

November '86)

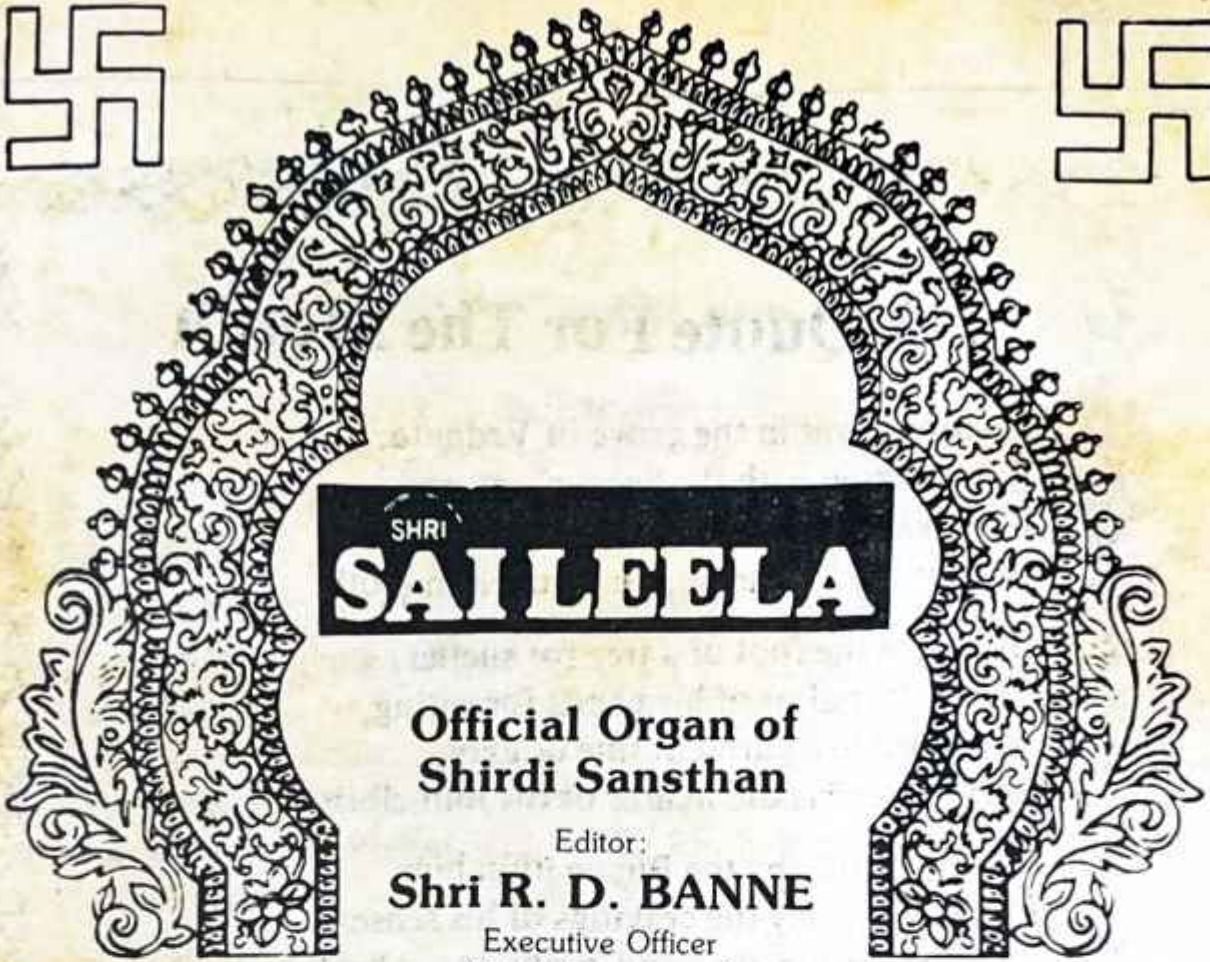
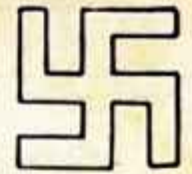
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SHRI

SAI LEELA

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF SHIRDI SANSTHAN





SHRI
SAILEELA

**Official Organ of
Shirdi Sansthan**

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**To spread the message of SHRI SAI
BABA all the world over is the aim and
object of Shri Sai Leela**

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*The Editor does not accept responsibility for the views expressed in
the articles published.*



A Quote For The Month

Roaming ever in the grove of Vedanta,
Ever pleased with the beggar's morsel,
Ever walking with heart free from sorrow,
Blest indeed is the wearer of the loin-cloth.

Sitting at the foot of a tree for shelter,
Using the palms of his hands for eating,
Wrapped in a garment fine or ugly,
Blest indeed is the wearer of the loin-cloth.

Satisfied fully by the Bliss within him,
Curbing wholly the cravings of his senses,
Contemplating day and night the Absolute Brahman,
Blest indeed is the wearer of the loin-cloth.

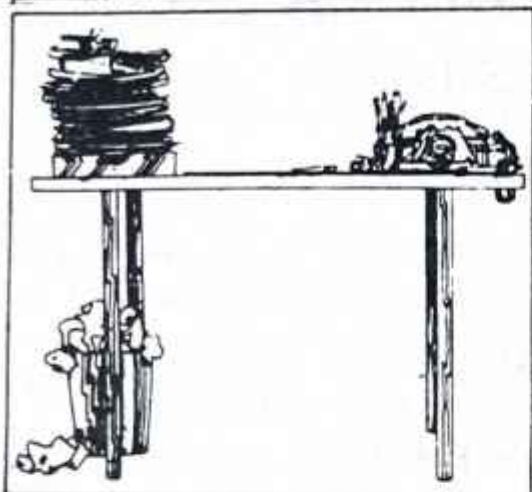
Witnessing the changes of mind and body,
Naught but the Self within him beholding,
Thinking not of outer, of inner, or of middle,
Blest indeed is the wearer of the loin-cloth.

Chanting 'Brahman', the word of Redemption,
Meditating only on 'I am Brahman',
Living on alms and wandering freely,
Blest indeed is the wearer of the loin-cloth.

— **Shri Adi Shankaracharya**
(Translated from Sanskrit by Swami Nikhilananda)



EDITORIAL |



Shri Sai-Sat-Charit narrates an interesting story about a selfish, non-believing man who, along with his devout wife, had come to Shirdi from the south, with a group that used to travel singing devotional songs from place to place. In his dream the man saw that he was trapped by misfortunes and earnestly entreated Baba, making him an obeisance, to extricate him. And Baba asked him “Is there any difference

between the namaskar that you are doing now and the ones that you have been doing so far”?

The question was most apt and is relevant for us as well. When difficulties come, we all prostrate readily before Baba. In moments of extreme anguish and weakness, we make promises. But once we are free from them, we are only too apt to forget. As the intensity of feeling becomes less we tend to fall into a mechanical ritual of worship!

Of course, no worship, however mechanical can ever be a waste! The story of Valya Koli is only too well known. He, we are told, attained deliverance by accidentally, unintentionally, pronouncing the name “Rama” in a reverse order. But all worship must help to take us forward and closer to God. Ultimately, the worship, ritualistic or in any other form, must take us to a state of consciousness where we surrender ourselves totally, unflinchingly, unquestioningly to the Guru or God. That is our only hope of salvation. Moreover, Baba has assured us again and again that if we approach him with faith he will take care of us. And to the devotees the experience of Baba’s help, his protection, his presence in one form or the other, is not new.

But even though all this is true, such total surrender does not come easily. The self and the ego intrude; the “maya” or this illusory world and the material concerns of life lead us astray; the “me” and the “mine” cloud our judgement. And once again, we have to turn to the Guru for help and guidance. In moments of sorrow and calamity, self-surrender comes easily. But in moments

of joy, when all is well, if we remember God with humility, taking no credit to ourselves for anything, which really is the truth, then we have taken at least one step forward towards our ultimate objective.

It is a way of thinking in which we have to train ourselves. All thinking must begin from the premise that "He is everything; I am nothing". It is a discipline and like all disciplines it is difficult. It is a struggle. But without struggle there is no achievement; without war there is no victory. And when Baba is with us to help, to guide and to protect, we need be deterred by nothing. We must therefore pray to Baba that he give us humility and simple trust so that our very faith in him becomes our strength and enables us to journey through life in the light of his teachings!



WHEN I DON'T GET SLEEP

Thank you, Lord Sainath, for sleepless hours,
When you can talk to me — and I to you,
When all is still — no need to rush,
No work I need to do.
When, as the names and faces
Of loved ones come to mind,
I have the time to pray for them,
Which rarely I can find.
When day time duties press me
and day time sounds I hear,
I listen to their voices
and not to yours, I fear.
But in the still night watches,
No sound or sight or soul,
Can take away the blessings
of a mind in your control.

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THE DIVINE SAYINGS OF SAI SAT CHARITA

Fortunately for us, the HOLY BOOK SRI SAI-SAT-CHARITA has been given in our hands in various languages and convenient sizes. You should therefore make the best use of it. Just as kids desire milk and enjoy drinking it, you should READ the Sacred Book SAI-SAT-CHARITA with great relish.

The HOLY BOOK SAI-SAT-CHARITA promises the following BLESSINGS to those who READ it CAREFULLY, SINCERELY, FAITHFULLY and wait with PATIENCE TOTALLY.

1. SAI SAT CHARITA IS THE BEST GUIDE REALLY.

PAGE 9. CHAPTER II — The devotee Kaka Saheb asked, “But Baba what if we take a guide with us? Sri BABA answered — “Then there is no difficulty. The GUIDE will take you STRAIGHT to your DESTINATION, avoiding wolves, tigers, and ditches etc. on the way. If there be NO GUIDE, there is the DANGER of your being lost in the jungles or falling into ditches .

PAGE 173. CHAPTER XXXII — For traversing this path, the help of a GOOD GUIDE (GURU) is absolutely necessary. However learned a man or a woman may be or however deep his or her study of Vedas, and Vedangas (sacred literatures) may be, he cannot go to his or her destination safely. If the GUIDE be there to HELP him and show the RIGHT WAY, he will avoid the pitfalls and the wild beasts on the journey and everything will be smooth-sailing.

2. SAI-SAT-CHARITA GIVES YOU WISDOM, ACTUALLY.

PAGE 10. CHAPTER III — It is my special characteristic to free any person, who surrenders completely to ME (SAI BABA) and worships ME (SHIRDI SAI BABA) FAITHFULLY and who remembers ME (AUM SAI BABA) and meditates on ME (AUM SHIRDI SAI BABA) constantly. If MY TALES are listened to, the AVIDYA (nescience) will vanish and if they are attentively and devoutly listened to, the consciousness of the worldly existence will abate and strong waves of devotion and love will rise up and if one dives deep into my leelas he will get PRECIOUS JEWELS of KNOWLEDGE.

3. SAI-SAT-CHARITA GIVES YOU GOOD HEALTH TRULY.

PAGE 180/181. CHAPTER XXXIII — What did BABA teach or hint by His UDHI? SRI BABA taught by HIS UDHI that all the visible phenomena in the universe were as transient as the ash. BABA also taught by the UDHI that the Brahman is the only one REALITY and the UNIVERSE is ephemeral and that no one in this world, be he a son, father or wife, is really ours. We come here in this world alone and have to go away alone; it was found and is even now found, that the UDHI cured and even now cures many physical and mental maladies. Baba wanted to din into the devotees' ears the Principles of discrimination between the unreal and the real, non-attachment for the unreal, by His UDHI. The UDHI taught us discrimination.

COME, COME, AND BRING WITH YOU SACKS OF UDHI. BABA used to sing in very clear and sweet tones. So much about the spiritual implication of UDHI. It has also its material significance. It conferred health, prosperity, freedom from anxiety and many other worldly gains. So the UDHI has helped us to gain both our ends — material as well as spiritual.

4. SAI-SAT-CHARITA HELPS YOUR WORK TO PROSPER.

PAGE 272. EPILOGUE — If you STUDY this ONE BOOK (SAI-SAT-CHARITA) carefully, all your desires will be satisfied and if you always remember SAI'S FEET in your heart, you will easily cross the BHAVA SAGAR (SAMSAR). By its study the diseased and sick will get HEALTH, the poor WEALTH, the mean and the afflicted PROSPERITY and the mind will get rid of all IDEAS and get STEADINESS.

5. SAI-SAT-CHARITA CONSOLES YOU IN TROUBLE.

PAGE 117. CHAPTER XXII — Do you know our DWARAKAMAYI MASJID? BABA continued: This is our DWARAKAMAYI where you are sitting. She wards off all dangers and anxieties of the children, who sit in her lap. This MASJIDMAI (its Presiding Deity) is very MERCIFUL, she is the MOTHER of the simple devotees, whom she will save in calamities. Once a person sits in her lap, all his troubles are over. He who rests in HER SHADE gets BLISS.



PAGE 188, CHAPTER XXXIV — The merciful BABA comforted them saying, “Those who resort to this MASJID shall never suffer anything in this life and to the end of time. Be now care-free. BELIEVE IN GOD. This is NO MASJID, but DWARAWATI. He who steps here will soon get HEALTH and HAPPINESS and his sufferings and troubles will come to AN END.

6. GOD WILL LOOK AFTER YOU AND HELP YOU ONLY IF YOU RESPECT HIS WORDS.

PAGE 240. CHAPTER XLIII and XLIV — The kind and MERCIFUL SAIBABA said many a time the following sweet words in the MASJID — He who loves ME (SAI BABA) most, always sees ME. The whole world is desolate to him without ME, he tells no stories but MINE. He ceaselessly meditates upon ME and always chants MY NAME. I feel indebted to him, who surrenders himself completely to ME and even remembers ME. I shall repay his debt by giving him salvation (SELF-REALIZATION). I am dependent on him who thinks and hungers after ME, and who does not eat anything without first offering it to ME; He who thus comes to ME, becomes one with ME, just as a river goes to the sea and becomes merged (one) with it. So leaving out pride and egoism and with no trace of them, you should SURRENDER YOURSELF to ME who am seated in your heart.

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. If you practise this, you will realize all pervasiveness and thus attain ONENESS WITH ME.

He who carps and cavils about others, pierces ME, in the heart and injures me, but he that suffers and endures, PLEASES ME most. Those who lovingly sing BABA'S NAME and those who hear the same with DEVOTION, both become ONE with SAI BABA.

LOVE GOD WHOLE HEARTEDLY, surrender to HIM completely and prostrate before HIM reverentially and then you will see that there is no sea of the mundane existence before you to cross, as there is no darkness before the SUN. Page 244 Chapter XLV.

7. SAI-SAT-CHARITA GIVES YOU LONG LIFE.

PAGE 17. CHAPTER IV — CONTACT with SAIBABA in SHIRDI is our Veda and Mantra: it quietens our SAMSARA (WORLD CONSCIOUSNESS) and renders Self-Realization easy. The DARSHAN of Shri SAI BABA is our YOGA SADHANA and talk with HIM removes our SINS. Shampooing his legs is OUR BATH in RIVER GANGES and Triveni and drinking the Holy Water of HIS FEET destroys our desires. HIS COMMAND is VEDA and MANTRA to us and accepting (eating) his UDHI (SACRED ASHES) and PRASAD is all PURIFYING.

PAGE 78. CHAPTER XIV — We get human body as a result of Punya in past births and it is worthwhile that with its aid, we should ATTAIN DEVOTION and LIBERATION in this life. So we should never BE LAZY, but always be ALERT to GAIN OUR END and AIM of LIFE.


8. SAI-SAT-CHARITA GIVES YOU PEACE OF MIND

PAGE 113/114. CHAPTER XXI — PARABLE of Nine Balls of Stool (NAVA VIDHA BHAKTI). Once a soudagar (merchant) came here. Before him a mare passed her stools (nine balls of stool). The merchant intent on his quest, spread the end of his dhoti and gathered all the nine balls in it and thus he got CONCENTRATION (PEACE OF MIND).

The mare is GOD'S GRACE and the nine balls excreted are the nine forms or types of BHAKTI. viz., 1. SHRAVANA (Hearing), 2. KIRTANA (Singing), 3. SMARANA (Remembering), 4. PADASEVANA (Resorting to the feet), 5. ARCHANA (Worship), 6. NAMASKARA (Bowling), 7. DASYA (Service), 8. SAKHYATVA (Friendship), 9. ATMANIVEDANA (Surrender of the self). These are the nine types of BHAKTI. If any of these is FAITHFULLY followed, Lord HARI will be pleased and manifest HIMSELF in the home of the devotee.

9. SAI-SAT-CHARITA OFFERS YOU THE "BEST WEAPON" to FACE TEMPTATION.

PAGE 136. CHAPTER XXV — BABA said, "BELIEVE ME, though I pass away, MY BONES IN MY TOMB would be speaking, moving, and communicating with those who would surrender themselves wholeheartedly to Me: Do not be anxious that I would



be absent from you. You will hear MY BONES speaking and discussing your welfare. BUT always remember ME, believe in ME, HEART and SOUL and then you will be most benefited.

PAGE 138. CHAPTER XXVI — Use hot water in the form of tears of joy to wash the SAD-GURU'S FEET, let us besmear HIS BODY with sandal paste of PURE LOVE, let us cover HIS BODY with the cloth of TRUE FAITH, let us offer eight lotuses in the form of our eight SATWIK EMOTIONS and fruit in the form of our concentrated mind: let us apply to HIS HEAD BUKKA (BLACK POWDER) in the form of DEVOTION and tie the waist band of BHAKTI and place OUR HEAD ON HIS TOES.

PAGE 272. EPILOGUE — If anybody after bath reads this with LOVE and FAITH and completes it, his calamities will disappear, or if he hears or reads it daily and regularly all his dangers will be warded off. He will get the reward according to his FAITH and DEVOTION. Without these, there will be no experience of any kind. If you read this respectfully, SAIBABA will be pleased, and removing your ignorance and poverty, He will give you KNOWLEDGE, WEALTH and PROSPERITY. With concentrated mind, if you read a chapter daily, it will give you unbounded happiness. One who has his welfare at heart, should study it carefully and then he will even remember SAIBABA gratefully and joyfully in birth after birth. If you study this ONE BOOK CAREFULLY, all your desires will be satisfied and if you always remember SAI'S FEET in your heart, you will easily cross the BHAVA SAGAR (SAMSAAR). By its study the diseased and the sick will get HEALTH, the POOR WEALTH, the mean and the afflicted PROSPERITY and the mind will get rid of all ideas and get steadiness.

PAGE 260. CHAPTER XLIX — We have, therefore, to chant SAIBABA'S NAME aloud, think over HIS SAYINGS in our mind, meditate on HIS FORM, feel REAL LOVE for HIM in our HEART and do all our actions for HIS SAKE. If we can do the DUTY on our part as stated above, SAIBABA is bound to help and LIBERATE us.

PAGE 57. CHAPTER X — A little exertion here brings great rewards really and TRULY IN LIFE.

Dr. BABAJI
U.S.A.

HOW STUDY OF SHRI SAI-SAT-CHARITA HELPS IN OUR SADHANA

I narrate the following incident in order to bring out the importance of reading Shri Sai-Sat-Charita in our Sadhana.

One of my very old relatives was a staunch devotee of Lord Shiva. He always mentally repeated the mantra of "OM NAMAH SHIVAYA". Though his devotion to Lord Shiva was extraordinary, he was a fanatic. He would be displeased if any other name of God (Ram or Krishna) was uttered in his presence. He was short-tempered and had no control over his anger. He was strictly orthodox in his behaviour.

Once he was admitted in an Eye Hospital for a cataract operation. He was in the habit of reading and listening to spiritual books. He invited me to read a spiritual book near his bed.

I went with Sai Satcharitra. While going, I had mental reservations and doubt, whether he would tolerate "Sai Baba's" name, in view of his dislike for any name other than Lord Shiva. However, I started with the reading of the incident of Megha, to whom Lord Sai was Shankar. This incident impressed him very much. Instantly, he changed his mantra from OM NAMAH SHIVAYA, to OM NAMAH SHIVAYA, OM SAI NATHAYA NAMAHA. That night he had *darshan* of Baba in his dream.

Later on, when he heard the Leela of Ramadasi and Vishnu Sahasra Nama, he was entirely changed and transformed. He thought deeply within himself that just like Ramdasi he also could not control anger, inspite of worshipping Lord Shiva for so many years. As a result, he became entirely peaceful. Because of his old age and karmik effect, he could not regain his eye sight, yet in his later life he could remain calm, cool, and composed. At the time of death he was peaceful. Thus Baba teaches us even today.

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BLISS OF HIGHER VISION

“He who is satisfied with wisdom and direct vision of Truth, who has conquered the senses and is ever undisturbed, to whom a lump of earth, a stone and gold are the same, that one is said to be a saint of established wisdom”.

— Bhagavad Gita.

Our desire and attachment to this world and its objects exist in our mind. This mind can be moulded in many ways. One of them is to put it in a mould so that it can take the shape we desire. There are other ways such as constant remembrance of an object, repeating the name of the object mentally without any break and also contemplating on the object.

The easiest way to Sai-realisation is to repeat constantly His name. Sit silent. Compose your mind and make it pure. And then happiness will surely follow. Sainath will certainly come and dwell in your heart. You must possess intense desire and longing to realise Him.

We are unable to understand the divine plan of Lord Sai for His choosing Vijayawada Sai Mandir for ‘Akhanda Sainama Saptha Saptaha -chanting of Sai-taraka mantram ‘OM SAI SHRI SAI JAYA JAYA SAI’ for 49 days non-stop from 26-12-1985 to 13-2-1986. Great saints must have performed severe penances in this ‘Punya Bhoomi’ for its being selected to perform non-stop ‘nama yagna’ of Lord Sainath. Though ‘nama Japa-yagnas’ are done all over the country, it is the first time that a 49-day long ‘nama japam’ of this type was organised.

I do not know how to repay our debt to Sai Baba for enabling me and my Sai-half, Smt. Subbulakshmi to participate in the concluding week of this ‘Akhanda Sainama Sapthaham’ at Vijayawada. Sai Baba prompted me to attend the ‘Namajapam’ at Vijayawada, soon after my participating in the ‘Sai Leela Meet’ at Shirdi. As soon as I entered the sanctum sanctorum of Sai Baba Mandir at Vijayawada on the 5th February, 1986, I felt exactly as if I was at Pandarapuram (where Nada Brhmans’ Upasana uttering Lord Panduranga’s name is going on all the 24-hours) and was thrilled to the core to listen to the chorus of ‘OM SAI SRI SAI JAYA JAYA SAI’.

On the 6th morning, I found to my dismay that my purse contained only a one-rupee coin and that too given as 'prasad' for singing in Baba's samadhi mandir on 3-2-'86 at the Sai Leela Meet held at Shirdi on 2nd and 3rd February '86. I always have the feeling 'Lord Sainath provides where He guides' — I did not bother much about my being penniless. But soon a Sai-brother approached me, prostrated before me and placed a twenty-rupee note in my pocket saying that I looked like his departed father. He looked after our comforts throughout our stay at Vijayawada. It was indeed Sai-seva.

I had an unforgettable experience during the 'Arathi-time' on the evening of 7th February, 1986 — a holy 'Chaturdashi' day. As I was chanting 'Om Sai Sri Sai Jaya Jaya Sai', unsolicited a pious young lady appeared before me and blessed me by putting her hands on my head. I immediately prostrated before her and when I got up, she was holding one-half of consecrated cocoanut, rose flowers and kumkum and she handed them to me. In a flash, she gave me 'darshan' in the form of Goddess Kamakshi of Kanchipuram. Sai Baba prompted me to hand over this 'Prasad' to Chi. Sow. Indira, (Sai-half of Shri Anantha Padmanabha Rao of Tanuku, (A.P.)) who had specially come down to Vijayawada to meet me, along with her husband and son, Chi. Balasubramanyan.

On the 8th February, 1986 — being the new moon day — Baba's marble statue and all other photographs were decorated with rose flowers. But one lively photograph of Sai Baba, which was hung on the wall had only one garland. Somehow I had a longing to decorate this photograph with a garland of roses. Even as this idea vanished from my mind, Baba answered my prayers. Wonder of wonders, a big garland of roses was on Baba's neck. It confirmed my faith that Sai Baba was very much present and is fulfilling the desires of His devotees.

I am 68 years old and as such am unable to sit or stand for a long time in any one place. But, by Sai Baba's grace, except between 12 midnight and 2 A.M. for sleep, I could participate in the 'Namajapam' throughout. The Sai-taraka mantra 'OM SAI SRI SAI JAYA JAYA SAI' has taken deep roots in my heart and the repetition of the same has become automatic all the 24 hours while walking, bathing taking food etc., not only at Vijayawada but even long after returning to my place Hubli. It is all Baba's



grace and I pray to Him to enable this soul to continue this till eternity.

Further Sai Baba has enabled me to dance to the tune of 'Nama Japam' during nights. Many Sai-bandhus have requested me to teach them dancing to the tune of 'OM SAI SRI SAI JAYA JAYA SAI'. This is all Baba's grace and blessings — who makes the dumb talk and a lame walk. At Vijayawada, Baba prompted me to give 'udhi' to several Sai-bandhus affected with so many problems. In all their cases, the effect was marvellous. I am only reminded of Lord Krishna's assurance to Arjuna: "You simply surrender to me with mind, body, wealth and everything. I will look after the rest. By being an instrument in my hand, you will get all the fame and name both here and in the next world."

Sai Baba blessed me with the physical 'darshan' of that great lady of Andhra Pradesh — Matrushi Phoolamma of Nandur. I had heard a lot about her greatness but it was only at Vijayawada I could physically meet her and be blessed by her. I understand that she has built a nice Sai temple at Nandur near Bapatta of Andhra Pradesh. When she does 'Archana' to Sai Baba, flowers multiply by themselves and hence she is popularly called 'phoolamma'. When I prostrated before her, she told me "Nayana, don't prostrate before me. You are older than I and you look like Sai Baba to me." How polite and humble this mother is! Though she is not well educated, yet by Baba's grace, she has composed a number of beautiful poems on SRI BABA.

I also had the occasion to meet veteran Sai-bhakta of A.P. — 92 years old Sri G.V.R. Naidu of Secunderabad, who was closely connected with His Holiness Narasimha Swamiji. We were able to meet many Sai brothers and Sai sisters like Sri R.V. Ramakrishnan of Bangalore, Sri B. Umamaheswara Rao of Hyderabad, Sri M.R. Natarajan of Madras and many others. 'Satsang' with all these Sai-bandhus will remain green in my memory.

In addition to 'Namajapam' there was also 'Anna dan' — feeding 800 to 1000 persons everyday all these 49 days. On the concluding day more than 10,000 persons were fed. I have never seen in my life such a great 'Yagna' combined with 'Anna Santarpana'.

The dynamic person behind all this unique programme is Sai

Brother D. Shankaraiah of Hyderabad. He masterminded the entire programme and was ably helped by Sai Brothers M.L.N. Prasad, Dr. Venkatarathnam, Sharath Babu and so many others. In fact Sri Shankaraiah has been spearheading this movement of propagating 'Sai-taraka-mantram' in many places since 1981.

In conclusion, I pray to Sai Baba that let Vijayawada be the fore runner of many more 'Sai Nama Yajnas' and let us wait and see as to where Sai Baba would choose for a 365 day non-stop recitation of Sai-nama japam. Let that day come early. It is my humble prayer.

Lord Sainath is no more on earth in flesh and blood but he is ever present in the hearts of his countless devotees in spirit; and his guiding hand and loving eyes hover over every home of his devotee who keeps on chanting 'Om Sai Sri Sai Jaya Jaya Sai.'

Bow to Sai — Peace be to all
Om Tat Sat.

*R. Radhakrishnan
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GIVE to RECEIVE

The more ye shalt give,
Thinking of Shirdi Sai,
Ten times more ye shalt receive,
By the grace of Sai!

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SAI WORSHIP IN ADI SHANKARA'S STYLE

Man's spiritual excellence has registered a gradual fall from its highest meridian in Krita Yuga to its lowest in Kali. But, the modern man has advantages over his ancestors in that he has the easiest methods to follow for his liberation (Moksha).

Moksha, the last but most important in the order of values of life — others being Dharma, Artha and Kama. Mukti is again of four types, viz. Sarupya (having a form similar to the Supreme God), Samipya (living close to the Supreme) Salokya (living in the realm of the Supreme) and Sayujya (being merged with the Supreme).

Adi Shankaracharya in his Sivanandalahari (Inundation of Divine Bliss) has given full vent to his longing for God, which is the quintessence of devotion. Though all the hundred slokas are brimming with his devotional fervour, verse 28, in particular, appealed to me immensely wherein he has shown the means for attainment of the aforesaid four types of Moksha.

The Sloka runs thus: O Lord of Bhavani! I attain to similarity of form with Thee by performing Thy ritualistic worship; to closeness with Thee by singing Thy praise; to residence in Thy Heavenly plane by associating and conversing with Thy noble devotees; and to oneness with Thee by contemplating on the macrocosm and microcosm. Thus in this very birth I shall attain my spiritual goal.

On this auspicious day of Guru Poornima let us also, as humble devotees, of Sainath resolve to reach the highest rung on the spiritual ladder by performing Puja to the image of Sai Baba with great faith, by singing the glories of Sai Maharaj with great devotion, by mingling with other Sai devotees and exchanging lofty ideas and experiences, and lastly by recognizing the Divinity of Sai's presence in all the creatures of God if not in a positive way, at least indirectly, by observing Ahimsa (Non-injury) in thought, word and deed.

May Sai Nath bless us all.

SITA SHRI
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SAI BABA, THE SAVIOUR

Shri Sai Baba assured His devotees, when He was in flesh and blood — 'Though I be no more in flesh and blood, I shall ever protect My devotees'. Devotees, who approached Baba with firm faith did not go unrewarded. On that score, it cannot be said or concluded that Baba interfered with divine laws or helped His devotees in avoiding *prarabdha* i.e. the fruits of their karma in the past births. Baba merely helped His devotees in enjoying the fruits of their *prarabdha* karma in the present birth itself, instead of postponing their enjoyment in future births, as was done in the case of Dr. Pillay

The marriage of my second daughter, Sow. Rohini took place in 1980 at Alamelumangapuram. After two years of married life, she became pregnant in 1982 and she was brought to Ongole for delivery in March, 1983. From the time of conception she had been under proper medical care and treatment. Coming to Ongole often, she had been taking injections and medicines, besides using tonics for strength. One Dr. Aruna at Ongole attended upon her during the period of her confinement and she also promised to attend to delivery too, as she was running a Private Nursing home. From the date of marriage, my daughter Sow. Rohini became a devotee of Shri Sai Baba and noticing her devotion, I presented her with a copy of 'Shri Sai Leelamrutam' written by E. Bharadwaja in Telugu. Even after going to her father-in-law's house, she continued the study of the book daily, besides wearing a ring of Saibaba given to her by me after my return from Shirdi in 1981. I also gave some Udi to her and to my son-in-law Chy. Ranga Rao.

Even after she was brought to Ongole for delivery, she was attending to her normal routine with ease and also assisting her mother in the house-hold activities. Seeing her condition of health, we thought that she would have an easy delivery. But God willed otherwise. Suddenly on 30th night of March, 1983, she complained of severe head-ache, and at the same time, she had slight labour pains too. At about 1 A.M. she had to be rushed to a nearby Nursing home for delivery, as Dr. Aruna, the lady doctor, who had been attending upon her throughout, had left for her place, Bangalore. Dr. S. Sundararaja Rao, in charge of the private nursing home near my house, is an experienced doctor. His compounder, Sri Venkata Rao was present in the dispensary, and attended upon my



daughter throughout the night, giving injections, medicines etc. Baba in the form of Sri Venkata Rao kept her alive till day-break. Before leaving the house for the dispensary, she looked up and folded her hands with reverence before the photo of Sai Baba sitting on a stone, hung on the wall near the entrance of my house.

After admission, my daughter spent a sleepless night and on 31-3-1983 at about 9 A.M. Sundararaja Rao attended the dispensary as usual and after covering his periodical rounds came to the room, where my daughter was lying in an unconscious state, getting fits every now and then. He examined her thoroughly and told me that she had to be operated upon immediately, as she was having high B.P. and delivery in such a stage would prove fatal. I readily gave my consent and she was removed to the operation theatre. Then Dr. Sundararaja Rao phoned to a local doctor by name Dr. C. Kamalakar, who reached the dispensary immediately. The latter conducted the caesarean operation under the able guidance of Dr. Sundararaja Rao.

Myself, my wife, my elder daughter Sow. Revati, her mother-in-law and a host of my relatives were waiting outside the operation theatre with a lot of anxiety, praying to the merciful Sai Baba for the safety of my daughter Sow. Rahini. The Omniscient and Omnipotent Baba heard and answered our prayers and saved my daughter and the baby too from the jaws of death. Her daughter Chy. Swati is now three years old and after the delivery, my daughter's faith in Saibaba who is a pratyaksha Daiwam, has increased manifold.

Thus, Baba's assurance — 'If you look up to me, I look after you' — stood and can ever stand the test of time but the devotee has only to look to him for succour and relief with unshakable faith at all times. In this connection, I am reminded of a couplet of Kabir.

None can do any harm to a person, who is protected by God. Let that person be the enemy of the whole world none can touch or even move his hair.

Bow to Sai; peace be to all.

Y.C. Subba Rao
Advocate & Govt. Notary,
Ongole 523 002 (A.P.)

EFFORTS FOR A LOOK INTO INNER SELF

The essence of all sadhanas is to control, train and activate our consciousness to adapt itself in such a way that we are able to tune our physical and mental being to the Universal consciousness. For this, we have to undergo a number of preliminaries which can be of the nature of purification of body, broadening of mind, sublimation of sentiments, enlightenment of intellect, exercise of prana and elevation of self consciousness. A man exists on a number of planes simultaneously viz. physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.

For this uplift of self and elevation of consciousness, a man has to concentrate for long and protracted period. He must have faith and perseverance श्रद्धा और सबूरी to face the facts of life, which appear before him to test him and train him in depth of steadfast love and devotion. He must also slowly practise and bring about inner purification on all levels of consciousness with uninterrupted tenacity and application of mind.

This is a broad outline, which I am giving to the reader before dwelling upon various detailed aspects of sadhana. The mind cannot be controlled or shaped for being an instrument of God, unless the mind is purified. In short, the body, the mind with its emotional and intellectual waves, the ego and the self must all be cleansed and disciplined. This is not as simple as the written words on this paper may indicate. It is a most difficult and time-consuming exercise, which must be undertaken in some form or the other. Perhaps a man may be touching only one aspect of the consciousness or the other! But even a small effort and sincere application will be beneficial to the aspirant. *It may take some years or even some births to complete the process. This will depend on the punya of the individual in previous births.* Those who had the previlage to earn some merit in past births will find it easier to quieten and purify the mental aberrations. Others may find it a bit difficult. However, an aspirant must not be discouraged. *He should have fullest faith that he would definitely succeed in his efforts with the Grace of his Sadguru and God.*

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SAINATH LOVES ME

(Glimpses of my trip to North India and Nepal)

“To those who always remain absorbed in My meditation, to those ever harmonious, I bring full peace and security.”

— *Bhagavadgitha IX : 22*

Lord Sainath blessed me with the privilege of visiting holy places and taking bath in holy waters for a period of 14 days from 6th March, 1986, when I joined a group of Railway Sai-brothers to tour North India and Nepal. We had a pleasant train journey to Allahabad, along with a company of adolescent devotees of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, who were taking part in the KUMBH MELA on the 13th March, '86 at Allahabad. These boys gave us thrilling recitals of Vedas and Vishnu Sahasranamam and to this I led a Sai-bhajan session. Indeed it was a divine atmosphere throughout our journey.

As soon as we landed at Allahabad I had an inherent desire of having 'darshan' of H.H. Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, the Junior Pontiff of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam (who is our Kula-guru) as he was camping at Allahabad since four months. Lord Sainath fulfilled this desire in His own inimitable manner. We all had a dip in Triveni sangam and as soon as we returned in the boat, we were greeted with the darshan of H.H. Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal. We were simply moved at this unique grace and started chanting 'Hara Hara Shankara, Jaya Jaya Shankara, Kanchi Shankara, Sai Shankara' etc. The Kanchi pontiff blessed us and asked us to take 'Prasad' at the local Shankar Mutt. The Shankar Mutt at Allahabad is something wonderful. It is newly built and is full of divine aura. We had 'prasad' there.

Sai-Brother Mahendra Babu had arranged for a video-coach to take us from Allahabad to other places. Our next station was Varanasi, where we reached on the 8th night. The city of Varanasi looked as if it was decorated for Deepavali, as the entire city was humming with activity since it was the holy Mahasivarathri. We all planned to have Kashi Viswanath's darshan in the night itself.

When we reached the Kashi Viswanath temple, it was

overcrowded. There was not even place to stand. All my Sai-brothers said that we won't be able to have Shri Viswanath's darshan and as such wanted to go back. But I was confident that Lord Sainath would somehow arrange for us to have Shri Viswanath's darshan without any difficulty.

I started Sai-bhajans. The group also joined me in a chorus. After a few minutes a miracle took place! Lord Sainath came in the form of a big-bull and came charging on the crowd. Within seconds the crowd rushed hither and thither and in no time myself and my Sai-brothers had reached very near the entrance of the temple. Suppose this miracle had not occurred, there was no chance for any of us to have Shri Kashi Vishwanath's darshan till dawn. At this miracle, my mind mused on the saying of Dada Vaswani: "The spirit of God knocks on the door of the heart, asking to be let in. It can enter only when the self goes out."

We all had Shri Kashi Viswanath's darshan to our heart's content. We stood in His presence and gently breathed His spirit. For me the sanctum sanctorum appeared as if it was the Samadhi Mandir at Shirdi. I could see Lord Sainath in the Viswanath Lingam.

The next day, i.e. on the 9th March, '86, we had bath in the sacred Ganges and visited Vishalakshi temple, Hanuman Mandir and also performed rites to our forefathers. From Kashi we proceeded to Gaya.

We had a real 'Satsang' even during our bus journey. Since it was a video-coach, we were shown two films 'Santhoshi Matha' and 'Bhakta Tulsidas'. At Gaya, on the 10th March, '86, we performed 'sraddam' and from there left for Narayana Ganj. While at Gaya, I remembered as to how Lord Sainath blessed Shama during his visit to Prayag and I too could feel Lord Sainath right close to me.

We stayed at Narayana Ganj on the 12th March, 1986. In this city, there is a big temple of HARI and HARA — a combination of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu, by the side of a river called SIVA-GANGA'. At this temple, I was reminded of St. Kabir's saying: "The devout seeker is he who mingles in his heart the double currents of love and detachment, like the mingling of the waters of the Ganges and the Jamuna". Here too, I could visualise Lord Sainath.



We had to go to Nepal from Narayana Ganj. The route is one of hilly track and is known to be full of decoits. The driver and his crew advised us against a night journey. In fact he said that he did not feel like driving in the night in that ghat-section with dacoits all around. My group asked me to take a decision as to whether to halt at Narayan Ganj or make a night journey to Nepal.

I went to Harihar mandir and sat in front of the deity seeking his response. I must have been meditating and praying for an hour or so. Soon, my intuition i.e. Sai seated deep in my heart gave a green signal and exactly at that moment the bell too rang. I had prasad after the arathi and came out of the temple.

As I neared the bus, a tall well-built fakhir greeted me. He told me in Hindi 'Aap Sab Nepal Ja Rahena. Tho Aapka Malik Acha Karega' (You are all proceeding to Nepal. God will bless you). At once, I bowed to him and offered Rs. 5/- as dakshina. Of course he did not accept it.

I instructed the Driver to proceed to Nepal in the night itself. Reluctantly he agreed. As we just left the outskirts of Narayan Ganj we saw three dead bodies being taken for cremation. Some 'doubting Thomases' of our group took this as an inauspicious sign and urged me to cancel the night journey and return to Narayana Ganj. Somehow Lord Sainath prompted me not to heed to their request.

Enroute to Nepal, around midnight, an 80 year old sai brother, Shri Shiva Rama Krishna Iyer (who is closely related to Sri R. Venkata Raman, Vice-President of India) requested me to intercede with the driver to stop the bus as he had to ease himself. Some Sai Sisters in the bus too had to go for privy. In order to help them, I went into the cabin and requested the driver to stop the bus.

The driver was already annoyed with us for making the trip in the night. Moreover he was afraid of the dacoits if he stopped the bus. That is why he turned a deaf ear to my pleas to stop the bus and simply proceeded.

Vaswani rightly puts it: "Let your eyes dwell on the beautiful face of the Beloved! And let your hands be busy in bringing comfort to those in need." I had no other alternative but to call out to our Saviour Shirdi Sai Baba.

Sai Baba runs to His devotees' call. Suddenly we heard a loud noise. The rear tyre of the bus had been punctured. The driver had no alternative but to stop the bus. This enabled quite a number of our Sai brothers and sisters to relieve themselves!

It was quite dark and chilly to the core. The driver and his crew were flabbergasted. They started getting ready to change the wheel. In the meanwhile, I started leading a bhajan session which made us feel the Sai-presence and forget the intense cold.

Soon a couple of lorries stopped near the bus. They warned us of the dacoits and asked us to proceed as early as possible. They also gave a helping hand to change the wheel and enable us to start again.

We reached Katmandu, the capital of Nepal in the early hours of Thursday, the 13th March, 1986. We stayed at Jawahar Guest House, which was quite comfortable.

At Katmandu, we visited the famous Shri Pashupathinatha Temple, Neelananarayanan temple and Swayumbunath temple, which is 360 feet above the ground level with beautiful 3 feet-wide steps. From the top of this temple, we could see the whole of Katmandu.

On the evening of 13th March, '86, Lord Sainath also blessed us with the darshan of King Beerendra and his Queen Swarup Rani. As we were near his palace, the royal couple came on the balcony at our request.

We also had darshan of a 'Living Goddess' of Nepal — a 5 year old girl. I was told that all Nepalis worship this living God and even the royal couple pay their obeisance to her on all Friday mornings.

We were also amazed to see the buses plying in Nepal through electricity on the usual tyres. Nepal is a good business centre. The whole of 14th March, '86 was utilised by our Sai Brothers and Sai Sisters in purchasing sarees, electronic goods and other items which are much cheaper than in India.

We bade goodbye to Nepal on the 14th night, reached Narayan Ganj the next day and through another route reached Bairava which is at the border of Nepal. Here the customs authorities were quite lenient and allowed our party to proceed further.



We faced a problem at Sownali in Gorakhpur district which is the check post to enter India. The customs authorities were quite strict and after verifying all the purchases made, charged a sum of Rs. 4000/- as duty.

I was the lone Hindi-knowing person in the group and as such every one had taken my services in the entire trip. I had also warned many of my Sai-bandhus that they should not be too greedy in making purchases as customs authorities are quite strict. While these Sai-bandhus not only did not heed to my warning but made straight to customs authorities at Sownali. They forgot to enlist my help in communicating with the officers.

When the Customs officers were adamant about the payment of Rs. 4000/- my Sai-brothers and Sai sisters suddenly remembered me and came running to me for my help in representing to the Officers to reduce the duty, as I could freely converse with them in Hindi.

Lord Sainath prompted me to rise to the occasion. I entered the Customs Office and greeted the Officer: 'JAI SAIRAM'. When I spoke to the Officer in Hindi, he gave me a patient hearing. Perhaps Lord Sainath made him know that he was dealing with a Sai-devotee. He instantly reduced the duty to Rs. 1000/-.

I thanked him for this unique gesture and quoted the words of St. Dorotheus: "A great means to preserve continual peace and tranquility of soul is to receive everything from the hands of God, both great and small, and in whatever way it comes." I went back to my Sai-bandhus and told them of my success in getting the duty reduced from Rs. 4000/- to Rs. 1000/-.

Alas! my Sai-brothers and Sai-sisters were too greedy or perhaps they were ignorant. I could only muster to collect Rs. 500/-. I felt ashamed to go back to the Customs Officer with only Rs. 500/-. Grief stricken, I went inside the bus and started praying to Lord Sainath to relieve me from this situation. Unless the duty is paid, the customs authorities would not allow the bus to proceed. Though my Sai brothers and Sai sisters had money with them, they would not part with. Myself and only three other Sai brothers had not purchased anything at Nepal and were free from paying customs duty. This dilemma went on for a while.

Lord Sainath has never failed me. There He was with His merciful glance. Soon a Jeep came and stopped near our bus. One gentleman came out and was watching with glee the several photographs of Lord Sainath that I had got prominently pasted on different parts of the bus. Anybody who would just gaze at the bus could say that the passengers in the bus comprised Sai-devotees. I was watching him but did not communicate to him. I saw him walking into the Customs office.

As I was still in a dilemma, I was called to go inside the Customs Office. The gentleman who just arrived by the Jeep was seated there and introduced himself as a Supervisory Customs Officer for Gorakhpur district. He told me that he was also a Sai-devotee and had seen me several times at the Samadhi shrine of Sai Baba at Shirdi. In fact he recalled having seen me at the SAI LEELA Meet held on 2nd and 3rd February, '86. Of course I pleaded with him that I could not recall him to my poor memory. This Officer asked me of the dilemma I was facing. I explained to him all details.

Suddenly he gave me Rs. 500/- and asked me to get the receipt and proceed further. Soon he went near the Jeep. I followed him and told him: "Sir, How kind you are! I do not even remember having seen you". He simply smiled at me and said: "This is your own money. You had given me earlier" and left all of a sudden, making me perplexed.

I went back to the customs office. By then the receipts were ready and the Officer was quite cordial and offered us 'Tea'. He was happy that I was his Boss's friend and he told me that his chief never visited on Sundays and this was something unusual. I explained that I was a Sai-devotee and do visit Shirdi often, whenever Sai Baba permits. But I had never met his Boss and I could take this incident as another of Sai Leelas, wherein Sai rushes to save his devotees. The Customs Officer too was perplexed at the offer of Rs. 500 to me saying "This is your own money — you had given me earlier". I was more puzzled at this turn of events.

From Sownali we reached Gorakhpur by midnight and we stayed in a choultry near Gorakhnath temple. In the morning, after paying our respects to Shri Lord Gorakhnath, we left for Ayodhya, by noon.

Ayodhya is a very sacred place, being the 'Janma bhoomi' of



Lord Ramachandra. We had a bath in Sarayoo River. Since it was past noon, the temple was closed. Again by the grace of Lord Sainath, a guide approached us unsolicitedly and took us to all the places of interest — places where Dasaratha performed Yagnam, Rama's birth place and Valmiki's Ashram etc. etc.

Then we visited a 105 years old Saint Manikchand Maharaj who had been conducting 'Akhandā Rama Nama Japam'. We visited his Ashram where people in hundreds and thousands were being fed daily. He told us that this 'Annadan' was going on from Dasaratha's days and God had been providing for all the day to day expenses. We also contributed Rs. 151/- to this Ashram which was engaged in incessant Ramdhun. Saint Manikchand Maharaj blessed us and gave us 'prasad'.

From Ayodhya we returned to Varanasi. We bade goodbye to our video coach and caught the Ganga-Kaveri Express to be back at Madras on the 19th night. Throughout my journey, my mind was dwelling on the Sownali incident, in which the Chief Customs Officer gave me Rs. 500/- and his words 'Remember you had given me earlier'.

As many as 22 letters greeted me on my return to my house. Most of them were from Sai-bandhus in appreciation of my article published in February, '86 issue of 'Sri Sai Leela'. As I just finished reading all of them, my land-lord (owner of the house where I stay) handed me another cover and told me that it was also for me. This envelope was from Sai Brother D. Shankaraiah of Hyderabad and he had enclosed receipts for the Rs. 500/- I had collected for 'Akhandā Sai Nama Saptha Sapthaham' at Vijayawada. Since he did not know the addresses of the persons from whom I had collected the donations, he had requested me to pass on the receipts.

Suddenly it flashed. 'Remember you had given me Rs. 500/-'. 'This is your own money'. After all, it was Lord Sainath who had come in the guise of the Chief Customs Officer at Sownali. I shed tears of Sai-joy at this unique grace on me.

My heart poured out Paramahansa Yogananda's song:

"I behold Thee but for a trice —
Since then my gaze has ever been Thy prisoner,

Methinks I have known Thee throughout eternity,
And all that was wanting was our ever-expected meeting.
In vain for Thee I looked in all earth's nooks,
Precious one of my heart, stayed Thou there all along
Yet ever deceivingly hiding within it."

— *R. Subramanian*
3, *Lakshmipuram High Court Colony,*
Villivakkum, Madras 600 049.



DOCTOR OF DOCTORS

I would like to let all the Sai devotees know how I was cured of allergy problem (fungus growth) which I was suffering from for the last two years. My sufferings during these two years were many; my face would swell, eyelids would swell, skin around my neck used to have a scaly and dry appearance. Many skin specialists were tried out and nothing seemed to help me. I had a feeling that my suffering would never end, but end came. I bow to Shri Sai Baba.

Last year, I had an opportunity to visit Shirdi. My cousin used to always say "SAI BABA will cure you". Truly after my first visit, I could notice the difference, since immediately, I was persuaded to try homoeopathic treatment. I was completely surprised to notice the word in the name of the clinic. It was "Sai Clinic". I firmly believe now, that it was none other than Sai Baba who, with his blessings, through medicines helped me. I am now on the way to complete cure — very much relieved and happy.

I had prayed to Shri Sai Baba saying if I get cured, I would narrate this Leela through "SAI LEELA" magazine, to all the Sai Devotees.

I bow to Shri Sai Baba.

HANAMSHET M.S.
MYSORE, KARNATAKA.



THE SAIBABA EPIC

Come Sai, Come, Welcome to Thee,
Welcome to the soil that's for ages yearning
For a touch of Thy feet, Come Sai, Come!
So said a priest of a forelorn temple
In an unknown village of Kopargaon taluka
To a lad who's clad as a Fakir who came
With a marriage party from the village of Dhoop
That'd reached Shirdi in bullock-drawn carts
And as men, women and children got down
From them, the Fakir, as one of them, also alighted
Under the cool shadows of a banyan tree
Which spread its inviting branches far and wide
And lying beside a busy road was since long
A cool and quiet resting place for the passer-by
Near the village was Khandoba, a village God,
Smugly living in a temple made of mud and stone,
Devoutly worshipped, thrice a day, by His priest
Mhalasapati Chimnaji Nagare, a gold-smith, who was
A simple man that liked to look to the travellers' needs
Thus it was that our Lord had his blessed name
For, before that day, He'd no name to call his own
A charming name so sweet, blessed and true
That from thence he's called, Sai, Baba or Saibaba
Which means a saint or seer or father of saints
And meet it was for verily He's a Saint of saints
Saibaba, the name eternal and divine which since
Began echoing in the hearts of millions of men
The utterance of which quickly brought peace
To the mind and calm to an anguished soul
A name, when devoutly chanted, answered the prayers of all
And fulfilled the diverse desires of all His men
A name, not of man but of Almighty God himself.
One Chand Patil of Dhoop, a village situate
Near Aurangabad town, had lost his steed
That he loved most, searched for her in all
The neighbouring villages and towns and combed
The lands and jungles for three score days
But no! She wasn't found and having despaired

Of tracing that steed, when he's on his way home,
Still keeping his eyes all wide open and ears alert,
He chanced to see a mango tree in a jungle nearby
Dhoopkhed itself and lo! his eyes fell on a Fakir
Young and charming, sitting under its pleasant shadows
With a cap on his head and a Satka in his hand
Wearing a long flowing shirt, dirty, old and torn
Who then had prepared his pipe and was about to smoke
Seeing Chand passing by, the Fakir called out to him
And asked him to smoke his pipe and have some rest
But Chand, all his mind on his steed, declined
And told the Fakir about his missing mare, when
The Fakir smiled and asked Chand not to worry
Any more since, he revealed, that missing animal of his
Was only grazing in a nearby pasture and, at this,
Chandbhai hurried to the adjoining land and found
To his surprise and joy his beloved horse feeding thither
Then a happy man, Chand came and bowed
To the young man and tying his steed to a bush nearby,
Sat down before him to have a puff from his pipe
Seeing no water around to wet the cloth for smoke
Nor any fire or flint to light or kindle that pipe
Chand kept mum, not knowing what to say or do
But his host struck his tongs to the ground and
And, behold, fire leaped out from the earth and then,
He struck them again at another spot and water
Flowed out above the ground. Then the pipe's lit,
The cloth made wet and both enjoyed the hearty smoke
To their hearts' content under the shadows of that tree
Chand, for a time was rendered speechless
By the wonderful powers of that wonderful man
And overjoyed, he invited him to his house in Dhoop.
The Fakir agreed to go and on the following day, went
And stayed as guest of Chand Patil for several days.
Meanwhile, the nephew of Chand Patil's wife was to wed
A girl from Shirdi, away in the district of Ahmednagar
The marriage party hence set out with several carts
With that wonderful Fakir as their esteemed guest
Left for Shirdi and halted there, as was the custom,
On the outskirts of the village by the Khandoba temple



The wedding over, Chand went away to his native home.
But the Fakir stayed back in Shirdi, His native home
This was not His first but last visit of Baba
To Shirdi which he never thereafter left but for some
Occasional visits to neighbouring Rahata or Neemgaon
Years back, He was at first seen in Shirdi village
As a boy of eight beside the trunk of a margosa tree,
A fair good-looking lad with tender age and
Eyes that brightly shone like a miniature sun
And wonderful looks that won them all — the village folk
Made them stop and wonder at the stranger boy
Wearing only torn-out rags to cover-up his body
Sitting under the margosa beside the fallen village wall
Where village folk heaped up their rubbish and
And cactus had spread out all around the dusty place
Then He talked with none and none talked with Him
From morning till evening, during the day,
He wandered in the lands and jungles
Returned only after the fall of night to Shirdi village
And slept in a pit, near the tree with nothing for His Bed
No one knew what He ate for His food or whether,
For then He didn't cook nor beg for His food
He never cared for the sun or rain, or cold or wind
But quietly stayed on under the shades of the margosa tree
People wondered who this wonder boy really was
And as their wonder grew, the boy silently withdrew
From Shirdi and wasn't seen for long after that time
And the Shirdi folk had forgotten Him all, till
He staged a final return with Chandbhai's party
Welcomed by Mhalsa, the priest, Come, Sai, Come!

*Kamaladevi Gunaki
Basavaraj Gunaki.
Belgaum.*



THE PATCHED ROBE

“Who can fathom the Unfathomable? A salt doll entered the sea to fathom its depth; when, lo and behold! The doll was dissolved into the sea and lost. He who enters into the depth of God loses himself and is commingled with Him.

— *Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa*

In Sai Sat Charita, we come across several instances in which Sai Baba gave ‘sadgathi’ to several of His devotees such as Megha, Vijayananda, Tatyá Noolkar and others. We also know that He promised to take Kaka Dixit in an ‘aeroplane’ and accordingly Kaka had a peaceful death in ‘Sai smaran’.

I came across a soul-stirring incident that occurred soon after the ‘Maha-samadhi’ of Prophet Mohamed and would like to share it with Sai-brothers and Sai sisters.

A jew in Damascus was reading a holy book one day. He came across the name of the Prophet written on it. Not liking this, he removed the name. But the next day he found it there again. Again he took out the name; but on the third day it had appeared again. He thought: ‘Perhaps this is a sign that a true Emissary has come. I will journey to see him’.

He reached Medina and was led into the mosque which was full of people in anguish. Abu-Baker, the Successor was sitting there at the head of the assembly. The old man went upto him, thinking he must be Prophet Mohamed, and said: “O chosen Envoy of God, a strayed old man has come to offer you peace.”

On hearing the Prophet’s name, everyone burst into tears. He asked the reason for their anguish. Omar said to him: “We do not weep because of anything which you have done. It is but a week since the Prophet left the earth. When we heard his name, grief took possession of our hearts anew.”

As soon as he heard this, the old jew tore his clothes in anguish. When he had recovered a little, he said: “Do me a favour. Let me have at least a robe of the Prophet. If I cannot see him, at least let me have this.”

Omar answered: “Only the Lady Zohra could give us one of



his robes.” Ali said: “But she will not allow anyone to go near her.”

But they went to her door and knocked, and explained what they wanted.

The lady Zohra answered: “Verily, the Prophet spoke truly when he said shortly before he died: ‘A wayfarer, who has love towards me and who is a good man, will come to the house. He will not see me. Give him, therefore, this patchwork robe as if from me, and for me treat him gently, offering salutations.’

The Jew put the robe on himself and, professing Islam, asked to be taken to the Prophet’s grave. It was at this tomb that he breathed his last.

“May we all abide in true love for SAI NATH”

— *Mrs. Seetha Vijayakumar*
W/o. Dr. G.R. Vijayakumar,
Balanoor Estate, Durgadabetta 577 118
Chikmagalur Dist., Karnataka.



MY PRAYERS

I start my day with SAI’s name,
I spend one hour in SAI’s prayers,
Before attempting any work, I pray to ‘SAI’ for success.
I surrender my actions to ‘SAI’ and
I leave everything to ‘SAI’.
I believe, He will guide my life.
“SAI” will act as a true teacher, father, adviser,
and well-wisher to me.
Every Thursday and on other important occasions, I visit and
pray at ‘SAI’ temple, whole-heartedly for others and myself.
I always feel happy in my life.
I close my day with ‘SAI’s name.
Lastly, I humbly request all SAI Brothers and Sisters
to do like-wise and pray to ‘SAI’ whole-heartedly,
who will then bear your burdens.

K. V.S. Sai Vara Prasad
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THE LORD OF SHIRDI

I would like to share my joy with other "Sai Bandhus" by narrating one of the Sai Leelas experienced.

From Ongole, Andhra Pradesh, we so many devotees reached Shirdi in a tourist bus on the evening of 4.5.1986 Sunday. Myself, my daughter along with some of the devotees in the bus who were new to Shirdi attended the evening Arathi. I narrated to them some of the Leelas of Baba and showed them the places to be seen at Shirdi, like a guide. Late in the night along with my daughter and some of the interested friends I did "Pradakshinas" to "Gurusthan" and slept at Dwarakamai.

On the morning of 5.5.86 Monday, I attended the morning Arathi. This time my eldest daughter followed me. We participated in Abhishekam and Sai Satyanarayana Vratam. During Abhishekam I touched the Moorthi of Baba for the first time. By keeping my head on the Lotus feet of Baba I hugged the legs of the Lord of Shirdi, and forgot the surroundings. It was a rare experience for me!

After attending Noon Arathi as I wanted to perform "Dhuni Puja", I was purchasing a coconut in a shop near Dwarakamai. At the same time, somebody in my view, a begger, was asking me in Hindi whether I had seen the Nine Coins given by Baba to Lakshmi-bai. While replying casually I looked at the person. To my surprise it was an arresting sight for me as the eyes of the person were very very bluish as if he used contact lenses.

In this regard it is appropriate to mention that in the "Sai Leelamrutham" written by Acharya Ekkirala Bharadwaja, a clear description regarding the physical form of Baba as well as the eyes of the Lord is given. Acharya Ekkirala Bharadwaja popularly known as "Master" in the Sai Cult was an "Atheist" previously. In 1963 he came under the magic spell of Sri Sai Baba of Shirdi, absolutely dedicated himself to Baba and since then is rendering yeoman's service in spreading Sai's Message. Even though our Acharya is a M.A. in English literature and could have passed the I.A.S. examination, he did not join Government service. Even today through his sincere efforts he is making the laymen like me to know who is Baba and what is Baba as a spiritual force and power.



As narrated by the dedicated devotee 'Swami Sharananand' whom Baba blessed and detained in Shirdi for eleven months, the eye balls of Baba were very bluish, very radiant and glittering even in the night like radium, and his gaze was so piercing that nobody could look directly into the eyes of Baba. Then I asked my daughter to observe the eyes of this new person. My daughter was also impressed and told me that his eyes were like the eyes of "Marble Moorthi at Samadhi Mandir." While I was asking my daughter to see the eyes of this person he was smiling at me. My bargain with the shop-keeper was still going on and my daughter told me that he was asking me in English for a rupee. Immediately I gave him one rupee. After performing Dhuni Puja as per my habit I took back the one rupee and gave him instead two rupees. This man keeping his hand on the head of my daughter in token of blessing said "Baba Ki Udi Lagau" i.e. apply Udi of Baba on the fore-head. The stranger was unlike a beggar. He wore a lungi and half-slack like shirt, had a small beard and a long stick in hand. He was none other than "Baba", so I thought afterwards. Thus my daughter could have the blessing touch of Baba which I could not have as I was under the impression that he was a beggar. Afterwards in the evening also we searched for him once again but could not trace him.

During evening Arathi seven or eight ladies of our group stood in the first row. It was clearly observed by them that at that time Baba's face was sweating and a sweat drop rolled down from the chin of that marble Moorti. On hearing this, I questioned them several times, in many ways, saying that they may have been under the influence of "Brhama or Brhanti". But they maintained and strongly affirmed that what they saw had actually happened. At that time there was no possibility of sprinkling Rose water or Sandal paste on the face of Baba. I thought that some devotee might have stood in distress seeking the "Rakshana" of Baba in a help-less and hope-less condition which made Baba "Our Bhagawan" to run to that "Bhakta" to shoulder all his troubles and burdens. This incident reminded me of the assurances given by Baba in his "Ekadasa Sutras".

Thus it can be safely said that even after "Mahasamadhi" in the year 1918, even till to-day the person who enters into the "Darbar" of this "Yogi Raja" with folded hands, with dedication

and devotion will not and never will be allowed to go with empty hands, or unblessed, or disappointed as it is told by Baba that "My Tomb shall bless and respond to the needs of my devotees".

"This Fakir of Shirdi" is ever present, ever merciful, and I humbly prostrate before this "Kamadhenu", "Kalpa Vriksha", and "Chintamani", "Sadguru Samrat" to bless all of us.

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GET ME INTO THE TRANCE JOYOUS

I babble like a fool, O Lord,
teach me to hold my tongue
when whelmed by your benevolence
I let myself go, unhung.

Each passing moment fills me
with a sense of gratitude,
how to behave as others would
submerged in beatitude?

They look with a mocking eye,
the worldly wise all around
for fear of getting lost
seldom or never take off the ground.

Help me keep in windy weather
within me a steady flame
undiminished by scornful gusts,
shining serenely ever the same.

Far better to contain inwardly
to work the hidden gears
than let the singing impulse
be wasted on sodden ears.

I invoke your aid my swami:
hush up this palpable voice,
with cascading tears and hair on end
get me into the trance joyous.

*P.P. Sharma,
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WHEN SAINATH SPEEKS IN WHISPERS

It was in July, 1985. I was passing through a bad phase of my professional career. A few of my colleagues in the Company plotted against me out of sheer ignorance. I know that injuring another person is only the nature of lower beings and as a Sai-devotee I certainly did not retaliate. I fully confided in Lord Sainath and He did rescue me.

Prepared as I was to accept Sainath's will for me, I did not want to leave the service of the Company, even though my ignorant brothers plotted against me. I was clinging to service by a slender thread of hope in Lord Sainath.

One afternoon, sad and anxious about the days ahead, I took a walk on a peaceful dirty road not far from our home in the picture-sque tea estate. Along the way I passed a silver oak tree that I had always admired in the landscape. For some reason now I stopped, went back to it, and was surprised to see that it was very badly damaged. In the centre of its trunk, I was appalled to find a large, gaping hole. How can it possibly live? Some unknown person's axe must have been its cause. I thought to myself, and looked in wonder at its green branches.

A wind arose, blowing lightly, causing the oak's strong limbs to sway and its leaves to rustle as if in conversation. It was at that moment that this old silver-oak tree and I forged a friendship; "HAVE COURAGE", it seemed to say to me. "YOU CAN SUFFER AND ENDURE AS I HAVE".

These days I often wander far and down the tea field to see the old oak, to accept its shade in summer, to glory in its stark wintry beauty. We have been friends now over six months and this counterpart of mine in nature makes me believe that we will be friends for many, many productive years to come.

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AWAKENING THE HEART

'If a man holds aloof from the desires of the world, the misfortunes of this world hold aloof from him''

— *Hermes*

“When young, beware of fighting; when strong, beware of sex; and when old, beware of possessions”.

— *Confucius.*

I regard Shirdi Sai Baba as one of the world's greatest prophets of pure spiritual life. And spiritual life asks for purification from extraneous elements, from all forms of compromise with the mass-man, from creeds and conventions. Sai Baba demanded two pice dakshina — 'Sradda' and 'Saburi'. Sainath attached little value to asceticism of the body, to pilgrimages and other practices of 'popular' religion.

Sainath speaks of a five-fold renunciation:

1. Renounce comfort. Live a simple life.
2. Renounce scriptures. “They do not take you far” said Sainath to Rege. “Books give you 'Bhrama' not Brahma.” We know that scholars may have read the Vedas but they do not know the secret of Atman.
3. Renounce pride. Good deeds are really meant to wear off rajas in us. The rajasic quality must be exhumed. Hence the need of Sat-karma. But often Sat-karma only develops pride (ahan-kara) in us. And pride must go, if you wish to grow in the life of the spirit. Pride is destroyed through chanting the Name of the Lord.
4. Renounce desire. It is the seed of sin. According to Radhakrishna Swamiji a desireless man is a veritable Emperor.
5. Renounce moha (attachment). All moha is rooted in desire. Kabir says: “They who renounce attachment and seek alone the world divine within — They attain to the Supreme.”

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa repeatedly urged that the seeker on the path must keep clear of two desires — the desire for Kamini and Kanchan, — lust of the flesh and greed of gold.



Radhakrishna Swamiji asked us to refrain, in addition, from the desire to grow great or famous. For, power too is a lust. And as the great English poet Shelly says: "Power, like a desolating pestilence, pollutes whatever it touches."

The truly spiritual man is free from desires. "Be desireless" commanded Radhakrishna Swamiji. What is the mark of him who has become desireless? In the words of the Upanishad, such a person looks with an equal eye upon a poisonous snake or a garland of flowers, a powerful enemy or a kind friend, a costly jewel or a lump of earth, a bed of flowers or a slab of stone, a group of beautiful women or useless straw.

Bayazid-al-Bistami was one such man. "God delivered me from the desire for women to such a point", he said, "that I cannot tell, when a woman appears to me, whether it is a woman or a wall." Fu Hsaan, the chinese mystic, was another such man. "Though gold and gems by the world are sought and prized," he exclaimed! "to me they seem no more than weeds or chaff."

Sai BAba made Nana Sahib Chandorkar learn a good lesson, when he advised him to control his senses (Chapter 49 of Sai-Sat-charita). Whenever we come across a beautiful lady we should immediately remember that we are seeing a beautiful *murthi* in a beautiful temple. God has given us a chance to worship him in this way.

Swami Vivekananda has said: "The world is a demon. It is a kingdom of which the puny ego is the king. Put it away and stand firm. Give up lust, gold and fame and hold fast to the Lord and at last we shall reach a state of perfect indifference."

Radhakrishna Swamiji advised us to overcome sex-hunger through the grace of the Lord. He said: "We should assume the attitude of a son to every woman we come across and say 'suppose this lady had been my mother I would have reacted as her son'. When we come across a woman younger than ourselves, we should begin to feel that she is either our daughter or our sister. But inspite of all our efforts, if we are unable to overcome the feelings of sex-desire, the only way is to appeal to God saying 'O Lord, please do not give me such feelings. Drive them away from my mind. Please take care of me and remove such thoughts. This prayer is enough.'"

Srimad Bhagavatham says: "When one sees this Universe as ephemeral, one gains true discrimination and turns away from worldiness. The Self becomes the Saviour of self". The great teacher of our times, Sri Ramana Maharishi, said: "Every time you attempt satisfaction of a desire, the knowledge comes that it is better to resist. Repeated reminders of this kind will, in due course, weaken the desire."

Rich was Sai Baba in wisdom, richer still is the inspiration of his life. Let us pray to Him to give us the strength to have clean senses and pure heart so that we may transcend our evil thoughts and actions — 'OM Ari-Shad-Varg Naashaya Namaha.'

*M. Rama Rao
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SRI SAI'S SHELTER

When one is entangled in mundane pleasure,
And scorched with woes of worldly travails,
When the life impedes approach to the name of the Lord,
Take refuge at Baba's lotus feet,
And immerse in the profound bliss.

His is the beacon light of the ship of life,
Sailing astray in the storm of worldly typhoon,
His asylum is the source of peace,
And everlasting joy to the perturbed mind.

His holy abode, the confluence of two rivers!
Godavari, and His merciful feet Ganga,
Cleanses the sin of seeking souls,
The panacea of His grace emancipates one,
Who reposes in Him one's implicit faith and patience.

Sai Sharanam

*Sripad Kulkarni,
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'THOUGHT READER SAIBABA'

I say that Shri Saibaba can read my thoughts and accordingly guides me on the proper path or sometimes He gives me whatever I desire; Sai devotees will believe in the above statement made by me. But others will not believe because they are of cynical views. Cynics do not believe in God. And there is a saying that a cynic is a man who knows the price of everything but value of nothing. Therefore, faith can be said to be a milestone in your rigorous penance to achieve particular goal in your life.

However, that Omnipotent, Omnipresent God has given the gift of faith to those human beings who are really lucky. Swami Vivekanand has said, "If the Lord grants that you should believe in God which is Strength, 'Blessed you are, Blessed you are, Blessed you are' that this privilege was given to you when others had it not". Thus to worship God is to raise yourself to the higher level which makes you a better individual amongst mankind. All previous Saints have gained their knowledge through the Worship of God. Therefore they could write so much philosophical, and beautiful literature which has been read for generations. And this literature works as a *Deepstambha* (Search-light tower) to the drowning human being in the ocean of darkness. Generally nobody remembers that, life of man is very short. People start to worship and pray to God in their old age. In old age only they remember God. I don't understand why he or she who ever it may be, doesn't start worshiping God from one's childhood itself! Why people spend major portion of their life without praying to God? It is really surprising that when one is born in this universe in human form due to the blessing of God; the Almighty sent you in this human yoni (species) — so one is supposed to remember and worship God from one's childhood until one's departure from this world. But very few do it and they are most grateful and faithful to God.

If you pray to divine Saint Saibaba who is incarnation of God, who knows the past, the present and the future, He responds to your emotions, feeling. He helps you when you are in difficulty. He keeps his promises given to his devotees. A simple example I quote here how Baba reads your thoughts. This incident occurred recently. I was having a small nice photograph of Shri Saibaba which I

always carry with me in the railway pass cover. My son who is nine years old insisted on having the same photograph of Saibaba. I told him I had only one and when ever I got time I would bring similar copy for him within a day or two. But he said "I want to-day only in any case, otherwise I will take your photograph in the evening". The very same day, one of my best friends and Sai devotee Shri Anil Rasal sent me one envelope in which he enclosed exactly similar photograph of Saibaba which I was having with Baba's udi and prasad. I gave Baba's photograph to my son in the evening saying to him that Baba had sent this photograph for him through uncle. My son Raghavendra was very very happy that day. We all wondered how Baba knew the innocent mind of the little child. He fulfilled my son's noble wish on the very same day. Then again I remembered that Baba's promises will never go wrong. Believe him and see His miracles.

We all bow our heads to the lotus Feet of Shri Saibaba. May Saibaba shower His blessings on all Sai devotees.

*Madhukar Wakhare B.A. (Hons.)
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Wakhare Wadi, Belvali
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SAY SAI ONCE

Bow to Shri Sai	Rids you of your sins.
Peace be to all.	Say Sai once
Bow to Dwarkamai	Feel His presence.
Sadguru Sainath.	With palm outstretched
Call Sai once	Eyes full of love
Feel his presence.	He gives His benediction.
If you look up to Him	Sai is our Mother
He looks after you.	Sai is our father
Call by any name	Sai is our master
It's His own name.	Sai is our existence
Externally a fakir	Say sai once
Dwells ever in self	Feel His presence.
Begs you for alms	

*N. Rama Rao
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GRACES OF SHIRDI SAI BABA

We had been visiting Sai temple at Lodhi colony in New Delhi since its inception and had a longing desire to visit Shirdi. Somehow it materialised in last December. My sister-in-law was also interested to go with us but due to education of her daughters she did not confirm. I purchased two tickets for self and wife by Rajdhani for Bombay where my two other sisters-in-law are staying and they had also desired to visit Shirdi. Four days before our departure for Bombay my sister-in-law came and told us that she was also willing to go to Bombay along with us. Since our tickets were booked well in advance, the only course was to get these tickets cancelled and to try fresh booking. The job was entrusted to my brother-in-law; being a business man, he travels very often and had good contacts with booking office. To our great surprise he bought one ticket which was bearing the number of the next seat to our earlier purchased tickets. This cannot be anything but grace of Sai.

On reaching Bombay we made a programme to visit Shirdi and tried to get booking by deluxe bus starting during day time and reaching Shirdi in the night. The purpose was to attend morning Aarti and other programmes of the day. Due to Christmas holidays there was big rush and we could get only ordinary bus tickets for 23-12-1985 night. At the time of departure one of my brothers-in-law could not accompany us due to some urgent work at his office. When we reached the bus stand we decided to sell the spare ticket but no one was willing and we dropped the idea. When the bus was about to move one gentleman came and enquired of the conductor for a ticket to Shirdi and we called him inside and gave him the spare ticket. He was very happy and thanked Sri Sai and my sister-in-law's son. The bus started and then he narrated his story about his visit to Shirdi. He was a doctor and was once travelling with his family in a car listening to the tape recorder. He was so absorbed in the music that he did not notice a stationary truck on the road. When he realised that he was going to hit the truck he steered the car on to a side. While doing so his car over-turned. By the grace of Sai, no one was injured and the car was put on the road by the villagers. He started the car, thanked the villagers and continued his journey. At this moment he decided to visit Shirdi. After leaving the family he was going to Shirdi. We were all asto-

nished to hear him and thanked Sai for the miracle wrought.

We reached Shirdi on 24th December, 1985, in the morning and after bath we visited Sai temple and then proceeded to the adjoining place where Baba used to sit under a neem tree. We tried to collect some Udi from a pot in which fire was burning. To our great surprise one Sadhu standing behind us told not to take this ash and when we looked at him he was resembling Baba. His body was covered with one white dhoti and a white scarf was tied on to his head. My wife asked him, "Baba, since how long you are here". He replied 1872; then my wife asked him, "Can you take us to Dwarkamai", he said, "Yes" and started moving, we saw each other and I accompanied him while my wife and one sister-in-law followed. The remaining group also followed them. He looked back, raised his hand again and moved. On reaching Dwarkamai, he stopped and asked me to collect Udi from that place and looked at me. I was completely lost, and I took out a two rupee note and offered him. He accepted the money, looked at me smilingly and again raised his hand. By the time my wife and other members could reach there, he vanished. Every one said he was Sai Baba. We sat in Dwarkamai, my wife read Sunderakand and then we sang some bhajans & Arti, collected Udi. In between an old man came and asked us to drink water from the earthen pitcher lying there which we did. It being Tuesday all the members went to take breakfast and I observed fast and went to office of Sansthan to deposit some money as donation and also paid for Sai leela subscription. We again attended day Arti and then left for bus stand for our return journey to Bombay. My wife told me that at the time of leaving from Delhi to Bombay she prayed before Baba to give Darshan which he did. On reaching Delhi, we confirmed from a book that Baba came to Shirdi in 1872, the year the old gentleman told us near the neem tree. This was nothing but His Grace. We will always remember our visit to Shirdi and hope to visit again.

"May Sai Nath Bless One And All".

— RAMESH CHAND
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SAI PROTECTS HIS DEVOTEES

I cannot think of any word which would describe the Grace of Sai completely. Life, to me, without Sai's Grace would be like a Hell on Earth. I still do not understand the leelas of Sai and the way he helps his devotees whether they remember him often or think of him rarely, or throughout the day. I always pray to Sai, to help his devotees to remember him, during morning and night while awake or asleep, working or at rest, while happy or in sorrow so that his devotees, by always remembering Sai will be sure of overcoming all sorts of difficulties in life. If he helps us in remembering him day and night, then chanting his holy name throughout will be the only way of thanking him for his kindness towards us. I thank Sai very much for helping me write this leela and thereby fulfilling my long unfulfilled wish.

I narrate an incident which occurred in my life about a year and a half ago. I became pregnant for the first time and was very happy. I prayed to Sai always to give me a good child, as I longed for only one child. Everybody was happy and commented that I would get a son. This made me happy and secure in the belief that none would force me to bear a second child. I prayed to Sai for a good fruitful delivery. The only thing that I can say here is that I believe wholly in Sai Baba and he is my sole refuge. Sai Baba is my protector. He knows what is good for us. The child which was in a normal position in the womb till the final day suddenly turned in an awkward position. Hence, delivery would be a fight between life and death for both the mother and the child. Knowing this fact all my family members became frightened and restless, but I do not know what power, other than the Sai power, gave me the courage to face every minute of this forthcoming situation. I had labour pains one night, followed by black discharge from my body. In the morning, we went to the doctor-the result, an immediate caesarian operation, which also was delayed as I already had my breakfast. All the time I only prayed to Sai for a good and a normal child, whose life would not be a burden for us and for himself. I was operated and during the course thereof I got to know that my child was abnormal in health and died after a few hours. All the family members were grieved, whereas it was Sai who consoled me and through me consoled my family members. He consoled me by keeping me fresh, and not allowing my eyes to shed tears, or my face to have a

mournful look, and Sai also made me utter words to them like- what is happened is for the good, why do you cry? Even to-day, I think that a child with such an abnormal health would not suit a middle class family in any respect as his kidney was not functioning properly. I pray to Sai to help us in every sorrow of our life and remove such tragedies or bigger blows of life whether they are predicted to us or not, whether they are dreamt by us or not, and I am always sure that my Sai will always help his innocent devotees. Thus I recovered from the aftermath of the operation. After some months my husband fell ill and became very weak because of vomiting due to acute infection of the kidney. The doctor had first given injection and medicines for double pneumonia. But Sai would never allow any undesirable thing to happen. Soon he was taken to a different doctor at a far off place who gave him medicines to stop vomiting so that he could have some food and regain his strength. I also applied Udi devoutly on him. Due to Sai's grace he had a bit of food and slept without any vomiting; otherwise he would have been hospitalised. I was restless till he recovered. After his examination the next day he was asked to take an X-ray of the kidney. On hearing this I became more nervous and restless. Suddenly there came the thought "why fear when Sai's near? I then became relaxed. I continued to pray reverently thinking it to be the test of my prayers and Sai's strength finally the report came showing no damage or stone in the kidney. However it was acutely infected and treated with double pneumonia medicine. He was cured of this easily.

I always think in whatever state I have been if I were not to worship Sai who could give me courage and patience, and in what dire straits would I be? Sai shows us that God is the only power behind all happenings in our lives whether liked or disliked by us. He also helps us in distress and at certain times saves us from irreparable loss, especially those who cherish and live with a feeling for the humanity and devotion to God. Sai is God. Hence believing in Sai and surrendering to His feet completely means good fate for us and winning each and every game of our life. The ignorant should therefore never allow bad thoughts but be patient and pray to Lord Sai always.

Smt. Anuradha S.





SHIRDI NEWS

July 1986

Gurupoornima Celebrations:

Sai devotees and the devotees going to and coming from Pandharpur thronged the streets of Shirdi in the month of July which is the month of Gurupoornima celebrations in Shirdi. These celebrations go on for three days. This year they started on Sunday, 20th July and concluded on Tuesday, 22nd July. As usual the celebrations included the procession of Baba's photograph along with the pothi from Samadhi Mandir to Dwarkamayee and back, after the completion of the reading of pothi; the procession of Baba's Rath or chariot at night in the midst of the percussion band, illumination and all the pomp and show; the arati, pooja, keertan and Bhajan, the Bharood and Garood; and musical performances by various artists who came from Bombay, Pune, Ahmednagar, Kopergaon etc.

Following were the artists who performed on various occasions during the three days.

Keertan: 1) Shri Madhukar Ganesh Suryavanshi, Sansthan Artist and Keertankar performed keertans on Ekadashi and other days of religious importance 2) Shri Gangadharbua Vyas, Dombivli 3) Shri Dattamaharaj Darbhe, Nagpur 4) Shri Tukarambua Paradeshi, Shirdi 5) Shri Manohar D. Avchat, Baramati.

Pravachan: Shri Laxmanmaharaj Wakchoure, Shirdi.

Bhajan, Vocal & Instrumental Music etc.: 1) Shri Sudhakar N. Kamtekar, Wadala 2) Shri M.B. Rokade, Bilaspur 3) Smt. Santosh Vijay, Delhi 4) Smt. Venkatachalam 5) Shri Shahu Bhosale, Bombay 6) Shri Vidyut Naik, Bombay 7) Shri R.R. Supekar, Dewas 8) Shri Rajan Patel, Sion 9) Sou. Anasuyabai Kadukar, Yevatimal 10) Shri Marutrao Pinto 11) Shri Laxman Jadhav, Bombay 12) Shri Ramakant Joshi, Nanded 13) Shri Gangadhar Jadhav, Pune 14) Rekha Madavi, Ahmednagar 15) Shri Anant Panchal, Bombay 16) Sou. Kavita Madavi, Nagpur 17) Vanita Gavas, Bombay 18) Shri Anil Bayil, Bombay 19) Shri Uday Bayil 20) Pramodini Bayil 21) Shri Manohar Ghadase 22) Shri Suresh Dhumal, Bombay 23) Vaishali Jadhav 24) Shri Rajendra Jadhav,

Pune 25) Shri Jitendra Jadhav 26) Shri Devendra Devalkar 27) Sulabha Gorivale, Pune 28) Shri Kailas Madavi, Ahmednagar 29) Shri Ramesh Madavi 30) Shri Dhananjay Uike 31) Vandana Vapar, Pune 32) Kunda Masurkar 33) Shri Datta Bhosale, Baroda 34) Shri Dilip Sawant, Bombay 35) Shri Gavindrao Kadam, Pune 36) Shri Shriram Satardekar, Bombay 37) Shri Anant Rane 38) Shivaji Dhumal, Shirdi 39) Anand Sangeet Vidyalaya, Kopergaon — Anandrao Adhao 40) Baburao Narode 41) Vikas Kirloskar 42) Prof. Ghaisas 43) Mohini Vaidya 44) Madhavi Gujarathi 45) Ratna Jadhav 46) Vidya Joshi 47) Varsha Joshi 48) Bhavana Purohit 49) Sujata Wabale, 50) Rani Bhokare 51) Shri Anant Joshi 52) Ravindra Pingale 53) Shri Vasant Rao Bhavsar 54) Bharati Goda 55) Jayashri Mundada 56) Shri M.B. Numbalkar, Bombay 57) Sou. Pramila Nimbalkar 58) Shri M.G. Sonavane, Baroda 59) Shri Raghunath Sandbher, Pune 60) Shri Ganpat Jadhav, Shirdi 61) Shri Dattatraya Bhosale, Baroda 62) Shri Suresh Lonkar, Pune 63) Shri Dnyanoba Nagarkar, Pune 64) Shri Mahadev Daithankur, Pune 65) Shri Narayan Raurkar, Pune 66) Shri Dattatreya Ghag, Ghatkopar 67) Shri Nitin Korgaonkar, Bombay 68) Shri Bholamath Samel, Bombay-Girgaon 69) Shri Bhaskar Waradkar 70) Shri Raghuvir Mirane, Shirdi 71) Shri Chandrasekhar Gadgil, Pune 72) Shri Chandrakant Bait, Pune 73) Shri Dilip Savant, Bombay 74) Shri Vijay Malvankar 75) Shri Jayavant Kulkarni & Party, Bombay 76) Shri Ramdas Magrulkar, Magrul 77) Shri Mallesh 78) Shri Arvind Mhatre 79) Shri Shankar Vidvans 80) Shri Yashwant Gavankar 81) Shri Baban Mandavkar 82) Shri Babar Shelke 83) Shri Sanjay Paralkar 84) Shri Mahendra Gokhale 85) Shri Dnyanoba Wadekar, Shirdi 86) Shri Anil Uttarwar, Nanded 87) Shri Jagannath Tallkukule 88) Shri Vijay Pattewar 89) Shri Appa Sawant, Bombay 90) Shri Sakharam Gurav, Bet-Kopergaon 91) Kum. Kavita Madavi, Ahmednagar 92) Shri Vamanrao Taksal 93) Shri Rajkumar Barshikar, Pune 94) Shri Raja Deshpande, Pune 95) Shri Vishwas Salunkhe, Kolhapur 96) Shri Chandrasekhar Jadhav, Vijapur 97) Shri Subhash Porwal 98) Shri Prakash Khairmode. 99) Shri Raosaheb Deshmukh, Amraoti 100) Shri Shivram Bidave, Sangamner 101) Shri Ajit Kulkarni, Pune 102) Shri Govind Lonkar, Pune 103) Kumar Sekhar Vispute, Shirdi 104) Shri Natha Sonavne, Vaijapur 105) Shri Nana Gavte, Vitava 106) Shahir Kuma Kulkarni, Pathardi 107) Sai. V.R. Koli 108) Shri Vishwas Joshi, Pune 109) Shri Shaikh Patel, Astagaon 110) Shri



E.K. Kardile, Vaijapur 111) Shri B.N. Kulkarni, Vaijapur 112) Shri Siddheshwar Pise, Barsi 113) Shri Balambhai Sayyad, Rahta 114) Shri Swarmuni Jadhav, Pune 115) Shri Digambar Bhatode, Rahta 116) Shri Shashikant Joshi Rahta 117) Shri Ashok Adhav 118) Shri Vasant Rasave 119) Shri P.P. Kathale 120) Shri Mahadev Tupe 121) Shri Ramakrishna Salkar 122) Shri Devendra Devalkar, Pune 123) New Gadharva Brass Band, Pune 124) Mayur Brass Band, Pune 125) Shri Chaturdhan Nagare, Shirdi 126) Shri Raghunath Nagare, Shirdi 127) Shri Baravkarkaka 128) Shri Madhikar Bhalerao, Shirdi 129) Shri Shantaram Mirane 130) Shri Vasant Rao Hatkar 131) Shri Alhad Hatkar 132) Shri Narharbua, Vyas, Dombivli 133) Shri Vijay Bandekar, Mumbai 134) Shri Pradip Girap 135) Shri Suresh Goravi 136) Shri Shashikant Dalvi 137) Shri Satishrao 138) Shri Burakushet Mandavkar 139) Shri Suresh Anjarlekar 140) Shri Subhash Kambli 141) Shri Vilas Mahadik 142) Shri Arvind Pawar 143) Shri Siddheshwar Warkari Sampradaya, Shri Vaman Bhakre, Amraoti 144) Shri Surajrao — Chhotichhapari — Rajasthan 145) Shri Doulatrao 146) Capt. Gopal Shetty, Sakarwadi 147) Shri S.S. Wagh, Sakarwadi 148) Shri S.A. Patel, Sakarwadi 149) Shri M.R. Ambodkar, Laxmiwadi 150) Shri B.V. Kalpande, Ravalgaon 151) Shri S.L. Rathi Kopargaon 152) Shri S.B. Jortekar, Kopargaon 153) Shri S.S. Kotasthane, Shirdi 154) Math Suraksha Adhikar 155) Sou. Anuradha Pimpalgaonkar, Pune 156) Omkar Vilas Paralkar, Bombay 157) Shri Vivek Uuley, Bombay 158) Shri Pradip Rasane, Ahmednagar 159) Shri Digambar Damli, Pune 160) Sou. Suniti Kelkar, Pune 161) Shri Parashuram Bapat 162) Shri Shashikant Puranik 163) Shri Manohar Ketkar 164) Shri Shankar Ghanekar 165) Shri Mahesh Sawardekar 166) Shri Nandu Chanham 167) Shri Kedar Mhatre 168) Shri Deepak Rathod 169) Shri Manik Sali, Shirdi 170) Shri Oimkar Pawar, Shirdi 171) Shri Vinayak Daithankar, Pune 172) Shri Manohar Awchat, Baramati 173) Shri Damnanna Dalvi, Shrirampur 174) Shri Shahuram Bhosale, Saidham 175) Shri Naushir Irani, Bombay 176) Dr. Deviprasad Kharawantkar, Ahmednagar 177) Prof. Madhusudan Bopardikar, Nagar 178) Shri Pathak Garuji, Ahmednagar 179) Shri Ramchandra Kawale, Pirawade 180) Jyotsna Manjiri, Hyderabad 181) Shri Bandopant Solapurkar (Halde), Pune.



श्री साईलीला — नवम्बर १९८६

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श्री साईबाबा की कृपा

घटना सरगम १५-२० वर्ष पहले की है। गर्मी के दिन थे। मुहल्ले में बड़ी माता (चेचक) का भयंकर प्रकोप था। हर घर प्रायः माता के प्रकोप से पीड़ित था तथा छोटे-छोटे बच्चे कालकवित हो रहे थे। मेरे घर में माता का प्रभाव कम था। मेरी पत्नी ने कहा कि माता की बीमारी, होम्योपैथी की दवा से नहीं फैलती है अतः डाक्टर के यहां से होम्योपैथी की गोली ले आवो। मैंने बात टाल सी दी और कहा कि ईश्वर सब ठीक करेगा।

शाम के समय मैं छत पर लेटा आकाश की ओर देख रहा था तथा चेचक की बीमारी की चिंता कर रहा था। अचानक आकाश पर बड़े बाबा (श्री महावीर स्वामी) की आकृति नजर आई तथा कुछ ही पल बाद श्री साईबाबा की आकृति नजर आई। करीबन १५-२० मिनिट तक दोनों आकृतियां एक एक पल के दिखतीं और गायब हो जाती। उस समय मैं साई बाबा के विषय में कुछ नहीं जानता था; परंतु ऐसा महसूस हुआ कि साई बाबा का स्मरण करो. घर में कुछ नहीं होगा। मैंने सुबह-शाम एक पल के लिये साई बाबा का स्मरण करना शुरू कर दिया। साईकृपा से मेरे घर में माता का प्रकोप नहीं हुआ। तथा घर में सब प्रकार से कुशलता रही। कुछ दिन बाद मैंने श्री साई बाबा का चित्र खरीदा और सब कुछ उनको अर्पित कर — गृहस्थी की गाड़ी खींचने लगा।

× × × × ×

समय व्यतीत होता गया और मेरी श्रद्धा बाबा पर अधिक होती गई। “बाबा मुझे दशहरा-समय आपके पास शिरडी आना है — पर आर्थिक समस्या है” ऐसा विचार मेरे मन में आया। श्री साई कृपा से कुछ दिन बाद किसी भी रूप में मुझे करीबन दो सौ रुपया का इंतजाम हुआ। तथा मैं दशहरा के दिन शिरडी पहुँचा और बाबा के दर्शन किये।

× × × × ×

सन् १९८१ में बाबा की कृपा से बड़ी बच्ची की शादी इतनी शान से हुई कि दमोह शहर में इस शादी की चर्चा करीबन कई वर्षों तक होती रही। मुझे ऐसा महसूस हुआ कि सब बाबा ने स्वयं व्यवस्था की हो। इस शादी में करीबन १२'०० बाराती थे।

× × × × ×

घर में बाबा की कृपा से शांती छाई रहती है। गत वर्ष कुंवार के माह में (वर्ष १९८५ में) मैंने जिद् की बाबा इस बार मैं नवदुर्गा पर्व के पहले ही आपके पास आना चाहता हूँ तथा पुष्य नक्षत्र के दिन, मंदिर में पहला दीपक मेरा ही जलना चाहिये। बाबा की कृपा से कार्य पूरा हुआ। उसी दिन मैंने बाबा से पूछा — यदि आप कहें तो नागपूर ताज बाबा के पास भी हो आऊँ। ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ कि बाबा

ने नागपूर जाने की इजाजत दे दी है। मनमाड स्टेशन पर जब नागपूर के लिये बर्थ मांगी तो बाबू बोला कि कोई बर्थ खाली नहीं है — कोटा पूरा हो गया है। इस पर मैंने कहा कि एक बर्थ अवश्य ही मिलेगी आप वेटिंग लिस्ट में मेरा नाम लिख लीजिये, मैं आकर पूँछ जाऊँगा। कुछ समय बाद मैं बुकिंग आफिस गया तो बाबू ने बताया कि अभी एक बर्थ केंसिल हुई है तथा आपको बर्थ मिलेगी। मैंने वही साई बाबा के चित्र की ओर देखा और मन में बाबा का स्मरण किया।

अब फिर से शिरडी जाने की इच्छा है। देखें बाबा कब इजाजत देते हैं।

“शिरडी वाले बाबा की जय”

x x x x x x

— हुकुमचंद्र नायक,
स्टेशनरोड दमोह, म.प्र.

आप में समाऊँ

साई! तुम्हारा करती, गुणगान दुनिया सारी,
करते हैं भक्त निशदिन शुचि-आरती तुम्हारी।
तुम-सा नहीं है कोई, दारिद्र्य-ताप हारी,
अब पार कर दो स्वामी! डगमग तरी हमारी।
सब साथ छोड़ भागे, दिखता नहीं किनारा,
ऐसी घड़ी में साई! तेरा मुझे सहारा?
है याद कुछ नहीं क्या, भक्तों ने जब पुकारा,
भव-सिन्धु से तरे सब, कर धाम कर तुम्हारा।
मैं हूँ अनाथ, पामर, कामी, अधम, विकारी,
कैसे करूँ मैं भगवन्, हा! प्रार्थना तुम्हारी।
तुम हो अनादि, शाश्वत, हो सत्य! न्यायकारी,
करते कृपा सदा हो, निज जन-हृदय विहारी।
शिरडी के सन्त! बोलो, तुम मौन क्यों रखे हो,
इस ओर तुम नहीं क्यों, पल एक देखते हो।
मैं भक्त हूँ तुम्हारा, कब से पुकारता हूँ,
जाऊँ किधर बता दो, तुम को निहारता हूँ।
इच्छा मुझे नहीं है, जग में बड़ा कहाऊँ,
बस चाहता यही हूँ मैं आप में समाऊँ।

— लक्ष्मी नारायण मिश्र,
१२४/१३९ ब्लाक 'सी' गोविन्द नगर,
कानपुर (उ.प्र.).



मज ले मनुआ साईनाथ

भज ले मनुआ साईनाम
मधुर मनोहर मंगल धाम ॥ भज ले-
साईनाम के दो अक्षर में
सारा ब्रह्म समाया है,
आदि अन्त, जड़-चेतन अम्बर
इनसे ही बन पाया है।
बार-बार इन युगल चरण को
युगयुग करते रहे प्रणाम ॥ भज ले-

विमल द्वारकामाई मस्जिद,
विश्व विदित धूनी उपकार
कभी नहीं हम भूल सकेंगे
बाबा के अविरल उद्गार।
दसों वचन में प्रीत लगाकर
छोड़ो उस पर अपने काम ॥ भज ले-

साई नाम की अद्भुत महिमा
बिगड़े काम संभल जाते
रोग, काल, व्याधि अस बाधा
सब के सब ही टल जाते।
अपने उर में ज्योति जलाकर
भजन करो तुम प्रातः शाम ॥ मज ले-

— नंदस्वरूप भटनागर,
एडवोकेट, नई सड़क, मुरादाबाद (उ.प्र.).



ऐसे करते साई कृपा, करते भक्तों की सहायता

— एम. सी. पन्त, प्राचार्य
रीजनल इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ एजुकेशन
अल्मोड़ा (कुमाऊँ हिल्स), यू.पी.

मैं क्षेत्रीय शिक्षा संस्थान, अल्मोड़ा में गत तीन वर्षों से प्राचार्य के पद पर कार्यरत हूँ। इस वर्ष मई माह के तृतीय सप्ताह में अल्मोड़ा जनपद की सुरम्यस्थली कौसानी में उत्तर प्रदेश शिक्षा विभाग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की एक पाँच दिवसीय कार्यशाला आयोजित हुई। मैं भी कार्यशाला के मध्य एकबार अधिकारियों से भेंट करने कौसानी गया। चर्चाएँ थीं कि तीन वर्ष जिन अधिकारियों को एक ही स्थान पर हो चुके हैं, उनका स्थानान्तरण होगा। यद्यपि मैंने स्थानान्तरण हेतु आवेदन नहीं किया था फिर भी शंका मन में बनी थी कि कहीं स्थानान्तरण हो ही न जाय। लोगों में, अधिकारियों में चर्चाएँ चली थीं कि अमुख व्यक्ति वहाँ स्थानान्तरित किया जा रहा है, और अमुख वहाँ। इन चर्चाओं में स्थानान्तरण हेतु मेरा नाम भी था। चर्चाओं में जिस स्थान के लिये मेरा नाम लिया जा रहा था वहाँ जाने के लिये मेरी कोई आपत्ति भी नहीं थी।

मई का महीना बीता। जून ८६ का आगमन हो गया। इसी महीने उत्तर प्रदेश शिक्षा विभाग में तथा अन्य विभागों में स्थानान्तरण आदेश निर्गत किये जाते हैं। और एक दिन १२ जून ८६ को मेरा स्थानान्तरण आदेश भी आ गया। १२ जून ८६ को बृहस्पति वार था। बृहस्पति को मेरा उपवास का नियम रहता है। साई पूजा से निवृत्त होकर कार्यालय में पहुँचा ही था कि ठीक दस बजे चपरासी डाक लेकर पहुँच गया। लिफाफे में शिक्षा निदेशक की मुहर भी बाहर से लगी थी। देखते ही भाँप गया कि स्थानान्तरण आदेश है। लिफाफा खोलते ही देखा कि मेरा स्थानान्तरण मेरी इच्छा के विरुद्ध जिला बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी के पद पर बरेली को कर दिया गया है। बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी के पद पर बरेली जाने को मैं बिल्कुल भी इच्छुक नहीं था। अनायास ही मुँह से निकल पड़ा। "साई ऐसा क्यों किया। मैं बरेली नहीं जाऊँगा।"

तेरह तथा चौदह जून ८६ के दिन बीते। पन्द्रह जून ८६ को निदेशक महोदय से मिला। उनका कहना था कि मुझे, अच्छा कार्य होने के कारण चयनित कर भेजा गया है, मैंने अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत किया। अपनी परेशानियाँ, कठिनाइयाँ निवेदित कीं। कोई सफलता नहीं मिली। स्थानान्तरण निरस्त करना सम्भव नहीं बताया गया। तुरन्त कार्यभार नये स्थान पर ग्रहण करने हेतु मुझे निर्देशित किया गया। विभागाध्यक्ष महोदय से मिलने के उपरान्त अब स्थानान्तरण निरस्त होने की कोई आशा शेष न थी।

पर मेरा विश्वास साई चरणों में बना रहा। नित्य पूजा करते समय साई महाराज से स्थानान्तरण निरस्त करवाने की प्रार्थना करता रहा। २१ जून ८६ को तुरन्त ही कार्यमुक्त होने सम्बन्धी रजिस्टर्ड पत्र भी मिल गया। तदुपरान्त टेलिग्राम व अन्य पत्र



भी अविलम्ब पदमुक्त होकर नये स्थान पर कार्यभार ग्रहण करने के आशय के मिलते रहे। जून ८६ का महीना समाप्ति पर आ पहुँचा। मैं किमकर्तव्यविमूढ़ था। विश्वास डगमगाने लगा। और पहली जुलाई ८६ को मैं क्षेत्रीय शिक्षा संस्थान के प्राचार्य पद से मुक्त हो गया। कार्यभार सौंप दिया। बरेली जाने की तैयारी में लग गया। आवश्यक सामान बाँध लिया। चार जुलाई ८६ को प्रातः की बस से बरेली प्रस्थान करने की समस्त तैयारियाँ पूरी कर लीं।

२ जुलाई का दिन बीता। तैयारी में लगा रहा। ३ जुलाई ८६ को पुनः बृहस्पति वार था। पूजा समाप्त करके कमरे में आया ही था कि कार्यालय के प्रधानलिपिक को हाथ में एक लिफाफा लिये खड़ा देखा। लिफाफा निदेशक महोदय का था। उत्सुकता से लिफाफा खोला। लो मेरा स्थानान्तरण निरस्तीकरण आदेश था। आखों में खुशी के आँसू आ गये। साईं चरणों में प्रीति सहस्र गुनी बढ़ गई। विश्वास जागकर अडिग हो गया। जिस दिन स्थानांतरण आदेश मिला उस दिन भी बृहस्पतीवार प्रातः का समय था और निरस्तीकरण आदेश प्राप्ति के दिन भी बृहस्पति ही था। अनायास मुँह से निकल पड़ा। साईं तुम धन्य हो, मैं धन्य हुआ। अपने भक्तों पर इस प्रकार कृपा करते-रहते हो। तुम्हारे पावन कमल चरणों की स्मृति हमको सदा बनी रहे। इनकी विस्मृति कभी न हो। साईं तुम्हारी शरण में आकर सभी इच्छाएँ पूरी हो जाती हैं। तुम्हारे वचनों की याद रह-रह कर आ जाती है।

‘मेरी शरण आ खाली जाये, हो तो कोई मुझे बताये,
भार तुम्हारा मुझ पर होगा, वचन न मेरा झूठा होगा,
त्याग शरीर चला जाऊँगा, भक्त हेतु दौड़ा आऊँगा।’



शिरडी महत्त्व

शिरडी पतित जन तारन को देश ॥
हैं जितने शिरडी के वासी, आनंद रहत हमेश ॥ शिरडी ॥
मंशा पूरण करत, हरत-दुख, साईं-नाथ महेश ॥ शिरडी ॥
मानहु सांच-आंच नहि लागत, छूटत पांच क्लेश ॥ शिरडी ॥
तारक मंत्र देत यह धूनी, प्रभु साईं उपदेश ॥ शिरडी ॥
श्रद्धा और सबूरी मिलि है, “अयुत” - भक्ति-प्रेम को मेल ॥ शिरडी ॥

— डा. दुर्गाप्रसाद शुक्ल
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साई की पहली नज़र

प्रस्तुतकर्ता :— एन. एल. पराशर,
सी-१४, स्टाफ क्वार्टर्स,
टी.वी. सेंटर के पास, वरली,
ब्रम्बई-४०० ०२५.

बाबा की लीलाएं, अर्थात् हर भक्त के अपने अपने प्रत्यक्ष अनुभवों का वर्णन ही तो है; और यह वर्णन करना इतना सरल नहीं है जितना कि समझा जाता है। इसके लिये भी गुरु-कृपा की आवश्यकता है। मैंने बहुत बार प्रयत्न किये कि मैं भी अपने अनुभवों को लिखकर, बाबा की लीलाओं का गुणमान करूं परंतु योग नहीं आया। आज बाबा के ही आदेश से प्रस्तुत है मुझ पर हुई उनकी पहली कृपा-दृष्टि :—

बात दिसंबर ८१ की है। हमारे एक संबंधी द्वारा बाबा का परिचय प्राप्त होने के पश्चात् मैं, अपनी पत्नी सहित दि. २९ दिसंबर ८१ को शिरडी पहुंचा। समाधि-मंदिर में दर्शन पाकर हृदय बड़ा प्रफुल्ल हो गया — बड़ी शांती प्राप्त हुई और मैं सम्पूर्ण रूप से बाबा की दर्शन से ओतप्रोत हो गया, मन श्रद्धा से परिपूर्ण हो गया। वहां शिर्डी में अन्य भक्तों से बातचीत भी हुई — विचारों का आदान-प्रदान हुआ और ज्ञात हुआ कि बाबा ने किस पर कैसी कैसी कृपा की है। उन भाग्यशालियों की बात श्रवण कर मेरे मन में भी प्रार्थना के भाव उदित हुये और समाधि-मंदिर में हाथ अपने आप जुड़ गये — माथा झुक गया — और मैं बाबा का शरणागत बन गया।

उन दिनों मुझको एक चर्म-रोग हो गया था जिसके अन्तर्गत हाथों की उंगलियों और हथेली पर की चमड़ी, एक सूखी फुन्सी की तरह फट जाया करती थी और इस कारण हाथ भद्दे और खुरदरे हो जाया करते थे। ठंड के दिनों में यह पीड़ा बढ़ जाया करती थी, क्योंकि चमड़ी ज्यादा फट जाती थी और इस कारण घाव भरने में समय ज्यादा लगता था। हाथों को साफ करने के लिये मैं जहां जहां चमड़ी फट जाती थी वहां वहां की झिल्ली (या ऊपरकी आवरण-चमड़ी) निकालने का प्रयास करता था। इस प्रयास में कई बार भीतर की कच्ची चमड़ी भी बाहर आ जाया करती थी तथा रोग और ज्यादा कष्टप्रद हो जाया करता था। डॉक्टर ने इस रोग को अच्छा करने के लिये मलम और गोलियां दी थीं। जब तक मैं गोलियां खाता और घाव पर मलम लगाता था, तब तक ही रोग अच्छा रहता था। जैसे ही मैं गोली नहीं लेता या मलम नहीं लगाता वैसे ही पीड़ा फिर शुरू हो जाती थी। ऐसा लगता था कि शायद इन गोलियों और मलम से अब कभी छुटकारा प्राप्त नहीं होगा। मैं बहुत परेशान सा चिंतित रहता था।

मन में प्रार्थना का भाव उदित होते ही समाधि-मंदिर में जाकर मैंने भी प्रार्थना की कि "हे साई-बाबा, मुझ पर भी कृपा करो, मुझ पर भी दया करो। मेरे इस



रोग को अच्छा करें और मेरी पीड़ा हरो। अब तो मेरी आप पर ही पूरी श्रद्धा है। मैं आपको वचन देता हूँ कि आज के बाद मैं फिर कभी इन गोलियों व मलम को नहीं लगाऊंगा। मुझ पर नज़र करो हे साईनाथ। मेरी प्रार्थना आपने सुन ली तो मैं कृतघ्न हो जाऊंगा अन्यथा मैं यह पीड़ा जीवनभर सहन करने के लिये तैयार हूँ।” इस प्रार्थना के पश्चात मैं 'रूम' पर वापस आया और रात्रि का भोजन प्रसाद लेकर मैं सो गया। उस रात से मैंने गोली व मलम लगाना बंद कर दिया था जबकि कि वे दिसंबर की कड़ाके की ठंड के दिन थे, जिनमें मैं बिना गोली साये और मलम लगाये नहीं रह सकता था। मगर अब गोलियों और मलम की चिंता किसे थी? उन्हें तो मैं फेंक चुका था।

अगली सुबह जब नींद खुली तो क्या देखता हूँ। हाथों के रोग में लगभग ७५% सुधार हो गया था। मैं अपने सुधरे हुये हाथ (हथेली और उगलियों को) को बार बार देखता था। आंखों से आंसू बह निकले और कमरे की खिड़की में से ही समाधी-मंदिर के कलश को हाथ जोड़ कर शीश नवाया। कंठ से बोलना नहीं हो रहा था। तुरंत स्नान कर प्रातः काकड आरती में सम्मिलित होने दौड़ पड़ा। बाबा ने मेरी प्रार्थना स्वीकार कर ली थी। इसके पश्चात मैं द्वारकामाई-गुरुस्थान-चावड़ी-लेडी बाग आदि सभी स्थानों में जाकर बाबा के चरणों पर माथा टेका और अपने आपको धन्य स्वीकारा। अब यह कहने की आवश्यकता नहीं कि रोग कुछ ही दिनों में ठीक हो गया और बाबा की कृपा ऐसी हुई कि आज तक कभी नहीं हुआ।

बाबा तो बहुत ही भोले हैं और उनकी समाधि भी उसी तरह प्रभावकारी है जिस तरह बाबा के वचन। यथार्थ में इन दोनों में कोई फर्क है ही नहीं। मेरे इस पहले पहले “अनुभव” से ही हमारा सारा परिवार “साईमय” हो गया है। परंतु किसी भी “अनुभव” के प्राप्त होने के लिये, फिर वे ही “दो-बातें” आचरज में लाना पड़ता है जिनके बिना, बाबा कहते हैं कि किसी भी “अनुभव” का प्राप्त होना असंभव ही है। और वे दो वस्तुएं हैं —

मैं अब क्या लिखूँ। आप यदि बाबा के भक्त हैं तो खुद ही समझ गये होंगे। और यदि आप बाबा से परिचित नये-नये हैं तो आपको किसी साई-भक्त से इन “दो-बातों” की जानकारी प्राप्त करना होगा। वह आपको समझा देगा कि इन “दो बातों” का यथार्थ में क्या अर्थ है। बस!

ओम् श्री साईनाथाय नमः



महामहिम श्री गणेश श्रीकृष्ण खापडें, एडवोकेट, अमरावती की “शिरडी डायरी”

— मूल अंग्रेजी से हिन्दी रूपान्तरकार :

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४८०, कुम्हारमण्डी,

कानपुर छावनी ४.

साई भक्त महामहिम श्री गणेश श्रीकृष्ण खापडें तत्कालीन सी.पी. और बरार- अब मध्य प्रदेश-अमरावती के एक सुप्रसिद्ध भाषाविद् विद्वान वकील थे। उनका राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान था तथा वह पं. लोकमान्य बाल गंगाधर तिलक के दाहिने हाथ थे। वर्ष १८९७ में अमरावती में होने वाले अखिल भारतीय कांग्रेस कमेटी के वार्षिक अधिवेशन, जिसकी अध्यक्षता सर शंकरननायर ने की थी, की स्वागत समिति के अध्यक्ष चुने गये थे। दादा खापडें जी पं. लोकमान्य बाल गंगाधर- जी तिलक को लेकर १९ मई, १९१७ को साई बाबा का आशीर्वाद दिलाने शिरडी यात्रा पर भी गये थे। दादा खापडें जी की ऐतिहासिक यात्रायें दिसम्बर १९१०, दिसं. से मार्च, १९११-१२, दिसं. १९१५, मई, १९१७ और मार्च १९१८ में क्रमशः ८, १०१, ३, १ और अज्ञात दिवसीय, अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं — जो साई भक्तों के लिये बड़ी रोचक, ज्ञानवर्धक स्वम् मननीय है, क्योंकि उन्होंने जो कुछ नित्य अपनी डायरी (अंग्रेजी भाषा) में लिखकर उसमें अपने शिरडी प्रवास के समय श्री दत्त- अवतार योगिराय सद्गुरु साई बाबा के उपदेशों, दैनिक क्रियाकलापों और लीलाओं के साथ-साथ उस पुण्य-धाम में नित्य होने वाले कार्यक्रमों स्वम् घटनाक्रमों का जो सूक्ष्म, गम्भीर और हृदयग्राही सजीव चित्रण किया है वह आज के परिप्रेक्ष्य में भी उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है तथा यह सिद्ध करता है कि पूज्य साईबाबा ने तब जो कुछ भी कहा था वह आज उससे कहीं अधिक स्वरूपवान दीखने में आता है।

बाबा ने कहा था — “मुझ पर पूर्ण विश्वास रखो, यद्यपि मैं देह त्याग दूंगा परंतु फिर भी मेरी हड्डियां आशा और विश्वास का संचार करतीं रहेंगी। केवल मैं ही नहीं मेरी समाधि भी वार्तालाप करेगी, चलेगी-फिरेगी और उन्हें आशा का सन्देश पहुंचाती रहेगी, जो अनन्य भाव से मेरे शरणागत होंगे। निराश न होना कि मैं तुमसे विदा हो जाऊंगा। तुम सदैव मेरी हड्डियों को भक्तों के कल्याणार्थ ही चिन्तित पावोगे। यदि मेरा निरन्तर स्मरण और मुझ पर दृढ़ विश्वास रखोगे तो तुम्हें अधिक लाभ होगा।”

आज भी श्री शिरडी-धाम में नित्य भक्तों की अपार भीड़ देखकर बाबा के उक्त वचन जब स्मरण हो जाते हैं तब वहीं दादा खापडें जी की डायरी के पन्ने पढ़कर जो सजीव चित्रण सामने आ जाता है उससे ऐसा भाषित होता है जैसे दादा खापडें



जी ने ७६ वर्ष पूर्व अपनी डायरी लिखकर एक चलचित्र का निर्माण कर दिया था जो युग-युग तक श्री शिरडी पावनधाम की रूप में यथावत् विद्यमान है और इस डायरी को पढ़ते हुए आज के स्वरूप में सब कुछ वहीं है — अवश्य कालक्रम भेद में कुछ ऊंचे-ऊंचे 'शांति' और 'भक्त' निवास आदि-आदि भक्तगणों की सुविधा के लिये और निर्मित हो गये हैं — जिस प्रकार उन्होंने अपने जीवन काल में भी किया था।

दादा खापडें जी की मूल डायरी अंग्रेजी भाषा में है जिसे कभी — (१९२४-२५ में) श्री साईलीला में प्रकाशित किया गया, किंतु आज साईभक्तों के लिये दुर्लभ हैं। बाबा के भक्तगणों का परम सौभाग्य- श्री साईलीला- बम्बई ने अगस्त, ८५ से फरवरी, मई (सात अंको में) और फिर सम्मान्य श्री वी.बी. खेर जी द्वारा अप्रैल, ८६ के अंक में विशेष बहुमूल्य सूचनाओं की पूर्ति की गयी, किंतु हिंदी भाषी साई-भक्त इस श्री साई राम-रस से वंचित न रहें अस्तु दासानुदास ने बाबा की प्रेरणा से ही उनकी झांकी को हिन्दी में प्रेषित करने का प्रयास किया है। आशा है आज से ७६ वर्ष पूर्व लिखी गयी बाबा की लीलाओं का सजीव चित्रण करने वाली आदरणीय दादा खापडें जी की डायरी के पृष्ठ बाबा के — "श्रद्धा-सबूरी" और "प्रेम-भक्ति" का प्रसाद- "सबका मालिक एक" के रूप में सिद्ध होगी, यही कामना है। अल्लाह मालिक जय प्रभु साईनाथ।



साई प्रार्थना

साई आप सम्पूर्ण जगत के स्वामी, साक्षात् परमात्मा हैं,
यह आपकी कृपा का फल है, जो मुझे आपका दर्शन प्राप्त हुआ है,
महात्मा और योगीजन मोक्ष प्राप्ति के लिये आपका भजन करते हैं,
फिर आप मोक्ष दाता प्रभु को पाकर सांसारिक पदार्थों की कामना कैसे करूं,
देवदेवेश्वर, स्त्री, पुत्र, धन, राज्य, यह सभी आपके माया के कार्य हैं,
अब मुझे आपके अतिरिक्त और किसी पदार्थ की मुझे इच्छा नहीं है,
सत चित आनन्द स्वरूप, भक्तों के रक्षक 'साई' मुझ पर कृपा कीजिये,
आज बड़े भाग्य से मुझे आपके दर्शन हुए हैं,
मुझ मुख को जैसे भूमि में गड्ढा खज़ाना हाथ लग गया है,
आपकी कृपा से मेरा अज्ञान नष्ट हो गया है,
यज्ञ, दान, तप और कई पुण्यों से भी मोक्ष नहीं मिलता,
किंतु आपके श्री चरणकमलों के दर्शन से परम मोक्ष प्राप्त होता है,

क्षण भर के लिये भी अपने चित्त में जो आपका दर्शन पाता है,
 उसके हृदय में स्थिति अज्ञान रूपी रात्रि का नाश हो जाता है,
 साई मेरा मन अब आपके ही श्री चरणों का सदा ध्यान करे,
 'साई' 'साई' स्मरण से सम्पूर्ण पापों से मुक्ति मिलती है,
 'सद्गुरु' आपकी कृपा से मैं सदा 'साई' नाम जपता रहूँ,
 'साईनाथ' अब मुझे सांसारिक पदार्थों की इच्छा नहीं है,
 मैं जन्म, मरण के बन्धन से मुक्त करनेवाली आपकी भक्ति चाहता हूँ,
 'साई' यह संसार आपकी माया के कारण उत्पन्न हुआ है,
 आप परमात्मा हैं, मेरे हृदय की आत्मा आपका अंश है,
 'साई' मुझे चरण कमलों में शरण देकर, माया अथवा उनके गुणों से रक्षा कीजिये,
 'साई' मेरा चित्त अब भी आपकी माया से ढका हुआ है,
 कृपा कीजिये प्रभु, इस दास को सब चिंताओं से मुक्त कीजिये,
 माया में बंधा हुआ मेरा मन अब भी, शत्रु और बन्धुओं की पहचान रखता है,
 'साई' कहानेवाले भक्तवत्सल प्रभु मुझे अपने चरण कमलों में शरण दीजिये,
 'साई' शीघ्र ही माया के बंधन से मुक्त कर, मुझे परम शांति का बोध कराईये,
 'साई' सांसारिक पदार्थों की कामना अविद्याकी उपासना है,
 'साई' अब ऐसी कृपा कीजिये, मेरे मन में आप ही सदा निवास करें,
 'साई' माया तो आपकी दासी है, प्रभु उससे मेरी रक्षा कीजिये,
 'साई' मेरा मन सदा आपके श्री चरण कमलों का ध्यान करे,
 'साई' मेरी वाणी आपकी लीलाओं का सदा गान करे,
 'साई' ऐसी कृपा कीजिये, सदा आपका भजन सुनता रहूँ,
 'साई' मेरे नेत्र सदा आपका दर्शन करते रहें,
 'साई' मेरे पैर सदा आपके मंदिरों के यात्रा करते रहें,
 'साई' आपके श्री चरण, ब्रह्मा, विष्णु, महेश आदि देवताओं द्वारा वंदित है,
 'साई' मेरे हाथ सदा आपके श्री चरणों का स्पर्श पाये,
 'साई' रक्षा कीजिये, मैं आपके चरणों में नमस्कार करता हूँ,
 'साई' मेरा सिर सदा आपके श्री चरणों का स्पर्श पाये,
 'साई' आपके दर्शनों से वंचित, मेरा मन व्याकुल होकर जब तड़प उठे,
 'साई' उस वियोग का मेरा हृदय सहन न सके, ऐसे समय मेरे शरीर से प्राण निकले,
 'साई' यह मेरी प्रार्थना स्वीकार कीजिये, 'साई' कृपा कीजिये।

ओम् साई

— मनोहर हेमदेव,

१४/४९८, चेंबूर कॉलनी,

बम्बई-४०० ०७४.



“साईबाबा की चिड़ियाँ”

— अरिसुदन कान्तीलाल परीख, *
२३-ए, आनंद शोपींग सेन्टर,
गौशाला लेन, मालाड (पूर्व),
मुंबई-९७.

“माझा माणूस देशावर। असो कां हजारों कोस दूर।
आणीन जैसे चिड़िचे पोर। बांधून दोर पायास” ॥

(अ. २८ ओ. १५ श्री साईसत्चरित्र)

श्री साईबाबा हमेशा कहां करते थे कि मेरा भक्त चाहे एक हजार कोस की दूरी पर क्यों न हो, वह शिरडी को ऐसा खींचता चला आता है जैसे धागे से बंधी हुई चिड़ियां खींचकर स्वयं ही आ जाती है।

मेरे जीवन में बिलकुल ऐसा ही घटित हुआ और बाबा ने अपने प्रति मुझे शिरडी खींचा। वरना मेरा साईभक्त बनना मेरे लिए नामूमकिन था। हमारे घर में पुष्टीमार्गीय संप्रदाय को सब मानते हैं। हमारे इष्टदेव भगवान ‘श्रीकृष्ण’ है। संप्रदाय के नियमों से इष्टदेव के सीवा दूसरे किसी स्वरूप को मानना अन्याश्रय एवं धर्म विरुद्ध कहा जाता है। ऐसे माहोल में शिरडी की बात करना और उनको मानना बहुत दूर की बात है। भगवान श्रीकृष्ण और साईबाबा एक ही हैं। मगर उस वक्त यह बात कौन समझावे।

मुझे साईबाबा के बारे में कुछ भी मालूम न था। इतना ही जानता था कि वे शिरडी के संत हैं। एक दिन मेरे मित्र के साथ मैं टहल रहा था। टहलते हुए एक थियेटर के करीब पहुंचे, थियेटर में “शिरडी के साईबाबा” पिकचर लगी थी। उसका पोस्टर देख के न जाने क्या हुआ कि पिकचर देखने का दिल हो गया। पिकचर बहुत पसंद आयी। बाबा की लीला देखकर बहुत आनंद हुआ। दोनों मित्रों ने नक्की किया की शिरडी जायेंगे। मेरे मित्र ने दो-तीन बार जिक्र किया शिरडी जाने के लिए। मगर कोई न कोई कारण वश जाने न पाया।

मेरी बहन जो शिरडी यात्रा करके लौटी हुई थी, उसने मुझे बाबा का प्रसाद और एक अंगुठी दी। जो मैंने तुरंत ही पहन ली। उन दिनों मैं आर्थिक संकट से घिरा हुआ था। मुझे पैसे की सख्त जरूरत थी। कहां से भी काम बनता नजर नहीं आता रहा था। मेरी एक दुकान थी, जो मैं डिपोझीट पर देना चाहता था। लेकिन उसका सौदा पटता नहीं था। कुछ कानूनी झगड़े से कोर्ट में केस चालू होने से और मेरे दुश्मन ने झुठी अफवाह फैलाने से कोई ग्राहक लेने को राजी नहीं होता था। बाबा की अंगुठी पहनने के बाद, दूसरे ही दिन जब मैं मेरी दुकान में पहुंचा एक ग्राहक का इंतजार कर रहा था। दुर्भाग्यवश वह सौदा भी नाकामियाब हो गया। मैं बहुत दुःखी हो गया। अचानक मेरा ध्यान, मैंने पहनी हुई अंगुठी पर गया। और मुझे क्या सुझा कि मनोमन बाबा की प्रार्थना की, ओ साईबाबा मेरा भी काम

आज ही बना दे। और बाबा ने 'हो! हो!' कहां। हुआ भी यही, यहां प्रार्थना खत्म भी नहीं हुई, वहीं साईबाबा का बटन दबा। तुरंत ही मेरा दुश्मन, जो हमेशा मेरा सौदा के बारे में टांग अड़ाता था, वो ही आकर कहने लगा, क्या आप अपनी दुकान डिपोझीट पर देना चाहते हो? मुझे बहुत ही आश्चर्य हुआ कि आज रावण के मन में राम कैसे बसा! मुझे क्या चाहिए? 'अंधे को आँखे'। और एक घंटे में सौदा भी पट गया। इतना बाबा ने मेरे लिए किया फिर भी मैं शिरडी जा न सका।

मानव कितना दुष्ट है और बाबा कितने दयालु। मैंने सोचा कि उसके बाजु में मेरी दूसरी दुकान थी उसका सौदा पटेगा, तब मैं शिर्डी को आउंगा। बाबा ने दूसरा सौदा भी पंद्रह दिन के अंदर अंदर दूसरी दुकान का सौदा भी पटा दिया। फिर क्या था? मुझे शिरडी जाना ही पड़ा। शिरडी पावन नगरी में पैर रखते ही दिल आनंद और प्रसन्नता से भर उठा और जैसे दुःख के उस पार मैं पहुंच गया। साईबाबा का दर्शन करते हुए दिल करुणा से भर उठा, उसके लिए और ज्यादा मैं क्या लिखूं।

शिरडी में समाधि मंदिर में बाबा के ग्यारह वचन का बोर्ड रखा है। उनमें से विशेषकर एक वचन पर मेरा ध्यान आकर्षित हुआ। वो वचन था, "कोई तो बता दो सवाली, जो मेरे समाधि की सीढ़ी चड़ा हो और गया वो हाथ खाली" कोई भी गुरु स्थान और मंदिर में आज तक इतनी चेंलेज के साथ वचन अभी तक देखने में नहीं आया। मुझे लगा मैं भी खाली नहीं लोटुंगा। हुआ भी यही, मैं रात की ट्रेन मनमाड़ से बम्बई के लिए पकड़ी। और सबेरे अपने घर मालाड़ पहुंच गया। वो ही दिन सबेरे प्रातःकर्म निबटाने के बाद मेरे पार्टनर के आफिस में दूसरे काम से पहुंचा। और आश्चर्य! एक जमीन का झगड़ा बहुत साल से चलता था, मुझे ख्याल में भी सेटलमेंट की उमीद न थी वो ही दिन क्या! वो ही दिन सबेरे मेरे पक्ष में सेटलमेंट हो गया। और उसी दिन चाल बनाने के लिए खात मुहूर्त भी हो गया। और उस में मुझे पूर्ण सफलता मिली।

उसके बाद बाबा की चिड़ियों ही बन गया। इस तरह अगर बाबा प्रेरणा न करते तो मुझे आदमी के लिए शिरडी जाना और बाबा का भक्त बन जाना मुश्किल ही था।

आज भौतिक सहायता के बाद आध्यात्मिक मार्ग पर बाबा प्रेरणा करके ले जा रहे हैं। मुझे अपने स्वधर्म श्रद्धा और प्रेम नहीं था। वो भी बाबा की कृपा से दृढ़ होता जा रहा है। बाबा हमेशा अपने कृपा अनुभवों के जरिये मुझे श्रद्धा का सिंचन करते हैं। मुझे हमेशा ऐसा लगता है मेरे प्यारे बाबा मेरी हर सुविधा का ध्यान रखते हैं। ऐसे गुरु माऊली की प्रणाम के सिवा क्या दे सकता हूं। बाबा को कोटि कोटि प्रणाम।

"तुम बिन मेरी कौन खबर ले,
ओ शिरडीवाले साई।
औरनको तो ओर भरोसो
मुझे भरोसो तेरी भारी ॥



भक्ताधिन साई

मीरा संजयानंद (श्री स्वामी संजयानंद)

६ सन-बिम इंजन घर,
संजोली-शिमला,
हि. प्रदेश.

१९७३ का साल था। फरवरी का महिना था। मैं अपने पती के साथ हरिद्वार से शिरडी आ रही थी। मार्ग में महाराष्ट्र के एक गांव नंदुरबार में डा. सोनटके के घर ठहरा। डा. सोनटके यह रेलवे में A.M.O. के पद पर कार्यरत थे। और कट्टर साईभक्त थे। इनकी पत्नी भी बड़ी अच्छी भक्त थी। इनके घर की यह लिला है। मिसेस सोनटके को हम भाभी कहते थे। भाभी हमे बोली कि महाशिवरात्री करके जाना। सो मैं और मेरे पती स्वामिजी हम रूक गये और महाशिवरात्री उत्सव की तयारीयां करने लगे।

शिवरात्री के दिन पूरी सजावट के साथ मंदिर को सजाया गया। बाहर से महेमान भी आ गये। घर में चहल पहल शुरू हो गई। बड़ा आनंद छाया था। प्रसन्न वातावरण था। शाम के चार बजे थे। डा. साहब और उनके पिताजी बाहर गये हुए थे। और भाभी स्वामिजी को बोली कि स्वामिजी अगर आपने भंग लाई होगी तो देना। भंग का दुध औंटायेगे। स्वामिजी ने कहा कि भाभी भंग का नशा होता है। बाबा नशिली चिजे पसंद नहीं करते। सो मैं भंग नहीं दुंगा। मेरे पास भंग है, और मैं होमी बाबा के लिये शिरडी ले जा रहा हूँ। इसपर भाभी ने कहा कि आज शिवरात्र है। शिवजी को भंग चढाते है। मैं उनकी बातों में आ गया और भंग तयार की। काजू, बदाम, पिस्ते, किसमिस अखरोट, इलायची और भी न जाने कितनी चिजे पिसने के बाद दुध में मिलाकर दुध औंटाया गया।

उसके बाद शामको ६ बजे सबको थोड़ी थोड़ी भंग पिलाई गई। डा. साहब का बड़ा लडका सुधीर मेडीकल लाईन में जाना चाहता था। और उस वक्त वो बोर्ड की परिक्षा में बैठा था। उसका दूसरे दिन पेपर था। उसे इस परिक्षा में ९० मार्क्स चाहिये थे। अन्यथा आगे पूना युनिवर्सिटी में उसे प्रवेश पाने के लिये २५००० रु. भरने पड़ते। वह भी दुर्भाग्यवश वहां आ गया। जब की डा. ने उसे मना किया था। और अस्पताल में पढ़ाई के लिये भेजा था। उसको भी स्वामीजी ने थोड़ीसी भंग पिला दी। उसने स्वामीजी से कहा कि स्वामीजी भंग पिये से कुछ गड़बड़ तो नहीं होती। स्वामीजी ने कहा कि सुधीर तुम बिलकुल चिन्ता न करो। तू जो पढ़ेगा वह सब तुझे याद रहेगा। और ऐसा कहकर स्वामीजी ने उसे विदा किया। अब आठ बजे से नौ बजे तक सहस्रार्चन था। भगवान के १०००८ नाम के साथ भगवान पर चावल चढ़ाना होता है। सहस्रार्चन शुरू हुआ। जहां तक घंटा लगना था, वहां आधा घंटा लगा। भाभी को भंग के नशे के कारण बाबा की तस्वीर दो

दो दिखाई देने लगी। वह रह रह कर मुझे पुछने लगी कि मीरा बाबा की तस्वीर कौन सी है। मेरा भी वही हाल था। ऐसी गहरी नींद आने लगी। तो मैं उठके चली गई। भंग ने अपना कमाल सब पर दिखाना शुरू किया। जिसे जहां जगह मिली वह वही पर सोने लगा। भाभी भी अपने कमरे में चली गई। मैं भी पूजा के रूम में सो गई। सिर्फ डा. साहब उनके पिताजी भटनागर गार्ड की पत्नी "जो उस वक्त गैर हाजिर थी," तो और स्वामीजी ही जग रहे थे। डा. की समझ में कोई बात नहीं आ रही थी कि मामला क्या है। स्वामीजी आधी निंद में थे, सो उनकी सारी बातें सुन रहे थे। स्वामीजी ने भटनागर भाभी से कहा कि भाभी कड़क चाय बना दो। भाभी ने चाय बना दी। स्वामीजी ने चाय पिये के बाद भंग का करिष्मा सुनाया। डा. ने तुरंत इमली का पानी बनाया, सबको नींद में से ऊठा ऊठा कर पिलाया। उल्टीयां करवायी। थोड़े बहुत होश में आये। सारी रात का भजन बंद पड़ गया। क्योंकि भजन करनेवाले स्वामीजी स्वयं थे। बारह बजे तक भजन पार्टी आयी। उसने दो घंटा भजन किया, फिर वह चली गई। मैं और स्वामीजी सब अर्ध निद्रावस्था में सुन रहे थे। फिर उठे, मुझे भी उठाया। फिर हम दोनों ने बाबा से क्षमा मांगी और प्रतिज्ञा की कि भविष्य में इस तरह साथ नहीं रखेंगे। स्वामीजी स्वयं कभी भंग नहीं पीते थे। शिरडी में होमी बाबाको भंग देनी थी, तो साथ रखी थी।

फिर हम दोनो भजन हाल में गये। हार्मोनियम खींच कर भजन गाने लगे। नशा तो था ही पिछे कौन भजन गा रहा इसका भी खयाल नहीं था। मैं भंग के नशे में भजन गा रही थी। हम दोनो पती पत्नी बारी बारी से भजन बगैर रूके गा रहे थे। सुबह छे बजे भजन बंद किया। डा. हमारे से नाराज हो गये। उन्हें अब सुधीर का डर था। कहीं उसने तो भंग नहीं पी? इसिलिये उन्होंने सुधीर को बुलाया। सुधीर ने मुझे देखा भला मैं क्या कहती। उसने मुझे चूप देखकर डा. से कहा कि मैंने भंग नहीं पी है। रात भर जागने से मेरी आंखे लाल है। फिर उसने स्वामीजी से कहा कि स्वामीजी मैं तो कुछ भी नहीं पढ़ पाया हूं। अब मेरा क्या होगा? सारी रात सोया हूं। अभी भी नींद आ रही है। मेरा आप पर विश्वास है। अब आपही इज्जत की रक्षा कर सकते है। मैं स्वामीजी के साथ सोच में पड़ गई। क्या किया जाय हमारी समझ में नहीं आ रहा था। मैंने स्वामीजी से कहा कि हम बाबा से ही प्रार्थना करते है।

फिर स्वामीजी ने सुधीर से एक उत्तर पत्रिका तथा एक नया पेन लाने को कहा। उसने दोनो चीजे स्वामीजी को दी। हम सब पूजा घर में गये। सद्गुरु बाबा की तस्वीर के आगे एक थाली रखकर उस में बाबा की फोटो के साथ साथ ये दोनो चीजे रख दी। और बाबा का भजन गाने लग गये। ग्यारह बजे भजन शुरू करके बारह बजे आरती करके भजन समाप्त किया। पूजा घर बंद कर दिया। हम सब बाहर आ गये। सुधीर को दो बजे जाना था। वह बड़ा घबरा रहा था। बार बार स्वामीजी को कह रहा था कि स्वामीजी आप संभालो। मुझे तो बड़ा डर लग रहा



है। मैं फेल हो जाऊंगा। तो पिताजी मुझे घर से बाहर कर देंगे। स्वामीजी ने उसे धीरज बंधाते कहा कि सुधीर तुम डरो मत। बाबा साथ है। और सब ठीक कर देंगे। फिर स्वामीजी ने सबको साथ लेकर पूजा घर खोला। अन्दर प्रवेश किया, देखा तो बाबा की फोटो में से दुध की धारा बह रही है। और पूरी थाली दुध से भर गई है। पेपर भी गीला हो गया है।

मैंने सबके सामने पेपर उठाया। उसको झटका देकर सारा दुध छुड़ाया। फिर उसका पहला पेज खोला दूसरा पेज भी देखा। अब आप कोई भी विश्वास नहीं करेंगे। क्योंकि यह बात साधारण मनुष्य पर है।

पेज खोलते ही पेज पर लिखा था कि "With blessing Shree Sai baba" स्वामीजी ने सुधीर से कहा कि सुधीर अब तुम बेफिक्र रहो। बाबा ने आशिर्वाद दिया है। सुधीर ने कहा स्वामीजी आप जानो और साईबाबा जाने मेरा विश्वास आप पर है। ऐसा कह कर वह परिक्षा देने चला गया। शाम को जब लौटा तो मुझे कहने लगा कि माताजी मैंने कुछ भी नहीं लिखा। "साईराम-साईराम" ही लिखा है। जब तक मेरा रिजल्ट नहीं आता, आपको यहीं रहना है। स्वामीजी ने उसे समझाया। और दो चार दिन के बाद हम शिरडी के लिये रवाना हो गये। तीन महीने बाद हमे फिर उस गांव में जाना पड़ा और वहीं ठहरा। सुधीर के बारे में पूछने पर उसके दादाजी ने कहा कि सुधीर पूना चला गया है और वह बोर्ड की परिक्षा में महाराष्ट्र में प्रथम आया है। उन्होंने वह पेपर भी बतया, जिसमें सुधीर के बारे में लिख कर आया था। बाद में अपनी इस सफलता का राज सुधीर ने अपने दादा, पिताजी और मां को बताया।

इस तरह एक अज्ञानी भक्त की श्री साईबाबा ने लाज रखी।

आज वह सुधीर M.D. हो कर खडकी पूना में मिलिट्री डा. है।

बोलो भक्त और भगवान की जय।



साई - मुक्तिदाता

मैं, हे साई! सदा कहावत तेरो।

तुम्हरी कृपा-कटाक्ष किये ते सब बनि जैहें मेरो ॥

करहु कृपा जानि निज सेवक जाते होय निवेरो।

जिनके मन साई चरणन में, मैं तिनहूं को चरो ॥

जरा जरूर आयु नगिचानी, चित-चिन्ता ने धेरो।

"अयुत" साई सों अरज करत है निजपुर देहु बसेरो ॥

— डा. दुर्गाप्रसाद शुक्ल

"अयुत",

४८०, कुम्हारमण्डी,

कानपुर छावनी-४