

SHRI SAILEELA

Official Organ of Shirdi Sansthan



SHRI VASUDEVANAND SARASWATI AND SAI BABA

At Rajmahendry, Shri Pundalikrao and his friends came for the darshan of Shri Vasudevanand Saraswati. On knowing that they were going to Shirdi, Shri Vasudevanand Saraswati picked up a cocoanut, held it near his heart and handing it over to Pundalikrao said, "please give this to my brother."

On their way, in order to appease the heat of hot chivada, the cocoanut was broken by the party. When the party reached Shirdi and went for Shri Baba's darshan, He asked, "Where is the present from my brother?"

When Pundalikrao confessed everything, Shri Baba pardoned him for whatever had happened unknowingly and blessed him.

December 1984

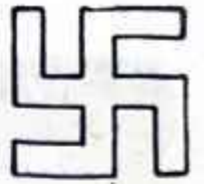
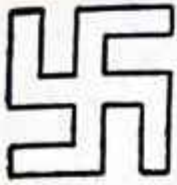
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SHRI SAILEELA

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CONTENTS

		Page
1 Editorial	Parable of Nine Balls of Stool	2
2 In Quest of Excellence	Dr. G. R. Vijayakumar	8
3 Christmas	Dr. Babaji	11
4 True Devotion	Shri M. Narasimha Rao	12
5 How Sai Baba Come into My Life	Shri Y. C. Subba Rao	14
6 Datta Parampara	Shri M. Ranga Chari	17
7 Celebration of Mahasamadhi day	Shri C. V. Bhaskara Rao	20
8 Keep Faith in Shri Sai Baba	Mrs. R. Fernandes	22
9 To The Editor	Smt. Sita Shri	26
10 Celebration of Punyatithi Day at Calcutta	Miss Gita Rajaram	28
11 Citizen of the world	Shri Homi Kaikobad	29
12 The Universal Giver	Shri K. Navin Chander	33
13 Self Awakening Institution	Shri D. Sankaraiah	37
14 Shri Sai Krupa	Shri B. Umamaheswararao	41
15 Bhishma Pitamah On a Bed of Arrows		43
16 Steps Towards Spiritual Awakening	Shri Y. V. Subbayya	44
17 Message of Sai Miracle	Mrs. Seetha Vijayakumar	45
18 News from Shirdi, September 1984		47



SHRI
SAILEELA

**Official Organ of
Shirdi Sansthan**

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is the principal, aim of SHRI SAI LEELA**

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Parable Of Nine Balls Of Stool

In Chapter twentyone of the Sai Satcharit, the story of Shri Anantrao Patankar, from Pune, is narrated at length as follows:-

एकदां एक पुण्यपट्टणकर । नामें अनंतराव पाटणकर । साईदर्शनी उपजला
आदर । आले सत्वर शिडींस ॥ ७५ ॥ वेदान्त श्रवण जाहला सकळ । सटीक
उपनिषदें वाचिलीं समूळ । परी तन्मानस अक्षयीं चंचल । राहीना तळमळ तयांची
॥ ७६ ॥ घेतां साईसमर्थांचें दर्शन । निवाले पाटणकरांचे नयन । करुनि पायांचें
अभिवंदन । यथोक्त पूजन संपादिलें ॥ ७७ ॥ मग होऊनि बद्धांजुली । वैसूनि
सन्मुख बाबांचे जवळी । अनंतराव प्रेमसमेळीं । करुणाबहाळीं पुसत कीं ॥ ७८ ॥
केलें विविध ग्रंथावलोकन । वेदवेदांग उपनिषदध्ययन । केलें सच्छास्त्र-पुराणश्रवण ।
परि हें निर्विण्ण मन कैसें ॥ ७९ ॥ वाचिलें तें व्यर्थ गेलें । ऐसेंच आतां वाटूं
लागलें । अक्षरहीन भावार्थी भले । वाटती चांगले मजहून ॥ ८० ॥ वायां गेलें
ग्रंथावलोकन । वायां शास्त्रपरिशीलन । व्यर्थ हें सकळ पुस्तकी ज्ञान । अस्वस्थ मन
हें जोंवरी ॥ ८१ ॥ काय ती फोल शास्त्रव्युत्पत्ती । किमर्थ महावाक्यानुवृत्ती । जेणें
न लाघे चित्तास शांति । ब्रह्मसंवित्ति काशाची ॥ ८२ ॥ कर्णोपकर्णी परिसिली
वार्ता । साईदर्शने निवारे चिंता । विनोद गोष्टी वार्ता करितां । सहज सत्वथा लावितां
ते ॥ ८३ ॥ म्हणवून महाराज तपोराशी । पातळो आपुल्या पायांपाशीं । येईल स्थैर्य
माझिया मनासी । आशीर्वचनासी द्या ऐसा ॥ ८४ ॥ तंव महाराज झाले कथिते ।
एका विनोदपर आख्यायिकेते । जेणें अनंतराव समाधानातें । पावले साफल्यते ज्ञानाच्या
॥ ८५ ॥ ती अल्पाक्षर परमसार । कथा कथितो व्हा श्रवणतत्पर । विनोद परी
तो बोधपर । कोण अनादर करील ॥ ८६ ॥ बाबा देत प्रत्युत्तर । “एकदां एक
आला सौदागर । तेव्हां एक घोडें समोर । घाली लेंडार नवांचें ॥ ८७ ॥ सौदागर
निजकार्यतत्पर । लेंडिया पडतां पसरिला पदर । बांधून घेतां घट्ट ल्या समग्र ।
चित्तैकाग्र्य लाधला” ॥ ८८ ॥ हें काय वदले साईसमर्थ । काय असावा कीं

माथितार्थ लेंडिया संग्रही सौदागर किमर्थ । कांहींही अर्थ कळेना ॥ ८९ ॥ ऐसा विचार करीत करीत । अनंतराव माधारा येत । कथिलें संभाषण इत्थंभूत । वेळकरांप्रत तयानें ॥ ९० ॥ म्हणती सौदागर तो कोण । लेंडियांचें काय प्रयोजन । नवांचेच काय कारण । सांगा उलगडून हें मजला ॥ ९१ ॥ दादा हे काय आहे कोडें । मी अल्पबुद्धि मज तें नुलगडे । होईल बाबांचें हृदय उघडें । ऐसें रोकडें मज कथा ॥ ९२ ॥ दादा वदती मजही न कळे । ऐसेच बाबांचें भाषण सगळें । परी तयांच्याच स्फूर्तीच्या बळें । कथितो आकळे जें मज ॥ ९३ ॥ कृपा ईश्वरी तें हें घोडे । हें तों नवविधा भक्तिचें कोडें । विनाभक्ति न परमेश्वर जोडे । ज्ञाना न आतुडे एकल्या ॥ ९४ ॥ श्रवण-कीर्तन-विष्णुस्मरण । चरणसेवन-अर्चन-वंदन । दास्य-सख्य-आत्मनिवेदन । भक्ति हे जाण नवविधा ॥ ९५ ॥ पूर्ण भाव ठेवूनि अंतरी । यांतून एकही घडली जरी । भावाचा भुकेला श्रीहरी । प्रकटेल घरीच भक्ताच्या ॥ ९६ ॥ जपतपत्रत योगसाधन । वेदोपनिषद-परिशीलन उदंड । अध्यात्मज्ञान-निरुपण । भक्तिविहीन तें फोल ॥ ९७ ॥ नको वेदशास्त्रव्युत्पत्ती । नको ज्ञानी हे दिगंतकीर्ती । नको शुष्कभजनप्रीती । प्रेमळ भक्ति पाहिजे ॥ ९८ ॥ स्वयें आपणा सौदागर समजा । सौद्याच्या या भावार्था उमजा । फडकतां श्रवणादि भक्तिची ध्वजा । ज्ञानराजा उल्हासे ॥ ९९ ॥ घोडयानें घातल्या लेंडया नऊ । सौदागर आतुरते घांवला घेऊं । तैसाच नवविधा भक्तिभावु । धरितां विसावु मनातें ॥ १०० ॥ तेणेंच मनास येईल स्थैर्य । संवाठायीं सद्भाव गांभीर्य । ल्यावीण चांचल्य हें अनिवार्य । काथिती गुरुवर्य सप्रेम ॥ १०१ ॥ दुसरे दिवशीं अनंतराय । वंदू जाता साईचे पाय । “पदरीं बांधिल्यास लेंडया काय” । पृच्छा ही होय तयांस ॥ १०२ ॥ अनंतराव तेव्हां प्रार्थिती । कृपा असावी दीनावरती । सहज मग त्या बांधिल्या जाती । काय ती महती तयांची ॥ १०३ ॥ तंव बाबा आशीर्वाद देती । ‘कल्याण होईल’ आश्वासिती । अनंतराव आनंदले चित्ती । सुखसंवित्ति लाघले ॥ १०४ ॥ (श्री साईसच्चरित अध्याय २१)

(Once a gentleman from Pune, by name Anantrao Patankar, wished to take darshan of Baba and therefore he came to Shirdi. Though he had heard all Vedanta, though he had read Upnishads fully, with their commentary, still his mind was always unsteady. He could not get peace of mind. However on taking the darshan of Shri Baba, the eyes of Shri Patankar were appeased. He fell at Baba's feet and performed His pooja properly. Then folding

his hands, Shri Anantrao sat near Baba in his front and said to him with affection, "I have read many books. I have studied the Vedas and Upanishads, I have heard the Shastras and Puranas. Still why is it that my mind is not at rest? I therefore now feel that all that I have read has gone in vain. I feel that illiterate persons, who are devout, are better than myself. So long as my mind is not at rest, I feel that my study of the books and the Shastras has gone in vain. This bookish knowledge is useless. The Study of Shastras is useless. What is the use of chanting good words? What is the use of that Brahmadnyan which does not give peace of mind? I heard that by taking darshan of Shri Sai Baba, a person's anxiety comes to an end. I had also heard that by playful and humourous talks, He leads anyone on the proper path. Therefore I have come to your feet, who are a store of penance. Please bless me in such a manner that my mind will become steady. At that time Shri Sai Baba told a humourous anecdote by which Shri Anantrao got satisfaction that his knowledge has become fruitful. I shall now tell you that story, which has limited words; but which has much substance. Be ready to listen to it. * Who will disregard that humourous talk which has good moral to convey. Shri Baba replied, 'Once' a Soudagar (Merchant) came here. In his front a horse passed nine balls of stool. The merchant who was attentive, spread the end of his cloth, collected all the nine balls and got concentration of his mind."

"What did Sai Baba say? What must be the inner meaning of all this? Why did the merchant collect the balls of stool? I am at a loss to know any thing out of it". Thinking in this fashion Shri Anantrao came back and telling all the conversation in detail to Shri Dada Kelkar he said," Who is this Soudagar? What is the meaning of the balls of stool? What is the reason for mentioning the number of balls as nine? Explain to me all this talk. Dada, what is this riddle? My intelligence falls short here and therefore I am not able to solve it. Please explain to me every thing in detail so that I will know fully the mind of

Shri Baba." After listening to this speech of Shri Patankar, Shri Dada Kelkar said, "Shri Baba's all speech is like that, Even I am not able to know it fully well. However because of the inspiration that I get from Him I will tell you whatever I can make out from that speech. The horse is the God's grace. This is the riddle of the ninefold devotion. It is not possible to get God's grace without devotion. You cannot get it only by knowledge. श्रवण (hearing), कीर्तन (Praying), स्मरण (remembering), चरणसेवन (resorting to the feet), अर्चन (worship), वंदन (bowing), दास्य (service), सख्य (friendship) and आत्मनिवेदन (surrender of the self) these are the nine ways of devotion. If you follow any one of these, keeping full faith in your mind, then Lord Hari, who likes devotion, will be pleased and He will manifest Himself at the house of that devotee. All the sadhanas viz. Japa (Chanting the name), Tapa (Penance), Vrat (Observing a vow). Yogasadhan (Practising Yoga), study of Vedas and Upanishads, expounding all the spiritual knowledge is useless without devotion. Knowledge of the Vedas and Shastras, widespread fame as a learned person or only dry love for Bhajan is of no avail. You must have loving devotion. You consider yourself as the merchant. Know the inner meaning of the transaction. By hoisting the flag of devotion due to listening etc. of God's name Unyanaraja will get exhilarated. The horse laid nine balls of stool and the soudagar (Merchant) hurriedly ran to collect them. Similarly when you take recourse to the devotion, which has nine facets, your mind becomes calm. By that only your mind will become steady. You will develop good wishes towards everybody. The best of Gurus (Shri Sai Baba) tells us with affection that without it (devotion) steadiness of mind is not possible. Next day when Anantrao went to Sai Baba for bowing down at His feet, the latter questioned him, "Have you collected the nine balls of stool?" In reply to this question, Shri Anantrao prayed to Baba to bless a poor man like him and said, "If your blessing is there then what is the worry about the nine balls of stool? They will be collected very easily." Then Shri Sai Baba blessed him assuring

him that every thing will be well. Shri Patankar was overjoyed after getting Shri Baba's blessings and he became happy).

The above story of Shri Anantrao Patankar tells a lot about Shri Sai Baba and hence though it has been told in the Sai Satcharit written by Shri Gunaji, it is reproduced here in original, together with its full translation, as some important points therein appear to have been overlooked by Shri Gunaji.

The first thing that we can conclude from it is that Shri Sai Baba did not give long sermons to explain His philosophy on spiritual topics in order to guide His devotees on the spiritual path. He simply used to explain things by simple stories and parables as is done in this story. His speech was sometimes found to be obscure even by His devotees, who were constantly with Him as here also Shri Dada Kelkar, who was with Him for so many years, says, "Shri Baba's speech is usually like this (ऐसेंच बाबांचें भाषण सगळें)"

The second thing that we notice is that Shri Baba had full knowledge of the 'devotion' as explained in श्रीमद्भागवत. It is not stated anywhere how and when Shri Baba acquired all the knowledge He had about Qoran, Vedas and Sanskrit books like Bhagawadgeeta and Bhagawat. Since His coming to Shirdi He was never seen to be reading or studying any book. However it is reported that He was seen sitting by the side of the Dhuni in Dwarkamai thinking to Himself. It was perhaps at that time that He was ruminating over all that He had studied in his early age before coming to Shirdi. We know from Sai Satcharit about the mention of the Guru of Shri Sai Baba and His stay with His Guru; but even if we suppose that Shri Baba acquired His knowledge at that age, it is really a wonder that He could remember all that at so late an age without occasionally rereading the old books, which He had studied.

The third thing that we notice here is the great stress laid by Shri Baba on devotion. He says very clearly, "If you pray to God in any of the nine ways, then the God, who is very

much fond of devotion will certainly manifest Himself at the house of that devotee. (पूर्णभाव ठेवूनि अंतरीं । यांनून एकही घडली जरी । भावाचा भुकेला श्रीहरी । प्रकटेल घरीच भक्ताच्या ॥ ९६ ॥)”

While describing the greatness of devotion, He further says very clearly, “observance of vows, Yogic practices study of the Vedas and Upnishads and expounding the spiritual knowledge is all useless without devotion. (जपतपव्रत योगसाधन । वेदोपनिषद-परिशीलन । उदंड अध्यात्मज्ञान-निरुगण । भक्तिविहीन तें फोल ॥ ९७ ॥)”

It will thus be seen that the moral of the above story of Shri Anantrao Patankar may be stated in short as devotion (भक्ति). Though the ways of devotion have been described in nine ways by Shri Vyas in Bhagawat and though they have been described as nine balls of stool by Shri Sai baba, how does he want His devotees to have devotion to Him? Those that have a close study of Shri Sai Satcharit might remember that Shri Sai Baba had given indication in this behalf at several times in his life-time. By His own example Shri Sai Baba says that His Guru only asked Him to give two pice dakshina viz. श्रद्धा and सबूरी. Then He also states that He readily gave His Guru these two pice dakshina and it helped Him to succeed in His life. He further states that His Guru never blew any ‘mantra’ in His ear and therefore He was unable to blow any mantra in the ears of His devotees. At other places Shri Baba has advised His devotees just to remember Him at all times and that only because of that He would be near His devotee to take care of him and to help him out of any calamity that might have fallen on him. The last of the ninefold devotions is आत्मनिवेदन (complete surrender) and this is also expected by Shri Sai Baba from all His devotees as this complete surrender expects the total absence of ego in the devotee. Let us all Sai devotees therefore understand the moral of the story of Shri Anantrao Patankar fully and surrender ourselves completely to Shri Sai Baba with full faith and devotion so that as promised by Him, He will lead us on the spiritual path to the successful end of Moksha. ★

In Quest Of Excellence

Lord Sainath never asked His devotees to pray on an empty stomach. He was against fasting as a person cannot concentrate on God. Still, His devotees practice occasional fasts or even skipping a meal on Thursdays as an austerity towards Sai Maharaj.

Mahatma Gandhi was the most prolific faster, abstaining from food for a total of 14 times in protest of various social injustices. His fasts lasted from 3 to 21 days. His opinion on 'fasting' was :- "It does'nt begin and end with mere deprivation of physical food. Absence of food is an indispensable part but not the largest part of it. The largest part is the prayer-Communion with God."

But this pathway to God is often mis-interpreted. Christians and Muslims fast for a given period of time in a year. The fast of Sai-devotees on every Thursday is not so rigorous; Only one meal is eliminated and the rest of the day's supply remains at its normal level.

Before considering a fast, you should ask yourself a few questions. What is the purpose of my fast? What guidelines Sainath gave me about fasting? How long should I attempt the discipline? What benefits do I expect?

Purpose of the fast

In no instance in 'Shri Sai Satcharita' was a fast undertaken without a purpose in mind. But these purposes vary widely.

* As an aid to improved devotional life ; Radhabai Deshmukh came to Baba for Upadesh, got none and resolved to fast which should end with either death or upadesh from Baba. (Jesus Christ fasted soon after baptism).

* As a help in times of crisis - to get back the stolen money, a Fakhr advices a Goan devotee to give up what he liked

best with the vow that he will not eat it, till he has 'Darshan' of Sai Maharaj.

* As a means of showing concern for others : Mrs. Gokhale visits Shirdi and desires to fast on 'Holi' day. Baba advises her against fasting and asks her to prepare 'pooran poli' in Dada Kelkar's house. Her presence was needed there.

* As a way to strength : H. S. Disit wanted to fast at night, but he gives it up as per Baba's advice.

* As an act of penance : Kusha Bhau S. B. Nahne and others avoid eating onions on 'Ekadashi' day. (Holy Mother Ananda Mayi asks one of her devotees to fast for a day, on account of his misbehaviour towards a brother-devotee). Therefore your own goal should be clear. Precisely what is it, you want to accomplish with this fast.

Check your motive

Lord Sainath does not want us to torture our body. He only asks us :- "Do you remember me before eating? Am I not always with you? Then do you offer me anything before you eat?"

Length of the fast

The Sai Satcharita standards allow a great latitude. You should decide as to how long you intend to fast.

* H. S. Dixit's idea was to fast on all nights.

* Mrs. Gokhale wanted to fast during her stay in Shirdi

* S. B. Nahne wanted to fast on 'EKADASHI' day only.

* Radhabai Deshmukh fasted for three days.

* Cholkar avoided only sugar till he had 'darshan' of Sai Maharaj.

The fast itself

To make your fast as meaningful as possible, here are a few pointers :-

* Keep your fast a secret. It should not call attention to itself. It should not disrupt the household or go against medical advice.

* Make creative use of the time given to you by the skipped meal. Read 'Sai Satcharit'. While skipping a meal once a week, will make you healthily hungry, it is also an excellent aid to spiritual development.

* Keep records : It is useful to write down all the benefits and difficulties you face with your fast.

* As a secondary thought, consider saving the money you do not spend on your meal and giving it to the needy. It is a good idea to contribute towards 'Poor Feeding' done by Shirdi Sansthan.

Evaluation

Take time to evaluate your fast. How successful were you in maintaining your discipline? What benefits have you noticed?

- * An increased sense of concentration for prayer.
- * The ability to distinguish between desire and basic needs.
- * More power for intercessory prayers.
- * Thankfulness. Doing without highlights the good we have.

In conclusion, by deliberately withholding from ourselves the usual source of nourishment and strength, we are thrown upon the 'pure spiritual milk' of our kamadhenu Lord Sainath; we are drawn into a new dependence upon Him. Remember that, "your Father who sees you in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:4) ★

Dr. G. R. Vijayakumar

Medical Officer, Balanoor Tea and Rubber Co. Limited
DURGADADETTA 577 118 | Chikmagalur dist. (Karnataka)

Christmas

(In this month the Christian devotees of Shri Sai Baba will be celebrating Christmas. Hence in the following poem Dr Babaji, a sincere Sai devotee, explains what Christmas stands for. An experience of a Christian devotee from Bombay has also been given elsewhere in this issue. — Editor

C Is for Christ, The child,
who was sleeping on the hay.

H Is for the Heavenly Host,
who worshipped Him that day.

R Is for the Radiance
on Mother Maryis divine face.

I Is for the lowly Inn,
a poor and humble place.

S Is for the Star, that shone
to guide the shepherds there.

T Is for the travellers,
who brought Him treasures rare.

M Is for the manger
where He laid His little head.

A Is for the Angels,
who covered round his bed.

S Is for the Saviour,
who brought peace and joy to earth,
on the wondrous night which we celebrate
as the night of Jesus Christis birth !!!

Dr. Babaji

True Devotion

(a goal of the human birth)

Any serious student of Vedanta should cultivate the qualities conducive to keeping the mind calm. Man's sense organs graze in the world of objects of the sense stimuli. Supported by the mind, which, in turn is prompted by old memories lying deep as subtle tendencies (vasanas), the sense organs go after various sense objects to satisfy the desires. If the object desired is obtained, one feels happy; if not, he feels disappointed. These are but modifications of the mind. Disappointment may lead to chain reaction giving rise to envy, hatred and anger making the person miserable. Thus the objects as such in the world are not the cause of man's mental disturbances, which are caused only because of his attachment to them.

When the mind is in an agitated or disturbed state, its vitality is dissipated. An exhausted, fatigued mind is not a fit instrument for Vedantic study in quest of truth, reality and the one who enlivens the body, mind, senses and intellect but is different and apart from everyone of them. The quality of the mind depends upon the values respected intellectually.

Hence, a serious student of Vedanta is expected to practise certain ethical and moral principles so that the mind is gradually freed from disturbances. Freedom from vanity, unpretentiousness, non-injury in thought, word and deed, modesty and forbearance are some of the traits which need to be cultivated. These qualities help the mind to remain calm and free from agitation and exploit its full potential for the spiritual quest.

A surgeon, before performing a major operation, say, on the brain or on the heart, takes extra care to keep the instruments

absolutely clean. Similarly, one has to keep the mind and intellect well-sharpened to probe the reality and re-discover himself.

Pure, unsullied love (Prema) and spirit of sacrifice (Tyaga) are the two main characteristics of a true devotee (Bhakta). His love for the Lord is spontaneous and devotion motiveless. Since God is all-pervading, His love embraces all His creation. The true devotee cannot hurt others even by thought.

In most cases devotion depends upon the fulfilment or otherwise of one's prayer. If the prayer is not fulfilled, the person stops worshipping. He is so selfish and selfcentred that he has no love for the Lord, the greatest benefactor. On the other hand, the true devotee accepts both joys and sorrows as gifts of God (Prasad) with equanimity.

Among the devotees some may do Bhajan, some may worship the Lord with flowers and fruits and some may meditate upon Him. More important than all these external forms of devotion is the feeling in one's bosom. The worshipper, who makes several offerings to God, should understand that after all he is not offering any thing which is not created, preserved and bestowed upon him by God Himself. In fact, he is not offering anything of his own. All that, God looks for in the devotee is his pure, blemishless love.

One should learn and strive to lead a life based on dharma that will please the Lord and not waste this precious life in accumulating wealth and acquiring fame to earn the praise of others. When death snatches away a person nothing will accompany him except the fruits of good deeds (Punya). A true devotee understands the ephemeral nature of worldly pleasures and spends his time usefully in strengthening the true, lasting relationship with God. He is deeply conscious that all worldly possessions, in reality, do not belong to his true self.

The true devotee sticks to his steadfast faith in God and develops self-confidence. Once he has acquired self-confidence, he undertakes activities that give him inner satisfaction. Once he is self-satisfied, he is capable of self-sacrifice leading to self-realisation, the aim and goal of the human birth ★

M. Narasimha Rao

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How Sai Baba Came Into My Life

After reading the experiences of Baba's devotees published in Sai Leela Magazine, I am also tempted and inspired by Sai Baba to place my own experience before my beloved and devout devotees of Baba.

It was in the year 1949 or so, when Sai Baba first made his appearance in our house at Podili in the form of a small silver idol. My brother-in-law Shri K.K. Moorthy, now Grade I Officer in the Andhra Bank at Hyderabad, then a devotee of Sai Baba seemed to have misplaced it somewhere in the house, which was later traced by me. I kept it safe in my Godrej Almyrah, though I did not know anything about Sai Baba of Shirdi and his miracles. Later Baba came to me in the shape of a picture. I got it framed; but I could not keep it longer in my house at Ongole, as I presented the photo to the secretary of the Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank Limited., Ongole, which was hung on the wall of the Bank premises. There had been considerable improvement in the business transactions of the

bank, after the entry of Baba into the bank premises. This I could visibly notice, as one of its legal advisers.

After reading the articles of Swami Kesavaiahji and Shri B.V. Narasimha Swamiji, staunch devotees of Sai Baba of Shirdi, who were pioneers in spreading Sai culture and devotion in the South, I was attracted towards Sai Baba of Shirdi. I wrote an article in Telugu about Swami Kesavaiahji and was contributing my humble mite to the All India Sai Samaj, Madras. I received silver lockets containing the photos of Sai Baba and B.V. Narasimha Swamiji engraved on either side and Ashtotharam, which I read daily in my morning prayers. Swami Kesavaiahji also sent me a consecrated rupee note and a packet of "Udhi" for keeping safe in my Puja Mandir, together with his blessings. During his Andhra tour and on his way to Vuyyur, I met Swami Kesavaiahji at Ongole Railway Station, when he blessed me and two others, applying "Udhi" on our foreheads. These incidents took place in 1967.

But Sai Baba really entered into my life only in 1980. In the month of August 1980, I had a mild heart attack, which drove me to look to Sai Baba for relief, comfort and solace. By Baba's grace, I slowly recovered and became healthy. The periodical lectures delivered by Shri E. Bharadwaja, a devotee of Sai Baba, at Ongole aroused great interest in me and ever since I became a humble devotee of Sai Baba, though our family deity is Lord Venkateswara of Tirumala. I made super-human efforts to perform my second daughter's marriage and nearly thirty interviews took place. At last I took refuge in Baba and with His grace, the marriage was performed at Mangapuram in October 1980. I took a vow to visit Shirdi soon after the marriage of my Second daughter. I visited Shirdi for the first time in 1981 on Shreeramanavami day and Sai Baba helped me and guided me throughout my journey, though I was new to the

place and surroundings. At Shirdi, I worshipped baba in the Samadhi Mandir and visited all places sacred to devotees. I also met Shri Martanda Maharaj, living contemporary of Sai Baba and paid my respects to him. I also went to Sakuri to receive the blessings of Sati Godavari Mataji, disciple of Shri Upasani Baba. It is said that the holy trip to Tirumala is not complete unless the devotee visits and worships Padmavathi Ammavaru of Alamelumangapuram. Likewise the holy trip to Shirdi is not complete unless the devotee visits Sakuri and receives the blessings of Sati Godavari Mataji of Sakuri.

Since Baba entered into our household, He is blessing us. All the family members became devotees of Sai Baba. The omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient Baba, blessing His devotees from His Samadhi Mandir at Shirdi, also accepted dakhsina from me for the construction of His temples at Vidyanagar and Ongole in Andhra Pradesh. ★

Y. C. Subba Rao

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Datta Parampara

(Shri Vallab to Shri Sainath)

[On the 8th of this month, devotees of Shri Gurudeo Datta will be celebrating Dattajayanti (the birth day of Lord Datta). The following article of Shri M. Rangachari is therefore being published in this issue as it gives in brief the chief aspects of the Datta Parampara and points out how Shri Sai Baba is connected with it. — Editor]

कृते जनार्दनो देवः त्रेतायां रघुनन्दनः ।

द्रापारे श्रीकृष्णदेवश्च कलौ श्री साई गुरुर्देवः ॥

पण्डित विद्यालन्कर

Yogiraj Datta Jagadguru

Lord Dattareya is the most celebrated and eternal incarnation of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwar. The incarnation of Dattaprabhoo is as old as the Vedas. Though the Supreme Brahman is unborn and dies not, sometimes, whenever there is danger to Dharma and when specially, Adharma largely prevails, He descends and takes an incarnation as "God-Man" or Avatar to protect the good and righteous and to annihilate the cruel and the wicked. It is readily discernible from all known Avatars that each one had its own Divine Mission; but none of them is a Guru-God, like Bhagawan Datta, the Universal Teacher (Jagadguru) imparting Divine wisdom and finally granting salvation by His grace. The 'sampradaya' or cult of Trigunatmak Shri Dattaprabhoo is very old and it claims disciples from the four varnas i.e., Brahmans, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras and from the four Ashrams namely, Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Wanaprastha and Sannyas, and Margas, Jnana, Raja, Bhakti and Karma. In its fold there are Kshatriyas like Kartiveerya, King Yadu, King Alarka and

Brahmins like Parashurama and Vasishtha, and Yogins like Saint Eknath, Dnyaneshwar, Janardan, Shri Dasopant, and Puranic Bakthas like Prahlada, Samavartak, bestowing upon them Kaivalyam as the finale of their human existence. Datta Sampradaya is a sublime synthesis of the tenets of Dwaita, Adwaita, Vishishtadwaita, and the philosophic theories, Mayawada, Parinama-vada and Chidvilaswada, the Anand sampradaya, Chaitanya Sampradaya, and Mahanubhava, Samartha and Nath Panths. Also we find its connection with all the three kinds of Sakta-Agama, i.e., Tantra, Yamala and Damara and also very closely connected with Shri Vidya and Tripura Rahasya taught by Lord Dattatreya to Parashurama, Agastya and Lopamudra. There is a close and inseparable relationship between Shri Dattatreya and Shakti peethas. Punyakshetras, places of Datta's daily visit and places of His residence are said to be Kashi, Phandharpur, Karhad, Kolhapur, Panchaleshwar, Tuljapur, Ganagapur, Mahur, Bilwandi, and Garudeshwar. In this sphere of Upanishadic concepts, Dattatreya, Guru of Gurus, is Parabrahman personified and He is the very form of Lord Narayana. From the point of spiritual progress, Datta Sampradaya forms the brightest aspect of Maharashtra culture and carved out for itself a glorious heritage of seers and saints galore. Consequently, Maharashtra has been a richly fertile soil for reaping a very bumper harvest of Guru Sampradaya, enshrined in every Maharashtra-home.

Shripada Shri Vallabha and Shri Nrisimha Saraswati

According to "Gurucharitra" of 'Shri Gangadhar Saraswati', Shripada Shri Vallabha (about 13th Century A.D.) the first known incarnation of Lord Dattatreya is also termed as the Adiguru. Born in Srikshetra Pithapuram (Andhra Pradesh) Shri Vallabha was an Avadhoota, Yogin. He moved extensively throughout Bharatvarsha. He visited Benaras (Kashi), Badrihath in Himalayas, stayed in Gokarna Mahabaleshwar on the western sea-coast, Shri Shailam (Andhra Pradesh) and finally adopted Kurvapur (Kurvagadda), a tiny island in river Krishna as his place of

abode. The Benevolent Shri Vallabha showered His grace on one and all and gave them sadgati. To keep His divine assurance, given to a distressed woman, Shri Vallabha reincarnated himself as Shri Nrisimha Saraswati at Karanjnagar. This incarnation has placed the loftiest example of Sannyas Dharma. He sanctified a number of Teertha-kshetras such as Mahurgarh, Girnar, Ganagapur and Narsimha wadi. They represent glorious manifestation of Lord Dattatreya.

Yogiraj Samartha Sadguru Sai Nath :

In recent times of Kaliyuga, Shirdi Sai Baba, the great Mystic Yogin (19th/20th Century) appeared as Sampurna Avatar of Datta Prabhu. The nativity of Shri Sai Nath is shrouded in supernatural mystery. Possibly, like Datta Prabhu, Shri Sai Nath may be also an "Ayonisambhav", (not born from the human womb). Shri Datta Prabhu in the two incarnations as Shripada Vallabha and Shri Nrisimha Saraswati, significantly, illustrated Avadhoota Dharma and Sannyas Dharma, respectively. Verily, these two Dharmas are found exemplified amply in Shri Sai. Compassion and mercy are the important characteristics of Datta. Quite similar is the case with Shri Sai Nath. He as a great Redeemer and Saviour showered His grace upon all without any distinction and treated alike the poor and the rich, the illiterate and the scholar, the low and the high, the sinner and the puritan, the atheist and the theist. Any one and every one seeking His Anugraha derived without any exclusiveness His unbounded compassion and mercy. All the distinctive features of Lord Dattatreya and Datta Sampradaya, sublimely synthesised, are fully manifested in Sai Nath, a unique phenomenon. Sai's life-teachings are time-less, eternal and they are a cosmic refrain of Sai bliss and they shall continue to illuminate every nook and corner of the world with ever increasing resplendence.

Let us fervently pray for a posterity resurrected with Sai bliss to serve as most potent panacea to insane harrowing,

confronting nuclear cataclysm (Mahapralayam) threatening the very human existence.

Salutations and Homage to Thee Oh ! Sai Nath on this occasion of Dattajayanti ! Thou art Lord Dattatreya Himself descended on this earth to save us all in this Kaliage ★

M. Ranga Chari
President Shirdi Sai Mission,
Sai Kutir, 3-4-52 /3/1, Narayanaguda Hyderabad 500 027 (A. P.)



Celebration of Mahasamadhi Day

This year at our centre we celebrated Shri Sai Baba's 66th Mahasamadhi day on 4th and 5th October 1984. Many devotees participated in it and sought the blessings of Shri Sai Baba. This year our programme had to be curtailed to only for two days since the expansion work of the centre is in progress. We are putting up a First Aid Centre, a Library and a Meditation Hall which we hope to complete with Baba's blessings within the next few months. The following are the details of the programme in brief :-

- 4-10-84 8-00 to 10-00 a.m. - Rudrabhisheka and Archana
Thursday
- 10-00 to 11-30 a.m. - Bhajan - Maha Mangalarathi -
Prasada Viniyoga
- 7-00 to 8-30 p.m. - Recitation of Vishnu Sahasra-
nama, Devotional Songs,
Bhajan and Maha Mangalarathi.

5-10-84
Friday

6-30 to 7-30 a.m. - Rudrabhisheka

8-00 to 12-00 noon - Shri Vishnu Sahasranama
Homa - Poornahuti - Maha
Mangalarathi - Poor Feeding

2-00 to 4-00 P.m. - Laksharchana - by ladies

7-00 to 9-00 p.m. - Procession of Shri Sai Baba's
portrait in a well decorated
chariot with full illumination.

It may be noted that the procession of Shri Sai Baba was a grand success. The 3 kilometer long procession was watched by thousands of devotees.

On 9th October 1984 (Tuesday) we performed Shri Narasimha Swamiji Aradhana with Rudrabhisheka and Archana, Bhajan, Maha Mangalarathi and Poor Feeding at noon. In the evening we had Shri Sathyanarayana Pooja attended by over 500 devotees.

C. V. Bhaskara Rao
President Shri Sai Spiritual Centre Shri Sai Baba Mandir Road
Thyagarajnagar Bangalore 560 028 (Karnataka)



Keep Faith in Shri Sai Baba and you will never fail

My dear good people of Sai devotee's and others. I am a catholic and want to share my experience in Sai Leela magazine. My son Anthony was in his second year of B.Sc.

Suddenly in the last week of February 1981, he started getting headache with fever. We took him to a doctor; but he had no relief. Then we took him to another doctor. We tried his medicine nearly for two weeks; but still the fever did not leave him. Every alternate day he used to get 100 or 101 degrees fever and it made my son very weak. He used to get very frightened to have a bath because as soon as he had a bath he used to get fever. My husband and myself were very desperate and we prayed to God to cure him. One of my husband's friend told us that there is a doctor, very highly qualified and to take my son to him. So we took him to that doctor, he examined him by taking all the tests such as urine, blood and the x-ray of the chest. When the x-ray report came, he found a slight patch in his chest, so the doctor gave him his medicine and after 15 days he repeated the x-ray test again; but the patch was the same and still fever did not leave him. We prayed to Mother Mary and we were very desperate. Then I thought of one doctor Mr. Chaudhari (a Sai devotee) who had cured me by giving me homeopathic medicine. No other doctor's medicine had cured me except Mr. Chaudhari.

One day I took my son to Mr. Chaudhari and told him about my son's sickness then he thought for a little while and checked all his previous medical reports and he said to me, "Mrs. Fernandes the doctor has done all the tests; but why not do his sputum test first and we shall see if there are any symptoms of T. B. Then I will send him to a nice hospital or a doctor."

Mr. Chaudhari's words brought tears in my eyes and my son fainted. Mr. Chaudhari made him sleep on a bed and after taking some rest we started to go home. While stepping out of his house Mr. Chaudhari said, "first bring the sputum test report and show that to a qualified doctor and if that doctor is not giving medicine then," patting my son on his back he said, "I will give you medicine by the name of Sai Baba". Then we left Mr. Chaudhari's house and reached the bus stop, My son said that he was feeling giddy and he sat down on the road. He said, "we will go by cab; but I had only Rs.10 in my purse. Thinking that Rs. 10 won't be enough for taxi fare, I waited for a little while for the bus after praying to Mother Mary to help me. Soon an empty bus came and we got into it and reached home safely.

On the same day at 1.30 p.m. I sent my son to the hospital for the sputum test. I was so desperate that I did not know which God to call; but the little words of Mr. Chaudhari were playing in my mind "by the name of Sai Baba I will give you medicine". That same day I said to my son, "go and take a bath by the name of Sai Baba". He was getting very frightened to have a bath because as soon as he had a bath he used to get more fever; but that day he had a nice bath and I served him food which we all ate. Otherwise I used to cook his food separately then I sent him to bed without giving any medicine; but the whole night I did not get sleep thinking that something terrible might happen to him. Three times in the middle of the night I got up to see him but I was getting very much frightened to touch him to see whether he had fever, but next day I asked my son, "Tony, was your head paining last night?" He said "no" and at that moment I touched him from the forehead till the toe. And lo! His body was cold. For four days we kept watch on him and stopped the medicine; but there was no fever. On the fourth day in the evening I was sitting alone and thinking that which God has worked this miracle. At 4.30 p.m. someone

knocked at our door so I went to see who it was. There was a beggar standing at my door with pure white shirt and cream colour shorts with his blue eyes shining and looking into my eyes and my eyes too meeting his eyes. A part of his sleeve was also torn. One month back I had seen a photo of Sai Baba in one shop. In that photo, the sleeve was torn in the same way. He said to me, "sister give me one white shirt." At that moment I thought this man is very thin. Suppose I give him the shirt which I have got it will not fit him. I will alter it and give it to him next time when he comes; because this same beggar used to visit our building often. so I said to him, "come next time and I will give you" I came inside took 25 paise coin and went to give it to him; but he was not there. I therefore told my daughter, "take this 25 paise, go to the first floor and give this to the beggar". She came back and said, "mummy beggar is not there". Then I told her, "go running down the lane and give him". Still she came back and said there was no one. Then I thought how could he disappear so fast? From that day I did not see him any more. On the sixth day I went to Mr. Chaudhari's house and I told him, "uncle, tony got no fever. We did not give him medicine but he became alright". Then when he asked me I told him how after that time when he had given the sputum test, I told Tony to take Sai Baba's name and to go and have a bath. From that time he was alright After the sputum test, the qualified doctor had given him medicine worth Rs. 75/- which I did not open at all. As per the appointment after a week, my son went to see the doctor who congratulated him and told him not to take the previous medicine and he prescribed only B-Complex tablets. My husband, relatives and myself all became very happy. I took all the medicines to the chemist who took them back and refunded the money, Mr. Chaudhari said, "Mrs. Fernandes, Sai Baba can work lots of miracles if you keep faith in him".

He told me that on Ekadasi day one fakir came to his door. Like all the other beggars, he gave him 25 paise and he came inside. He had a doubt that fakir's face from one side looked like Sai Baba's face, Soon he went to see him; but he was not there. Then he stood in his verandah for nearly 45 minutes to see the beggar passing but he was not to be seen. Mr. Chaudhari said, "see Baba came to my door and I forgot to recognize him. I miss him very badly". When he was telling me all this I was thinking of my incident. Then I told him what happened at my door the other day, then he got up from his chair and said, "Mrs. Fernandes, see Baba came to your house to bless you. Now you have become Sai Baba's devotee".

My dear Sai Leela readers, whatever and however hard the difficulties which come across my way, my Sai Lord at once helps me.

On 23rd of January 1982, we visited Shirdi for the first time. Our whole family was blessed by Sai Baba and we are now very happy. When we entered the Masjid, I became very joyful and happy. Tears came from my eyes. Through Mr. Chaudhari our whole family became strong Sai Baba's devotees. To Sai Baba there is no caste or creed. ★

Mrs. R. Fernandes
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To
The Editor,
Shri Sai Leela

Sir,

I was overwhelmed to receive the April 1984 issue of your esteemed magazine bearing the picture of Shri Sai Nath on an art paper. Shri Sai Baba really struck me as Kaliyug Avatar Purush with the only difference that He is leaning on the horse instead of sitting on its back as the tenth Avatar (Kali) is supposed to appear at the end of this Yuga riding on a horse.

As usual I read with great interest the editorial and other articles and found them elevating and inspiring. However, I don't share the views of Mr. K. Navin Chander, who says in his article "Offerings of Gratitude" that Shri Sai Leela should contain "half a dozen well judged articles rather than a dozen smaller ones peddling only to a parody of narration". I really wonder how many would have understood the first part of his article which stresses the need for pomp and pagentry of expression more than the story as the criterion for writing even devotional articles.

Simplicity, in my humble opinion, with true bhakti (devotion) alone will be preferred by masses. In any temple, "Vishwa rupa darshan" where the deity bereft of all the clothes and ornaments, in the early morning is considered very important. The Lingam verily indicates the idea of Vishwarupa, the formless God. The Sadhus and Sannyasins attract the people not by their attire but by their spiritual excellence. Why should simplicity not be the guide-line for Sai leela articles too ?

A story in this connection will not be considered inappropriate or irrelevant. A certain Bhakta used to occupy a seat in a particular place on the outer prakara of Shri Rangam temple (Trichy, in South India) and went on reading Bhagawadgeeta.

His reading was considered faulty in that he used to omit some words and also skip several lines. While he was reading, the Vedic Scholars tried to correct him; but it was in vain. It so happened that, Krishna Chaitanya Prabhu of Bengal expressed his desire to visit this famous temple. The authorities made elaborate arrangements to receive this spiritual dignitary with Purna Kumbha; but they were at a loss to know how to evict the Bhakta from his seat. At last some one suggested to him to occupy a seat at the rear portion of the temple where he could go on with his Gita Parayan. This devotee readily consented to this proposal.

Shri Krishna Chaitanya arrived as scheduled and was given a warm welcome with music, which rent the air. As soon as Shri Chaitanya Prabhu entered the temple premises, he could hear the recitation of Gita despite the thunderous noise, and ran helter skelter to locate the origin of the Gita chanting. When he met the Bhakta he was overjoyed, but he could not bear to hear the faulty recitation of the holy book and tried to persuade the devotee to recite it correctly to which the latter replied, "Swamy, I do wish to read the Gita Correctly; but the Maya Krishna occupies the page, dancing away to glory, blurring my vision. Whatever is visible, the lines, the words, that only I am able to read. I wonder when the Lord will be pleased to enable me to read the holy Gita Correctly". On hearing this statement Shri Chaitanya Prabha prostrated before the Bhakta and sought his blessings.

The purport of this letter is to emphasise that an article to find entry in Sai Leela, need not be necessarily clothed in flowery language; but it should be a true narration interwoven with bhakti. I am glad your selection of articles does fulfil this primary condition.

I do not know the rules governing a devotee to qualify as a delegate for the Sai convention. I endorse the view that the number of subscribers should be increased, but let there not be

any pressure on the part of the devotee subscribers to enrol fresh members. I have already thought of getting two more subscribers. by sending yearly subscription as gift, on their behalf, after knowing their interest in Shri Sai Nath.

May Shri Sai Nath bless us all. ★

Yours ever in service of Shri Sai

Sita Shri

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Celebration of Punyatithi day at Calcutta

The Calcutta Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir Society celebrated the 66th Samaradana of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba on the 4th October 1984, with needed rituals and grandeur. All class of devotees from every corner of Calcutta assembled in the pandal, to witness the occasion and attained Baba's blessings.

The function started with usual Khalasa Sthapana and invocation of Ganapati on the Mahalaya day. Laksha Archana also started daily. Lalitha Sahasranamam, Vishnu Sahasranamam and Sai Baba Ashtothram were chanted.

On the 5th October, the Society concluded the celebrations with Hanumanjee Puja by chanting the Sama Vedha by Rajamani Shastrigal. All throughout eminent artists gave melodious Bhajans.

On Sunday the 7th October Daridra Narayana Seva was conducted on a mass scale with the distribution of sweets etc. All throughout the occasion we the sevakas of the mandir could feel the immense power and spirit of our Lord God Shri Shirdi Sai Baba the only Kaliyuga Avatar. ★

Miss Gita Rajaram

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Citizen of The World

Our Sai's ways are true and to the point. On arrival back at Muscat from our London trip, we had just settled down when Baba in effect gave a vision wherein He ordered our coming here to this small place in Spain. Leaving Muscat we miss the Sai atmosphere the most; our artis, pujas, ibadat and being with people of the same beliefs. By His order, we the children of Sai, are to look for and establish an alternate base.

There are a number of Sai Bhaktas in Muscat who are elevated considerably. One Mr. G. Sai Baba is gifted with Baba's blessings and is able to unravel the day to day problems of people and give them valuable guidance. One Mr. Khanna is a Baba-Bhakta of some 25 years' standing and he gets powerful visions off and on. Baba is now all over Muscat. Every Thursday there is an arti where more than forty bhaktas regularly assemble. Just before coming away, we had another akhand-path starting and completing the Satcharita the same day. Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, Parsis, Christians and men from all walks of life assemble during these satsangas.

In Dubai, in the six days we had to spend there for visas, Baba was in front and back of us. In our hotel room, we made a small mandir for Baba's Dwarkamai photo, which Chavdi Swamy gave us. Then Vera and Armin started bringing other photos. "Papa, why should we keep Ganapati Baba in the darkness of the suitcase? Let Him sit and enjoy Dubai air also." See, how happy is our Vibhuti-wala out there! See Venkateshwarji here. He likes Sai sangat! So here were they all, our real Mother and Father, in our hotel-room. Then some one thought of making a make-shift agarbathi stand from a used Prasad-dish; and we used the butter from the hotel's butter toast and put jyoti and lighted Baba's deep. Within a day people from all walks of life started streaming in for Baba's darshan. One

Sindhi gentleman with extraordinary satwik bhavana for Baba also came, when a very beautiful photo of Sai, with white Kafni, suddenly turned a distinct ochre ! While he was praying and meditating with shut eyes, I motioned to Dolly and children and asked of the colour of the Kafni and they said, "Geru" When he finished prayer and was asked of the colour, he said "White !" When the colour changed again, yet another bhakta was asked and reply was "Yellow !" During dhyana later I asked of Baba and He gave a clear indication of what the colour change meant. Next day this gentleman came again and on his entry the same changes occurred. Then in Baba Sai Malik's name, I told this gentleman as directed by Baba the previous day -- to put on the yellow Kafni and be one with Baba Sai, leaving family, work and walk on Sai marg and in turn to lead others in that oneness. A rare, blessed and invaluable mala presented by a Himalayan sage to lady devotee in London, who gave it to me on a blessed occasion, was also given to him. On receiving it he broke down in a profusion of tears and said, "Tired and dejected of life, I always wanted to go this way ; but now He is Himself calling and I am happy and contented." When we left Dubai after 6 days many hearts broke, not the least ours, since we knew it would sometime before we could be in such Sai-laden company again.

In Rome, while in transit, we were in a small hotel. It was Thursday and we felt forlorn without Sai-sang and worship. At night Dolly and I and our two daughters felt really down. We looked to the Ganeshji Murti and Baba's photos, small though they were (larger ones still in suitcases for safe-keeping) and were confounded as to how to do arti and puja without deep, dhoop and flowers. All of a sudden, it occurred to us that arti is artha, or the taking up of labour for the devotion towards Him and that arti, in difficult circumstances, is more consonant with artha. The singhaar, dhoop, flowers and pancharti are all outward signs of an inward devotion ! Thus in that small hotel room in Rome, hundreds of miles away from any

outward sign of Sai worship, we the four children of Baba, offered this artha to Baba Sai Fakir; the playing on the tape; a burning desire in our hearts in place of arti's flame in our hands; the fragrance of His name on our lips in place of the aromatic dhoop in the air; and the soft feel of His blessings in place of flowers. He is everywhere. And where He is, all is there. In those solemn moments we were convinced from the bottom of our hearts that ostentation is not really required for performing arti. Dedication of mind at the lotus feet of Sai is all that is important.

Next day we arrived at Barcelona in Spain. Staying there for a week, we started for our destination by an evening train. In the compartment of 6 sleepers, besides us, we had two girls, one Spanish and the other also a European but of African origin. In passing, the latter mentioned that she had visited India. Just before dawn we reached our place, a town of small size, and got down. Imagine, with darkness all around, with shivering cold all over and the train hissing to be on the way again, leaving us on that almost deserted station, when this girl, mentioned before, came running to the compartment door and handed us a package we forgot to bring down. Standing on the platform with the train about to move away, I felt grateful to her and asked her to sit so I could bless her. She knelt and I blessed her with a silent invocation when in a clear voice, she said "Shri Satchidanand Sadguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai!" And she went her way and we ours probably never to see each other again. It was no small wonder to us.

In this far flung place we are here by ourselves missing Sai-sang. In the apartment Baba has given us here, taken on hire, we have set up our mandir and masjid, We do arti daily, path daily and during at least half the waking hours we have Sai on our lips. For the external loneliness, thirsting for Sai-sang we mentally try to be in Shirdi with Sai where He is sitting with Abdul; at the Lendi when He sprinkles water from pots in all directions. Often I like to see Him, on a quiet night

when all Shirdi sleeps and there is none in the masjid except He. The Dhuni into which He peers gives a glow and a glimmer, with an occasional brightening of flame at a falling ember, lapsing into the dull glow again. The light flickers on His rugged features, now on the brow, now fading on to the rafters of the masjid. And lo ! What is He frowning at ? How His eyes are aglow, how tawny He looks ! Though His feet are dusty, His Kafni worn and torn, nevertheless He looks quite a Prince. Now He looks grim, eyes angry. Now He seems, all anger gone, lo ! Now His brow, of itself, fills with Vibhuti, which sheds and falls on His lap, at his feet but He is un-noticing. Building an enchanting mental scenery thus, yielding our minds into deep satisfying meditation, we spend our time in this far away place in Spain. Sometimes a voice rises in my throat and says to Baba, "Ya Sai ! Kahan teri nagri; Kahan tera basera; Kaisa re tera Kabila; Kaun tu, jawab de re Allah-wale". And Baba promptly replies, "Sun sawalee ! Jidhar tu basey, so meri nagri; Tere dhyan me basera mera dham; Mera Kabila mehood tere sayen mein; Aur mera jawab tere sawaal mein".

Baba made us feel each in this far away place, like Himself, a citizen of the World. ★

Homi Kaikobad

(Article sent through Shri K. Navin Chander from Hyderabad)



The Universal Giver

All these years we were reading Sai Leelas from our own homeland; but Shri Saibaba is a Universal Father ! Anybody from any corner of the world can pray to Him and, in the twinkling of an eye, He would be with him, everobliging to take full motherly care of his life. Here is the moving story of a couple from abroad written mostly in their own words. "Dear Navinji

Myself my wife Dolly and my daughters, Vera and Armin read your articles in Shri Saileela and were moved deeply by your energy of purpose. Your idea of Niranthara Akhanda Sai Nama Japa in Shirdi is very appropriate. It is going to be a real service in Sai's name in envisaging something ceaseless and eternal, in building up bridges of faith, when all around us there is uncertainty for tomorrow. I can say for certain that the day I do japa, all is well, in contrast to days I forget when everything goes crazy which I think really means that Japa can ward off evil influences in life. Sai Malik will help you in creating a reality from this dream."

"We have a common father, in more ways than one. My father, as yours (read June, 82 issue), Sai bless them both, tried to educate his children and lost his all. Ill-luck dogged him throughout his life. Venture after venture failed him. Friends betrayed him, business built by sheer will-power and labour slipped out of his hands, just when they were about to give fruit. Born to a middle class man, who later became a millionaire (my grandfather), my father lost his father at the age of 5 years. Uncles and relatives grabbed money and property and reduced him to a hand to mouth existence. Yet father fought back, cultivated a piece of land left over from the scavengers and rebuilt his family fortunes. A great plague in 1918, drove them away and he lost his all in a single stroke. He too had

diabetes and suffered stroke upon stroke and was bed-ridden for the last 3 months of his life. He lost his speech. To this day I cannot think of a single stroke of good fortune to him. Yet he was a picture of sturdy faith; steadfast in purpose and never once did he complain. I miss him very much. His strong unwavering faith probably in an inscrutable way helped me to find an anchorage in Father Sai!"

"We saw Manoj Kumar's "Shirdi Ke Sai Baba" in Muscat in 1977. Since then Hum Inke Hi Rang Mein Rangey Gaye! What to speak of his 'maherbaniyan'! We lost count of them. For now, I will relate only one incident about Dolly. A prologue. A rich man's daughter, she saw a sudden collapse of their fortunes. Her father passed away. Ill-luck, not satisfied, snatched away her sister and wealth too, Then it rudely took away both her brothers under truly tragic circumstances. Her tragedy compounded when she lost the one sister, preceding her in age, called Sherry. Subsequently we met and married and a string of further travails followed. Then we both moved away abroad unable to bear these cascading misfortunes. In this helpless mess He blessed us with His first introduction in the form of a book in a devotee's house in London and with a cassette of His songs in, of all the places in the world, in Miami, U.S.A. We were then hungry and thirsty to know more about Him and thus our wishes were fulfilled with Sai's spectacular touch. Incidentally this was probably the only tape of Sai's songs, in the whole of Miami, and we reached this place for some other purpose after a drive of 40 miles, just in time, before the shop closed for the night!"

"After much roaming about the world, like babes in the wood, we finally landed in Muscat in 1975. Good fortune smiled upon us. Dolly became happy in all respects except one. She could not understand a Providence which would take away her brothers with such impunity. She bore this silently in her heart. Understandably, she could not bring herself to any form of

worship. Her innermost soul was bruised and she, being uncommunicative, could not express her hurt in any manner except in a fearful withdrawal, All this was when she is, Sai bless her, a picture of a wonderful, caring, sacrificing mother, wife, daughter, sister etc”.

“Then came “Shirdi Ke Saibaba” in 1977. She too was pulled towards Him – with those reservations which ate away at her soul. In retrospect, she told me later what held innermost in her, like typhoon bursting from the shores. She once turned to Him, in a manner of an angry challenge and asked,“ I have seen many Fakirs, Avalias, Saints, Sadhus, before. I love you more than others, granted. But can You, Baba, give me even an inkling of my brothers, their welfare.?”

“That very night she had a dream. For every night almost for about a year, she saw her brothers as one would see each other in real life. She would speak to them to her heart’s content and they to her. Always they were happy. They would offer her sweets, drinks. Once she saw Sherry, in Sai’s clothing, saying. ‘See! I am with Sai! Why worry yourself’. In His characteristic manner, Sai responded in a flamboyant style. Dolly’s dearest wish was fulfilled, a thousand times over, till she felt it was more than enough. These dreams then became irregular and disappeared. She felt content, happy, coming into her own”.

“And as though this was not enough, Shri Sai Baba bestowed His real Leela at this point. One morning we found the choopsticks’ burnt ash, in our Mandir, bent at an impossible angle, pointing without any doubt at Sherry’s photo, kept together with our Gods and prophets. This curved remnant of burnt ash would not fall. It was there the whole day, the night and the next morning. All of us racked our brains. About noon next day, Dolly realised with a start that the previous day was Sherry’s anniversary day. She, the loving sister, had forgotten! Sai, the ever-faithful Fakir, remembered!”

“All this may sound like a Hans Christian Anderson’s fairy tale or like an Aesop’s fable. We were like two babes lost in the woods, stranded hopelessly abroad. Deenabandhu Sai came to us like a Father, a Mother and an unfailing Giver, to put cheer into our lives and a smile on our lips, when we thought that we were completely lost.’

“Remember, the ready belief of Hindu culture was not within us. Of mono-theistic origins, such devotion came hard to us, especially to me. Even now I am just beginning to learn the meaning of faith, that faith is possible only when a difficulty befalls, when in practical terms one can understand, or begin to understand, the exercise of faith; and, to some extent, faith can also be spontaneous; but Saburi is surely a matter of experience. Our small family, so far away from the marvellous cultural backdrop of India, struggles on, on our soul-finding Odyssey, with Sai Baba as our Father, Guide, path-finder.

Yours etc.,

Homi Kaikobad”.

I was spell-bound at this moving saga of Sai Leela which has no frontiers of limitations! Shri Sai Baba is indeed a Universal Giver !!



K. Navin Chander

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Self Awakening Institution (SAI)

Swami Vivekananda says, "Each soul is potentially divine. The goal is to manifest this divinity within by controlling nature, external and internal." Ramakrishna Paramahansa says, "those who search God outside will never find Him." Sai Baba says, "You need not go far or anywhere in search of Me. Barring your name and form, there exists in you as well as in all beings a sense of being or consciousness of existence. That is myself. Knowing this you see me inside yourself as well as in all beings" (Chap XLIV of Sai Satcharita).

Human birth is the best of all the 84 Lakh creatures. It is said that Devas also will have to come down to attain salvation through human body. The only difference between a human being and other creatures is that the former is endowed with knowledge, which helps him in discriminating the real and the unreal. It is also amply confirmed in all scriptures that Moksha (liberation) is not to be sought in heaven or on earth. It is synonymous with self-realisation.

We believe in the existence of God; but we do not sincerely try to experience Him within us, as we are more conscious of the body than self. Every human being is a moving temple of God. Our body is a temple of our 'self'. We do not go to a place of worship to see the structure or the architectural beauty of the place. We go to worship or to pray the presiding deity of the temple. Similarly we have to give more importance to the self than the body. Sai Baba had advised Shri Vijayanand "Wealth and prosperity are transient and the body is subject to decay and death." No doubt the the Soul is immortal.

The author of Sai Satcharita has rightly put that one must be a saint to understand another saint, He further adds that one can measure the depth of seven seas or enclose the sky with

cloth trapping but one cannot understand a saint. Such being the case any attempt to define Sai shows our egoism. Hence we surrender it at His feet and venture to share the following views (inspiration of Sai) with devotee-readers.

It is indisputable truth that Sai is not three and a half cubits long but an institution which is invaluable immeasurable, immortal and beyond all limitations. Sai brother Krishna Kumarji of Hyderabad, views Sai as self Analysis Institution. He conducts weekly satsang for parayana of Sai Satcharita, Sai Bhajan and meditation under the auspices of Self Analysis Institution. I wish to view Sai as Self Awakening Institution. The latent powers of the self are awakened in this Institution, so that the 'Real' can be realised within ourselves. Thus 's' stands for Self, 'a' for Awakening and 'I' for Institution. It is learnt from Sai Satcharita, "The body, composed of five elements, is perishable and transcient but the self within is the Absolute Reality, which is immortal and intranscient. This pure being, consciousness or Brahman, the Ruler and controller of the senses and mind is 'Sai'".

Now let us analyse what has been taught in this institution and what are the qualifications prescribed for admission into it. First and foremost thing to be done is to erase our 'ego'. When once it is annihilated without any trace of it, as assured by Sai, He Himself will enter into us and do every service. We should forget 'I' and never take the credit of authorship for anything. We should always remember that the doer is Sai and we are only instruments in His holy hands. We will have to resort to the holy feet of a Realised Soul, who will be acting as a 'guide' in our efforts to reach the destination. The perfect guide as stated in Sai Satcharita, takes us safely avoiding wolves, tigers on the way. The possibility of losing the track in the Jungle or falling into ditches can be avoided with the help of a guide.

A Sadguru only can be a perfect guide. He will naturally be well conversant with the route we have to go. He can shower

his grace by mere glance or by touch or by thought. He awakens in us "I am He (Brahman) consciousness, manifests the joy of Self Realisation."

For seeing Brahman, we have to surrender at His feet five pranas, five senses, mind, intellect and ego. The author of Sai Satcharita states (chap XVI) that Chintamani, Kamadhenu and Kalpataru can only give what we desire; but a Sadguru gives us the most precious thing that is inconceivable and inscrutable. (The Reality).

Certain qualifications are prescribed for admission into the Self Awakening Institution as detailed in Chapter XVI of Sai Satcharita. They are intense desire to get free from bondage, disgust with worldly objects, Antarmukhata, purging away of Sins, Right conduct, preferring good things to pleasant things, control of the mind, purification of the mind, the necessity of a Guru and above all Lord's grace. We need not be frightened by all the unalloyed love towards Baba. He takes care of the above requirements. We should make Him the sole object of our thoughts and actions.

Let us recapitulate Baba's nector like words, "Meditate on my formless nature which is knowledge, incarnate consciousness and bliss. If you cannot do this, meditate on my form from top to bottom as you see. If you go on doing this, your vrittis (thoughts) Will concentrate at one point and the distinction between the Dhyata (Meditator), Dhyana (act of meditation) and Dhyeya (thing meditated upon) will be lost and {the meditator will be one with the consciousness and be merged in the Brahman" (Chap XVIII) we learn from Chap VI of Sai Satcharita, "If anyone prostrates before Sai and surrenders heart and soul to Him, then unsolicited all the chief objects of life viz., Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha are easily attained". Sai further assured, "If you spread your palms with devotion before Me, I am immediately with you day and night".

We do not know anything. What we know is nothing unless it is implemented and experienced. Reading cannot be believing. Seeing only is believing. Let us dedicate our body and soul to Sai who can awaken our self by His grace. We know that Sai watches all our actions and movements wherever we may be yet we become slaves to the senses and act against the interest of our Self Realisation. Adi Sankara preached that Satsang ultimately leads to Jivan Mukti. It may not be possible for most of us to be in the company of pious souls. Does not matter. We can take our mind to Sai, Shirdi, Samadhi Mandir Dwaraka Mayi, Chavadi. We can recollect Sai Leelas or any holy scripture. This act also forms part of Satsang. Devotion means unwavering love towards God. Peerless faith in Sai coupled with utmost patience is sufficient to attain salvation.

Let us all become students of this Institution, learn what is taught through Sai Satcharita and other sacred Sai literature and seek His invisible grace to see Him within us. Let us give serious thought to Vivekanda's words, "If there is a God we must see Him, if there is a soul we must perceive it, otherwise it is better not to believe. It is better to be an out-spoken atheist than a hypocrite". Let us see Sai in us and in every creature and prove to ourselves that we are neither out-spoken atheists nor hypocrites. This proof is required for our own conscience only not for the outside world ★

D. Sankaraiah

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Shri Sai Krupa

I worked as Additional Superintendent of Police and retired from service in the year 1977. Now my age is 61 years I am suffering from heart trouble since 1966 and consulted many efficient specialists regarding my ailment. They conducted special investigation and gave a detailed report regarding my heart condition. They confirmed that I am having 'Aortic stenosis with Regurgitation' that is one valve of the heart called aortic valve has got narrowed and therefore sufficient blood is not being supplied to the heart and this is the cause for heart pain. Renowned heart specialists conducted latest investigations like Echocardiogram, E.C.G. and other screening tests etc. and opined that unless the heart valve is replaced by artificial new valve by an open heart surgery, the heart function will not come to normal. They expressed that there is no other way of getting rid of the trouble. I used to get chest pain frequently and due to insufficient blood supply to the heart and brain, I become unconscious for two or three days. As I am advanced in age, even though the Specialists advised heart operation, I did not get the operation done and I was prolonging my life with great misery.

I had been to Shirdi with my wife and other members of my family and relations due to the instigation of my brother-in-law Dr. A. Prabhakararao, Supdt. of the Govt. Hospital for the first time in the year 1980. Again in 1982 all of us went to Shirdi. On seeing the most attractive idol of Shri Sai Baba I felt I was in some transcendental state. Many thoughts flew in my mind and these thoughts produced a very peculiar impression in me and since then I am much attracted by Shri Sai Bhagavan. I began worshipping Him as my Holy God daily, I am praying Him with firm belief that He will answer our heartfelt prayers and that He will help those who depend on Him. Now I will narrate my experiences.

In September 1983 I had severe chest pain and was unconscious for two days. Whenever such attacks occur, my pulse becomes irregular and at times the pulse rate will come down to even 40 per minute. This time also my condition was very serious. On the third day that is on 21st September 1983 at about 3 A.M., I got a dream: In the dream I saw a Fakir who applied Vibhuti on my forehead and assured me that my trouble will be over. Even though for the last two days I was not in a position even to move, after the dream I immediately sat on the cot as a normal person, woke up my wife and told her about the dream. I asked her to see whether there is Vibhuti on my forehead. To our surprise she noticed Vibhuti on my forehead. We, that is, myself, my wife and other family members got flabbergasted and were unable to talk or do any thing. The Fakir, whom I saw in the so-called dream, is none other than our beloved Shri Saibaba. Since then I did not get heart pain. This is a concrete example of Shri Sai Krupa.

In addition to this I had another wonderful practical experience on 16-11-83 (Ekadashi day) at about 8 P.M. As per my routine I was praying Omnipotent Shri Bhagavan Saibaba, all of when a sudden, a powerful pencil of light emanated from the photo of Shri Saibaba and it was focussed on to my heart. Due to that sudden flash of light, I felt as though a current was passing in my body. Immediately on seeing my chest I found a circular ring of reddish burnt skin around the left nipple, about 3" in diameter and 1" in breadth. At that time I did not experience any pain or burning sensation. That burnt scar is present on my body even now. Before getting this experience, I used to feel that my heart was very heavy and as though a heavy stone is placed on my heart. After this experience I got rid of the heaviness of my heart and I now feel very much relieved of the pressure. There are no limits of my happiness and with great thrill and joy I always pray Almighty Shri Saibaba. Now I feel that no operation is necessary to correct my heart defect and I am able to move about very actively. Even expert doctors gave

opinion that it is very surprising to see that I am very happily moving about. This is an unexplainable experience and due to this I feel that there is good change in all parts of my body and now I am very healthy. Shri Saibaba's idol in Shirdi has produced permanent impression in my mind. I secured the peace of mind and happiness due to darshan of Shri Saibaba's Samadhi. Those who worship Shri Sai as God, do get His help and protection definitely. The omnipotent Shri Sai only knows how to protect His devotees. However much I describe my feelings, I still feel it is incomplete. After these experiences, on 4th December 1983 myself and my other family members went to Shirdi and had darshan of Shri Saibaba and offered our heartfelt prayers. It is my extreme luck to get the divine Krupa of Shri Sai Bhagavan in short time after I started praying to Him. We always remember Him as our guide and Protector. ★

B. Umamaheswararao

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BHISHMA PITAMAH ON A BED OF ARROWS

“One of the most moving pictures in world-literature is that of Bhishma's last scene in the Mahabharata. On a bed of arrows on the battle-field lies Bhishma. They bring him a comfortable pillow. He will not have it. “Sturdy soldiers will not have wool or cotton pillows.” says this great brahmachari. Then he turns to Yudhisthira and says t- O king ! listen to what I say about brahmacharya. There is nothing which cannot be achieved by the man who is a brahmachari from birth till death. By the practice of brahmacharya, many have attained to Brahma-loka and have achieved, also, happiness here.” “The brahmachari,” we read in the Atharva Veda, “becomes a man par excellence, and shines upon the earth like a luminary.”

Steps Towards Spiritual Awakening

Behold nothing but goodness and purity,
Hear only inspiring speech and the beauty
Of devotional songs of the Lord, Sainath,
Inhale only ordors that remind you of the Lord, Sainath,
Taste nothing but simple wholesome food,
Recall to your memory Lord's sanctifying touch,
Mould your five senses to encounter only goodness.

Train yourself to plain living and high thinking,
Pattern your life by a triangular guide ;
Calmness and sweetness are the two sides;
And the base is happiness,

Know the truth that things are not always
What they seem to the senses,
Do not wish for anything that will cause you
To feel separated from the Lord, Sainath,
Let right deeds be your motive; but not the fruits
Which come from them,
Read and reflect in every day activities the sayings
of the Lord, Sainath,
Enlighten the congregation on the divine greatness
Of the Lord, Sainath,
Let love and respect for all be the way; the goal,
The means and the end.

Y. V. Subbaya

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Message Of Sai Miracle

The individual's free will is nothing but the feeling 'I am the doer'. This idea of doership is however, entirely false, for Lord Sainath alone is the sole doer in us and in everyone about us. When we realise this truth, the theory of free will is found to be a myth. Truly, we are merely instruments of the divine power of Sai and that power activates us in all manner of ways. It is when we are conscious of this working of the divine power that we attain perfect freedom and peace. Then we realise that God is all in all and that by His power and will alone everything happens. Then we become truly free.

Sainath brought forth this truth in His own inimitable manner. My cousin (Maternal Uncle's son), Shri D. S. Ramkumar, Kumar Power Press, M. G. Road, Kolar 563 101 (Karnataka) returned home one evening in February 1984 after a business jaunt. He used to wear a ring costing around Rs. 3000/- and on coming home, he noticed that it was missing. Panic-stricken, he ran back to all the places he had gone in the evening. After a pointless search for over two hours, he returned not being able to find out the lost ring,

His father (i.e. my maternal uncle), Shri D.R.Subramanyam, who had just returned from a pilgrimage to Shirdi, asked him to pray for Lord Sainath's mercy. He was quite confident that Lord Sainath would definitely enable him to get back the ring. He asked his son to cast the entire burden of discovering the lost ring on Lord Sainath, with faith and total surrender.

Shri Ramkumar was restless and spent a sleepless night. He had lost his peace of mind.

Next morning dawned on this gloom-stricken family. When Shri Ramkumar went to the bathroom for a wash, he could see

the ring caught at the entrance of the drain. It was indeed a great miracle, for even though the other members of the family had gone earlier to the bathroom, it was for Shri Ramkumar to find it. It was an electrifying experience for Shri Ramkumar.

Everyone was happy at this miracle. They offered their humble pranams at the lotus feet of Lord Sainath. Shri Ramkumar offered Sai dakshina to Shirdi also.

The message of this Sai-miracle became crystal clear to everybody. Man is bound by many desires, hopes and expectations. Within these he is caught as in a cage. This is due to persistence in him of his egostatic nature which is false. In truth, there is only one divine power that pervades everywhere, which is responsible for all changes, movements and activities in the world. The ego sense arises out of the ignorance of this Universal Truth. When man recognises this truth, he will realise that as an individual separate from others, he is a myth and that the divine alone exists in him and others. ★

Mrs. Seetha Vijayakumar

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SEPTEMBER 1984

The rush of devotees, coming to Shirdi, was as usual in this month. However there used to be a little more rush on Thursdays, Sundays and festive days. The following artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir.

Keertan :- 1) Shri Vishwanath Maharaj Sahane, Vaijapur
2) Shri Laxman Ananda Mirajkar, Sangali 3) Sou. Lalitprabha Kulkarni, Ganeshpuri,

Pravachan :- 1) Shri Vishwanath Mahara Surale, Sarala Bet.
2) Shri Laxman Maharaj Wakchoure, Shirdi.

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Dance, Bhajan etc. :-

1) Kalasangam, Pune-Shri Prakash Inamdar 2) Sou. Jayamala Inamdar 3) Sou. Maya Panday 4) Sou. Reshma Gokhale 5) Shri Shirish Kulkarni 6) Shri Viththal Adhav 7) Shri Makarand Kulkarni 8) Shri Haribhau Dhumre 9) Shri Balu Tambekar 10) Shri Shankar Jadhav 11) Shri Prakash Khude 12) Shri Jayant Paranjape 13) Shri Raja Shinde 14) Shri Chandrakant Gaikwad 15) Shri Vilas Jejurikar 16) Sou. Madhu Khanna Medura 17) Shri Sargam Ganesh Mela, Vaijapur-Vikram Tribhuvan 18) Artists from Natya Pandhari Sangali 19) Shri Parshwanath Digrajkar 20) Shri Narayanrao Wandrekar 21) Shri Kallappa Jadhav 22) Shri Vijay Pharate 23) Shri Ramesh Wadekar 24) Shri Nagash Punekar 25) Smt. Mangala Gandhi 26) Smt. Uma Kolhapurkar 27) Smt. Sheela Kolhapurkar 28) Shri Harish Yamgar 29) Shri Ganpat

Jadhav 30) Shri Namdeo Murde 31) Shri Tatyasaheb Chopade
 32) Shri Rajeeva Lande 33) Shri Milind Apte 34) Shri Ashok Patil
 35) Shri Kedar Pawar 36) Shri Dagdu Sanadi 37) Shri Shaikh
 Janu Chand 38) Shaheer Amarkala Pathak, Bombay 39) Shri
 Tukaram Shinde 40) Shri Vasant Achrekar 41) Shri Madhukar
 Mane 42) Shri Prabhakar Sawant 43) Shri Maruti Sable 44) Shri
 Bhikaji Jamdade 45) Shri Pravin Rahate 46) Shri Madhukar Bane
 47) Shri Chintaman Jagtap 48) Sou. Jayamala Chandankar 49) Sou.
 Keshar Jainu Shaikh 50) Sou. Shubhangi Golatkar 51) Shri
 Ramakant More 52) Shri Gholap Govardhan 53) Shri Ghurbodevi
 Bhajani Mandal, Phunde 54) Sou. Mangala Gupte, Dadar 55) Shri
 Vitthal Vishnu Manjrekar, Shirdi 56) Shri Ajaykumar Kelaji
 Khadekar, Amaravati 57) Shri Satyanarayan Murti, Hyderabad
 58) Sou. N. G. Jyoti, Raipur 59) Shri Ratanlal Sharma, Nagpur
 60) Shri Madhukar Sitaram Bhawe, Delhi 61) Sou. Mira Sachdev,
 Indore 62) Shri Anurag Shrivastav, Goregaon.

The Board of Management took over the management of the Shirdi Sansthan from 1-9-1984 and The Court Receiver Shri K. H. Kakresaheb handed over his charge to Executive Officer Shri R. D. Bannesaheb from the same date. The names of the Board have been published at page 3 of the October 1984 issue.

Weather :- In this month there was good rain at Shirdi. The weather was free from every sort of disease.



श्रीसाईलीला

हिंदी विभाग

अनुक्रमणिका

दिसम्बर १९८४

		पृष्ठ
१	बच्चों के साईबाबा	श्री संजय नामदेव शिंदे ५०
२	बाबा का पुण्यतिथि समारोह	कु. वन्दना श्रीबास्तव ५१
३	जागे साई शिडी में	श्री मती उषा नरेन्द्रनाथ ५२
४	साई महिमा	श्रीमती कौशल देवी भटनागर ५३
५	साई! तुझे देखा करूं!	प्रा. गुन्डेराव पटवारी ५४
६	श्री गुलाब बाबा :	
	एक अवतारी विभूति	प्रो. आद्याप्रसाद त्रिपाठी ५५
७	साई! तेरा बडा आघार	श्री राधाकृष्ण गुप्ता ६१
८	श्री साई बाबा की निर्भरा भक्ति	डॉ. दुर्गाप्रसाद शुक्ल ६२
९	साई साथ चलना	श्री प्रभाकर कोळमकर ६३
१०	श्रीमान सम्पादकजी को	सौ. मीरा नाईक ६३
११	याचना	श्री महाराज नारायण दर ६४



बच्चों के साईबाबा

प्यार का मन्त्र सुनाकर,
जिसने हमें जगाया है ।
सत्य का बल देकर,
भय को दूर भगाया है ।
जो शिर्डी का भाग्य विधाता,
साईबाबा वही हमारे है ।
जिसने जिता क्रोध को प्रेम से,
दुर्गुण को जिता प्यार से ।
सभी अम्सभव को है सम्भव,
बना दिया है अपनी उदी से ।
आज बना है दुनिया भर का,
जो आँखों का साई तारा है ।
जिसकी उपमा नहीं जगत में,
साईबाबा वही हमारे है ।
कितनी भी बाधाएँ आये,
हम नित साईनाम लेते रहेंगे ।
जिसके मुक्ती मुकुट से ही,
भारत का शीश सँवारा है ।
कोटि-कोटि बच्चों के साई,
साईनाथ वही हमारे है ।

संजय नामदेव शिंदे

फॉरजेट हिल रोड, सन्जाना बिल्डिंग के पीछे, ताडदेव, बम्बई ४०० ०३६



बाबा का पुण्यतिथि समारोह

इस वर्ष दशहरे को बाबा का ६६ वां पुण्यतिथि दिवस था। जहां-जहां बाबा के मन्दिर हैं वहां सभी जगह पुण्यतिथि के अवसर पर कार्यक्रम आयोजित किये जाते रहे हैं। ग्वालियर में अब तक बाबा का कोई मन्दिर नहीं है। लेकिन पिछले कई वर्षों से ग्वालियर की जनता बाबा की पुण्यतिथि पर कार्यक्रम आयोजित करती रही है। सन १९७२ में यहां पहली बार बाबा की पुण्यतिथि मनायी गयी थी। तब से अब तक लगातार प्रतिवर्ष इसी प्रकार पुण्यतिथि पर कार्यक्रम आयोजित किये जाते रहे हैं।

इस वर्ष दशहरे के १५ दिन पूर्व तक भी कार्यक्रम आयोजन की कोई सम्भावना नहीं दीख रही थी। ऐसा प्रतीत होता था कि कई वर्षों से चली आ रही परम्परा शायद इस वर्ष कायम नहीं रह पायेगी। सभी साईं भक्तजन साल भर व्याकुलता से इस कार्यक्रम का इन्तजार करते हैं। कार्यक्रम इस वर्ष नहीं होगा ऐसा सोचकर सभी बहुत निराश हो रहे थे।

मेरे मन में बहुत दिनों से साईं लीला मासिक पत्रिका में अपना एक लेख भेजने की इच्छा थी। अतः मैंने मन ही मन सोचा कि गत वर्षों की तरह इस वर्ष भी यदि कार्यक्रम हुआ तभी पत्रिका में अपना लेख भेजूंगी और अगर इस वर्ष कार्यक्रम नहीं हुआ तो कभी भी पत्रिका को अपना लेख नहीं भेजूंगी। और मन ही मन साईं बाबा से उनके कार्यक्रम के लिये प्रार्थना भी करती रही। समर्थ सद्गुरु साईं बाबा तो अर्न्तयामी हैं। वे तो घट-घट व्यापी हैं सबके मन की बात जानते हैं, उन्होंने अन्ततः मेरी प्रार्थना भी स्वीकार कर ली। और १०-१२ दिन पूर्व से कार्यक्रम आयोजन की तैयारियां होने लगी।

बाबा की पुण्यतिथि का कार्यक्रम २ अक्टूबर से ६ अक्टूबर तक पांच दिन तक मनाया गया। कार्यक्रम में हर वर्ष की भांति इस वर्ष भी बम्बई के प्रसिद्ध H.M.V. व T.V. व Radio Artist श्री वसन्त आजगांवकर अपने साथी कलाकारों सहित यहां पधारे और ग्वालियर की भक्त जनता ने उनकी मधुर वाणी में गीतरामायण व साईं चरित्र के गीतों के सुमधुर गायन का आनन्द लुटा। इस तरह बाबा का पुण्यतिथि कार्यक्रम सम्पन्न हुआ।

सुबह ७ बजे काकड आरती, १२ बजे मध्याह्न आरती पश्चात नैवेद्य लगाया जाता है। संध्या ६ से ७ भजन तथा उसके पश्चात मंध्यारती की जाती है ! ८ बजे श्री वसन्त आजगांवकर अपना कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत करते हैं व अन्त में शयनार्ती तथा प्रसाद वितरण होता है।

हम सब साई भक्तों की यही प्रार्थना है कि यह कार्यक्रम हरवर्ष इसी तरह मनाया जाता रहे

कु. वन्दना श्रीवास्तव
बी. २७ रामकृष्णपुरी ग्वालियर (म. प्र.)

जागे साई शिडी में

भोर भई पूरव में,
जागे साई शिडी में
पंछी बनके आवे हे बन्दे
देश विदेश से प्रभात मन्गल गाने ॥ १ ॥

तरस रहे हे तेरा दर्शन पाने
तेरा वरदान पाने का आस लगाये बैठे
करो ना हमें कभी तुम से दूर
माना है तुम्हे अपना ईश्वर ॥ २ ॥

दुहराते रहेंगे तेरा नाम "साई रतन अनमोल"
ना हो जाये कभी हम से भूल
तेरे संग का हर पल मानेनो अमोल
रहने दो हमें बनके तेरे चरण के फूल ॥ ३ ॥

उषा नरेन्द्रनाथ
"पंचवटी" १३९, समर्थ नगर औरंगाबाद

साई महिमा

साई नाथ कहाँ पर जा छिपे !
तुम्हें भक्त पुकारे रे !!

कर्ता धर्ता सारें जगत के !
आप हैं पालन हारे, आप हैं पालन हारें !!
नेकी बदी को आप ही जाने !
आप ही हैं रखवारे, आप ही हैं रखवारे !!

दर्श दिखा के नहीं भुलाना रे !
तुम्हें भक्त पुकारे रे !!

साई नाथ कहाँ पर जा छिपे !
तुम्हें भक्त पुकारे रे !!

श्रद्धा का सागर दिल में मेरे !
आज है उमडा सारा, आज है उमडा सारा !!
अपना के नहीं हमें छोड रे !
तुम्हें भक्त पुकारे रे !!

जो मालूम हो साई समाधि मन्दिर का !
आज ही दौडी जाऊँ, आज ही दौडी जाऊँ !!
चरणों को पकड के न छोडूँ रे !
तुम्हें भक्त पुकारे रे !!

साई बाबा आप हमारे !
हम है भक्त तुम्हारे, हम है भक्त तुम्हारे !!
बाबा ये बताओ मैं क्या करूँ रे !
तुम्हें भक्त पुकारे रे !!

श्रीमती कौशल देवी टनाग

C/o डॉ. बी. के. भटनागर डी. सी. एम्. शॉप के पीछे
रेल्वे रोड, अलीगढ (उ. प्र.) २०२ ००१

साईं ! तुझे देखा करूं !

ऐ साईं । देख कर राह सुम्हारी
अब निन्द जो आ रही,

दिल तो चाहता है राह देखुं तुम्हारी
न चैन मुझ को आ रही ।

ऐ गमे दिल क्या करूं, जख्मे दिल
सूरत नजर न आ रही ।

सीने से मेरे दिल निकलता जा रहा,
चाह कर भी चाह न रही ।

कैसे देखुं प्रिय साईं कल्ल कर देना मुझे,
अब बेजान हूँ, जान न रही ।

मै तेरा हो गया चाहे तू मेरा हो न हो,
दिल में दिल न रही ।

जी नहीं सकता, एक पल देखे बिना,
जीसम जरूरत न रही ।

तुझे देखा करूं अब करूं तो क्या करूं,
आंखो की जरूरत न रही ।

प्रा. गुन्डेराव पटवारी
ब्राह्मण वाडी, बिदर ५८५४०१ (कर्नाटक)



श्री गुलाब बाबा : एक अवतारी विभूति

महाराष्ट्र की सम्पूर्ण धरती युगानुयुग से अवतारी विभूतियों से पावन होती रही है। ये अवतारी विभूतियां समय-समय पर सन्त के वेश में धरती पर आती हैं और गीता में भगवान श्रीकृष्ण के द्वारा की गई घोषणा--“यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत । अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम्” के अनुसार जन-मानस में धर्म के प्रति आस्था-श्रद्धा जागृत करके लीला-संवरण कर जाती हैं। त्रेता में भगवान राम ने अवतार लिया। धर्म के प्रति आस्था-भाव विकसित हुआ। कालान्तर में पुनः जन-मानस अधर्म के पथ पर बढ चला। तब द्वापर में भगवान ने श्रीकृष्ण के रूप में अवतार लिया और आगे आने वाले हर युग में ऐसी परिस्थिति का निर्माण होने पर अवतार धारण करने का उद्घोष किया--“धर्मसस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामि युगेयुगं”। रामचरित मानस की गवाही पर कहा जा सकता है कि कलियुग में मनुष्य “देह धरे मनुजाद” मानव वेश में दानव होगा। इसी लिये भगवान ने कलियुग में महाराष्ट्र को अपनी लीलास्थली बनाया। त्रेता और द्वापर में उत्तर प्रदेश के अयोध्या और मथुरा भगवान के लीलाधाम रहे। कलियुग में उन्हें महाराष्ट्र में अवतार लेना प्रिय लगा। स्वामी समर्थ अवकलकोट महाराज के लीला-संवरण के पदचातु भगवान श्री साईनाथ ने जन-मानस की बागडोर अपने हाथों में सम्भाली और देश की जनता का दुःखहरण करते हुए सन्मार्ग पर चलते हुए जीवनयापन करने का पथ प्रशस्त किया। श्री गजानन महाराज ने अपने ढंग से जन-समाज को अपनी ओर आकर्षित किया, उनका कष्ट दूर किया और उनको श्रेय-मार्ग की ओर उन्मुख करके लोक-कल्याण का विधान किया। इससे पूर्व भी सन्त शानेश्वर, तुकाराम, नामदेव गोरा कुम्हार, सावता माली, और बाद में मुंगसाजा महाराज, लहानूबाबा, राष्ट्रसन्त तुकडो महाराज देश की जनता का मार्गदर्शन कराते रहे हैं। तुकडो जी महाराज और सन्त गाडगे बाबा के लोक-कल्याणकारी कार्य तो अभी जैसे कल की बात है।

इसीप्रकार आज सम्पूर्ण महाराष्ट्र में साईनाथ और गजानन महाराज के बाद भगवान की तरह पूजे जाने वाले महान सन्त श्री गुलाब बाबा का तिरपनवा जन्मदिवस १ जुलाई, १९८४ को नागपुर में मनाया गया। श्री गुलाब बाबा का जन्म ३० जून, १९३२ को अमरावती जिले के टाकरखेड मोरे नामक ग्राम में

श्री सीताराम उमक : घासीमात्री : और तानाबाई के पुत्र के रूप में रात्रि १२ बजे हुआ था। इसीलिए प्रति वर्ष १ जुलाई को नागपुर में उनका जन्मोत्सव मनाया जाता है। बचपन में ही माता-पिता का देहान्त हो जाने के कारण १३ वर्ष की आयु में ही श्री गुलाब बाबा घर छोड़कर सन्त बने। पन्डरपुर में उन्होंने सन्त तुकडोजी महाराज, गाडगे बाबा, कैकाडी महाराज, सन्त नामानन्द स्वामी आदि अनेक महान् विभुतियों की सेवा का सुयोग प्राप्त किया और कूल के साथ रहने से मिट्टी को भी सुवास लग जाती है, भक्ति के अनुसार उनमें सन्तोपम वृत्तियों का तीव्र गति से विकास हुआ। स्वामी नामानन्द को उन्होंने अपना परम सद्गुरु स्वीकार किया था, परन्तु सद्गुरु नामानन्द को ही गुलाब बाबा में भगवान् कृष्ण के दर्शन हुए। तब से सन्त नामानन्द और गुलाब बाबा दोनों एक दूसरे के चरण छूकर प्रणाम करते हैं। बचपन में ही माता-पिता की छत्रच्छाया उठ जाने के कारण गुलाब बाबा समस्त नारियों को अपनी मां या बहिन ही मानते हैं। भक्त स्त्रियां भी उन्हें पुत्र या भ्रातृभाव से ही अपनाती हैं। इस तरह गुलाब बाबा के इस समय अनेक पिता और अनेक माताएं हैं। नागपुर के दादासाहेब राजहंस और उनकी पत्नी बाबा के माता-पिता थे। इस समय दादासाहेब नाईक नागपुर के पिता की भूमिका में हैं। मलकापुर के कोलते साहेब और उनकी पत्नी भी क्रमशः पिता-माता की भूमिका में अनेक वर्षों से भक्ति-लीन हैं। नागपुर वाली मां आई राजहंस की मृत्यु १९८२ में हुई। उसके बाद से मलकापुर वाली मां ही बाबा की देखभाल विशेष रूप से कर रही हैं। खामगांव वाली मां और मलकापुर वाली अलग अलग तिथियों में गुलाबबाबा का जन्म दिन खामगांव और मलकापुर में मनाती हैं। पारस के पाण्डेय दादा और उनकी वृद्धा पत्नी गुलाब बाबा के माता-पिता हैं। परतवाडा के गोपालदास खण्डेलवाल और उनकी पत्नी भी बाबा के माता-पिता हैं। ऐसा निरभिमानी व्यक्तित्व इस समय देश की जनता को धर्म और भगवान् की ओर अनुप्रेरित करने के लिए दिन-रात निरन्तर भ्रमण करते हुए नाम-पंकीर्तन का अलख जगा रहा है और समय समय पर वह कोई साधारण सन्त या मानव नहीं है, वह सर्वव्यापी है, सर्वशक्तिमान और सर्वज्ञ है, वह अन्तर्यामी है, अपने इन सभी गुणों का अवबोध भी कराता रहता है।

भारतवासियों का यह दुर्भाग्य रहा है कि अध्यात्म के क्षेत्र में मानव ने बुद्धि का उपयोग करना अपना परम कर्तव्य समझा है। वास्तव में यह बुद्धि का

क्षेत्र है ही नहीं। हम अपनी लौकिकबुद्धि से अपने लौकिक चरमे से सबको एक समान देखते हैं और उनमें विभेदक रेखा खींच पाने में असमर्थ रहते हैं। इसी कारण अपने अवतार काल में राम को नानाप्रकार के कष्ट भोगने पड़े। भगवान कृष्ण को शिशुपाल, जरासन्ध, कालयवन आदि बुद्धिवादियों के दुश्चक्रों का शिकार होना पड़ा। भगवान साईनाथ को शिरडी की जनता ने नाना प्रकार से उपेक्षित किया। श्री गजानन महाराज को भी अपने समय में बुद्धिवादियों की कम अवमानना नहीं सहन करनी पड़ी। अक्कलकोट स्वामी समर्थ भी इस बौद्धिकता के शिकार होने से बच नहीं सके। तुलसीदास जीने कहा है—“सोइ जानइ जेहि देहु जनाई। जानक तुमहिं तुमहिं होइ जाई।” इसी को शास्त्र “ब्रह्मविद् ब्रह्ममेव भवति” -ब्रह्मज्ञानी ब्रह्मस्वरूप ही हो जाता है—कहते हैं। गुलाब बाबा की भी यही स्थिति है। जिसे उन्होंने अपने वास्तविक स्वरूप का बोध करना चाहा है उसे कभी राम, कभी कृष्ण, कभी हनुमान और किसी को शंकर के रूपमें दर्शन देने की कृपा की है। गुलाब बाबा की एक भक्त महिला से सम्पर्क पर उसने बताया कि उसे गुलाब बाबा ने हनुमान के रूप में दर्शन दिया है। सन्त नामानन्द, जो गुलाब बाबा के सद्गुरु हैं, को श्रीकृष्ण रूप का दर्शन मिल चुका है। इस सम्बन्ध में एक विस्मयजनक प्रसंग का उल्लेख करना आवश्यक है।

श्री सन्त गुलाब बाबा के निकट सम्पर्क में रहने वाले सौभाग्यशाली भक्तों को उनके साथ देश के समस्त विख्यात तीर्थों के दर्शन का सौभाग्य मिलता रहता है। बाबा की गाड़ी में जितने लोग सुविधा से समाविष्ट हो सकते हैं, उन्हें लेकर बाबा बद्रीनाथ, केदारनाथ, द्वारका, रामेश्वरम, नाशिक, पूना, देहू, आलन्दी, शिरडी, पंढरपुर, नेवास, हरिद्वार, प्रयाग, वृन्दावन, अयोध्या आदि तीर्थ-स्थानों का भ्रमण कराते हैं। अनेक लोग ऐसे हैं, जो एकाधिक बार बाबा के साथ हरिद्वार, रामेश्वरम्, बद्रीनाथ, केदारनाथ, आदि की यात्रायें बिना किसी व्यय के कर चुके हैं। ऐसी ही एक यात्रा में श्री गुलाब बाबा द्वारका गये। द्वारकानाथ के पुजारी ने गुलाब बाबा को देखकर अमरावती के श्री के. एन. पाटील से पूछा कि यह कौन “मुरती” है? श्री पाटील ने बताया कि ये महाराष्ट्र के एक विख्यात सन्त हैं, गुलाब बाबा इनका नाम है। द्वारकाधीश के पुजारी ने कहा कि नहीं, ये सन्त नहीं, बहुत बड़ी हस्ती है। ये साक्षात् द्वारकाधीश है। आज इनके दर्शन से मेरी अनेक वर्षों की पूजा सार्थक हो गई है। श्री के. एन. पाटील के पूछने पर द्वारकाधीश के उस पुजारी ने एक रोचक कथा सुनाई। उस पुजारी को एक

सिद्ध महात्मा ने आशीर्वाद दिया था कि तुमको द्वारकावीश के प्रत्यक्ष दर्शन होंगे। उसके बाद से स्वप्न में उन पुजारी को नित्य श्री गुलाब बाबा दिखाई देने लगे। वह पुजारी गुलाब बाबा से अपरिचित था, उन्हें कभी देखा नहीं था। वह भोचता कि यह कौन "मुरी" है, जो रोज स्वप्न में मुझे दिखाई देती है। उन दिन जब वही नित्य स्वप्न में दिखाई देने वाला रूप उसने अपनी आंखों के सामने साकार रूप में देखा तो उसकी आंखें खुल गईं। उसने अपना जीवन धन्य माना और उनको साक्षात् द्वारकावीश मानकर उनके प्रति श्रद्धा व्यक्त की। ऐसे अनेकानेक प्रसंग हैं, जो एक पुस्तक का रूप ले सकते हैं।

गुलाब बाबा के अन्तर्यामीत्व और सर्वज्ञता का एक उदाहरण इन पंक्तियों के लेखक का अपना है। मैं शिरडी प्रायः जाता रहता हूँ। एक बार की यात्रा में मैं शिरडी से साइकिल से गोदावरी स्नान करने कोपरगांव जाते समय रास्ते में एक स्थान पर "श्री सन्त गुलाब बाबा आश्रम" का बोर्ड देखकर रुका और उस घर में जाकर मैंने श्री गुलाब बाबा की फोटो को प्रणाम किया। गोदावरी स्नान करके मैं शिरडी लौटा और कार्यक्रमों में संलग्न हो गया। रात में मुझे स्वप्न में श्री गुलाब बाबा ने प्रत्यक्ष दर्शन दिया और उनके चरणों के नीचे की धूल लेकर अपने मस्तक पर लगाया। एक अन्य अवसर पर शिरडी में बाबा के दर्शन हुए। बाबा के साथ मैं उस आश्रम तक गया, जहां पहली बार बाबा के चित्र को प्रणाम किया था। वहां बाबा ने स्वयं कहा कि मुझे मालूम है कि तुम यहां आया करते हो। मेरी पुत्री के विवाह-प्रसंग में बाबा के चमत्कार विलक्षण रहे। विवाह के बाद मैं भगवान साईनाथ को धन्यवाद देने शिरडी गया था। उसके बाद गुलाब बाबा के पास भी गया। बाबा ने कहा कि मैं तो तुम्हारी लड़की की शादी में गया था। मैंने अपनी एक कविता में ऐसा भाव व्यक्त किया कि बाबा आप अपने पावन चरण मेरे सीने पर रखने की कृपा कीजिए। एक दिन स्वप्न में सचमुच मैं लेटा था और बाबा के चरण मेरे सीने पर थे। गुलाब बाबा चाहे प्रकट न करें, पर शिरडी साईनाथ की भांति उन्हें भी सारा प्रसंग ज्ञात रहता है। वे एक ही समय में नागपुर में भी हैं और वृन्दावन में भी। एक ही समय हर दो दूरस्थ स्थानों पर भजनों के कार्यक्रम में उनकी उपस्थिति के अनेक उदाहरण हैं। भगवान साईनाथ ने पानी से दिया जलाया था। गुलाब बाबा भी पानी से दीप जला चुके हैं। मोटार में पेट्रोल कम होने पर पानी से पेट्रोल का काम वे अनेक बार ले चुके हैं। मेरे सामने आम के पत्ते पर केवल

हाथ फेरकर सौ-सौ रुपये के दो नोट सृजन करके भक्त का अर्थ-संकट दूर कर चुके हैं। बम्बई के एक वृद्ध का लकवा अपने ऊपर लेकर उसे रोगमुक्त किया है। सर्प-दंश से मृत-प्राय महिला का विष अपने शरीर पर लेकर उसे जीवन-दान दिया है। मरे हुए को जीवन-दान देने के अनेकानेक उदाहरण गुलाब बाबा के भक्तों के सम्पर्क में आने पर प्रकट हो जाते हैं। पदार्थ-परिवर्तन से सम्बन्धित लीलाओं को ही ले लें तो गुलाब बाबा के ऐसे चमत्कारों से ही एक बड़ा ग्रन्थ निर्माण हो सकता है। एक व्यापारी भक्त को पुराने अखबार के टुकड़े पर हाथ फेरकर बाबा से सौ का नोट बनाकर दिया था, जिसे मैं स्वयं देख चुका हूँ। बेंतूल में नानाजी धर्माधिकारी के घर पर दाल को कढ़ी के रूप में परिवर्तित करके बाबा ने सबको चमत्कृत कर दिया था। लाइन न होते हुए भी बाबा के प्रताप से माइक ने काम किया था। पत्थर के टुकड़े को पेडा के रूप में परिवर्तित करके बाबा ने मुझे प्रसाद कहकर खिलाया है। गुलाब बाबा पर लिखी मेरी पुस्तक पर शून्य से ताजा गुलाब का फूल सृजन करके रखकर उसे शक्ति-संकलित किया है। बिना मौसम के भी आम की टहनी में ताजा कच्चा फल लटकता हुआ भक्त को प्रसाद-स्वरूप प्रदान किया है। अपने सामने तरबूज के समूचे फल को फड़वाकर उसमें गर्भ से आम का फल सृजन कर दिखाया है। पत्थर को मिष्ठान्न के रूप में परिवर्तित करके प्रसाद-स्वरूप देने के अनेक साक्षियों में से नागपुर के सिने-कलाकार राजाभाऊ चिटणीस तथा प्रभाकर जाधव भी उल्लेखनीय हैं।

गजानन महाराज को गाड़ी में से नीचे उतार देने पर गाड़ी नहीं चली थी। और तभी चली जभी गजानन महाराज को गाड़ी में बिठाया गया। एक बार गुलाब बाबा को भी बिना टिकट यात्रा करनी पड़ी और उन्हें गाड़ी से उतार दिया गया। गाड़ी की गतिशीलता पन्गु हो गई और जब बाबा को गाड़ी में बैठाया गया, तभी वह आगे बढ़ सकी। ये सारे प्रसंग विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णित किये जाय तो लेख का आकार अत्यन्त विस्तृत हो जाने का भय है। आज जड-तत्व भी गुलाब बाबा का आदेश मानते हैं। कार, ट्रैक्टर, ट्रक, जीप आदि बिना ड्राइवर के न्यूट्रल में होते हुए भी बाबा के निर्देश के अनुसार आशाकारी भक्त की भांति आशा-पालन करते हैं। स्टियरिंग पर हाथ लगाये बिना और न्यूट्रल में होते हुए भी जीप को गोलाकार लम्बे समय तक चलाते हुए मैंने स्वयं देखा है। मेरा अपना अनुभव है कि बाबा की आशा पर भाषण देने के लिए खड़े होने पर जो मैंने कहना चाहा है, वह नहीं कह पाया हूँ और जिसे कहने

की मैं कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकता, वैसा चाचा ने अनेक बार मुझसे कलवा लिया है। शिरडी साईनाथ के कार्यक्रमों में अग्ने साथ ऐसी लीला की अनुभूति में अनेकशः कर चुका हूँ। विगत गोकुल अष्टमी के अवसर पर काटेज में मैंने अपने भाषण में जो कुछ कहा, उसकी मुझे कल्पना तक नहीं थी। महाराष्ट्र के भूतपूर्व मुख्यमंत्री स्वर्गीय श्री कन्नमवार जी चाचा के हैदराबाद के कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित हुए थे। चाचा ने उन्हें हिन्दी में भाषण देने का आदेश दिया था। श्री कन्नमवार जी ने हिन्दी भाषा से अनभिज्ञ होने के कारण अपनी अनुमर्त्यता प्रकट की तब चाचा ने उनकी पीठ पर हाथ फेरा और कहा- हिन्दी में बोलना। अहिन्दी भाषी कन्नमवार जी ने लम्बे समय तक धाराप्रवाह हिन्दी में भाषण करके हजारों लोगों को विस्मयवेमुग्ध कर दिया था और तब यही प्रतीति हुई थी कि सन्त ज्ञानेश्वर की आज्ञा पर भैरे ने वेद किस प्रकार पढा होगा।

ऐसी विभूतियाँ जिनको अग्ने से दूर रखना चाहती हैं, उनके द्वारा अपनी कटु आलोचना करवाकर अपने भक्तों की भक्ति की परीक्षा लिया करती हैं। भक्त के मार्ग में जो अपरिपक्व हैं, वे ऐसी कपोलकल्पित बातों से विचलित हो जाते हैं, किन्तु जिन्होंने उनके वास्तविक रूप को देखने का सौभाग्य पा लिया है, वे मील के पत्थर की तरह अपवाहों को पैरों तले रौदते हुए भक्ति-पथ पर निरन्तर प्रगति करते चले जाते हैं। भगवान साईनाथ ने भी ऐसे आलोचकों को सक्रिय बनाकर अग्ने भक्तों की भक्ति की दृढ़ता की परीक्षा लेने की विधि अपनायी थी और कालान्तर में वे आलोचक साईनाथ के अनन्य भक्त बने ऐसी ही महिमामयी विभूति इस समय श्री गुलाब चाचा के रूप में इस भूतल पर विचरण कर रही है। जिन्हें अपना भाग्य संवारना हो, जीवन सार्थक करना हो, बिगड़ी बनाना हो, गुलाब चाचा के चरण उनको अपनी ओर आकर्षित कर रहे हैं।

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साई ! तेरा बडा आधार

साई ! तेरा बडा आधार
तूने रचा माया बाजार

॥ ५ ॥

माया में यह जीव रमाया
प्रलोभन दे उसे फंसाया
जन्म - मरण का खेल रचाकर
कभी हंसाया, कभी सलाया
तेरी लीला अपरम्पार

॥ १ ॥

पंच तत्व का है यह पुतला
सांसारिक बंधन में जकडा
'अपना' कहकर अरे अहंता !
रहता सबसे अकडा अकडा

नाशवान रे यह संसार ॥ २ ॥

नश्वरता को सत्य समझता
झूठी माया में नित रमता
विषय - वासना के पीछे यों
मारा मारा फिरता रहता

कौन करेगा रे उध्दार ? ॥ ३ ॥

विपदाओं के घिरते जब धन
विचलित होता ये अन्तर्मन -
हतबल होकर अन्तिम क्षण में
करता है वह तेरा चिन्तन

तू ही अन्तिम प्राणाधार ॥ ४ ॥

राधाकृष्ण गुप्ता 'चेतन

पाटकर बाडा, भगतसिंग पथ, डोंबिवली (पूर्व), जि. थाने ४२१२०१

श्री साई बाबा से निर्भरा भक्ति

श्री गोस्वामी तुलसीदास जी ने रामचरित मानस में सभी वेदविहि-
विषयों पर समज को उत्कृष्ट मार्गदर्शन दिया है। उन्होंने इसी प्रकार "काम"
के द्वारा उत्पन्न किये गये उस कौतुक का भी विस्तृत वर्णन किया है जिसमें
"काम" (कामदेव) के सबल आक्रमण के कारण बड़े-बड़े ज्ञानी ध्यानी विचलि-
हो उठे थे और उस (कामदेव) के सामने विवेक, ज्ञान और मर्यादित जीवन का
टिक सकना कठिन हो गया था। उस संक्रान्ति काल में भक्तगण भी उपयुक्त
मनःस्थिति के अभाव (कमी) में भगवान श्रीराम से सुरक्षा (बचत) की प्रार्थना
नहीं कर सके थे।

तभी श्री गोस्वामी जी ने मानस में एक पंक्ति में कहा है कि -

“जेहि राखे रघुवीर सो उबरे तेहि काल में”

अर्थात् कामदेव के उस आक्रमण के समय केवल वहीं लोग बच सके जिनकी
श्री रामचन्द्र जी ने रक्षा की।

श्री गोस्वामी जी ने यहां इसी बात पर अत्यधिक जोर दिया है कि -

“कामदेव” के आक्रमण के समय सभी हतप्रभ से हो कामदेव द्वारा चलाये गये
पुष्प के कोमल और सुगन्धित बाणों से तत्काल आहत (काम के वशीभूत) हो
गये। ऐसे समय में केवल उन नन्हें, मुन्ने, अबोध बालकों की ही बचत (सुरक्षा)
हो सकी थी जो बेचारे अपनी जरूरत के लिये भी कुछ नहीं कहने के काबिल
थे। जिनकी सभी जरूरतों की चिन्ता स्वयं मां को ही करनी पड़ती थी। ऐसे
नन्हें, मुन्ने अबोधों की सुरक्षा का श्रेय उनकी “निर्भरा भक्ति” के कारण ही
सम्भव हो सकी, क्योंकि कोई भी साधना कितनी ही उच्च कोटी की क्यों न हो
उसमें कुछ न कुछ कमी रह जाती ही है।

मानस में उक्त कथानक हम सभी साई भक्तों को भी उस “निर्भरा
भक्ति” का मार्ग दिखलाता है कि हम सभी अबोध बालक की भांति एक
विश्वासी भक्त के रूप में श्री साई प्रभु की गोद में अपनी आंखे मूद कर काम,
क्रोध, मद, लोभ से अपना मुख मोड़लें।

डॉ. दुर्गाप्रसाद शुक्ल

४८०, म्हार मण्डी, कानपुर, छावनी २०८००४.

साँई साथ चलना

हर मानव मन मस्जिद	मस्जिद आपका साँई ।	
हर भक्त हृदय	मन्दिर आपका साँई	॥ १ ॥
हर भक्त उदय	साकार करना साँई ।	
हर भक्त उध्दार	करना साँई	॥ २ ॥
हर राहपर साथ	चलना साँई ।	
हर बात पर	मार्ग बताना साँई	॥ ३ ॥
मनोकामना	पुर्ण करो साँई ।	
हर भक्त की	चिन्ता सहना साँई	॥ ४ ॥

प्रभाकर कोळमकर
गुंफा दर्शन, कार्टर रोड, बोरीवली (पूर्व), बम्बई

श्रीमान् सम्पादकजी,
श्री साँईलीला मासिक बम्बई,
महोदय,

गत दो वर्षों से श्री साँईलीला मासिक अन्ग्रेजी, हिन्दी, समयानुसार प्राप्त हो रहा है। मैं नियमित पढ़ रही हूँ। अनुभव, लेख, कविताएँ बहुत ही भावपूर्ण और श्रद्धा से भरपूर होती हैं। मेरे पिताजी प्रा. गुंडेराब पटवारीजी के साथ मैं एक बार सम्मेलन में संमिलित हुअी थी। अब तक वह प्रभाव मेरे मन पर है। साँई बाबा के आशीर्वाद से इस वर्ष फिर संमिलित होना चाह रही हूँ। मेरे पिताजी श्री गुंडेराब पटवारी के अनेक लेख कविताएँ, अनुभव, अनुवाद इत्यादी साँईलीला में प्रकाशित हो चुके हैं।

डॉ. परचुरे साहेब, आपका सम्पादकीय पढने लायक होता है। दस दस बार हम पढते हैं चर्चा करते हैं। अक्टोबर ८४ के अंक में प्रकाशित LEPROSY, इस निबंध को तो रोटरी क्लब के सदस्यों के सामने पढकर बताया गया, जिसकी बड़ी सहारना कि गयी। सब बाबा साई की कृपा है। धन्यवाद।

भवदीया

सौ. मीरा नाईक

द्वारा जी. आर. पटवारी ब्राह्मणवाडी, विदर (कर्नाटक) ५८५४०१

याचना

मेरी डूबती जीवन-नौका को साई अब पार लगा देना ।
भव सागर में मेरी नाव फंसी इसे डूबने से बचा लेना ॥
तुम सब जग के रखवारे हो, मेरा उजडा संसार बसा देना ।
भावों के झरोखे से साई मुझे अपना रूप दिखा देना ॥
सत्संग में, मेरे भजनों में साई तुम रंग जमा देना ।
मेरे सने मन-मन्दिर में तुम जीवन-ज्योति जगा देना ॥
तुम एक मिले साई मुझको दूजा न इमारा है कोई ।
निज चरण-कमल में है साई थोड़ी-सी जगह दिला देना ॥
साई मुझे ऐसी भक्ति मिले दिन-रात तुम्हारा नाम जपूं ।
भक्ति-भाव में मस्त रहूं, छवि अपनी मुझे दिखा देना ॥
फंसकर संसार की माया में कपटी व अधमी बन बैठा ।
तुम बाह पकड मेरी साई भव-सागर पार लगा देना ॥
तुम पर है भरोसा हे साई चाहत है तुम्हारी ही मन में ।
अभिलाषा 'दर' की पूरी कर अब बिगडी बात बना देना ॥

महाराज नारायण दर

१६, सिरसिल्क कालोनी, सिरपुर, कागज नगर, ८०४ २९६ (आ. प्र.)

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