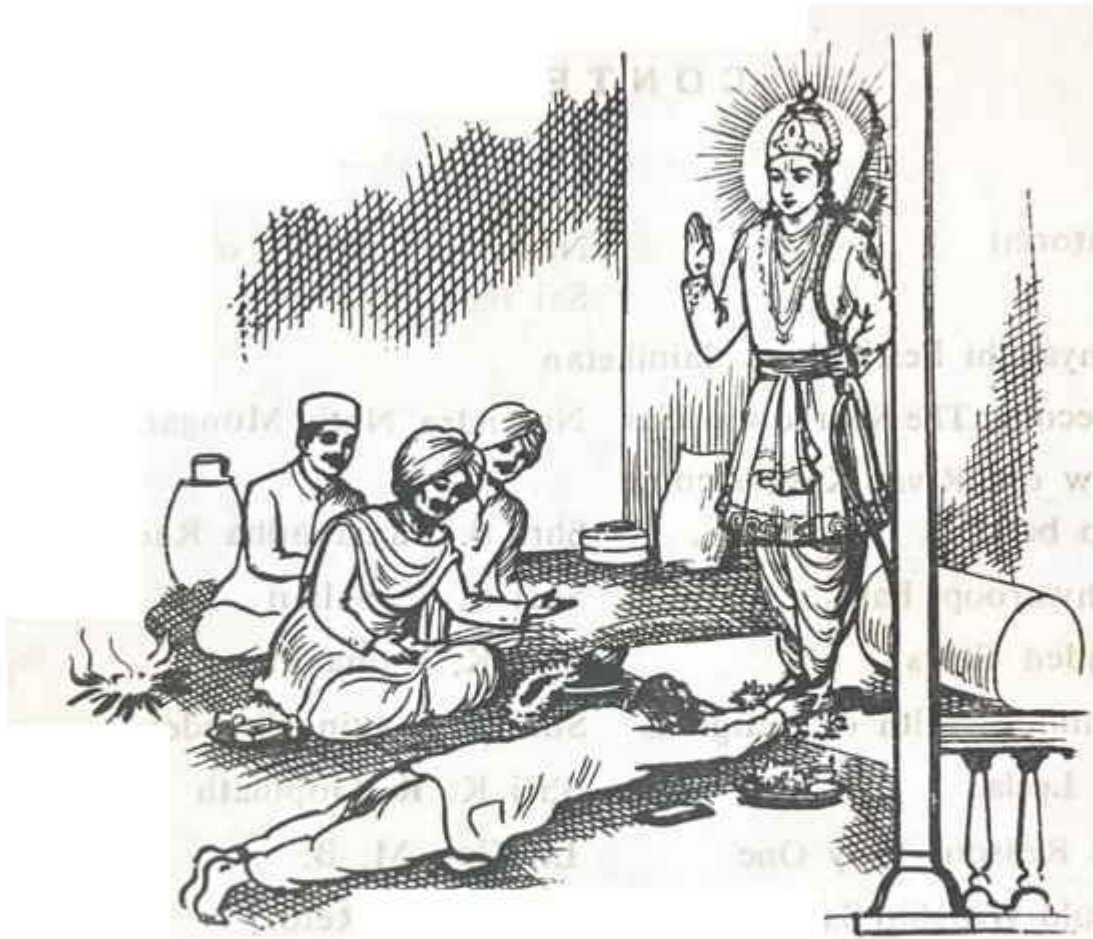


SHRI SAILEELA

Official Organ of Shirdi Sansthan



BABA MANIFESTS AS RAMA

One Doctor from Bombay was a staunch devotee of Rama. Once he came to Shirdi with his friend on the express condition that he would come to Shirdi, But not bow before Baba. On reaching Shirdi, the doctor went for Shri Baba's darshan along with his friends. On seeing Baba from a distance, the doctor ran towards Him and fell at His feet. On being asked by his friend, the doctor replied "In place of Baba there appeared Shree Rama to me and therefore I ran and feel at His feet."

November 1984

Rupee One

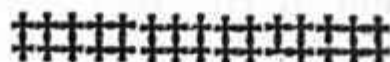
श्री साईनाथ वाचनालय

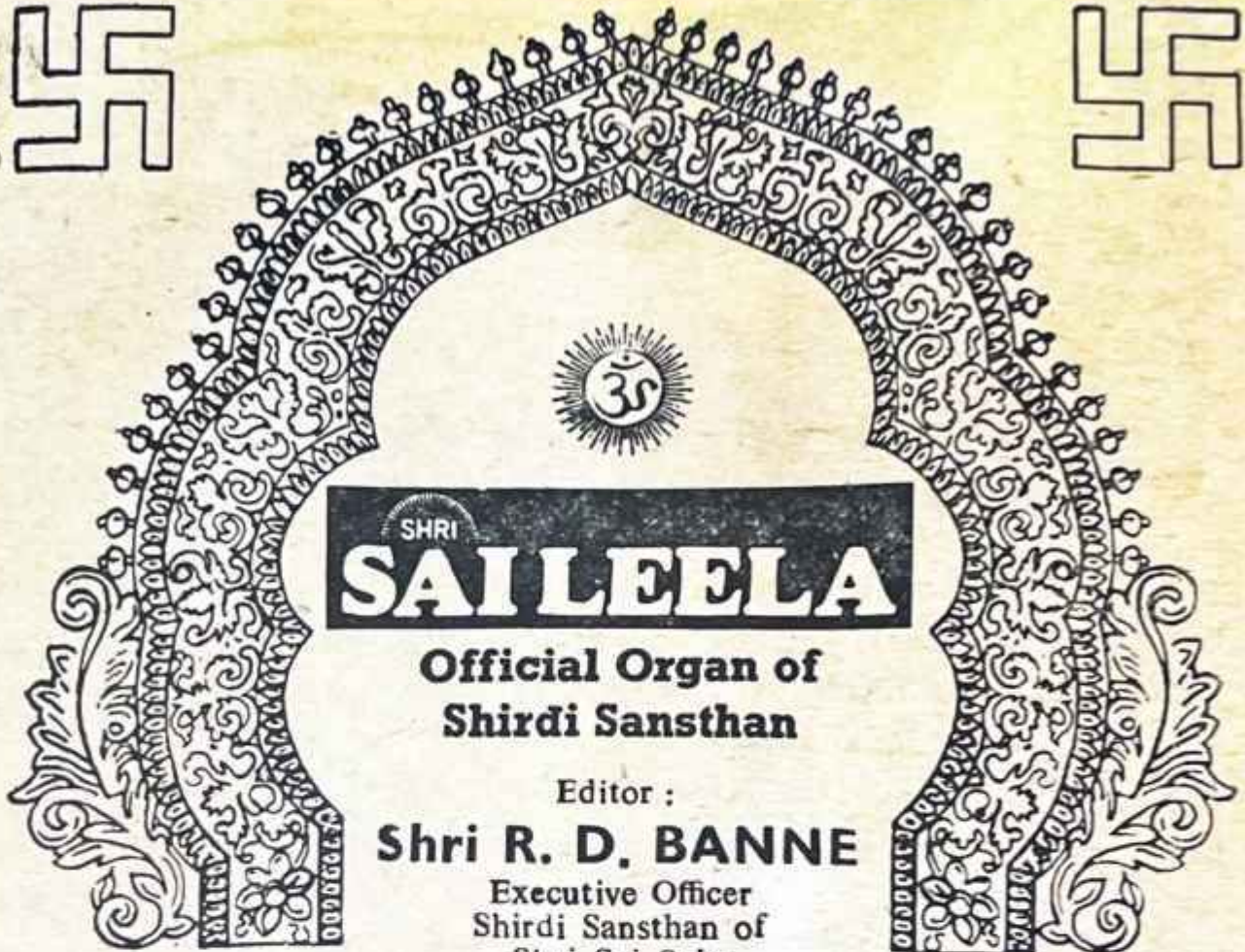
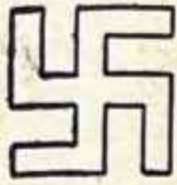
SHRI SAILEELA

NOVEMBER 1984

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SHRI
SAILEELA

**Official Organ of
Shirdi Sansthan**

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is the principal aim of SHRI SAI LEELA**

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Nectarlike Words Of Shri Sai Baba IV

As stated in the editorial for the month of June 1984, the biography of Shri Sai Baba, written by Shri Dabholkar and which is known to all Sai devotees as "Sai Satcharit" is the only authentic book available today to know the real words spoken out by Shri Baba from time to time when He was living and moving in Shirdi and blessing the devotees in Dwarkamai, after applying the Udi on their forehead. The "Sai Satcharit", written by Shri Gunaji, is no doubt based on Shri Dabholkar's book and therefore in some chapters he has given, at places, a jist of the nectarlike words of Shri Sai Baba; but a full translation of all the advice of Shri Baba does not appear in it. The devotees of Shri Sai Baba, who do not know Marathi, are thus missing Shri Baba's Original nectarlike words. It is therefore proposed to give here, from time to time, these words of Shri Sai Baba for the benefit of those devotees, who do not know Marathi and are therefore not able to read Shri Baba's words as originally uttered by Him.

Last time (June 1984) we saw how Shri Sai Baba reacted to the request made by Shri Anna Chinchanikar for giving a job to Shri Dabholkar in order to supplement his meagre pension. In that same Chapter (Chapter III) Shri Dabholkar quotes Shri Baba's following words after narrating the aforesaid incident :-

एकदां माध्यान्ही आरती झाली । मंडळी स्वस्थानी जावया परतली ।
बाबांच्या मुखावाटे जी निघाली । मधुर वचनावली ती ऐका ॥ १४२ ॥ "कुठेही
असा काहीही करा । एवढें पूर्ण सदैव स्मरा । की तुमच्या इत्यंभूत कृतीच्या

खबरा । मज निरंतरा लागती ॥ १४३ ॥ येणे निदर्शित ऐसा जो मी । तोची मी
 सर्वांच्या अंतर्गामी । तोचि मी हृदयस्थ सर्वगामी । असं मी स्वामी सकळांचा
 ॥ १४४ ॥ भूतीं सबाह्याभ्यंतरीं । भरुनि उरलों मी चराचरीं । हें सकळ सूत्र
 ईश्वरी । सूत्रधारी मी त्याचा ॥ १४५ ॥ मी सकळ भूतांची माता । मी त्रिगुणांची
 साम्यावस्था । मीचि सकलेंद्रियप्रवर्ता । कर्ता धर्ता संहता ॥ १४६ ॥ लक्ष लावी
 जो मजकडे । नाहीं तयासी कैचेंही सांकडें । तोचि माझा जें विसर पडे । माया
 कोरडे उडवी तें ॥ १४७ ॥ दृश्यजात हें मत्स्वरूप ; क्रीड मुंगी रंक भूप । हें
 स्थिर जंगम विश्व अभूप । हेंचि निजरूप बाबांचें ॥ १४८ ॥”

(Once after the noon-aarati was over and when all the devotees were returnig to their lodgings, Shri Baba uttered the following sweet words. Please listen, “Be wherever you like, do whatever you choose, but remember this well that all that you do is known to me. I am one who can be described as above I am the Inner Ruler of all. I am all pervading and I am seated in the hearts of all persons. After pervading the animate and inanimate things I am still remnant. This is all the thread of God and I am holding that thread. I am the mother (Origin) of all beings. I am the harmony of the three Gunas, the propeller of all senses, the creator, preserver and destroyer. Nothing will harm him, who concentrates on me; but Maya will whip him, who will forget me. All insects, ants, the poor, the rich, all this movable and immovable and endless world, which you see is my visible form”)

It will be seen from the above advice of Shri Sai Baba that as described about other avatars (incarnations of God) Shri Sai Baba also was all pervading, sitting in the hearts of the human beings as well as present even in inanimate things. Because of this power, he says that he is present in insects, ants, the poor and the rich. The stories narrated in Sai Satcharita stand testimony to this statement. The story of Mrs. Tarkhad (Chapter IX) where the bread eaten by a dog and a pig satisfied Shri Baba's hunger or the story of the two lizards (Chapter 15) are examples where Shri Baba is proved to be all pervading.

Several stories in Sai Satcharit point out that Shri Baba knew the things done by his devotees though they may be hundreds of miles away from Him. This proves the very first statement made by Baba that "Be wherever you like.....all that you know is known to me" As all Sai devotees are constantly reading Sai Satcharita, it is not at all necessary to quote such examples.

After commenting a little on the above advice of Shri Baba, Shri Dabholkar closes this Chapter, with giving his version of devotion to Shri Sai as follows,"

“ न लगे व्रत उद्यापन ! उपवास शरीरशोषण । न लगे तीर्थयात्रा पर्यटन । चरित्र श्रवण एक पुरे ॥ १८२ ॥”

(In order to serve God (Sai) we need not observe vows, nor give trouble to the body by observing fast or go on pilgrimage, only listening to the biography of Shri Sai Baba will be enough" Making these observations Shri Dabholkar requests the devotees to listen to the further stories from the life of Shri Sai Baba and closes the third Chapter.

In the fourth chapter, the story of Dasganu is narrated. Once when Shri Dasganu was told by Shri Baba to start नाम सप्ताह (Constantly chanting God's name for a week) at Shirdi, the former asked Baba "विठ्ठल प्रकटला पाहिजे" (Viththal must manifest) On which Shri Baba replied,"

“हो हो प्रकटेल विठ्ठलमूर्ति । भक्त भावार्थी पाहिजे ॥ ८४ ॥ डाकुरनाथाची डंकपुरी । अथवा विठ्ठलरायाची पंढरी । ती हीच रणछोड द्वारकानगरी । जाणें न दूरी पहावया ॥ ८५ ॥ विठ्ठल काय एकांतीचा उठून । येणार आहे दुसरा कुठून । भक्तप्रेमें उत्कटून । एथेही प्रकटून राहिल ॥ ८६ ॥ पुंडलीकें वडिलांची सेवा । करुनि भुलविलें देवाधिदेवा । पुंडलिकाच्या त्या भक्तीभावा । विटे विसांवा घेतला ॥ ८७ ॥”

(Yes, Yes. Shri Viththal will certainly manifest himself, but the devotee must be emotional and his devotion must be sincere.

The Dankapuri of Dakoornath or the Pandhari of Vitthal or the city of Dwarka of Ranchoddas (Shri Krishna) is none else than Shirdi. You need not travel far to see them. Due to his love for his devotees, Vitthal will leave his lonely place and manifest himself here. By serving his parents sincerely the devotee Pundalik attracted God, who came and took shelter on the brick because of the true devotion of Pundalik).

In the above short speech, Shri Sai Baba has pointed out the importance of true and sincere devotion and has suggested that all His devotees also should have that sincere devotion to Him in order to get liberation from this worldly life. Because of His stay at Shirdi, Shri Sai Baba has pointed out that it has become very sacred and consecrated, that Shirdi is as holy as other places of pilgrimage like Dankapuri, Pandhari or Dwaraka. He has therefore advised His devotees not to go anywhere else in search of a holy place. If they come to Shirdi, they will get the merit that they would get by visiting other places of pilgrimage.

After this incident Shri Dabholkar narrates the incident of the manifestation of the waters of the Ganga and Yamuna from the toes of Shri Baba and quotes the full song, which was composed by Shri Dasganu when he was overwhelmed by Shri Baba's prasad to him in the form of the holy bath of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna.

In the intervening chapters, after chapter four, Shri Dabholkar has narrated in chapters five to eight very interesting incidents and anecdotes from Shri Baba's life and occasionally he has quoted during the course of the narration a sentence or two uttered by Shri Sai Baba; but those talks of Shri Baba are very casual and need not be noted specially. However when we come to chapter nine there are some very important words, which were uttered by Shri Baba which are worth noting. In this Chapter (nine) the story of the Tarkhad family from Bandra has been narrated at length. Shri Dabholkar himself was a resident

of Bandra and hence he must be knowing this family very well and therefore he must have narrated this story in such minute details.

The story in short runs like this :-

Shri Ramchandra Atmaram alias Babasaheb Tarkhad was a resident of Bandra. Once in the May Vacation, it was proposed that his wife and son should go and stay at Shirdi during the Vacation, The son however was not in favour of the proposal as he thought that during his absense Shri Baba's Pooja may not take place properly. However, when the father gave the due assurance on oath that he would perform the worship in the same manner as the son was doing, the mother and the son left for Shirdi. As promised to his son, Shri Tarkhad was doing all the drill very scrupulously; but one day in a hurry to go to the Office, Shri Tarkhad forgot to offer Naivedya of sugarcandy at the time of the worship and on the same day when the son and the mother came to attend the noon aarti, Shri Sai Baba said to Mrs. Tarkhad.

“काय करावें आई आज । गेलों मी वांद्रयास जैसा रोज । नाही लावया पेज । उपाशी मज यावें लागले ॥ १०७ ॥ केसा पहा ऋणानुबंध । कवाड होते जरी बंद । तरी मी प्रवेशलों स्वच्छंद । कोण प्रतिबंध मज करी ॥ १०८ ॥ मालक नाही मिळाला घर्गें । आंतडीं माझीं कळकळली भारी । तैसाच मी अन्नावीणा माघारी । भर दुपारी परतलों ॥ १०९ ॥”

(Oh mother, as usual I went to Bandra; but I could not get food to eat. So I had to return without satisfying my hunger. Though the house was locked, I somehow entered inside. Who can obstruct me? I could not meet the owner in the house. I was much oppressed by hunger; but I returned in the noon without any food).

When Mrs. Tarkhad heard these words, uttered by Shri Baba she could not make the head and tail of it. However the son understood that his father has forgotten to offer the Naivedya

and this is what Shri Baba is referring to. He then explained to his mother all what had happened at Bandra before he left for Shirdi and added that his father must have forgotten to offer Naivedya at the time of the worship. The son begged pardon and wanted to return to Bandra in order to perform Shri Baba's Pooja properly. Shri Baba did not however grant the permission to go back to Bandra; but accepted the worship there. The son wrote a letter to his father stating what happened at Shirdi. On realising his mistake the father also had sent a letter of apology to the son in order to explain the whole episode to Shri Baba. These two letters, however, crossed each other. This incident shows how Shri Baba is omnipresent and it bears testimony to the statement made by Baba that He knows everything that His devotees do, wherever they may be.



Punyatithi Festival at Sainiketan

On Thursday the 4th October, 1984, the Punyatithi of Shri Sai Baba was celebrated at Sainiketan, Dadar. Though the inner wish of many Sai devotees is to attend the Punyatithi festival at Shirdi, still it does not become possible for everyone to go there. Hence all the three main festivals, that are celebrated at Shirdi on a grand scale, are celebrated at Sainiketan, Dadar, on a small scale. The Office was opened at 8 (a.m.) and the devotees started coming for darshan from that time. Normally there are many devotees, who come for darshan every Thursday. This year the Punyatithi happened to come on a Thursday, and therefore the rush of devotees, coming for darshan was quite good.

The devotees were coming and leaving after taking darshan. However after 10.30 a.m. the devotees, who came, stayed for the aarati, which was to be sung as usual at 12 Noon. At 11'0' Clock the Publication ceremony of one Diwali number (Saiprasad)

edited by Shri Vijay Hajare, a staunch Sai devotee was started. At the outset Mrs Warsha Hajare, wife of Shri Vijay Hajare, welcomed all the persons who had gathered for the publication of the fourth issue of the Diwali number "Saiprasad" and requested Dr. Parchure, the executive editor of Shri Sai Leela (English edition) to publish this year's Diwali number of Saiprasad.

Dr. Parchure said, "It is very difficult now-a-days to publish any book or magazine because the cost of all things like paper etc required for printing an issue, has become almost preventive, but still a sincere Sai devotee Shri Vijay Hajare is undertaking that job because of his love for Sai Baba. For the last three years he did it without minding the trouble he had to take for publishing it. This year also he has likewise brought out this issue after taking lot of trouble. The issue contains so many interesting articles that every Sai devotee would like to read them. In view of the 120 pages that are in the issue, its cost of Rs. 9/- is quite reasonable. I would request all Sai devotees to purchase and read it as this is the only Diwali number in Marathi which is fully dedicated to Sai literature". Dr. Parchure then declared the issue as published and thanked Shri Hajare and all others, who worked hard for bringing out the issue and for giving him this opportunity to preside over the occasion and for requesting him to publish the Diwali number.

Shri Dattaram Baraskar, the sub-editor of Navakal, daily, then congratulated Shri Hajare for successively bringing out for the fourth year the issue of Saiprasad and said, "from my experience I know how difficult it is at present to bring out such a number within so short a time and with such a get up, Shri Sai Baba is known for his miracles and I can say that bringing out such an issue is itself a miracle, which has happened due to Sai Baba's blessings. I wish that Shri Hajare should bring out every year this number, which is entirely dedicated to Sai literature I thank all for giving me this opportunity to speak on this happy occasion".

Shri Vijay Hajare then explained that he is publishing this Diwali number every year merely for the love of Shri Sai Baba and for devotion to Shri Sai Baba. He said that he does not get any profit out of it; but he does it for spreading Sai devotion. He said that Shri Sudhakar Samant, Editor of Bhakti Sangam, Dr. Parchure, executive editor of Shri Sai Leela (English) and Shri Sadanand Chendvankar, executive editor of Shri Sai Leela (Marathi) are his guides and well-wishers in this project and because of their guidance and the blessings of Shri Sai Baba, it becomes possible for him to publish this issue every year. He thanked in the end all those who helped him in publishing the issue and requested all Sai devotees to purchase and read the issue.

Shri Prabhakar Kolamkar thanked all who helped in bringing out the issue and in allowing to hold this function in this hall. The publication ceremony then ended.

At 12 noon the aarati was started, when the hall was overflowing with devotees, who numbered more than three hundred. The devotion made everyone feel that he was singing the aarati in the Samadhi Mandir at Shirdi. Devotees were coming for the whole day upto 7 p.m. when the Office was closed. On a moderate estimate we may say that more than two thousand five hundred devotees took darshan during the whole day.



I Become The Sparrow of Sai

How kind is our Almighty God Shri Sai Baba, who not only filled His spirit in every part and particle of the invisible soul caged in this body (of mine), but also made me a sparrow with a string tied to my leg and drew me physically closer to His Shirdi, when I was very far away from that Holy place!

As Baba assured us all (by once telling Shri H. S. Dixit) "All care and responsibility (of my devotees) is mine". Once when I abruptly gave resignation of my service then my employers

M/s. Malhotra International Ltd., (who refused to accept it and persuaded me to withdraw), with whom I was associated for nine long years, until I walked out as Area Field Manager in April 1981, our Lord Sai hurriedly fixed me up in a Kerala Government Enterprise called M/s. Kerala Soaps & Oils Ltd., as Area Sales Manager in a very unforeseen way.

About six months before the said incident, I was forced by my friend and Junior colleague (a Keralite boy named Mr. Venugopa!) to apply to the latter organisation, much against my will and lack of confidence. By the end of April 1984, when I appeared before the selection committee of KSIE (Kerala State Industrial Enterprises) at Trivandrum, I was the only non-Keralite to be selected among the total 4 candidates recruited for A.S.M.'S position, much to my pleasant surprise.

On Thursday, the 28th May 1981, I joined the said new employers at the Head Office, Calicut (Kerala). Although I stated clearly that I have no preference of any place and as such I am ready to be posted any where in the country, the management's opinion seemed apparently wavery varying from time to time as to whether I should be posted at Madhya Pradesh,-or- Maharashtra-or- Bihar-or-U. P. etc., A week's induction programme was over, I was asked by my chief to prepare for Madhya Pradesh by going through all files of that state. After a couple of days the same chief suddenly changed his mind and declared finally that Maharashtra needs a man of my type, and handed over posting-orders. I was very much delighted within, for it was an unexpected pleasant news because I was allotted exactly that particular state in which our Lord Sainath's Shirdi is located.

Shirdi has been and is my most favourite place among all other pilgrim centres, and I always liked to visit there as many times as possible and stay there for longer periods (though it is ultimately Baba's will to decide these factors).

Having given the posting-orders, our chief left it completely to me to choose any city (except Bombay where our operation was yet to commence) in Maharashtra to keep my office. Incidentally I finalised it to be Aurangabad instead of Poona, Nasik or Nagpur.

Needless to mention, Aurangabad has its own special significance to us the Sai devotees. As mentioned in Shri Sai Satcharita, our Sai Malik in the form of a Fakir first appeared at the outskirts of this same city of Aurangabad (about .5Kms. away on the present Paithan Road) to Chand Patil who was passing that way in desperate search of his beloved 'Bijli' a mare that was lost. Again it is from this same Aurangabad our Sai Baba travelled to Shirdi along with the marriage party of Chand Patil's nephew. So I felt it was a special privilege granted to me by Sai, our God in sending me to Aurangabad.

Thus our Sai Baba dragged me closer to His Shirdi by settling me with family at Aurangabad since last 3 years and offered the opportunity to very frequently visit Shirdi which is much closer, compared to Madras, Hyderabad, Calcutta and Gauhati where I stayed during past several years.

Whenever I think of this divine Sai leela, I remember Baba's saying :

"However distant - even thousands of miles away my people might be, I draw them to myself, just as we pull birds to us with a string tied to their foot",

May the loving grace and blessings of Sai Baba shower in abundance upon all of us !



Narendra Nath Mungara

'Panchavati', 139, Samarth Nagar, Aurangabad- 431 001



How Did River Kaveri Come into Being

It is learnt that in the days of yore, when strange things used to happen, the Mountain Vindhya once picked up a quarrel with the Sun and began rising higher and higher in a bid to obstruct the passage of the Sun.

Such behaviour of the Vindhya naturally created a hubbub among the Gods and the Rishis. Some of them hurried to Agastya, a very great Sage, who was the Guru of the Vindhya and pleaded with him to somehow check his disciple's move.

Agastya Muni set out for the south. When he approached the Vindhya, the latter bowed down to him in deep reverence. Agastya Muni blessed him, but said "Remain so till I return".

But the Guru never returned. The Vindhya has ever since remained in that position, his head lowered, and the Sun's passage remained clear.

Agastya Muni toured all over the south. Kings as well as the common people held him in great esteem. During one of his travels, Agastya Muni met a young prince, by name Kandaman. The prince was pensive and sad because there was no rain in his land and he was afraid after sometime the people in his land would be without even enough water to drink.

Agastya Muni had lately travelled through the Sahyadri Mountains in the land of Kutaka, known today as Coorg. While meditating in the Sahyadri, he had been able to know that very soon a new river would spring out of the mountain. Now, the Mahamuni Agastya immediately rushed to the King of Kutaka, by name Kavera, and requested him to make a gift of the emerging river to the land where the water was most needed.

The King agreed. When the river flowed out, her course was diverted accordingly. She flowed into the Kingdom of Kandaman. The people rejoiced as they drank the sweet, fresh water and the dry land soon smiled with the sprouting vegetation. Agastya Muni named the river as Kaveri, after the name of Kavera, the King of Kutaka.

Thus Kaveri river has been the symbol of sympathy and good will from her very birth.

To this day, the people of Coorg look upon the river Kaveri as their daughter. Just as a daughter is adorned with ornaments when she goes to her father-in-law's house, so also, once every year, on a festive day, the people of Coorg throw ornaments into a lake at the source of the Kaveri river and wish the sweet, dutiful and divine daughter all happiness.

Kaveri, called the Ganga of south, is one of the eight most sacred rivers of India, the other seven being the Ganga, the Yamuna, the Godavari, the Saraswathi, the Narmada, the Sindhu and the Krishna.

And so it is through Agastya Mahamuni that river Kaveri came into being. As is the power of Mahamunis and saints, so is the power of our Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi. ★

B. Ramanadha Rao
Shri Sai Kutir, Bangalore 23 (Karnatak)



VISHWAROOP BABA

Bowing down to the lotus feet of Baba, I Would always like to say, "Without having the grace of God, no man can fulfill his wish and aims of life" In order to get his grace one should have full faith in him; but I was an exception in this case. Though being an atheist, I was grateful, towards the miracle which he bestowed on me. However only by Baba's help I can narrate this incident to you. I felt as though I was flying in heaven with faith and devotion.

In 1976 when the weather was chilling with cold I was travelling to Bangalore from Baroda. Those were the dark days of my life. In spite of being paid the salary of 2000, I was forced to resign the job due to some reason. I was very sad. I did not know how to face my future. Without having any aim in life, I left for Bangalore to meet one of my friends, who had invited me once to his hotel in Bangalore. Hotel Vilas was at the Majestic Circle in Bangalore. On seeing me my friend was very happy and he welcomed me wholeheartedly. He at once called one room boy and told him to take me to a room, which would be empty; but I was informed that I would get a room only if I waited for three hours as all the rooms were booked. I had no other alternative but to wait. Later the boy took me to a small room and while opening it said, "Sir, you are indeed very lucky to get this room, It is said to be a very divine room and if any man with any difficulty cries in front of that lord, he can fulfill his wish" he was pointing towards a PHOTO OF BABA. Then he left; but as I did not believe in God, I did not trust him and laughed at him. In the same night some divine power was attracting my attention towards the photo. For some time I sat staring at the photo. Then without my knowledge tears started flowing from my eyes. It was as though I was meditating on him, I was unaware of my surroundings. That night I did not get a wink of sleep. Whole

night I sat crying in front of him and narrated the whole incident to him. I felt the whole burden of my heart being taken away from me. Next morning Baba was like a "Vishwaroop" to me. Without my knowledge I just do not know how he led my way towards him. After that I became a great devotee of Baba. The room boy's words came to be true. I indeed got peace in that room. After returning to Baroda as I had already resigned the job, with the little money, I had, I put up a small press. Only by his grace I got the courage to work. It was as though he was the one to give me this idea. I was showered by his blessings throughout after that. Till then I did not know anything about Shirdi, but I was determined to go there, And in 1978 along with my family I left for that divine place. Asking the people the route to Shirdi I went there via Bombay and Nasik. When I reached that place I was thrilled and when I bowed my head at the Samadhi, I could really feel his presence over there as though he was alive. Though he is not physically present, he is always with us whenever we need him.

And now he calls me to Shirdi three times a year and only by his grace I go to him. I have become the life member of Shirdi. Now with his blessing I could write about my experience and I pray to him to help me in publishing a whole book on him.

I would always like to tell everybody to have firm faith in him and worship him with devotion. ★

S. K. Salian
Sai Samarpan, 36, Udyognagar, Ajwa Road,
Baroda - 390019 (Gujrat)



Loaded Stars

SAINATH —

When I sit before Thy picture
It is not a mere photo picture
But, a frame in flesh and blood.
The merciful, kindest sparkling eyes
No, not simple eyes, but "Loaded stars".

BABA —

Can I write a verse ?
So questioned I to myself
Then Thy smile made
My pen dance on the paper
With the ink of Thy mercy !
Am I writing ? No —
Sai writes Himself ! But —
My lame knowledge makes
Me feel that I write !

Friend —

Sit silent before Sai
And look at those eyes
Don't you find transformation ?
Forget not the words of Sai
"If you look to me I will look to you."
Just look at the Supreme Sai
The rest will be His !
Let us honestly pray
Sai and mix with him in His play.

K. Rama Prasad (Manager,)
Rayalaseema Grameena Bank, Pendlimarry - 516 216
Cuddapah District (Andhra Pradesh)

Commonwealth of Religions

The charming editorial on the 'Equality of Religions' in the August, 1984 issue has spurred me to express my own humble idea of what a religion should be, what is its origin, purpose and limitations. Our beloved Baba knew that this country is riven by serious religious dissensions which threatened its very unity. Probably it is for this reason that He kept His past history, whether He was born a Muslim or a Hindu, deliberately vague with a view to bring about a purposeful commonwealth of peace and amity everywhere.

The Indian scene today once again is full of human aberrations. Its mellowed nature suffered a scar as it reeled under successive tidal waves of religious fundamentalism. The objective reality, marked by strong communal overtones, has defied all intrinsic efforts towards remedial measures. The developing profile of violence has become too disturbing to admit of any sense of complacency. Violence of any sort, anywhere, at any time, especially in the name of religion, generates reverberations everywhere and its cumulation builds an unnatural climate of perverted human psyche and turns it into a self-destroying, world-annihilating instrument. The persisting spurts of madness in violence, carnage, riots, murder and loot everywhere is an eloquent testimony to this fact.

Many years back I was fortunate to go through an excellent book in Telugu written by Paramahansa Satchidananda Yogi of Gadikota in Cuddapah district. A God-realised soul, once in deep meditation He had a revealing vision of His past lives. He saw, as in a celluloid picture, that in some earlier births he was a Muslim fundamentalist. He earnestly cherished the idea that there is no other religion more perfect than Islam. Though deeply religious, he behaved like an iconoclast all his life ranting on the idol-worshippers as Kafirs and infidels. In some later

births he saw he was born as a Christian Missionary. With the Holy Bible in hand, he converted large masses of people to Christianity. He sincerely believed that Lord Jesus is the only way to the Kingdom of Heaven. He considered that men of other religions are all heathens. Next birth saw him as a Hindu.

The infallible truth is that in every birth one may have a different religion. In the fathomless dimensions of time everyone had countless number of births. One is born in all different life forms. Every creature is related to everyone in one birth or another as a father, mother, brother, sister, wife and so on. All are loved ones. Why should anyone therefore harbour hatred and ill-will against another? Know this well that the same atom of God is present in every man and in the Ultimate Reality, there is no distinction of identity between one man and another. When a man kills another, he kills a sacred part of himself! This Eternal Prism of truth seems to have been lost from the hoary treasures of Man!

In the case of Satchidananda Yogi what religious concepts he built in one lifetime were methodically destroyed by his own self in the next! What then is religion? To know its significance one has to go backwards on the Time Machine to its very origin. In primal, ancient days people lived in cloistered isolation in various parts of this earth with little communication or exchange of people. The religions they evolved in those close-knit groups were based on local genius catering to the needs of the body and soul. These groups of men, living each as an island by themselves, developed an ethnic cult, each a distinct one from the other. The Mohammedans, with origins largely in Arabia, evolved codes of living, dressing and eating habits more conducive to a desert land. Likewise Christians, living largely in cold terrians cultivated codes suited to their native genius. These codes in the evolution of time had hardened themselves into religions by which they are known to the world today.

Religion has a two-fold purpose. One to serve the needs of man and the other to nourish his soul. The codes of living though developed differently with each religion, the spiritual needs, being universal in nature, remained essentially the same. Thus for a Christian every man is a true Christian, who honestly accepts the sportive game of life and adheres to the spiritual tenets of the Truth. Same is the case with a Muslim, a Hindu, a Sikh or a Buddhist. In that fashion each man is at once a true Christian, a true Muslim, a true Hindu and so on. Man is therefore not to be judged by the divide of religion. The visions of Satchidananda Yogi bear testimony to this fact.

Unlike in ancient times, the world today is reduced to the size of an island in relative terms due to the phenomenal leaps in science and civilisation. There is now a great exchange of people of different races everywhere. In the unfolding situation, the concept of religion has undergone a pulverizing period of transition and trauma. As a symbol of ethnic living codes, religion no doubt served a great social purpose in primal and medieval times but it is now misconstrued as an apple of discord for communal harmony. Religion comes not from the inhibiting forces of dogma and fanaticism but from the ennobling actions of tolerance and righteousness. For a country like India, bristling with its teeming millions, encased in an inexplicable matrix of mixed races, religion ought not to be allowed to rise its ugly hood of raw fundamentalism, lest the facade of unity crumble like nine pins against the macabre operations of virulent destructive forces. Needless to state, communal danger is due to unbridled growth of fundamentalism. This is a global phenomenon but more dangerous to India because of its diversity of religion and economic disparity. The need of the hour is to re-ignite the spirit of national unity and sense of direction that marked the freedom struggle.

Practical religion therefore must identify itself with spiritualism, the other aspect of it having lost its relevance. It must provide primacy for progress of spirituality synchronising with

the progress in knowledge and technology and progress in socialisation. The circle of responsibilities of man must widen until it includes human beings of all races and religions. The idea of brotherhood of all human beings is inherent in the metaphysics of all great religions and their philosophy has accepted humanitarianism as a universal concept. Throughout history, the insight that we have a wider duty towards human beings, however, has never really asserted its dominance. Down to our times it has been undermined by differences of race, religion and nationality.

The spiritual regrowth is, therefore, essential for the survival of man. It is an inexorable truth that man is divine; man belongs to man; man is entitled to the divinity of man. Religion manifests the glory of God where it enriches the nobility of man. Our age must achieve this spiritual revival. A new renaissance must come; the renaissance in which mankind discovers human values everywhere as the supreme truth.

The secret of success of Hindu religion from times immemorial is mainly due to the Nature's bountiful endowment to our motherland which really helped the Hindus to devote more time to the needs of the soul. Anciently known as Sanatana Dharma, Hinduism developed as a highly evolved and integrated religion; built to perfection. It survived repeated onslaughts on its existence because of its capacity for invincibility. Even in the rare instance when it was on the brink of extinction, precipitated by a nascent Bhuddhist influence, it exhibited enough reserves of resilient power, consecrated by the legacy of its fabulous spiritual riches, to produce the man of the Hour-Jagadguru Shankaracharya, a giant prodigy the like of which a millennia never witnessed before. In an incredibly short span of 32 years, he developed himself into a mighty magnificent genius, wrote unparalleled scriptural texts, preached with a divine voice, made breath-taking peregrinations on foot to all corners of the country and brought about a rare phenomenal spiritual regeneration among all peoples and re-established Hinduism on its original pedestal of pristine glory

Today the set-up is no different from what it was then before the coming of Shri Shankara. India must rediscover her lost glory by reconnoitering the disparate divisive forces of religious identities. The effort, however, is monumental and is beyond human endeavour. For this we should bank upon Shri Sai Baba, who is our Father, Mother, everything. He is the living symbol of the confluence of all religions.

Earth's image must transcend the differentiations in terms of race, nation, religion or colour. Mother earth should be seen not as a spread of multi-coloured continents and countries weighed down by their historic antagonisms but as one all-sufficing reality. Our dear earth is an evolutionary planet designed by the Architect of the Universe and earth-life is unique becoming, not a static structure. Our country being part of this phenomena is no exception. Evolution, modification and progress play their inevitable part in every cycle of humanity and the spiritual revolution waits for the imminent hour. Let us therefore pray to the Architect for the crucial break-through, for an explosion of consciousness making possible the quantum leap from the current divisive forces to a new integral way of living drawing inspiration from the commonwealth of religions. Let us pray to our never-failing Baba from all Sai temples in the country and from the lips of the millions of Sai devotees everywhere to provide us the man of the Hour, the Man of Destiny, another Shankara-like prodigy, to make our earnest dream an epoch making reality. Let us give unto ourselves the gift of knowledge that religions are many but all religions are one. ★

K. Navin Chander

Deputy Secretary to Government,
Finance Department, Sachivalaya Hyderabad - 500 022.

[As pointed out by Shri K. Navin Chander at the beginning of the above article, he was spurred to express his own idea of what a religion should be, after reading the charming editorial

in the issue of Shri Sai Leela for the month of August 1984. Similarly some of our other contributors also may have got an inspiration. In case they would like to throw light on some other aspects of religion which might not have been covered by these two articles, they may kindly forward their articles, which would provide a healthy debate for a true appreciation of religion and the role it has to play for mankind in all ages.] ★

— Editor

Sai Leela

“I am ever living to help and guide all who come to me, who surrender to me and who seek refuge in me”.

How far these words are true from the view point of non-believers who have no faith in God and the least in those, who claim to save others in the name of God ?

It is natural that when life provides us power, wealth and prosperity in abundance, we take upon ourselves the doership of the world around us. But a sudden storm would shake us abruptly and throw us into the whirlpool of destiny. Then we wake up from our illusion and impatiently knock at all doors, seeking help and advice.

It was in such a predicament that Baba revived the lives of two non-believers and drew their entire family to his benign feet. One of them was then an M.B.B.S. student and the other his brother-in-law an Airforce Officer. Both had no faith in God or sadguru and considered their knowledge drawn from

rational thinking as absolute. The former used to visit my house often, but never had the reverence to bow before Baba's portrait. Instead he took pleasure in criticizing the blind faith of those who seek refuge in Sai Baba. No attempt was ever made by me to inspire this youngster to take recourse to Baba despite his repeated failures in final M.B.B.S. Baba knew well what is stored for each and how and when to serve. He reached a stage of depression and almost gave up the hope of passing in the final examination.

Parents had their dreams shattered, so also other near and dear ones. Meanwhile adding fuel to fire his rash driving of a scooter, with his father, resulted in a serious accident. Luckily the son escaped unhurt while the father was hospitalized with multi-fractures succumbing to near death. Almost at the same time, calamities seem to whip them from all sides, His newly married sister's father-in-law, too was hospitalized at T.V.M. in a serious condition. His brother-in-law is very much attached to his father. On getting the news of the accident of the father-in-law, followed by hospitalization of his father left him grief stricken.

He was then serving at Pune in Air force, and applied for leave. His superior listening to the sad plight sympathized with him and comforted him saying, "God will surely protect you". To this assurance, he deplored vehemently that there is no such God for him, in his life. His superior spoke out reminiscences of his own former disbelief and how he discovered his God in Shirdi Sai Baba. Much to the astonishment of the subordinate officer, he disclosed how Baba influenced his life and how he protects any one, who surrenders and seeks refuge in him. His direct experience from disbelief to faith, when rendered with sincerity had its electrifying effect on the listener. Then the former showed him the dollar of Saibaba, which he was always wearing. The grinding had been done, there was a change of attitude in our non-believer, who agreed to accept Sai Baba on

three conditions viz. his father and father-in-law must be saved from jaws of death, and his brother-in-law must pass the final M.B.B S in the next attempt. If these conditions were fulfilled then he agreed to go to Shirdi with the entire family and thenceforth to serve the master whole-heartedly.

Invoking Baba's blessings, Baba's benefactor gave him a photo and dollar for worship. Then onwards events took a favourable turn, His father whose case was ruled out by expert doctors at his eighties with severe ailment recovered amazingly, His father-in-law fought with life for a long period; but he recovered fully in six months. During this period his brother-in-law was attending to his father and had given up studies completely. The third condition had to be tested. Accordingly he attempted for final M.B.B.S. without preparation reposing full faith in Sai Nath. Mr. Shevade's (Sai Satcharitha) story was repeated. Mr. Jagdish Nair passed his final M.B.B.S. to the delight of all. To rejoice this occasion and to tender an apology for his delinquency in the past, Mr. Jagdish Nair came all the way from Secunderabad and narrated these incidents, and took a photo of Sai Baba from my hand for his future worship.

"Baba drew his devotee from across seven seas like a sparrow with a string fastened to its feet".

The above prophecy of Baba is aptly proved in this case.

K. R. Gopinath

Sai deep, 111 Adarsh Nagar, Hubli 32 (Karnataka)



Ten Reasons Why One Should Worship Sai Baba of Shirdi

1. First and foremost because, in the words of Hemadpant the author of Shri Sai Satcharita, He has taken a vow to give you what you want.

2. And that too immediately "Cash down". You ask with sincere devotion (shradhha) and patience (saboori) and there is the result.

3. He is so easily pleased. No hard penance, no unbearable fasts, not even difficult concentration and control of senses. In his own words, "You look to ME and I look to you". Can there be anything simpler than this?

4. He has left His mortal body 66 years ago and even today thousands of devotees have experienced His presence, having met their demands. What more guarantee is required?

5. Not being bodily present as a human being today, there is no danger of being cheated in His worship. In case of so many Avatars, Bhagwans and Yogi's, cropped up at present in the country, one is not sure if one is following the real preceptor (Sadguru).

6. No money is required to worship Baba. He is pleased even with flowers, fruits, leaves or even water devotionally offered. You do not have to spend for travelling upto Shirdi also. He is available even from where you are 'even beyond seven seas'.

7. Ashes (Udi) from the fire burning eternally in His Dwarkamai is the cheapest and most infallible medicine of all diseases. The cost is only two paise - faith and patience.

8. His life-history written by Hemadpant contains all the wisdom of Vedas, Upanishads and Geeta in the form of simple stories and anecdotes. Reading them alone and following the advice therein, one can reach the goal of liberation without fail

9. Repetition of His name 'Sai' is so short, so sweet and so easy to pronounce! No twisting of tongue and no difficult accents.

10. Last but not the least, He, on fulfilling your demands in this world, ensures that you do not get caught in the dangerous network of this 'Sansar'. Slowly He moulds you, guides you and takes you step by step to liberation (Moksha) which is the key to eternal and everlasting bliss.

«Bow to Shri Sai and peace Be to all».



Lt. Col. M. B. Nimbalkar (Retd)

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To,
The Executive Editor,
Shri Sai Leela
Sir,

I am very much struck by the brilliancy of exposition in the editorial, titled "Equality of Religions" appeared in the August 1984 issue of Shri Sai Leela. The thought became a contagion to me and I immediately felt like making my own humble contribution of my idea of religion in terms of its utility to mankind through the ages. I am sure that many of the thought-provoking ideas in the editorial will serve as a catalyst for contributions from other readers too leading to a grand healthy debate on the many aspects of this much misunderstood subject of religion in our contemporary times.



Yours Sincerely,

K. Navin Chander

Dy. Secretary to Andhra Pradesh,

Govt. Finance Department, Hyderabad - 500 022 (A. P.)

My Visits to Shirdi

The whole world is lit
With heavenly light;
"Sai-Sun" has descended angel's delight!
The righteous are happy!
Ignorance has taken to flight !

Lord Krishna says in Bhagwadgita, "I am perfectly even and equal towards all creatures. I have neither a friend nor a foe; but those who attach themselves to me by their devotion, are in me and I am in them". The Lord also says "No devotee of mine ever perishes" for the best of reasons that there is the Lord to look after the yogakshemam of such devotees.

Many devotees of Shri Sai Baba are even now experiencing His constant perpetual guardianship, protection and help, in almost every matter which demonstrates that He is doing all this even after His Mahasamadhi in 1918.

So every one, who cares now to think of Lord Sainath and offer prayers to Him, study about Him, contact His bhaktas, attend His Pujas, Bhajan, Kathas, etc., gets undoubted benefits. Therefore my advice to my brother Sai devotees is that their contact with Him must be as perfect and full as it can be and that every portion of our life should be covered by Shri Sai Baba. Even if one does not pray for one's wants, Lord Sainatha will bless His devotees with happiness and successes. Devotion to Shri Sai Baba and practising "Shraddha" i.e., faith with devotion and "Saburi" i.e., courage with patience—the twin commands of Lord Sainath are bound to benefit the devotees in the greatest measure in this world and beyond.

I am now aged 54 and since my childhood I have been having cent percent faith in the Almighty. Since 1941, I have

been under the divine fold of Lord Sainath. My father Shri M. Ramakrishnaiah, retired Treasury Officer, who is now aged 80, has been a Sai devotee and so Sai Bhakti is flowing in my veins. I have undergone several trials and all sorts of troubles in life and met with several accidents and I would not have been existing now but for the divine grace and protection of Shri Sai Baba.

My prayer to Shri Sai Baba, since a few years, is as follows as said by one of our greatest saints, "use me henceforward as thou wilt. I am of one mind with thee. I am thine, I ask exemption from nothing that pleases thee. Lead me where thou wilt, clothe me in any dress Thou Chooseth. Bear with me and sustain me, Oh, Lord". May Shri Sai Baba "Our Beacon Light" guide us to Himalayan spiritual heights.

I have been silently praying to Shri Sai Baba all these years, with an ardent desire to visit "Shirdi" but 'He' called me only on 12th August, 1982 for the first time and I touched the "Holy Soil" of Shirdi on 12th August 1982 only, which happened to be a Thursday and coincided with Krishnastami day. I was again summoned on 30th September 1982 to Shirdi. My prayer to Shri Sai Baba when I worshipped Him on 30th September 1982 was to continue to shower His Divine Grace on me for ever.

Suddenly as if it was a Divine call again from Shri Sai Baba who is our "Ananta Koti Brahmanda Nayaka, Rajadhi Raja, Yogi Raja, Parabrahma, Shri Sachitananda Sadguru Sainath Maharaj", I left for "Shirdi" on 17th December, 1982 evening and returned back to Hyderabad by 20th December 1982 noon along with my brother Sai Devotee Shri K. Subba Rao of Hyderabad most happily without any discomfort during our visit to Shirdi and return. We offered prayers at Mahasamadhi Mandir, participated in Kakada Arathi, Evening Arathi, Night Arathi as well as worshipped Shri Sai Baba at Dwarkamayi and Chavadi and Gurusthan. We met Shri Martanda, son of late Shri Mhalasa, Shri Hari Bhau Bala Shimpi, son of late Bala

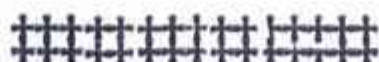
Shimpi, who saw Shri Sai Baba in flesh and blood, who is now aged over 75, a retired Elementary School Teacher. We also visited later Smt. Lakshmi Bai's house and worshipped the 9 Rupee coins given to her by Baba and also visited Shri Uddhava Rao's (son of Shri Shyama) house and other great devotees' houses in Shirdi village and conversed with them about Shri Sai Baba. We felt blessed on 19th when we spent sometime with all of them and exchanged our thoughts on Shri Sai Baba with them. We spent sufficient time with Swamy Shivanesh at "Chavadi" and also with two foreign Sai devotees and exchanged our thoughts on Shri Sai Baba with them. They informed us that they had prolonged their "stay" at Shirdi with His Grace.

When I found myself before "Mahasamadhi" of Lord Sainath on 18th December, 1982 at 12 noon i.e. at "Noon Arathi" time, I felt supreme "Bless" and I was having "Shri Sai Satcharita" with me, and when my turn for offering prayers to Baba came on 18th as well as on 19th, I felt satisfied the exacting human instinct in me and experienced "His Godliness, His Divine Glory and Majesty".

Man is a complex being, full of imperfections. He nevertheless looks upto the Divine for a harmonious fulfilment. Baba, when asked about one's goal, said, "Raising above" i.e. above the present brute level. But "Reaching God" is what Baba expects from his devotees. People describe this goal as "Moksha" i.e., attainment of eternal bliss. May His devotees practice "Love through service and sacrifice and while enjoying the sweetness of Shri Sai sugarcandy themselves, May they spread Sai Devotion" more effectively. ★

M. Narasimha Rao

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On Tour With Baba

Not long ago in the month of May 1984, I flew to Los Angeles via Hongkong and Tokyo. The long journey involved a change of planes at Hongkong and I was warned that airlines mishandled baggage and even if it is booked through it is miscarried. I had faith in Baba so when I packed my suitcase I applied Udi to it and with a silent prayer commences my journey by Swissair from Bombay. Everything on the way was fine and I met some nice people on the flight, one of them being Elizabeth whose parents were from Kerala but now lived in Malayasia. During a chance meeting at Tokyo airport we got talking and she very kindly offered me a lift to the place I was going from Los Angeles airport, as she was passing through it on her way home.

We arrived at Los Angeles airport and went through the formalities. Her young son came and told at the baggage arrival area that they would wait for me at the baggage hall below. I looked for my suitcase in the large number that had come; but it was not there. However after a while it came but to my utter shock found the bottom ripped across with the stuff inside showing through the crack. After the customs check-in my case it was a thorough one as I came from "A narcotics country"-I had to carry my suitcase on my little trolley (since the conveyor belt would damage it further) along the endlessly long corridors to the baggage hall below. There to my great relief I saw Elizabeth and a person sent by a colleague to assist me to take the bus to Disneyland where my friends were to pick me up. Elizabeth introduced me to her husband an Englishman running his own travel agency in Los Angeles and I told him of the calamity befalling me in the form of a broken suitcase at my very first halt. Elizabeth's husband promptly suggested we take the suitcase to Panam baggage office and make a claim for the damaged suitcase since I took their flight from Hongkong. So

off we went and found the staff helpful. Claim forms were filled and signed and I told them that I was there for only five days and that the money had to reach me before I left for Mexico city.

Elizabeth and her husband Arnold were gracious and dropped me in their cadillac at the house of my friend saving me the bother of a bus journey of forty miles. At the earliest opportunity I went through my suitcase to see if anything was missing and to my great relief found everything intact. I said a silent prayer to Baba whose name was always chanted.

My friend Sheela solved my predicament by offering me her suitcase for my onward travel to Mexico, South America and Spain and said I could return it with her father coming there in July. I gratefully accepted her offer and threw away my old suitcase. After applying Udi to Sheela's suitcase I put in my belongings. One cannot imagine the plight of one travelling alone with limited funds in such a situation for with the foreign exchange it was hardly possible to buy a new suitcase at the U. S. rates. Moreover this was my first halt. I could see Baba's hand in all this. The Panam draft of fifty U. S. dollars arrived in time before I flew to Mexico city with Elizabeth and her husband taking me to the airport in their cadillac. Again I felt that all this help was Sai sent.

My journey through Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Spain and Switzerland could not have been more comfortable. At a place in Peru Cuzco we were 11444 ft. above sea level. It reminded one like our Darjeeling only a great deal higher and it was winter in South America. I went through everything without a mishap of any sort. The people were friendly and curious about the sari and tilak but never offensive. I was impressed to learn the Hare Krishna movement was all over south America and even little Cuzco 11444 ft. high had a Hare Krishna temple. In Rio de Janeiro I stayed in the Hare Krishna temple, which had

an Ashram attached to it. The devotion of the Brazilians in the temple and Ashram in the Vaishnav cult was inspiring. An English speaking guide, we met at Manaus airport (in North Brazil) by chance, was delighted to see us for he had been to India and was a disciple of Swami Mukhtanand. When I showed him Baba's photo in my diary he recognized it at once and exclaimed: "It is Sai Baba. I have his picture in my house"

Manaus is a river port on the great Amazon river in North Brazil on the equator. To find someone in such a place having Baba's photo and knowing about him made me very emotional. I felt Baba was organizing from behind the scenes and stood invisibly behind me. Otherwise how could I go on such a trip round the world covering great continents? I returned safe and sound alone as I had left Bombay after seven weeks—on my South American and Spanish trip I was escorted by my nephew with whom I parted at Geneva airport to spend ten days with Swiss friends and Indian colleagues. There too everything was perfect with warm and welcoming friends—and in a flood of gratitude to Baba I wept. Dear Baba without you where would I be? ★

Vidyut Maneklal

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Music shows the path of divinity

Who can be greater than God? So Thyagaraja sang in praise of God alone. The king asked him to sing his praise and promised precious gifts and wealth. Thyagaraja refused to do so and sang: "Which gives more happiness—flattery of mere men bound up in their own conceit or the singing of the glory of the Lord?" Thyagaraja is as immortal as the God whose glory he sang. ★

Saipadananda Late Shri Radhakrishnaswamiji

The Parliament of Devotees

It is with great pleasure that I note the perceptive editorial published in Shri Sai Leela (July, 1984) and with greater pleasure, the fact that "It is however felt that if some of the thoughts on this subject are expressed in this magazine, they will be given a serious thought by all Sai Institutions etc." I take this opportunity as my humble service to the Sai movement to share a few of my views regarding the points raised in the editorial.

I still feel that the Sai Samsthan should be the coordinating body directing the effective functioning of all Sai Institutions everywhere else. It could bring together all Sai organisations into a federal body, where the question of submitting to the external authority of a samsthan by the various local organisations everywhere does not arise. The samsthan can provide a common platform for all the representatives of the various organisations, pool up all their suggestions along with its own, and through deep discussion, help them arrive at a very effective programme of activities to spread the message of Shri Sainath all over the world. The federal set up, I hope, would eliminate all the possible difficulties of making the Shirdi Samsthan the Central Organisation.

This implies bringing together all the organisations on an equal footing and helping them evolve a perfect system of activity through discussion, experiment and further discussion based on the experience, as is done in modern science. The Shirdi Samsthan can itself set an example of an open attitude to all constructive suggestions by implementing worthwhile conclusions arrived at these discussions. This would bring the noblest of all traditions of subjecting oneself most willingly and strongly to a unanimously accepted standard of spiritual laws (Dharma). Shri Sai Baba has shown that is the very fact when, for fifty six long years of his physical existence on earth, he lived like just one among the

multitudes and never claimed or appropriated for himself any pontifical primacy above the others. He never considered himself as a Guru to anyone nor anyone as his disciple. He did all he could to resist the efforts of his devotees to elevate him to the level of a divinity and his resistance was evident in the outbursts of anger he displayed, whenever such a tradition was sought to be implemented by the devotees. He too, like any sadhu, submitted to the holy code of conduct of an ideal fakir or sadhu in the zeal with which he refused to store valuable gifts of money, clothes and sweets offered to him, in his scrupulous living on alms, tending the holy fire, living in a lonely, holy place etc., etc.,. The world's scriptures are emphatic that only those who implicitly subject themselves to the religious law of life are the elect ones. Indeed, the socio-political organisations like Marxism are growing from strength to strength today in the world only by collective acceptance of the Marxist-Leninist ideology and practice. If we see differences among these organisations, they are only different experiments evolved to perfect their practice and arrive at most effective practical interpretation of the law. The rishis of old have also upheld the supremacy of Dharma before which the king and the pauper are equal.

I am almost sure that the relative passivity and ineffectiveness of all spiritual organisations in the present society in really moulding the lives of their members, when compared with the socio-political organisations like Marxism, is the absence of this greatest common measure or ideological frame-work or law which can amalgamate all individuals and organisations into a mass movement of spiritual regeneration. When such a thing can really be done by the Shirdi Sansthan, in close cooperation with all Sai organisations, I am sure, the mission of Shri Sainath to all mankind has really taken its first concrete shape. For, he is alone in history in synthesising in himself, all that the modern world needs for its spiritual awakening and unification - purely a spiritual achievement without the narrow shell of any religious ritual formalism or dogma. We find in him the solution to the

chronic communal problem, and his is obviously the religion of tomorrow, if mankind has a tomorrow at all. And his is the only way of ensuring such a tomorrow for the race. In him we are not called upon to believe what we don't see to be true with our hearts. And there is nothing in his life which a socialist, Marxist, humanist or even an atheist would not wish for his own ideal type of man. We see that all this is in total agreement with all that great spiritual giants of recent history - Swamy Vivekanand, Madam Blavatsky, Shri Aurobindo, and a host of others have prophecied, that such is going to be the religion of tomorrow.

The work of Shri Sainath's life and teachings is ready. But are the vessels ready? Can we, individually and collectively deserve him? The only worthwhile attempt, to my mind, is to take such a step as I have indicated. Else we shall carry our toying with Sai-faith to the same dust to which all the spiritual movements and the institutions of ancient history have gone, with us. And that inspite of Sai Baba !

Would he not do even that for us? His sayings implied a condition: "If you look to me, I look to you". The words he uttered while blessing the intent of late Shri Hemadpant to compose Shri Sai Satcharita "which we all quote as our Bible", point to such efforts on our side. Again when a sceptic visited him, Baba emptied all the pots in the Dwarakamai of their water and inverted them. When asked why by the sceptic, he said "What can I do? All vessels coming to me do so in this fashion". He implied that it is our business to hold the vessels aright for him to pour his wine of grace. ★

E. Bharadwaja
President, Sai Baba Mission Ongole (A. P.)



To
The Editor,
Sai Leela,
Sir,

Sub; Sai Miracles and Leela -

Your editorial of May, 84, is highly magnetic. It attracts eyes, ears and minds of all devotees. I Take some points (1) Miracles. Although Lord Sai performs extraordinary miracles, he cannot be considered a magician. Sai miracles have got a spiritual significance. The word miracle is not bad, we may call it miracle, leela or super power. Under certain circumstances, even the most rationalists have to rely on miracles. Take the case of Swami Vivekanand to whom existence of god was a subject of reason. When his father died and he was jobless, his faith in God was shaken. He, however requested Shri Ramkrishna to pray to mother Kali to remove his difficulties. On another occasion when Shri Ramkrishna had throat trouble and doctors declared that the case would be fatal in a few days, Naren (Vivekanand) with tears in his eyes pressed Shri Ramkrishna to pray to Kali, for removal of throat trouble. Thus in both the cases Shri Narendranath expected miraculous divine help.

Deeper, we go in Sai orbit, we will feel that value of miracles is minimised as can be seen in the following cases.

Kushabhau was wearing an iron bangle. With its help he used to produce sweetmeats. But as soon as he went to Baba, he was asked to remove the bangles immediately. Later out of love and devotion to Baba, he had eaten sweet potatoes vomited by Baba, he was given power to produce Vibhuti in his palm by simply remembering Baba, Sai Devotees can make distinction between sweetmeats and vibhuti of Baba. In Jamner miracle

Mainatai was saved but her husband and newly born child died. Nanasaheb, naturally dejected, went to Baba who advised him to abide by the Law of Karma.

Thus in Sai Path miracles are not "be all and end all".

Narration of life-sketches of other saints is really praiseworthy. Lord, Sai is highly catholic. We Sai devotees, should never become fanatic, and intolerant. We should see Sai in all Gods, all saints and all creatures. ★

Yours faithfully,

Navinchandra D. Pandya

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Dear Shri Sai Brothers / Contributors,

I am of firm opinion to develop Sai Cult devotional literature in Andhra Pradesh for which I propose to translate some of the selected articles published in Sai Leela English Magazine into TELUGU for the benefit of Telugu knowing Sai devotees for popularising Sai devotion by publishing the same in the form of a separate book / articles in Sai Baba Telugu Fortnightly etc.

Shri Sai Sansthan has kindly given their consent to develop Sai Cult in Andhra Pradesh vide No. SSS / WS / VIII / 10 / 37 / 84, dated 25-7-1984. This is a privilege to contribute my might to Baba's Order.

All the contributors of Sai Leela are therefore requested to treat this as general permission for translating their articles in Telugu for my devotional work for the development of Sai Cult in Andhra Pradesh. ★

B. S. Tatapudi

13-1-1250, Seetaram Bagh, Hyderabad - 500 006.

Sai Sevak's Mission, Abroad

“May the Radiance of the Supreme Baba
Light paths all over the world.”

During the month of February 1984, the inspiration acquired from Lord Baba, reached its towering heights and created in my mind an urge to undertake a pilgrimage, in accompaniment with H. H. Swamy Karunanandaji, to the sacred sanctorums of North India. While plans and schedules were being worked out for this pilgrimage, sometime, in the middle of February 1984, there was a phonic message from Mr. John Nazarian, an Armenian American, residing in Los Angeles, U. S. A. expressing anxiety about his sister's failing health. John, by now, is no stranger to the Sai devotees of the samsthan for he had come to India three years ago and lived among his Sai brothers for about 45 days.

Special prayers were offered to Baba on behalf of the patient and the simple though extremely powerful recitation of Shri Sai Mahima twice in a day was advised to John and his sister. Between the middle of February 1984 and the departure in the small hours of May 6th, John sent innumerable telephonic messages expressing his desire that I should come to America personally to bless his ailing sister. It was repeatedly conveyed to him that Baba's blessings had reached the patient and that my physical presence was not at all necessary.

Much to the amazement and concern of the devotees for John, this visit appeared to get delayed. Nothing occurs without the will of the Supreme and in this case also, there was no indication from Baba to proceed during that particular period from February 1984 to April 1984 and Baba guided the above mentioned pilgrimage to North India.

The will of Baba prevailed when it was to, and after a telephonic conversation with John on May 3rd 1984 a spontaneous decision was taken to leave for Los Angeles at the earliest date

making every other en-route halt insignificant. A very strong inspiration from Baba called for the installation in John's home of the magnificent Murti, which was taken out ceremoniously in a pallenquin from Kurla to the airport and thence to America on May 6th 1984, after a travelling period of 32 hours, including flying and transit, the clock at Los Angeles showed 08.40. p. m. and John with his brother and two sons beamed with joy as the sacred and precious Murti of Baba was given to him to hold! The spark of the most Supreme was enkindled on John's face and he, with great reverence drove to his residence in 1628, Crenshaw Building, in Los Angeles.

The mind still recalls the utmost surprise and joy that it felt on reaching there and seeing a well-built, smiling lady, who was none other than the patient, John's sister Juliette, whose fast failing health had caused her family members the torture and turmoil of mind and thought. Here she was a living proof of what Baba's hand had wrought even in the absence of any physical body. She radiated with love for Baba and related her experience of recovery ever since she had been hearing to the chanting of the miraculous Shri Sai Mahima and drinking the holy water formed thereby. She was a picture of what the Psalms say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." After that Juliette very actively participated in the daily sathsanghs that were conducted in John's residence for the next 4 days. The chief among the sathsanghs that were conducted there, was the installation of Baba's Murthi on Thursday the 10th May 1984 in the midst of a huge gathering, including John's friends and relatives, who were all mostly Armenian Americans and there were some Indian family's too. The discourse thereafter, which was very attentively heard, was to enlighten the people on who was Shri Sai Baba, and on His life and teachings. Sathsangh was conducted once again on Thursday evening, complete with puja and aarati.

During the stay in Los Angeles, Mrs, Shobha Motwani and her family, all being ardent devotees of Baba, came from Las

Vegas and helped in preparing Indian food. Mr. Brij Kishore Asnani (Bill) then sent an Indian cook to do the needful.

While in America, one got to visualise manifestation of the Highest Power Baba, in the form of the natural surroundings which are beyond imagination. The fervour and enthusiasm of the devotees, both Indian and foreign, provided new dimensions to the glory and bountiful blessings of Baba and the heart went out in a prayer that, 'May His blessings be on one and all'

Among the places where sathsanghs were conducted, the following are the venues in America. Los Angeles, which now becomes the headquarters of Shri Bhagawati Sai Samsthan in America. Yuma Court, Union City and Toluca Ct, Las Vegas, which was the residence of Sri Murli and Srimati Shobha Motwani. Besides the sathsangh, the naming ceremony of their daughter was also conducted here with the sacred mantras. The glitter of Baba's greatness, and His unique miracles was clearly seen in this family because the joy of this child has been bestowed upon the couple after 6½ years of marriage. The entire programme was covered by coloured video.

The thread ceremony of Master Govind Asnani, Mr. Bill's younger brother, was performed at Meadow Grove Ave, Las Vegas with vedic mantras very ceremoniously.

The sathsang at Hindu Mandir, Minnesota was followed by a discussion and questionnaire on the sacred life and teachings of Shri Sai Baba. Knowledge thirsty devotees both Indian and American participated.

The other places where sathsanghs were conducted in America are as follows:- Nathan Lane, Plymouth, Royal Oak, Michigan, Kingsfield Drive, West, Bloomfield, Park Lane Grossile, Carey Cres, Markhan Canada and New york.

In the last venue, the sathsangh was conducted on a very large scale indicating Baba's glory and His greatness in the form of very good arrangements and very enthusiastic audience.

While in America the mind wandered in the region of many and variable and came upon all sects who seek to tread the inner way to the abode of the Lord. Among them the sick and the sorrowing craved to touch reality most deeply with faith and firmament. Thus prostrations were offered by devotees from all walks of life, and it is no wonder that prayers reached the one Supreme Power, Baba, who blessed them with many experiences to nurture in their hearts and to spread His Glory among themselves and outside.

Apart from the headquarters set up in Mr. John's residence, yet another accommodation has been very humbly offered by Mr. Kumar Shahani in Kansas City and Mr. Bill Asnani in Las Vegas to set up centres of the Shri Bhagawati Sai Samsthan, where regular weekly puja and sathsangh would be conducted. Chief among these, as Baba wishes, is the one in Las Vegas and is the generous offer, in the form of a building (condominium) by Mr Bill Asnani. The incharge of this centre would be Mrs. Chandra Kewalramani, a very ardent devotee of Baba, who left no stone unturned in her 'seva' during this pilgrimage to America. May Baba bless her and keep her in His care. Mr. Bill Asnani's great devotion and perfection in arrangements after leaving San Francisco shall be remembered for long and a special prayer is offered for them that the benevolent Baba may give them everlasting peace and devotion.

From U. S. A., the arrival at Heathrow Airport in London was on June 7th 1984 at 09.15 a. m. where Mr. K. P. Sharma received and welcomed me with the same devotion as the devotees in America had bid farewell.

The simple and humble living of the sharma family in their spacious residence in Avenue Road, London reminded the mind that devotion to God is the most important means of obtaining everlasting peace. Devotion is Truth which is associated with the highest reality. The dedication with which the whole Sharma

family was at service will be long remembered and the sathsangh conducted there, both in the morning and in the evening, reflected upon the many silent ways of Baba.

The sathsanghs were conducted in London at six different places. A sathsangh was also conducted in a Gujrati family's residence near Shri K. P. Sharma's residence.

Baba said that wisdom of the reality is the only instrument which dissolves the ego, ceases the wandering of the mind and elevates to perfect joy and contentment. In order to attain this, one has to be constantly in His prayer and meditation, wanting Him and Him alone and once having achieved this, every other want seems but a particle of sand in the vast bed of the ocean. The pilgrimage to the west on the soils of America and London was thus high-lighted by the many sathsanghs that were conducted, depicting at many stages, His greatness and sharing with His children, His silent, yet miraculous acts which break many barriers and give an insight to truth,

From London, Baba, took me to Italy where an interview with the world renowned marble sculptor professor Nicde of Karara took place. The Italian trade commission was of a tremendous help. However, the availability of pure milky white marble for such a big sacred Murti of Baba can be made available only after 3 to 4 months. This Sevak awaits an inspiration from Baba whose orders will be the most sacred command.

May Baba, the silent and ever omnipresent witness, guide, friend and philosopher show the path to eternity and may His profuse blessings be showered on one and all. ★

Narayan Baba
Shri Bhagawati Sai Samsthan
92/4, Railway Colony, Kurla, Bombay 400 024

The Light That Never Fades

As the Sun in Summer
Clears off the clouds that gather,
To the entire earth it supplies
Heat and light alike;
The trusted guide as
God's visible representative,
Bothers not of any caste and creed;
But at the poor and the rich it looks,
So great SAINATH shines in Shirdi.

This Neem tree that saves many
By shelter under its extending branches,
Its shade that blesses many a needy,
With unfathomable mercy
When it swings its branches;
Men seek solace under
While birds sit on it and sing,
"Let Sainath guide us for ever
To help us love each other".

As the lovely rose
That by its fragrance
Draws closer many
Bees and butterflies;
Some for its honey

While some for fear
Of that strong wind
That blows across
That garden with trees
Withered and flowers fallen;
For hope of peace to
Restless minds and thirsty souls,
So great Sainath shines in Shirdi.

Towards Him I turn
For His help in time,
That Saint of Shirdi,
Who lives for all times;
In the minds and hearts
Of those who seek Him;
When life's path is
Dim, dull and dark
Sainath shall be the light.

K. A. Aravind

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Rifle Range, Ghatkopar (West), Bombay 400 086.





JULY 1984

(Continued from October 1984 issue)

**Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Bhajan, Dance etc,
Names of the artists who gave their various Programmes
during this month :-**

117) Shri Sunil Lonkar, Pune 118) Shri Ashok Nanasaheb Korate, Shirdi 119) Shri Prasad Suryakant Hunde, Pune 120) Shri Suresh Shamrao Lonkar 121) Shri Jayanta Jagannath Nagarkar 122) Shri Ranjan Shankarrao Lanjekar 123) New Gandharva Brass Band, Pune 124) Shri Suresh Babanrao Adhav, Pune 125) Mayur Brass Band, Pune 126) Bharat Scouts and Guides, Western Railway, Lower Parel, Bombay Shri Vasant Dhumkar, Rover Leader 127) Central Railway Group Shri B.B. Gangawane, Leader 128) Shri Suresh Kajaram Anjarlekar Bombay 129) Shri Shashikant Eknath Dalvi, Bombay 130) Shri Satish Rao, Bombay 131) Shri Vilas Mahadik 132) Shri Vasant Balaram Joshi 133) Shri Vilas Pawaskar 134) Shri Vasant Naik 135) Shri Barkushet Mandawkar 136) Shri Vilas Paralkar 137) Shri Vivek Muley 138) Shri Shivdas Shirodkar 139) Shri Subhash Kambli 140) Shri Baravkar Brothers, Shirdi 141) Shri Raghunath Nagre, Shirdi 142) Shri Sham Mirane, Shirdi 143) Shri Chaturdhan Nagre, Shirdi 144) Shri Manik Sali 145) Shri Madbukar Nivritti Bhalerao, Shirdi 146) Shri Hari Om Sharan, Bombay 147) Sou. Nandini Sharan 148) Shri Madhav Pawar 149) Shri Deepak Borkar 150) Shri Vasant Hatkar 151) Shri Alhad Hatkar 152) Shri M.V. Pawar 153) Shri Suresh Gamare 154) Shri Ramesh Gotad

155) Shri Pradeep Rasane, Ahmednagar 156) Dr. Thosar, Amarawati 157) Smt. Nalini K. Dave 158) Shri Kishore Amembal, Puttaparthi 159) Sou. Sharayu Saidas Marathe, 160) Sou. Sulabha Ranganath, Nanded 161) Miss Sheetal Ravindra Vani, Shirdi 162) Shri Kachru Babu Gadakh, Pategaon 163) Shri Baburao Gorte, Patgaon 164) Shri Kashinath Bidwe, Pategaon 165) Shri Bhaskaran (A.P.) 166) Shri Changdeo Bhikaji Gadakh, Pategaon 167) Shri Ranganath Bhagji Somavanshi Lawate 168) Shri Vishal Venkatachalam, Delhi 169) Shri Rajesh Nagji, Bombay 170) Shri Giriraj, Bombay 171) Sou. Mangala Giriraj, Bombay 172) Shri Pimpalwadi Bhajani Mandal, Pimpalwadi 173) Shri Dattaram Viththal Ghag, Bombay 174) Shri Gurudeo Kante Swami, Panchgani 175) Shri Bhaskar Dagdu Kale, Dehre.

On all the days of the festival sweet dish was served to the devotees in the prasad at the bhojagriha in the usual rates. The articles, offered to Shri Baba, were sold by auction every day and the devotees vied with each other by bidding higher price.

Weather :- The weather at Shirdi was quite healthy and free from any sort of disease. The rainfall is less than normal and it is therefore feared that we may have shortage of water in the hot season.

AUGUST 1984

The rush of devotees at Shirdi in this month was as usual. As there was no special religious day and as the Ganesh Chaturthi came at the end of this month, the devotees preferred to remain in their houses and cities. There was therefore no extra pressure on the staff of the Shirdi Sansthan in this month. The following artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir in this month :-

Keertan :- 1) Shri Madhukar Ganesh Suryawanshi, the Sansthan Singer, performed keertans on Ekadashi days and some

other important days of the month 2) Shri Shantaram Ranganath Mirane, Shirdi 3) Shri Vasudevshastri Dharmadhikari, Akola.

Pravachan :- 1) Shri Gurudeo Kateswami, Panchagani 2) Shri Vishwanathmaharaj Surale 3) Shri Kashinath buwa Bhalerao, Tryambkeshwar 4) Shri Prabhakarpant Deshmukh, Paithan.

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Bhajan, Dance etc.

1) Shri Bhaskar Dagdu Kale, Dehre 2) Shri Bhaskaran (A.P.) 3) Shri Imanali Shah, Barhanpur 4) Shri V. M. Ramaswami, Bangalore 5) Sou. V. Kamala, Vishakhapatanam 6) Shri Sainath Bhajani Mandal, Shirdi 7) Shri Mosami Chakravarti, Delhi 8) Shri Giri Maharaj, Paithan 9) Shri Bhajani Mandal, Paithan 10) Shri K. Vijaykumar, Hyderabad 11) Shri Nitin Shantaram Mirane, Shirdi 12) Shri T. Sambhayyacharya Kuri, Danshi 13) Shri Shriram V. Satardekar, Parel 14) Dr. M. K. Kirtikar, Dadar 15) Shri Shiwaji Tukaram Dhumal, Shirdi 16) Shri Madhukar Waman Patil, Ganeshpuri 17) Jadugar Kirankumar, Bombay 18) Shri K. Vishwanath, Jadugar, Kopergaon 19) Shri Balu Borawke, Kopergaon 20) Shri Nandu Borawke, Kopergaon 21) Shri Rajendra Pandhare, Kopergaon 22) Shri Dattatraya B. Pawar, Kopergaon 23) Sou. Uma Vishwanath, Kopergaon 24) Shri Hari Om Sharan, Santacruz 25) Sou. Nandini Sharan 26) Smt. Kamal Nathani 27) Shri Perera 28) Shri Ramlal 29) Shri Sone Bhajani Mandal, Sonegaon, Baramati.

Independence Day Celebrations :-

On Wednesday the 15th August 1984, India's Independence day was celebrated. In the morning the national flag was unfurled at the auspicious hands of the Court Receiver Shri Kakresaheb and the flag salutation was done. The staff of the Shirdi Sansthan, the band troupe of Sainath High School, the teachers and students of the Sainath High School, Home Guards, Police, the villagers and some prominent gentlemen from the

Shirdi village attended the flag salutation ceremony. After the programme was over, tea was served to all who were present at the ceremony. Sweets were distributed to the children, who attended the programme, In the night the Samadhi Mandir was illuminated with electric lights.

Birthday of Lord Shri Krishna :-

On Sunday the 19th of August 1984, a programme was arranged on account of Janmashtami (the birth day of Lord Krishna). After the usual programmes in the Samadhi Mandir were over during the day, some artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir from 9 P.M. to 10 P.M. Thereafter from 10 P.M. to 12 midnight, Shri Vasudevshastri Dharmadhikari from Akole performed Keertan on the subject of the birth of Lord Krishna. Shejarati was sung thereafter and tirth and prasad were distributed to all the devotees, who attended the Keertan and Arati. At night the Samadhi Mandir was illuminated with electric lights. On the next day (20-8-'84) Kala Keertan and Dahihandi programmes took place and at night the Chariot of Shri Sai Baba, decorated as usual with flowers and illuminated with electric lights, was taken in procession through the Shirdi village, when many villagers took darshan on the way. The Shejarati was sung on that day after the procession returned to the Samadhi Mandir.

Weather :- The weather at Shirdi was quite healthy during this month. Shirdi had very little rain during this month. ★



श्रीसाईलीला

हिंदी विभाग

अनुक्रमणिका

नवम्बर १९८४

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जय साईनाथ हरे

निसदिन तेरा ध्यान करें हम

नाथ हरे साईनाथ हरे !

जय जगदीश हरे ॥ ४ ॥

ओंकार रूपा हे अवतारा !

तीन लोक संचार करें ॥ १ ॥

देह मानवी 'साई' बनकर

शिरडी में नित वास करें ॥ २ ॥

विश्वव्यापी पालन कर्ता,

भक्तों के सब कष्ट हरे ॥ ३ ॥

साईनाम की माला जपते,

सन्कट सारे दूर पडे ॥ ४ ॥

गीत साई के, गाते गाते,

दिशा दिशा में मोद भरे ॥ ५ ॥

साईचिन्तन से ही मनवा !

भव सागर यों सहज तरे ॥ ६ ॥

राधाकृष्ण गुप्ता 'चेतन'

पाटकर वाडा, भगतसिंग पथ, डोंबिवली (पूर्व) जि. थाने ४२१ २०१



साईमहिमा

इस हिन्दुस्थान में एक से एक विभूतियाँ प्रकट हुईं। जिन्होंने अधर्म मिटाकर धर्म की स्थापना की। श्री राम प्रभु, श्रीकृष्ण, भगवान के अन्य अवतार उनमें साईनाथ भगवान का विशेष महत्व है। क्योंकि आज कलियुग में अनेक जाति, पन्थ, धर्म, समाज, अनेक सन्त इस भूपटल पर अवतरित हुये। हज़रत मुहम्मद, ईसा मसीहा, भगवान बुद्ध मानवजीवन को जागृत कर भगवान की तरफ आकृष्ट किया। जिससे इन्सान धर्म, सत्य, अहिंसा के साथ जीवन व्यतीत करे, परम पिता परमेश्वर को खोजे। मैं कौन हूँ कहाँ से आया हूँ कहाँ जाना है। जैसे एक पेड़ है, उनमें अनेक शाखायें हैं। इसलिये भगवान नामक असली वृक्ष की सन्त शाखायें हैं। यानि एक परमात्मा के अनेक शाखायें हैं। अनेक पन्थ हो गये, अनेक धर्म हो गये। उनमें भी शाखायें हो गईं। जैन धर्म दिगम्बर, श्वेताम्बर, इस्लाम धर्म, शिया, सुन्नी, इसाई, केथालिक, प्रोटेस्टंट बौद्ध में भी शाखायें हिन्दुओं में शैव, वैष्णव अगणित पन्थ उनमें भी आपसे झगडे, मैं बड़ा हूँ मेरा ही वर्चस्व है। उनमें भी आपसी टकराव धर्म के नाम पर खून की नदीयाँ बह रही हैं। अनेक पन्थों के कारण सत्य लुप्त हो गया। असली धर्म भी मिट गया। घरदार जान माल जीवित ही आग की लपटों में सुलग रहा है। पन्जाब में हिन्दु सिख महाराष्ट्र में मुस्लिम हिन्दु इरान इराक शिया सुन्नी, जिससे जनजीवन में त्राहि त्राहि मची है। यह सब कुछ बहुत पहले से हो रहा है। इन सबको मिटाने वाला चाहिये। इन्ही आपसी मतभेदों को मिटाने स्वयं उस महान विभूति को धरणी पर अवतरित होना पडा। जो उस पेड़ की जड़ है। जहाँ से अनेक धर्म की शाखायें फूटी हैं। उसकी जड़ (पेड़की) एक परमात्मा शिरडी ग्राम में अवतरित होकर जीवजगत को बोध कराया। आज भी श्री भगवान को देड दौडे प्रकट हुये छयासठ वर्ष पूर्ण हो गये। लेकिन आज भी वह शक्ती जीवीत रूप में तेजोमय होकर सारे भूमण्डल पर छापी है। और अनन्त अनादी काल तक छापी रहेगी। आज सारे विश्वमें विज्ञान की प्रगती देखकर जो विज्ञान मन्गल चान्द तक पहुँच गया है। यानि सारे पृथ्वी पर विज्ञान का एकाधिकार है। सारा जीवजगत भगवान नाम की चीज से अपरिचित है। जो कुछ है विज्ञान है। भगवान नामकी चीज लुप्त है। लोग भगवान से अविश्वासित हैं।

संसार का अधिक जनजीवन नास्तिक हो गया है। चारों तरफ अन्धकार छाया है। भगवद्गीता, रामायण, कुराण, बायबिल आदि ग्रन्थों पर मानव मात्रका जग भी विश्वास नहीं है। जो कुछ है दिखावा है। इन्हीं सबको सत्य करने, नास्तिकता को मिटाने, मानव मानव में प्रेम कराने, जन जीव को ऐक्य बनाने, अधर्म असत्य को मिटाने, अज्ञान अन्धकार को समाप्त करने, जगत जीव को परमात्मा का बोध कराने वह अनन्त अकाल, निर्मय, अनामी, निराकार, साकार हर धर्म का रूप अजन्मा, अविनाशी वह महाशक्ती जो महाप्रलय में सारा संसार समाप्त हो जाता है तो भी वह रहती है आदि है, अनादि है, अनन्त है। ॐप्रणव अद्वैत, आत्मलिंग महाशक्ती सत्य परमेश्वर का भीष कराने कराती है, अनन्त तक कराती रहेगी। मानवजगत का उद्धार करने, सत्य अहिंसा धर्म की स्थापना करने, परमात्मा पृथ्वी पर प्रकट हुये (जिस महानुभाव को असत्य लगे वह प्रेमपूर्वक साईराम, साईराम जय अखण्ड भावपूर्वक करें। शिरडी साईबाबा का दर्शन करें। भगवान की कृपाद्वारा उसे जरूर ही सत्य का ज्ञान, बाबा का आत्मानुभव प्राप्त होगा) इस पृथ्वीपर जीवों के मरने के बाद या तो गाड़ा जाता है, या जलाया जाता है। स्वयं श्री भगवान ने व्दारकामाई में इसका प्रकटीकरण किया है। इस्लाम, हिन्दु तत्वों का एकीकरण किया है। इस ब्रम्हाण्ड की हर चीज नश्वर है। एक समय आता है कि हर चिजोंका नाश होता है। लेकिन ऐसा तत्व है जो अजगमर है, अविनाशी है। रामायण में सन्त तुलशीदासने प्रकट किया है।

बिन पग चलै सुनै बिनकाना कर बिन कर्म करै विधि नाना, ।

आनन रहित सकल रस योगी बिनबानी वक्ता बड जोगी ॥ (१२५ -३)
(बालकाण्ड) वह ब्रह्म बिना पैर के चलता है। बिना कानके सुनता है। बिना हाथ के काम करता है। बिना मुख के रसों का स्वाद लेता है और बिना वाणी के ही योग्य वक्ता और बडा योगी है।

सर्वतः पाणिपादं तत्सर्वतो ऽक्षिशिरोमुखम्

सर्वतः श्रुतिमल्लोके सर्वमावृत्य तिष्ठति ॥ १४ । १३ ॥ भगवद्गीता में उस परमात्मा के हाथ, पैर, नेत्र, मुख और कान सब ओर है। इस प्रकार सबको व्याप्त करके स्थिति है। गुरु नानक साहब उस सच्चे नामकी महीमा कहते है।

अखी बाझहु वेखणा बिन कना सुनणा, पैरा बाझहु चलणा बिन हाथ करणा
जीभै बाझहु बोलना। इउ जीवीत मरना नानक हुकुम पछाणि के तरु खनमै

मिलना जो संसार में सर्वत्र व्यापक है अजन्मा, अविनाशी शब्द या अक्षर (आदि ग्रन्थ १३९) जिसका थाह वेद ग्रन्थ बड़े बड़े ऋषिमुनि, देवी देवता ने भी ना पाया वही अब्दैत ॐकाररूप साईबाबा चाहे इश्वर कहो या अल्लाह (हिन्दु इस्लाम का मिश्रण) मस्जिद में प्रकट हुये । आज साईबाबा के देह छोडे ६७ वर्ष हो गये । हिन्दुस्थान के कोने कोने में हिमाचल प्रदेश से गुजरात, बंगाल, केरला, मद्रास सर्वत्र अफ्रिका, स्विटजरलैण्ड, अमेरिका, लंडन, सर्वत्र मन्दिर रूपमें विराजमान है । कोई बन्धन नहीं (जैसा भी धर्म की नीति हो वैसा ही माने) कहीं भी मन्दिरों में आराधक अपनी मीन्नतो व्दारा दर्शन व सक्षात्कार पा जाता है ! जैसे कृष्ण ने अर्जुन को दिखाया कृष्ण ने अर्जुन को विश्वरूप देही अवस्था में दिखाया यानि जब थे । लेकिन साईबाबा देह छोडने के पश्चात् भी विश्वरूप का दर्शन देते है । अनेको भक्तों को बाबा ने साक्षात्कार किया । कई सन्तो को तो बाबा ने सशरीर दर्शन दिया (देह छोडने के पश्चात् भी) परन्तु लोग सन्त कहकर रह जाते है । साईबाबा कितनों को तो बडे बडे सन्तों के आत्मदर्शन कराये । जहाँ पर आज संसार हर शक्ती गोता लगा रही है (ज्ञान-विज्ञान-ऋषि-मुनी-वेद-शास्त्र सबकुछ) लेकिन वह आत्मदर्शन से वंचित रह जाता है । कितने ऋषिमुनी तपस्या करके हाड मांस एक कर ढाले तो भी उन्हे आत्मदर्शन ना हो पाया । कितनी महान शक्ती है वह शिरडी जहाँ साईबाबा महाशक्तवान अनन्तपति अवतरित हुये । श्रीकृष्ण भगवन अर्जुन को सदुपदेश दिया कि यज्ञ से (उसका ही रूप व्दारका माई धुनी) अग्नी से, वर्षा से प्रजाजन की उत्पत्ति होती है । उस अग्नी को बाबा ने प्रकट किया । कई तरह से धुनी माता जो अनन्त तक ऐसेही प्रज्वलित रहेगी जो महायज्ञ है जिसमें तत्वरूपसे संसार का धारण, लय प्रलय सब निहित है । अन्नाद् भवंति भूतानि पर्जन्यादन्नसंभवः । यज्ञाद् भवति पर्जन्यो यज्ञः कर्मसमुद्भवः भगवद्गीता ॥ १३ । १४ ॥ अग्नौ प्रस्ताहुतिः सम्यग्दिव्यमुपतिष्ठते आदित्य जायते वृष्टिरत्नः ततः प्रजा ॥ ३ । ७६ ॥ (मनुस्मृति) शास्त्रोक्त विधिसे दी हुई आहुति सूर्य में स्थिति होती है । सूर्य से मेछसे, जलसे, अन्न से प्रजाजनकी उत्पत्ति होती है । और अन्नसे सब जीवों की तृप्ति और वृद्धि होती है । पानि अग्निसे ही निर्माण है । अग्निके समान तेजोमय (श्री पाण्डुरंग) पीताम्बरधारी-पीत है वस्त्रणित्यका वह स्वयं बाबा घरे साकार देहरूप निराकार अग्निरूप । वैसे सन्त लोग सब एकही परम धाम से आते है । लेकिन साई बाबा तो सर्वशक्तिमान है । अक्षरशब्द ॐकाररूप है । जिन्होने हर मानवों में बसी गलत धारणायें जातवाद, धर्मवाद, उंचा नीच, अमीर

गरीब हर मानव के आन्तरिक संशय मिटाकर मानवप्रेम का संचार किया, करते हैं, करते रहेंगे। आज संसार में देहरूपता है तो भी चन्द्रकला के समान पूर्णमासी चांद के समान दिन पर दिन तेजोमय अग्रसर हो रहे हैं। हर मानव-मात्र उनके प्रेम में मुग्ध हो जाता है। उनके भजन में मस्त हो जाता है। उसका मैं मेरा - तु - तेरा ये सब माया छुटकर संशयरहित निर्भय हो मोक्ष का अधिकारी हो जाता है। जैसे श्रीकृष्ण, श्रीराम की मीशाल है। जिन्होंने शबरी, जटायु, निषादराज केवट, बजरंगवली, श्रपच, विदूर, अर्जुन, सुदामा, वेदपंडितों, ज्ञानीयोंको हटाकर उनके हो लिये एक निगाह सबपर किये। उसी प्रकार साई बाबा ने इस कलियुग में हर जीव जन जर्नादिन में वही मन्त्र फुंका आगे भी करेंगे। एक न एक दिन संसार का हर मानव जगतसमर्थक होगा अपना लोका। सारा संसार बदल जायेगा।

आज हिन्दुस्तान में राम, कृष्ण को मानने वाले बहुत सन्त साधु महात्मा हैं। हर समय राम, कृष्ण को भजते हैं। गीता, रामायण पर बड़े बड़े प्रवचन होते हैं। कहते हैं सबका परमात्मा एक है। लेकिन उन्हीं धर्मग्रन्थों से पुछाप्नाय (या पुछता हूँ) क्यों इतनी अनेकता फैलाये हैं। रामने क्या किया कृष्ण ने क्या किया वह भी मानवीय सत्ता थी। हर उंच नीच को अपनाकर धर्मराज्य किया। शबरी, गुह्यनिपाद, केवट, नरभक्षी, मांसभक्षी, जटायु, श्रपच आदि सबको अपनाया, सब में मानवप्रेम का संचार किया। उसी रामकृष्ण को मानने वाले सम्पर्क भी अस्पृश्यता मानते हैं। उसे अपने से हर समय नीच समझते हैं। फिर वह राम, राम, कृष्ण, कृष्ण, कहकर हमारा फायदा क्या। फायदा तभी हो सकता जब राम कृष्ण जैसा आचरण किया। उनके मार्गदर्शन पर स्वयं आचरण करना और गुरुत्व के लायक हो तो लोगों में उसी प्रकार सदुपदेश देता स्वर्ग मोक्ष तभी ही प्राप्त हो सकता है। जब मानव राम कृष्ण की बातों को अपनाये। सिर्फ ये नहीं कि वक्ता या धर्मपण्डित होकर अलग अलग पन्थ धर्म निर्माण कर आपस में ही गला काटो। उन्हीं धर्मदिग्गजों से प्रार्थना है। कि आकर शिरडा साई बाबा के दरबार में देखें। उस परमपिता परमेश्वर के दर्शन कर देखें जहाँ हिन्दुस्तान के कोने कोने विश्व के भी जनमानस इकट्ठा होकर हर जातीय, धर्मीय, पन्थीय, दर्शन भजन आरती में भावविभोर हो जाता है जहाँ पर सिर्फ मानवीय प्रेम ही दर्शाता है। जहाँ पर उनके प्रसाद, भोजन का वितरण होता है। हर देश के हर वर्ग के लोगों का इकट्ठा होकर ग्रहण करना इन्सान भावमग्न

हो जाता है। किसी भी वार्षिक त्यौहार पर हर वर्ग के लोग कार्यक्रम पालखी आदि में फुला नहीं समाता जहाँ पहुँचने पर इन्सान कृपापात्र होने पर सब कुछ भूल जाता है। उनका हो जाता है। चारों तरफ सिर्फ साईं ही साईं आवाज प्रकृत भी उन्ही शब्दों प्रकट होगी मानो हवा भी निसर्ग भी साईं साईं की रट लगा रहा है। इतनी महान पावनता है साईं बाबा के चरण आश्रय का। जो राम, कृष्ण ने किया वही साईं बाबा ने सर्वत्र सार्थक कर दिखाया।

रामसिंग जागरूप यादव

जे. के. इंजीनियर्स फाइल्स, जे. के. ग्राम, जिला थाने

साईं ही प्रभु, साईं ही भगवन्त

साईं मेरे रक्षक साईं मेरे पालक ।

साईं मेरे दाता साईं मेरे मालक ॥

साईं ने सदा मेरा बिगडा काम संवारा ।

साईं ने हर पल दिया भक्त को सहारा ॥

साईं चरण में है सारा जहान ।

साईं चरण धुली है अमृत समान ॥

साईं ही ईश्वर साईं ही राम ।

साईं ही मौला साईं ही सतनाम ॥

साईं कृपा का नहीं कोई अन्त ।

साईं ही प्रभु साईं ही भगवन्त ॥

भारत कुमार बवेजा

५५११ हेलपाइन पॅलेस, फ्लॉट २०१ रौकविल, मेरिलैन्ड यू. एस्. ए.

साई शरण में

घूम आयी मथुरा काशी
झूम आयी देहू आळंदी
पर नही पायी सुख शांती
जो पायी आकर द्वारकामाई - - - ॥ १ ॥

हूँदा प्यार गंगा में
खोजा प्यार जमुना में
डुबंकी लगायी इंद्रायणी में
पर पायी ममता गोदावरी में - - - ॥ २ ॥

कृष्ण को देखा गोकुल में
राम को देखा अयोध्या में
देहू में तुकाराम और
आळंदी में ज्ञानेश्वर - - - ॥ ३ ॥

पर नही कुछ मन को भाया
लगी सब झूठी ममता माया
चंद सिक्कों के लिए भरमाया
देखा वहाँ का सेवक लुभाया - - - ॥ ४ ॥

पर मेरे साई के शिरडी में - - -
नही देखा भक्तों के मनको ठेस लगते
नही देखा भूखे को तडपते
नही देखा फूल को मुरझाते
नही देखा अंधे को गिरते
नही देखा धनवान को इठलाते
नही देखा गरीब को शरमाते
नही देखा दुखी को रोते
नही देखा शराबी को लडखडाते
नही देखे जात पात के झगडे - - - ॥ ५ ॥

पर देखा मैंने साईं की नगरी में - - -
 सुख और शांती का वातावरण
 प्रेम और सद्भाव से भरे नयन
 हर भक्त को साईं धुन में मगन
 हर सेवक को साईं सेवा की लगन
 देखा मैंने निभते साईं के ग्यारह वचन
 एक साथ हिन्दु, मुस्लिम, सीख, ईसाई को गाते भजन
 जो महसूस हुआ सारे जगसे निरालापन
 किया अर्पण तन, मन और धन
 तथा कृतार्थ हुआ अपना जीवन
 जब पाया शरण साईं के कमलचरण - - - ॥ ६ ॥

कु. नीलम बा. सांगलीकर
 युनिव्हर्सिटी वुमेन्स असोसिएशन, २७०-ई, सेनापती बापट मार्ग,
 गोखले नगर, पूना - ४११ ०१६

अनोखा आशीर्वाद

पिछले महिने मेरी बहन कि देवर की शादी मैसूर में संपन्न हुई। क्यों कि हमारा दवाईयों का दुकान बंद करके मैं और मेरे पति दोनों नहीं जा सकते थे इसीलिये मैं अकेली ही मैसूर चली। जानेसे पहले मेरे पति मुझसे कहे कि मैसूर के त्यागराजा रोड में स्थित श्री शिरडी साईंबाबा मंदिर हो आऊँ।

मैसूर में मैं अपने मामाजी के यहाँ ठहरी हुई थी। मेरे मामाजी प्रोफेसर बास (BAAS) रेल्वे सर्विस से रिटायर होने के बाद मैजिक शो करने में निरंतर रहते हैं। उनके साथ मैं एक दिन बाजार गई और वापसी में श्री साईंबाबा मंदिर गई। दो पहर का समय था और मंदिर का दरवाजा बन्द था। सामने खेलते हुये बच्चों में से एक लडके से मंदिर का दरवाजा खुलने का समय पूछा तो उसने

कहा “ ठहरीये मैं पीछे जाकर देखता हूँ कि कोई है या नहीं” और वह वहाँ से भाग गया । पन्द्रह-बीस मिनट के बाद दरवाजा खुला और एक वृद्धने हमें अन्दर आने के लिये कहा ।

सामने हि रखी हुई श्री साई बाबा के फोटो के आगे मैं नमस्कार कर उठी तो उस वृद्ध ने मुझे कुछ फूल प्रसाद रूप में दिये और बेसमेन्ट (Basement) में स्थित बाबा के शयन कक्ष में हमें ले गये । वहाँ पर गये हुये बाबा के मूर्ती को प्रणाम करने के बाद वे बोले “इस कक्ष में मेरे सिवा और कोई आज तक नहीं आये हैं । आज आप लोग आने से पहले मैं यहाँ बैठकर साई चरित्र पारायण कर रहा था तो मुझे लगा कि बाबा मुझसे कह रहें हैं, “देखो बाहर जो एक आदमी और औरत आये हैं उन्हें अन्दर लाकर मेरा दर्शन कराओ और उन्हें यहाँ पर भी लाकर इस कक्ष का भी दर्शन कराओ” । मैं पुस्तक वहीं बन्द करके ऊपर आया । उतने में हि एक लडकेने आकर आप लोगोंके बारे में बतलाया और मैंने आकर दरवाजा खोला । सच मानिये यह आपके ऊपर बाबा का अनोखा आशीर्वाद है” ।

बाबा का इस अनोखा आशीर्वाद प्राप्त कर मैं बहुत ही उल्लसित हुई ।

मामाजी और उनके बीच संवाद जो हुआ उससे पता चला कि वे ८५ साल के हैं और बचपन से हि बाबा के भक्त हैं । उन्होंने शादी नहीं की है और अपने जीवन को बाबा के सेवार्थ समर्पण किया है । मन्दिर का विस्तारण कार्य अब भी चालू है ।

महालक्ष्मी

३९४, सैकन्ड स्टेज, राजाजी नगर, बेंगलूर - ५५



श्री साई की आरती

ॐ जय श्री साई हरे, बाबा जय श्री साई हरे ।

भक्त जनों के संकट, पल में हरण करे ॥ ॐ जय श्री साई हरे ॥

सोलह वर्ष की आयु में, शिरडी में प्रगट हुये ।

ऐसी लीला दिखाई, दुष्ट भी शरण भये ॥ ॐ ॥

सारे जगत के मालिक, तुम ही हो भर्ता ।

बिन आज्ञा के तुम्हारी, कुछ नहीं पाता ॥ ॐ ॥

राम कहो चाहे श्याम, सब है एक ही नाम ।

प्रेम से चाहे जो भी कहो, सब में है साईराम ॥ ॐ ॥

योगाग्नि से साई, धूनी प्रगट किये ।

उस धूनी की भस्म से, कष्टों को दूर किये ॥ ॐ ॥

तीरथ करने की इच्छा, गणु के मन भायी !

गंगा जमुना की धारा, चरणों से प्रकट भयी ॥ ॐ ॥

घन्य भाग्य बूटी के, जिस वाडे मे वास किया ।

नित्य नये नये भक्तों का, बेडा पार किया । ॐ ॥

पानी के दीप जलाकर, चमत्कार बिताया ।

दुष्टों के मन में भी भक्ति का, भाव जगा दिया ॥ ॐ ॥

तुम घट घट के वासी, सब के हो दाता ।

नाम लेय जो तुम्हारा, पार उतर जाता ॥ ॐ ॥

माता पिता तुम हमरे, तुमरी शरण आये ।

दर्शन पाकर तुमरे, मनवांछित फल पाये ॥ ॐ ॥

श्री साई की आरती जो नर, प्रेम सहित गावे ।
 सुख सम्पत्ती मिल जावे, कष्ट निकल जावे ॥ ॐ ॥

सीताराम मातादीन महाजन
 १० / ९६७ (१) " भवानी सदन " चंदूर रोड,
 इचलकरंजी - ४१६ ११५, जिला कोल्हापुर

मन्दिरोंमें दीप जले

मन्दिरोंमें दीप जले, ओ साई तेरे मन्दिरोंमें दीप जले
 तेरे मन्दिरमें जो कोई आवे, जो कोई आवे
 एक बार ध्यान हरे ॥ ओ साई तेरे मन्दिरोंमें ॥ १ ॥

तेरे मन्दिरमें ना कोई छोटा, ना कोई छोटा, ना कोई मोटा
 एक साथ शरण पडे ॥ ओ साई तेरे मन्दिरोंमें ॥ २ ॥

तेरे मन्दिरमें श्रद्धा का दीपक, श्रद्धाका दीपक
 आंधीयोंमें डूब ना पडे ॥ ओ साई तेरे मन्दिरोंमें ॥ ३ ॥

तेरे मन्दिरमें सबूरी की ज्योत, सबूरी की ज्योत
 धीरे धीरें कष्ट मिटे ॥ ओ साई तेरे मन्दिरोंमें ॥ ४ ॥

सब धर्मोंका तू ही एक राम है, तू ही रहीम है
 शिरडी वाला तू ही कुबेर बाबा, तू ही कुबेर है
 ओ साई तेरे मन्दिरोंमें ॥ ५ ॥

विजय यशवन्त सहामते

मु. पो. चिन्वणी, तालुका - डहाणु, जिल्हा ठाणे ४०१ ५०३

साईनिकेतन में पुण्यतिथी समारोह

गुरुवार दिनांक ४ अक्टूबर १९८४ को दादर के साईनिकेतन में श्री साई बाबा के पुण्यतिथी का समारोह सम्पन्न हुआ। सबेरे आठ बजे ऑफिस खोलते ही भक्तों दर्शन के लिये आये। हर गुरुवार दर्शन करने के लिये बहुत लोग आते ही हैं। इस वर्ष पुण्यतिथी गुरुवार के दिन आने के वजह से भक्तों की भीड़ और भी बढ़ गयी। दस साडेदस बजे तक भक्तों दर्शन करके निकल जाते थे। लेकिन ग्यारह बजे से आने वाले भक्तों आरती के लिये ठहर गये। एक सच्चा साईभक्त श्री विजय हजारे गत तीन साल साईप्रसाद नाम का एक दीपावली अन्क प्रसिद्ध करता है। और उसका प्रकाशन साई निकेतन में पुण्यतिथी के अवसर पर ही होता है। यह साल भी उस अन्क का प्रकाशन साईनिकेतन में साई लीला के अन्ग्रेजी आवृत्ति के कार्यकारी सम्पादक डॉ. परचुरे के शुभ हस्त से हो गया। प्रारम्भमे श्री विजय हजारे जी की पत्नी सौ. वर्षा हजारे ने सबका स्वागत करके अन्क का प्रकाशन करने की डॉ. परचुरेजी को विनन्ति की। साईप्रसाद का अन्क प्रकाशित करते हुवे डॉ. परचुरेजी ने हजारेजी को धन्यवाद दिया कि वे बहुत कष्ट कर यह अन्क सतत चार साल प्रकाशित कर रहे हैं ! वह अन्क मे साई भक्तों के लिये बहुत रोचक लेख होने के कारण सब साई भक्तों वह अन्क खरीद करके पढेन्गे यह आशा परचुरेजी ने व्यक्त की और हजारेजी और अन्य सबको यह सभामें सामिल होनेकी सन्धि देने के कारण धन्यवाद दिया।

दैनिक नवाकाल के उपसम्पादक श्री दत्ताराम बारस्करजी ने भी श्री हजारे जी को आशीर्वाद प्रदान किया तथा सतत चार साल यह दिवाली अन्क का प्रकाशन करने में जो कष्ट श्री विजय हजारेजीने उठाया इसलिये उसको धन्यवाद प्रदान किया।

अपना मनोगत व्यक्त करते हुवे श्री विजय हजारेजी ने बताया कि वे यह अन्क फायदे के लिये प्रकाशित नहीं करते हैं। केवल साई बाबा के भक्तों का प्रसारही इसमें अमिप्रेत है। अन्त में श्री हजारेजी ने भक्ति संगम के सम्पादक श्री सुधाकर सामन्तजी डॉ. परचुरेजी और श्री साईलीला मराठी आवृत्ति के सम्पादक श्री सदानन्द चेंदवणकरजी को धन्यवाद दिया क्यों की इस अन्क की पूरी प्रेरणा उनको उन्ही तीनों से मिलती है।

श्री प्रभाकर कोलमकरजी ने अन्त में सबको धन्यवाद दिया । जो जो आदमी ने श्री हजारेजी की इस कार्य में मदद की और यह हॉलमें इस समारोह मनाने की परवानगी दी उन सब को श्री कोलमकरजी ने श्री विजय हजारेजी के ओर से धन्यवाद प्रदान किया और वह प्रकाशन समारोह सम्पन्न हुआ ।

बारा बजे माध्यान्ह आरती मनाई गयी । तभी हॉलमें तीनसौ से ज्यादा भक्तों उपस्थित थे । शामको सात बजे तक भक्तों दर्शन के लिये आया करते थे । ऐसा लगता है कि पूरे दिनमें दो हजार से अधिक भक्तों ने दर्शन का लाभ लिया होगा । सात बजे ऑफिस बन्द हो गया और पुण्यतिथी समारोह सम्पन्न हो गया ।



बाबा को भूख थी प्रेम की

कल्याण-निवासी यवन हाजी सिद्दीक फालके मक्का-मदीना में अल्लाह के दर्शन करके एक दिन भगवान श्री साईनाथ के दर्शनार्थ शिरडी आया और चावडी में रुका । मस्जिद में आने-जाने पर किसी को कोई प्रतिबन्ध नहीं था, किन्तु मस्जिद की सीढियां चढ़कर बाबा के पास जाकर उनको प्रणाम करने की अनुमति उसे नौ माह तक प्रतीक्षा के बाद भी नहीं मिली, जिससे हाजी अत्यन्त व्याकुल हो उठा । वह सोचता कि मैंने ऐसा कौन सा पाप किया है, जो मुझे मस्जिद की सीढियां चढ़ने का सौभाग्य नहीं मिल रहा है । बाबा कैसे प्रसन्न होंगे, किसकी सिफारिश काम आयेगी, इसी चिन्ता में वह निमग्न था । एक भक्तने हाजी को बताया, श्री माधवराव देशपाण्डे (शामा) द्वारा उसका काम हो सकता है । बाबा शामा की बात मानते हैं । अतः हाजी सिद्दीक फालके ने शामा से भेंटकर बाबा के दर्शनों की इच्छा प्रकट की । माधवराव को हाजी पर कृपा

आई। उन्होंने धीरे से बाबा से निवेदन किया कि बाबा वह बूढ़ा हाजी अत्यन्त दुःखी है। मक्का-मदीना की यात्रा करके वह यहां आपके दर्शनों के लिए आया है। कृपा करके उसे भी दर्शन दीजिये। बाबा ने शामा पर रोष प्रकट करते हुए कहा कि "शामा, अल्लाह उसपर मिहरबान नहीं है। तो उसकी मर्जी के बिना मैं उसे कैसे उपर बुला सकता हूं। अच्छा, तुम उस हाजी से पूछकर आओ कि क्या वह वारवी कुएं के उस पार की बिकट पगडन्डी पर चलकर आ सकता है। शामा के पूछने पर हाजी ने कहा कि चाहे वह पगडन्डी कितनी ही कष्टसाध्य हो मैं उसपर चलकर आने को तैयार हूं। पर बाबा इतने से सन्तुष्ट नहीं हुए। उन्होंने पुनः शामा से कहा कि अच्छा, उससे पूछकर आओ कि क्या वह चार किशतों में चालीस हजार रुपये देने को तैयार है। हाजी ने शामा को उत्तर दिया कि चालीस हजार की क्या बात है, मैं चालीस लाख देने को तैयार हूं। शामा से हाजी का यह उत्तर सुनकर भी बाबा सन्तुष्ट नहीं हुए। उन्होंने पुनः शामा से कहा कि हाजी से पूछो मैं आज मस्जिद में एक बकरा हलाल करने जा रहा हूं। उससे पूछो कि उसे बकरे का मांस चाहिए या मांसरहित अस्थि हाजी ने शामा को उत्तर दिया कि बाबा के भोजन-पात्र में से एक टुकड़ा भी मिल जाय तो मैं अपना सौभाग्य मानूंगा। शामा से हाजी का यह उत्तर सुनकर बाबा रुद्रावतार बनकर मस्जिद के सामान उठा उठाकर फेंकने लगे। वे कफनी को दोनों हाथों से उठाये हुए हाजी के पास आये और उसे फटकारते हुए कहने लगे, "तुम हज करके आये हो, इसका तुमको बहुत अभिमान है। तुम कुरान इसी तरह पढ़ते हो? तुम मुझे नहीं जानते और न कभी जान सकते हो। इस प्रकार हाजी का मान-मर्दन करके बाबा मस्जिद में गये और कुछ आम खरीदकर स्वयं हाजी को दे दिया और पचपन रुपये भी दिये। इसके बाद बाबा का कृपापात्र बन गया वह हाजी! बाबा उसे अपने पास बैठाते और भोजन के समय भी उसको अपने साथ बैठाकर भोजन कराते। बाद में भी बाबा ने हाजी को अनेक बार रुपये दिये और इस प्रकार बाबा और हाजी दोनों आत्मायें प्रेम के रंग में रंग उठीं। गुरु और गोविन्द मिलकर एक-रूप हो गये। इस घटना से बाबा ने अपने भक्तों को शिक्षा दी कि अपनी आध्यात्मिक उपलब्धियों पर जरा भी अभिमान करने पर तुमको भगवान के दर्शन पाना असम्भव हो जायगा। भगवान साईं तो केवल प्रेम के भूखे हैं और उनकी इस प्रेम-परीक्षा में जो उत्तीर्ण हो जाता है, वही बाबा का सान्निध्य लाभ कर सकता है। जप-तप

साधन, तीर्थ-व्रत-यात्रा सब व्यर्थ है। भगवान तो केवल प्रेम का भूला है पत्रं पुष्पं फलं तोयं यही भगवान के लिए प्रेमोपहार है।

प्रो. एच. बी. महाले

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बाबा साया जो, जिसको भी मिल जाता है

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लेते जा नाम उनका, शामोसहर ॥ २ ॥

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