

SHRI

SAI LEELA

Official Organ of Shirdi Sansthan



IF YOU LOOK TO ME
I LOOK TO YOU
HIS HOLINESS
SAI BABA
(SHIRDI)

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SHRI SAI LEELA

OCTOBER 1983

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SHRI
SAI LEELA

**Official Organ of
Shirdi Sansthan**

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**To guide the world on the right path
is the principal aim of SHRI SAI LEELA**

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Punyatithi Festival

The birth of a child is a festive occasion every where. In every family the birth days are celebrated with joy and mirth. Similarly the birth days of Gods and avatars and saints are treated as festive occasions and they are celebrated publically on a grand scale. The birth days of Rama, Krishna, Datta, Chhatrapati Shiwaji Maharaj etc. can be quoted as a few examples in this behalf. In the Puranas the stories of the avatars of Lord Vishnu have been given at length and there the birth days of the avatars have been specifically mentioned as great occasions. As told by Lord Shrikrishna in the Bhagawadgeeta, every avatar of the Lord was for protecting the good and for destroying the wicked. So every avatar brought peace on the earth and gave solace to the people. Naturally therefore the births of the avatars must have been hailed with great joy by the people. As a remembrance of those past occasions, we are even today celebrating the birth days of all the avatars in a traditional way from year to year.

In some cases the punyatithies of certain people are also observed. The common people are observing the punyatithies of their relatives by performing the Shraddha ceremony of their relatives on the days of their death. The punyatithies of Lokamanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Saint Ramdas, Saint Tukaram and Shri Sai Baba are celebrated publically by the followers and devotees of those illustrious personalities. Shri Sai Baba appeared in Shirdi as a lad of about sixteen years. Though the people asked Him many times about his parentage, place of birth etc.

still He never told anything about it and therefore His birthday was never known to anybody. However after his stay in Shirdi for a long period of over sixty years, His followers were present at the time of His samadhi and therefore this event is definitely known to all. The devotees of Shri Sai Baba would have liked very much to celebrate His birth day also; but in the absence of the knowledge about that day, they now celebrate every year only the day of Samadhi of Shri Sai Baba as the punyatithi festival.

Just as the birth of a child is an occasion for joy, similarly the passing away of a person is very sorrowful and it was really so in the case of all the residents of Shirdi and all the devotees of Shri Sai Baba when He cast away His mortal coil on Tuesday the 15th October 1918. In chapter 43 of the Sai Satcharita, Shri Hemadpant has described in detail the passing away of Shri Sai Baba. Shri Hemadpant describes thus how the news created chaos in Shirdi :-

एकूनि बाबांचें निर्याण । बाती खोंचली जैसा बाण ।
पडलें नित्य व्यावसाया खाण । दाणादाण उडाली ॥८३॥

(The news of Baba's passing away hit the people like an arrow and the normal life of Shirdi was completely disrupted)

The effect of the aforesaid news on the common people has been described as follows :-

जो उठे पळत सुटे । मशीद मंडप गच्च दाटे ।
अवस्था पाहोनि हृदय फाटे । कंठ दाटे दुःखाने ॥८४॥

(Every one started running to the Masjid. The mandap in front of the Masjid was packed to capacity. The hearts of the people were torn asunder and their throats were choked due to sorrow).
कोणी करी आक्रंदन । कोणी तेथे घेई लोळण । कोणी पडे मूर्च्छापन्न । दुःखापन्न
जन झाले ॥१०२॥ दुःखाश्रुंनी स्वती नवन । नरनारी अति उद्विग्न । टाकोनियां
अन्नपान । दीनबदन तीं झालीं ॥ १०३ ॥

(Some started crying aloud, some started wallowing on the ground and some became unconscious. In short all people became sorrow-stricken. Due to overwhelming sorrow, tears were dropping from the eyes of men and women. They left aside their food and became crest-fallen.

Whenever any person in the house passes away, the whole house gets drowned in sorrow. Sai Baba had a contact with the Shirdi village and its people for a very long period of over 60 years and therefore everyone took Him to be a member of his family. Because of this close contact with Shri Sai Baba, it was quite natural that the people of Shirdi should feel that they have lost a member of their family. The devotees of Shri Sai Baba, who were out of Shirdi, also had very long contact with Him. They all considered Him as their Guru and spiritual guide. They also therefore were overwhelmed with sorrow at the very idea of remaining in Shirdi, which was without Shri Sai Baba in it. The sorrow of all the aforesaid people has been described in detail in Shri Sai Satcharita by Shri Dabholkar and a few of the Oviies have been quoted above from which the actual condition of the people in Shirdi at the time of the Mahasamadhi of Shri Sai Baba can be imagined very well.

Time is supposed to be the best healer of sorrow. The person who passes away is slowly forgotten. The members of his family also forget their sorrow and after recovering from the shock of the passing away of their family member, they start leading their normal life. The same has happened in the case of Shri Sai Baba. On the coming Pūnyatithi day viz. 16-10-83, sixtyfive years will be completed from the day of the Mahasamadhi of Shri Sai Baba. Now there are very few persons in Shirdi and elsewhere, who have even seen Shri Baba in flesh and blood and those that had a close association with Him are almost extinct. The present residents of Shirdi Village and the devotees of Shri Sai Baba know Him mostly from His photos, statues, pictures, films and perhaps from the description of Shri Baba given by elders, who had an occasion to see Him in their very young age.

Therefore the feelings of the modern generation about Shri Sai Baba are bound to be different from those, who were associated with Him, who had lived with Him and who had seen Him moving in the Masjid and Lendi Baug. It is because of this change in the circumstances that the day of passing away or the shraddha day of Shri Sai Baba, which originally was essentially a day of sorrow, has changed into "The Punyatithi Festival" and it is celebrated at present with worship, Keertan, bhajan, singing, processions and feasting as is done in the case of avatars or old saints. The present change is a natural consequence of the different facets of human nature and there is nothing to worry about it. In our daily life also we see that the shraddha day of the elders is very solemnly and religiously observed in the beginning. However with the passing of the years, the sorrow starts reducing and even friends are called to enjoy the lunch, which is served at the time of the Shraddha, as a feast.

In the circumstances, mentioned above, the sorrowful element in the Punyatithi day disappeared and it has turned into a festival as a result of which every day, during the festival, a sweet dish is served to every devotee, who takes prasad in the Bhojagriha of the Shirdi Sansthan. Out of the three main festivals that are celebrated at Shirdi, every year, the Punyatithi Festival only usually lasts for four days. The other two festivals viz. Gurupournima and Ramanavami, which are celebrated on a large scale at Shirdi, usually last for only three days. These festivals usually start on the day previous to the main day of the festival and they end after the kala keertan on the day next to the main day of the festival. In the case of the Punyatithi Festival, however, the day next to the main day of the festival falls on the Ekadashi day and as the kala keertan is not conventionally performed on that day, it is performed on the twelfth day of the month of Ashwin every year and thus the Punyatithi festival is celebrated for four days instead of three days as in the case of the other two main festivals at Shirdi.

This year the Punyatithi festival will be celebrated for four days at Shirdi from Saturday the 15th of October 1983 to Tuesday the 18th October 1983. The main day of the festival will be on the Dasara day viz. on Sunday the 16th of October 1983, This being the day on which Shri Sai Baba entered Mahasamadhi, His Shradha is performed on that day. Unlike old days, nearly four lacs people attend every festival at Shirdi during the days of the festival and lot of arrangements are required to be made at Shirdi in order to make the stay of the devotees, coming to Shirdi, quite comfortable. In order to see that the whole festival goes on smoothly, the Court Receiver holds two or three meetings in advance for planning the programmes and for assigning the work to responsible officers of the Shirdi Sansthan. As this is done well in advance the whole show goes on smoothly and no programme goes amiss. Parayan (Continuous reading of the Marathi Pothi of Shri Sai Satcharit), procession of the palanquin and of the Chariot (Rath), Keertans, auction sale of the articles presented to Shri Baba, programmes of vocal music, dance, instrumental music etc. by various artists on the main day for the whole of the night, Dahihandi, Rudrabhishek, programmes of vocal music of 1st grade and II grade artists may be said in brief as the high lights of this festival. Adequate arrangements are required to be made for maintaining the electric and water supply during the days of the festival. The help of the police and Home guards also is required to be sought for the maintenance of law and order. All devotees know that during the festival days the programmes in the Samadhi Mandir go on as usual and at the usual times without disturbance.

All devotees of Shri Sai Baba want to attend the festivals at Shirdi. However it does not become possible for every devotee to attend the festival and therefore it is said that only those devotees, who are lucky, attend the festival and take darshan of Sai Baba at Shirdi. Others who are not able to go to Shirdi should not be sorry. It is the experience of Sai devotees that Shri Sai Baba is

omnipresent. So He is present not only at Shirdi but at every other place where His devotees are praying to Him. Though sixtyfive long years have elapsed since the Mahasamadhi of Shri Sai Baba, He is manifesting Himself in several places to His devotees and remaining true to His promise, which has been stated in Shri Sai Satcharit in Chapter 25. Shri Sai Baba gave four mangoes to Shri Damuanna Rasane and told him to give them to his junior wife so that in course of time she would get four sons and four daughters. Shri Hemadpant states that the words of Shri Baba proved to be true at that time and adds that Shri Baba's promise is coming to be true even now as follows:-

जैसे बोल्ले तैसेच घडलें । आपुलें ज्योतिष निष्फल झालें । साईंचे बोल
अमोघ ठरले । जाहलीं मुलें वचनोक्त ॥ १०३ ॥ असो ही तो बाबांची वैखरी । बाबा
असतां देहधारी । परी पुढें ही देहत्यागीनंतरी । स्वयें निर्धारी निजमहिमा ॥ १०४ ॥
“झालों जरी गतप्राण । वाक्य माझे माना प्रमाण । माझीं हाडें तुर्वतीमघून ।
देतील आश्वासन तुम्हांस ॥ १०५ ॥ मी काय पण माझी तुर्वत ; राहिल तुम्हांसवें
बोलत । जो तीस अनन्य शरणागत । राहिल डोलत तथा सवें ॥ १०६ ॥ डोक्यांआड
होईन ही चिंता । करूं नका तुम्ही मजकरीतां । माझीं हाडें ऐकाल बोलतां ।
हितगुज करितां तुम्हांसवें ॥ १०७ ॥ मात्र माझे करा स्मरण । विश्वासयुक्त
अंतःकरण । ठेवा करा निष्काम भजन । कृतकल्याण पावाल ॥ १०८ ॥

(In case of Shri Dauanna, it happened as foretold by Shri Baba. The prophecy of the astrologers did not come true and the wife of Shri Damuanna got children as per Shri Baba's words. This is an example when the words of Shri Baba came to be true when he existed in flesh and blood; but even after He cast away his mortal coil, He has maintained His greatness by proving His following promise to be true. "Believe me, though I pass away, My bones in my tomb will give you hope. Not only Myself, but my tomb would be speaking and moving with those who would surrender themselves whole-heartedly to Me. Do not be anxious that I would be out of your sight. You will hear my bones speaking to you about your welfare; but keep confidence

in me and remember me. If you do my bhajan without having any motive, then you will be benefited immensely."

The promise given above by Shri Sai Baba is being kept by Him as will be seen from the experiences that are being published in this magazine from time to time. There may be thousands of other devotees who may be getting experiences about the presence of Shri Sai Baba ; but who may not be in a position to write them out for the benefit of other Sai devotees. Every Sai devotee has therefore to bear in mind the above words of Shri Sai Baba and has to always remember Him and to pray to Him. Let us all Sai devotees therefore pray to Shri Baba on the coming Punyatithi day in order to get prosperity in this world and liberation from the cycle of birth and death in the next world. Shri Sai Baba Himself has said somewhere that these two are the outcome of His worship if it is done sincerely and from the bottom of our heart. ★



To
The Editor,
Shri Sai Leela Magazine,
Sir,

I thank you heartily for the picture of our beloved Sai Baba printed on the title page of Shri Sai Leela, July 1983 issue, which was a Guru Pournima Number. In this picture Sai Baba appears to be coming alive. I have framed it and kept it on the T. V. set where we have His darshan at all times. I request you to get this pose printed in different large and small sizes and present it for sale along with other poses available at Shirdi Sansthan. The semblance of colours in the picture is very natural and peace-giving so the same colour transparency may be retained.

Yours faithfully,

R. K. Bhatnagar

Behind D.C.M. Shop, Railway Road, Aligarh-202001 (U. P.)

The Sacred Land of Shirdi

Swami Ramdas was a well-known devotee of God. After receiving initiation of Ram Mantra from his father, Swami Ramdas renounced the worldly life in 1922 and wandered as a mendicant Sadhu all over India and in the Himalayas in a frenzy of God-intoxication with the holy and all powerful Ram Mantra ever on the tongue and with God as his only refuge and guide. His was the competent surrender to the will of God.

Many years of wandering life brought him finally back to south Kanera. Having attained spiritual liberation and God Vision, he started his mission to guide and serve mankind in order to awaken it to the awareness of God. He founded an Ashram named as ANANDASHRAM. The writing and speeches of Swami Ramdas are remarkable and come from the deeps of Reality and therefore go straight to the heart. In 1954 he went on a world tour and hundreds of his devotees therefore had a chance to come into close contact with him. He attained Mahanirvaa in July 1963.

In his famous book "GOD EXPERIENCE" Swami Ramdas has described SAI BABA of Shirdi as a JIWAN MUKTA. On page 206 he has written as follows: "What is left behind after a Jiwan Mukta drops his body SAI BABA'S Samadhi is in Shirdi. Thousands go there to have his darshan from various parts of India. They go to the place in stream. What is it that draws them there? There must be some power present where his samadhi is. Even he is alive, a Jiwan Mukta has no individuality. He has realized that he is the all pervading Atman, and he is present everywhere. Why is it then that a particular place is considered sacred? Is still permeating the place where the body is buried or cremated? Yes, Each particle of the Saint's body either in the form of dust or ashes has great divine power in it. And that power radiates light and joy to a responsive heart and elevates it by filling it with ecstasy and peace.

When we go to the Samadhi of the Saint. We say we feel some peace-giving vibrations there, which are not found elsewhere. Is it due to a power revealed there out of the material remains of the Mahatma or is it due to the faith of the disciples? If anybody goes there without faith, he does not feel the vibrations. So both the power and the faith must be there before the soothing vibrations are felt. A Jivanmukta's body is full of divine light, power and joy and after he sheds it, his power remains in every particle of its ashes or dust. They give out spiritual radiance. That is why SAMADHI is worshipped. A spiritual power is present there. Before it whatever you pray for, is granted. Many thousands go there for material benefit and get it. SHIRDI was an unknown place, before Sai Baba. Now thousands are going there for the darshan of SAI BABA'S Samadhi. It is the Bhakta's devotion that makes the power manifest in all its glory."

WHY SHIRDI IS SO SACRED?

It is said in the Narad Bhakti Sutras-

"The place, which a saint treads, is sanctified, the mother earth feels happy, because he is walking upon it. The dust on which he has set his foot is sacred. It is also said that when such a saint walks in the street, Lord Vishnu Himself follows him closely behind. Do you know why? He wants the dust that flies up from the tread of the saint's feet to fall on his body and purify him." Therefore the land of Shirdi is sacred as SAI BABA has set His foot there. ★

B. S. Thakur
Principal

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The Mystery of missing trip to Shirdi

It will be interesting to note how Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi brought me half way back from Shirdi, this year, 1983 when I started as usual for my annual prayer at His lotus feet in the 27th year of my continuous visit to Shirdi, without a break.

This year 1983 I planned to go to Shirdi Shrine; but my route was via Ayodhya, Kuukshetra, Amritsar and Dwaraka as suggested by my younger brother, Shri B. Gundu Rao, retired Commercial Inspector of South Central Railway, who wanted to visit these places with his wife Smt. B. Subbalaxmi, along with me.

At Vijayawada, while he was getting his railway passes for his journey, as obtained by me, he inadvertantly lost one of my very important particular pass, which was due for my return journey to Bangalore from Dwaraka via Shirdi, without which I could not reach Bangalore, my final destination.

This loss of my pass crippled our tour programme and therefore we had to abandon our journey in toto. The distance from Dwaraka to Bangalore is so long and so costly that I could ill-afford it as a fare paying passenger (nearly 1,000 kms and Rs. 500/-).

In the circumstances, I requested my office at Madras to issue me a fresh pass in lieu of the lost one; but it was not issued and consequently I had to travel paying a fare of Rs. 60/- upto Madras only.

At Madras, I requested my benevolent officer Shri S. Ganesan, the Deputy Chief Security Officer, to issue me a pass to go to Bangalore, and to credit one single pass unused by me, to my account, who magnanimously and very kindly complied with my request, by which in one pass I came to Bangalore and the other

I had to my credit to use for my trip to Shirdi later in 1983, thus to complete my 27th trip to Shirdi without a break. I am grateful and thankful to Shri S. Ganesan, Deputy Chief Security Officer and pray to Shri Sai Baba for his well-being and success.

That I lost the pass and returned to Bangalore is not important, but how and why I lost the pass is worth noting.

The most important and interesting fact is that at the time when we were to visit Amritsar, there was political turmoil and to avoid any serious troubles or consequences in our journey to Amritsar, which we would have certainly encountered, had we gone, that my savior benevolent lord Shri Sai Baba, rightly in time, made me lose the pass and prevent us from going to Amritsar, being ill-timed and so losing the pass was a forewarner to us, by Shri Sai Baba.

It may be noted here that I am travelling to Shirdi since 26 years and never have I lost a pass and why should I lose it this year and this time? Is it not a wonder? If not to prevent us from the consequences, can only be realised and experienced only by surrendered Bhaktas.

Miracle 2 is that in this episode Shri Sai Baba has however not stopped me from going to His lotus feet for my annual prayers in 1983, thus by keeping one pass in my reserve for my journey later in 1983 to complete my 27th continuous trip, if all goes well and if He wills it.

Miracle 3 is that Shri Sai Baba took me to Vijayawada to meet a very close, old and dear friend, once a colleague and now an Officer Shri L. Ramalingam, Personnel Officer, South Central Railway at Vijayawada, whom I had not met since 20 years. The meet so arranged was also a miracle, in that, this Officer who had recently come from Secunderabad, refused to sign a pass for my brother Gundu Rao and put it off for clarification for the next day. Disappointed at his not signing the pass, my

brother Gundu Rao came and complained to me that one officer by name Shri L. Ramalingam refused to sign a certain pass of his. The moment I heard the name Ramalingam, I jumped with joy and immediately ran to see him since we had not met for nearly 20 years and we embraced each other. My friend also was overwhelmed with joy to see me and reciprocated the same sentiments. I enquired his welfare and conveyed him the blessings of Shri Sai Baba. But for my brother mentioning his name I would not have known nor seen him too. See how Shri Sai Baba made us meet by not signing the pass.

Miracle 4 is that though I spent Rs. 60/- for my train fare to Madras, Shri Sai Baba did not want His poor Bhakta to suffer this loss so He compensated the amount spent by getting me Rs. 49/- by way of refund on irregular telegrams delivered to me which were unknown and unexpected to me.

It is thus proved beyond doubt that Shri Sai Baba is always watchful over His surrendered Bhaktas and will come to their rescue just in time of need and protect them with His Abhaya Hasta, shielding them at all times and thus save them in catastrophies, is clearly indicated in this miracle, which I hope every Bhakta will note with keen interest.

Who can know or imagine the ways and doings of Shri Sai Baba, our savior, protector, guide and care taker. ★

B. Ramanadharao
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Miraculous Recovery

I am a devotee of Shri Saibaba and have read many incidents in Sai-Leela magazine how Lord Sai has helped His devotees. This has inspired me to narrate an incident which took place recently in my life.

I was not putting on weight and sometimes R. B. Cells were passing through my urine. To find out the reason, many types of urine and blood examinations were done, X-rays were also taken, but everything was found to be normal. So the doctor advised me to do a test of renal-biopsy which takes 3 to 4 days. So I was admitted to hospital on 7-1-1983. On 12-1-83 biopsy was done. We were told that because of the 'biopsy' the colour of the urine may be a little redish; but in my case, the urine continued to be red for 3 to 4 days. It was realised then, that while doing the biopsy, the testing needle must have injected on the wrong location, and it must have injured the blood vein, which was the cause of bleeding and so the urine was red.

We were frightened and praying to Lord Sai for His help. The doctor told that there was no medicine which could stop that bleeding, it will be healed on its own. Like that another fifteen days passed ; but the urine was still red. Now the doctors were also worried. It was suggested that if it doesn't get normal within two to thre days, some more tests will be required to trace the exact place of the injury and after that if necessary, surgery should be done to stop the bleeding.

My mind was full of anxiety and tension. My parents were also much worried. We all prayed from the bottom of our heart to Shri Sai Baba to help us and do something, so we need not have to undergo the surgery.

It seemed that our prayers were answered and one day to our pleasant surprise the urine became normal. It was the day,

just one day before when the other tests for the decision of surgery were to be done. The doctors were also surprised, and told that it is not possible, unless it is a miracle. After this the other test was cancelled. Upto three to four days everything continued to be normal. So I was allowed to move. Unfortunately it was little too early and the injury was not healed completely. So again the bleeding started.

It was a great shock for me and I thought that if bleeding can occur again, after everything was normal, it is very dangerous and what will happen in future if healing is not complete. I prayed once again, day and night, with full faith to Shri Sai Baba. About 8 bottles of blood and more than 100 bottles of glucose-saline were given to me during the period of one month. Shri Sai Baba ultimately listened to our prayers and after a week the urine was once again quite clear; but this time, we did not want to take a risk, so after 15 days of bed-rest, I started to move and when I was out of danger, I was discharged from the hospital.

I am working in a bank and to avoid the hardships of travelling, I applied for transfer to the branch near my house. By Shri Sai's grace, I got the transfer immediately, to the branch, which is very close to my house. By His grace I am now alright.

This incident has impressed me a lot and strengthened my faith in Shri Sai Baba even more. I strongly believe that if you have true faith and if you remember Him from the bottom of your heart, with patience, He will certainly come to your help and fulfil your wishes. May all have such faith towards Him and may Lord Sai Baba's grace be showered on them. ★

Nita N. Parikh

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OBITUARY



With deep regrets we have to inform our readers that Mrs. Sumitra Vinayak Apte, the wife of Shri Vinayak S. Apte, Chief Accounts Officer of the Shirdi Sansthan, expired at Bombay on 22-8-1983 at the age of only 50 years, after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband Shri V. S. Apte and one son.

Mrs. Sumitrabai had an attack of brain haemorrhage at her house at Vidya Vihar on 24th June, 1979 and She was hospitalised immediately. She was unconscious for nearly four months and due to great care and nursing done by Shri Apte and his other relatives, she regained consciousness and was showing further signs of improvement, However she suddenly had a heart attack on the aforesaid date and she succumbed to it.

Mrs. Sumitrabai was a sincere devotee of Shri Sai Baba and she had firm faith in Him. She was constantly reading Sai Satcharita and she had done complete reading of that book several times.

We extend our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the members of the family of Shri V. S. Apte in their present sad bereavement and pray at the feet of Shri Sai Baba that the departed soul may rest in peace. ★

K. H. Kakre
Court Receiver, Shirdi Sansthan of Shri Sai Baba

REPENTENCE

Actions of a man are guided by his conscience/soul/Atma. Out of these Atma is like a molecule of God. All the characteristics of God are present in it. Characteristics of the smallest drop of water do not differ from those of the water in a bucket.

Through this Atma, God virtually dwells in our bodies. Atma is Parmatma. Therefore search within through introversion, has been recommended by many saints rather than searching God in places of worship, pilgrimage etc.

Atma releases signals "Go Ahead or Stop". Peculiarity of the whole system lies in the fact that the role played by Atma is purely advisory. There is no compulsion. This inherent freedom allows a man to exercise his own decision to accept or to reject the signal.

There are various attractions for sensuous pleasures, which tempt a person to go ahead in the other direction by ignoring the signals of Atma, who is a witness to the whole show. In spite of rejection of signals, Atma continues to play its advisory role without any prejudice. Umpteen number of opportunities are offered and the right path is shown. In the process either the person corrects himself and starts obeying the signals of Atma or adopts an "I don't care" attitude and dashes to the destiny of doom.

If the process of correction is adopted, sincere attempts are made to accept the signals. If the person is not saturated with ego, he becomes humble. He realises the mistake, begs pardon for the wrong deeds and sheds tears to burn up the foul substance generated in the process of committing wrong deeds. Decision is also taken with a sense of determination that such wrong deeds will not be repeated. This whole process is termed as 'REPENTENCE'.

It is desirable that the repentance takes place much before the wrong deeds are brought to the notice of large number of friends, relatives and public.

God is all merciful and benevolent. He loves his children, pardons them and embraces them. Their sins are washed away by the detergent of repentance. God does all that washing of the dirty linen as a fond mother does for an infant. She does not throw away the dirty child but washes the child because the child belongs to her.

Man belongs to God through the process of surrender. There is no fault which cannot be forgiven by God if the man sincerely and heartily repents for it.

Unfortunately in several situations there is neither a sense of surrender or belonging to God nor any repentance for wrong deeds. Highly intellectual persons either do not believe in God or if they believe in the existence of God, they use their intelligence in blaming God for whatever wrong is happening in this life.

Normally the intelligence and the consequent knowledge breeds ego which can be neutralised only by the spirit of surrender to God. We the Sai devotees have already surrendered to our Lord and sincerely repent for our wrong thoughts, words and deeds.

If we observe that a person having committed a misconduct does not repent but argues out one way or the other in support of his wrong actions, we feel extremely sorry and sympathetic to him. It is our duty to point out this shortcoming to him. He may feel sorry and may repent. That is the right moment to show him Sai path and take him to the merciful Lord. Instantly you will see that one more lamp is lighted.

Lord Sainath is lighting up the lamps of humanity. Several lamps are lighted up when they are brought close to the Master Lamp. ★

S. R. Joshi

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MERCIFUL SAIBABA

After Sai Nama Sapthaha at Shirdi (June '82), the devotees of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh organised Sai Akhanda Nama Sapthaha in the month of December, 82 (11-12-82 to 18-12-82) at Sai Baba Mandir, R. Agraharam, Guntur (A. P.)

Sai Baba graced the function and blessed all the devotees according to their intensity of love and devotion for HIM. Two of such incidents are given below.

One devotee by name Smt. Varalakshamma of Guntur was regularly participating in the Sapthaha. She was thinking for herself that Sai should be present there as His Akhanda Nama Sankirtan was going on. She was reminded of Lord Narayana's declaration to sage Narada that wherever His devotees sing His name, He would be present there. Our Sai Narayan also proved literally that He was present there. One day pooja was conducted in the name of the donors and she was given four packets of Sapthaha prasad. Sai appeared before her and demanded His share of prasad. She immediately took out one of the four packets from her plastic bag and passed it on to Baba. She could not talk anything. Suddenly Sai disappeared. When She counted in her bag, there were only three packets there.

She immediately rushed to Mathru Shree Poolamma, a Sai Sevika doing lot of Sai Prachar work throughout Andhra Pradesh and narrated the incident to her. (In Telugu Language "Poolu" means flowers. Her name is Kameswaramma. As flowers used to multiply in her hands while doing Sai pooja, devotees dearly call her as "Poolamma". She has constructed a beautiful Sai temple in her native village, Nandur in A. P., Amma told Mrs. Varalakshamma that Baba appeared to her according to her way of thinking. (जया मनीं जैसा भाव तया तैसा अनुभव)

Another devotee by name Smt. Kanna Ranganayakamma, Sri Sai Nilaya, Srinivasa Rao, Thota, Guntur (A. P.), observed

drops of water on one of the Baba's photos hung on a wall in her residence. Next day some of us went to her residence and observed water drops between the glass and Baba's photo. I asked her what might be the reason. She replied that they are "Anandabhashpas" (drops of water flown through eyes in moods of ecstasy) as Sai was pleased with the Nama Sapthaha of 'Om Sai Sri Sai Jaya Jaya Sai'.

I appeal to those devotees, who wish to see Sai leela as of the above nature, to organise Ekanama Sapthahas in their respective places and see for themselves how Sai manifests Himself during the Sapthaha (seven days). Please try one "OM SAI SRI SAI JAYA JAYA SAI". ★

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Punyatithi Festival at Shirdi

The Punyatithi Festival will be celebrated as usual at Shirdi from Saturday the 15th October 1983 to Tuesday the 18th October 1983, both days inclusive. All Sai devotees are cordially requested to attend the festival.

K. H. Kakre
Court Receiver,
Shirdi Sansthan of Shri Sai Baba

Who was Sai Baba ?

The issue of Sai Leela December, 1982 carries an article "Our Sai Baba" by Shri R. K. Bhatnagar, in which a laudable attempt is made to free Sai devotees from religious prejudices about Shri Sadguru Sai Baba, who is a God incarnate. The learned author asserts that "By firmness of the belief Sai Baba was a Muslim" on the grounds that (1) Sai Baba used to utter 'Allah Malik' and 'Bismillah and (2) he ordained that his mortals should be buried. I must humbly confess that I find difficult to reconcile with the logic.

I believe that language used by a person is that one which is learnt from the family and social environment and it does not prove one's religion of birth. What will be the language and customs of a person born of Muslim parents, but brought up by Marathi speaking Hindu guardians from infancy? He will speak Marathi and observe Hindu customs learnt in that household, because he does not inherit Islamic customs by birth. In case of Shri Sai Baba exactly the same thing had happened. We are certain that during his childhood Baba was brought up by a Muslim Fakir (perhaps named Roshan Shah) and after demise of this Fakir, his wife sent young Baba to 'Venkusa'. Obviously Shri Baba had first learnt 'Urdu' and Islamic customs. It does not prove that Baba was Muslim either by faith or by birth.

Secondly, it is a Hindu Custom to bury the mortals of a saint. The body of a Muslim saint is buried in open but it is noteworthy that Baba wished his mortals should be taken to a temple (closed shelter) meant for "Murlidhar". The nature of dispute that arose between Hindus and Muslims at the time of Shri Baba's burial may be interesting in this regard.

Besides, there are overwhelming evidences which showed that Baba was not observing Islamic injunctions as prescribed by the

Holy Quorran. He did not perform 5 times Namaz and Friday prayers as a faithful Muslim is expected to do. He had not done 'Sunnat' but on the other hand there were holes in his ears unlike Muslims. Baba allowed his devotees to worship photos and statues. He kept DHUNI burning which is not in Islamic rituals. Muslims condemn idolatry.

It is too naive to say that Muslim is one who has faith in his creator. The definition is too wide in coverage. In a true sense everyone, who has faith in his creator as enunciated by Mohammad Paigambar in the Holy Quorran, and adopts the way of life as prescribed therein may be regarded as a Muslim. Judged by these criteria, Baba was certainly not a Muslim. Shri Bhatnagar says that by way of his life, no doubt can be raised that he was not a Hindu. Swami Vivekanand had told that "Test of faith is action". If so, could it not be preposterous on our part to conclude that Shri Sai Baba was a Muslim by faith and Hindu by way of life, that is, there was divorce between his faith and actions?

One Rohilla Muslim devotee of Shri Sai Baba got annoyed by the Hindu way of worship of Shri Baba and felt that Shri Sai Baba was betraying Islam. One day when Shri Sai Baba was walking, he came up behind him with a club intending to strike him down. Shri Sai Baba turned just at that moment, touched his left wrist, looked at him and he sank to the ground. Does this not show that Baba's life and conviction created an impression on Rohilla that He was not a Muslim? Baba's stay in a dilapidated mosque can be another argument to say that He was a Muslim.

Some of the researchers like Shri H. H. Narasimha Swamiji and others have reached a conclusion of Brahmin parentage of Shri Sai Baba. I do not think that there is an attempt to misrepresent Sai Baba in doing so, as far as the intention to discover the truth. Shri Bhatnagarji has attempted to put Sai Baba as a

Muslim by faith by giving a literal meaning of the word Muslim. By applying the same method of 'approach, the word Brahmin means "spiritual elect" or "god realised man". Was Shri Baba not a Brahmin in this sense? Shri Baba used to call Dwarakamai as "Brahmin's mosque" and himself as "Pure Brahmin".

Is God away from the religion? If He is so, what is the purpose of true religion? I think that true religion is one which takes us to God (i. e. divinity). God also takes 'avtaras' to re-establish true religion. That is what is assured by Lord Krishna in his "Geeta". A true religion is a vehicle to Godhead, and everyone has to find his way to God through his religion. It may be that the religions of the world are like different coloured glasses through which one light may appear variedly. Although Shri Sai Baba held that all religions are true, he did not encourage merging of paths among his followers. He did not approve of conversion from one to another; but expected each person to strive in that in which he had been brought up. A Hindu, who had been converted to Islam, came to see Shri Baba and Shri Baba slapped his face, exclaiming "so you have got yourself a new father".

My intension in writing this piece is that our faith should be based both on emotional and intellectual convictions and truth as we perceive it, and not on blind philosophical attitude of mind. For understanding Shri Sai Baba, it is necessary to study not only the authentic book of Hemadpant "Sai Sachcharita" but also the following works on the life of Shri Sai Baba—

1. H. H. Narasimha Swamiji - Shri Sai Baba's Charters and sayings. Devotees' experiences of Sai - Baba, Sai - Baba Life and Mission.
2. K. B. Gavankar - Shiradiche Sai Baba
3. Arthur Osborne - The Incredible Sai Baba

Prakesh Palekar

C/o. Om Sri Sai Samaj, Tilakwadi Belgaum 6 (KARNATAKA)

New Year's Blessings

Every year I pay my humble visit to Shirdi ever since I became the devotee of Lord Sai. Every time I visit the holy temple, I experience HIS presence with some LEELA. As usual I programmed my fourth visit to Shirdi in 1983. This time I wanted to be at Shirdi during the new year day. I took this decision all of a sudden so I did not get any company and I had to go alone. My desire was to visit the shrine during the early hours of new year i. e., suprabhata darshanam of Lord Sai, at 5.15 a. m.

Accordingly I planned my programme on 30th December 82 and left for Shirdi by Ajanta Express. When I reached Manmad, I found hundreds of pilgrims coming from different parts of the country irrespective of caste, creed and religion waiting to go to Shirdi. There was a sea of human beings rushing for the darshan of the Lord. I was afraid of getting accommodation and even darshan during early hours. When I was about to reach Kopergaon by bus, somebody from the back seat called me and introduced himself as a new comer to Shirdi not knowing any language except Telugu. His name was SAI BABU and he was coming from Vijayawada along with his family members. He asked for my guidance as he was new to the place. I gladly showed my willingness to help him. Then afterwards he became my good friend. I got accommodation at Sai Prasad and had clear darshan during suprabhatam. My long desire was fulfilled. My main purpose only I came all the way from Mumbai I wanted to start my new year programme at Shirdi. I performed year's blessings. I performed ABHISHEKAM along with my new friends to my full satisfaction. I showed them all the important places at SHIRDI. Thus my Shirdi trip went on well with the blessings of the Lord.

Last but not the least I have to state that Lord Sai always remembers and guides those, who call on him in any manner they like. So He said, "IF YOU LOOK TO ME I LOOK TO YOU"

P. Syamsunder Rao



SAI MIRACLE

A true devotee of Sai Maharaj need have no fear whatsoever that He will forsake the devotee at any time. Trials tribulations and ordeals are confronted only to be cleared, like thick fog on sunrise, by His glance and thus confirm His love and benevolence to the devotee and increase his faith.

Sai will neglect the welfare of His devotees only if the sea turned back the rivers, as stated in Sai Satcharita. My personal experience in this regard I wish to share with my brother devotees.

Certain circumstances developed wherein I had to resign from the public sector organisation where I was working for over 14 years. I owned all the misdemeanors I was accused of, never trying to put the blame on anybody, and also gave statement accepting them. The great injustice that pained me most was the fact that everything spoken against me was readily wallowed in their entirety without any attempt y or cross check as to their authenticity or motives which were very obvious to everyone a perfect and innocent and I do have my what actually aggravated the situation was not their gravity but systematic, calculated and wilfull vilification made to degrade me in order to remove me from the path. This combined with the witch-hunt of certain other individuals produced the synergestic effect making my exit a must.

The head of the particular division of the company, to which I was attached and the Personnel Manager suggested that I better tender my resignation so that the entire unpleasant episode could be closed. As I knew the situation was the outcome of the efforts of certain individuals by their vilification, which found easy and willing reception and acceptance to my superiors, my quitting was inevitable.

I was asked to meet the head of the division, who had come down to the place of my posting, at the hotel where he was staying and I was aware of the shape of the things to come. When I reached the reception counter of the hotel, with fluttering heart, there was the Ashirvad portrait of Baba bestowing his blissful looks down on me.

I endured silently all the humiliations heaped on me. I could see that the issue was the outcome of personal vendetta basically, eventhough I was also guilty of certain misdeeds. Since persecution and further witch-hunting and even suspension would be the consequence of any resistance on my part, I tendered my resignation on 31-7-82. At that time I was assured of satisfactory settlement of my dues such as gratuity, CPF etc. But on the next working day, which was a pay day, my salary was withheld and I realised that the management was intending to deprive me of my dues. I prayed to Baba and left to Him to protect me and my family since we had no savings whatsoever.

After that I made a number of appeals to the company explaining our plight and requesting for early payment and settlement of my claims. Not a single reply was received for over 8 months. But I had implicit faith that Baba in His inscrutable way shall change the heart of the people concerned and protect us. Every day and night was spent in agony, tension and fear, because the persons who strove for my downfall and ultimate elimination from the organisation were still active and striving

their utmost to see that not only that I was deprived of my rights but harass me further, if possible.

But to our surprise and happiness a letter dated 31.3-83 was received from the H. O. of the company about release of my July 1982 salary and stating that my gratuity and CPF will be also paid on receipt of 'No Demand Certificate' from the regional office where I was serving. This downpour of nectar came forth from our God Baba only. Is it not His mercy and love for his devotee which caused a miraculous and total change of heart of the people to take such a favourable decision even though every thing was against me, which was diametrically opposite to the one they were intending to take?

Baba is always with me and the interim sufferings and turmoils we underwent were only to test our steadfastness and confirm our faith. And also a warning and a mild punishment for my misdeeds. He has opened my eyes and shown the path of rectitude.

Now I have made yet another appeal to the Chief Executive of the company to direct revocation of acceptance of my resignation treating the same as withdrawn and re-instate me in service since at the age of 50 I am unable to get another job and the entire family is facing a gloomy future. I am sure that Sainath shall once again prevail upon the minds of decision makers and make them recall me. He is the ultimate decision maker.

I shall share the result of my appeal with my co-devotees when I come to know about it.

We have been visiting Shirdi occasionally and every year since 1979. We had darshan of Baba at Shirdi during the 1st week of May 1982. We shall be there after the orders of Baba are received,

Sai is unparalleled. He is our saviour.



A. S. Menon

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SHIRDI SAI BABA

Before we make an attempt to understand Shirdi Sai Baba, also popularly known as Shirdi Sai Nath, Shirdi Sai Ram, His Avatar, His work and His message to mankind, let us know the background, the circumstances and the atmosphere that was prevailing in this ancient land of ours.

After the historical Kurukshetra battle between Kauravas and Pandavas, our country remained independent for some centuries till the invasion of Alexander the Great, which had its influence on our society politically though not spiritually. Then followed foreign attacks which culminated in the establishment of Mogul empire, in other words the Muslim rule for a period of more than seven centuries and it lasted till the advent of the British power in our country which was terminated in 1947.

During all these centuries, except the Muslim and Christian Governments, all their predecessors joined in the main stream and were absorbed in the caste system as it was in vogue in those times. The Muslims and Christians, though they ruled and co-existed with our society, yet they maintained their individuality. The culture that they brought with them, had their own influence upon Hinduism and our culture influenced them. Thus cross influences pervaded our entire atmosphere.

While such was, is and will be our spiritual atmosphere, the administrative system that was introduced by the British Government in our country practically put an end to household worship and Saguna worship of the Almighty Lord, God, in the way in which it is enjoined in Shastras, Smritis and Vedas. In this connection, a sincere, frank and open hearted Indian should accept the hard and unpleasant truth, that our esteemed spiritual leaders have confined the knowledge of spiritual truths within themselves or selected intellectuals and pandits till the advent of

Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and of the patriot Saint Swami Vivekananda who boldly, sincerely revealed those truths to one and all irrespective of the caste system and broke the stronghold of the Hindus. The worship of Paramatma was freed from cumbersome rituals, Mantras, Tantras and other such disciplines, which tortured the human body.

It was at such time that Shri Sai Baba, who was an undisputed Avatar of Lord Dattatreya, came upon the scene. Silently and unobtrusively He lived in the Shirdi village, practising the fundamental precepts of Hindu, Muslim and Christian cultures for the benefit of his devotees, who consisted of all the known recognised religions.

Wisely and understandably he chose an old and dilapidated mosque for his residence and he called it Dwarakamai. There was no 'Q' system, no V. I. P. treatment, no prejudice and favour. He exhorted the public, that gathered around Him, to practise implicit and childlike faith in the existence of Saguna Force, that sustains this vast creation, visible and invisible, whether Hindu, Muslim or Christian or any other way to pray to Him and Trust Him in good faith in words, thoughts and deeds.

Indeed He showed in His action and various Leelas the assurance which He as Lord Krishna gave to Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra that whosoever believes and trusts Him, He will personally look after him, watch his welfare and come to his rescue in bad times.

In my opinion, Shirdi Sainath, during the tenure of His Avatar of Dattatreya proved beyond words the grace of God to humans and the promise translated into action made by Him at the time of the Kurukshetra war.

That is Shirdi Sai Baba. He is an epitome of all human spiritual knowledge. His Leelas, even His Samadhi to date,

reveal that natural truth underlying His creation the birth, growth, death or annihilation are governed by this undieing spiritual law. Shri Sai unmistakably revealed its depth and intricacies for our guidance.

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Baba's Udhi Vs. Modern Medical Science

The doctor was a degree holder in modern medical science. At Malegaon in district Nasik with practice in a reputed way. Suffered his nephew from tubercular bone abscess in abominable way. Finding no relief with modern medical science even in least way, the parents brought the boy to Shirdi in a condition hopeless way. With firm faith and belief in Omnipotent Baba in a highly divine way prostrated at the holy feet of Baba in a most obeisance way. Then placed the boy at Baba's holy feet in a most reverand way. Baba the Omniscient knew the condition of the boy was in a critical way. Glancing at the boy for a while, Baba moved his hands in a chuckling way on the affected parts of the boy's body in a kind diffusing way "Apply some udhi to the abscess" Baba advised the parents in a consoling way "And the boy will be alright" Baba assured the parents in an asserting way. Amazingly the boy became healthy by the end of the week in a miraculous way. And such is the wonderful effect of Baba's sacred udhi so to say. ★

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Suburi is rewarded

Some times, I become impatient and wonder when will my Sai listen to me because at certain times, I feel that He has turned a deaf ear to my prayers! No, I am absolutely wrong because as I wrote in my previous article, Sai is always looking at us if we look at Him.

I had taken maternity leave of three months, after receiving a Sai gift of a healthy baby boy. I was in a fix as to how to resume my duties as there was no one to look after my son. I have a mother-in-law, who is too old to look after herself, leave aside my son. My husband, who is working in a private factory, was very keen that I should continue my service. My mother-in-law who is orthodox-minded could not imagine how I will leave such a small baby of 3 months and be away from him for about nine hours. I prayed sincerely to my Sai to show me some way because, I didn't have a mind to leave him alone. I extended my maternity leave by two months and when I went to receive my pay, my friends asked me as to how long I would stay on leave and few good experienced ladies suggested to me that it was the right time to leave my son. because as he would grow old he would recognise me and then it wouldn't be possible at that time to leave him at all.

That very day, one good colleague literally dragged me to a creche, very near to my office. I very much liked it and saw all children (12) playing well, From the very next day (1st Aug 83), I put my son in that creche and resumed my duties. On that day, I just could not believe that I have finally joined. I repeatedly thanked Sai who showed to me a way and that too perfect (being close by I am able to go and see my son in lunch time) in all respects. ★

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My Experience With Lord Sai

I am a mechanical engineer running a small scale industry in Bangalore. In the year 1980 I had one of the worst experiences of facing partnership problem with my business partner. My partner was insisting on me under the pretext of his ill-health that he should be relieved from the partnership immediately and at the same time he was demanding a good will compensation of Rs. one lakh twelve thousand (Rs, 1, 12,000/-) from me. I am a poor engineer without any financial back ground and whatever little money I had was already invested in the business. The only wealth I was enjoying was my shraddha (faith) on lord Sai. The industry was in a financial crisis having heavy loans and liabilities all around. So a challenge was posed on me by this problem, which seemed unsolvable in the beginning. If I do not concede my partner's demand, I would not get any more co-operation from him which is all the more detrimental to the smooth operation of the industry. My friends and well-wishers started advising me "BEG, BORROW AND STEAL BUT SOME HOW ARRANGE FOR THE MONEY. PAY YOUR PARTNER OTHERWISE YOU WILL RUN INTO MORE PROBLEMS IN FUTURE". But then whom to beg? How to borrow? and what to steal? I was keeping my finger crossed without knowing what to do?

During this trying period in the month of January 1980, a friend of mine told me that he was planning a visit to Shirdi and asked me whether I was interested in joining him. Since I was mentally very much disturbed, I readily agreed to join him with the objective of restoring my mental peace. One night we landed in the great soil of Shirdi and next day after offering my ABHISHEKA SEVA to LORD SAI I put two chits on the silver feet of SAI in the Samadhi Mandir, one chit reading as "continue with the present partner" and the other chit reading as "discontinue with your partner some how". In fact I was very much hesitating

whether I should do this silly thing on the great noble feet of lord Sai. Finally I thought that when I am HIS child why to fear and I took the liberty of asking approval for my plan of action from my father (Lord Sai) by these two chits. I put two chits on his silver feet and took one of them. After coming out of the Samadhi Mandir I opened the chit and read as "discontinue with your partner some how". I read out this to my friend, who was with me and my friend was not happy that I did this silly thing at the feet of Lord Sai. My friend told me that in view of my weak financial position I cannot get rid of my partner and therefore some how I should continue with my partner and I should not have put chits on the feet of Lord Sai etc.... Yet this time I was firm in my mind and I decided to think and act in arranging for the funds required to pay to my partner as compensation. After all my father had given his permission and I was sure that he would show me the path for solving my problem provided I have the will to work hard in the right direction with all the sincerity.

After coming back to Bangalore I spent almost every day thinking about the ways and means of arranging the fund. Many days passed without finding a proper solution to my problem yet I was firm in my thinking and cast all my problems on the feet of Sai. I wrote to my brother (Physician) for some financial help who readily agreed to give me Rs. 30,000/- and yet I was short of Rs. 20,000/-.

A meeting was arranged between me and my partner with the help of my friends and dissolution deed was drafted. As per the terms of the deed I was to pay Rs. 50,000/- immediately on signing the dissolution deed and the rest of the money was to be paid in 10 equal instalments. According to this I should have cash on hand of Rs. 50,000/- and I was still short of Rs. 20,000/- and I was therefore desperate. The day of dissolution i. e. 21-8-1982 was fast approaching. I was all the time thinking that

on the day of dissolution my partner would come and all my friends would come and I would be humiliated in their presence since I could not arrange for the required fund.

On the previous day to the day of dissolution i. e. 20.8-1982 I was quietly sitting at Home and my mind was full of the thoughts of the next day. I had just finished my lunch with my family at about 2 p. m. We heard a knocking on the front door and when I opened the door I saw one of my old friends along with an old person. My old friend's visit at this unusual hour surprised me since I thought that he must have come to me for some financial help from me, because it was my experience in life that hardly any one would give me money and on the other hand many would take financial help from me.

But lo! here was quite an unusual experience of my life-time. My old friend told me that he had Rs. 20,000/- cash with him and that he was interested in keeping the money with me for some time and I could pay it back whenever it suited me and till such time that money would carry some nominal interest. This was exactly the money that I was short of executing the dissolution deed with my partner.

I offered simple food to my old friend and the old person along with him and they heartily took the food and after resting for a while went away.

How can I forget this great moment in my life? How can I forget my Sai Narayan in my life even for a second. Believe me I have dedicated my small factory to my Lord Sai Ram. ★

K. Vasudev

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Prostrations to Sai Baba of Shirdi

(Shri Sai Baba's personality is many-splendored. He has described himself variously as--

" I am the slave of God "
" Saints exist to give the devotees
temporal and spiritual benefits ;
I have come to give such good
things to the devotees "

The salient attributes of this divine personality are very well expressed in a concise and inspiring form in the popular "Ashtothara Satha Namavali" (अष्टोत्तरशतनामावली) or the 108 names used during His worship. The general sense of the original " Namavali " in Sanskrit is brought out in English in the following lines.)

O great saint Sainatha of Shirdi
Incarnation art Thou of Lord Lakshminarayana.
Manifestation of the deities Krishna, Rama, Shiva and
Maruthi,
And also of Lord Vishnu reclining on Adi-Sesha.

Shirdi on the bank of Godavari is Thy abode,
But Thou resideth in the hearts of all Thy devotees,
Nay, in the hearts of all beings,
And Thou art manifest in the form of all.

Nothing is concealed from Thee, past, present or future,
Thou transcendeth limitations of time,
Thou art Thyself the endless time,
And also the Lord and Master of Eternity.

Thou art the vanquisher of Death
And art immortal,
Thou art the refuge of humanity
And supporter of life.

Support of the Universe art Thou,
Thou hast the power to save Thy devotees
And hast vowed to serve them,
Thou art the bestower of food and clothing.

Thou bestoweth health and happiness,
Thou granteth wealth and prosperity,
Thou confereth wisdom and power,
Thou giveth wife, children, relatives and friends.

Thou art ever watchful of the welfare of Thy devotees,
Rescueth those in distress,
Guideth the devotee on the path of virtue
And bestoweth both temporal and spiritual benefits.

Thou art full of affection for Thy devotees,
Thou infuseth affection for humanity,
All-pervasive art Thou and immutable
Thou art bliss eternal and giver of joy infinite.

Thou art the Supreme Lord, Supreme Creator,
Lord of all celestials, embodiment of knowledge ;
Thou art the father of the Universe,
Mother, father and grand parent of the devotees.

Thou offereth refuge to Thy devotees,
Thou art ever at their service
And eager to save them,
Most affectionate art Thou to those seeking refuge.

Thou bestoweth devotion and strength,
Knowledge and renunciation, love and affection ;
Thou destroyeth the weakness due to worldly attachments
And the evil of sins of previous births.

Thou filleth the heart with devotion,
Destroyeth the evil effects of past sins,

Thou art endowed with Supreme power
And divine attributes transcending those of mortals.

Thou art endowed with infinite auspicious attributes
And unlimited power,
Thou art the personification of Victory,
Puissant and indomitable.

Thou transcendeth limitations of time and space,
Thou art omnipotent and there is nothing beyond Thy reach,
Thou art the personification of all power,
Thou art most handsome and Thy glance is auspicious.

Thou art manifest in many forms
And in the form of the Universe itself,
Thou art also formless and imperceivable,
Thou art beyond thought and most sensitive.

Thou art all-pervasive,
Transcendeth thought and speech,
Thou art the personification of Love,
Easy, yet difficult to attain.

Thou art the friend of those in need,
The saviour of the uncared-for and the poor,
Thou taketh over the entire burden of the devotees,
Thou hast accomplished diverse acts of selfless service.

Thou delighteth in listening to hymns of devotion,
Thou art the fountainhead of all holy rivers,
Thou art Lord Vasudeva
And the refuge of the virtuous,

A noble and dedicated life is Thine,
Lord of the Universe art Thou, virtuous and free from sins,
Thou art the Moon with the soft ambrosial sheen,
And the Sun with the resplendent glow.

A disciplined life of asceticism and meditation is Thine,
 Guided by 'Sathya' and 'Dharma',
 Thou art the master of success, determination and yoga,
 Thou art the Godhead.

Thou loveth Thy devotees and hath a saintly personality,
 Thou art the supreme being,
 And preceptor of the doctrine of 'Sathya',
 Thou destroyeth desire and evils of ignorance,

Thou bestoweth eternal bliss supreme,
 Thou harmoniseth the diverse religions ;
 Thou art Shri Dakshinamurthy as well as Shri Venkateswara,
 Thou hast manifested infinite marvellous powers.

Thou art the saviour of those in distress,
 Dispeller of the miseries of earthly existence
 Omniscient, Omnipresent,
 Present both inside and outside and everywhere.

Thou art the bestower of auspicious gifts,
 Thou fulfilleth the wishes of every body
 Thou art the founder of a harmonised universal philosophy
 The Omnipotent supreme preceptor Shri Sainath. ★

B. S. Narayana Murthy



Rejoicing in God

Eternal Joy. At The advent there is jubilee in my heart,
 There is music and dancing, and unceasing festivity. I know not
 why or how it is, but I feel an exquisitely pleasant, a rapturous
 sensation within me. How Thy presence makes me smile !

Sai Leela

Can any one believe that an ordinary middle class family could dream of constructing a Sai Baba Mandir? This becomes truth when Shri Sai Baba's divine grace falls on our desires which are fulfilled effortlessly. Our dream was cherished in the shortest period of about five months. The idea came to our mind when I, along with my family, on our visit to Birla Mandir at Hyderabad, saw Lord Krishna's Moorthi of about 3 feet in white marble well-placed in open, amidst a beautiful garden which attracted our attention. The idea struck in our mind to build a Sai Baba Mandir in our family Navagraha Temple premises at Secunderabad. Here the idea was planted in our minds and we started planning and were looking for an auspicious day to lay the foundation stone for constructing the temple.

To my utter surprise it so happened that when I was just attending the counter in my scooter and motor cycle spare-parts shop, two customers came to my shop to buy some scooter parts, who happened to see Sai Baba's ring, which I was wearing and asked me whether I was a Sai devotee. I just told them, yes and also told them, "I am planning to construct a Sai Baba Mandir and I am looking for an auspicious day for laying the foundation stone. Immediately they told me that 9th December, 1982 was the most auspicious day and to my surprise they told me that they were also installing an Idol of Shri Sai Baba at Malkajgiri. Then I and my wife thought, this to be an indication from Sai Baba and we decided and laid the foundation stone and the ceremony was a grand success. From then onwards the construction work went on without any hindrance and every one co-operated and the temple of 9'X 12' with half garden and half place as temple for Sai Baba idol, to be installed on a pedestal, was constructed.

Here, it will not be out of place to add that Shri Sai Baba's grace was so much on us that we did not struggle or go out for anything as every thing came to our door when the work was in progress. This is evident from the fact that even the sculptor who happened to come to Hyderabad to attend the installation ceremony of Shri Sai Baba idol at Malkajgiri happened to meet me and came to my house, took order for making the Sai Baba idol and was so prompt in making the beautiful idol in time. It would be interesting for the devotees to know that the Sai Baba Moorthi was airlifted from Jaipur by one of our well wisher in Indian Air Lines and there was absolutely no problem till the Sai Baba's Moorthi reached my door at Secunderabad. I am happy to say that Sai Baba came by himself to my place as the idea was also bestowed by Him on us and hence his grace was there throughout on us. Everything was done effortlessly and Dampathi Sansthapana was done on 15th May, 1983 in which several Dampathies and devotees took part in the pooja proceedings throughout and every thing went on so well by His divine grace that it is beyond one's imagination.

There is no need to say that the success was due to Shri Sai Baba's divine grace and Baba's temple has come up to bless all. Everyone of us is enjoying the heaven in the "Sai Temple" where one realises the bliss of true happiness.

We pray to Thy feet for making us instrumental to do such a sacred work. We are also thankful to the Court Receiver of Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi, who acknowledged our invitation and conveyed Shri Sai Baba's blessings. ★

R. Gopal Singh

5-3-337, Rashtrapathi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003



SUPREME DEDICATION

This is an incident connected with the august visit of 'Lord Budda' to the capital city of Koshal, during the reign of king Prasenjeet. There was great rejoicing in the city due to the gracious advent of the Lord. People were pouring from far and wide to be blessed with the 'holy darshan'. They were also bringing with them their choicest offerings for the Lord.

It was during the most cold months of the winter. According to the religious concepts, lotus was considered to be the most auspicious offering amongst all the flowers. But on account of the acute cold season prevailing at the time, lotus was totally extinct and altogether out of sight.

Surprisingly enough, Sudash, a very poor gardener in the city, some how managed to procure only one lotus flower and rushed to the palace gate in the main thoroughfare for selling the same. A rich merchant, who was passing by for the holy darshan of the Lord, was extremely pleased at the sight of the rare flower, unexpected at the season. Very eagerly he wanted to obtain the flower for offering it to the Lord and instantaneously he promised to pay one gold coin as its price to the gardener.

At the very moment, the king Prasenjeet, who was also going for the holy darshan, came out of his palace in procession with accompaniment of religious songs and chanting of ritual verses. He was also very much fascinated to find the untimely flower and asked the gardener to hand him over the same for being offered to the Lord on his behalf.

But when it was revealed to him that the same had already been sold to the merchant for one gold coin, he immediately offered to pay ten gold coins. Thereafter a keen contest started over purchasing the flower. The merchant doubled the king's offer and

the king in his turn redoubled the merchant's and in this way the price went on rising by leaps and bounds. Both of them fought tooth and nail for securing the flower for any price, what so-ever.

The gardener stood dumb-founded with the flower in his hand and was greatly moved with the sharp rise of its price. All of a sudden some idea transpired in his mind and he thought that it would be more profitable to offer the same directly to the Lord on his behalf, for whom these two big personalities had been fighting with each other.

He at once submitted with folded hands that he had no mind to sell it to any body and thereafter he ran breathlessly to the august presence of the Lord with the flower in his hand. Being blessed with the holy darshan of the Lord, he stood enchanted in the atmosphere of perfect peace and tranquillity prevailing over there.

He found the Lord seated in 'Padmasan' in the radiant countenance of eternal peace and contentment and His face beaming with universal love, affection and kindness. Bewildered Sudash had complete transformation in him and he was so greatly moved that he totally forgot his own self with his domestic hurdles and pecuniary discomfiture. Most humbly he offered the lotus, just prostrating at the "DIVINE FEET".

Most affectionately and with enchanting soothing words Lord Buddha enquired "Tell me, my child! what you expect from me".

The humble reply of Sudash was, "Oh Lord! kindly bless me with only a particle of dust from "Thy Lotus Feet".

(BASED ON GURUDEVA TAGORE'S FAMOUS poem --
"मृत्यु प्राप्ति")



Dr. B. G. Das
305/1, Mirpur Cantt, Kanpur - 208 004 (U. P.)

To
The Editor,
Shri Saileela magazine
Sir,

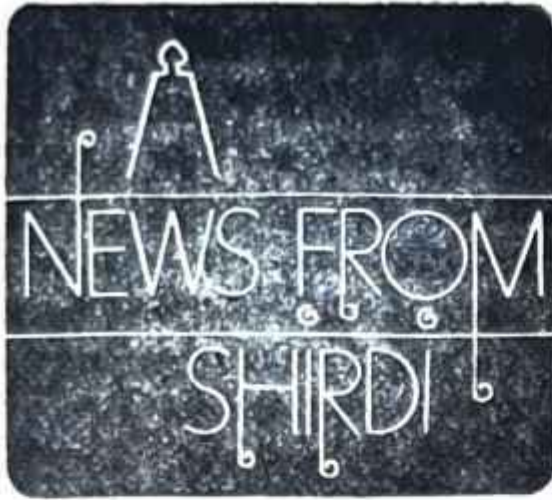
Shri Saileela is doing a pioneer service to the followers of Sai Baba. When I get Saileela from the postman, I immediately rush on it and don't leave it unless I read it completely. In the August issue I find your editorial very inspiring and authentic. I congratulate you on converting the magazine into a very important document for the Sadhaks of Spiritual path. The other articles in English are also very useful in spreading Sai cult and Sai belief. ★

Yours in Sai service

B. S. Thakur
Principal, Govt, Higher Secondary School,
Patan, (Jabalpur) 483113

God's Greatness

See how God sends the rain needed by the fields to give us a crop. How he gives sunshine to make the plants grow. God, who provides the needs of all his creatures, blesses us especially when we pray to him and trust in his goodness. He gives us what will truly benefit us. You know that your parents provide for your needs; they give you good food to make you strong and healthy. When you are sick, they call the doctor and obtain the best medicines to cure you promptly. If parents do these things for their children, what will Almighty God not do for us, since He loves us more than our parents do, and has the power to give us whatever He wants. Certainly, God will provide all we need, if we ask him with trust. ★



JULY 1983
(continued from September
1983 issue)

The following artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir :- 119) Shri Vilas Paralkar 120) Shri Vivek Mulay 121) Shri Mahesh Sawardekar 122) Shri Pradip Rasane, Nagar 123) Shri Pradip Padse, Bambah 124) Shri Ramesh Narvekar 125) Shri Sandeep Yashwanta Chavan 126) Shri Prakash Baburao Khadgal, Vasai 127) Shri Kamalakar Tapasvi, Pune 128) Shri Shripad Shankar Sathe, Daund 129) Shri Prabhakar Dattatraya Parkhe, Pune 130) Shri Narayanrao Tapasvi, Pune 131) Shri Anil Baglane, Pune 132) Shri Babaji Garud 133) Shri Suryakant Jadhav 134) Shri B. S. Bhagwat 135) Shri Vasant Ghumkar, Central Railway Rovers Team, Bombay 136) Shri Jayant Jagannath Nagarkar 137) Shri Sangam Mitra Mandal, Satpati 138) Shri Prakash Kudemate, Bombay 139) Shri Suresh Gamare 140) Shri Prakash Ghangrekar 141) Shri Bhojraj Salvi 142) Shri Dada Mahajan 143) Shri Barve 144) Shri Trivedi 145) Shri Chandrasen Salgaongar, Shirdi 146) Shri Anand Dattatraya Karambelkar, Shirdi 147) Shri Shantaram Mirane 148) Shri Raghunath Nagre 149) Shri Chaturdhan Nagre 150) Shri Manik Sali 151) Shri Madhukar Bhalerao 152) Dr. Thosar, Akhil Bharatiya Gurudeo Sewa Mandal, Gurukunj, Amaravati 153) Shri Wanawasi Mandal Kolhewadi 154) Dnyaneshwar Bhajani Mandal, Nandurkhi.

As usual the Court Receiver, Shri Kakresaheb, held meetings, well in advance, to assign the work in connection with the festival and therefore the whole festival went on smoothly without any disorder.

For the programme of vocal music of Suramani Shri Kamalakar Paraleekar Shri Yadneshwar Limbekar gave accompani-

-ment on the harmonium, Shri Shashanka Shahane gave accompaniment on the Tabla and Shri Kiran Bhatwankar on the Tanpura. Similarly Shri Bhojraj Salvi accompanied Shri Prakash Ghangrekar on the Tabla, Shri Dada Mahajan on the harmonium and Shri Barve and Shri Chandrasen Salgaokar on the Tanpura.

During the time of the festival, the devotees were housed in the Dharmashala and the class rooms of the Primary School and the High School, Because of the co-operation of the Executive Engineer Nasik Division and the Officers of the Irrigation Department at Rahata and Shirdi no shortage of water was felt in the Sansthan premises. Water supply was available in the buildings of the Shirdi Sansthan for all the twentyfour hours. The Officers of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board gave full co-operation for maintaining the electric supply during the days of the festival. Shri Subhash Kotasthane, the Home guard in charge, Shri Bakre, Inspector of the Shirdi Police Out-post and Shri Mane, the Foujdar of Rahata police Station took great pains to maintain the law and order during the festival. Thirty cadets of the Bharat Scouts and Rovers of the Central Railway, attended Shirdi during the days of the festival and they maintained discipline and peace in the Sansthan premises.

The clothes and articles offered to Shri Sai Baba by the devotees were sold by auction to the devotees on all the days of the festival. As usual the devotees vied with each other in offering the prices and purchased the articles as Shri Sai Baba's prasad in good number. Sweet dish was given to the devotees in the Bhojan Griha, on all the three days of the festival in the usual rates. Poor feeding was also done on mass scale during the days of the festival.

Blood donation Camp

With the Collaboration of the Hafkine Institute, Bombay, a blood donation Camp was held in Shri Sainath Hospital on the auspicious day of Gurupournima Viz, 24th July, 1983.

An appeal was made to the people to donate blood for the benefit of the mankind. Approach was through personal contacts, loud speakers, circulars and banners and posters supplied by the Hafkine Institute, Bombay. In all one hundred and five persons donated blood. Majority of the devotees and many of the Sansthan and Hospital staff donated blood.

It was in the beginning proposed that some sort of gift, as a token of gratitude, should be given to each donar and also a certificate. The proposal was accepted in toto by the Court Receiver and arrangements were made to get the gift articles from Bombay through Miss Rekha Dighe, Senior Accountant from the Bombay Office. Each person, who donated blood in the camp, was given a steel plate worth Rs. 10/- and the Sansthan also agreed to provide venue for the camp and also staff and other facilities as needed.

The Hafkine Institute provided its own skilled personnel and doctors. They also brought their own blood grouping sera, blood collecting bottles, provision for storage and transport. On behalf of the Institute, each donar was given a certificate, a cup of coffee and biscuits.

Mrs. Changappa, Shri Athanikar and Mrs. Javkar from Bombay and Dr. P. S. Deshpande and Dr. M. Y. Deshmukh took great pains for making the camp a complete success.

The Court Receiver Shri Kakresaheb, The Office Superintendent Shri D. C. Pathak, Chief Accounts Officer Shri V. S. Apte and the whole staff of the Shirdi Sansthan had to work hard in order to attend to the devotees who numbered over 4 lacs.

Weather :- The Weather at Shirdi was free from disease and quite healthy. Though the rainfall was very scanty at Shirdi, the well in Lendi Baug was excavated further with the result that more water was available therefrom for use in the new Bhojagriha. ★

August 1983

The rush of devotees, who visited Shirdi in this month, was quite normal. There was therefore no extra pressure on the employees of the Shirdi Sansthan in this month. The following artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir in this month.

Keertan :- 1) Shri Shukleshwar Maharaj 2) Shri Jadhav Guruji, Shirdi 3) Shri Vasudeoshastri Dharmadhikari, Akole.

Pravachan :- 1) Shri Raghunath Krishna Karkhanis, Pune 2) Shri Laxman Maharaj Wakchoure, Shirdi 3) Swami Prabhakar, Kerala 4) Shri Dhanaji B. Salunke.

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Bhajan, Dance etc.

1) Shri Vanawasi Mandal, Kolhewadi, Jamkhed. 2) Shri Dnyaneshwar Bhajani Mandal, Nandurkhi 3) Shri Sainath Bhajani Mandal, Shirdi 4) Shri Gopal Chowrasia, Calcutta 5) Miss Sangeeta Kulkarni, Bombay 6) Shri Prabhuprasad, Mysore 7) Shri Bhaskaracharya, Tirupati 8) Sou. Vishalakshi Shrivenkatachalam, Delhi 9) Shri Anurag Shrivastav, Bombay 10) Shri Rajan Patel, Bombay 11) Shri Suresh Patel, Bombay 12) Shri Vinayak Mahadeo Kapadi, Bombay 13) Shri Sanjeevarao Kohad, Nagpur 14) Master Narendra Kohad, Nagpur 15) Shri Sainath Gundakeli 16) Sou. Chandratai Jagdeesh, Pandharpur 17) Shri Arun Onkardas Somane, Sangamner 18) Shri D. T. Sawant, Bhandup 19) Shri Sayed Mirsayed Sultan, Lone, Vijapur 20) Shri Madhavrao Shankarrao Vaharane, Loni 21) Shri Bal Karandikar, Dombivali 22) Shri Chandrakant Shirodkar, Vile Parle 23) Sou Kumudini Mundkur, Pune 24) Shri Sainath Mahila Mandal, Shirdi 25) Miss Manjiri, Pune 26) Shri G. D. Oak.

Independence. day

On Monday the 15th of August 1983, the national flag was unfurled by Shri Kakresaheb, The Court Receiver, and the flag

salutation was done thereafter. All the employees of the Shirdi Sansthan, the Band troupe of the Sainath High school, the teachers and students of High School, the Homeguards, Police, prominent residents of Shirdi and the devotees who happened to be at Shirdi on that day joined the programme. Tea was served to all who were present for the flag salutation and sweets were given to the children who attended the programme. The Samadhi Mandir was illuminated with electric lights at night for celebrating the Independence day.

Shreekrishna Jayanti.

Wednesday the 31st of August 1983 was the birth day of Lord Shreekrishna. Therefore after the Dhuparati was sung on that day, some artists gave their programmes of vocal music etc. in the Samadhi Mandir from 9 p. m. to 10 p. m. From 10 p. m. to 12 midnight Shri Vasudeoshastri Dharmadhikari, from Akole, performed keertan in which he narrated the story of the birth of Lord Shreekrishna. Shejarati was sung after the keertan and teertha and prasad were distributed to all, who were present for the aarti. Electric illumination was done on the Samadhi Mandir at night on that day. On the next day (1-9-83) Gopalkala Keertan and Dabjhandi programme was arranged. At night the Chariot of Shri Sai Baba, decorated as usual, was taken in procession through the Shirdi village with the accompaniment of music, bhajan parties etc. The Shejarati was sung on that day after the procession of the Chariot returned to the Samadhi Mandir.

Weather :- The weather at Shirdi was quite healthy during this month. The rainfall was rather scanty; but the nights were cool.



श्रीसाईलीला

हिंदी विभाग

अनुक्रमणिका

अक्टूबर १९८३

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समाधिस्त अविराम साई

मधु से मीठे मधुर बैन

साई बाबा की वाणी के ।

वृन्दावन बन गई शिरडी

नीमतले मधुवन निर्मित

मस्जिद बनी द्वारिकापुरी

वाडे में मथुरा सर्जित,

समाधिस्त अविराम कोर

साई बाबा के नयनो के ।

राम कहे कोई रहीम कहे

कोई विठ्ठल कहकर अश्रु भरे

उस रूप में देखे भक्त सदा

जिस रूप में साई का ध्यान धरे,

रूप अनेकों - अनेकों नीमतले

साई बाबा की स्मृति के ।

गणि से ज्यादा गुण भाए

तप से ज्यादा भक्ति जिसे

उन चरणों में क्या नहीं मिले

जो केवल अपना दर्प तजे,

झरनो से ज्यादा शीतल है

स्पर्श समाधिस्त चरणों के

मधु से मीठे मधुर बैन

साई बाबा की वाणी के ।

विजय

७६, पटौदी हाऊस, नई दिल्ली - ११०००१

बाबा की सर्व विद्यमानता

बाबा सर्व-विद्यमान हैं । महासमाधि के पूर्व और उसके पश्चात् आज भी बाबा की सर्व-विद्यमानता के अनेक दृष्टान्तों से हम भली भाँति परिचित हैं । बाबा कभी स्वप्न में व कभी जाग्रतावस्था में, कभी अपने रूप में व कभी दूसरों के रूप में दूर दूरान्तर के विभिन्न स्थानों में भक्तों को दर्शन देकर अपनी सर्व-विद्यमानता का स्वयं ही परिचय देते रहते हैं । बाबा की जीवितावस्था में शिर्डी में रहने वाले किसी भी व्यक्ति ने उन्हें शिर्डी के बाहर जाते कभी भी नहीं देखा, परन्तु बाबा भक्तों को शिर्डी के बाहर विभिन्न स्थानों में दर्शन देते रहे; जो भौतिक शरीर छोड़ने के पश्चात् आज भी करते आ रहे हैं । इस लेख में बाबा की इस अलौकिक शक्ति के कुछ विशेष पहलुओं की समीक्षा की गई है ।

यह सर्वविदित है कि भक्त-वत्सल बाबा भक्त की जीवन-रक्षा के लिये ही अपने प्राण त्याग दिये थे । यह दुःखद घटना सन् १९१८ की विजयादशमी के दिन घटित हुई थी, जब की बाबा ने अपना पार्थिव शरीर त्याग करके महासमाधि ग्रहण की थी । सौम्य व विशाल भवन बुटीबाडा ही बाबा के "समाधि मन्दिर" के नाम से प्रसिद्ध है । वहीं समाधि से संलग्न बाबा की दिव्य व जीवन्त संगममर की मूर्ति भी प्रतिष्ठित है ।

यह विदित है कि महासमाधि लेने के पूर्व ही बाबा ने अपनी दिव्य मधुर वाणी से भक्तों को इस प्रकार बताया था कि, "मैं जब अपना भौतिक शरीर छोड़ जाऊँगा, मेरी अस्थियाँ तुम्हारी देखभाल करेंगी व तुमसे वार्तालाप भी करती रहेंगी । मेरी समाधि भी तुमसे वार्तालाप करेगी और स्नेह व ममता के बन्धन में रहकर तुम्हारे दुःख-ताप हरती रहेगी । तुम्हें केवल पूर्ण आशा व भरोसा के साथ तन, मन, धन से मुझपर समर्पित रहना पड़ेगा । जब और जहाँ भी तुम मेरा स्मरण करोगे, मैं तुम्हारे साथ ही रहूँगा !" इन वचनों को उन्होंने सन् १९१८ के पूर्व भी निभाया है और १९१८ के पश्चात् आज भी निभा रहे हैं ।

बाबा के समाधिस्थ होने के पश्चात् बाबा के एक भक्त नारायणराव विशेष रूप से अस्वस्थ हो गये थे । किसी प्रकार के उपचार से उन्हें कोई लाभ

न हुआ। उन्होंने हताश होकर बाबा का ध्यान करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया। बाबा स्वप्न में उन्हें दर्शन देकर निरामय होने का आश्वासन दिये व वे शीघ्र ही स्वस्थ हो गये।

एक बार रामचन्द्र दादा पाटील सख्त बीमार हो गये थे। किसी भी उपचारसे लाभ न होने पर वह मृत्यु की अन्तिम प्रतीक्षा में बाबा की प्रार्थना करते रहे। बाबा उन्हें दर्शन देकर मृत्यु टलने के समाचार से आश्चर्य किये व वे तुरन्त स्वस्थ हो गये।

बाबा के अनन्य भक्त दामुअण्णा कासार एक बार बहुत चिन्तित हो गये थे कि बाबा के निर्वाण लाभ के पश्चात् वे पूर्णतः निराश्रित हो जायेंगे। परन्तु बाबा ने उन्हें इस प्रकार से आश्चर्य किया कि “जब और जहाँ भी तुम मेरा स्मरण करोगे, मैं तुम्हारे साथ ही रहूँगा”। इन आश्वासनों की बाबा अपनी महासमाधि के पूर्व व उसके पश्चात् भी निभाते रहे हैं।

बाबा के परमभक्त बालाराम मानकर संसारबन्धन से ऊबकर शिर्डी में रहने के लिये आये थे। परन्तु बाबा ने उन्हें मच्छिन्द्रगढ़ में जाकर ध्यान करने का निर्देश दिया, जहाँ पर कुछ दिनों के ध्यान के पश्चात् ही उन्हें बाबा की दर्शनप्राप्ति हो गई। इसके बाद मानकर अपने निवासस्थान को खाना हो गये वे पूने से दादर रेल द्वारा जाना चाहते थे। परन्तु अत्याधिक भीड़ के कारण वे टिकट नहीं खरीद सके। इतने में एक देहाती ने उन्हें दादर का एक टिकट दिया, जिसकी आवश्यकता उसे न थी। वे बहुत खुश होकर अपनी जेब से पैसे निकालने लगे, परन्तु वह आदमी भीड़ में कहीं अदृश्य हो गया। इससे यह स्पष्ट साबित हो जाता है कि वह आदमी स्वयं बाबा ही थे। जो भक्त के सहायतार्थ अनुसरण करते रहे हैं।

डहानु के मामलतदार व बाबा के अनन्य भक्त श्री बी. व्ही. देव के निमन्त्रण स्वीकार करके बाबा एक सन्यासी के, भेष में व पूर्वसूचना के अनुसार दो अन्य साथियों के साथ निर्दिष्ट दिन में उनके घर पर भोजन करने आये थे, जिन्हें श्री देव पहचान न पाये थे। कुछ दिनों बाद जब उन्हें पता चला कि वह सन्यासी स्वयं बाबा ही थे, उनके दुःख का अन्त न रहा! इसी प्रकार सब को विदित है की जामनेर का वह तांगा वाला, जो तीस मील दूर पर स्थित जलगाँव

स्टेशन से रात को दो बजे रामगीरबुवा को वहाँ के मामलतदार नानासाहेब चान्दोरकर के घर ले जाने आया था, वह स्वयं बाबा ही थे ।

समाधिस्थ होने के दूसरे दिन बुधवार प्रातःकाल बाबा ने शामा के मामा लक्ष्मण जोशी को स्वप्न में निर्देश दिये कि वह शीघ्र आकर उनके पूजन व काकड आरती करें । उन्होंने स्वप्न में यह भी सूचना दिये कि बापूसाहेब जोग उन्हें मृत समझकर आरती करने के लिये नहीं आयेंगे । इसी प्रकार महासमाधि लेनेके पश्चात् बाबा अपने परमभक्त दासगणुमहाराज को भी शीघ्र शिर्डी आने की व उनके शरीर पर फूलमाला चढाने की सूचना स्वयं ही दी थी ।

बाबा की महासमाधि के पश्चात् सुदीर्घ ६५ वर्ष व्यतीत हो चुके हैं । हम जब शिर्डी जाते बाबा की अनुपस्थिति कभी भी अनुभव नहीं कर पाते हैं । हमें सदैव यह अनुभव होता है कि बाबा दिव्य प्रसन्न मुद्रामें अपने स्थान पर विराजमान हैं । बाबा जब जीवित रहे स्वप्न में भक्तों को दर्शन दिया करते थे और स्वप्न में ही नाना प्रकार के निर्देश देकर उनका मार्गदर्शन कराते थे । महासमाधि के उपरान्त आज भी बाबा विभिन्न स्थानों में तथा दूर-दूरान्तर में भी जाकर उसी प्रकार से भक्तों को प्रेरणा देते व उनका मार्गदर्शन कराते रहते हैं ।

इस प्रसंग में यह उल्लेख योग्य है कि तीन वर्ष पूर्व हम जब जम्मू-काश्मीर होते हुये अमरनाथ यात्रा में गये थे, रास्तों की कठिनाई से मेरे पति अत्यन्त भयभीत हो गये थे । बाबा उन्हें पहलगाँव में उनके जाग्रतावस्था में ही दर्शन देकर विशेष प्रोत्साहित किये थे । सर्व-विद्यमान व भक्त-वत्सल बाबा की अपार अनुकम्पा से ही इस प्रौढावस्था में इस प्रकार की कठिन यात्रा हम इतनी सरलता व निर्विघ्नता से सम्पन्न कर पाये थे ।

श्रीमती उमा दास

३०५ / १, मीरपूर कैण्ट, कानपुर - २०८००४ (उ. प्र.)



भजन

मेरे तो हैं बाबा साई, कमी है फिर किस बात की,
मैं हूँ लाडला बेटा उनका, अमीर है सारे जग मे बाबा

पारस था बाबा का आसन, कल्पकरु की छाँव ऊपर
लोग समझे थे उसको पत्थर, और समझे थे नीम का वृक्ष
महीमा बाबा की मालूम नहीं थी, समझे थे होगा फकीर कोई
फटी कफनी पहने अंग मे, बैठा है साधु रुमाल बान्धे
कुछ लोग थे उसमे असली पारखी; जिन्होंने पारख की भगवान की
बने सेवक और भक्त कोई, छोडे न चरण फिर बाबा के कभी ॥ १ ॥

मेरे बाबा की थी लीला न्यारी, महीमा उनकी थी अनोखी
बिना तेल के दिये जलाकर, रोशनी दे दी सारे जगभर
सूरज निकलता जिस तन्हे से, किरणे फैली उसी तन्हे से
चले आये भक्त चारों ओर से, प्रकाश निकला है कहां से
देखी जब साई की मूर्ती, प्रसन्न मन से दुआयें मांगी
भर दी झोली बाबाने सबकी, कोई गया ना दर से खाली ॥ २ ॥

शिर्डी बन गयी काशी, काबा, सिखों का बना वह गुरुद्वारा
पारसीयों के लिये अग्नी जलती, सदा बहार ही बहार रहती
खुष नजर आते हैं सब ही; देखते हैं जी साई की मूर्ती
समाधी में है जीवित बाबा, करते हैं सब भक्तों की रक्षा
साईदास लक्ष्मण की आंखे भरी, आनन्द अश्रू की नदीयाँ बही
अहसान बाबा के गिनते गिनते, बन्द हो गयी उसकी आंखे ॥ ३ ॥

लक्ष्मण बापूराव रापतवार

रिटायर्ड ड्राफ्ट्समन, किल्ला वाटर बर्क्स, नान्देड



भगवान श्री शिर्डी साई की स्तुती

शिर्डी बाबा ! मैं आया तेरे व्दार रे ।

साई ! सुनलें हमारी पुकार रे

॥ ५ ॥

तुम्ही पिता हो, तुम्ही हो माता,
तुम्ही हो भगिनी, तुम्ही हो भ्राता ।

मेरे सब कुछ तुम्ही हो बाबा ।

क्यों न करते हो मेरा विचार रे ।

शिर्डी बाबा ! मैं आया तेरे व्दार रे

॥ १ ॥

पडा विपद में पुकारता हूँ,

हूँ भल तेरा न हारना हूँ ।

बाबा लेंते हो क्यों परीक्षा ?

नाम तेरा रहा मैं उचार रे ।

शिर्डी बाबा ! मैं आया तेरे व्दार रे

॥ २ ॥

सभी यहाँ पर तुम्हें है भजते,

कभी परस्पर हैं न झगडते ।

नहीं है धर्मों में भेद कोई ।

दिया क्यों मुझको विसार रे ।

शिर्डी बाबा ! मैं आया तेरे व्दार रे

॥ ३ ॥

युगो युगों से पुकारता हूँ,

तुम्हें सदा से निहारता हूँ ।

कहा है तुमने अगर मैं देखूँ ।

सुनोगे तुम भी गुहार रे ।

साई सुनते है सबकी पूकार रे ।

मैं तो कब से रहा हूँ निहार रे ॥ ४ ॥ शिर्डी बाबा.....

राजेन्द्र मोहन शर्मा 'श्रृंग'

कृष्णपुरी, जनता स्कूल के पीछे लाइनपार, मुरादाबाद (उ. प्र.) पिन २४४ ००१

बाबा दे दां दर्शन

सुबह शाम दिन रैन,
दर्शन मिले बाबा के,
तो दिन कट जायें
हम अभागों के ॥ धृ ॥

जब जग ने ठुकराया साई
तूने गले लगाया
अब कैसी चिन्ता रहे मन में
जब तेर रूप समाया ।
सुबह शाम..... ॥ १ ॥

तेरी लमन है दिल में अब साई
दूजी ना कोई चाह
तुम्ही को पाना है बस
मेरी तो अब यही राह ।
सुबह शाम..... ॥ २ ॥

बुराई भलाई से क्या मतलब
जब खुदी को दिया तुझे सौंप
पार उतारो या ना उतारो
हमें नहीं अब कुछ सोच ।
सुबह शाम..... ॥ ३ ॥

तेरे दरपर बेसहारों को
मिलता साई सहारा
तू जिसे चाहे
उसको मिले हर किनारा ।
सुबह शाम..... ॥ ४ ॥

चरणों में अब रखना साई
 शरण में जब ले लिया हमें
 वापिस कभी ना लेना हमसे
 प्यार जो तू दे रहा हमें
 सुबह शाम..... ॥ ५ ॥

नीलम सोनी

C-५ विज्ञानपुरी, महानगर एकट्रेन्शन लखनऊ, (उ. प्र.)

साँई मन्दिर में दो दिये अखण्ड जले

साँई मन्दिर में दो दिये अखण्ड जले ॥ ४ ॥

एक दिया भक्तन श्रधदा का ।

और दूजा भक्तन सबूरी का ॥ साँई मन्दिर में... ॥ १ ॥

हम साँई श्रधदा से मग्न रहे ।

और सबूरी हरपल उन्हें भजे ॥ साँई मन्दिर में... ॥ २ ॥

साँई गुणगान नित हम करे ।

साँई पूजनसे प्रशान्त मन बने ॥ साँई मन्दिर में... ॥ ३ ॥

साँई भजन में हम मद मस्त रहे ।

साँई धूनमें तल्लीन हो जाए ॥ साँई मन्दिर में... ॥ ४ ॥

साँई प्रसादसे सत्त्वशील रहे ।

साँई प्रतापसे सद्गुणी बने ॥ साँई मन्दिर में... ॥ ५ ॥

महेशभाई वैष्णव

३, पूर्वा फ्लैट्स, 'साँई मंगल' ला गज्जर के बंगले पीछे, आम्बावाडी,

अहमदाबाद ३८०००६

श्री साई बाबा (कुली नम्बर बारह)

देवाधिदेव भगवान श्री साईनाथ का नाम तो मैंने सुना था, परन्तु न उनकी महिमाओं की मुझे कोई जानकारी थी और उनके प्रति किसी प्रकार का आकर्षण ही रहा। पर आज पढ़ता हूँ कि, बाबा कहते थे कि तुम मुझे न मानो, तब भी तुम मेरे हो। तुम मुझसे बचकर नहीं जा सकते। चिड़ियों के पैर में बन्धी डोर की भांति मैं अपने भक्तों को अपनी ओर खींच लेता हूँ।

१२ मार्च १९८० की घटना है। मैं सो रहा था। प्रातःकाल ६ बजकर ५ मिनट पर श्री साईनाथ किनारेदार सफेद धोती, कुर्ता और सफेद दाढ़ी - इस छवि में स्वप्न में मेरे सामने प्रकट होकर मेरे बिस्तर के निकट खड़े हो गये। उनके मुखमण्डल पर दिव्य तेज से मेरा शयन कक्ष आलोकित हो उठा। तब मैं बाबा को बिल्कुल न जानता था। बाबा ने मुझसे कहा “तुम घबराओ मत।” मैंने कहा “क्यों किसलिए?” बाबा बोले “मैं तुम्हारे साथ हूँ। तुम अगले साल इसी तारीख को शिरडी आ जाना।” मैं बाबा के चरण छूने बड़ा, तब तक वे अन्तर्धान हो चुके थे। मेरी नींद खुल गयी। मन में पश्चाताप का अनुभव हुआ कि इतनी बातें होने के पहिले ही मैंने बाबा के चरण क्यों नहीं स्पश कर लिये, फिर भी मुझे परम शान्ति कीसी अनुभूती होती रही। मैं बिस्तर पर बैठा रह गया।

मैं माध्यमिक शिक्षा भण्डल, भोपाल के सहायक सचिव श्री सक्सेना के पास गया और उनको इस स्वप्न की जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि “आप परम सौभाग्यशाली हैं कि स्वयं बाबा ने आपको आशीर्वाद और दर्शन दिया। अब आप बाबा के आदेश को पूरा किजिये।” श्री सक्सेना ने बताया कि शिरडी महाराष्ट्र में अहमदनगर जिले में एक गांव है। साईबाबा के सम्बन्ध में भी उन्होंने पर्याप्त जानकारी दी तथा पढ़ने के लिए “साई सच्चरित्र” किताब दी और अपने निजी संस्मरण सुनाकर उन्होंने साईबाबा के प्रति मेरी श्रद्धा में वृद्धि कर दी। घर वापस आने पर मैंने किताब में से चित्र निकालकर एक छोटे फ्रेम में फिट करके अपनी मेज पर रख दिया और आज तक भी उसी चित्र की पूजा करता आ रहा हूँ। बाबा की पूजा करते काफी दिन हो गये थे। इस बीच मैंने

बाबा से गैस की एजैन्सी प्राप्त करने की कामना की। उसे एक कागज पर लिखकर मैंने बाबा के चित्र के पीछे रख दिया। २७ अगस्त ८० को बाबा ने मेरी इच्छा पूर्ण कर दी। उद्देश्य में सफलता का आभास भी तीन दिन पूर्व ही करा दिया। २ सितम्बर ८१ को गैस एजैन्सी मुझे दिये जाने को अनुमोदन भी प्राप्त हो गया।

बाबा के आदेश की तारीख १२ मार्च १९८१। मैं दिनांक १० मार्च १९८१ को सायंकाल ४ बजे शिरडी के लिए प्रस्थान करने वाला था। मैंने श्री रवि श्रीवास्तव से शिरडीयात्रा की जानकारी प्राप्त की। उन्होंने पन्जाब मेल से प्रस्थान करने का सुझाव देते हुए मुझे बताया कि ट्रेन प्रातःकाल ६ बजकर ५ मिनट पर मनमाड पहुंचेगी। मनमाड से बस द्वारा शिरडी के लिए प्रस्थान करना होगा। शिरडी में ठहरने की समुचित व्यवस्था है, कोई चिन्ता करने की जरूरत नहीं है। श्रीवास्तव जी से जानकारी लेकर मैंने घर आकर एक अटैची में आवश्यक सामान रखा और शाम को ६॥ बजे भोपाल स्टेशन के लिए रवाना हुआ। रिजर्वेशन न होते हुए भी मैंने गाडी में खड़े-खड़े ही यात्रा करने का विचार किया। इसी समय एक बूढ़ा कुली स्वयं मेरे पास आया, जिस का बैच नम्बर १२ था। उसने मुझसे पूछा “आप कहां जायेंगे?” उस समय पन्जाब मेल प्लेटफार्म पर आकर खड़ी हो चुकी थी। मैंने कुली को बताया कि “मुझे मनमाड जाना है। एक बर्थ दिलवा दो।” वह कुली मुझे एक डिब्बे में ले गया। इसी समय एक कण्डक्टर आया और मुझसे पूछा कि “आपको कहां जाना है?” मैंने बताया की “मेरे पास रिजर्वेशन नहीं है। मुझे मनमाड जाना है। यदि आप मुझे एक बर्थ दे दें तो अति उत्तम होगा”। कण्डक्टर ने इशारा करते हुए कहा कि “आप इस बगल वाली सीट पर सामान रख دیجिये। यदि कोई नहीं आया तो मैं यह सीट आपको दे दूंगा।” कण्डक्टर डिब्बे से उतरकर अपने कार्य से स्टेशन की ओर चला गया। बूढ़े कुली ने बड़े स्नेहपूर्वक मुझसे पूछा “क्यों बाबूजी, क्या आप शिरडी जायेंगे?” मैंने कहा “हां बाबा, मैं शिरडी ही जा रहा हूं।” मैंने कुली से पूछा की “तुम्हारे कितने पैसे हुए?” तो उसने कहा “बेटा, जब तुम लौटकर आओ तो मुझे बाबा का प्रसाद जरूर देना।” उसने पैसे लेने से इन्कार कर दिया और जाने क्यों, मैं उसे ट्रेन से उतरकर जाते हुए देखता ही रह गया।

गाड़ी ने सीटी दी । तभी कण्डक्टर भी अन्दर आ गया । उसने मुझसे कहा कि “आप अपनी सीट पर आ जाइये ।” मैंने उससे कहा “भाईसाव, मेरा कोई रिजर्वेशन है नहीं ।” कण्डक्टर ने कहा मैंने आपसे रिजर्वेशन की बात तो की नहीं । और वह अपने कार्य में व्यस्त हो गया । जब मैं अपनी सीट पर पहुंचा तो यह देखकर दंग रह गया कि सीट का नम्बर १२ ही है । मैं सोचने लगा कि बाबा का स्वप्न-दर्शन १२ तारीख को, शिरडी आने का उनका आदेश भी १२ तारीख के लिए और स्टेशन के कुली का बैच नम्बर भी १२- मैं बड़ी देर तक साई बाबा की इन लीलाओं पर विचार करता रहा । रात १०-११ बजे के बीच मैं बाबा का नाम-स्मरण करके सो गया । सवेरे ५॥ बजे अचानक नींद खुल गई । सहयात्रियों से ज्ञात हुआ कि मनमाड स्टेशन आने ही वाला है । कितने ठीक समय पर बाबा ने मुझे जगाया । यदि मैं कुछ देर और सोता रह जाता तो मनमाड से जाने कितना आगे निकल जाता ।

११ मार्च, १९८१ सवेरे ठीक ६ बजकर ५ मिनट पर गाड़ी मनमाड स्टेशन पर रुकी । सोचने लगा, बाबा ने स्वप्न-दर्शन भी ६ बजकर ५ मिनट पर ही दिया था । प्रातः ७ बजे मनमाड से शिरडी के लिए बस में जो सीट मिली उसका भी नम्बर १२ ही था । कैसा अद्भुत चमत्कार । शिरडी बस स्टैंड पर उतरने के बाद एक लडका मुझे एक छोटे-से होटल में ले गया । होटल में केवल एक ही कमरा खाली था और वह मुझे ५० रुपये रोज के किराये पर प्राप्त हो गया, पर उस कमरे का नम्बर भी देखकर मेरे आश्चर्य का ठिकाना न रहा और मैं इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचा कि बाबा भोपाल से ही बराबर मेरे साथ-साथ चल रहे हैं ।

स्नानादिक से निवृत्त होकर मैं मन्दिर के लिए रवाना हुआ । रास्ते में एक दूकान से समाधि मन्दिर में प्रति दिन होने वाली आरती की किताब खरीदी । लगभग ११ बजे मैं समाधि मन्दिर में पहुंचा तो ज्ञात हुआ कि आरती १२ बजे होगी और अभी विलम्ब है । मैं एक पेड़ के नीचे जाकर बैठ गया । वहां से ही बाबा को नमस्कार किया । श्री साईबाबा की संगमरमर की वह विशाल मूर्ति देखकर मैं मुग्ध हो गया । आरती के लिए भीड़ बढ़ती देखकर मैं भी जल्दी मन्दिर में आ गया और मध्याह्न आरती में सम्मिलित हुआ । आरती के पश्चात् जब मैंने बाबा के वाएं चरण पर मस्तकरखकर प्रणाम किया तो किसी चीज

मे अचानक मेरा सिर टकरा गया। मैं सोचने लगा कि यह क्या हो गया। तभी मुझे श्री साईबाबा की आवाज सुनाई पड़ी "मुझे मालूम है, तुम यहां आ गये हो?" फिर मैं दर्शन करके मन्दिर के बाहर चला आया।

एक दुकान पर मैं बाबा की अंगूठियां खरीदने गया तो मेरा हाथ एक 'ओम्' की अंगूठी से टकराया। उस समय मुझे बाबा की आवाज सुनाई पड़ी यह तुम्हारे लिए है। मैंने निदेश पाकर बिना पहने ही वह अंगूठी खरीद ली, किन्तु बाद में पहनने पर वह ठीक मेरे माप की ही थी। यह देखकर मेरे हर्ष का ठिकाना न रहा। फिर साईबाबा की फोटो और अगरवत्ती खरीदकर मैं होटेल में आ गया। साईबाबा की फोटो के सामने अगरवत्ती जलाकर मैं साईनाथ सगुणोपासना का अध्ययन करने लगा।

मैं शाम ६ बजे रातको १० की शयन-आरती में सम्मिलित हुआ। दिनभर मैं भोजन न कर सका था। भूखा नारियल और चिरोँजी खाकर मैंने सन्तोष किया। रात १० बजे मैंने १२ अगरवत्ती जलाने बाद कपूर की १२ टिकिया जलकर बाबा की आरती की। अब तारीख १२ भी आरम्भ हो चुकी थी, जिस दिन मुझे शिरडी आने का बाबा ने एक वर्ष पूर्व आदेश दिया था। रात १२ बजे से मेरा मौन-व्रत आरम्भ हो गया था।

१२ मार्च, ८१ को प्रातः ४ बजे स्नान करके मैं प्रातःकालीन आरती में सम्मिलित हुआ। अभिषेक सामग्री लेकर मैं हाल में बैठा। लगभग १० बजे श्री साईबाबा के चरणों के निकट पहुंचने का मेरा नम्बर आया। मैंने बाबा के गले में पुष्पहार अर्पित किया। प्रसाद साईनाथ के चरणों अर्पित करके मैंने चरणस्पर्श किया और बाबा से चार याचनाएं की, १) मैं अहंकार से मुक्त रहूं। २) मुझे पैसों का अभाव न रहे। ३) गैस एजैसी सफलतापूर्वक चलती रहे। ४) मेरे एक परिचित मित्र की कन्या का रुका हुआ विवाह सम्पन्न हो जाय। मुझे यह लिखते हुए परम हर्ष होता है कि मेरी सभी कामनाएं कालान्तर में पूर्ण हुईं।

उसी दिन शाम ४ बजे की बससे रवाना होकर मैं ६ बजे मनमाड पहुंचा तो श्रात हुआ कि ८। बजे रातको मिलने वाली गाडी दो घण्टे लेट है। मैं स्टेशन की एक बेंच पर बैठकर समय बिताने लगा। एक समवयस्क युवक आगरा जाने वाला था। वह भी आकर मेरी ही बेंच पर बैठ कर गाडी के सम्बन्ध में

मुझसे पूछताछ करने लगा । मैंने एक कागज पर लिखकर उसे अपनी मौनावस्था से अवगत कराया और उसे रुपये देते हुए कहा कि तुम एक टिकट आगरा और एक भोपाल के लिए ले लेना । उसने कहा कि हम लोगों को ट्रेन में जगह शायद ही मिल पाये । मैंने लिखकर उसे बताया कि तुम घबराओ मत । तुम ३६ नम्बर की सीट पर अपना सामान रख देना । मैं १२ नम्बर की सीट पर बैठकर भोपाल जाऊंगा । वह मेरी बात सुनकर भौंचक्का हो गया । उसने मुझसे पूछा कि आपको शायद ज्योतिष का भी ज्ञान है तो मैं मुस्करा पड़ा और उसे कागज पर लिखकर दिया कि तुम्हारा बड़ा भाई एक साल के भीतर स्वयं घर वापस आ जायेगा । यह पढ़कर उसने मेरे पैर छू लिए । मैं नहीं जानता कि वह कौन सी अदृश्य शक्ति थी जो मुझसे मेरे मौन के बावजूद अनायास ऐसी अभिव्यक्तियां करा रही थी । गाड़ी के प्लेटफार्म पर आने पर भीड़भाड़ देखकर वह युवक साथी स्थान प्राप्त होने के बारे में चिन्तित हो उठा, पर मैंने उसे पूर्व कथन के अनुसार ही करने का निर्देश दिया । हम दोनों रिजर्वेशन वाले डिब्बे में चढ़ गये । सौभाग्यवश कण्डक्टर ने उसे ३६ नम्बर वाली सीट ही दी, जिससे वह अत्यन्त प्रसन्न हो उठा । अब वह मेरे लिए व्यग्र होने लगा । मैंने उंगलियों से उसके १२ का संकेत दिया और स्वयं १२ नम्बर की सीट की ओर बढ़ गया । कण्डक्टर से बातें करने पर उसने मेरे साथी को ३६ नम्बर पर और मुझे १२ नम्बर की सीट पर बैठ जाने का निर्देश दिया । मेरा मौन-व्रत प्रातः ६ बजे तक के लिए था । मैं ६ बजे उठा । गाड़ी काफी लेट चल रही थी । मेरा साथी सोया हुआ था । लगभग ९ बजे ट्रेन भोपाल पहुंची । गाड़ी से उतरने से पूर्व मैंने आगरा वाले साथी को जगाया और भविष्य में पुनः मिलने का आश्वासन देकर मैं गाड़ी से नीचे उतरा और प्लेटफार्म पर उस १२ नम्बर वाले बूढ़े कुली की खोजबीन करने लगा, परन्तु वह कहीं भी दिखाई नहीं पडा । निराश होकर आटो-रिक्शा से मैं घर आया ।

घर पहुंचने पर मैंने माता-पिता के चरणस्पर्श किये । बिना पृष्ठे शिरडी चले जाने के लिए मेरे पिताजी ने कोई डांट-फटकार नहीं की । मैंने स्नान करके बाबा की फोटो दीवारों पर सजाई और अगरबत्ती जलाकर दोपहर १२ बजे बाबा की आरती की और फिर पूरे चौबीस घंटों के बाद भोजन किया ।

शाम को मैं अपने मित्रों से मिलने गया । उस मित्र के घर भी गया, जिसकी कन्या के विवाह के लिए मैंने बाबा से शिरडी में प्रार्थना की थी । मैंने

बाबा से माँग

आऊंगी बाबा मै व्दार पे तेरे, तुझ से करुं इकरार ये तेरे
तेरे व्दार पे जीऊंगी, तेरे व्दार पे मरुंगी
आऊंगी बाबा मै व्दार पर तेरे

॥ १ ॥

तेरी लगन, है मेरे मन, तुझ पे है, मन अर्पण
साईनाथ मेरे प्राण, सुन तू बार बार
तेरें व्दार पे जीऊंगी, तेरे व्दार पे मरुंगी
आऊंगी बाबा मै व्दार पे तेरे

॥ २ ॥

तू है राम, तू रहमान, सब धर्मों की, तू है खान
साईनाथ मेरे प्राण, सुन तू बार बार
तेरे व्दार पे जीऊंगी, तेरे व्दार पे मरुंगी
आऊंगी बाबा मै व्दार पे तेरे

॥ ३ ॥

तू है अगन, तू है पवन, तू भक्तों का, तन मन धन
साईनाथ मेरे प्राण, सुन तू बार बार
तेरे व्दार पे जीऊंगी, तेरे व्दार पे मरुंगी
आऊंगी बाबा मै व्दार पे तेरे

॥ ४ ॥

विभा भटनागर

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