

SHRI

SAI LEELA

Official Organ of Shirdi Sansthan



A TIGER GETS SALVATION

Once three Derveshis came with a Bullock-cart to the Masjid with a tiger in it, who was fastened with chains. The derveshis brought the animal before Shri Baba with His consent. On account of Baba's Lustre, the tiger looked at Baba with affection. It moved its tail, dashed it thrice against the ground and fell down senseless. The tiger got salvation at Baba's hands. Its samadhi could be seen at Shirdi even today.

May 1984

Rupee One

श्री साईनाथ वाचनालय

श्री साईबाबा संस्थान, शिर्डी

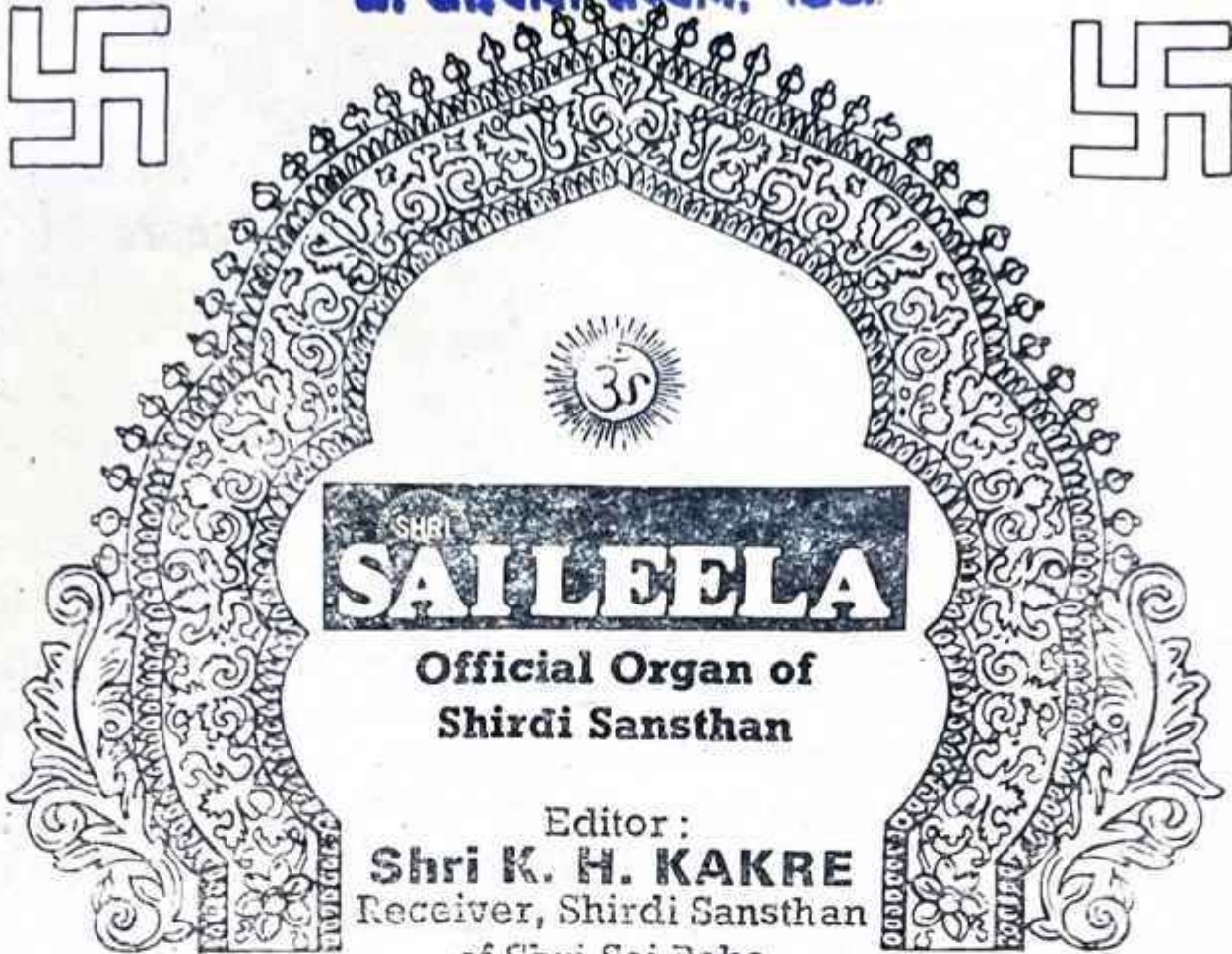
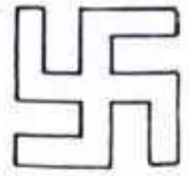
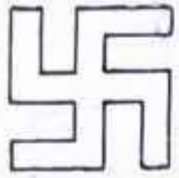
SHRI SAILEELA

MAY 1984

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श्री साईनाथ वाचनालय
की कार्यालय, शिर्डी.



SHRI
SAILEELA

**Official Organ of
Shirdi Sansthan**

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

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Sixtytwo years of Publication

We are glad to inform our readers, subscribers, contributors and well-wishers that Shri Sai Leela magazine has completed its sixty two years of publication by the end of March 1984 and it has entered into its sixtythird year of publication from the issue of April 1984. There are many other periodicals which have continued their publication for still longer period and some have even celebrated their centenaries; but it should be remembered that they are all mostly news oriented and as 'hot news' is always eagerly awaited by all readers, those news papers and periodicals got continued patronage from the readers and consequently they could continue their publication for so long a time. In case of some magazines it may be said that though they were not read for their news, it was because of their literary value that they got patronage from their readers. In the case of Shri Sai Leela, no such factors, which attract the common public, play an important role. This magazine is published only for the devotees, who want to march on the spiritual path and such devotees being a very few in number, it is really creditable for this type of magazine to have continued its publication for so long a time.

Advertisements are very important for all periodicals, because their financial side mainly depends on them and not on the sale of the periodicals to the readers or subscribers. As is wellknown the advertisements are depending on the circulation of a periodical. The producers want that their product should be advertised to as many people as possible. Hence they would naturally like to

advertise their goods in a periodical, which will go to all the members of the public and therefore this will depend on the circulation of that particular periodical. As Shri Sai Leela magazine was not having much wide circulation and as it is read even today not by all the members of the public at large, but only by a particular section of the society, who are devotees of Shri Sai Baba and other Gods, the producers would think ten times before they would like to advertise in Shri Sai Leela magazine. By the blessings of Shri Sai Baba, the circulation of the two editions of the Sai Leela has now gone to more than 9000 per month. Hence the producers should now feel confident about sufficient advertisement of their goods through Saileela magazine. Of course this may come true in future. However at present we have to say that the use of advertisements for supporting the financial side of this magazine is not there and like other periodicals, the Sai Leela magazine is not depending on the advertisements for making its two ends meet properly.

The cost of the magazine is another important factor in the publication of a magazine. If we look at the annual subscription of all magazines and the cost of the dailies and weeklys, Shri Sai Leela is the cheapest of all of them. The subscription of this magazine was only Rs. 6/- per annum when it had 48 pages. However with the increase of the pages to 64, the subscription of the magazine was increased to Rs. 10/- per annum. This price however is not the real price of the magazine. At the present high rates of paper, composing charges, printing charges etc. the actual price of this magazine would be much higher than what it is at present. However the Shirdi Sansthan is paying a very large subsidy for the publication of this magazine. One of the aims of the Shirdi Sansthan is the spread of Sai devotion among the masses by various means. Shri Sai Leela magazine was started for giving publicity to the experiences of the devotees and for circulating the Sai Satcharita, written by Late Shri Annasaheb Dabholkar. Due to the paucity of funds and due to the want of subscribers

it was quite difficult to run this magazine in the past. However with the increase in the devotees of Shri Sai Baba by leaps and bounds by the grace of Shri Sai Baba, there are lot of funds with the Shirdi Sansthan and it can now offer a good amount of subsidy for publication of this magazine. As the publication of the magazine is in conformity with one of the objects of the Shirdi Sansthan, a good amount of subsidy is given towards its publication and the devotees are able to get the magazine at a low price.

Having thus examined the financial aspect of Shri Sai Leela magazine and its capability to get advertisements, we may now turn towards its contents and examine them. At the outset it may be pointed out that the pledge of this magazine is stated on its very first page as :-

"To guide the world on the right path
is the principal aim of Shri Sai Leela"

and the contents of this magazine will be found to be quite faithful to the above pledge. Every article that is chosen for publication in this magazine has something to tell to the devotee about going on the right path.

A special word about the editorials, that are published in this magazine, would be necessary. It is always said that Shri Sai Baba never wrote a book about his teachings. It is also said that He never gave any long sermons to his devotees. Similarly Shri Sai Baba is said to have guided the devotees by telling them simple stories and occasionally by speaking only a few words, which used to be full of meaning. Under such circumstances it is clear that lot of commentary would be necessary in order to explain the teachings of Shri Sai Baba in simple and plain language, which would be understood by the common people. The editorials of this magazine, especially in the last eleven years or so, are written on the teachings of Shri Sai Baba, explaining them in simple language so that even the common man

would be able to follow them. Many readers of Shri Sai Leela have been kind enough to express their appreciation of these editorials by sending letters to the editor and by expressing their applause in person to the executive editors in their personal meeting. We are really thankful to all these readers, who go through these editorials minutely and try to extract spiritual advice out of them as the bee sucks the honey out of the flowers.

Experiences of the devotees is a very common feature of every issue of this magazine. The Sai Satcharita is full of the experiences of the devotees some of which are so wonderful that one cannot help calling them miracles. Some devotees do not like that word and they therefore call them as Baba's Leelas. The word that you use is not material. The real thing that is noteworthy is the experience of the devotee and the belief that Shri Baba is still alive in the form of a spirit and that He is ever ready to help His devotees at their beck and call. Shri Baba is our sadguru and He is considered as God by some other devotees. In both cases the faith of the devotees is implicit and it is required to be fostered and spread as far as possible. The spread of such a faith in the world, is another way of guiding the world on the right path and this is being thus achieved by publishing the experiences of the devotees in this magazine. After looking to the places from which these devotees are sending their experiences we come to know how far and wide the Sai devotion has spread not only in Bharat but also outside our country.

Many articles regarding good behaviour and remaining away from vices as well as getting control over the common enemies of the mankind are also published very often in this magazine. The devotees, who want to follow the spiritual path, often tumble against such hurdles and they want guidance how to overcome them. I will be seen that all such devotees will get suitable advice from these articles.

Saints are said to be Gods on earth. Some devotees, who are staunch devotees of Shri Sai Baba, sometimes say that in Shri

Sai Leela magazine nothing else should appear which does not refer to Shri Sai Baba. The ardent devotion of these devotees can be no doubt understood and is worth appreciating; but it may be pointed out to them that they are not doing full justice to Shri Baba's teachings. Shri Sai Baba had never shown any disregard or envy of any of His contemporary saints. On the other hand saints like Tembye Swami (Wasudevanand Saraswati) called Him his brother. Similarly Shri Sai Baba never showed any disregard for any God. On the other hand he reminded certain devotees about the worship of their family deities, which they had forgotten and which was required to be revived. Under such circumstances we should welcome all articles about saints anywhere in the world and about deities which may be having their temples anywhere else. This will help us to see how God is manifesting Himself in different places and in different forms. The Vishwarupadarshan (विश्वरूपदर्शन) and the vibhuties (विभूति) explained by Lord Krishna in Bhagawadgeeta can be explained very well by articles, referred to above, that are being published in this magazine.

Shirdi being the most holy place of pilgrimage for every Sai devotee, he is always thinking about Shri Sai Baba and Shirdi along with it. The Shirdi news published every month helps the devotees to know about the festivals and other activities that are going on at Shirdi, The Sai Temples and Sai Samajams are also coming at several new places all over our country. Every Sai devotee is happy to know how Sai devotion is spreading far and wide for the welfare of the people of the world. The reports about the various Sai temples and Samajams, that we are publishing, thus keep the reader informed about the activities of the temples and Samajams and if he happens to visit that place, he is able to visit the Sai temple in that city or town.

It will be seen from the above analysis of the articles that are being published in Shri Sai Leela from month to month that

with the blessings of Shri Sai Baba, this magazine is continuously helping the devotees to proceed further on the spiritual path and we hope to continue doing the same in future. We therefore request full co-operation of our contributors, subscribers, readers and well-wishers to carry on this job with zeal and enthusiasm for the good of the whole world. ★

To
The Executive Editor,
Shri Sai Leela
Sir,

I and my family members are devotees of Shri Sai Baba, since a long time. I am also a subscriber of Shri Sai Leela (English). We eagerly wait to receive the magazine every month which is propagating of Shri Sai faith.

I am also to state that I have commenced to make the 12 monthly issues of the year in one volume for circulation to my friends.

The guide lines to devotees visiting Shirdi furnished in the January 1984 issue are very good, and it helps the visitors for easy reach. I congratulate the Samsthan Authorities for their noble deed to Sai devotees, who visit Shirdi.

Yours Sincerely

H. K. Kuppuswamy

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(We are glad that articles published in Shri Sai Leela are found helpful by our readers. Shirdi Sansthan has also published a Shirdi Guide in four languages (English, Marathi, and Hindi Gujarati) which will be found useful by new comers to Shirdi. This guide is available in the Hemadpant library at Shirdi — Editor)

HARI DAS

One of the great bhaktas (devotees) of Shri Krishna, in Shri Chaitanya's days, was a Muslim who adopted a Hindu name and is known, in Vaishnava literature, as Hari Das.

The Muslims of Navadwipa were deeply offended with Hari Das, for he was devoted to Shri Chaitanya. The Muslims carried their complaint to the Kazi, the Muslim magistrate of Nadia. The Kazi issued an order, saying :- "Take this man, Hari Das, this renegade to the Muslim Faith, to the market of the town and there beat him hard and flog him until he falls unconscious and is dead."

Hari Das was taken to the market-place. Blow after blow fell on this servant of God. He fell down, unconscious, for sometime. The Muslims thought Hari Das was dead. They took up his body and threw it in the waters of the Ganges. After sometime, Hari Das revived and swam back to the shore. Then Hari Das sang aloud the song of which he was very fond, the kirtan-song:-"Hari bol ! Hari bol !"

Singing thus, Hari Das came back to his cottage. The Muslim were frightened. "A Miracle has happened," they said. Hari Das was dead : Hari Das has arisen !"

Some Muslims went to the cottage and asked him to forgive them all. Hari Das continued to sing, and then fell into a swoon. After sometime he woke up. The very first words he uttered on waking up were :-"I am very happy. How sweet it is to suffer for Krishna's sake !"

Significant words these. Yes,-the man who comes from the heights of contemplation to the plains of active life and, mingling with men, tries to serve them, suffers much, for he enters into conflict with many. But, like Hari Das, he may well say :- "I am very happy. How sweet it is to suffer for the sake of my Master !"



Dadaji (Sadhu T. L. Vaswani)

Faith and Patience Pay

There must be ample instances in the lives of 'Shri Sai Leela' readers, when they would have realised that faith in Baba and a patient wait has given them the results that they had been craving for. There also would be ample instances when Baba has showered his blessings even unsought for. In the following instance Baba's blessings came our way only after a patient wait and firm faith in Him.

On May 24, 1983 there was a very heavy downpour in Bangalore. We have a pharmacy in Basaveswaranagar, a developing layout. I and my wife were at the shop. It was raining still when two men came to the shop and asked for some cough drops and Band-aids which I gave them the time was around 8-45 pm. The two men remained at the shop for a few more minutes and then left. Immediately after, the lights also went off. Earlier at about 8 (p.m.) the lights had gone off and so I had lighted a kerosene lamp and it had been burning still. As it had been nearing 9 (p.m.) we got ready to leave. As I bent down to collect my helmet I heard footsteps and I stood up. The same two men had returned and one of them poked a knife on to my side and told me not to make any noise. The other man pulled down the rolling shutter and took out from his shoulder bag a chopper and waving it in front of my wife demanded that she should hand over the gold chain she was wearing. Looking at me she said "Jai Sai Ram, let us give them what they want". She took off the chain from her neck and asked the fellow whether she could take out the mangalyam at least, The man saying no, almost snatched the chain from her hand. This was followed by the two bangles and wrist watch she was wearing. Then the man demanded cash from me. I dipped my hand into the cash box and gave off whatever money that came in my hand. Then they lifted the shutter, went out and

closed it behind them. Soon after I lifted the shutter and came out to see which way they went; but they had vanished into the darkness. A complaint was lodged with the police and investigations were started. No apparent results came our way. However I wish to add here that though we had lost around 13 tolas of gold our minds were not that depressed and there was this feeling that Baba would help us to retrieve the stolen property.

On the first Thursday of every month, we go to the Shirdi Sai Mandir at Thyagarajanagar, which is founded by His Holiness Shri Radhakrishna Swamiji. This has been the practice with us for the last two years. It was nearly four months since the robbery. We got a new mangalyam made and on our visit to the mandir in October we got it blessed by Baba and my wife wore the same in His presence. In the first week of December a Police Inspector, Shri Gangi Reddy, called on us and informed that the two culprits had been arrested and that we should go to his office and identify them. Accordingly we went to his office and identified them. Afterwards they were asked to narrate the incident, which they did. Later I was asked to give an application in the court requesting for release of the items pending finalisation of the case. Accordingly, I gave the application on January 02, 1984 and the next day I collected from the Police Station whatever had been recovered, which was about sixty percent of that which we had lost. We took the items to the mandir on January 05, 1984 and got them blessed by Baba and took them home as His prasadam. We are certain that it is only by Baba's grace that we could get back even this much after the lapse of nearly seven months. ★

A. N. Ramesh

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Baba Is Always Alive !

May our almighty Bhagawan Samartha Sadguru Shri Sainath Maharaj of Shirdi shower His blessings on one and all !

I was reading keenly the best article written by Shri D. Sankaraiah, Hyderabad in November and December, 1983 issues of Shri Saileela describing that Shri Sai Baba left no heir or disciple. This prompted me to write this small article.

I am completely accepting the views expressed by the Sai Brother Shri Sankaraiah garu and say that no successors, heirs or disciples were left by Shri Sai Baba.

Shri Sai Baba told his devotees, "Believe Me, though I pass away, My bones in My tomb will give you hope and confidence. Not only Myself, but My tomb would be speaking, moving and communicating with those who would surrender themselves whole-heartedly to Me. Do not be anxious that I would be absent from you. You will hear my bones speaking and discussing your welfare; but remember me always, believe in me heart and soul and then you will be most benefited". It shows that Baba had no rebirth and that he is always alive like Maruthi and Shri Raghavendra Swami and that He will reply from his tomb to those who call on him with pure meditation. As per Sai Satcharita saints like "Baba never die, though they look like man, they are in reality God Himself".

Now-a-days the present so called modern babas/swamijis /Avatharas are misleading the common people and propagating that they are born with the powers of Sai Baba, so on and so forth duly prefixing/suffixing Sai to their names which are given to them by their parents. They are also misleading Sai Baba's good name and misusing the spiritual progress obtained by Upasana. It is a sorrowful affair.

As stated in para 7 by the author, "if a saint lives at a particular place, the place will attract huge crowds and the importance of that place will gradually decrease with the physical appearance of that saint". But in Shirdi, there is no such change even after the lapse of 66 years i.e. after the Mahasamadhi of Shri Baba in 1918. The mob is increasing from day to day at Shirdi. Huge crowds of devotees are visiting Shirdi for the darshan of Baba's Samadhi. During Mahasamadhi, Shriramanavami and Guru Poornima festivals, the pilgrims are coming to Shirdi from all over India on a mass scale and not one inch of space will be available at Shirdi at that time.

There is no occasion for the devotees to present Guru Dakshina to Him as nobody knows the date of birth of Baba. But now-a-days the modern Babas/Gurus are accepting Guru Dakshina for the development of Ashrams/Nilayas etc. and providing air-conditioners, fans etc; but Baba never thought of the above luxuries.

In conclusion I may be permitted to say that Baba is Chiranjivi like Maruthi and His mortal coil will always be alive in His tomb and His bones will speak and discuss about our welfare. He is always alive. ★

B. S. Tatapudi

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Sai's Sudha

I started belief in Sai Baba from the year 1972. Since then I rely on Him and accept his advice in my day to day life. My father Shri T. A. Ram Nathen also follows his footsteps sincerely.

My wife Mrs. Lalitha Anand conceived our second baby in the month of April'84. As she had no responsible family member to take care of her delivery, I took charge of the total responsibility.

On hearing from my father, Dr. Vijaykumar of Karnataka, who is also a close devotee of Sai Baba, I felt that I may pass through some problem due to callous treatment of doctors in Calcutta hospitals. I replied back to him, saying that Sai Baba is always everywhere. He will never allow his devotee to get drowned; but instead he will save him at the final hour.

I admitted my wife in "Lake View Nursing Home" under Dr Thampi's supervision on 3rd February 1984. Luckily the owner of the nursing home was also a Baba's devotee. Dr. Thampi too believed in Sai Baba right from her 29th year of age. Sai has even directed some of the patients through dreams to Dr. Thampi. I was relieved very much with the Sai relations and felt that the delivery will be most normal,

Dr. Thampi started administering Saline water right from 9-15 A.M. as my wife had no labour pains till I admitted her in the nursing home. At 3 P.M. on 3rd February' 84 she slowly felt the pains and around 4 P.M. the pain became severe. I was waiting outside the lobby for hours together and felt restless and returned back home at Wederburn road with my Sai daughter Sai Deepa. I switched on our lamp kept above the photo of Sai Baba and lit sandalwood sticks, with sincere prayers to Him to release the baby at the earliest. It was 4.15 P.M. when I was requesting at our prayer room.

Lo ! Sai Baba answered my prayer immediately as my wife delivered a female baby exactly at 4-15 P.M. the time of my prayer. The star was Avittam and Lagnam Kumbha. I profusely thanked the almighty for answering our prayers. My Father had a sigh of relief on hearing the news and also thanked Sai in answering his 6 week old prayer to him.

Now the naming problem arose as we were not ready with suitable names. Myself suggested to my father that "Sai Sudha" would be apt, which was immediately accepted. My mother Mrs. Vijyem Ram Nathen and younger sister Miss. T.R Geetha also were finalising the same name "Sai Sudha" at Budge Budge 18 Kms away from our Calcutta residence.

I am very much indebted to Lord Sai for blessing our family with Sai Deepa and Sai Sudha both in auspicious time. ★

T. R. Anand

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Baba is Ever with Us

On the day on which Shri Sai Baba entered Mahasamadhi all his lovers were sorry and melancholy. It was a glorious occasion of the successful endeavour of a great Siddha Purusha, who had proved that departing from this world was not actual departing. It was a change of course through which one should understand that Atma, the realised parmatma, will be everlasting and will retain in this hemisphere his presenec in a different manner.

On my recent tour to New Delhi I liked to visit Baba's temple where I felt that Baba was actually alive. The figure in the idol was so gracious to bless the devotees sitting before Him. I do not understand how I have requested Baba to bless me to go to Shirdi. As soon as I returned to my place of residence, I was astonished to notice that Shirdi Samsthan was inviting writers to attend a conference in the last week of of January, 1983. The qualifications they had fixed to attend the function were being fulfilled in my case, and I was tempted to fill the form and post it for availing the occasion for going to Shirdi.

Eventually necessary arrangements for the journey were at my disposal and I was able to reach Shirdi. As soon as I arrived, the reception manager was highly helpful to receive me. On that day, I had the fine occasion to witness that Kavisammelan which functioned with admiring deliberations of the devotees from all corners of the country. The assembled devotees were much inspired to speak about Baba, who was attached to Maharashtrians and their culture.

Shri Baba's mission was then to paralyse the dispassions between Hindus and Muslims in our country. He dealt the problem in a passive method spreading the arms of love to the neighbours for the right co-existence of all. His practices made the people understand the universal brotherhood and thereby to realise their Atman as Paramatman that could be seen in every particle of the creation. their observations were the philosophical waves of Shirdi Sai Baba, who moved with them more than their God. As Baba guided them for their uplift and proper understanding of this creation, they felt and worshipped him as their Sadguru. Baba in the course of His mission proved that he was parmatman and the Guru of Gurus.

As the fragrance of flowers is carried to all corners of the world by the wind, His philosophy also spread all over the world. Though there was a dispute at the time of his death,

ultimately there was compromise between the two parties and as a result of that Baba was worshipped by all people of this land.

Baba declared Himself alive, though he was buried, He prompted to protect those, who were aware of Him, known to Him, came to Him, call Him, and come in contact with Him! He was very particular to be by the side of such devotees and protect their interests.

Some devotees may take His assistance as a miracle and some take it as a wonder. It need not be discriminated as it is even to all.

To understand the difference between a miracle and wonder is not easy. One cannot authoritatively discriminate the difference between the two. Devotees, who attend Shirdi, have a feeling that they are at the Samadhi of a Siddha Purusha.

Shirdi Sai Baba was buried before the eyes of several devotees. Though years have passed it is felt that Baba was buried and the idol was installed there as a mark of reverence for his existence.

Let literates feel that the idol is made of plaster of Paris and the tomb was a marble stone laid on a pious soul. But the devotees see him always alive with his deep looks to catch the hearts of those that come to him for renunciation - realisation and help. He will never dispute or go back on his promises. His mortal body may have been buried; but his eternal soul is seen even today and is known to be present to answer all the doubts and difficulties of His devotees. Baba is for all and He is in all. Let we believe that Baba though buried was not dead. ★

J. Bhasker Rao
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Bow to Thy Holy Feet our Sainath

BABA said to Megha "I carry on as a wirepuller of all the activities of the men who trusts ME and merges in ME" (Sai Satcharita, ch: 28 p. 155). Yes, our SAINATH is Antharyami. HE is all pervading, omniscient and omnipresent. BABA said "My eye is ever on those who love ME. Whatever you do, wherever you may be, bear this in mind that I am always aware of everything you do."

In this communication I shall narrate some of my recent experiences, I accepted the outcome of all my attempts very boldly and with a smiling face, because "I surrendered myself with body and soul at HIS lotus feet."

I quite often, am criticised and questioned by my close associates on the question of my absolute surrender and steady devotion to BABA. This arises especially when I attempt to explain to them that each small event which occurs has something to do with HIS wishes and desire. Yes, I always examine even a small matter as BABA'S wish, irrespective of my success or failure and I feel extremely contented with this act. Let me first confess that it was BABA who has been constantly encouraging me to apply for some academic distinctions and honour since I was summoned by HIM to Pune to my present assignment. Prior to my coming over to Pune I was never thinking of going for such academic competitive attainments for which one has to be in the run always in the national field related to science and technology. After working for about a year and preparing the needed foundation to succeed in an academic race, I could see that my papers did not reach concerned person although sufficient precaution was taken care of and with adequate margin before the dead line. In order to satisfy myself I

went to SHIRDI during this Diwali and again I prayed to HIM with my desire. In a closed envelope my feelings were also narrated and placed over BABA'S tomb. I was satisfied with this ritual. When the deadline for the academic race came very near I could learn that I was out of the competition since my papers did not reach the person concerned as informed by the person to me. My wife informed me of this news from New Delhi first and it was only a few moments, I came to my consciousness and replied to her that it was HIS desire and I am not at all sad about this. Since then a few months have elapsed and I could find out that the person who had denied that the papers did not reach her was interested in her own candidate and had not cared for my candidature. BABA had saved me because if I would have remained as a candidate I would not have succeeded since the person is politically and bureaucratically very powerful.

In another event in this connection I got defeated and soon after the result was out. I told my wife that probably BABA has something in HIS mind since HE only knows when the time is ripe for accomplishment. Anyhow, I was encouraged by HIM only and it was HE only who took me with HIM for this exercise.

But these two failures have opened one more avenue. BABA has been again encouraging me to go for another larger academic race and this is having more distinction and honour in Indian academic circle. I am getting ready because it is HIS desire that I should try. I am least concerned about the failure since I fully believe that BABA takes me with HIM to give me an opportunity to experience and at the same time generates strength to gain confidence and this is much more valuable to me than that of these materialistic distinctions. So let all of us make attempt to fix our eyes on HIM so that we should never feel pleasure or pain. Let our mind get rest at YOUR lotus feet our SAINATH.

This materialistic world does not or cannot bring happiness to us and having disgusted and frustrated we should not move around blindly. But why not explore that the eternal peace and happiness as well as solace with bliss exists only in HIS DAKBAR.

M. R. Chakravartti

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Baba's Blessings (A Clarification!)

I have had the Saiplease of reading Sai-Brother M. Gangareddy's article, "Baba's Blessings" in Soul-stirring "Sai Leela" magazine (PP. 38 & 39, December '83) with avid interest.

He stated that his wife forgot to honour her vow of dropping Rs. 5.00 in the "Sai Samadhi Shrine" hundi and ever-alert Sai Baba realized it from her by influencing the "mind" of a Sai-brother, who approached her while leaving the Shrine and requested her for a change of Rs. 5.00. His request instantly flashed back to her mind her vow to Sai and she took it as Sai's reminder and honoured it at once.

But Reddyji wound up his article with a discordant note thus :-

"To me, the only answer is that it is Baba's call to realize the debt due to him from His devotee."

It is to be understood that our Heavenly Father Shirdi Sai Baba had never cared for "money" and would least bother to

realize the vowed money from the Sai devotees unless it is otherwise. Men generally view things from the money lenders' viewpoint even when it comes to judging saints. I may be permitted to quote our Sai Himself on this subject :-

"One Has To Perform His Vows. Else He Has To Bear The PUNISHMENT."

It is now clear as day light from Sai's own advice that He reminded Sai-sister Smt. Reddyji indirectly of her commitment only to save her from punishment.

In "Sai Satcharita", it is stated that a blind old man's eyesight was restored by Sai Baba after demanding from his son Rs. 4.00 by simply placing his large palm on his head. When asked, he had stated that the old man had failed to honour his vow of paying Rs. 4.00 to his family deity in his former birth and in consequence he suffered from blindness.

"Saints do not distinguish between gold and dust," said Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

On all counts, it is clear that Sai Baba rescues (not extracts from) His devotees from pitfall as His golden heart beats in symphony with the suffering hearts of mankind. Those men and women are Sailucky to have entered into the Sai-orbit of infinite love.

Swami Ramananda Tirth had rightly observed : "Guru then is a guide, a wayfarer." ★

T. A. Ram Nathen

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My Experiences with Shri Sai Baba

In 1969, winter days when my baby was one year old, she had repeated attacks of bronchites and fever, followed by tonsillitis infection. Of course medicines were administered to her but there had been no permanent relief.

A distant relative of mine, Mr. Manoranjan Mazumdar, R.T.O. Agent, who is a 'Sai devotee', advised me to go to 'Sai Baba Darbar'. In our Town, Baba's Darbar meets at Mr. H. R. Kichlu's Bungalow, located at Wright Town, Jabalpur. This place had been near from my residence but I had never gone there before.

On advice of Mr. Mazumdar, accompanied by my mother-in-law, wife and baby, I went there. I remember it was Thursday, when I entered the room. I could see that the walls of the room were decorated with Sai Baba's photographs, hanged on the wall each of which had a red rose offered to them. The hall was packed to the capacity. The surroundings were filled with the fragrance of scented sticks and lobhan. Baba's idol was covered with the smoke of lobhan.

While sitting, there I could learn that 'Sai Baba' is a 'power' who knows our inner heart. I decided to keep fast, on every 'Thursday', in the name of Baba. This my family still continues. We take our dinner only after evening prayer of Sai Baba, after that date.

With blessings of Sai Baba my baby is away from illness, quite healthy and intelligent. At present she is 14 and is studying in the VIII standard.

On 19th June 1970, in the early hours, my wife had pre-natal pains. We had been living at a great distance from the

maternity home. There was no conveyance readily available. Even there was nobody near my wife. I rushed to the nearest telephone, and contacted the 'Taxi Stand'. During this time, all the way, I had been praying to 'Baba' for help.

My wife, accompanied by a neighbouring lady, reached the maternity home in the Taxi. I followed the Taxi on a Scooterette. On the way, I had been praying to 'Baba' for help to my wife, who was in quite serious condition, owing to severe pain.

After 3 minutes of reaching the maternity home, she delivered a male child. Thus 'Baba' heard my prayer, and extended timely help.

This incident occurred in July '71. I was returning from my office. On the main road of M. P. Electricity Board, there are 'C' Type Residential Quarters where there is a blind turning on account of the Quarters constructed in round shape. While overtaking a bullock cart there a 'Leyland tractor trolley' came on the way speedily from the front, leaving very marginal distance and my scooter came in between these two. I applied the brake, but it had failed.

I don't know how I could be saved at this crucial moment. When I stopped my scooter, and took a clear breath, I saw that Baba's locket fixed in the key ring, installed in the ignition hole of the scooter, was separated from its original place and was lying on the foot-board of the scooter. I am very sure that the locket was tightly fixed in the key ring and how it came out of it was a question. 'Baba', who saved me, can only reply.

In August 1977, I was admitted to M. P. Electricity Board Hospital for treatment of low blood pressure. I came back after 'X-Ray' of 'KUB region' at about 1 P. M., from the Medical College. I saw my wife sitting on the bench at the hospital entrance. She was quite nervous. I asked her, whether all was well.

She said, "Neeta, who had high temperature last night, is having urinary trouble. She has not passed urine for the last 24 hours."

By this time I saw Dr. G. L. Goswami and lady Medical Officer Mrs. S. B. Jain, coming hastily towards my wife.

Dr. Goswami told us that the baby was not permitting to insert tube, to outlet the urine accumulation. If this stage continues, urinary bladder is likely to burst. Mrs. Jain advised us to take her to the Medical College Hospital in the ambulance.

On way to Medical College when the ambulance, stopped for fuel at the petrol pump, I prayed to 'Baba' "What you are doing Baba? On the one hand, I am under treatment, feeling too weak, and this baby... Baba shower mercy on us, "kripa karo Gurudev."

I keep Baba's 'Udi' in my purse all the time. I dropped a little of 'Udi' in the mouth of my daughter and also put it on her forehead, praying to Baba, to save her.

When we reached the Medical College Hospital, the lady doctor on duty in the emergency room listened to us patiently, and took my baby to the attached bathroom. The baby was asked to keep her hands in water in a 'tub' and try to pass urine. She passed the urine without any trouble. Was it not, that Baba's 'Udi' saved her at that crucial juncture?" Since then she has no trouble, and is well with the blessings of Shri Sai Baba.

V. K. Thakur

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Greetings to Sai Devotees

Sai Leela Meet - 1984

At no other time we need Thee most
SAI, at this time utmost.
Why and where is not the question
We want Thee to answer !!

With filial love and faith we beg Thee
To repeat your miracles.
Why you ask us
We are sinking, while the world is shrinking

A sprinkling of Thy grace may save us
From falling into abysmal depths of
Hatred, flying at each others' throats,
Firing with bullets through and through

Or the unforeseen tragic fatality
Our own inner weakness points to futility,
At this juncture of world holocaust
We beseech you, Lord of all worlds

To save our skin to pull us out of sin
We beg that you, a fakir, can save
For the rich gods are not approachable
For mankind demands entry pass, fees,
Flowers, fruits, gifts and gadgets.
Your doors are thrown open
We shall run riot to approach you
To save us from the world's dooms day.

M. Shyam Mohan

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Drawing Lots - At the Feet of Shri Sai Baba

In October 1983 issue of Shri Sai Leela Magazine, there is an article by Shri K. Vasudev of Bangalore in which the author has narrated how he took Shri Sai Baba's advice, when faced with a business problem, by putting chits on the silver feet (padukas) of Shri Sai Baba at Shirdi. Initially the author felt that this was a silly thing to do at the noble feet of Lord Shri Sai; but in the end he was convinced that there is nothing wrong in taking this liberty of asking approval of one's plan of action from your father Lord Sai.

I quite agree with the author's later conviction. Actually during Baba's life time His devotees used to approach Him for such advice and found that it was invariably correct and profitable. For instance in chapter 25 of Shri Saisatcharita, Damu Anna of Ahmednagar asked Shri Sai Baba through a letter whether to join a friend in trading in cotton and grains or not. Baba told him not to take chance and be content with his present earnings. Damu Anna was unhappy at Baba's advice, but nevertheless he listened to Baba and sure enough his friend lost the deal and became a bankrupt. Thus Damu Anna was saved from insolvency.

Normally Baba being in the know of further happenings and keenly interested in the welfare of His devotees, told them on His own what to do and what not to do. For instance Baba advised Rao Bahadur S. V. Sathe, who had crossed 50 years of age already, to marry second time and assured him that he will get a son. Shri Sathe re-married and got a daughter first and also the second time; but Shri Sathe had full faith in Baba's words and accordingly he did get a son third time. The well-known pleader of Nasik, Shri S. B. Dhumal asked Baba's permission by a letter to leave Nasik because of the incidence of

plague in the town. Baba did not give permission and Dhumal also stayed on against the pleadings of his family members. Nothing happened to Dhumal or his family members. Prof. G. G. Narke, an England returned intellectual and son-in-law of Shrimant Butty, was jobless at Shirdi for 13-months. There were offers to him from Calcutta and Burma for employment; but Baba refused permission. In the end there was a vacancy in the Government Engineering College, at Pune and although Narke had doubts about his being selected, Baba asked him to apply and he was promptly selected. Thus listening to Baba, Narke got a permanent and well-paid job and quite close to his hometown. Shri R. B. Purandare of Bandra once went to Shirdi and while leaving asked Baba's permission to go to Nasik on pilgrimage. Baba said 'yes' and told him to stay there for two days. On reaching Nasik, Purandare's younger brother caught fever. His mother and other family members got scared and pressed Purandare to return to Bombay immediately. But Purandare replied that Baba had ordered him to stay for two days and he would not move before that period. Next day his brother's fever subsided and they returned to Bombay after two days happily.

It was customary for the devotees during Baba's lifetime to seek His permission while leaving Shirdi. In chapter 9 of Shri Sai Satcharita there are various instances quoted as to how those who left with Baba's permission had a safe journey home and those who did not obey Him were faced with obstructions, delays and accidents. We have read how Tatyia Kote Patil and the European visitor got into trouble because they did not pay heed to Baba's advice not to proceed. However, Kaka Mahajani and his friend who returned to Bombay from Shirdi on Baba's orders inspite of threatening rains and storm, reached home without any hindrance. Once Kaka Mahajani wanted to stay on at Shirdi for a week for Krishna Jayanti but Baba ordered him to return the very next day. Kaka Mahajani accordingly left Shirdi and on reaching Bombay learnt that his boss wanted him badly on

duty and had already sent a letter to Kaka to that effect. Once Shri R. B. Purandare of Bandra wanted to go to Shirdi, but Baba appeared in his dream and said, "Why are you coming to Shirdi? What is there? Don't come. If you come I'll hit you" Purandare did not go and next day he found that the workers in his company, where he was employed, had gone on sudden strike and if Purandare had gone to Shirdi, his bosses would have suspected him to be cooperating with the strikers.

After Baba left His physical body in (A.D.) 1918, His devotees missed this chance of taking His advice personally both in temporal and spiritual matters. However on going through Hemadpant's Shri Saisatcharita (chapter 45) and H. H. Narsinhswami's 'Life of Shri Sai Baba' (Vol. III) we find that Baba's prominent devotees like Kakasaheb Dixit, Bhausahab Dhumal, Raghuvir Purandare and others had devised an interesting method of still getting Baba's advice in matters of difficult problems posed to them. They would put two chits (one permitting them to follow a particular course and the other asking them not to follow that course) in front of Baba's picture and ask a small child to pick up one of the chits - the contents of which these devotees considered as Baba's advice in the matter. As stated by some of these devotees personally as late as (A.D.) 1930 (12 years after Baba's Samadhi) to H. H. Narsinhswami, the advice given in the picked up chits, when followed was always found to be beneficial and giving protection from mishappenings if any. H. H. Narasinhswami himself also followed this method to consult Baba in difficult matters. (vide pages 31 and 32 of Sri Narsinha Swamiji - Apostle of Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi by (Swami Saipadananda).

When such clear-cut examples are before us, why should we hesitate to make use of this device to solve our difficult problems? Sometimes I feel that Shri Sai Baba himself must have prompted Hemadpant to narrate this method followed by

Kakasaheb Dixit in chapter 45 in detail so that His devotees who would be groping in dark for want of this advice after His Samadhi, could make use of this device to find solutions to their doubts and difficult problems. I myself have followed this method for the last 7-8 years and found it most infallible.

To get the correct advice from Baba, I feel that the following conditions must be fulfilled :-

(a) One must surrender completely to Baba with perfect Shradha (Faith) and Saburi (Patience). Once the advice is obtained through the chits, one must follow the advice given thoroughly without hesitation even if it is against our wish and even if constantly and hardly pressed to act otherwise by friends and relations. In the initial stages the results may look harmful; but one must have full faith that the omniscient and all powerful Baba will always see that we are benefitted and protected ultimately.

(b) Similarly once a decision is obtained, a second consultation on the same issue should not be sought because Shri Sai Baba does not revise or reverse His decision.

(c) The advice should not be sought too frequently and on trivial matters but should be sought on really difficult and genuine problems. Asking Baba's advice for securing easy money through lotteries or races and for ways and means to harm or infuse others will not fetch a correct answer. Remember Baba never liked such things. Doubts regarding spiritual matters would always get a correct and prompt solution. As you know Baba was always too happy to help such devotees.

(d) It is not necessary to go to Shirdi and draw lots by dropping chits on Baba's silver padukas in the Samadhi Mandir. Actually one should avoid this due to the constant rush at Shirdi these days and for fear of causing inconvenience to devotees

lining up for Baba's darshan. Baba's picture at home is as good as Baba Himself and putting chits in front of this picture will be equally effective. ★

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

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“SEARCHLIGHT IN SEA”

Baba had given word that whenever and wherever darkness is there, I will show the lights to get a road to your “Moksha”.

In Andhra Pradesh, like many great saints and sages, Sadguru Dr. Saikumar, was born on the auspicious Guru Purnima day in Dundigal village, in Medichal Taluq in Hyderabad District. Due to many domestic problems and financial hardships, facing the family, Sadguru had to undergo many difficulties in his childhood itself.

The sudden demise of his uncle, due to the evil effect of sorycer, had a great impact on the mind of young Saikumar. This incident proved a turning point in his life and he at once set forth to find out ways and means to save the innocent people from such evil practices. Even at that tender age young Saikumar dared his journey into the thick wild forests and with the

help of a stranger (None other but BABA) he was able to reach Malayala region in the Kerala State. But this stranger disappeared leaving him alone in Malayala. However young Saikumar came across a great saint there and with the blessings and guidance of this great saint he performed severe penance and thereby acquired great power to relieve people suffering from the evil effects of spirits, etc. Later he took up Medical course and became a full-fledged doctor.

After that since the last 25 years he is serving the poor, rich and all who seek his guidance. He founded "Saikumar Vyadhi Nivaran Ashram", at Secunderabad near Padmarao Nagar, with Mangal Murthy of Shri Saibaba, of lifesize. Every second Sunday of the month from 10 a. m. to 12 noon Adhyathmic probodharis and bhajans, and above all his discourses on "Baba's Leelas" and preachings of simple practice in thought, word and deed are carried on at the Ashram. He is inducing spiritual interest among many and is thus leading them on the spiritual path. By the grace of Lord Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Dr. Saikumar is relieving the physical and mental troubles of many persons for leading them on the road to his lotus feet for sadgathi and mukthi.

B. Rajeshwer Kumar
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Divine Grace of Shri Sai Baba

By the divine grace of Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi I arrived at Bombay at about 4 P.M. by Air on 21st February, 1984, from Hyderabad for appearing for an official interview at Bombay. I had visited Bombay, earlier in 1960 on a study-tour on behalf of the Job-cum-orientation Training Centre for Block Development Officers located at Hyderabad and later in August 1982 after visiting Shirdi and worshipping Shri Saibaba of Shirdi in Mahasamadhi-Mandir at Shirdi, and later again in October, 1982 on my way to Baroda on some urgent official work (via) Bombay by Air and reached back Hyderabad to be in time on "Vijaya Dasami" "Punyathiti day" in October, 1982 to perform "Shri Satyanarayana Vratam" to Shri Saibaba of Shirdi in Shri Satyanarayana Swamy Temple in Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad duly placing the photo of Shri Saibaba of Shirdi (on the occasion of Punya Thithi day of Shri Saibaba of Shirdi which will be performed and observed with all splendour at Shirdi and also in various places of worship of Shri Saibaba all over the world).

On all the above three occasions when I happened to visit Bombay, I could not visit Shri Sai Niketan at Bombay and worship the idol of Shri Saibaba installed there in 1975.

But this time it is purely due to the divine blessings of Shri Saibaba of Shirdi that I could visit for the first time Shri Sai Niketan and could worship the idol of Baba between 10-30 A.M. to 11-30 A.M. I could perform "Namajapa" by chanting "Sai-Sai" and received His sacred "Udhi" (Sacred Ash) and His blessings. I felt for a moment as though I was before the "MAHASAMADHI MANDIR" at Shirdi. Later, I met, Mr. Apte the Chief Accounts Officer and the editorial staff members of Shri Sai Leela Journal and obtained a new copy of "Shri Sai Sat Charita" and a few available copies of "Shri Sai Leela Journal" and "Sai Dairy 1984".

I found that entire staff were working in divine atmosphere with calm and cool temperament and were quite responsive and courteous with love. May Our Baba of Shirdi ever bless Sai - Niketan.

Let us, His sincere devotees practice His twin commands -Shraddha (i.e., Faith With Devotion) and Saburi (i.e., Patience With Courage) and become eligible to receive His blessings and guidance in our every day life and ultimately realise the supreme goal of eternal freedom and liberation from the circle of life and death.

May Lord Sainath bless me to revisit again and again 'Shri Sai Niketan' as I have been a contributor to Shri Sai Leela journal besides His devotee since my boy-hood.

May Lord Sai nath bless us all to make our sweet homes as "Shri Sai Niketans" and May He bless us all to ever carry Him in our hearts (i.e., enthroned in the inner core of our hearts).

I take this wonderful opportunity to congratulate Dr, S.D. Parchure as well as Shri Chendwanker executive editors of Shri Sai Leela Journal in English and Marathi respectively for their exemplary, erudite, elegant editorials with devotion to Baba of Shirdi.

I was told by Mr. Apte that this very impressive idol of Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi, with its divine radiance, was carved by the son of Late Shri Talim who carved out the imposing majestic Divine idol of Shri Sai Baba installed behind the "Mahasamadhi" of Baba in His Mahasamadhi Mandir at Shirdi in 1957.

"Let us all bow to Shri Sai. Let peace be to all!"



M. Narasimha Rao

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Visions And Dreams

Some time back I happened to see in "Sai Leela" magazine (English) about favours received from Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi and along with it the writer has remarked that "Visions and Dreams" can be had to exceptional few only.

Then I remembered the Vision I had of "Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi".

In the "Sai Leela Magazine" of April 1983 the Editor has written that "it is dedicated to the spiritual uplift and that is done by publishing articles relating to sages past and present etc. This induced me to write this article.

I would like to share exhilarating experiences of my Vision and dreams and its materialization with the readers and hence this article.

By the end of 1984 I joined the Seva Samathi of Ernakulam and regularly attended the Bhajans on Thursdays and Sundays.

After some years, Shri Govinda Bharatan started a Samathi near Kacherippadi, Ernakulam and kept a small library consisting of books on Sai Baba's of Shirdi. He was also getting Sai Leela Magazine in English. After some months he discontinued getting the magazines when I became a subscriber Shri Govinda Bharatan presented me a photo of Sai Baba of Shirdi and I got it framed and kept it in the Puja room.

I was staying at Ernakulam for the past 40 years. On 15-10-'75 after my bath in the morning I entered the Puja room, stood in front of the pictures and was meditating. Suddenly I had a vision of Bhagavan Sai Baba of Shirdi standing in front of a house at the end of a small road having small terraced houses on both sides. Bhagavan was wearing a Kafni very bright

and dazzling in the bright Sun, upto his knee. His legs were black. In the brightness the image melted and a bright light slowly merged in the picture of Bhagavan Shirdi Sai Baba in the Puja room and the Vision closed and all this happened in a few seconds. ★

M. Menon

Kripa, Vadakkanthara-P.O. Palghat - 12 Kerala

Sai Baba accepted our Gayatri Yagna

In Jamnagar, there is a fine Sai Temple in Gandhinagar area. The inaugural rituals and ceremonies were performed by Late Swami Sai Sharananand Maharaj of Ahmedabad on Ram Navami day of 1958. The idol is so life-like and living that many devotees have experienced that Baba spoke and smiled with them. Many spiritual activities are done under divine guidance of Baba i.e. Rudra-dhyan, chandi path etc. On one occasion, I had proposed to perform a Gayatri Yagna on one Sunday. On Saturday night (previous day) I had gone to invite my doctor friend. This doctor friend informed me that his son, who is a Sai devotee, had gone to Bombay and he is expected to return on Sunday (very next day). Exactly when the ceremony of Yagna started my doctor friend arrived and informed us that his son had arrived that day from Shirdi and handed over "Udi" and prasad from Shirdi. The chief priest of the yagna, was pleased with Baba's leela of arranging to send Udi" at the hour when the Yagna started. The receipt of Udi and prasad at the exact juncture of starting Yagna is Baba's leela. ★

Navinchandra D. Pandya

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JAPNAAM

In our religious holy books certain manners have been introduced for devotion and can be achieved by following them rigidly. The main intention to introduce these systems was preferably for the persons who used to do meditation, sandhya, yoga, tap, tantra sadhna and Kirtans. In that time devotion was in it's full existance and therefore, it was possible to do them. Now a days there is a mass change in people, atmosphere and living standard. There is therefore seldom attraction towards religion and devotion. At present our life is fast running having enough responsibilities. One cannot spare himself for meditation, asans, pranayam, yog, tap etc. In these circumstances a short way to worship is "Japnaam". There are no specific instructions anywhere to do Japnaam at a particular time, manner and place. Thus "Japnaam" can be done anywhere and at any time. Besides, other works can also be carried over. Japnaam is only possible if there is devotion. It is stressed upon in the books to have full faith and surrender first and then to have devotion. A devotee shirks his responsibility on the Almighty. If we fully surrender to Sai Baba, then there remains no doubt that He takes our all responsibilities upon Him. The only thing is that we must always remember and keep ourself bowed before Him.

Such an incident took place with me and now when I recollect it I feel that our life was saved by Lord Sai Baba as He saved a child from burning fire and put his own hand in the Dhooni at Dwarkamai.

On 2nd July, 1981, after summer vacations were over, I, with my family, was returning by bus from Jaipur. The Bus left Jaipur at it's scheduled time at 5 00 A.M. and was driven speedily. In the way Japnaam "Shri Sai Ram Shri Sai Shyam" was being chanted by me continuously. At about 7.00 A.M. the bus was passing through a village where a man riding a cycle

came from another side and tried to cross the road. Since the bus was running in speed, it was rather difficult to control it at the very same time and hence the bus driver took turn to the left side where an electric pole was installed near a big well, having no wall above the ground, at a distance of about fifteen feet. Since the bus was in speed and moved to the left side the balance was lost and it then dashed directly on the electric pole and stopped. Had it not been stopped by the electric pole it was sure that it would have fallen in the well, and none of us could have been saved. Surely, Lord Sai saved our life when we were in danger.

If we remember our beloved Sai, He removes our danger and turns the grief into pleasure. His 'Japnaam' is so powerful as is evident from the above instance that one can remain safe from troubles coming ahead in life. Sai Baba thus takes all responsibility of his devotees upon Him provided we fully surrender to Him. ★

K. L. Sharma
R/18, L.I.G. Colony, Indore (M. P.)

Get Attached to God's Feet

"Those who are attached to the feet of God are free from lust, arrogance and anger; they behold the world as full of their beloved Lord". Shall we try to become one of them for our good and the world's good ? ★

Saipadanand Late
Shri Radhakrishna Swamiji



Dear Dr. Parchuresaheb &
Shri Chendwankarsaheb,

I am writing this common letter to you as you are like twins in the cause of devotion to Lord Sai Baba. I am writing this letter in order to express our deep sense of gratitude and appreciation for the nice manner in which you conducted the conference at Shirdi. The whole atmosphere was really cordial and brotherly and we were really happy to meet several new Sai brothers and sisters. Sweet memories of the visit haunt us even now and it will be so for ever. Your Shri Subhash was also like a live wire behind the curtain. Words fail me to give full vent to our feelings. We look forward at meeting in such atmosphere often.

Seeking Lord's blessings.



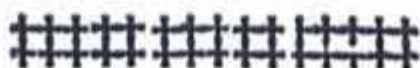
Yours Sincerely,

C. M. Chandawarkar

C/o Shri Avad Pathological Laboratory, Bagalkot Karnatak

(We are happy to note that, like so many other delegates, you also were much impressed by the tenth annual gathering, held at Shirdi at the end of January 1984. It is specially noteworthy that you carried sweet memories of the gathering and are longing to meet again at Shirdi in such cordial atmosphere, which vouchsafes the complete success of the gathering.

— Editor)



The Magnanimous Sai Baba

Sai's grace is infallible and unfathomable. I shall narrate a few of my own experiences to illustrate this point.

In July, 1982, I happened to visit Pune on some official work along with a colleague of mine. While we were half way through our work, there was an interruption, since Thursday was a holiday for most of the factories in the industrial belt including the place of our visit. So, we decided to pay a visit to Shirdi to have darshan of Sai Baba. This opportunity was quite unexpected and I was simply thrilled at the prospect of visiting the holy place for the first time.

We packed a few essential things in a brief case and took a night bus from Pune on Wednesday. We reached Shirdi at about 3.30 a.m. on Thursday and straightway made a dash to Sai Sansthan where huge crowds of devotees were already getting ready for the worship of Sai Baba.

After the ablutions, we went to Sai Mandir just before 5.00 a.m. holding some flowers in our hands which we purchased on the way. Sai Baba gave me the privilege of standing very close to His majestic statue during the Kakad Aarti and enjoying the ecstasy of the divine atmosphere which prevailed during the bhajan. It was such a rapturous experience that we decided to stay back for the after-noon bhajan also. This time we appeared before Sai with a garland of flowers and offerings of coconut and sweets.

The second darshan of Sai made me feel as if I met a bosom friend or a close relative with whom I could frankly discuss my personal problems. I took liberty to ask Sai Baba to grant me a wish namely an opportunity to go abroad to brighten my prospects. It might be an innocent longing or it could be a

foolish wish arising out of ignorance, but Sai Baba has fulfilled the same with such promptitude that I shall ever remain grateful to Him.

In March, 1983, the company where I am employed as an Engineer, decided to send me to West Germany in connection with purchase of a certain machinery. I set off on a three-week trip to Europe and by the grace of Lord Sainath everything went on well. He came to my rescue at my every beck and call and protected me throughout my sojourn there.

Thus, within one year of my visit to Shirdi, my long-cherished desire has been fulfilled. A miracle was performed in a way exemplified by Sai Baba, the magnanimous. ★

M. Venkateswara Rao
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Baba - A Successful Physician

It is said that whosoever puts his feet on the soil of Shirdi his sufferings would come to an end. This universal fact was experienced very recently by us.

Dear readers, my wife had been suffering from throat trouble for the last many years. It started as an ordinary 'cough & cold' problem; but it went on increasing day by day inspite of usual medical treatment. During my service as a pay & Accounts Officer in the Central Excise, Indore, I consulted many physicians of repute but there was hardly any improvement. At time she felt very miserable when she could not even eat or drink properly.

Apart from the treatment from various doctors, she had to take many precautionary steps like avoiding quite a large number of food items.

Recently, when we had the invitation to attend the Annual Gathering of Writers at Shirdi, we were in a fix whether to go or not due to her ailment. It, however, appears that Baba issued latent instructions to my wife, who suddenly insisted that we must attend despite her problem. Immediately after we reached the pious city of Shirdi, both of us presented ourselves before the lotus feet of Sai Baba and submitted our prayer to Him to rid her of her long suffering.

Dear readers, you will be glad to know that before leaving Shirdi after the 'Summeln,' surprisingly, my wife felt that she had no throat trouble at all. Lest it should be only a temporary relief, we did not mention it to anybody then and there. With the passage of so many days now, we are able to openly tell that she has completely recovered from her long outstanding throat trouble. Not only that, she has since given up the various precautionary steps and is able to take anything she normally likes to take.

The miraculous recovery is simply on account of Baba's super-human powers as a successful physician. ★

J. R. Laroia

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Report Of the Tenth Annual Gathering at Shirdi

(Continued from April 1984 issue)



The Court Receiver, Shri Kakresaheb, felicitating the President of the gathering, Shri Laxman Sadashiv alias Bala-saheb Naik.

SUNDAY (29-1-84) Second Session.

Shri Anil Rasal said, "Do not imprison Shri Sai Baba in language. Do not bring Him in the controversy of languages. Baba was not confined to any one language. He spoke many languages. Shri Sai Baba is within you and I and also in everybody. Therefore let there not be any difference on the problem of language, as per the advice of Shri Sai Baba. We

should bury all our differences and unite together for spreading Sai's teachings, which work is being done very efficiently by the Sai Leela magazine".

Shri T. Kesav Rao, "In the old issues of Shri Sai Leela many good articles have been published. They are required to be preserved for the future generation. They will vanish with the magazine. It is therefore necessary to select good articles out of the old issues and publish them in a book from so that they will be read by future generation. Universal love is preached by the Sai Leela magazine. Shri Narsimha Swamiji, who spread Sai devotion in the south always said that the advice of Shri Sai Baba is nothing but universal love. Editorials of Shri Sai Leela have lasting importance and I feel that they should be printed in a separate book for the benefit of the devotees."

Shri Prakash Karpe, "We people from the young generation have no knowledge of articles in the old issues of Shri Sai Leela. Hence I request that in the current issues of Shri Sai Leela, extracts from the past issues may be reproduced so that the glimpses of the past will come before us. Contributors, who have Marathi as their mother tongue, should also write articles in Hindi so that they will also get a chance for being known as contributors to Shri Sai Leela magazine".

Shri Bapusaheb Nirkhe, "It is the request of all Hindi speaking people that there should be a special Hindi issue of Shri Sai Leela Magazine and I feel that their demand is justified. Even today I can give you four hundred subscribers for the special Hindi issue. As is done in other magazines we should also give extracts from old issues of Shri Sai Leela".

Radhakrishna Gupta, "People who know Hindi and who can write in Hindi should flood the office of Shri Sai Leela magazine with their articles so that in order to give place to those articles it will be necessary to publish a separate Hindi issue of Shri Sai Leela magazine"

Shri Gokul Gopal, "Sai Baba is an Avtar. He grants the wishes of all his devotees. He has fulfilled all my desires also. Sai Leela magazine is spreading Sai devotion and I feel that it should continue to do the same in future in full swing."

Dr. (Mrs) Sumati Khanwilkar, "Some delegates say that we have gathered here to consider the ways and means for the uplift of Shri Sai Leela magazine; but I say that who are we to uplift the magazine? Sai Leela magazine has lifted us up and it will continue to lift us up further in future. Sai Leela magazine is a pinnacle and this gathering is the base of that pinnacle. Hence we should continue to hold this gathering in order to continue the Sai Leela magazine. This gathering is being held for the last ten years and therefore it has become a permanent feature of the programmes of the Shirdi Sansthan".

K. Navin Chander, "In this gathering the Shirdi Sansthan is affording an opportunity to meet persons who have seen Shri Sai Baba during His life-time. I am thankful to the management of the Shirdi Sansthan to have made this possible every year. We get here a unique opportunity to exchange ideas through personal contact.

We are lucky to have Shri Balasaheb Naik as president of the gathering this year, who has seen Lord Sainath during His life-time and who can speak of those occasions. Shri Sai Sansthan is doing a yeoman service in inviting devotees, who have actually seen Shri Saibaba, to preside over the annual gathering.

Japa and Keertan are like mental bath which purify a devotee. When this is done ceaselessly in unison in big groups, it has merit of changing the course of world events for the good of humanity. Shri Shirdi Sansthan can start such a Niranthara Namjapa in Shirdi and help the suffering mankind. I earnestly appeal to the Sansthan to make immediate arrangements towards this end for the good of the devotees, the country and the world.

Bhagat Martand, the son of Shri Mhalsapathi, who was the first to welcome Baba in Shirdi, is in serious condition. It is painful to see him pass his last days unattended in such agony. I wish that wealthy among our fraternity of Sai devotees to come forward and provide him specialised medical treatment. This is purely Sai service and Guruseva."

Raghunath Sandbhor, "The management of Sai temples should communicate the address of Shri Sai Leela magazine to all the devotees who visit their temple so that they will become subscribers of Shri Sai Leela magazine."

Mata Mohan Shyam, "As soon as I was called by the Shirdi Sansthan I booked my ticket and I came to this gathering. Saibaba's message is very important and it is necessary to take it to the readers through Shri Sai Leela magazine. This should therefore be the objective of our magazine."

Shri Teckchandani, "We must improve our conduct every day. We must think of how our spiritual uplift could be made. Shri Sai Leela is below the international standards. We should bring it to international standards. We should take guidance from Shri K. Navin Chander and some others and improve Shri Sai Leela which is the main object of this gathering."

Shri J. K. Puri, "Good thoughts and good behaviour should be encouraged. Shri Sai Leela should always keep this as its aim and articles promoting these things should be published in it."

Shri Jagdeesh Devpurkar, "To me Shri Sai Leela magazine is like my mother. It has given me every thing that I wanted. Here in our gathering there are fixed rules for the election of the president. Hence there does not arise any problem while electing the president. Recently, I attended the All India Marathi Sahitya Sammelan where the presidential election proved to be a matter of much discussion and even some persons took recourse to the court of law. Our gathering on the other hand goes on very smoothly and the atmosphere here is of love and friendship."

Dr. G. R. Vijaykumar, "Books on the life and teaching of Shri Sai Baba should be published in as many languages as possible. People want those books in their own languages and if they are made available according to their choice, then they will be very happy. This will help to spread Sai philosophy in the devotees."

"In Ramana Ashram greeting cards have been printed giving thereon the photographs of the various important and holy places in the Ashram and they are sold on mass scale. Shirdi Sansthan also should similarly print greeting cards giving thereon the photos of Dwarkamai, Samadhi Mandir, Gurusthan etc. These greeting cards will have good demand and the Shirdi Sansthan can earn money on them. The cover page of Shri Sai Leela should be good and attractive. It does not matter if we have to increase the subscription a little. Our devotee will pay the same willingly."

Leelabai Marathe, "This gathering helps the spread of the teaching of Shri Sai Baba and we are discussing here the ways and means for the improvement of Shri Sai Leela magazine. Hence this gathering is serving a useful purpose and it is necessary to continue it. My poems that are published in Shri Sai Leela magazine go in the villages and are understood by the village people because they are written in their language. This helps to spread the philosophy of Shri Sai Baba in the villages."

Shri D. P. Satyanarayana, "Our magazine is meant for spreading good thoughts and the philosophy of Shri Sai Baba. I would therefore request all our contributors to send only such articles to our editors which would encourage good thoughts."

Shri Mandalik, "We should print the sayings of Shri Sai Baba on each page of Shri Sai Leela magazine. The Gujrati editon of Shri Sai Satcharita is not available. Hence it should be got printed as early as possible so that the devotees will not have to face inconvenience."

(to be continued)



MARCH 1984

In this month there was the normal rush of devotees coming to Shirdi for the darshan of Shri Sai Baba. Hence there was no extra pressure on the staff of the Shirdi Sansthan for looking after the incoming devotees. In the second half of the month some meetings of the heads of departments were held for making preparations for the Ramanavami Festival.

Some artists gave their following programmes in the Samadhi Mandir during the course of this month.

Keertan - 1) Shri Bapurao Krishnaji Jadhavguruji, Shirdi
2) Shri Ramrao Maharaj, Peth 3) Sou. Seetadevi Ramrao Maharaj, Peth
4) Shri Vishwanath Bandu, Rahane, Surala. On Ekadashi days and on other important religious days, the Sansthan artists performed Keertan

Pravachan :- Shri Murlidhar Maharaj Deshmukh, Shirdi

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Bhajan, Dance etc.

1) Shri Shiwaji Tukaram Dhumal, Shirdi 2) Shri Sudhakar Kamtekar, Wadala 3) Shri Prema Gopalkrishna ullal, Bombay
4) Shri Prema Hattangadi Prabhatmurti, Bombay 5) Shri Shamrao Haribhau Lonkar, Pune 6) Shri Gangadhar Dhondiba Jadhav, Pune
7) Sou. Neelam Dilip Chaubal, Dadar 8) Shri B. Shankar, Sangeetkar, Hyderabad 9) Shri A. P. Sitaram, Madras 10) Ashta Vinayak Banjo Party, Worli 11) Shri Leela W. Joshi, Mahim
12) Sou. Kousalya Chaman, Chopada 13) Shri Narayan W. Honap,

Solapur 14) Smt. Viddullata S. Tongo 15) Shri Gurudeo Sewa Mandal, Pulgaon 16) Shri Shahuram Bhosale, Byculla 17) Shri Chandrakant Vishnu Gode 18) Shri Ratan Lalji Sharma, Nagpur

Rangapanchami :- On account of Rangapanchami, the chariot of Shri Sai Baba, decorated as usual, was taken in procession through the Shirdi village from 4-30 P.M. to 6-30 P.M. on 22-3-84 when many villagers took darshan of Shri Sai Baba. After the procession of the Chariot returned, the Dhuparati was sung on that day at 6-30 P.M.

Shri A. D. Kale, the Charity Commissioner of the Maharashtra State, visited Shirdi on 25th and 26th March 1984 and observed the working of the Shirdi Sansthan. He expressed satisfaction after observing the work carried on at Shirdi by the staff of the Shirdi Sansthan.

Whether :- The whether at Shirdi was quite healthy in this month. The day temperature had started going up and a little scarcity of water was felt.

Ramanawami Festival at Sainiketan Dadar

On Tuesday the 10th April 1984, the office of the Shirdi Sansthan at Sainiketan, Dadar, was opened at 9 (A. M.) in the morning and immediately the devotees started coming for darshan. The devotees, who come after 11 (A. M.), come with the idea of staying for the Aarti. Thus from 11 (A. M.) onwards, the Hall started getting full slowly and slowly and it was packed to the capacity by 12 noon when the Aarti was started. All the three hundred devotees, who were present for the Aarti, sung it with great devotion, which made them feel that they were singing

the Aarti in the Samadhi Mandir at Shirdi. The Aarti lasted for nearly 45 minutes. Prasad was distributed to all who were present for the Aarti.

In the gathering held at Shirdi at the end of January last, Shri Vijay Hajare had declared his intention to publish Sai Geet Darbar (part II). He therefore brought the manuscript of the book which was placed at the holy feet of Shri Sai Baba by Dr. Parchure, the Executive Editor of Shri Sai Leela. After consecration it was taken back by Shri Hajare.

The office was kept open upto 7 (P. M.) and on a moderate estimate we may say that over 2000 devotees came to the office for darshan on that day.



Andhra Pradesh Sai Devotees' Conference

The above conference will be held on 19-5-1984 and 20-5-1984 at S. K. P. V. V. Hindu High School, Gandhinagar, Vijayawada-520 003, under the auspices of Shirdi Saibaba Premi Mandali, S. N. Puram, Vijayawada-11 with a view to have better co-ordination and co-operation among sister associations situated in Andhra Pradesh and also to find out ways and means for better prachar activities of Shri Sainath.

Devotees who are interested to participate as delegates have to pay an amount of Rs. 15.00 as delegate fee per head for two days for boarding and lodging at the said venue. This fee may be paid in person at the venue on 19-5-1984 before 9 00 A.M. ★

V. Rama Mohana Rao
General Secretary

Shirdi Saibaba Premi Mandali, Rly. Quarters No. 180-D,
Satyanarayanapuram, Vijayawada 520 011 (A.P.)

श्रीसाईलीला

हिंदी विभाग

अनुक्रमणिका

मई १९८४

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साईबाबा तेरि दुहायी

साई मोरे भाग्यविधाता, माता पिता हो तुम साई ।
प्यासा हूँ बस तेरि दरसका, कबसे तरस रहा हूँ साई ॥
बाकी है एक आस बाबा, ज्ञानका पथ दिखला दो साई ।
साईबाबा तेरि दुहायी, जनम जनमकी कृपा पायी ॥ १ ॥

राम भी तुम हो रहिम भी तुम हो, नानक तुम हो खिस्त भी तुम हो ।
साई सुन्दर सबके स्वामी, ज्ञानब्रह्म के दाता तुम हो ॥
कभी न बोले कठोर बानी, कितनी सुन्दर बात सिखाई ।
साईबाबा तेरि दुहायी, जनम जनमकी कृपा पायी ॥ २ ॥

भेद भाव अब मिट गये है, चरणों मे सब भूल गये है ।
तेरे बनकर हमने साई, जीवन पावन बना लिया है ॥
अल्लामालीक ईश्वर बन्दा, नाम अलग सब तेरे साई ।
साईबाबा तेरि दुहायी, जनम जनमकी कृपा पायी ॥ ३ ॥

सेवाके वरदानसे साई, मुक्त किया सब भक्त जनोंको ।
दूर किया है चमत्कारों से, सन्देह के उस अन्धेरे को ॥
दीन दुखीके तुम हो दाता, तुम हो सबके मनमें साई ।
साईबाबा तेरि दुहायी, जनम जनमकी कृपा पायी ॥ ४ ॥

झूठे है सब भेद जहामें, झूठी सब है यहा लडाई ।
याद रहे अब तेरी सिखाई, दूर रहे सब मेरि बुराई ॥
छोड़के सबही व्यर्थकी बातें, अपनाओंगे तेरि सिखाई ।
साईबाबा तेरि दुहायी, जनम जनमकी कृपा पायी ॥ ५ ॥

मधुकर ग. अम्बाडे
बडोदे (गुजरात)



श्री साईबाबा और श्री माणिक प्रभु

श्री माणिक प्रभु महाराज, हुमना बाद, श्री साई बाबा के समकालीन सन्त हो गये हैं। सकलमत की स्थापना करके, श्री साई बाबा की तरह वे भी हिन्दु, मुसलमानों की एकता का प्रयास किया।

श्री माणिक चरितामृत नामक ग्रन्थ में लेखक श्री माधव दास राम नामें जी ने अपने ग्रंथ के छपन्नवें अध्याय में श्री प्रभु और साई बाबा के भेंट का सुन्दर वर्णन किया है। श्री साई बाबा शिरडी आने से पहले मोगलाई इलाके का दौरा करते थे, और इधर के लोगों को बिदर के बारे में पुछा करते थे। बिदर का जिक्र उनके बातचीत में हुआ करता था। हुमना बाद, बिदर के नजादक है। इस कारण यह निश्चित है के बाबा और प्रभु का अवश्य भेंट हुआ था।

एक दिन माणिक प्रभु का दरबार चल रहा था। अमीर, गरीब भक्त बैठे हुवे थे। भजन चल रहा था। लोग गायन का मजा ले रहे थे। तात्या साहब प्रभु सेवा में थे। उस दिन तात्या साहबके अहंकार का धक्का लगाना स्वयं प्रभु की इच्छा थी। इतने में एक फकीर दरबार में पेश हुआ। प्रभु से सवाल किया। हाथ में एक लोटा था। झुवा धारण किया हुआ था। सर को पटका झन्धा हुआ था। लौकिकता की उस फकिर को परवाह नहीं थी। प्रभु से कहा "प्रभो इतना लोटा भर दो"। तात्या महाराज नजदिक थे। वेदांत का चर्चा अहंकार की सीमा को पार कर चुका था। प्रभु ने बाबा को देखा, तात्या से कहाँ, "तात्या इसका लोटा भर दो"। जितना रुपया उसमें डालकर भरना चाहते हैं, लोटा भरता ही नहीं। तात्या महाराज को आश्चर्य हुआ। और वे प्रभु शरण में गये। प्रभु समझ गये और उन्होंने अपने पास के दो खारीक और फूल लोटे में डाल दिया, तब लोटा भर गया। उस पर हंसते हुवे प्रभु ने कहा "साई ये लेव लोटा तेरा" साईबाबा ने लोटा हाथ में लेकर वह दो खारीक और फूल ले लिये। फिर वही रुपयों से भरा हुआ लोटा, प्रभु चरण में अर्पण किया। लोटा ऊँटेल दिया। आश्चर्य, चार गुना अधिक रुपये प्रभु चरणों में पड गये। देखने वाले टन्ग रह गये : "मेरे कु बस है इतना" कहकर साई बाबा अपने चमत्कार को तात्या साहब को बतलाया ; सब को अचंबा हुआ, तब प्रभु ने तात्या

महाराज से कहा "तात्या, केवल ज्ञान श्रेष्ठ नहीं, अनुभव आवश्यक है" । तात्या महाराज साई बाबा को ढुंढने बाहर आये इधर उधर तलाश किया । बाबा उनकी नजर नहीं पडा । तात्या परेशान हो गये । साई नाम जवान पर था । श्री प्रभु हंस रहे थे ! तात्या महाराज के आखों में आसु थे । महान व्यक्ती ही महान की परख कर सकता है । इस प्रकार बिदर जिल्ले के कई भक्तों को आज तक भी यह पूर्ण श्रद्धा है के श्री माणिक प्रभु और साई बाबा का भेंट हुआ था । दोनों के सिध्दांत न केवल समान है किन्तु सूक्ष्मता से परखा जाये तो एक ही है । श्री दास गणु महाराज जीने भी कहीं कहीं उपरोक्त घटना का वर्णन किया है । जय गुरु माणिक प्रभु जय साई बाबा ।

प्रा. गुन्डेराव पटवारी

एन्. एफ. जे. कॉलेज, बिदर ५८५४०१

मनकी इच्छा

शिरडी बाबा साई
गीत तेरे गांवू कैसे ? ।
मन मेरा अपराधी
द्वार तेरे आंवू कैसे ? ॥
नहीं मेरे पास धन
नहीं है चांदी सोना ।
न ही हिरे जवाहर
मैं तो मिट्टीका खिलौना ॥

श्रद्धाके फूल लाये मैने
भक्तीका दीप जलाया ।

श्रद्धाभावसे उतारी आरती
अखियोंमें रूप समाया ॥
नहीं चाहिए मुझे
धनधान्य रूप शक्ती ।
तेरी कृपा आशिषसे
मिल जावे मनको शांती ॥
मूर्ती तेरी हृदयमें बिराजे
होठोपे रहे साईनाम ।
जन्म मृत्यु के फेरे बचकर
आत्मा जावे साईधाम ॥

अरविंद बारटक्के

१३५, शुक्रवार पेठ, पुणे ४११००२

सोजा मेरे साईबाबा

सोजा मेरे साई बाबा
आराम करो तू साई देवा

भक्तों के दुख दूर करते
खुदही सबका दर्द उठाए
उनके बाधा उनके रोग
अपने पर बैठा कत्र से
देखा न जाए मुझ से देवा
अब थकगया तू बाबा साई

सोजा मेरे साई बाबा
आराम करो तू साई देवा

हृदयाकाश मे भक्ती सेज सजाए
करली हम सेजारती तेरी
स्वर्ग से उतरे सब देवताए
लोरी सुनाए अब तो सोजा
गोपाल विठ्ठल साई सोजा
शयन रामा साई सोजा

सोजा मेरे साई बाबा
आराम करो तू साई देवा ।

नरेन्द्र नाथ मुन्गारा
'पंचवटी', १३९., समर्थ नगर, औरंगाबाद - ४३१००१



बाबा का इस प्रकार मिलना

भगवान बाबा जब मानव रूप में पृथ्वी पर विराजमान थे तब भी अपनी लीलाओं द्वारा अपने भक्तों को आश्चर्यचकित किया करते थे और शिक्षा दिया करते थे। बाबा कभी किसी रूप में अपने भक्त के पास स्वयं पहुंच जाया करते थे या फिर भक्त को अपने पास बुला लेते थे। बाबा ने कहा है “यदि तुम मेरी ओर देखोगे तो मैं तुम्हारी ओर देखुंगा”। यह अलौकिक शक्ति मानव रूप में इस संसार में नहीं है चिरनिद्रा में समाधि में है लेकिन आज भी अपने भक्तों की पुकार सुन कर प्रत्युत्तर दे रही है। बाबा आज भी अपनी लीला का प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं। किसी को अपनी ओर आर्कषित करने का अनोखा ढंग बाबा अपनाया करते थे ऐसा ही चमत्कार बाबा ने हमारे मित्र के साथ किया।

मेरे मित्र ने बतलाया मेरे पास एक मकान है उसमें एक किरायेदार रहने के लिए आये। मैंने उन्हें मकान तमाम जरूरी जानकारी प्राप्त किये बगैर ही मकान किराये पर दे दिया। वे नित्य प्रति अपने कमरे में ईश्वर आराधना करते थे। जब भी मैं उनके कमरे सामने से निकलता चन्दन की भीनी भीनी सुगन्ध हमारे मन को अपनी ओर अनायास ही आकृष्ट कर लेती थी।

कुछ दिनों के उपरान्त दीपावली का पर्व आया तो मेरे किरायेदार ने मुझे अपने कमरे में बुलाया। जब मैं कमरे में प्रविष्ट हुआ तो सामने एक छोटा सा मन्दिर बना देखा, जिसे बड़े ही आर्कषक ढंग से सजाया गया था। छोटे छोटे जिली के बल्ब जगमगा रहे थे। मनमोहक रंगों के पुष्प मन्दिर में रखी मूर्ति के चारों ओर शोभायमान थे। चन्दन की अगर बत्तियां सुगन्धित धुआं चारों ओर फैला रही थी। मैं यह सब एक टक देखता रहा लेकिन मेरा मन यह जानने के लिये अधीर हो उठा कि यह आर्कषक मूर्ति है किसकी? तो बड़े प्रेम से और श्रद्धा भाव से उन्होंने बतलाया कि “यह मूर्ति सद्गुरु साईनाथ बाबा की है” जिनका मुख्य स्थान शिरडी है। बाबा को कोई भी प्रेम श्रद्धा भक्ति से पा सकता है। भक्तभावना के वशीभूत हो बाबा स्वयं भक्त के पास प्रकट हो जाते हैं। या फिर उसे अपने पास खुद बुला लेते हैं। इतना जानने के बाद मैं बाबा के और नजदीक पहुंचा और नतमस्तक होकर प्रणाम किया तथा फिर एक टक उनकी ओर देखता रहा और थोड़ी देर बाद मैं अपने कमरे में वापस चला गया।

रात्रि में जब मैं सोया तो मन्दिर की सम्पूर्ण आकृति मेरी नजरों के सामने दिखाई दी जैसा कि मैंने देखा था प्रातः काल उठकर मैं नित्य की भांति अपने ऑफिस जाने लगा तो चन्दन की सुगन्ध उस कमरे के बाहर तक फैल रही थी। मैं रुका और श्रद्धा भाव से अपना मस्तक बाबा के सामने झुका दिया तब से प्रत्येक दिन न जाने क्यों मैं बाबा की ओर आकृष्ट होता चला गया। कुछ दिनों के पश्चात् मेरे किरायेदार ने कमरे से कुछ सामान निकाला, कमरे में ताला बन्द किया और कहीं चले गये। उनके लौटने के इन्तजार में कई महीने व्यतीत हो गये लेकिन वह नहीं लौटे, परन्तु जब भी मैं कमरे के सामने से निकलता तो चन्दन की सुगन्ध आती थी। मैं सोच में पड़ गया कि अब कमरे को कैसे खुलवाया जाये। एक दिन एक सज्जन ने दरवाजा खटखटाया और मैं बाहर निकला। व्यक्ति अन्जान था, लेकिन कमरे की चाबी दी और चल दिया। मैं उससे यह पूछने का साहस भी न कर सका कि मेरे किरायेदार कहां है और चाबी आप को किसने दी। तब तक वह सज्जन आंखों से ओझल हो गये। मैं सोच में पड़ गया कमरा खोल दूं या न खोलूं। लेकिन मैंने कुछ और समय तक प्रतीक्षा करना उचित समझा साथ ही उनकी खोज भी करता रहा। मुझे उनके गांव का पता चला। मैं वहां उनके घर पहुंचा तो एक बुढ़ी मां के दर्शन मिले। जानकारी करने पर मां ने बताया कि वह आपको नहीं मिला तो क्या हुआ। आप कमरा खोल लीजिये। यह सुन कर मैं वापस चल दिया, अपने घर पहुंच कर मैंने सबसे पहले कमरा खोला। चन्दन की वही सुगन्ध आ रही थी। मैं यह सोच कर परेशान हो उठा कि कमरे में और मन्दिर में न कोई अगरवत्ती जलाने वाला है और न ही कोई अगरवत्ती है। तो यह चन्दन की सुगन्ध कई महीने तक बराबर कैसे आ रही है। परन्तु मैं किसी निष्कर्ष पर नहीं पहुंच सका। उस कमरे में एक पलंग बिस्तर, तथा प्लास्टिक की एक बाल्टी मिली।

अब मैंने सोचा इस मन्दिर को अपने कमरे में ले चलें। जब मैं स्नान आदि के बाद मन्दिर में रखी मूर्ति उठाने गया तो एक पुस्तक भी रखी मिली जिसका नाम साईं सत्चरित्र है। सब कुछ उठाकर मैं अपने कमरे में ले गया। एक सुन्दर और स्वच्छ स्थान पर बाबा के लिये मन्दिर बनाकर बाबा को उसमें विराजमान कर दिया। नित्य चन्दन अगरवत्ती उसमें जलाता हूं। साईं सत्चरित्र पढ़ कर बाबा की लीलाओं का भी ज्ञान प्राप्त कर लिया।

प्राप्त पुस्तक से बाबा की तमाम लीलाओं से अवगत हुआ तथा बाबा का इस प्रकार मिलना भी बाबा की लीला ही समझता हूँ ।

जी. पी. पाल

२१०/३ रेंल बाजार, कैन्ट कानपुर - २०८००४

करे समाधि पूरी आस

चलो, शिरडी चलते आज

मन मे लेकर दृढ विश्वास - करे समाधि पूरी आस ॥ धृ ॥

ढाई अक्षर नाम है साई

महिमा लेकिन अपरम्पार

भक्ति का छोर पकडके कोई

सात समन्दर होजाए पार

बिना गुरु दुष्कर भवसिन्धु

केवल साई तेरी ही आस,

चलो, शिरडी चलते आज

मन मे लेकर दृढ विश्वास - करे समाधि पूरी आस ॥ १ ॥

दास गणू को गन्ग नहाई

नाना को गीता समझाई

तू माता तू पिता हमारा

तूने जानी पीर पराई

भूल गया तन मृगतृष्णा में

तू ही प्राण और तू ही श्वास,

चलो, शिरडी चलते आज

मन में लेकर दृढ विश्वास - करे समाधि पूरी आस ॥ २ ॥

विजय

७६, पटौदी हाऊस, नई दिल्ली - ११०००१

दशम वार्षिक सम्मेलन

इस वर्ष यह सम्मेलन २९ व ३० जनवरी को शिरडी के विशाल साई-उद्यान भवन में अनुष्ठित हुआ। भारत के कोने कोने से व हर प्रान्त से श्री साईलीला मासिक के लेखकों व कवियों ने इस सम्मेलन में भाग लिया। यह अधिवेशन अत्यन्त मधुर एवं सौहार्दपूर्ण वातावरण में अनुष्ठित हुआ।

इस सम्मेलन का नामकरण शिरडी संस्थान द्वारा 'स्नेह सम्मेलन' किया गया। यह नामकरण अतीव भव्य एवं उपयुक्त है। इस सम्मेलन के माध्यम से हम सब भाई बहिन स्नेह, प्रेम, प्रीति व आंतरिकता के बन्धन से आकर्षित होकर बाबा सरीखे परम पिता के निवासस्थान शिरडी में ही उनके स्नेहमय सान्निध्य में आते हैं। साथ ही साथ हम सब प्रतिनिधि अत्याधिक स्नेह व प्रेमपूर्ण वातावरण में सम्मिलित होकर पारस्परिक विचारविनिमय करने का भी अवसर प्राप्त करते हैं।

बहु प्रतीक्षित इस स्नेह - सम्मेलन में भाग लेने के लिये हम सब साल भर से विशेष लालायित थे। अन्त में स्नेहमय बाबा की अपार अनुकम्पा से यह सुअवसर प्राप्त हुआ। हम इस पावन कार्यक्रम में सम्मिलित होकर धन्य हुए!

संस्थान की ओर से समस्त प्रतिनिधियों हेतु निवास व भोजन की उत्तम व्यवस्था रही। इन्दौर के श्री लक्ष्मणराव नाइक (उपनाम - बालासाहब) इस वर्ष अध्यक्षपद पर चुने गये थे। २९ जनवरी को प्रातः ९ बजे हम सब सम्मेलन स्थल पर उपस्थित हुए। संस्थान के विद्वान कर्मकांडी पण्डित द्वारा वेद मन्त्र उच्चारण के साथ ही अध्यक्ष महोदय ने बाबा के चित्र के समक्ष अखण्ड ज्योति जलाई। पश्चात् अध्यक्ष द्वारा बाबा की आरती उतारी गई। अन्त में प्रसाद वितरण के पश्चात् ही सम्मेलन का शुभारम्भ हुआ।

मन्त्र पर अध्यक्ष श्री बालासाहब जी के साथ भूतपूर्व अध्यक्ष गण श्रीमती सरोजनी मुले (सुपुत्री - स्व. काका महाजनी) व डॉ. गजानन दाभोलकर (सुपुत्र स्व. गोविन्दराव दाभोलकर साई सच्चरित के प्रख्यात रचयिता) एवं संस्थान के

सुयोग्य संचालक कोर्ट रिसीवर काकरेसाहब विराजमान थे । श्री साई-लीला के विचक्षण अधिशासी सम्पादक - द्वय - डॉ. परचुरेसाहब व श्री चेन्दवणकरसाहब ने सभा का संचालन किया ।

इस वर्ष के अध्यक्ष बालासाहब बाबा के विशेष कृपापात्र है ! इनके बारे में कुछ जानकारी देना आवश्यक है । इनके पिता स्व सदाशिवराव जी बाबा के अन्तरंगा भक्त व पार्षद थे, जिनका चित्र बाबा के समाधिमन्दिर में लगा हुआ है । बालासाहब जी अपने पिता के साथ बाबा के दर्शनार्थ शिरडी जाया करते थे एवं अपनी बाल्यावस्था में ही बाबा का स्नेह व आशीर्वाद प्राप्त थे । इनके यज्ञोपवीत संस्कार के पुनीत अवसर पर काका साहब दीक्षित, तात्या कोते पाटील व शामा (स्व. माधव राव देशपाण्डे) इनके निवास पर उपस्थित होकर बाबा का प्रतिनिधित्व किये थे । इस अवसर पर बाबा स्वयं पांच रुपये व सावित्री भजनमाला उनके लिये आशीर्वाद स्वरूप भेजे थे ।

अतः इस वर्ष के अध्यक्ष भी निस्सन्देह एक महान विभूति हैं जो कि केवल बाबा से सुपरिचित ही नहीं अपितु बाबा के अति निकटमय व अनन्य भक्त भी हैं बाबा के बारे में इनके व्यक्तिगत अनुभव के भाषण सुनना हमारे लिये परम सौभाग्य की बात है ।

सभा के प्रारम्भ में ही श्री साईलीला (मराठी) के अधिशासी सम्पादक श्री सदानन्द चेन्दवणकर जी की धर्मपत्नी श्रीमती ताराबाई चेन्दवणकर, 'मिशन डिवाइन' के ख्यातिप्राप्त लेखक श्री जुन्नरकार जी व दिवंगत साईभक्तों के असामयिक निधन पर शोक प्रस्ताव पारित किया गया ! तदनन्तर दो मिनट मौन रहकर साई चरणों में लीन दिवंगत आत्माओं को श्रद्धान्जली अर्पित की गई ।

प्रत्येक प्रतिनिधि को मन्च पर जाकर अपना परिचय प्रदान करने व अपने अपने सुझाव पेश करने का अवसर दिया गया । देश के विभिन्न प्रांतों से आये लेखकों व कवियों से मिलकर व विचार-विमर्श करके वर्णनातीत आनन्द प्राप्त हुआ । बाबा की असीम अनुकम्पा से दो दिन का कार्यक्रम अत्यन्त मधुर व प्रेमपूर्ण वातावरण में सम्पन्न हुआ ।

दशम स्नेह - सम्मेलन की मधुर स्मृति व निदर्शन स्वरूप अध्यक्ष सहित मन्च पर उपविष्ट महानुभावों को समस्त प्रतिनिधियों की ओर से सामान्य

प्रीती - उपहार सप्रेम भेंट किये गये । अन्त में संस्थान द्वारा समस्त प्रतिनिधियों को बाबाके आशीर्वाद स्वरूप एक एक नारियल, व प्रसाद प्रदान किया गया ।

इस सम्मेलन के अपार साफल्य का श्रेयः कोर्ट रिस्सीवर काकरे साहब को, श्री साई - लीला के अधिशासी सम्पादकद्वय डॉ. परचुरे व श्री चेन्दवणकर जी को एवं संस्थान के समस्त अधिकारी व कर्मचारीगण को है । वे सर्वदा हमारी बधाई के पात्र है ।

सम्मेलन के व्यस्त कार्यक्रमों में मुझे अभिषेक, पूजन व सत्यनारायण कथा व्रत का अवसर नहीं मिल पाया था । इसलिये शिरडी में एक दिन अधिक रहकर मैंने बाबा का अभिषेक, पूजन किया । दूसरे दिन शिरडी से प्रस्थान के पूर्व मैंने यथाविहित सत्यनारायण पूजन का अनुष्ठान करके अपार आनन्द प्राप्त किया । विदाई के समय बाबा से मेरी केवल एक ही विनती रही 'आगामी वर्ष के एकादश 'सम्मेलन - महोत्सव' में सम्मिलित होने का सुअवसर प्रदान कर मुझको अनुगृहीत करें' ।

श्रीमती उमा दास

३०५/१, मीरपुर छावनी, कानपुर - २०८००४ (उ. प्र.)

प्रार्थना

कब से बाबा ! तुम्हें पुकारूँ,
कुछ तो मेरा ख्याल करो ।
भटक रहा हूँ भवाटवी में,
दया-सिन्धु ! उद्धार करो ।
तुम भक्तों के सदा सहायक,
रक्षक, पालक, साईनाथ ।

करुणा का रख हाथ शीश पर,
 मुझे करो हे नाथ ! सनाथ ।
 तुम अवलम्ब दुःखी-दीनों के,
 करो न उनको कभी निराश ।
 पीडित होते नहीं कभी वे,
 जिनको बाबा ! है विश्वास ।
 मैं हूँ अधम, पातकी, जडमति,
 पतितोद्धारक बाबा ! आप ।
 जन्म-जन्म से करता आया,
 मैं हूँ साई ! पाप अमाप ।
 क्षुधा-त्रस्त बालक जब होता,
 तभी देखता माँ की ओर ।
 भव-बाघायें मुझे सतातीं,
 अब मैं देखूँ किसकी ओर ?
 जो जन जपते शुद्ध-दृहय से,
 साईनाथ का निर्मल-नाम ।
 घन जाते हैं निमिष मात्र में,
 उनके विगडे काम तमाम ।
 विघ्न-विनाशक, कल्मषहारी,
 बाबा ! मुझ पर दया करो ।
 डूब रहा अब भक्त आपका,
 भव - सागर से पार करो ।

लक्ष्मीनारायण मिश्र

१२४/१३९, ब्लॉक सी, गोविन्द नगर, कानपुर (उ. प्र.)

भक्तप्रिय सन्त श्री. साईबाबा

आकाश में स्वतन्त्रता के साथ, अपने सुकोमल पंख फैलाए हुए पक्षियों का व्यस्तता से उड़ उड़ कर अपने घोंसलों में छिप जाना बहुत ही सुन्दर लग रहा था, चारों ओर कोहरा छा रहा था, फिर आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता सूर्य की अन्धकार ने जाने कब अपनी गोद में समा लिया, कि शाम का ढल जाना एक पहेली की तरह जान पडा ।

चूंकि हम तो किन्ही और ही विचारों के दापरे में डूबे हुए थे । इसके लिये व्याप्त हमारी आन्तरिक प्रसन्नता काफी हद तक जिम्मेदार थी । मैं अपने परिवार के साथ बड़ी तेज रफ्तार से चला जा रहा था । अचलपुर कैंप से औरंगाबाद होते हुए हमने कोपरगांव की राह ली ।

हृदय में जिनके लिए स्थान बन चुका था, जिनके दर्शन हेतु हमारी आंखें प्यासी थी वे हमें स्वयं दर्शन देने चले आए । किन्तु देखिए मानव मन बड़ा चंचल होता है । इसी वजह वह कभी-कभी हिरे को भी पत्थर समझ बैठता है ।

हाय री विडम्बना ! ऐसा ही कुछ हादसा हमारे साथ हुआ । हम कोपरगांव से शिरडी जाना चाहते थे, किन्तु हम न तो वहाँ का रास्ता ही जानते थे तथा न ही आसपास कोई मानव नजर आ रहा था, गंही सोचकर हम परेशान हो रहे थे की अकस्मात् ही एक वृद्ध हमारे समक्ष आकर हमें शिरडी का रास्ता दिखाने लगे । हमारी खुशी आसमां पर थी, खुशी के अतिरेक में हम कोपरगांव से शिरडी गिये तत्क्षण ही चल पडे । बाबा के दर्शन की उत्सुकता हमें भाव-विभोर किये जा रही थी ।

सूर्य की उभरती हुई किरणों ने अपना आंचल फैलाकर, पक्षियों ने अपने मधुर स्वरों को मुखरित कर तथा उन्ही वृद्ध ने शिरडी पहुंचकर, कार से नीचे उतरते ही हमारा स्वागत किया । फिर मन्दिर की ओर जाने का सन्केत दिया । पूजनसामग्री इकट्ठा कर हम जैसे ही मन्दिर की ओर जाने को मुड़े की हमारे कान में मन्दिर की घण्टियों की मधुर धुन एवं आरती के स्वर एकलयता से सुनाई पडे । ऐसे सुन्दर वातावरण में हम मुग्ध हो गये ।

मन्दिर की सुन्दर प्रतिमा को देखते ही मुझे उन्ही सरलहृदयी वृद्ध की आँखे याद हो आईं। मुझे ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ की ये वही आँखे हैं, जिन्होंने हमें शिरडी की राह दिखाई थी। यह स्मृत होत ही हम एक दुसरे की ओर देखने लगे तथा मन ही मन सोचने लगे की यह साईबाबा का ही चमत्कार है। जिन्होंने अपने भक्तों के हृदय की उत्कण्ठा को देख शीघ्र ही दर्शन दे दिये। किन्तु भक्त अपने परमेश्वर को न पहिचान सके। हे प्रभु अपने भक्तों को इतनी शक्ति दो, वह आँखे दो, जो आपसे साक्षात्कार के समय आपको पहिचान सकें।

बस इसी प्रार्थना के साथ हमारी आँखों से हर्ष के आँसू झर झर बहने लगे। भगवान को नमन कर हम उन्ही सहृदयी वृद्ध, जो साई बाबा का अवतार थे, की खोज में निकल पडे। किन्तु वे पुनश्च न दिखाई दिये। अधरों पर सहज मुस्कान, शीश पर रक्तरन्जित चीरयुक्त मुकुट, अनोखे ढंग से कन्धे पर लहराता हुआ उसी का एक छोर। शरीर पर श्वेत वस्त्र धारण, बाईं भुजा में एक झोला लिए तथा दाईं भुजा में एक हल्का सा टिनपाट। ऐसे “साधा जीवन उच्च विचार” रखने वाले व्यक्तित्व को भला कौन नहीं जानता।

अरे भई यह तो वह हस्ती है जिनके दर्शन को लोग विदेशों से आते हैं। फिर हम तो भारतीय हैं। हमारी संस्कृति में धार्मिकता की महक का एहसास तो विदेशियों को भी हो जाता है। भला आप ही बताइये, फिर हम भी उससे अछूते कैसे रह सकते हैं। श्री साईबाबा का सीर्फ नाम ही लेने से मानव के सम्पूर्ण कलुष धुल जाते हैं।

साईबाबा की महिमा क गुणगान सर्वत्र मुखरित होते हैं। जरा सोचीए कि स्वयं कष्ट सहन करके दूसरों को सुख देने वाले मनुष्य कितने महान होते हैं। इसका अन्दाजा तो सिर्फ वे ही मानव लगा सकते हैं, जिन्होंने किसी समय विपत्तियों को बहुत ही करीब से देखा है। दुनिया के ऐसे मनुष्यों में मुझे बाबा ही एक इन्सान के रूप में देवता नजर आए, जो चुपचाप आँखे बन्द किए, सारे कष्ट सहन करते रहे, झोली फैलाकर मांगा, मिला तो ठीक यदी नहीं मिला तो चेहरे की मुस्कान में कोई अन्तर नहीं। किसी प्रकार का कोई शिकवा नहीं। अपितु दुआँए ही मुखरित। ऐसे सरल हृदय के लिये दुनिया के कठोर-कठोर हृदय-सम्राट भी श्रध्दालु हो उठते हैं।

ऊपरी आन-बान-शान तो रन्गीन दुनिया का ढकोसला है। मानव सुख की खोज के लिए ही इनके बीच भटकता रहता है। इसी खोज में वह अपने सम्पूर्ण जीवन को व्यतीत कर देता है। किन्तु क्या मानव कभी किसी साधारण व्यक्तित्व का गहन परीक्षण कर पाता है? इसके प्रती उत्तर में हम कह सकते हैं - अधिकांशतः नहीं।

जब आप सूक्ष्म दृष्टि से किसी सादी वेशभूषा वाले व्यक्तित्व को देखेंगे तो उसमें आपको असंख्य गुणों की खान दिखाई देगी जैसे हमने साईबाबा में देखी है।

एक तेल मांगने वाले फकीर पर भी दुनिया के स्वार्थी तथा रन्गीन लोगों ने शक कर लिया। उसे भी छिप-छिप कर देखा की हमारे तेल न देने पर यह कैसे दिवाली मनायेंगे? किन्तु जब उन्होंने देखा की यह तो पानी में दीप जला रहे हैं तो तत्क्षण उनके चरणों में झुक गये। बाबा ने उन्हें पहले ही कुछ नहीं कहा था, तो अब क्षमा का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता। आशीर्वाद ही प्रेषित।

प्रभु तो आखिर प्रभु ही हैं। वह तो हम सभी को सद्बुद्धि देने आए हैं। यह देखने आए हैं की पृथ्वी पर मानवता का दर्जा किस स्तर पर है।

यदी मानवता अपना स्तर खो रही है तो उसे कायम रखने की प्रेरणा प्रभु दे रहे हैं। श्रद्धालू हृदयों को लिए तो वह प्रतिक्षण तैयार है।

उनकी सम्पूर्ण महिमा को देखते हुए हम यह कह सकते हैं की, “मनुष्य-जीवन की सार्थकता तभी है, जब हम स्वार्थ भावना को पूरी तरह त्याग कर दूसरों के जीवनरूपी पौधे को पल्लवित करें।”

“भाईचारे की भावना ही प्रगति-पथ का निर्देशन है।” महा कवि सन्त-शिरोमणी श्री तुलसीदासजी ने भी कहा है। की, “काम, क्रोध, मद, लोभ के, जब लागे मन में खान। तब लागे मुखों, तुलसी एक समान।” जिसने भी श्री हरी के चरणों में अपने आपको पूरी तरह समर्पित कर दिया, समझ लो की उसका जीवन सफल हो गया। इसी तरह जब भी मैं आन्तरिक अशांति को अनुभव करता हूँ, तब परिवार सहित शिरडी चला जाता हूँ। वही मुझे अपार शांति का एहसास होता है।

सहृदय श्री साईबाबा के पवित्र चरित्र हेतु किसी के भी हृदय में श्रद्धाभावों की जागृति तथा साथ ही दर्शन की उत्कण्ठा होना अत्यन्त स्वाभाविक है, यह कहना कोई अतिशयोक्ति न होगी ।

डॉ. मुरलीधर वर्मा

“आशीर्वाद”, मिश्रालाईन, परतवाडा जिला:-अमरावती (महाराष्ट्र)



प्रति

श्री कार्यकारी सम्पादकजी,

श्री साईलीला मासिक,

महोदय,

गत पांच वर्षों से मैं श्री साईलीला मासिक हिन्दी - अन्ग्रेजी का अध्ययन कर रहा हूँ । आपके अन्ग्रेजी सम्पादकीय तो बहुत ही शानदार होते हैं । हिन्दी विभाग के लेख और कविताएँ बड़े ही भावनात्मक होते हैं । आपके सम्पादक श्री चेन्दवणकर और डॉ. परचुरे दोनों काबिल मुबारक हैं । मुझे बड़ी खुशी होती है के हमारे शहर के प्रसिद्ध साईभक्त श्री गुन्डेराव पटवारी जी के लेख, कविताएँ साईलीला में अक्सर प्रकाशित होती हैं ।

हिन्दी विभाग के पृष्ठ यदि आप बढाएंगे तो हम हिन्दी वालों पर बड़ा उपकार होगा ।

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