

SHRI SAI LEELA

Official Organ of Shirdi Sansthan



SHRI SAI BABA'S CONTROL OVER ELEMENTS

Once the fire in the Dhuni flared up fiercely. The flames of the fire started rising higher and higher. The devotees, who were present in Dwarkamai, got scared and did not know what to do. Shri Baba, however, with full confidence, ordered the fire to calm down and the fire instantly obeyed.

December 1983

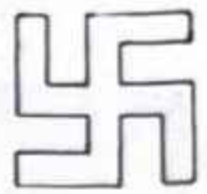
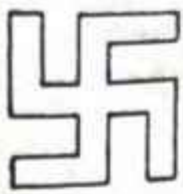
Rupee One

श्री साईनाथ वाचनालय

SHRI SAILEELA

DECEMBER 1983
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SHRI
SAILEELA

**Official Organ of
Shirdi Sansthan**

Editor :
Shri K. H. KAKRE
Receiver, Shirdi Sansthan
of Shri Sai Baba

Executive Editors :

Dr. S. D. Parchure
M. A., Ph. D.

Shri Sadanand Chendwankar
B.Sc, S.T.C. R.B.Pravin



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

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Sai Niketan, 804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Bombay 400 014.

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Devotion

From the reports published earlier in this magazine our readers might remember that the 20th All India Sai Devotees' convention was held at Nellore in the Andhra Pradesh in the month of January 1983. In one open session in all such conventions all delegates are allowed to speak on any subject, they like, relating to the aims and objects of holding that convention. In the open session in the aforesaid convention many delegates expressed their frank opinion about the duties of the Sai devotees and about the utility of the conventions of Sai devotees on the All India basis.

Many of the the delegates of the former generation spoke about the necessity of spreading Sai devotion among the masses in general and about the spreading of devotion among the younger generation in particular. Though most of them did not have the darshan of Shri Sai Baba, during His life-time, still they had the good fortune of associating with saints like Narsimha Swamiji or late Saipadanand Radhakrishna Swamiji or some other saints in their vicinity and therefore in their opinion devotion was the basis of a common tie among Sai devotees. They therefore thought that this sentiment of devotion, which is a natural instinct among human beings, should be used for bringing together Sai devotees and later on infuse in their minds the urge to do some social work. Some of the young Turks however did not like this idea. It may be because of the nature of atmosphere in which they have been brought up. Devotion to God, devotion to elders, saints and teachers was being formerly infused by the

parents in their children. Of late the parent themselves hardly have any devotion to the aforesaid persons. Some people attribute this change to the modern fast life and the acute struggle for existence that every one has to do in the modern world; but the fact remains that devotion has lessened to a certain extent among the parents of today and therefore the young Turks spoke vehemently against the idea of talking only about the spread of Sai devotion among the masses. The purport of their speech in short may be given as follows, "How long are we going to speak only about the spread of devotion to Sai Baba and think about it? How long are we going to plan ways and means only to spread Sai devotion? If we mistake not this item has been given enough thought during the last nineteen conventions held at different places. During the initial stages it was alright, because Sai devotion had not been spread at that time. This great saint was not known to the masses and they did not know His life, power and philosophy. It was therefore quite necessary at that time to think seriously about the spread of Sai devotion and try whole-heartedly only for that; but the circumstances have now changed. Sixtyfour years have elapsed since the Mahasamadhi of this great saint. Sai devotees can perhaps be counted, in this country and abroad, in millions. Sai temples and Sai centres also are about two hundred or more in number. Does it therefore not seem proper that we now turn our attention to doing some social work through this medium? Should we not channelise our energies towards giving some medical help to the poor and needy through these centres, which have now got some organisation and which are definitely attracting people to them?." From the above sum and substance of the speeches of the young Turks, it will be clear that the minds of some young Sai devotees have started thinking about social work, educational work and medical help to the poor and needy. It is definitely a welcome sign and suggestion. Shri Sai Baba, it will be remembered, when He came to Shirdi and settled there, was giving medicines to the poor and needy. He was even nursing and treating some patients. During

His stay at Shirdi He started so many festivals like Ramanavami, Gokulashtami, Dasara etc. Giving food to the poor was also His speciality. He was himself collecting the materials required for preparing the handi and after the food was ready it was served to the poor without any distinction and above all what was His advice to His devotees ?.

“सोहूनियां लाख चतुराई । स्मरा-निरन्तर 'साई साई' । 'बेडा पर' होईल पाहीं । सन्देह कांही न धरावा ॥ १० । १३५ ॥

(Leaving aside all your cleverness and doubts always remember the name of “Sai”, which will remove all your shackles. Do not have any doubt in this respect. (Chapter 10 ovi number 135 Sai Sachcharit).

Apart from the brief advice of devotion towards Him by way of chanting His name, given above, Shri Sai Baba has given advice to have devotion towards God for attaining the stability of mind and good will to all. In chapter twentyone Shri Hemadpant has narrated the story of Shri Anantrao Patankar of Pune. After falling at Baba's feet he said,

“केलें विविध ग्रंथावलोकन । वेदवेदांग उपनिषदध्ययन । केलें सच्छास्त्र-पुराणश्रवण । परि हें निर्विण्ण मन कैसें ॥ ७९ ॥ बाचिलें तें व्यर्थ गेलें ; ऐसेंच वाटूं लागलें । अक्षरहीन भावार्थी भलें । वाटती चांगले मजहून । ८० ॥ वायां गेलें ग्रंथावलोकन । बायां शास्त्र परिशीलन । व्यर्थ हें सकळ पुस्तकी ज्ञान ! अस्वस्थ मन हें जोवरी ॥ ८१ ॥ काय ती फोल शास्त्रव्यत्यक्ती । किमर्थ महा-वाक्यानुवृत्ती । जेणें न लाघे चित्तास शांते । ब्रह्मसंवित्ति काशाची ॥ ८२ ॥ कर्णापकर्णां परिसिली वार्ता । साईदर्शनें निबारे चिंतां । विनोद गोष्टी वार्ता करितां । सहज सत्पथा लाविती ते ॥ ८३ ॥ म्हणून महाराज तपोराशी । पातलो आपुल्या पायांराशी । यईल स्थैर्य माझिया मनासी । आशीर्वाचनासी द्या ऐशा ॥ ८४ ॥”

(“I have read many books. I have studied the Vedas and Upnishads. I have heard the Shastras and Puranas; but how is my mind not still at rest? I now feel that whatever I have read

has gone in vain and that ignorant but devout persons are better than myself. So long as my mind is restless all my reading of books, study of the Shastras and bookish knowledge is of no use. How useless is the study of the development of Shastras? What is the use of remembering constantly the important words of the great? What is the use of that Brahmadyan which does not help to achieve peace of mind? I heard from many people that by taking darshan of Sai Baba all your care vanishes. He guides people on the good path by casual talk, which is full of humour. Therefore Oh Lord Sai Baba, who are a store of penance, I came to your feet. Bless me that I will get peace of Mind").

After listening to the above request from Shri Anantrao Patankar, Shri Sai Baba told him the story of the Soudagar (Merchant), who collected nine balls of stools, passed by a mare, and thus got concentration (peace) of mind. Shri Patankar could not make out the meaning of the above story. So he asked Shri Ganesh Damodar alias Dada Kelkar as to what was the meaning of Baba's words. He replied, "I too do not know all that Baba says and means, but at his inspiration, I will tell you what I have understood. The mare referred to in the story is God's grace and the nine balls of stool excreted by the mare are the nine forms or types of devotion (भक्ति). If any one of these forms is faithfully followed, Lord Hari will be pleased and manifest Himself in the home of that devotee. All the Sadhanas, viz, Japa, Tapa, Yoga, study of the scriptures and expounding them are quite useless unless they are accompanied by Bhakti i.e, devotion. Knowledge of the Vedas or fame as a great Jnani and mere formal Bhajan are of no avail. What is wanted is loving devotion. Be anxious and eager, like the merchant, to cultivate the nine types of devotion and then you will attain stability and peace of mind".

The above story of Shri Anantrao Patankar tells us a lot about the teaching of Shri Sai Baba. Even though Shri Sai Baba was helping a number of families to subsist by giving them

monetary help out of the Dakshina, which He collected every day, even though He did poor feeding and even though He relieved people of their bodily ailments by giving them Udi, still He did not advise people to do social or educational work for getting mental peace or for getting Moksha (Liberation from the cycle of birth and death). What He advised was the cultivation of devotion. It appears from His advice that devotion was the base of all well-being. If you cultivate absolute devotion in you then other things like liberal mind, urge to do social work and tendency to work for the well-being of the society and to sacrifice something for the good of others follow automatically.

The Bhagawadgita also lays great stress on devotion. In earlier chapters Lord Krishna explained सांख्ययोग (Chapter two), कर्मयोग (chapter three), ज्ञानकर्मसंन्यासयोग (Chapter four), कर्मसंन्यासयोग (Chapter five), ध्यानयोग (Chapter Six), ज्ञानविज्ञानयोग (Chapter Seven) and अक्षरब्रह्मयोग (Chapter Eight), but in the ninth Chapter He explains the importance of devotion as follows: - (पत्रं पुष्पं फलं तोयं यो मे भक्त्या प्रयच्छति ॥ ९ । २६ ॥). After explaining His Vibhooties in Chapter ten and giving विश्वरूपदर्शन to Arjuna in Chapter Eleven, Lord Krishna has spent one full Chapter to explain the qualities and behaviour of a devotee. In this Chapter (Twelve), Lord Krishna categorically says that this way of devotion is easier than other ways explained by Him earlier and tells in the last Shloka of the Chapter श्रद्धावान् मत्परमा भक्तास्तेऽतीव मे प्रियाः ॥ १२ । २० ॥ (those devotees who adore me with great faith are liked most by me). Really speaking after explaining several ways of spiritual uplift in chapters two to eight, it was not necessary to point out any other channel of worship; but Lord Krishna does it later in two chapters Viz the ninth and the twelfth. In these two chapters He tells us at length the value of devotion in the spiritual field and explains the place of a devotee in the realm of God.

In our Puranas there are a number of stories of devotees who have been one with God due to their sincere and absolute devotion to God. The biographies of most saints and their teachings, also point out the importance of devotion on the spiritual path. Lacs of devotees are flocking at Shirdi, Tirupati, Guruvayur Rameshwar, Badrikedar, Banares, Allahabad, Nasik, Pandharpur, Mecca, Amritsar, and such other places of religious importance to all the religions of the world not because of any social or political reason but because of mere devotion to God. This natural instinct of devotion in the human beings should therefore be fostered and made use of for forming a congregation of the devotees with some ultimate aim.

In this connection we might refer to a thought-provoking article by a modern thinker and sincere devotee of Shri Sai Baba, Acharya Shri E. Bharadwaj, published at Pages 26 to 29 of the February 1983 issue of Shri Sai Leela captioned "Sai Baba Mandirs". In this article Shri Bharadwaj has made some concrete suggestions to spread Sai devotion in a systematic way. All Sai Mandirs, Sai Samajas and Sai Spiritual Centres should give a thought to that article and the suggestions made therein. The suggestions made in the article are mainly for having a regular system of rituals which are to be followed at Sai Mandirs and other Sai Institutions; but while estimating the result of this drill Shri Bharadwaj observes, "All the countless Sai Devotees all over the country would be linked together into one spiritual family by this subtle spiritual power of Baba" and this achievement would be very important from the point of view of running all Sai institutions. As pointed out before, it is a very good sign that Sai devotees of the younger generation have turned towards social, educational and other avenues of work and their intention of making use of the Sai institutions for this type of work is no doubt praiseworthy and laudable; but for the common man this other work will not appeal so much as devotion. Therefore

devotion should be our sheet anchor and as pointed out above by Shri Bharadwaj, we may channelise the energies of Sai devotees elsewhere after they come together and form one spiritual family by this subtle power of devotion to Baba, which will form the nucleus of all organisations of Sai institutions. ★

Dearest Namasmaran

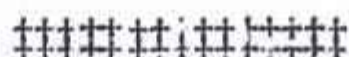
How sweet the name 'Sai Ram' sounds
In a devotee's ears,
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds
And drives his fear

It makes the wounded spirit heal,
And calms the troubled mind,
It is food to the hungry soul,
And rest to the weary.

What a dearest name, the ground on which I build,
My life, my way, my end
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace

Sainath, My Lord,
I proclaim your name with every breath,
And may the music of your name
Always refresh my mind.

Mrs. Seetha Vijayakumar
C/o Dr. G. R. Vijayakumar, Balanoor Estate,
Durgadbetta 577 118 Karnataka)



Tenth Annual Gathering At Shirdi

It is proposed to hold the 10th annual gathering of the contributors of Shri Sai Leela magazine at Shirdi on Sunday the 29th January 1984 and Monday the 30th of January 1984. Darshan of Shri Sai Baba, cultural programmes, discussions on subjects relating to the spread of Sai devotion and improvement of Sai Leela magazine and such other programmes have been planned for the gathering.

As this gathering is meant only for the contributors of Shri Sai Leela magazine, only those contributors, who have contributed at least three articles (prose or poem) to this magazine during the last five years will be invited to attend the gathering. The welcome song and the farewell song should be sung also by the contributors themselves. Those contributors who would like to attend the gathering with these restrictions, may please fill in with a ball-pen the proforma on the reverse of this page and forward it to the address of the office of the Shirdi Sansthan at Shirdi (given below) so as to reach that office before 1-1-1984. On receipt of the proforma, it will be scrutinised and an invitation will be dispatched to the contributor by the Sansthan. No correspondence in connection with the gathering will be entertained after 1-1-1984. No contributor should come to Shirdi for the gathering before 28-1-1984.

Arrangements for the residence, lunch, tea, etc. of the contributors will be made as usual by the Shirdi Sansthan. The proforma should be sent to.

The Court Receiver,
Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi,
At and Post Shirdi,
Tal. Kopergaon, Dist Ahmednagar,
Pin Code 425 109 (Maharashtra state)

Secretaries	Convener
Dr. S. D. Panchure, Executive Editor Shri Sadanand Chendwankar,."	K. H. Kakre, Court Receiver, Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi

PROFORMA

To
The Court Receiver,
Shirdi Sansthan of Shri Sai Baba.

Sub:- Tenth Annual Gathering at Shirdi
to be held on 29th and 30th January 1984

Sir,

I intend to attend the 10th annual gathering of the contributors to Shri Sai Leela magazine, which is proposed to be held at Shirdi on the above dates. I am furnishing below the information required by you. I will be thankful to you if you will invite me to attend the gathering as a delegate.

- 1 Full Name (Surname first) _____
- 2 Full Address _____
- 3 Occupation _____
- 4 Educational Qualifications _____
- 5 Age _____
- 6 I am / am not a subscriber of Shri Sai Leela English / Marathi issue. My number is _____
- 7 I contribute Prose articles / poems
- 8 Captions of the articles or poems month year
- i) _____
- ii) _____
- iii) _____
- iv) _____
- v) _____
- 9 My wife / husband / son / daughter / brother / sister is going to accompany me (only one)
- 10 I intend / do not intend / to make any suggestions at the gathering, copy of which is enclosed

Date _____

Signature.

Faith Re-Affirmed

I got two married daughters and one son. My son has entered his twenty sixth year i. e. M. V. prasad, B. Tech, now working as an Engineer in a Public Sector undertaking at Hyderabad. Whenever a marriage alliance was proposed for him, he has been informing his mother to suggest to me cent percent to postpone his marriage for two more years and still he is doing his Postgraduate Course. In The Mahasamadhi Mandir of Shri Sai Baba at Shirdi on 19th December, 1982 at "Kakad Arathi, "Noon Arathi", evening Arathi, and Night Seva" to Lord Sai Nath, while prostrating before "BABA", I placed the matter of my son's marriage in the divine hands of Baba.

It is highly surprising that on a Thursday in the early half of June, 1983, one Shri G. R. Murthy of Nagpur offered his youngest daughter Chi. Sandhya Ramni, M. Com., (Final) in marriage to my son. It was on a Sunday that all of us, with the son, saw the girl. It is again on a Thursday i. e. 23-6-1983 that "BABA" of Shirdi made us to give consent for accepting the girl as my daughter-in-law. Her marriage with my son was celebrated at Hyderabad on 10th August, 1983 and my daughter-in-law with my son entered our house after marriage, at 1 A.M. on 11-8-'83 again a Thursday.

It is a very strange coincidence that the marriage of my son was celebrated on 10th August, '83 which coincided with my first visit to Shirdi, in August 1982 though I have been a devotee of Baba since my boy-hood. It is again on a "Thursday" (25th August, 1983) that the 16th day function after the marriage was celebrated.

"May "BABA" ever bless this couple and guide them in their successful living, by adhering to His twin commands of shradha and saburi,"

It is clearly evident that this marriage of my son took place with Baba's blessings as the girl's parents too are Baba's devotees and my daughter-in-law has been doing "Nam-Japa" by writing "Shree Sai" since some time. This is the manifestation of the incredible nature of Shree Sai Baba of Shirdi under whose divine care, I have been spending my "Prarabhada" and looking forward for my future since I have miles to go with my "faith" re-affirmed in Him".



M. Narasimha Rao

1-1-336/104, "Shree Sai Krupa", Vivek Nagar,
(Chikkadapalli), Hyderabad-500 20

The Consecrated Rupee.

Our Sai Baba of Shirdi is the manifested Sagun Brahman. Though He looked embodied, He was really dis-embodied, unattached and internally free. He is all pervasive. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient and transcends life and death. When He lived in Shirdi He enchanted His bhaktas with many leelas. Though He is now physically not amongst His bhaktas, His Leelas are experienced every day by many of His devotees.

During Sai's life-time in Shirdi, Sai Baba used to consecrate rupees and coins given to Him by His beloved bhaktas and then gave the coins back to His devotee saying "Keep this in your shrine and worship." The Sai Leela of consecrating the rupee of Captain Hate, who was an ardent devotee of Sai Nath, is well known to many Sai bhaktas. Though Sai Nath is not physically present amongst us; our most beloved Sai still consecrates the coins for His devotees. Here is my experience about it.

My article was published in Sai Leela magazine before a few months. After this one day a postman came to my house with a money order. As I never expected any money order from any one my immediate reaction was to tell the postman that he has come to the wrong addresse. But he told me that the money order was for me only and to my great surprise and happiness the money order was from Shirdi and an amount of Rs. 3/- was sent to me as "Prasad" for my article in the Sai Leela magazine.

As far as the postman is cocerned he is totally ignorant of all the above matters and he has only to give me Rs. 3/-, the amount of the money order. He could have easily given me any dirty one or two rupee notes with panstains and what not which are in circulation in abundance. But our Sai Nath's divine will was otherwise and the postman took out three one rupee coins and gave them to me which was a "Prasad" as written in the money order coupon. Our Sai Nath's Leelas are inscrutable. Sai's incarnation was for the welfare of His devotees. Supreme in knowledge and surrounded with divine lustre, He spent His stock of merits for the sake of His devotees and is ever alert to help those who have unlimited love and devotion to Him.

The fortunate Bhaktas of Sai will find Sai-Leelas as the Kalpataru (wish-fulfilling tree). Drinking this nectar of Sai Leelas will give liberation to the ignorant Jivas, satisfaction to the house-holders and a sadhana to the aspirants. ★

Mrs. Prabha Gopalakrishnan
25, Hathroi Jaipur 302 001.



Shri Baba Tests His Devotees

I have just completed 49 years of age and stepped into fifty. I am an embodiment of several diseases. Special mention may be made of diabetes. When I feel acute pain in the chest I think of heart failure and very severe pain in the stomach or else-where I think of the dreadful disease i. e. cancer. I am neither worried nor handicapped. Doctor or medicine is not a word for me. Sai Udi is the only remedy. I simply apply Udi wherever and whenever I feel pain and pour half a spoon of Udi in a glass of water and drink it, In critical situations and on serious occasions I use "Abhishek Thirth" as a trump card. It is Sai's invisible hand making my life a blissful one.

It is a fact that a true devotee of God is subject to many hardships. Indian mythological history had already recorded the wonderful experience of Bhaktha Shri Ramdas. He had full faith in Lord Shri Rama and he was his strong devotee; but there was never a chance in the life of this pious man to have the darshan of the God. This does not mean that Shri Rama was not with his devotees. It is at the eleventh hour the Lord came to his rescue when the devotee was in prison. From this it can be safely concluded that the devotees need not be disappointed for not having the darshan of the God throughout. In the ordinary life the devotees are likely to get disheartened while passing through trials; but they have to feel that these are the tests and as such they should not lose faith in the Almighty. In this connection Lord Shri Sai Nath himself has set-up an example to his devotees. In the early stages he was dishonoured by the people and on some occasions he was treated badly; but he never lost hope and went on serving humanity with all his heart and ultimately proved to be an ever-living saint. Now we actually worship him as God, leaving the burden on his shoulders. It is an undeniable

command to Shri Dev Mamlatdar to start reading Shri Jnaneshwari forthwith. So Shri Baba thus commanded me to read Jnaneshwari from that day as I could not do so regularly till that day.

When I returned home, I was in for still greater surprise as I received Shirdi Prasad envelopes and also a letter from a Hyderabad devotee to send him certain amount to fight injustice in the Court of Law. The letter-herd had a very beautiful photo of Baba under which was printed the following :-

"Believe Me, though I pass away, My bones in My tomb will give you hope and confidence. Not only Myself but my tomb would be speaking, moving and communicating with those who would surrender, themselves, whole-heartedly to me. Do not be anxious that I would be absent from you. You will hear My bones speaking and discussing your welfare. But remember Me always, believe in Me heart and soul and then you will be most benefited."

The Hyderabad devotee had also very kindly sent me Shri Baba's photo.

You can just imagine my ineffable joy that on Krishnashtami day Shri Baba should bless me, demand Dakshina from me and command me to read Jnaneshwari.

On that day I read chapter No. 11 from Shri Jnaneshwari, which has delineated the Vishvarupa of Shri Krishna, which Arjuna could see only after the Lord gave Him divine eyes to see it.

Readers! Shri Baba is a living spiritual force to guide us safely not only through mundane sea but also to guide us on the spiritual path. Bow to Him with my heart and soul. ★

Shri A. K. Rasal
21/382, B. P. T. Staff Quarters, Reynolds Road,
Wadala, (East), Bombay - 400 037

Shriman Lambu

I was reading Smt. Usha Ranganathan's article in August 1983 issue of Shri Sai Leela describing an encounter with a snake. This prompted me, to write this article.

Of late Shri M. Hanumantha Rao has become more and more foot-loose. Wandering into woods and valleys seem to hold an irresistible urge for him to quench his spiritual thirst. In July 1982, he went to Ganeshpuri Ashram and spent a memorable week with Mukthananda Baba shortly before He passed away. One evening he visited Akroli, a place of numerous hot water springs. Trying to return to the Ashram in time for Aarti, he took the short route by the foot path along the river bank. In the enveloping darkness he saw a big cobra in the middle of the path with a raised hood. The path was narrow and surrounded by uncompromising hedges on either side. To turn back, cross the river and take the longer route was out of question. He had a spiritual urge to reach the Ashram in time. Taking Sai Baba's name, which he always had on his lips, he slowly passed by the side of the cobra. It had only to hiss and strike. But, like one mesmerised, it only turned its hood towards him as he moved. It is said that snakes do not harm those from whom spiritual vibrations emanate.

In May, 1983 he undertook an unusual solo effort to walk all the distance from Hyderabad to Shirdi covering more than 800 Kms. On the way he visited Narsimha Jharna at Bidar where Sai devotees, Dr. Hibbare and Shri Gunderao Patwari overwhelmed him with their hospitality. Enroute he also visited Manik Prabhu Samadhi at Humnabad, Dattatreya temple at Ganagapur, Akkalkot Maharaj Samadhi at Akkalkot and Bhavani temple at Tuljapur. He went practically without any money on his person; but at every place Baba fed him in His inimitable way through various people. He covered the distance in 22 days.

After visiting Tuljapur he was pushing on through an enchanting valley at sunrise. The huge galleries of mountains on all sides with the verdant greenery of trees in that silent spectacle of nature held him spell bound for a long time, marvelling on the majesty of Sai (to him every thing is Sai) and the magnificence of His creation. He saw a little down the valley a dilapidated temple dedicated to Shri Rama. Probably, a few centuries ago, at some point of time, a village must have been there, peopled by devotees. Now there is none, not even the trace of a village. How little is man! How little are his efforts!

He had darshan of the deity and came out to perform Surya Namaskar. At the pool of water nearby, as he lifted his hands in customary supplication, he felt a movement in front of him. He saw a big cobra of a golden yellow colour quickly moving towards a nearby tree. It went up, settled itself on a branch, slowly raised its hood towards the east and started gently waving it in that direction. In the crimson early morning sunlight, it presented an enthralling spectacle fit for the Gods to see. It was Baba doing Surya namaskar for the benefit of His loving devotee!

In July 83, he visited Sikhar which is reported to be the birth place of Shri Vallabh Narasimha Saraswati, an incarnation of Lord Dattatreya. This place is in a most inhospitable and inaccessible jungle in the Satmala hill ranges near Adilabad and is reached by the most hazardous trek. The place springs to activity during Guru Purnima celebrations when all the simple surrounding rural folk gather for the occasion. There, one day, he had a strong urge to visit Farid Baba Durgah. The way was through a thick forest infested with snakes and wild animals. Two Sadhus volunteered to accompany him but he refused saying that Baba was always with him. By afternoon he reached the place and spent some time there. On the way back he stopped suddenly in his tracks. He heard the sound of a low garrulous moaning and there was a quick movement in the thick leafy foliage around him. Soon a tiger came to view, moving ahead

in the clearing, sporting its majesty. He was not sure whether it saw him but the wind was in his favour. It let out a deep blood-curdling growl. A faint-hearted man would have dropped dead at the frightening spectacle and sound. Soon it disappeared into the forest. When he re-started, at a little distance ahead, he saw a huge black serpent of over 15 feet in length (no exaggeration) crossing the path into the undergrowth. But for the tiger he would have been right on its track, when it was about to start crossing. This time Baba came to him as a tiger to save him from the monster-looking snake!

Serpents play an important role in the spiritual progress of devotees. Kundalini is awakened by the great hiss of the serpent at the base of the Mooladhara Chakra. John Woodroffe referred to Kundalini as serpent power. In meditation sadhakas often have visions of cobras. Once a 12 year old boy came crying to Mukthananda Baba complaining of a snake biting him in meditation. The divinely stimulated action in meditation was very real for him. Baba patted him and said it was a very auspicious sign towards spiritual progress.

In Hindu mythology, Time is represented by Adishesh, the seven-headed Hydra (representing the seven Chakras in the spinal column) on whose coiled bed Lord Vishnu rests while it floats in the Milky Ocean (Divine Bliss). As per Sanskrit anthology, Sesh means that which remains. After sesh nothing remains. If the devotees respect the snakes, they help us to reach the ultimate, Lord Vishnu, after which nothing remains to be achieved. Lord Shiva, Parama Guru and bestower of the spiritual grace, honours the serpents by sporting them round His neck and arms. When the Milky Ocean was churned with the help of Anant Nag, Lord Shiva drew away its Kalakoot venom from the Nectar and lodged it in His throat before it was given by Lord Vishnu to the Devatas (devotees). Lord Shiva as Neelkanth always protects

the spiritually inclined devotees from the serpents. Hindus honour them. Nag Panchami symbolises that honour. ★

K. Navin Chander

251/2RT, Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad-500 457

The Choice Is Yours

Shri K. R. Gopinath, General Secretary of Shirdi Sai Mission introduced us to Shri Sai Baba as he is doing for hundreds of people in this part of our country. We acquired two traits in the course of time; firm faith in Baba and perseverance.

My husband's niece, Vimala, the only child of her parents had a good academic record. But her efforts to secure admission for M. B. B. S. or M. Sc drew a blank. 'She is bored and depressd' her mother wrote from Kerala. We knew that if Baba wills nothing is impossible and while putting chits we got his blessings to extend our helping hand.

Thus she joined us by the end of Feb'83. I never used to scan the advertisement columns in the past. But now, I started combing it meticulously. Her first attempt at Dharwar turned out to be fruitless. Due to my relentless effort other opportunities were waiting. The next chance came from Bombay but the same too was disappointing. When she returned from Bombay other applications were ready. One for M. B. B. S. and another three for "Mangala gangothiri" Mangalore. These applications were treated casually as the earlier disappointments had dampened our enthusiasm.

Meanwhile she had a call to attend an examination on 23rd July'83 from Central University Hyderabad. But here too she could not cross the hurdle. Next day was Gurupoornima day. My husband wanted to cheer her up by taking her to Sai kuteer

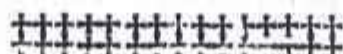
at Narayana Guda where our present president of our mission Shri Kangachari lives. We had the good fortune to meet this devoted soul during his last visit to Hubli and my husband was eager to meet him. He was not at home and his son escorted them to Dr. Sudhakar's residence, where he was attending a prayer meeting. When we reached there, the prayer was at its concluding stage. Vimala was ushered to Sudhakar's presence and he blessed and told her that past attempts were no doubt disappointing; but she is going to succeed by the grace of Sai. After offering vibhuthi he advised her to keep firm faith in Baba and pray. On their way back and at his residence Shri Kangachari, poured out many Sai Leelas which infused hope and confidence in them.

On her return to Hubli she first got admission for M. Sc at Mangalore and later for M. B. B. S. at Belgaum where she is presently studying.

If she had secured admission anywhere before applying for M. B. B. S. in the year 1982 onwards, her future would have been definitely different; but by his mysterious ways Baba made her persue a course which will make her an ardent devotee and instrument of Baba to spread his faith and in her humble way relieve pain of her fellowmen.

This author had a similar experience during last year. Her cousin was promised a seat in one of the Engineering Colleges in Karnataka. Due to some clerical error his name was dropped out and when the error was noticed no seats were vacant. She was confident that some thing will turn out in her cousin's favour. Gunda Rao's Government increased the Engineering seats and the boy got admission in 1982. ★

Mrs. Usha Radhakrishnan
966/B, Vinobanagar Hubli 5800 20 (Karnataka)



Shirdi Sai, The Doctor Of Doctors

It was in February 1983, my wife's paternal uncle Dr. K. V. Sai, a medical practitioner working on the panel of doctors in London, an anaesthetist, for over fourteen years, suddenly just before going to work in the morning felt uneasy and a little later went into a deep coma. His wife immediately summoned medical help and the doctors, who came, could not specifically diagnose the cause and hence he was shifted to the main hospital for further investigation. As his condition continued to be very serious according to the attending doctors, his wife, late in the night, rang up from London, Shri Raghavan (the elder brother of Dr. Sai) at Hyderabad and in great anguish sobbing, informed the very serious state of her husband lying critically in the hospital. Shri Raghavan was shocked and baffled by the news conveyed to him. He tried in return his best to ascertain the nature of the seriousness of the sickness; but could get nothing than more and more sobbing on the phone from his brother's wife at London. So immediately Shri Raghavan, my father-in-law, rang me up at that late hour of the night to convey the disturbing news he received from London. My wife broke down on hearing the dangerous condition of her doctor uncle in London. For a moment though I was also stunned, I soon recovered from the initial shock, asked my wife to stop weeping, assuring her that Shri Sai Nath is omnipresent, however far distant the place be, even beyond the seven seas, Shri Sai will surely come to the rescue of her uncle and he will be alright quite soon. The same night myself and my wife started reading Sai Sat Charitra and prayed to Sai to bestow His grace and save my wife's uncle. Just after 24 hours on the second day night, I had a dream wherein Shri Sai Baba appeared as a surgeon in an operation theatre, where my wife's uncle was lying on the operation table. The operating surgeon, Shri Sai, stretched his right hand forward and upheld erect his palm which suddenly in a moment turned

into a black cobra with its hood raised up and with lightning speed it pierced through the skull of the lying patient and plucked out a handful round ball-like mass of matter and threw it out. After a few moments Shri Sai, the surgeon, while emerging out of the operation theatre, stopped for a moment, looked at me and by gestures asked me not to worry as He had done the needful. The whole panoramic view of the operation theatre inside and the operation just carried out by Shri Sai was so clear and vivid to me that my whole attention was rivetted to every small thing that was happening in the theatre and hence I could see with utmost clarity the surgeon (Shri Sai) plucking out a big lump of matter from the skull, and throwing it out. I could immediately glean mentally from what I have seen was that it could be a case of enlarged brain tumour, which Shri Sai operated upon and removed away.

All of us were waiting anxiously to get some news from London for another three days. Finally, then through a telephonic message from London, the doctor's wife conveyed that her husband, the next day after admitting him in the hospital, was operated upon the skull and a quite malignant tumour was found. By the benign grace of Shri Sai, the tumour was removed and most surprisingly and mysteriously, inspite of its vast spreading nature the tumour, (Meningioma), had not damaged any vital surrounding parts of the brain. The operation was considered to be of an exceptional success, and quite rare, for generally even a patient may survive but seldom he lives without some vital part or the other of the body being badly affected.

The doctor's younger brother, who is also a doctor, working in Algeria, flew to London and was present at the time of the operation. He came to India, a month and a half later and narrated vividly what had happened and conveyed happy news that his doctor brother not only recovered completely and resumed practice but was at the London airport to see him off to India.

Salutations and adorations to Shri Sai Bhagwan, who rescued the doctor and gave him a fresh lease of life of normal health, a wonder of wonders, transcending even the highly advanced realm of operative surgery of the present day. ★

Dr. M. Vijaya Kumar
 'Sai Kuteer' 3-4-529/3/1 Narayanaguda,
 Near Reddy Women's College, Hyderabad-500 027

A Dynamic Force

Shirdi Sai Baba's leelas are ever so many in my life as well as in the life of my family members, which I can write in volumes of books from the year 1941 till date. But I am writing the latest one Mahima (Leela) for publication in the esteemed Sai Leela Magazine.

In chapter XVth of Shri Sai Satcharithram as per the kind prayer of Mr. Cholker, Baba gave him a job. Similarly as per my prayer to Shri Sai Baba I got a job in Ex. M. S. M. Railway at Hubli workshops in 1941 i. e., when I was 18 years old. Baba, as per my prayer, gave me a job as an apprentice 'A' class on 10 annas per day (Ten Annas) and afterward she gradually lifted me into the position of Rs. 1,500/- per month as an 'A' Grade Chargeman in ICF/ Madras-38, i. e., From 'A' Class apprentice to 'A' Grade Chargeman in the pay of 10 annas per day to Rs. 1,500/- per month and retired from service from ICF/Ms-38 on 28-2-81 after putting in 40 years of service. When Shri Baba has fulfilled my request of job in the Railways, Baba was also kind enough to take me to his holy place Shirdi from the year 1941 onwards every year till last July 1982 for Guru Poornima Celebration and my Baba will surely take me to Shirdi every year till I pass away from this world. This strong faith I have got in my Gurudeva of Shirdi Sai.

Now, I will tell you, about Baba's Mahima (Leela). During this year On the 22nd May 1983, there was a heavy thunder storm followed by rain from 2 p.m. in the afternoon till 5 p.m. There was a small cottage with coconut tree leaves for cool breeze for the summer on the upstairs of my house. When the heavy thundering shower with rain and storm started at 2 p.m. I just left the cottage and went to my room from upstairs to downstairs. Not even a second I reached my prayer room, the cottage suddenly collapsed to the ground level and what a wonder of wonders of our Sai's Mahima (Leela) to save my life, the thunder shower and the heavy storm did not stop till 5 p.m. and I was simply praying to my Sai Guru mentioning again the XIth chapter of Shri Sai Satcharithram of Baba's control over the elements and even today He has fulfilled my request and stopped the storm and rain.

The other day I saw in the leading newspaper the 'Hindu' that in the city of Madras so many places are heavily damaged and hence what Sai pleases most is the staunch faith. Baba said to his devotees, "I never speak untruth like Shri Rama of Ayodhya" when he was in flesh and blood and so his devotees must be always very truthful. As per the XV chapter while Shri Dasganu was making his Kirtans and singing the glory of Sai Baba in the Koupineshwar temple in Thana, Mr. Cholkar was amongst the audience, and he most attentively heard Shri Dasganu's Kirtan and was much moved and prayed to Baba to get success in the departmental examination and get a permanent post which was fulfilled by Baba and similarly my prayer was to get a job in the Railways and for that I was attending on every Mondays in 1941 at Lord Sai Maheswarh's temple (just opposite to Hubli Railway Station) the Sathyanarayana pooja and Shri Sai Baba has fulfilled my prayer and got me a job in Railways. ★

R. Subramanian

No.39, Mettu Street, Villivakkam, Madras-600 049

Saibaba Left No Heir Or Disciple

(Continued from November 1983 issue)

Baba lived like a beggar (Fakir) begging His food. He used to collect all solids in a zoli and liquids in a tin pot from four or five houses every day. He put the entire thing in a kundi (earthen pot) and allowed cats, dogs, crows to take from the kundi. How liberal was he? Though rich and delicious food was at His command, He preferred to have His food from the begging bowl only. This practice He continued till His Mahasamadhi. Let us know whether the so-called Sai Avathars and disciples are doing the same now regarding their food. I doubt whether they accept the food touched by animals, leave alone begging their food

How simple His bed was! He used to sleep on a wooden plank four cubits in length and only a span in breadth with panatis (earthen lamps) burning at the four corners of the plank. This plank was tied to the rafters of Dwarakamai with old rags. No body knew how He got up and down that plank. Baba explained to Kakasaheb "He who can sleep with his eyes wide open only can do like that". Later the plank was broken into pieces when devotees wanted to see how He got up and down the plank. May we know whether the present Sai Avathars sleep 'eyes wide open' even on cushioned beds?

Baba did not prefer saffron colour dress to white dress. But now-a-days Babas wear saffron dress only (silk or cotton). Perhaps they want to be recognised as Baba's by their external appearance. That is why it is said, 'Don't be a yogi of body; but become a yogi of mind'. Though He was a perfect master of yogas and Siddhis, He never exhibited them for attracting crowds or for developing His Guru-ship. He used to vomit His intestines and keep them on a tree for drying. He used to sever His limbs

from the body. This was how He used to clean the body. We know many Babas are accustomed to rose water bath for cleaning their bodies.

We learn that Siddhis can be acquired by trance, pooja, japa and also with the help of spirits. A true saint will never bother or care for these powers. Swami Vivekanda warned that these miracles are obstacles in the path of spiritual progress of a sadhaka. Yet some Babas/Gurus appear to have become slaves to these miracles and they neither proceed to further stage nor take the devotees further except showing their miracles. I have not heard or read that Sai Baba created Vibhuti, gold ornaments, watches, photos, lockets, idols through empty hands. Perhaps because of this, Sai was not challenged by scientists, magicians and atheists. Now we hear or read that so and so Baba was challenged to show his miracles before them for scientific study. Of course those Babas ignored these challenges. The question is not whether challenges have been accepted or ignored; but why to give room for such criticism at all. Having given the chance, it is better to accept it and show to the world that so and so is God incarnate or Bhagawan! This is not being done.

When Baba was seen, certain Hindus hesitated to bend their heads before Him, thinking that He was a Muslim. Similarly certain Muslims felt that Baba was spoiling the sanctity of the Masjid by allowing the Hindu mode of worship in it. -That was the only criticism against Baba. However no body could challenge Baba. Those who had doubts and reservations had to fall at His feet when they saw Him. A Rama devotee could see Rama in Baba, a Vitthal devotee could find Vitthal in Sai Rupa. That was His power.

No body knows the birthday of Baba. Thus there was no occasion for devotees to present "Guru-Dakshina" to Him which might have run to several lakhs of Rupees as we are observing in the case of some Babas. These Babas say that this money will

be utilised for a noble cause: I do not understand whether there will be any nobler cause than awakening the latent powers in every man, who is a moving temple of God. Let them use all their creative powers for destroying the ignorance of their devotees. A spiritual master should impart spiritual knowledge to the devotees, who come to his feet. Sai never thought of building Ashrams/Muths/Nilayams. He lived in a dilapidated Masjid. Of course certain repairs were done to the Masjid. He depended on nature only. He was not provided with air-conditioners, fans etc., as is in the case of many Babas of today. No doubt Baba demanded 'dakshina' from certain devotees pointed out to Him by Fakir (God). He never opened Bank Account or stored money. Baba's main object in taking 'dakshina' from His devotees was to teach them the lessons of renunciation and purification. He disbursed the money, received by Him during the day, by the same night. We all read that only Rs.16/ were found on His body at the time of His Mahasamadhi, which were utilised for His funeral ceremony.

That was how Baba lived for about 60 years in finite form at Shirdi. If one wants to know Baba's leelas after His Mahasamadhi, one should read "Shree Sai Leela" an official organ of Sai Baba Sansthan, which is being published as a monthly magazine (Annual subscription Rs 10/- only). Why to satisfy with others' experiences? You can also have experience of Baba's leelas by surrendering your egoism at His Holy Feet.

It is the tradition with certain established Mutis/ Ashrams to appoint a successor to the 'Gadi'. Sometimes the Head of the Ashram nominates his successor. Our Sai has neither appointed any devotee as His successor nor allowed anybody to claim as His direct disciple. This rare privilege was not given to anybody however elevated He may be

I may be permitted to suggest that all Gurus/Babas/Swamiji's, who think that they are Avathars and sole successors to Sai Baba

should give serious thought to the above facts and gather on the sacred soil of Shirdi and burn their 'magical' powers in the ever burning Dhuni of Dwarakamai and start afresh their spiritual life by spreading Saism among the masses. I am sure one day or other Sai wields His Satka and puts the misusers in their proper place. Let us wait and see!

Perhaps it is because of the unfounded claims of certain persons that they are successors, heirs, disciples and Avathars of Sai Baba that the Sai Samsthan has displayed a notice "Sai has left no heir or disciple". ★

D. Sankaraiah

18/B, C.I.B. Quarters, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004



To

The Executive Editor

Shri Sai Leela,

Sir,

Your editorials in Shri Sai Leela are excellent. May I suggest to you to put them together in the form of a book for the benefit of future devotees of Sai. Gurupoornima cover page Sai photo also is excellent. Drawings of events from Sai's life on the cover pages explaining the events are very good. May I suggest to you to put all these drawings, with captions, together in the form of a book? If you do it in English, we propose to take up books, with captions translated into regional languages. ★

Yours Sincerely

Raja Krishna Moorthy

Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir, Shenoy Nagar, Madras

Shri Nanamaharaj (Taranekar) of Indore

(Continued from November 1983 issue)

STUDY OF YOGA

Once a sadhu or yati, with a matted hair, came to the temple. "Shall I get permission to lodge in this temple?" he asked. "We live by begging and on no account you shall be disturbed." The sadhu said. Nana welcomed the guest. In a corner of the temple the sadhu made his 'asan' or seat. Nana asked him about his whereabouts; "From whence you come? what is your name?" People call me Wamanbuwa. There is my ashram on the banks of the Narmada at Onkareshwar. I am on a journey by the orders of my Guru" The Buwa replied.

As long as the sadhu lived in the temple, Nana arranged his sleeping bed a little distance away from him. Both of them slept soundly at the dead of the night.

He awoke suddenly at late-mid-night. He listened to a sound. He rubbed his eyes. Looked here and there. The words were clearly coming out "Shivo Aham"; "Shivo Aham" Wamanbuwa was fast asleep. From where is the sound coming? It then made him realise that Wamanbuwa was no ordinary man or Yati. This incident happened successively. Next night also this sound echoed gravely. Nana fell prostrate at buwa's feet holding them tight. "Ah, I could not recognize you at first. So long you do not bless me, I shall not leave your feet". Nana said to buwa and further prayed him to introduce him to 'Yogic Lore'.

"I very much desire to live here; but I shall stay over here only for some days. Do not let others know during the day about me. I shall teach you at night with the blessings and grace of Lord Dattatraya." buwa said. He taught Nana many 'assanas', pranayam, Samadhi and how to get the bliss etc. When

Wamanbuwa saw that his disciple has learnt this art perfectly he told Nana, that he would leave the place the next day. "Enrich yourself by that sadhana. If ever you go to Onkareshwar for recollecting him, buwa shall surely see you" Saying so buwa disappeared from the temple all of a sudden.

For a week Nana felt very uneasy. He went to Onkareshwar. He made enquiries about buwa everywhere. At last he sat on a rock by the riverside and began to ruminate about Wamanbuwa with whom he had spent twenty days and nights. "Did the swami come to the temple to teach me the 'Yogic practices'?" And he realised then that all merciful swami had come there by changing usual mode of 'darshan'. As the mother feeds her child likewise the swami gave him lessons in 'Yogic Studies'. Nana thought in his mind with a manifest assurance. "If one has a perfect faith in Sadguru, he fulfills all the desires of his disciples."

TIRTHA YATRA (PILGRIMAGE)

Nana's visit to the holy places in the country, is a most adventurous, lively and wonderful episode of his life. In his meditative mood by the orders of Sadguru, he made all his journies on foot. On his way he always worshipped the chief deities of the places. No sooner got he the orders of the swami than he left the place. While departing he left his children to the care of a nurse named Kadutai.

KASHI YATRA (BANARAS)

As narrated in Guru Charitra, Nana visited Kashi. He bathed in the waters of the sacred Ganga. Shri Nana started further. He was overwhelmed with joy to see the sight of the river at night. He performed Rudra Abhishaka (Puja of the bathing deity) to Lord Kashivishweshwar. But he did not get peace of mind. Some one told him that there is a thick forest at Anandban where "Lord Shankar" gives darshan, Then Nana went to that forest. It was very thick and very awful, full of

big trees, winding creepers, wonderful leaves, the merry sounds of various birds and the roaring of wild animals, the music of the springs, still Nana walked coolly through it chanting his Guru's name. Suddenly a fearful tiger stood before him. Nana met his eyes and asked him. "What do you want? What could I wish for?" The animal licked the feet of Nana and went away. Later he saw the figure of an old man whose hands reached up to his knees (Ajanbahu). He took stones in his hands and was ready to throw them at Nana. On seeing him Nana fell prostrate before him. He took a handful of earth, which instantly turned into stones, "Oh Lord! throw these stones on me if you have a wish to do so." Said Nana. The voice came: "Go back. Your Yatra has become successful". Nana bowed before him with a satisfied mind. This fearful form (Rudrarup) Shivarup vanished. What a wonderful bhakti! What a strange experience!

VRINDABAN YATRA

Afterwards Nana went to Vrindaban. It is a sacred place where Lord Krishna played with the Gopis. He was not satisfied with the form of the shrine. He wanted to have the direct darshan of Lord Shri Krishna. Then he visited many temples round about; but he could not achieve his object of Lord's vivid view. Somebody told him, "Lord Krishna comes here to play 'Ras'." Nana too therefore played the game; but he was disappointed as he could not get the darshan of the Lord. He spent the whole day. Even he did not know how much distance he had traversed. On and on he walked. He became hungry and thirsty. His mind was filled with the image of the Lord. There was no other feeling except that in his mind. "What is the use of this body when I am not able to see the Lord." He thought to himself for a while and determined to drown his body in the river Jamuna as a dedication. He walked on the bank of the river and went far away. His feet touched the waters of the river 'Kalindi'; but his mind was filled with the image of Lord Krishna. How he played

with Gopis here! It was the time of sunset. Long shadows of the evening fell on the ground. At last Nana sat down to take some rest. Then there took place a marvellous event. He saw a bright light, like a ball, approaching him. Was it a phantom? Lord Mukund stood before him whom he was recollecting. "How He looked like?" Nana says, "He was dressed very neatly, wearing a yellow pitambar and there were peacock feathers in his crown. In one hand he had a flute and in the other he had a pot. Nana's hair stood on his body with indescribable joy. He fell prostrate before the child, who was like the image of Lord. He smilingly said, "Wait panditji there". He heard these sweet words spoken in the Braja Bhasba (language spoken near about Mathura). Nana was overjoyed. Lord poured two or three drops of water on his hand. He drank these drops as if it was a divine 'tirtha' and fell prostrate at the feet of Lord Gopalkrishna. In a moment the image of the Lord vanished. Even today Nana becomes full of joy in his innermost heart when he remembers this incident.

BADRINATH AND KEDARNATH YATRAS

The Himalayas and its snow-white peaks shone like silver. Nature had lavished its divine glory making it heaven upon the earth. So Nana looted this splendour. Badrinath-Kedarnath and Jamnotri scenes pleased his eyes. He started towards Manas Sarovar (lake). Even today one can come across the sadhus and tasis, who have seen God and Nana had an added attraction to see such saints. He began to walk the snow-covered paths chanting the name of his Sadguru. He saw the foot-prints which showed him the direction to follow and he came near a cave. Looking into it, he saw a sadhu engrossed in the deepest meditation. Grey hair of his beard were rolling on his chest. The sadhu looked at him with his bright eyes. Nana bowed before him. Surprisingly he said, "Why have you come here, my dear son? Have you forgotten your way to the Chatti?" Nana placed on his hand some almonds that he had and bowed to him fervently.

The Mahatma said, "Take these almonds back. By the grace of Lord Narayan we get here everything that we need. Go back to your lodging for this is the kingdom of wild animals." Nana returned after getting the darshan of the Mahatma (Siddha-Purush).

On his way to Gangotri he somehow missed his way. He went astray. The road was lonely and of steep rise and fall. He thought to himself that he might meet some pilgrim or yatri. So he walked on and on. It was evening and he felt hungry and thirsty. At last he sat on a rock and looked at the surrounding scenes. His mind was filled with the recollection of swami. Far, far away he saw a cave and he was encouraged to move in that direction. He went ahead, thinking in his mind that he might spend the night in the cave. As he approached the cave, he saw two fearful tigers as door-keepers or guards. The prey or those animals was so near; but they sat silently for Lord Shri Dattatraya was Nana's protector. From inside a voice spoke and the tigers moved aside. What human being could dare to come here? He is the child of a true Guru! The voice said, "Come in" Nana went inside. In the mild light of the 'dhuni' (Fire), he got darshan of an old man (puran-purush). He was covered with a halo-light. He had matted grey hair and his beard rolled on his chest and touched the ground. He set aside with his hand the hair of his eye-brows and looked at Nana with lustrous eyes and asked in the Sanskrit language: "Who are you? have you missed your way? By the power of sadguru you have remained alive, else the tigers would have devoured you soon."

Nana was tired and requested by signs for water to drink. The Mahatma removed a stone located in the wall and crystal clear water gushed out. He quenched his thirst by the water and told slowly, "I was on my way to Gangotri. I forgot the way. I wandered here and there. At last I have come to this place. Will you point out to me the way to Gangotri?"

The Mahatma laughed a hearty laugh and said, "You have exactly walked in the opposite direction of Gangotri. Now, it is

very difficult to find out the way. You seem to be too tired. Take rest here tonight. I shall carry you there at sunrise." Then the Mahatma went inside to arrange for his food and ordered the tigers to protect the guest.

After some time he returned with a root (kand) in his hand. He put it into the 'Dhuni'. While it was being roasted, he talked with Nana in Sanskrit. He gave him his own introduction or the history of his life. He said, "I belong to Dwapar-Yug. I was a soldier in the war of Kurukshetra and by the orders of Lord Shri Krishna, I am living here among the Himalayas over thousands of years."

It was a blessing in disguise that Nana forgot his way towards Gangotri by the favour of Sadguru. In the dead silence of the night both of them discussed in Sanskrit about the science of the metaphysics. The Mahatma was a profound orator and his speech flowed like the Ganga. Far away from the human habitation Nana was hearing with rapt attention the sweet words spoken by him. Nana said, "I was lucky enough to miss the way. I most humbly bow down to your deep knowledge. Without doubt, it is like the nectar. By the grace of Sadguru, I got your darshan."

The Mahatma took out the root (kand) from the Dhuni and rubbed it in his hand and beautiful buds came out of it. Nana thought in his mind that he was hungry and that he would get at least half of it. But the Mahatma put on his hand only one bud and said, "You will not feel hungry for a week after you eat this". Truly Nana did not feel hungry for full one week. Then the Mahatma said to Nana, "Do you wish to go to Gangotri? You can't go there all alone. I shall carry you there. Don't open your eyes on the way else you might fall in the deep glades below." Nana held tight the Mahatma's feet and shut his eyes. In a minute he said, "Open your eyes," Lo : Nana was on the banks of the Ganga and people were coming

there to bathe. During this Yatra Nana got a good chance of getting darshan of many, sadhus.

GIRNAR YATRA

Next Nana set out for Girnar Yatra. Near about he had to wade his way through a dangerous place, where Nava Nathas meditated. He went direct there climbing the Girnar mountains. He enquired with the local persons and he got the information that the place was full of wild animals and that no person ventures to go there. Yet he started early in the morning invoking his Sadguru. It was a thick forest and the way was winding and uneven. Anyhow he climbed half the way and being dam tired, he sat on a rock. His mind was walking very fast but his body was unable to go further. At last he prayed to the swami. "My Thakurki depends on you. Do you wish that I should return without darshan? Do you mean so? If not please grant me the strength." Then there came an Avadhoot figure with a cane in his hand and he began to beat Nana with it. Nana bowed to him though he was being beaten. Avadhoot said angrily. "Have I done any wrong? Why did you come here when you had no strength in your feet. Go back from here." Nana answered quietly, "Beat me if you wish, but I won't go back without getting darshan." Seeing his firm determination, the figure of Avadhoot became cool at once and said, "I will carry you." Nana held his feet tight. By the power of mind both of them came near the Dhuni. Nana got the darshan of Nava Nath. The figure of Avadhoot had disappeared. He saw at a little distance many dhunis. He rubbed on his forehead the ashes of Dhunis. He also knew that a cursed man named Ashwatthama wanders there. He meets only Siddha-Purushas and begs for oil or butter. After darshan of Nava Nath a man with a matted hair came and Nana recognized that He was Ashwatthama. He asked him, "What is your name?"

"I am called Ashwatthama," replied the person with matted hair. Nana was pleased with his darshan.

During this Yatra the mother Anusaya gave him darshan. Next he visited Dwarka, Jagannathpuri and Rameshwar and other places. He stored in his mind the pictures of these Yatras.

THE NARMADA PRADAKSHINA (walking along the banks)

Among the rivers of India, the fame of the Narmada stands very high. Many sadhus, Rishis and Munis obtained salvation by walking along her banks. Shri Wasudevanand Saraswati, Eknath and Rangavadhoot Maharaj regarded this as a unique venture. By the order of Sadguru, Nana too started for the Narmada Yatra. He undertook a most difficult Pradakshina It is known as Jalarie. In this Yatra, the sadhak should always be in sight of the river waters. He should not stay at any place for more than three days, constantly looking at the waters and return to the very place from where he started his Yatra. Nana observed all these rules very strictly and completed the Pradakshina.

The middle place of the Narmada river is Nemawar. From here he began walking with a stick in his hand and a 'Pancha' or towel on his shoulders. Some times he had to go through the thick forests, at times in the scorching heat of the sun and at other times in the torrential rains. On his way, he met some religious people who had implicit faith in God. He was treated with food by way of alms (Bhiksha). Sometimes he did not receive food for days together and he had to quench his thirst and hunger on the cool waters of the river. When he got tired he sat under the trees and with half-shut eyes he looked at the river by way of darshan.



(to be continued)

Vaman H. Pandit

17, Khati Pura Road, Indore City (M. P.)



Baba's Blessings

Thanks to the blessings of Baba, Shri K. H. Kakare, Receiver Shri Sai Baba Samsthan, was kind enough to invite me to attend the ninth annual gathering at shirdi held on the 30th and the 31st of January 1983. This was my long cherished desire which Baba fulfilled.

This was the occasion when I could meet many dedicated Sai devotees from remotest corners of our country. To name a few, they were from Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, U. P. West Bengal, and Tamilnadu besides of course from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Shri Kakresaheb, assisted by his team of well-disciplined and diligent officers, looked after the arrangements made for the delegates, who attended the gathering. The arrangements were so appropriate and systematic that they were quite befitting the gathering.

During my sojourn, I had a wish that I should complete "Sai Satcharita" and "Abhishek" with the blessings of Baba. I could achieve both.

While we were arranging the belongings to leave Shirdi, my wife thought to herself, that she would put rupees five in the hundi in the Samadhi Mandir at the time when we would take leave of Baba. After we arranged the bag and baggage, we entrusted the same to the coolie and we left for the Samadhi Mandir. We had darshan of Baba and started leaving the Mandir. My wife forgot to put five rupees in the hundi. While we came out of the Mandir, a gentleman came towards my wife and asked for change of rupees five, Thereupon she told me that she could immediately recollect her thought of putting rupees five in the Hundi. She immediately went to the Mandir and put rupees five in the hundi to her hearts satisfaction. I feel that this is nothing less than a miracle of Baba. This also carries my conviction

that Baba is still spiritually alive and awake. If not a reasonable question arises as to why the gentleman should advance only towards my wife and ask for change for rupees five only when we just stepped out of the Mandir. To me, the only answer is that it is Baba's call to realise the debt due to him from his devotee. ★

'Bow to Shri Sai, peace be to all''

M. Ganga Reddy

Sai Nilayam 3-4-1013/16, Barakatpura Hyderabad- 27

Sai Baba Makes Impossible, Possible

I have a friend who was to appear for his 2nd LL. B., examination to be held in April, 1983. He is no doubt a very intelligent and brilliant student and above all I must mention that he is also a believer in God and he also believes in my Sai Baba.

It was sometime in February, 1983 and I don't know what made me to say, "Shekhar, You'll stand first in the University this time." He said, "Impossible." I said, "I'll pray to Sai Baba but tell me if you stand first what will you give me." He said, "We'll go to Shirdi." I said, "O.K."

Shekhar's examination was to start from 6th of April 1983 and it was my humble prayer to Baba that before the examination would start, He should call me to Shirdi so that I could get the pens duly blessed by my Baba before Shekhar's examination would start. Now see what happens. I had absolutely no hopes of going to Shirdi. But suddenly my cousin turned up and with her I went to Shirdi, took Shekhar's pens which were kept near

Sai Baba's feet throughout the noon Arti. I was very happy. With Baba's blessings I took the pens and Udi and sent them to Shekhar.

Now the examination was nearing and I was praying. I had (and have) firm faith in Baba. I knew He would not let me down. But even though faith is there one has to make efforts to reach the goal which one wants to achieve or reach. Of course Shekhar was studying very hard and above all my Baba's blessings were with him. The examination started on 6th of April 1983 and on that day I started reading the Sai Satcharita between 3 p.m to 6 p.m (A very powerful book, I must say) the time when the examination was going on I completed reading of the book on the day on which the examination ended (7 days). See how Baba tests our faith. This time the papers were very tough and came just out of the way. The questions which had never been asked, for the last 10 to 14 years were asked. I became a little nervous. But even then I depended on Baba.

After the examination was over, I asked Shekhar how he had fared. He said, "Quite well." I said "you'll stand first in the university. "Yes, with God's blessings only."

The results were to be declared by the end of May 1983 and during the month of May I was abroad. Now see how my Baba told me about the results. On 30.05.1983, I had a dream in which my sweet Baba told me that Shekhar has secured 80 per cent marks and has stood first. I was very happy. I had absolutely no news from Shekhar about his results and I was worried. On 13.06.1983 I saw my Baba smiling away and from past experience I can say that whenever anything good is to happen I find Baba smiling away not that He does not smile otherwise, but this particular smile is indicative of something good that is forthcoming and sure enough I got Shekhar's letter in which he had written that he had "Stood first in the University" and had secured 79 per cent marks. I was very very happy and

thanked my Baba. Tears of joy rolled down from my eyes. My Baba not only made Shekhar stand first in the University but He also made Shekhar set a new record by making him get 79 per cent marks. The last highest percentage being only 69. Everyone says that it is only my Baba's grace and blessing that Shekhar stood first in the University. Even Shekhar says so.

As decided before we went to Shirdi on 19.06.1983. Really my Baba's powers are matchless. He can really do anything. What is required on our part is firm faith and abundance of patience and our calling out lovingly to our loveable Baba. Really had it not been for my Baba, Shekhar would have not stood first, for the student who stood first in the University in 1st LL.B., lost his first rank in the II LL-B examination by only 5 marks. ★

I thank my Baba once more,

Miss Maya Sadhwani

3/16, Sadhu Vaswani Kunj, Sadhu Vaswani Rd, Pune 411001

Sai A Real Companion

Who looks after you in difficulty and turmoil is your real companion.

As desired by my Sai I am reading a chapter of Sai Charitra every day without fail since 1976 after my first visit to Shirdi. It is an open secret that life is not a bed of roses. In human life we have to face so many ups and downs according to our Karmas.

But our Lord Sai has a wonderful power of solving the worldly problems of his devotees. My daily reading of a chapter of Sai Charitra does the same.

My husband is an asthmatic patient since many years. He has also a great devotion towards Sai Darbar. His prolonged illness has now brought me frustration. When I was a little disturbed, the daily reading of a chapter of Sai Charitra consoled me saying, "those who remember me with patience and devotion, their troubles are mine." Look at His mysterious power !

Secondly when I was reading 'Mission Divine' I read that once Shri Upasani Maharatj was gasping for breath and Baba asked him to take always warm water. Never take cold water. What a wonderful doctor he is of his devotees. ★

— Mrs. Prem Kohli

C 11A/185, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58

Prayer To Shri Sai Baba

(Inspired by a Song of Shri Purandara Dasa)

I seek no favour from Thee, Baba,
 But to dedicate my body and mind to Thy adoration.
 Let my head touch Thy lotus feet,
 Let my eyes feast on Thee,
 Let my ears listen to lyrics in Thy praise,
 Let my nose inhale the fragrance of flowers offered to Thee.
 Let my tongue sing in Thy praise,
 Let my hands worship Thee,
 Let my feet go in pilgrimage to Shirdi
 Let my mind meditate on Thee.
 Let my intellect be absorbed in Thee,
 Let my thoughts be concentrated on Thee,
 Let me have the Company of Thy devotees,
 Let my surrender to Thee be absolute.

B. S. Narayan Murthy

C/o Shri Sai Spiritual centre, Shri Sai Baba Mandir Road,
 Thyagarajanagar Bangalore 560 028

Sufism and Shirdi Sai Baba

There have been numerous religious mystics belonging to different religions and regions at different times of our human history. Sufism is a powerful mystic movement in Islamic world, with a history of over ten centuries. Sufism is a specific way of approach to reality (al-Haqq, Sufi term for God) through the path of love (mahabba). There had been the ethics and philosophy of Sufism. In Sufi concept man consists of two personalities, the human and the divine. They both remain combined in the nature of man. Sufi mystic, Mansur al-Hallaj emphasised the essentiality of the unity of the divine personality and the human personality in a man for his ultimate emancipation. According to Sufism the best expression of divine personality is possible only through human personality, which is in consonance with the Hindu concept of divine manifestation in human form - Avatar. Another Sufi mystic Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, the greatest thinker of Islam, pointed out the importance of following certain disciplines for the purification of mind and heart of a seeker of reality or truth, namely (1) abstinence from all sensuous and carnal desires (Wara), (2) Repentance (Tauba), (3) poverty (faqir), (4) Trust in God (Tawakkul), (5) unity of all beings (Taubid), (6) Invocation or chanting names or tributes of God (Dhikir) quite similar to recitation of our Sahasranama of Lord Vishnu. These very same disciplines have been prescribed for a Hindu sadhak also. In Shri Sai Nath's exemplary life, all these have been found amply and typically illustrated. Muhyiuddin Ibn-al-Arabi is regarded as the greatest Sufi mystical genius, who is credited to have found a particular school of thought (Wajidiyyah) "the doctrine of divine emanation". The cardinal principle of his philosophy is the idea of "unity of beings." For him "all beings are one and their unity is absolute". It is from this doctrine of "unity of beings" that Ibn-al-Arabi drew a very important and interesting conclusion of the harmony of all religions. According

to al-Arabi, different religious doctrines emphasised certain elements of reality or truth; but the path of liberation laid down by any one of these doctrines will ultimately lead to the same goal, reality, God, and also different forms and images of God are the manifestation of one reality and the same one may be worshipped through various names and images. If any one of these various paths of love (mahabba) is pursued, "realisation of the divine nature of man becomes sure and safe." All these doctrinal conclusions of Ibn-al-Arabi, bear wonderful similarity to Rigvedic dictum "Ekam Sad Vipra Bahudha Vadanti" meaning the reality is one, the wise call it by many names.

These Sufi and Vedic dictums are abundantly found in a very characteristic manner, in the glorious divine personality of Shirdi Sai Nath and they form the fundamental tenets of Sai culture.

Know it for certain that Sai's name is the greatest treasure one can aspire for. Know it that Sai's grace is the most covetable blessing. Secure His grace by constantly chanting his name, then assured you are of a safe and smooth sailing over the turbulent ocean of sansar. ★

M. Rangachari

Sai Kuteer, 3/4/529/3/1 Narayanaguda Hyderabad 27

Request to Contributors

In spite of previous requests in this behalf it is noticed that some contributors are still sending their articles in their own handwriting and some articles are even written on Inland Letters. All contributors are therefore requested to send their articles duly type-written only on one side of the page leaving sufficient margin. ★

Editor

Baba's Divine Leela

"If you cast your burden on me, I shall surely bear it"

Numerous are the incidents to confirm Baba's benevolence on His devotees who surrender to Him whole-heartedly. The leelas narrated in Sai Satcharitha are re-enacted on a number of occasions. Baba transcends time and space. He is eternal. His acceptance of human form at a particular period gave opportunity for his devotees to get direct wisdom from the source. He has demonstrated his omnipresence while in mortal coil and assured to do so after leaving the earthly sojourn. We now adore him in his formless nature.

When circumstances demanded Shri Baba accepted a physical form, human or subhuman unconditioned by time and space, while He lived at Shirdi and thereafter also. This is in accordance with the tradition of "Siddhas".

Rare are such jems, who choose to move with the world, but maintain their samadhi with least influence of a trance etc. Baba is an Avatar to redeem "Papa" (evil Karmas of his devotees). He is one and only one spiritual master, who authoritatively declared that he can accept any one, including a sinner irrespective of cast and colour, and take him safely to his destination. With surrender to the divine will of such a master, we have no ditches and pits to fall. "Lord of Lord Sai Nath pervades everywhere, remembrance of His name would purify our heart and prepare us for self realization".

It was a few years back, when I was returning with my wife after a second show from one of the suburban theatres at Bangalore, I could not get an Auto-riksha to go to the lodging. Our only hope was to walk up to cantonment Railway Station to catch an Auto. We were walking towards the Railway station when suddenly we realised that two persons were following us. We

had instantly sensed the danger awaiting us, and tried frantically to keep sufficient distance with them, But they were approaching very fast and the unpredictable would happen at any moment. My wife was immediately reminded of my warning not to wear costly ornaments on tour. Repentance was no remedy in a crucial juncture, courage and faith on Guru-God, Sai Nath was the only resort at such a time.

I invoked Baba's protective hands. Lo! there came a rikshaw from behind. There was a passenger in the Auto, but even before we showed signal to stop, the rikshaw itself came and stopped. The passenger, who was travelling in the rikshaw sat along with the driver. We immediately breathed a sigh of relief and got into the rikshaw ; but we were again suspicious of the motivation of the driver who, before our stopping the auto, arranged the passenger to sit along with him.

We felt as if we have fallen from the frying pan into the fire. In such an awesome situation we had lost our tongue even to enquire with the driver the reason for stopping the rikshaw of his own accord. We managed to direct him to drop us at Hotel Janatha on M. G. Road. No sooner I uttered these words he began thus, "Sab, my mother was your maid servant in Hidkal Dam. I could recognize you and therefore I requested my passenger to come to the front to accommodate you.

What a surprise? Can we imagine that out of thousands of Auto Drivers in Bangalore only this Mohamadan boy, whose mother was once our maid servant, could appear at this crucial time? Whether the boy cited or Baba himself has come is for you to judge. Baba assumes a human form at his sweet will or inspires others to carry out his command. Till then my wife was doubtful, meddling and at times indifferent about my faith in Baba. This incident brought her close to Baba's feet in such a measure that she is now ahead of me in Baba's service. ★

K. R. Gopinath

Sai Deep, 111/Adarsh Nagar, Hubli 580 032 (Karnataka)

Utmost Devotion Can Work Wonders

Here is an incident connected with utmost devotion of my aunt towards Goddess Durga which led to the darshan of the deity.

My aunt, who is a widow, resides in a remote village in Pune District. Eversince she became a widow, she has dedicated her life to the service of Goddess Durga, their family deity (also known as "Tripur Sundari") enshrined in a beautiful temple in the village. She is so much attached to the deity that most of her time is spent in the temple. Her day begins with sprinkling of water in the courtyard of the temple to facilitate display of various drawings (Rangawali) in front of the temple door, a custom in ancient Hindu temples. Various hymns in praise of the deity are recited by her followed by religious rites performed with minutest details. The deity is worshipped with utmost devotion and the worship generally lasts for 3 to 4 hours. She takes her meals at about 3 p.m. having fully satisfied with the day's austerities. She has been following this practice consistently for the last thirty years. Since most of her time is spent in close contact with the Goddess, the deity has become a part and parcel of her family. During "Navratri" festival, my aunt goes in a trance-like state and at times it seems that the Goddess Durga has chosen her body for Her abode during this particular period. In crisis, my aunt prays to the Goddess and seeks her guidance. Since the temple is free from the hum and the bustle of city life, this provides serene atmosphere necessary for divine service. I myself pay a visit to the said temple once in a year so as to get rid of evils of city life and spend few hours in the sanctuary, enjoying divine bliss.

Once my aunt was scolded by a respected elder in the family, presumably over lavish expenses. The poor widow had taken this to heart and decided to leave the house quietly. At dawn,

when everyone was fast asleep, she left the house and made her way towards a stream on the outskirts of the village. She made her way through the dry bed of the stream and lo! The Goddess whom she worshipped all these years with utmost devotion and whose grace she sought through hard penance and austerities suddenly appeared before her. The spot where the Goddess appeared shone with dazzling brilliance. Mounted on a fierce tiger, the Goddess asked my aunt somewhat angrily. "Where are you going"? My aunt was stunned and could hardly utter a word. The Goddess commanded my aunt to go home forthwith and be among her kith and kin. As she was gathering courage to speak a few words, the deity vanished leaving my aunt spell-bound. The joy of my aunt knew no bounds since she had achieved her goal. She returned home and began to carry out household work as usual.

She narrated this strange incident to a few relations, who were considered to be spiritually matured. The news, however, leaked out in due course and reached her family members, who were very much impressed by her deep devotion. They lamented over their folly and begged the widow to forgive them. Kind as she is, she glanced at them with motherly affection and urged them to have firm faith in the Goddess. As the days passed, the family members realised the greatness of my aunt through certain incidents and began to seek her guidance in all domestic affairs and the spiritual field as well.

Needless to say that they treat her now with deep reverence. Sai devotees might bear in mind the above incident and try to cultivate in their minds a very strong faith, which is usually the ultimate Goal of a devotee. ★

S. N. Awachat
Section Supervisor, BTD, Indian Globe Chambers,
5th floor, Fort, Bombay-1



श्रीसाईलीला

हिंदी विभाग

अनुक्रमणिका

दिसम्बर १९८३

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साईभक्तों से प्रार्थना

साईराम भजो सुबह शाम रे
साईश्याम भजो सुबह शाम रे ॥ १ ॥

दुख से क्यों घबराता बन्दे
छोड़ दे सब कूळ उसके भरोसे
तेरे मन की उसको खबर है
फिर किस बात की तुझको डर रे
साईराम भजो सुबह शाम रे ॥ १ ॥

जीवन यह तेरा दुखका घाघर तो
साई नाम सुख का सागर रे
भरले भक्ति से जल नित दिन तू
करले जीवन अपना सफल रे
साईराम भजो सुबह शाम रे ॥ २ ॥

मनमन्दिर में ज्योत जलाकर
साईशरण में तू ध्यान लगाले
वही फूल खिलता कान्तो में
वही राह दिखाए मुश्किल में
साईराम भजो सुबह शाम रे ॥ ३ ॥

सुख का साथी यह जग सारा
दुख का साथी साई नाम रे
सुख और दुख में उसको पुकारो
साई विगडी बनाये सबके सारे
साईराम भजो सुबह शाम रे ॥ ४ ॥

अशोक मुंगलाकर

C/o विठ्ठल मोहन साये, वाकडे वाडी पी. एम्. सी. कॉलनी
विल्डिग नं. २/५७ छत्रपति संभाजी नगर, पुणे बम्बई रस्ता, पुणे ४११००३

अद्भुत महिमा

कोई माने या न माने लेकिन यह सत्य है कि बाबा भक्त के हृदय की पुकार सुन कर उसकी इच्छा पूरी करने में देरी नहीं करते। इसका एक उदाहरण इस प्रकार है।

मैं अपने ग्रुप इन्चार्ज से वार्ता कर रहा था। इन्होंने बताया, वर्षा ऋतु का समय था आकाश बादलों से घिरा था, पानी गिरने ही वाला था मेरे ऑफिस जाने का समय हुआ, साइकिल में छाता टांग कर मैं ऑफिस पहुंचा, साइकिल रखी लेकिन छाता उठाना भूल गया ऑफिस का कार्य समाप्त करने के पश्चात सायंकाल जब घर चलने लगा छाता साइकिल से गायब था। इधर उधर तलाश करने पूछने पर भी छाता नहीं मिला, घर पहुंचा धर्मपत्नी ने पूछा “आज, आप छाता नहीं लाये,” मेरे मुंह से निकला, “शायद भूल से किसी ने छाता उठा लिया है कल मैं अपने सहयोगियों से पूछूंगा।”

दूसरे दिन ऑफिस में सभी व्यक्तियों से पूछा, लेकिन सभी ने नकारात्मक उत्तर दिया घर लौटने पर स्त्री ने फिर पूछा, “छाता मिला?” कहना पडा “नहीं” ; दो चार मिनट मौन रहने के बाद मेरी स्त्री बाबा के चित्र के सामने बैठकर विनय पूर्वक कहा “बाबा मेरा छाता वापस दिलाइये” यह सुनते ही मैंने कहा, “छोटी छोटी बातों के लिये बाबा को नहीं परेशान करना चाहिये,” लेकिन विनय तो कर ही दी गई।

दो तीन दिन व्यतीत होने के उपरान्त मध्यावकाश में एक सज्जन मेरे पास आकर हाथ जोड़ कर क्षमायाचना करते हुये बोले, मुझसे गलती हो गई है। मैंने आपसे झूठ बोल दिया, कि मैंने छाता नहीं लिया है। उसके लिये मैं शर्मिन्दा हूँ। कृपया अपना छाता वापस लेलें”। इस पर मैंने आश्चर्य-चकित होकर पूछा, “दो तीन दिन पूर्व आपने छाता लेने से इन्कार किया था लेकिन अब किन परिस्थितियों ने आप को छाता वापस करने के लिये बाध्य किया,” तब उन्होने बताया।

“दो तीन दिन से मेरा चित्त अशान्त है। कल रात्रि मैंने स्वप्न में देखा कि कुछ पुलिस वाले मिलकर मुझे लाठियों से पीट रहे हैं। मैं पीडा से कराह

रहा हूँ। भागने का प्रयास करने पर भाग नहीं पा रहा हूँ। बहुत से लोग धिक्कारने हुये कह रहे हैं, “बाप पढे लिखे होकर, एक छाता लेकर कितना नीच कार्य किया,” तभी एक बूढ़े व्यक्ति ने समझाते हुये कहा कि “छाता तुरन्त वापस करिये” एकाएक मेरी आंख खुल गई, मैं शर्म और डर से कांपने लगा। रात्रि भर कोशिश करने पर भी सो न सका। मैं बहुत ही भयभीत हूँ। कृपया आप अपना छाता वापस लें ले और मुझे क्षमा करें।”

तभी मुझे अपनी धर्मपत्नी की विनय जो बाबा से की थी स्मरण हो आयी। मेरे पास बाबा का एक चित्र था, उसे दिखाते हुये मैंने महाशय से पूछा, “क्या आपने स्वप्न में इन्हें देखा है?” चित्र देखते ही उसने चकित होकर कहा, “जी हां यही तो मुझे समझा रहे थे छाता तुरन्त वापस करो” यह सुनते ही मैं रोमान्चित हो उठा।

मुझे बाबा का अद्भुत महिमा समझते देर न लगी, मैंने उपरोक्त घटना अपनी स्त्री को सुनाई, उनके उल्लास का पारावार न रहा, तभी मेरी स्त्री ने तपाक से कहा “देखा मेरे साईनाथ बाबा की महिमा”।

जी. पी. पाल

२९०/३ रेल बजार कैन्ट, कानपुर -२०८००४

आज समाधि बोल रही है

आज जगत का पालन हारा

सगुण रूप भक्तों का प्यारा

ब्याप्त हो गया था निर्गुण में

अश्रु छोड अगणित नयनो में.

जीते जी भक्तों को तारा

दीन हीन को सदा उवारा

आज समाधि रक्षा करती
मांगे भर से झोली भरती,
आज जगत का पालन हारा
सगुण रूप भक्तों का प्यारा

व्याप्त हो गया था निर्गुण में
अश्रु छोड़ अगणित नयनों में

हरि तो जनम मरन लिख छूटा
साईं कृपा से मोह है छूटा

शिरडी के रजकण की शक्ति
व्याप रही हर दिशा में भक्ति,
आज जगत का पालन हारा
सगुण रूप भक्तों का प्यारा

व्याप्त हो गया था निर्गुण में
अश्रु छोड़ अगणित नयनों में.

अल्लाह भला करेगा सबका
फिर क्यों लेते ठेका तन का

आज समाधि बोल रही है
घूनी दृगपट खोल रही है,
आज जगत का पालन हारा
सगुण रूप भक्तों का प्यारा

व्याप्त हो गया था निर्गुण में
अश्रु छोड़ अगणित नयनों में.

विजय

७६, पटौदी हाऊस, नईदिल्ली-११०००१



प्रार्थना

साईं आपका प्यार पाकर
आयी मेरे जीवन में बहार
देके नवजीवन मुझे
साईं आपने किया मुझ पर उपकार

मैं अपनी जीवननैया
लेकर चला इस संसार में
डगमगाये मोरी नैया
देख भंवर मंझधार में
अपनी नैया किया मैंने आपके हवाले
अब साईं आपही लगाना इसे पार
देके नवजीवन मुझे
साईं आपने किया मुझपर उपकार ॥ १ ॥

है प्रकाशहीन मेरा
जीवन पथ भगवन
ना मुझे डगर मोहे
मन्जील करीब है भगवन
ज्ञान प्रकाश कि ज्योत जलाकर
साईं दूर करना मेरे पथ से अन्धकार
देके नवजीवन मुझे
साईं आपने किया मुझपर उपकार । २ ॥

पापबुद्धी निकालकर
साईं अच्छी बुद्धी देना
मांगे हरिनाथ वर
साईं आपके चरणों में आश्रय देना

जीवन बीते मेरा आपकी चरणों में
जुवान पर आपका साई नाम रहे हरबार
देके नवजीवन मुझे
साई आपने किया मुझपर उपकार ॥ ३ ॥

हरिनाथ टी. कहार

५७/१४५५, कन्नमवार नगर नं. १ विक्रोली (पूर्व) बम्बई-४०००८३

साई का प्रसाद

जब साई हमारे साथ है जग से डरने की क्या बात है ।
जबसे उनके चरणों में आये खुशियों की बरसात है ।
तुझको ही मैं सबमें देखू तुझको ही मैं सबमें पाऊं !
ये भी है करशिमा तेरा इसमें भी तेरा हाथ है ।
जब आपके पास आया तब जीना मुझको रास आया ।
अब ये जिन्दगी मेरी जैसे आपकी ही सौगात है ।
है मेरा विश्वास अटल हो जायेगा जीवन सफल ।
गर दरपे तेरे दम निकले आज दिल के ये जज्बात है ।

रमेश 'आत्मा'

मैनेजर इन्डियन बैंक, शालीमार शॉपिंग सेन्टर भड़ोच, ३१२ २९१



विभूति की अलौकिक लीला

भक्तवत्सल बाबा भक्त की निष्ठा से ही द्रवित हो जाते हैं। भक्त के कल्याणार्थ बाबा तरह-तरह की सहायता पहुँचाते रहते व साथ ही भक्त को अनुप्रेरित भी करते रहते हैं। इस सन्दर्भ में यहाँ के ए. बी. विद्यालय इष्टर कालेज, (शिशुविभाग) की एक अध्यापिका को उनकी लड़की की शादी में किस प्रकार बाबा की कृपा व आशीर्वाद प्राप्त हुआ था -- यह विशेष घटना बार-बार पढ़ने योग्य है। लड़के वालों की ओर से तीस हजार रुपये की नगद माँग की जा रही थी जो कि वह अध्यापिका देने में पूर्णतया असमर्थ थी। इसी कारण से रिश्ता पसन्द होते हुये भी वैवाहिक सम्बन्ध जुड़ने के स्थान पर टूटने के कगार पर आ पहुँचा था।

यह सम्भवतः आठ या नौ साल की पुरानी बात है। लड़की की शादी न कर पाने के कारण वह बेहद दुखी व चिन्तित थी। उस समय वह बाबा के बारे में कुछ भी नहीं जानती थी। जब बाबा की अलौकिक शक्ति के बारे में उसे जानकारी मिली वह इनकी प्रभावित हुई कि उसी दिन से बाबा की शरणागत हो गई। बाबा की असीम अनुकम्पा से तुरन्त ही तीस हजार रुपये की माँग पर पानी फिर गया व बहुत धूमधाम से लड़की की शादी सम्पन्न हो गई।

'अब इस लेख से पाठकों को उस अध्यापिका के साथ बाबा की विभूति की अलौकिक लीला के बारे में जानकारी दी जा रही है, जो कि बहुत रोमांचक है।

बाबा के शरणागत होते ही वह सर्वप्रथम हमारे घर में विभूति लेने के लिये आई थी। उस समय हमारे पास विभूति पर्याप्त न होने के कारण एक छोटी सी डीबिया में केवल अल्प मात्रा में ही विभूति उसे उपलब्ध करायी जा सकी। साथ ही साथ कुछ दिनों में ही और अधिक विभूति देने का आश्वासन भी उसे दिया गया था।

परन्तु खेद की बात यह है कि हमें इस प्रतिश्रुति का स्मरण नहीं रहा। और वह भी विभूति लेने के लिये दोबारा नहीं आई। अनुमानत एक वर्ष बाद जब उसके वार्तालाप करने का अवसर मिला तो मैंने पहला प्रश्न किया "विभूति

का क्या प्रबन्ध है आपके पास ? आप विभूति लेने के लिये क्यों नहीं आई ?” इसके उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा “आपके घर से एक वर्ष पूर्व जो विभूति मुझे उपलब्ध हुई थी वह आज तक चल रही है । हमारे परिवार का प्रत्येक सदस्य प्रतिदिन बाबा की विभूति अत्यन्त निष्ठा से सेवन करता है । परन्तु डिबिया कभी भी खाली नहीं होती - - अपितु हर समय वह मुँह तक भरी रहती है । आप स्वयं चल कर देख लीजिये ।”

यह सुनकर मैं आश्चर्यचकित व रोमांचित रह गई । बाबा की भक्त-वत्सलता के इस प्रकार के ज्वलन्त उदाहरण से मेरा मस्तक बाबा के श्री चरणों पर झुक गया । भक्तों को प्रेरणा देने की वआध्यात्मिक मार्ग में चलाने की इस प्रकार की अनुपम पध्दति वास्तव में विरले ही देखने को मिलती है ।

और एक विशेष जानकारी उसके साथ वार्तालाप से मिली, जो कि उसकी निष्ठा की गहराई व्यक्त करती है । यह इस प्रकार है । एक बार वह दो-तीन दिन के लिये कानपुर से बाहर गई थी । जाते समय वह विभूति की डिबिया यहाँ घर में छोड़ गई थी । वापस लौटने पर उसे विभूति की डिबिया एक प्रकार खाली दिखाई पड़ी । डिबिया के अन्दर केवल एक चुटकी मात्र ही विभूति रह गई थी ! चिन्ता व घबड़ाहट से वह अन्न-जल तक त्याग बैठी, परन्तु अपनी “सबूरी” नहीं छोड़ी ।

वह धात्रा से अपराध स्वीकार कर प्रगाढ निष्ठा के साथ उन्हें मनाने जुट गई व उनसे बहुत मिन्नत करने लगी । भक्त का भगवान भला कहाँ तक रुठकर रह सकते हैं ? डिबिया के अन्दर विभूति फिर से बढ़ने लगी व कुछ दिनों में डिबिया भर गई । अध्यापिका की खुशी व शान्ति का अन्त न रहा ।

बाबा की अनुकम्पा पाने के लिय “निष्ठा व सबूरी” ही एक मात्र प्रशस्त राह है ।

श्रीमती उमा दास

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



शिरडी के माईबाबा

पुकार मेरी मुनो हरो संकट शिरडीवासी
सत्यम् शिवम् की ज्योत जगाकर,
जगमें क्रिया उजियाला ।

श्रद्धा सबूरीका मन्त्र देकर,
नई आशा जगार्या ।

जात पातका भेद मिटाकर
भक्तिकी गंगा बहायी ।-

गमनामका मन्त्र देकर,
ज्ञानदीप जलाया ।

भुले हुए पथिकोंको,
नया राह दिखाया ।

'पारायणकी' नाव डालकर,
नया सुन्नह सजाया ।

शिरडीमें जान डालकर,
तीर्थघाम बनाया ।

पुकार मेरी मुनो,
रखिओं लाज हमारी-हरो संकट शिरडीवासी ।

सौ. स्नेहलता विपीन स्वादीया

२०१ बी कमलकुन्ज, सन्गीता सीनेभाके सामने, दत्त मन्दीर रोड,
तामरा मजला, मलाड (पूर्व), बम्बई-६०० ०६४



साई-चरणों में लीन दिवंगत आत्मा

श्री साई लीला पत्रिका जब भी आती है, नित-नूतन रसानुभूति दे जाती है और इसी कारण प्रत्येक साई-भक्त को इस पत्रिका के आगामी अंक की व्यग्रतापूर्वक प्रतीक्षा रहती है। किन्तु जून, १९८३ का अंक मेरे जैसे कतिपय साई-भक्तों की मानसिक चेतना के लिए तीव्र वज्राघात लेकर आया। प्रशान्ति प्रकाशन, चोरिवली, बम्बई के व्यवस्थापक और अनन्य साई-भक्त श्री रघुनाथ शं. जुन्नरकर का १४ मई, १९८३ को अचानक हृदयगति अवरुद्ध हो जाने के फलस्वरूप देहावसान हो गया—यह हृदय-विदारक समाचार श्री साई लीला ही ले आई और वास्तव में यह साई-लीला है भी। अनेक वर्षों से भगवान श्री साई बाबा श्री जुन्नरकर जी की उम्र बढ़ाते जा रहे थे। हृदयरोग के साथ-साथ जुन्नरकर जी डाइबिटीज, हार्निया, प्रोस्टेट वृद्धि, गैश्टिक पेन्स, ज्वाइंडिस और भयानक एंजिना आदि व्याधियों से भी दोर्घ काल से ग्रस्त थे, फिर भी वे ७२ वर्ष की आयु में भी श्री साई बाबा के प्रचार-कार्यों में सतत संलग्न रहे। उनका सारा जीवन साईमय ही बना रहा। श्री साई-बाबा पर दो-दो उपन्यास लिखने के अतिरिक्त उनके ऊपर श्री जुन्नरकर जी के अनेक लेख, कवितायें हिन्दी, अंग्रेजी और मराठी में श्री साई लीला पत्रिका, नासिक से प्रकाशित होने वाली 'भालचन्द्र' पत्रिका तथा 'साई सन्देश', 'साई कृपा' आदि पत्रिकाओं में निरन्तर प्रकाशित होते रहे। उनके उपन्यासों और लेखों में श्री साई बाबा की कथनी और करनी दोनों ही मूर्त हुए, जिनकी देश के अनेक विद्वानों ने भूरि-भूरि प्रशंसा भी की।

श्री रघुनाथ शं. जुन्नरकर का जन्म सन् १९११ में हुआ था। भगवान श्री साई बाबा ने १५ अक्टूबर, १९१८ को महासमाधि ली। तब जुन्नरकर जी की आयु केवल सात वर्ष की थी। सन् १९१० में ही साई बाबा की ख्याति बम्बई में पहुँची और वहीं से उनकी महिमाओं का देश के कोने-कोने में प्रचार-प्रसार हुआ, जिसका प्रमुख श्रेय श्री गोविन्दराव दाभोलकर, दास गणू मंहाराज, काकासाहेब दीक्षित और नानासाहेब चांदोरकर को दिया जा सकता है। आधुनिक काल में श्री जुन्नरकर जी ने श्री नरसिंह स्वामी की भूमिका निभाई और बाबा के उपदेशों तथा महिमाओं का प्रचार करने में सारा जीवन लगा दिया। सन् १९३० में ही तरुणाई में उन्होंने फिल्मों को अपना कार्य-क्षेत्र बनाया, किन्तु आर्थिक समृद्धि

उनसे दूर ही बनी रही। भगवान श्री साई बाबा के जीवन और लीलाओं पर आधारित फिल्म बनाने का भी उन्होंने प्रयास किया, किन्तु अर्थाभाव के कारण उसे मूर्त रूप दे न दे सके और अन्ततः फिल्म-निर्माण के लिए संकलित सामग्री का उपयोग करके उन्होंने श्री बाबा के जीवन पर पहली बार मराठी भाषा में 'मशिदीत प्रगटला परमेश्वर' नामक बृहद् उपन्यास लिखा और प्रकाशित भी किया, जिसकी ख्याति अल्पावधि में ही इतनी बढ़ी कि पाठकों के अनुरोध पर उसे पुनः उन्होंने अंग्रेजी भाषा में 'मिशन डिवाइन' उपन्यास के रूप में लिखा और प्रकाशित भी किया। अंग्रेजी के उपन्यास की भी साई-भक्तों ने भरपुर सराहना की और उसे श्री साई बाबा की जीवनी पर आधारित दामोलकर जी की 'साई सच्चरित्र' पुस्तक के बाः दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण कृति निरूपित किया। फिर जुन्नरकर जी ने अपने इन दोनों उपन्यासों को हिन्दी भाषा में रूपान्तरित करने की इच्छा प्रगट की और यह काम उन्होंने कृपापूर्वक मुझे सौंपा। मैंने मराठी के 'मशिदीत प्रगटला परमेश्वर' और अंग्रेजी के 'मिशन डिवाइन' दोनों उपन्यासों का हिन्दी अनुवाद दिसम्बर, ८१ से मई, ८२ तक में पूर्ण किया। मेरा अनुवाद-कार्य चल ही रहा था। मैं तीसवें अध्याय का अनुवाद कर रहा था, उसी समय जुन्नरकर जी ने अपने दो मित्रों श्री एच. जिल्ला और श्री किशोरीलाल रुइया से भारी ऋण लेकर पाण्डुलिपि अभय प्रिन्टिंग प्रेस, वाराणसी को मुद्रण हेतु दे दी और मुझे अपने २४-२-८२ के पत्र में लिखा कि मैंने मुद्रण कार्य आरम्भ करने के लिए आपकी पाण्डुलिपि प्रेस के मालिक अभय जी को दे दी है।" इस कारण शेष १७ अध्यायों का अनुवाद करने में शारीरिक अस्वस्थता के बावजूद मुझे दिन-रात एक करके कठोरतम परिश्रम करना पड़ा और श्री साई बाबा की महासमाधि के दिन विजयादशमी, १९८२ को पुस्तक 'प्रगटे मस्जिद में साई भगवान' के नाम से छपकर बाजार में आ गई। यह सब श्री साई बाबा की ही लीला थी क्योंकि शारीरिक रूप से अनेक रोगों से ग्रस्त रहते हुए बार-बार हृदयाघात के झटके झेलते हुए वे एक निष्ठावान तपस्वी की भाँति उस पुस्तक को हिन्दी में प्रकाशित करने के संकल्प को मूर्त रूप देने में मत्त संलग्न रहे और पुस्तक छपने के ठीक आठ माह बाद बाबा ने उन्हें अपने पावन चरणों में लीन कर लिया।

'प्रगटे मस्जिद में साई भगवान' उपन्यास की पाण्डुलिपि तैयार करने की प्रक्रिया में प्रारम्भ से किताब के मुद्रण के पश्चात् तक श्री जुन्नरकर जी के लिखे लगभग ७० पत्र मेरे पास सुरक्षित हैं। उनका अन्तिम पत्र २९ अप्रैल

१९८३ का लिखा हुआ मुझे ८ मई को प्राप्त हुआ और १० दिन बाद ही १४ मई, ८३ को उनकी मुक्ति हो गई। मुझे इस बात का पश्चाताप जीवन भर बना रहेगा कि मुझसे अपने अन्तिम पत्र का उत्तर पाने की प्रतीक्षा में ही उन्होंने अन्तिम श्वास ली, मेरा कितना बड़ा दुर्भाग्य है। फिर भी उनके इन पत्रों से उनके भव्य-व्यक्तित्व की जो झाँकी मिलती है, उसकी कुछ झलक साई-भक्तों को दिखाना मैं आवश्यक समझता हूँ और उनके व्यक्तित्व की ये रेखाएँ मैं उनके पत्रों के ही आधार पर प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूँ।

श्री जुन्नरकर जी ७२ वर्ष की आयु में भी नाना व्याधियों से ग्रस्त होते हुए भी जीवन की अन्तिम श्वास तक श्री साई बाबा के उपदेशों के प्रचार-प्रसार में संलग्न रहना चाहते थे। उन्होंने १५-९-८२ के पत्र में लिखा—“मैं साई बाबा का निरन्तर नाम-स्मरण करता रहता हूँ और इतना काफी है। यदि वे मेरे अनुकूल नहीं होते, मुझ पर कृपा नहीं करते तो इसका आशय यह है कि वे चाहते हैं कि मैं ये कष्ट सहूँ। मैं बिना शिकायत के सहता हूँ। सिर्फ इतना ही चाहता हूँ कि यदि मुझे इस हृदय-रोग से छुटकारा मिल जाय तो मैं बाबा की अधिक सेवा कर सकता हूँ। लगभग एक वर्ष से अधिक जीवित रहने की मुझे आशा नहीं है।” और इस पत्र के बाद वे केवल आठ माह जीवित रहे।

वे प्रत्येक मनुष्य में भगवान की विद्यमानता स्वीकार करते थे। १२-८-८२ के पत्र में वे लिखते हैं—“मैं सभी में भगवान की उपस्थिति मानता हूँ। इस धारणा से मुझे परम मानसिक शान्ति और बाबा के प्रति पूर्ण समर्पण का आनन्द मिलता है।” डाइविटीज के भी मरीज होने के कारण वे कोई आपरेशन नहीं करना चाहते थे, किन्तु १९ अप्रैल, १९८३ को उन्हें हार्निया का आपरेशन करना ही पड़ा।

श्री जुन्नरकर जी घरेलू, आर्थिक, स्वास्थ्य सम्बन्धी तथा ऐसी ही अनेक समस्याओं से ग्रस्त थे पर उन्हें किसी से कोई शिकायत नहीं थी।

लम्बी अस्वस्थता के कारण श्री जुन्नरकर जी अपनी मृत्यु के पूर्व हिन्दी अनुवाद को प्रकाशित देखने के लिए उतावले थे। मृत्यु के एक वर्ष पूर्व १९-५-८२ के पत्र में वे लिखते हैं—“अपने अत्यन्त खराब स्वास्थ्य के कारण इससे पूर्व कि मेरे जीवन के साथ कुछ गलत घटित हो, मैं इस काम को शीघ्रातिशीघ्र पूर्ण

कर लेना चाहता हूँ ।” इससे संकल्प के प्रति उनकी निष्ठा भावना का परिचय मिलता है । इसी पत्र में आगे उन्होंने लिखा—“मेरा खुद का स्वास्थ्य बड़ी बुरी स्थिति में है और पिछले एक माह में मुझे दो भयंकर हृदयाघात के झटके लगे, जिन्होंने मेरी दशा चिन्तनीय बना दी थी । फिर भी मैं इसे साईनाथ पर छोड़ता हूँ ।”

जुन्नरकर जी में कर्तापन का अभिमान छू तक नहीं गया था । श्री साई बाबा पर मराठी और अंग्रेजी में दो-दो उपन्यास लिखकर भी वे इसे साईनाथ के द्वारा किया हुआ कार्य ही मानते थे । वे अपने १४-१-८२ के पत्र में लिखते हैं, “मैं भी बाबा का एकनिष्ठ भक्त हूँ और मैं उनसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि मेरे भीतर किसी प्रकार का अभिमान न हो । मैं आपसे ईमानदारी से कहता हूँ कि ये दोनों पुस्तकें स्वयं श्री साईराम द्वारा प्रेरित, प्रोत्साहित और लिखित हैं । उन्होंने मुझे केवल अपना माध्यम बनाया है । यदि इन पुस्तकों के द्वारा मुझे किसी ओर से प्रशंसा मिलती है तो इसका श्रेय श्री साईनाथ को ही जाता है ।”

श्री जुन्नरकर जी की उदारता के सम्बन्ध में लिखे बिना यह लेख अपूर्ण ही रहेगा । हिन्दी अनुवाद के लिए उन्होंने मुझे एक हजार रुपया कार्य समाप्त होने पर देने का वचन दिया था । १४ जनवरी, १९८२ तक मैंने पुस्तक के केवल १४ अध्यायों का अनुवाद पूर्ण किया था । अभी २३ अध्याय अनुवादित करने को शेष थे । तभी उन्होंने अपने १४-१-८२ के पत्र के साथ ५०० रुपये का बैंक ड्राफ्ट भेजा और शेष रकम बाकी २३ अध्यायों का अनुवाद पूर्ण होने पर भेजने का वचन दिया । परन्तु इसी के पाँच दिन बाद १९-१-८२ को उन्होंने पुनः २१० रुपयों का ड्राफ्ट कागज, कार्विन और पत्रव्यवहार के डाक-खर्च हेतु भेजा इतना ही नहीं, पाँच सौ रुपये का पहला ड्राफ्ट भेजने के एक ही महीने बाद उन्होंने १८-२-८२ को पुनः शेष ५०० रुपये का ड्राफ्ट भेजते हुए हृदयद्रावक पत्र लिखा, जो उनकी महानता का प्रदर्शन तो करता ही है, अपने जीवन के प्रति उनकी अनुराधा को भी व्यक्त कर देता है और यही १४ तारीख आगे मई, १९८३ में उनकी आशंका सत्य सिद्ध करती है । उन्होंने इस पत्र में मुझे लिखा—
“अपने वाद के अनुसार मैं शेष पाँच सौ रुपये इसी पत्र के साथ आप के पास भेज रहा हूँ । ऐसा मैं इसलिए कर रहा हूँ ताकि यदि मेरे जीवन के साथ कुछ गलत घटित हो जाय तो आपका परेशानी न हो ।”—कितनी दूरदर्शिता, कितनी

महानता और उदारता इन अभिव्यक्तियों में लिपी हुई है। साईनाथ के उपदेशों को जीवन में उतारने का यह अप्रतिम उदाहरण है, जो व्यक्ति को सच्चा साई-भक्त बना देता है।

दूसरों के कार्य की मुक्त कण्ठ से प्रशंसा करने की विशेषता भी उनके स्वभाव में थी। 'प्रगटे मस्जिद में साई भगवान' में अनुवाद-कार्य किस स्तर का है, यह तो प्रबुद्ध पाठक ही बता सकेंगे, किन्तु जुन्नरकर जी के चरित्र की विशेषता उद्घाटित करने के लिए उनके १४-१-८२ के लम्बे पत्र का एक अंश यहाँ उद्धृत करने का लोभ-संवरण मैं नहीं कर पाता। मैं ११वें अध्याय का अनुवाद उनके पास भेज चुका था। उसे पढ़कर वे लिखते हैं---"ग्यारहवें अध्याय के अनुवाद के सम्बन्ध में मैं इसकी शानदार प्रस्तुति के लिए, मेरी भावुकतापूर्ण भावनाओं को उपयुक्त शब्दों और वाक्यों में व्यस्त करने के लिए आपको हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ। क्योंकि यह अध्याय पुस्तक के सर्वश्रेष्ठ अध्यायों में से एक है और इसलिए मैं उत्सुकतापूर्वक प्रतीक्षा कर रहा था कि देखूँ आप इस अध्याय को हिन्दी भाषा में किस रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं। यह अनुवाद तो वस्तुतः ब्रह्मकृष्टतम है।"

अब मेरे जीवन के लिए एक अविस्मरणीय प्रसंग। मैंने जुन्नरकर जी को लिखा कि मैं आपसे दो-ढाई रुपये मूल्य की एक साधारण डॉट-पेन आपकी याददाश्त के रूप में सुरक्षित रखने के लिए चाहता हूँ जिसमें आपका नाम भी अंकित हो। जुन्नरकर जी ने मेरी भावनाओं का आदर किया, पर 'साधारण' को 'असधारण' बनाकर। उन्होंने स्टेनलेस स्टील की एक कीमती 'वाच-पेन' खरीदी जो एक और से 'जॉटर डॉट-पेन' भी है और दूसरे सिरे पर उसमें सेल से चलने वाली घड़ी भी फिट है, जो बहुत समय तक ठीक समय बताती रही। इस एलेक्ट्रॉनिक वाच-पेन में उन्होंने अन्ग्रेजी में 'फ्रॉम आर. एस. जुन्नरकर' अंकित कराकर ५ रुपये रजिस्ट्रार पोस्टेज व्यय करके मेरे पास भेजा, जो मुझे २२ सितम्बर, ८२ को प्राप्त हुई और उनकी पुण्य-स्मृति में आज यह लेख मैं उसी कलम से लिख रहा हूँ जिनमें उनका नाम विद्यमान है।

(अपूर्ण)

प्रो. भाद्या प्रसाद त्रिपाठी,
अध्यक्ष, हिन्दी विभाग,

ज. ह. शासकीय स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय, वैरूल, म. प्र. ४६०००१

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