baba replied, "No. How can I sleep higher and leave Mhalsapati on the ground ?" Dixit offered, "If You wish, I can arrange for another wooden plank for him also." Baba smiled and answered, "Will he be able to sleep on a plank ? It is not easy to sleep like that. I tell Mhalsapati, keep your hand on My heart and observe how Nam-smaran is going on in My heart, and if you find that I am falling asleep, please wake Me up ! But, he is unable to do even that. He starts dozing wherever he is sitting. Then, I wake him up by calling his name '*Bhagat*'. He is startled and rises from his slumber." So, Sai Baba replied, "I am better off on the ground !"

In the evening, once the lights were lit up, Baba's devotees were forbidden from coming into the *Masjid* - the only exceptions being Dada Kelkar, Mhalsapati, Tatyapa, Mahadu, Abdulbaba and Laxmibai. Barring these, no one else

was allowed to enter the *Masjid* at night.

Mhalsapati had a liking for passionless life not having any interest in the worldly things. Baba allowed him to do so. Financially, he was very poor. However, rather than spending his time on earning a livelihood, he spent his entire time in the *Masjid* serving Baba. By nature, he was extremely devoted to Baba and took pleasure in serving Him. Because of this, Baba was very much fond of him. Mhalsapati's influence on Baba was also very strong. Because of this, the spiritual experiences felt by him were equally worthy.

Whenever Baba's favourite devotees suffered from some ailments, Baba used to take the illness upon Him-self and gave relief to His devotees. *Shri* Martand (son of Mhalsapati) has narrated a beautiful experience in this connection. He says.....

"A forty year old story. My mother had gone to her brother's place at village Nandur Shingote. As per his usual practice, my father was sitting near Baba. All of a sudden, Baba said to him, 'Are, My devotee is suffering a lot from a boil. See, there is a boil on My hip also. But, now it will be cured.' My father actually saw that Baba had a boil on His hip and He was suffering from the pains. He was, therefore, worried. But, Baba Himself said, 'Don't worry. It will be alright in two-three days.' All this was ambiguous talk. My father did not realize that it was in fact related to him-self. After two-three days, the boil on Baba's hip burst open. Two-three days later, my father received a letter from village Nandur Shingote. It was written that my mother had a boil at exactly the same place and had suffered a lot from it. But, as soon as Baba prayed in Shirdi, she was relieved of the pain and now, even the boil had burst open.

It dawned upon us that when Baba said that He has a boil on His hip, from exactly that time my mother's sufferings had gone down. And, the day on which her boil burst open, same thing happened at Shirdi also. Once my father realized the connection, he became very sad for the sufferings taken upon Himself by Baba. My father said to me, 'Are Martand, did you see ? To give relief to your mother, Baba took the agony of her boil upon Himself. Because of us, He had to suffer a lot.' "

Baba knew events of past, present, as well as future and accordingly, He used to guide His devotees. Once, He said to Mhalsapati, "*Bhagat*, at village Asnagaon (Taluka Kopergaon) don't go to Rambhau Londhe and Dorhale's daughter. You will be insulted there." However, due to some unavoidable reasons, Mhalsapati was required to go to both the homes. And, as predicted by Baba, he was insulted there.

Once, on the occasion of the death anniversary of Mhalsapati's father, several people had sat down to have meals. Suddenly, a dog suffering from scabbies came at the place and stood in front of them. As per his usual practice, Mhalsapati asked his wife to throw a piece of bread in front of the dog. However, as the bread was not given, the dog remained at its place. Finally, Mhalsapati smacked the dog and it ran away. In the evening, while he was preparing Baba's bed, Baba said to him, "*Ka re Bhagat*, in the town, there is a dog suffering from diseases like Me. But, people hit it."

Similarly, on one more occasion, a dog went to Mhalsapati. It was looking very ugly. Saliva was dripping from its mouth. Mhalsapati gave struck it and shrieking, it ran away. Later on, when Mhalsapati went to take Baba's *Darshan*, Baba said, "With a great hope we went to *Bhagat*. But, we received blows only."

The above incident took place in the morning. After two hours, in Dixit *wada*, people were busy with the meals. Suddenly, a dog appeared and stood on the steps. After it was driven away, it went to the neighbours staying opposite. It got beaten there and ran away yelping loudly. After hearing the noise, everyone remembered, what Baba had said on the very morning. They felt that a piece of bread would have served the purpose and the dog also would not have received a beating.

There is a story of, how *Shri* Vithoba took the appearance of a dog and went to Namdeo with a piece of bread in its mouth. Namdeo came with a pot of ghee and said, "Don't eat the bread dry, have some ghee along with it."

Coincidentally, exactly this story narrated was by Das Ganu *Maharaj* in his *kirtan* on the same day evening. Further coincidence is, on the same day evening, Madhavrao Adkar was reading 'Bhakti Leelamrut' in the Maruti *Mandir*. There also the same story appeared.

Everyone was amazed by this method adopted by Baba.

Baba always kept Mhalsapati away from any greed for money. In spite of his poor financial condition, Mhalsapati on his own never accepted any money given to him by any one.

Hansraj was a well-known businessman from Dadar. In 1917, he was suffering from *asthama* and stayed in Shirdi with his wife for two-three months. Knowing the poor financial condition of Mhalsapati, he offered him Rs. 10. Mhalsapati declined to accept it. Hansraj, thereafter, handed over the sum to Kaka *Saheb* Dixit and suggested that Dixit should hand it over to Mhalsapati in the presence of Baba. Accordingly, while Mhalsapati was carrying on the *Pooja* of Baba, Dixit started offering the amount to him. But, Mhalsapati did not accept it. Then, Dixit told Baba, "Baba, please ask Mhalsapati to accept the amount or You take and hand it over to him." To this Baba said, "For the time being, let it remain with you only."

After some time, Mhalsapati completed the *Pooja* and went away. Then, Baba asked Kaka *Saheb*, "How many rupees are there ?" He answered, "Ten". Baba asked him to keep them on His mattress and asked Nana *Saheb* Nimonkar to distribute the amount amongst other people. Thus, out of that amount, nothing went to Mhalsapati. Hemadpant has written about Mhalsapati that he was not a devotee of money; but he had great hunger for *Paramartha* (divine truth). He had placed his body and soul at the Feet of Sai Baba. He was affectionate and self-less.

Baba always protected His devotees from any hindrances in their progress towards *Paramartha*. While doing so, He also took their acid-test. Around 32 years, prior to His *Mahasamadhi*, Baba took a very strange and tough test of Mhalsapati.

On the full moon night of Margashirsh (a month as per Hindu calendar), Baba suffered from a sudden attack of *asthama*. To overcome it, He went into a *Samadhi* and took His *Jeev* (life's essence) to *Bramhand*. He told everyone around, "For three days from now, do not wake Me up. And at the end of the third day, if I do not rise, then [pointing to a corner of the *Sabha Mandap* (meeting hall)], dig a *Samadhi* there and place Me in it !" Then, turning to Mhalsapati, He said, "*Bhagat*, do not neglect Me for three days." Thereafter, His body became lifeless and He rested on Mhalsapati's lap. His breathing and pulse stopped. After some time, everyone gave up hope about Baba. Patil – Kulkarni carried out a *panchnama* (legal procedure) and started making preparations for the last rites. However, Mhalsapati had not given up hope and did not move Baba's body even an inch from his lap. He sat day and night for three days. After three days, at three o'clock in the morning, Baba's body started showing signs of life. The breathing began, eyes opened slowly, the stomach started moving. And, after stretching His body in different directions, Baba awoke and sat up.

This showed the real love, devotion and faith of Mhalsapati ! He was really blessed by his *Guru*.

Because of the love and affection, only Mhalsapati dared to physically touch Baba and applied *Gandh / Tilak* to His throat. No one else had the courage to do so.

Later on, Baba appeared in Mhalsapati's dream - with *Gandh* and *Utane* applied to His forehead and both hands. Immediately, from the very next day, after completing the *Pooja* of all Deities, Mhalsapati started applying *Gandh* and *Utane* to Baba's forehead and both hands.

This practice was resented by the Muslims. They complained about it to Baba. But, Baba did not heed to their request. The community then brought the *Kazi* (Muslim priest) from Sangamner. After seeing this, Mhalsapati got scared. That day, as usual, he completed the *Pooja* of Shani, Khandoba, Maruti and Ganapati and proceeded without doing the *Pooja* of Baba. As he passed the *Masjid*, Baba objected and said, "Are, why are you passing from the going outside, without doing *Sa-gandha* ?" Mhalsapati said, "I was avoiding it; because it would make *Kazi Saheb* angry." Baba replied, "Apply the sandal-wood paste – here and here." And pointed to His forehead, throat, head and hands.

Baba's these words gave courage to Mhalsapati and with pleasure, he performed the usual *Pooja*. After seeing all this, *Kazi Saheb* went away. From then onwards, Baba's *Sa-gandha Pooja* was performed every-day. The honour of doing it went to Sitaram Dengale, then to Megha and onwards to Babu *Saheb* Jog. (In the early days, Baba once asked Nana *Saheb* Chandorkar's four-year-old son Babu to apply *Gandh* to Him.)

Mhalsapati's *Pooja* carried on incessantly till Baba's *Mahasamadhi*. Every-day *Naivedya* (food offering) was sent from his house for Baba. Similarly, as directed by Baba, Mhalsapati used to also carry the *Naivedya* of Sathé *Saheb* and Bala *Saheb* Bhate from their houses to the *Masjid*.

Baba used to foretell a lot of events that were to take place in Mhalsapati's life. He also sent His several learned devotees to Mhalsapati. It seems that in doing so, Baba wanted His these devotees to see the life being led by Mhalsapati and emulate it. Because of this, in times of difficulties, many devotees relied on Mhalsapati.

Kaka *Saheb* Dixit has written about Mhalsapati that “He is an authority on *Adhyatma*. He is without any desires for the worldly things. Through him, *Maharaj*’s devotees gain knowledge and pleasure. After the *Mahasamadhi* of *Maharaj*, Mhalsapati was a place of solace for many devotees.”

Due to the blessings of Baba, Mhalsapati regularly encountered divine experiences. Once, as per his annual practice, he was on the way to visit Lord Khandoba’s Fair. On the way, he stopped for a few moments at a well and realized that there is an acute shortage of water in the area. With sincerity and devotion, he remembered Baba. Immediately, a stream of water sprang near the well and the water was sufficient for the needs of Mhalsapati and his co-travellers.

Similarly, once, Mhalsapati was carrying the *Palkhi* of Lord Khandoba to the Fair at village Jejuri. He came to know that the epidemic of plague was currently prevalent in Jejuri. All the co-devotees panicked upon hearing the news. Mhalsapati was also uncomfortable and disappointed. He sat resting on the *Palkhi*. He sensed that someone has come at his back. He turned around and looked in that direction. He saw Baba there, Who immediately disappeared. Baba’s *Darshan* gave him lot of courage and he told everyone about the incident. All went to Jejuri, hailing Lord Khandoba and Baba.

In their stay of four days, they did not face even the smallest difficulty. Their pilgrimage tour was completed without any untoward event.

After their return to Shirdi, Baba inquired, “*Are Bhagat*, the Fair was good isn’t it ? I had also come there. Were you not resting your back on the *Palkhi* ? That was the time, I came there.”

Mhalsapati knew in advance, the day of his own demise. He also informed his family members about it. He sent a telegram to Kaka *Saheb* Dixit calling him to Shirdi from Mumbai. It is said that to facilitate Kaka *Saheb*’s arrival, Mhalsapati postponed his demise by a day. As the date of his death was known in advance, people from Shirdi and surrounding areas came and met him.

Such a pious man, left for his place at the Feet of Sai Baba on Tuesday, 12th September, 1921. His body was consigned to fire near *Lendi Baug*.

– *Translated from original Marathi*
– *into English by Sudhir*



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SHRISAILEELA - JULY-AUGUST-2005

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IS BABA LIVING AND HELPING NOW ?

DEVOTEES EXPERIENCES AFTER BABA'S MAHASAMADHI ON 15TH OCTOBER, 1918 FROM BOOK ENTITLED 'AMBROSIA IN SHIRDI' WRITTEN BY SHRI RAMALINGAM SWAMI, INSPIRED BY SHRI SIVANESAN SWAMIJI OF SHIRDI

(Contd. from May-June, 2005 issue)

82. BABA CURED TYPHOID FEVER OF THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF SHRI RAMCHANDRA AMRITRAO DESHMUKH OF SHIRDI AND MADE HIM HAVE FAITH IN HIM BY HIS OTHER MIRACLES.....

I was not accustomed to go to Baba's *Mandir* even though I resided in Shirdi.

My eldest daughter fell ill with typhoid in 1961. She was admitted in the dispensary (now called Sainath Chhaya guest house). The fever did not abate even after medical treatment in the dispensary.

My wife gave her Baba's *Tirtha* daily, morning and evening. Even though she was given treatment for 45 days in the dispensary, there was no improvement and she was not fully cured. Vexed with the treatment, we took her home in the same state, as we had admitted her.

Relying entirely on Baba's *Tirtha*, my wife administered it twice daily by mixing it with Baba's *Udi* and without using any other medicine. I told my wife that where even medicine had proved futile, what would Baba's *Tirtha* and *Udi* do ?

Three days after being discharged from the dispensary, my daughter became alright and started to eat. She became hale and hearty within a month.

My wife compelled me to believe that Baba's *Udi* and *Tirtha* alone had cured my daughter and no other medicine could do the same.

My mother had seen Sai Baba. She used to attend each and every *Aarati* and took Baba's *Udi* and *Tirtha* daily.

One day, in 1961, at around 4 a.m., while going to answer nature's call, she accidentally fell into the well by the side of our house. No one noticed. At about 5 a.m., those who came to draw water from the well saw her and took her out. The depth of the water was 48' deep. She was fully drenched in the cold water, where she had remained for about an hour in her old age. After taking her out, two doctors examined her and immediately they said that her survival depended on Baba's blessings, as her body was severely cold. Even though she fell from a height of 48', not even a wound was found on her body by Baba's grace. Doctors were full of amazement as to how the old lady escaped without hurt and thrived after being severely cold, which was all due to the wonderful *Lee/a* of the almighty Shri Sai Baba.

After ascertaining that Baba alone had saved my eldest daughter from typhoid and my old, aged mother from her mishap, I got full faith in Baba and began to worship Him.

I began a daily '*Parayan*' of at least one chapter of Baba's *Satcharita* in Marathi every evening.

As soon as I began to read, a very big frog used to come and remain by my side till my reading was over. This went on till the '*Parayan*' of Baba's *Satcharita* was complete. The day after my '*Parayan*' was completed, it never came again. Not only our family members, but those who visited us also saw this. We all decided that it was Sai Himself Who came in disguise to listen to my '*Parayan*' in order to strengthen my faith in Him.

Later, there was a big problem of my eldest daughter's marriage. I decided that, whatever by my position, I would perform her marriage in 1974 at any cost. At that time, I fell ill and was in no financial position to perform her marriage. I heartily prayed to Baba, "O Baba, even though I had no faith in You in the beginning, You Yourself relieved my family problems. Now, I pray from the bottom of my heart to fulfil my eldest daughter's marriage and cure me of my illness." Baba heard my prayer.

One fine morning in Jan. 1975, my eldest brother came along with the bridegroom's parents to my house for talks and we settled the marriage on 18.5.1975. The wedding was performed in a simple and fit manner in Baba's *Mangal Karyalaya*. We prepared food for 500 people – more than our expectation. Unexpectedly 800 people came. If we did not feed them, our family honour was at stake. There were no ways and means forthcoming to me to resolve this problem.

With complete faith in Baba, I hurried to Baba's *Dwarkamai*, prayed with all my heart, asking Baba to save my family honour, took *Udi* and returned to the *Mangal Karyalaya*. I put Baba's *Udi* in all the vessels containing food and began to serve the guests. To the amazement of all, not only 800 people were fed, but food for almost 200 people remained.

The omnipotent Baba by His *Leela* thus magnanimously saved the honour of my family.

83. BABA MADE A LITTLE GIRL, WHO HAD BECOME DUMB BECAUSE OF A CAR ACCIDENT, SPEAK WITH THE USE OF HIS UDI.....

The little daughter of a devotee from Andheri (Mumbai) was run over by a motor-car. She was saved; but was injured and took a fortnight to recover in the hospital. Though the hospital treatment restored her health, the power of speech lost due to the accident was not regained. She remained unable to speak in spite of several remedies, medicines etc. which were tried, but were ineffective.

Ultimately, Baba's *Udi* was tried, and she started speaking, as soon as she took its very first dose.

Everyone was startled to see the powers of Baba's *Udi*.

– Jyoti Ranjan



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