

“ As I have already stated before, I was living in Vaitarna, near Kalyan, Bombay, along with my cousin brother. We were contractors to the Govt. and were living in Vaitarana to do the work in connection with the ‘ Bombay Water Supply scheme ’, Vaitarna is in jungle and all sort of bad characters move above the place in the guise of a Sadhu, Sanyasi or Fakir As we have to keep a good amount of cash always with us for the sake of payment of daily workers and other emergency purposes, as a precautionary measure. We had instructed our servants not to allow any Fakir or Sadhu or to enter the surrounding area of our house. We were very strict over this instruction so much so that my brother and I do not remember having seen any Fakir or sadhu moving around our house for the last one year or so,

“ This thing I remembered now and at once I made up my mind as to what improbable wish I should ask Shree Sai Baba to fulfil.

“ So on Wednesday, the 6th August 1952, I stood before the photo of Shree Baba, lighted agarbatti and prayed as follows—

‘ O, Boba I you have already made me your admirer, but I have not yet become your true devotee For, I still doubt whether the 2 mircles you have performed in my case were really miracles or simply an example of wonderful happenings of coincidents. In order to relieve me completely from any doubt, O, Lord ! I most humbly request you to do the following thing—

Tomorrow is Thursday and it is your day. I humbly wish that there should come a Sadhu, Sanyasi or Fakir at my door asking for ‘ Bhiksha ’ between 12-30 and 1 P. M. and exactly at the time I start taking the first morsel of my food—but not before nor after, and lastly that Fakir or Sadhu, whoever would come, should bless me not in the ordinary way by keeping his right hand on my head only, but he should move his right hand from head to foot and thus bless every part of my body. And if this wish of mine is fulfilled I take a vew that I will imme-

diately go to Shirdi and will do you Seva till such time as you wish and shall never allow any doubt to enter in my mind about your godliness or as the "Fulfiller of all the wishes of your devotees (i.e. Bhakta Kama Kalpadrum)".

"I fixed up such an improbable condition because I thought it most definitely that nobody else in the world except Sri Sai Baba, could know about my demand and if, therefore, my wish is at all fulfilled then it is certain that it is fulfilled by him and him alone.

"I then started praying Baba from the heart of my heart. In the night (i.e. on Wednesday) I slept peacefully. Next day i.e. on Thursday the 7th August 1952, I woke up as usual. However, I was a bit restless. At about 9 A.M. a friend of mine accidentally visited me and gave me some sweetmeats. These I kept aside and decided to give them to that Fakir or whomsoever Sri Baba sends at my door between 12-30 and 1 P.M. At about 12-15 my cook told me that my Khana was ready. I then finished my prayer and went into another room to take my khana. However, I was anxiously looking outside to see whether any Fakir was approaching towards my room but there was no sight of any Fakir. I was greatly disappointed I thought that Sri Baba must have considered my wish a silly one and therefore he would not fulfil it.

"with great resentment and disappointment, I started taking my khann. I just took the first morsel of food in my hand, raised it and was about to put it in my mouth when to my utter amazement I heard a cry of a Fakir at my door asking for alms. I was so much overwhelmed with joy that for a second or two I lost all my senses and I did not know what to do. During that split of a moment, my cook who never used to give anything to any beggar, gave, out of his own accord, a one anna coin to that Fakir. The Fakir turned and was on the point of leaving. By this time I recovered partially. I then called the Fakir back and gave him prasad which I had kept before Baba's photo. The Fakir then went away.

“After sometime I came to my full senses. At once I fully remembered what had happened and then blamed myself very much; for, I realised that in my bewilderment I did nothing except giving prasad to that Fakir. I looked outside and saw the Fakir some furlongs away turning at a corner. It was impossible to call him back. I then finished my meals but all the time I was thinking as to how I would be able to meet the Fakir again. Then I suddenly remembered that my one wish was yet to be fulfilled and that was blessing me from head to foot. So I thought that anyhow that Fakir would again come to my house and when he would come I thought of giving him khana. So I asked my cook whether there was any extra khana prepared but he said ‘No’! There was khana sufficient only for the cook himself, I then looked outside for the Fakir and to my utter astonishment I saw the same Fakir again coming back and passing by my door. I immediately called him and when he came in I asked the cook to go back to the kitchen and leave us together. I then immediately offered my ‘pranam’ to the Fakir and gave him Rs. 2/- saying that out of this amount he should take his khana in a hotel as I was unable to serve him food at my house. The Fakir accepted the amount and without saying anything simply laughed meaning fully at me. And then to my great joy he immediately blessed me from head to foot by his right hand and with peacock feather. This was my last improbable wish and when I saw it being fulfilled exactly as I wished, with in explicable joy tears rolled down from my eyes and I simply lay prostrate at the feet of the Fakir and again offered my ‘Pranam’. Then the Fakir raised me up and said that he would meet me again on next Thursday i. e. on 14-8-52. I told the Fakir that this would not be possible because as per my vow, I would be going to Shirdi within a couple of days. “Even then I will meet you”. So saying the Fakir went away. I was wondering as to how he will meet me again. Any way, in order to fulfil my vow, after making all the arrangement, I left Bombay on 12th and came to Shirdi on 13-8-1952.

“On Thursday, the 14th August 1952 during the noon arti time in the Samadhi Mandir, while I was looking at Sri Baba’s

photo, it suddenly occurred to me what the Fakir had said and then I was so much surprised because the Fakir's saying had come true for I was in front of Baba performing Arti and so Sri Baba too was in front of me. That is how the Fakir did visit me on Thursday the 14th August, as promised.

Thus how Sri Baba at last brought this 'faithless' into the fold of his staunch devotees. These experiences also wonderfully reveal that Sri Sai Baba was not only a Sadhu or saint but he was something more; He was an avatari 'Satpurush and 'Bhaktakama-Kalpadrums' (i. e., Fulfiller of all the wishes of his Bhakta ).

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