

JULY 1983

GURU

POURNIMA

NUMBER

SHRI SAI LEELA

श्री साईनाथ वाचन
श्री साईबाबा संस्थान, ।



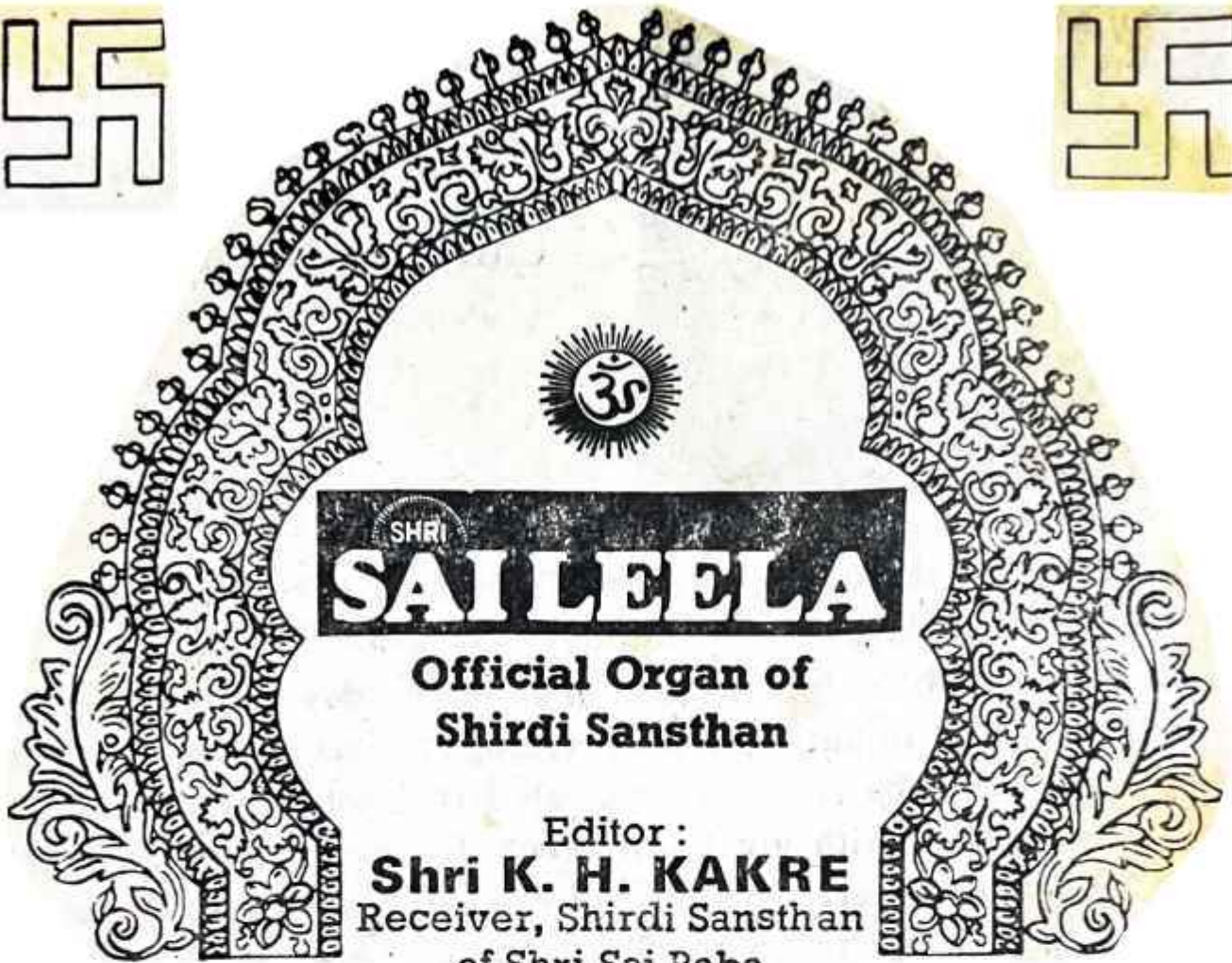
SHRI SAILEELA

JULY 1983

CONTENTS

		Page
1 Editorial	Gurupournima Festival	2
2 Believe It Or Not	Shri B. Advani	9
3 Shri Sai Baba Finds Lost Property	Miss Maya Sadhwani	13
4 Look at the Feet of Sai	Shri Anil Keshavrao Rasal	16
5 Compassionate Mother Sai	Shri B. G. Das	17
6 Baba and Balayogi	Shri Devata Subba Rao	19
7 Saibaba and Kabir	Shri Chakor R. Ajgaonkar	21
8 Shirdi Sai Baba and Sanathana Dharma	Shri K. R. Gopinath	23
9 Sai Leelas	Shri V. K. S. Unni	24
10 Gurupournima Festival at Shirdi (Invitation)		29
11 A Ramanavami Offering to Shri Saibaba	Shri Sainathuni Sarth Babu	30
12 Report of the Ninth Annual Gathering at Shirdi		33
13 Shri Sai The Guiding Force	Shri Pardeep K. Ghai	38
14 Sai Kripa	Shri K. L. V. S. Sarma	41
15 News from Shirdi	(April 1983 continued)	43





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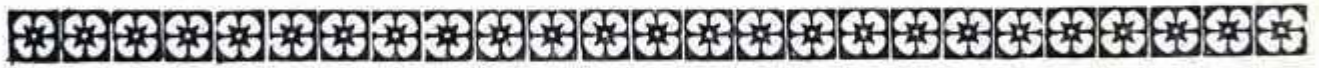
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is the principal, aim of SHRI SAI LEELA**

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Gurupournima Festival

This year the Gurupournima festival will be celebrated at Shirdi for three days from Saturday the 23rd of July, 1983 to Monday the 25th of July, 1983. The main day of the festival will be the 24th of July 1983 as Gurupournima comes on that day. Shri Sai Baba is the Guru of all His devotees and therefore He is worshipped with great reverence by every devotee either at Shirdi or elsewhere on this day. Though every devotee of Shri Sai Baba longs to go to Shirdi for the festival, it does not become possible for every one to attend the festival at Shirdi. Therefore those devotees, who are able to go to Shirdi during the festival should consider themselves to be specially fortunate.

Every religious sect has a tradition and a holy place where the followers of that sect are expected to go for darshan and for other religious ceremonies. In the warkari sect Pandharpur is considered to be a very holy place, as the temple of Vithoba or Pandurang is located there. Every able bodied warkari is also expected to attend Pandharpur on the Ashadhi and Kartiki Ekadashi for the Wari (visit). The devotees of Shri Datta Consider Mahur, Ganagapur, Narsoba Wadi, Audumbar etc. as their holy places as Shri Datta is supposed by them to have stayed at these places in person or through His incarnations. However to the Sai devotees Shirdi itself is their Pandharpur and one bhajan expressing that supposition is sung at Shirdi every day at the time of noon aarti viz. शिरडी माझें पंदरपूर । साईबाबा रत्नावर etc.

First Worship

At present the devotees, who do 'Abhishek' at the Samadhi Mandir, worship the Samadhi of Shri Baba and garland His marble statue. Others who only come for darshan, hand over their 'pooja' material to the priest on duty and it is placed on the Samadhi by the priest. Before the statue of Shri Sai Baba was installed in the Samadhi Mandir, the devotees used to worship only the Samadhi, where the body of Shri Sai Baba is interred. It would however be interesting to know how the devotees used to pay their respects to Shri Sai Baba when he existed in flesh and blood. Of course the devotees might remember that Shri Buti's Wada (The present Samadhi Mandir) was then under construction and therefore Shri Sai Baba was for most of the time in Dwarakamai, where many of the incidents described in Shri Sai Satcharit had taken place.

From the description given in Chapter eleven of the Sai Satcharit it appears that Dr. Pandit was ever the first devotee to worship Baba in Dwarkamai. Shri Dabholkar describes the incident as follows :-

एकदा तात्यासाहेब नूलकरांचे । स्नेही डॉक्टर पंडित नांवाचे । ध्यावया दर्शन साईबाबांचे । आले एकदाच शिरडीत ॥ ४९ ॥ पाऊल ठेवितां शिरडीत । आरंभीं गेले मशिदीत । करुनि बाबांसी प्रणिपात । बैसले निवांत क्षणभरी ॥ ५० ॥ बाबा मग वदती तयांति । “जाई दादाभटाच्या येथे । जा असे जा” म्हणुनि चोटें हातें । लाविता मार्गांति तयांस ॥ ५१ ॥ पंडित दादांकडे गेले । दादांनीं योग्य स्वागत केलें । मग दादा बाबांचे पूजेस निघाले । येतां का विचारिले तयांसी ॥ ५२ ॥ दादांसमवेत पंडित गेले । दादांनीं बाबांचें पूजन केले । कोणीही न तोंवर लावाया घजलें । गंधाचे टिळे बाबांस ॥ ५३ ॥ कोणी कसाही येवो भक्त । कपाळीं गंध लावूं न देत । मात्र म्हाळसापती गळ्यासी फांसीत । इतर ते लावीत पायांते ॥ ५४ ॥ परी हे पंडित मोळे भाविक । दादांची तबकडी केली हस्तक । घरुंनियां श्री साईचें मस्तक । रेखिला सुरेख त्रिपुंड्र ॥ ५५ ॥

(Once Dr. Pandit, who was a friend of Tatyasaheb Noolkar, came to Shirdi for taking darshan of Shri Sai Baba. On entering Shirdi, he went to the Masjid and after bowing to Baba, he sat there for a while. Then Shri Baba Said to him, "Go to the house of Dadabhat in this direction" and pointed out the direction with his hand. Dr. Pandit went to Dada (Kelkar) who welcomed him cordially. Afterwards when Dada started to go to the Masjid for the worship of Baba, he asked Dr. Pandit whether he would like to accompany him (Dada Kelkar). Dr. Pandit went to the Masjid along with Dada, who worshipped Shri Baba as usual; but upto that time no one had dared to apply gandha (Sandalwood Paste) on Baba's forehead. Let any devotee come; but Baba never allowed him to apply gandha on his forehead. Only Mhalasapati used to apply it on Shri Baba's neck. Others used to apply it to His feet; but this Dr. Pandit was emotional and simple. He took from Dada the plate in which the sandalwood paste, was kept and applied it on Baba's forehead from left to right.)

Though no date of the above incident is given in the Sai Satcharit by Shri Annasaheb Dabolkar, still it appears from the detailed description given there that before Dr. Pandit, other devotees were not allowed to worship Shri Baba as they worshipped God and after Dr. Pandit was allowed to worship Baba in this fashion, all other devotees started worshipping Shri Baba likewise and it became a common practice at Shirdi to worship Shri Baba as a God by applying the sandalwood paste on his forehead.

Another reference to Shri Haba's puja is found in chapter 37 of Shri Sai Satcharit. In that chapter the Chawdi procession is referred to as follows by Shri Dabholkar :-

आतां आधीं चावडी वर्णन । समारंभाचें कलं दिग्दर्शन । बाबा करित एकांतरा
शयन । चावडीलागून नियमानें ॥ ११६ ॥ एक रात्र मशिर्दीत । दुर्जा क्रमीत
चावडीप्रत । ऐसा हा क्रम बाबांचा सतत । समाधीपर्यंत चालला ॥ ११७ ॥ पुढें

एकूणीसशें नऊ सन । दहा डिसेंबर तें पासून । चावडीमाजी साईचें अर्चन ।
भजन पूजन हों लागे ॥ १२८ ॥

(Now I will first describe the chawdi procession. Shri Baba used to sleep on alternate days regularly in the chawdi. One night He would be in the Masjid and He would spend the next in the chawdi. Shri Baba continued this programme upto His Samadhi. Later on, on the 10th of December 1909, the worship of Shri Baba was started in the Chawdi)

Here Shri Dabholkar definitely mentions the date of starting, of the Chawdi procession and Shri Baba's worship in the Chawdi as the 10th of December 1909. Of course Dr. Pandit has been described before as the first devotee to worship Shri Baba. Therefore that incident must have taken place prior to the above date.

It might be sometime after these incidents that the devotees must have started worshipping Baba on the Gurupournima day as their Guru. The following two references are found in Sai Satcharit where the mention of Gurupournima has been clearly made. In chapter three we find the following verses ;-

सन एकूणीसशें सोळा सालीं । चाकरी सरकारी पुरी झाली । यथायोग्य पेन्शन
वसली । बारी आली शिरडीची ॥ ७२ ॥ गुरुपौर्णिमेचा तो दिवस । भक्त मिळाले
गुरुपूजेस । अण्णा स्वयंस्फूर्ति विनविती चाबांस । करिती शिफारस ती परिसा ॥ ७३ ॥

(In 1916 I (Shri Annasaheb Dabholkar) retired from Government service on account of superannuation. I got the due pension and I visited Shirdi at that time. It was the Gurupournima day. All devotees had gathered together at Shirdi for the worship of Shri Baba, when Shri Anna (Anna Chinchankar) made the following recommendation to Shri Baba of his own accord.)

The second reference is found in chapter 33 which reads as follows :-

आहेत एक भक्त भाविक । नामें हरिभाऊ कर्णिक । डहाणू ग्रामीचे स्थाईक ।
 अनन्य पाईक साईचे ॥ १९८ ॥ सन एकूणीसशें सतरा । पाहोनि गुरुपौर्णिमा
 पवित्रा । करूं आले शिरडीची यात्रा । त्या अल्प चरित्रा सांगतों ॥ १९९ ॥
 यथाविधि पूजा झाली । दक्षिणा वस्त्रें अर्पण केली । आज्ञा वेळुनि उतरतां खाली ।
 कल्पना आली मनास ॥ २०० ॥

(One Shri Haribhau Karnik, who is a resident of Dahanu, is a very devotee of Shri Baba. In 1917 he came to Shirdi on the holy day of Gurupournima for the pilgrimage of Shirdi. I will just narrate in short what happened at that time. He worshipped Shri Baba according to the rites. He gave Him dakshina and cloth and while getting down the steps of the the Masjid, after taking due permission of Shri Baba, it occured to him i. e. Shri Karnik).

It will be seen from the above two extracts from the Sai Satcharita that the Gurupournima was being observed by the devotees at Shirdi in 1916 and 1917. Shri Annasaheb Dabholkar was a devotee of Shri Sai Baba from 1910. During the eight years of his close contact with Shri Sai Baba and Shirdi (1910 to 1918) he had the good fortune to learn and hear so many things about Shri Baba, His devotees, His leelas and the festivals and other activities that took place at Shirdi during the life-time of Shri Baba. Many devotees, who were at Shirdi from the advent of Shri Sai Baba in Shirdi, were living in Shirdi at that time and Shri Dabholkar had the good fortune to mix among them and have heart to heart talk with them. Shri Dabholkar has devoted one full chapter (chapter 6) for describing the origin and development of the Ramanavami festival at Shirdi. His description of that festival is quite graphic and it gives a good number of details of that festival. If therefore the Gurupournima festival also was being celebrated at Shirdi during Shri Dabholkar's stay at Shirdi, he might have given its origin also in Sai Satcharit; but unfortunately it is not found anywhere as we find the description of the Ramanavami festival. Only two

casual references to Gurupournima festival are found in Sai Satcharit which have been cited above and they refer to the years 1916 and 1917. We have therefore to conclude that this festival is being celebrated at Shirdi definitely from 1916 and it might be being celebrated prior to that also though we cannot name the exact year of starting of this festival from Sai Satcharit.

We have thus tried to find out the origin of this festival at Shirdi and we find that it is being celebrated there for a long time. The Guru has a very reverential position in the minds of the Indian people and the full moon day in the month of Ashadha is being observed every year all over India as Gurupournima day in remembrance of Guru, Shri Vyas Maharshi, who wrote the Mahabharat and the 18 puranas is also supposed to have arranged the Vedic hymns and allotted them to his four disciples, which are now known as the four Vedas. This work of Maharshi Vyas is very commendable and therefore in order to show our gratitude to him this day of Gurupournima is celebrated for remembering the debt of Shri Vyas on the mankind in general. As Maharshi Vyas is the oldest of the gurus, he is first remembered on this day and all other gurus are also remembered on this day for their blessings to their disciples.

Shri Sai Baba is the Guru of all His devotees. They will therefore offer Him pooja on that day wherever possible. Though Shri Sai Baba lived physically at Shirdi and he was seen in flesh and blood by his devotees at Shirdi, we should not think that He is there only at Shirdi. From the various Leelas, which are experienced by his devotees, who are spread far and wide in this country and abroad, we know that Shri Sai Baba is not confined to Shirdi. He has been very active even after His Mahasamadhi in 1918. He is manifesting Himself at various places and thus making His presence known to all the devotees. We Sai devotees should consider ourselves to be singularly lucky in having such

a Guru to guide and bless us. On the coming Gurupournima day on the 24th of July, 1983, let us all pray at His holy lotus feet for His blessings from the bottom of our heart. Temples of Shri Sai Baba have already come up at various places and many more are coming up. So it is now very easy to resort to any Sai temple for Shri Baba's darshan; but we need not even go to a temple if we are not in a position to go. You have only to pray to Shri Sai Baba sincerely from the bottom of your heart and He comes to you as promised by Him during His life-time. ★



Never find fault with others

By finding fault with others, we conveniently forget our own. A wife always found fault with her husband for spending too much. The husband thought it wise to entrust his entire monthly salary to his wife. Soon the difficulties only increased and the wife wanted more money. The husband said his salary remained at a constant figure and his wife should control expenditure. He learnt from some of his friends that his wife never missed a picture. She learnt from some of her friends that he had never missed a hotel. Mutual accusations created more bitterness. A saint who called on the family advised. Stop your fault-finding. Now each knows the other's fault. Remove the cause for fault. Then you will find that though your salary is constant, it will give you contentment which is real imperishable wealth. The point is that every fault is born of a want and if wants are few, faults are few. The family thereupon prospered by paying heed to the saint's advice. ★

Saipadananda Late Shri Radhakrishna Swamiji



Believe It Or Not

Last December, I and my wife Lla sorted out a programme to visit Bombay. Reservations were steered well in advance. When I was to leave, I simply showed my index finger to a picture of Shri Sai Baba saying, "I am coming to your end." With this, I saluted Him in a military manner.

We reached Bombay on the next day. My brother-in-law, who is a Scientist in the B. A. R. C. Bombay, received us at the Dadar Station. From Dadar, we engaged a taxi and reached Anushaktinagar, where my brother-in-law is living. We unloaded our luggage, carried it to the lift and Lo ! we were at the 12th storey. Luckily, one of my sister-in-law with her engineer husband and kids had also come from Delhi; other sister-in-law with her engineer husband, working in the B. A. R. C. also came there with their folk. Naturally there was hula gula. To mention here, we have no issues. So we passed time in playing with their children.

I asked my brother-in-law to arrange for reservation for our return journey and tickets for Shirdi for a particular date. My brother-in-law is an influential personality. He contacted the authorities concerned but he had to cut a sorry figure as the tickets were not available for that particular period. You may agree with me here or not, I simply asked from within, "well, Baba, when I have come to Bombay, will you disappoint me?". On the next day, I asked my brother-in-law to try again for reservations. To our utter surprise, we got the reservations and tickets for Shirdi in a luxury bus for the particular date.

On that appointed date, I and my wife went to Dadar by taxi. Thereafter we stepped in the luxury bus which moved at 9. P.M. We were told that we would be able to attend the morning arti; but unfortunately the bus could not reach in time and by that time the arti was at the final core.

The bus was parked in the Three Star Hotel compound. We walked a little and came inside the premises of Shri Sai. I had glanced from every angle. One phoolwala (flower-seller) approached us. We hired him as a guide. To seek an entrance for Abhishek, we were to buy tickets and we had to be in a queue. Ah ! thank God, we were at No. 25 and 26, I counted it. In the meantime till the booking office opened, I asked my wife that I would get in and see the temple. She scolded me (as if I was a child), that I should not go in without taking bath. I remarked, "look, my dear shrimatijee, I am a jat, I know not the ABC of this or that, I am pure and my heart has taken bath." So saying I slipped inside the temple. She remained in the queue. Ah ! What a beautiful statue of Shri Sai Baba ! I saluted before Him in the same military way. He laughed at me. I was so much engrossed in His laugh that I forgot as to what I had to do further. At that time, pundits were giving Him bath with milk and water. I went out. I related this colourful view to my dear wife. I again offered her to accompany with me inside, She again repeated the same thing. On my further insistence, by the grace of Shri Sai, she agreed. I requested a man, who was near us in the queue, that we would be coming back soon and kept our air bag in the queue and we went inside again. My wife agreed with me in all the magnetic cores. We came out and were in the queue again.

At 7.15 A. M. we got the tickets for Abhishek. Now the question arose, where to keep our air bag, have bath and change. All the hotels and sarais were fully packed. we had to leave Shirdi by 1 P. M. for Bombay. Again I thought of Shri Sai. "When we have come over here, why don't you give us shelter?" My goodness, it may be unbelievable to you, no joke, but it is true. A south Indian couple gestured us from the balcony of the sarai to come over upstairs. We went up. They allowed us to share their room; but we asked them to permit us to remain in the verandah. Then we took bath and changed and were prepared for Abhishek. Our guide also brought a tray of miscellaneous

articles and a bed sheet of flowers and other garlands for Shri Sai. We took it and went near the temple for Abhishek.

Here too, being late, we missed the ticket numbers. I asked the Santriji, wearing a red head gown with a particular type of cap, "to look at Him and see that Shri Baba is calling us to get in." A surprise again. Santriji allowed both of us to get in for Abhishek.

There was an arti. After arti, persons attending the abhishek were asked to put on the garlands on Shri Sai and on the Samadhi. For your information, I may state that one devotee brought a big garland from Bangalore. It was really a rare flower for us at least. Rather it was our first time to see such a flower. He put that garland on Shri Sai Baba. The phool-malas which were put on Shri Sai, were again taken off and the pandit attending and receiving the garlands, threw them to the devotees who had come there for His darshan.

I had a feeling that I must get that particular garland which I have described above. I did not tell it to anyone. Will you believe me, the santriji asked the pundit to get that garland along with some other garlands and give it to this sahib i. e. me. Really speaking, I was stunned to know the ways of Shri Sai. We got the prasad.

After visiting all the places at Shirdi and making some purchases we went to stand in a queue to buy tickets for lunch. We also got tickets for Satya Narayan prasad. We enjoyed the lunch. It was a big hall where I can presume that at a time, some two thousand men can take food sitting on benches besides table. There they provide food in the stainless steel dishes.

After taking lunch, we came down to our bus which was parked in the three star hotel compound. We decorated the bus with all the garlands and there was a very sweet smell in the

whole bus. No passanger turned up till then. For your information let me tell you that I put that particular garland, in my air bag. Thereafter we roamed here and there. We talked to villagers and went to see their fields.

At 2. P. M. all passangers came. They were over-joyed with our decoration and sweet smell of the flowers. The bus moved. We were shown other religious places on the way. We stopped there. We had tea, snacks etc. It was sunset. The head light of the bus was dim, hence it was running at slow speed. However, we reached Bombay at 11.45 P. M. At 12.15 A. M. we reached home. Everybody was waiting for us. We dived into the dining table and while eating we related the incident to all at home. The children of my brother-in-law asked us to open the air bag. They found that particular garland in it. There was 'jhapta jhapti' among bachha log and my goodness, the flowers were scattered all over the house. So this was an end of our visit and it is a true incident, believe it or not. No body knows the ways of Shri Sai. Really speaking I don't know the ABC of worship or pujapath. The fact is that if you have faith in Him, we can see Him and talk to Him even, like this innocent jat (i. e. me). ★

B. Advani

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Shri Sai Baba Finds Lost Property

I have been a Sai devotee since the last 7 years or so. He has shown me a lot of his Leelas. I have been writing the same in my diary and never had the intention of publishing any one of them. But this miracle which took place just last month is the one I am sharing with all the Sai devotees, because I had made a vow to my Baba that I would publish it. So I must fulfil the vow made to my Father Baba.

I am an advocate. I am practising as a junior to Mr. D. S. Aiyar, a senior advocate of the Pune Bar. Mr. Aiyar is a very kind and religious person. It is mere Sai Baba's grace that I have such a nice senior. We go to court on a scooter. I either go with him or with his son Shekhar.

On 22-2-1983, Tuesday, as usual, the scooters (his and his son's) were parked near the Small Causes' Court building. (before I continue, I must tell this that on 17-2-1983, being a Thursday, I bought from Sai Baba's temple at Swar Gate, 2 stickers of Sai Baba and I stuck one on each of the two scooters of Mr. Aiyar).

At 2-30 p. m. Shekhar and myself were coming home and we noticed Mr. Aiyar's scooter. It was intact. In the evening when I went to office I got the news that his scooter MXB 6030 was stolen from the Court premises. I was shocked. Mr. Aiyar had even noticed the scooter at 3-30 p. m., while going into Small Causes' Court premises. I was shocked. I felt very bad. I said, "Sir, (that is the way I address Mr. Aiyar) don't worry; Sai Baba will find out the scooter. I will tell Him. But the only thing is that after the scooter is found, you will have to give me Rs. 2-50 for coconut and flowers." Then Mr. Aiyar said, "Is it? Do you really think that Sai Baba will find the scooter for me." I said, "Yes Sir, I have full

faith in Him. He has done so much for me. Won't He do this for me " Mr. Aiyar said, " Let us see ".

Police complaint all over the town was made. I started praying frantically to Sai Baba. Now my faith in Him and His powers were under test. I had full faith in him. On Thursday, I went to Sai Baba's temple as usual and prayed. There I asked the Panditji (Shyam by name) about the scooter. He said "a thing lost on Tuesday is rarely found, but by Saturday evening the scooter will be found". Then he put two chits before Sai Baba one on which was written " will be found " and on another " will not be found " After some time the Panditji picked up one chit. I prayed and opened it. " Will be found " was the answer. I was very happy. I thanked Baba. I went to office and told Mr. Aiyar everything that happened in the temple. Then on Saturday there was a small party given by one advocate, who is also junior of Mr. Aiyar. His wife, his two Sons (Raghu and Shekhar) and another advocate, myself and the junior advocate were the ones at the party. Mrs. Laxmi Aiyar (Mr. Aiyar's wife), who is a very kind, nice and religious lady was a little disturbed about the scooter being lost. The cost of the scooter is now nearly Rs. 10,000/- or so and Mr. Aiyar was thinking of buying another one. I said, "Aunty, don't worry; we will get the scooter back in tact. Never mind, if we have to pay Rs. 100/- or so towards expenses in repairing it. I am going tomorrow to Shirdi and I will pray. You don't worry. I am sure Baba will find it out." She said, "Never mind even if we have to spend about Rs. 1,000/- for repairing it. But I only hope that we find it out." Raghu and Shekhar both said that if the scooter is not found within a week then we won't get it. (It may be noted here that about 6 to 7 scooters have been stolen from the court premises; but no news of them had still been received.) I told them not to worry for the scooter would definitely be found. At the dining table the topic of the scooter again came up. The Junior advocate, who gave us the party, said,

“Maya, you put Sai Baba’s sticker on Thursday and the scooter got lost.” I was hurt. I said in my mind, ‘because of Sai Baba’s sticker the scooter will be found’. I said, “Dont worry, tomorrow I am going to Shirdi and when I come back the scooter will be found”. Then the other advocate said, “How are you so sure?.” I said, “You don’t know my Sai Baba’s superb powers”.

I took Re. 1,50 from Mr. Aiyar for putting in the box at Shirdi. The next day I went to Shirdi. All along I was praying to Baba that whatever time I reach Shirdi, I must get the ticket for doing Abhishek and that the scooter must be found. Sure enough, through Baba’s grace I got tickets and did Abhishek. That day the lustre and glow that I saw on Baba’s face were really great. I have been to Shirdi nearly 11 times; but before this I have never seen this glow on His face. All along I could see His luminous smile. I prayed for the scooter. We came back the same day.

Next day (Monday) I went to office. There was still no news about the scooter. I was still praying. When I came back from the court I started complaining to Baba about the scooter still not being traced. Then at about 5.30 p. m. I got a call from Shekhar, who told me that the scooter was “found”. My joy knew no bounds. I told him that it was all Sai Baba’s grace. He said, “Yes, everyone at home is also saying the same thing”.

I went near Sai Baba’s picture in my room and thanked Him and cried with joy at His feet

In the evening when I went to the office Mr. Aiyar said, “Maya, really within 24 hours of your saying that You’ll go to Shirdi and the scooter will be found; the scooter was found. It is really Sai Baba’s grace.” The police had found the scooter on Saturday evening near “Wonderland” a building on main street.

I took from Mr. Aiyar Rs. 2,50 for Sai Baba. Everyone was shocked as none of the others, who have lost the scooters,

have found them. When the Junior advocate came to office, the next day I said, "The scooter is found. You said that after sticking Sai Baba's sticker the scooter was lost, but I say that because of Sai Baba's sticker the scooter has been traced." He kept quiet

Yes really it is my Baba who found the scooter. The scooter was found intact only the petrol was over, and above all Sai Baba's sticker was also intact.

My million pranamas to my wonderful Baba. "Cast your burden on Him and He will surely bear it for you".

As Baba found the mare of Chand Patil (Chapter V of Shri Sai Satcharita when the latter had given up all hopes of finding it.) He found Mr. Aiyar's scooter for him, when he was nearly losing hopes of getting it back and buying a new one.

I once again prostrate to my Sadguru Sai Baba. ★

Miss Maya Sadhwani

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Look at the Feet of Sai

Give a total look at the feet of Sai,
 And surrender to the divine will;
 For, through all passing events only His will prevails.
 Surrender, fool ! surrender at the feet of Sai,
 For, they are the perfect abode of peace and bliss.
 Life is short ! Nay it is but a moment !,
 Charge that moment with the divine lustre ;
 By chanting Sai with a gaze at His feet.

Anil Keshavrao Rasal

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Compassionate Mother Sai

This is an incident, occurring during the terrible cyclone havoc, which rocked Andhra, when the Rail-Link connecting Madras with the capital of India was badly damaged and totally breached in some places.

My Keralite friend, who holds an important office in a famous industrial concern here at Kanpur, is a sincere and saturated devotee of Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi. He is in the practice of visiting Shirdi off and on.

During one of his such visits while he was returning to Kanpur, he could not obtain any prior Railway reservation and was anxiously waiting at the Manmad Station to board the train. After some time, when the train arrived, it was found so overpacked that it was beyond any possibility to get into any general compartment. Over and above, his presence in the office the very next day was essentially needed to attend to some important business. Consequently there was no other alternative but to board a reserved coach as a last resort, when the train was actually set in motion

He requested the conductor in the coach to be kind enough to allot him a seat as he was urgently required to reach his destination at the earliest possible time. But the conductor expressed his inability as there was no vacancy and urged him to get down and he was eventually detained at Bhusawal.

It was about 9 p. m. in the night and he became greatly perturbed and disappointed when he could learn from the Station Enquiry office that there was no other Jhansi-bound train in the night. As there was no way out, he thought himself destined to spend the night in the station. In a very depressed mood and with a sad countenance he kept on loitering in order to pass time, when he noticed a saffron-clad Mahatma at the distant end of the same platform.

On close approach, he became highly fascinated to mark the most sober and graceful appearance of the Mahatma. He was all the more attracted to find a majestic photograph of Shri Sai Baba in his possession. My friend had a spontaneous urge to pay due regards to the Mahatma, which he had complied with in great reverence and took his seat by his side with the intention of spending the night in the 'August Company' of the Mahatma, to whom he ultimately narrated his sad plight.

With extreme love and confidence the Mahatma advised my friend to have 'Saburi'. He assured him that his train would shortly be coming and he would reach his destination much earlier than the previous one, which he had already missed and as such he should have the least worry.

Surprisingly enough, shortly afterwards a through-running train approached the station in a great speed and had an instantaneous and non-scheduled halt at the very platform. Most lovingly the Mahatma directed my friend to board the train and blessed him for a comfortable journey. It is extremely miraculous to note that it was the fast running "Tamil-Nadu Express" from Madras, which was diverted on account of the Andhra cyclonic disaster on the Bombay route via Dhond to Manmad and thereafter to negotiate the Delhi route.

My friend took leave of the great Mahatma most humbly and respectfully and approached the conductor of the train to enquire if any berth would be available to him. His joy knew no bounds when he was informed that there were innumerable berths vacant, which he could avail with pleasure.

My friend, after being comfortably accommodated inside the train, reviewed the entire antecedents since the evening of that night. Tears rolled down his cheeks in profound gratitude, love and reverence for the ever-watchful and compassionate mother "Sai", who comes to the rescue of Her children in appropriate time in some form or the other!

★

B. G. Das

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Baba and Balayogi

The material with which all great men are made is identical. They are all the 'Amshas' of the supreme and perfect being. Consequently we find any amount of similarity in their teachings and living. They teach and practice the same truths. They are universal beings. They have nothing to fear. They fear only one thing-untruth.

All devotees of Baba are aware that He never cared for material comforts because they are mere sensual pleasures to satisfy the five senses (Panchendriyas). He clad Himself in a tattered Kafni, lived in a dilapidated mosque and ate occasionally a morsel of food, unmindful of taste, for which He used to beg at five houses per day. He used to mix the food thus collected and partake of the same with animals, birds and beggars that gathered around Him. Eating food was not of any importance to Him. It was a symbolical daily chore for Him. Fruits, food and money offered to Him by His devotees were invariably being distributed by Him to His needy devotees. In His opinion food was necessary only to satisfy the Indriyas and not the Atman, which is indestructible. His bed would shock any body. He used to "sleep" on a small plank suspended from a great height in the Chavadi, by shreds of cloth, which would hardly be able to support the wooden plank, not to speak of the weight of Baba. There was never any distinction of caste or creed or class observed by Baba. Every one was welcome to approach Him, with his or her tales of woe. He was the most unique kind of physician, who used to attend to the physical or spiritual ailments of the humanity and Udhi or margosa leaves used to be His vehicle for treating their ailments. No being human or animal that ever came to Him for succour went back disappointed. Such was His love for humanity. He never allowed an animal or insect to suffer. He could see God in every object animate or

inanimate. Kindness was His keynote. His concept of divinity was 'Nirakara' and 'Nirguna'. He never spoke in derogation of food or Samsara, but all the same was of the opinion that they hinder spiritual progress and tapasya. Baba entered Mahasamadhi in 1918.

To many people the name of Balayogi is absolutely unknown. He was born in 1930 to a poor Harijan parents by name Gangayya and Ramamma of the village Mummidivaram in the East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. The father Gangayya was a poor agricultural labourer. They had only thatched hut to live in. With no schooling of any sort, the boy had to earn a pittance as a cowherd, to augment the meagre income of the father. On the night of 21. 6. 1946 the boy had some sort of a revelation or inspiration and the next morning he began 'tapasya,' evidently a continuation of the 'tapasya' of the previous birth, sitting under a tree in the Government waste land. Later his father took him home by force and fed him; but the boy managed to escape after a few days to continue the tapasya. Later a thatched shed was erected around the boy and after a few years a room with only one entrance had been built in its place. Since the crowds, that used to gather there every day, used to disturb him by touching him or unfolding his fingers which assumed a Yogamudra,, Balayogi stopped daily darshan and since July 1949 he comes out of the room only once a year on the morning after Mahashivaratri. The doors of the room automatically close and open by themselves on the morning after Shivratri. He does not take any food or milk or water and does not attend to any calls of nature. He sits in deep meditation. Evidently he is continuing his Sadhana of the previous birth and there may not be any more births for him. The doors open and close by themselves with unerring regularity once a year, since 1949.

Shri Sai Baba had reached the state of perfection already. Yet there are certain similarities in the way of their living and their teachings. They both advocate tapasya for the wellbeing of

humanity. They are very kind to all objects animate and inanimate. Any offering they get, they utilise for the good of the people around them. They both believe that food is not necessary for a sadhaka and that food is meant only to satisfy the Indriyas (senses), and not the Atman. They have both decried ahamkara and mamakara. They both believe in karma and Punarjanma. They strongly believe that the world and all material objects are not permanent. Evidently they both lay had divine sakshatkara. So they often speak in ecstasy of the brilliance of God as Sahasra Koti Ravi Tejas. They both lay stress mainly on the subjugation of the Indriyas, as they hamper the attainment of Atmajnana. In short, they both believe that Manava Seva is Madhava Seva. They see God in every object animate or inanimate, and their concept of God is Nirakara Nirguna Swarupa. They denounce not only cruelty but even harsh words.

This similarity strongly proves the saying that great minds not only think alike but also act alike. ★

Devata Subba Rao

Rtd. District and Sessions Judge

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Saibaba and Kabir

It is very interesting to note the parallelism in the lives of Kabir and the Saint of Shirdi. If we see the records of history, we find that Kabir merged from the depth of time somewhere in 1440 A. D. He made exit in 1518 throwing his Hindu and Muslim devotees in agony. In the life of Baba, it is seen that he was first known to the world round about 1840, whereas he cast his mortal coil in 1918. There seems to be a cycle of time in the lives of both. The parentage of Kabir was not known. He was a forsaken child of a Brahmin widow and was brought up by a

Muslim couple named Nima and Niru. He had thus the combined influence of both the religions. Similar is the case of the Saint of Shirdi. It will be seen that the lives of these Saints were devoted to the propagation of the gospel of humanity, service and equality of soul. There is a record of Baba saying that he was staying by the side of Ganges and weaving his Shelas. When he was examined by a Commission of Dhule District Court, he admitted that his creed was that of Kabir. There is an anecdote in the life of Baba that his Guru Vyankusha, who had been on a pilgrimage to Ahmedabad, was told by the Pir of the Subag Shah Darga that he was none but the great Ramanand, the Vaishnav Saint of Kashi, who had propagated the cult of simple bhakti in North India. His disciple Kabir was to be born in Pathari in Marathwada shortly and his mission of life was to teach and educate the boy.

In the life of Kabir it is found that he was a devotee of Ram and his Ram was the unconditioned or Nirguna Brahma. He wrote the songs of realisation and simple union with the God, the song of the Sahaja-Samadhi; He sang of spiritual experiences of the Nada (नाद) and Shabda, (शब्द) which are the vital Yogic experiences of aspirant souls. It was through this realisation that he spoke of spiritual experiences, dispensed with artificial formalities, and preached the direct way of uniting with God. Shri Baba's way of teaching is not different from this. He has also preached that all devotees of the God are one. The Sadhana of the devotee is only to look at his Guru or God with a constant gaze and the Guru also would look back at the disciple with grace. ★

Chakor R Ajgaonkar

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Shirdi Sai Baba and Sanathana Dharma

Shirdi Sai Baba has quietly worked out his mission in life and transcended the life of his devotees to lofty heights. Baba's Darbar had rich, poor and sick without disparities. Devotion, faith and loyalty are the means to enter the Darbar of Sai Baba. None returns empty-handed from his Darbar.

Baba's early life, his penance, dispassion, celibacy, life style, his control over the elements and above all his promise to protect his devotees from his tomb together convey the tenets of his teachings.

Shirdi Sai is an inexhaustible spiritual treasure pervaded on earth to lift suffering humanity to perennial joy. He endured tortures silently to impart sanathana dharma in its true light. Sanathana dharma is not an isolated culture of one religion. Shirdi Sai Baba represented the virtues of this ancient culture. My pranams to Swami Satyananda Saraswathy, for his soul inspiring article in Yoga Magazine (December 1982 issue) on Sanathana dharma. In that article he has drawn parellel in the lives of divine incarnations of East and West, and found in Shirdi Sai Baba an absolute proof of Sanathana dharma.

These incarnations were the dire need of the time, but a few misguided followers buried their teachings under religious dogmas named after them. Yet, there came new waves from the supreme to dispel the darkness caused by religious fanatics. Shirdi Sai Baba is one such divine incarnation manifested amidst us to show eternal values. He had never rebelled with any ideology. He neither nursed a new cult nor a particular religion but magnified the glories of faith and devotion to Guru-God identifying Himself with other divine incarnations.

His life itself is the inspiration for the devout.



K. R. Gopinath

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Sai Leelas

By the divine grace of Sadguru Sai Baba of Shirdi, I have been able to narrate some of my personal experiences of the Leela of the benevolent Baba. My articles in 'Sai Leela' magazine have given me several friends and well-wishers all over India, whom I have never met. I have also been fortunate to come into contact with Shri R. H. Shamdasani, founder of Shamdasani Foundation, who is doing yeomen service to the humanity in the name of the saint of Shirdi

Miraculous recovery of valuable articles :

This happened in 1981. I was the manager of Cantonment, Trivandrum branch. The outward registered mail used to be taken by a peon to the G. P. O. for despatch. One day, at about 1.30 p. m. the said peon telephoned from State Bank of India where he went to deliver certain instruments on his way to G. P. O., that on coming out from S. B. I., he found all the articles kept on his cycle were missing. I was shocked. The cover contained valuable articles, instruments, bonds and even foreign currency. I asked the peon to make a thorough search in the place where he went and come back. His search was futile as the articles were not to be found.

It was time for my lunch. I went home very much disturbed. In such calamities, I used to resort to Baba's feet. I lighted jos sticks before Baba's idol in my pooja room and prayed to save me from the situation. I prayed for myself as well as for the sake of the peon who stood to lose his job on the loss of valuable articles. I returned to the office at 2-30 P. M. and reported the matter to the higher authorities. My boss asked me what I was going to do as I will have to answer many customers for this loss of the valuable articles. I said I have not thought about it. I would at first try to trace the instruments. I was

very much worried because that was the time for my promotion and this incident could go against my chances. My colleagues gathered around me and enquired what was to be done. I looked at Baba's photo, which I keep on my table, and said, "Let us try our best".

Then I went to the Police Station along with the peon and reported the loss. The Asst. Commissioner of Police was my class-mate. He pacified me by offering me a cup of tea and assured to do his best; but then he made it clear that I was not going to get back the lost articles for two reasons:-

1. If they were taken by miscreants, they will keep them for sometime and then slowly try to make use of the same.
2. If they were taken by mischievous children and students they will throw away the papers if no currency is found.

He added that he did not have any list of such offenders. I was very much worried. I could only make a silent prayer, touching Baba's ring on my fingers. Then wonder of wonders the Assistant Police Commissioner's telephone rang. He lifted the receiver and listened and said "Unni, your things have been recovered." I couldn't believe my ears. Minutes ticked and I held my breath till he put down the receiver. He then told me that a Traffic Constable has found out a bundle of postal articles on the road and seeing the name of the Bank, he has kept the same for the owner to come and collect it. The Police Constable was trying to locate the owner by telephoning all our branches and at last came to know that I was the person concerned in this matter.

Baba's hand is evident in the miraculous recovery for the following two reasons:-

1. That the lost articles were found by an honest Policeman.
2. The same Policeman took frantic efforts to trace me out to relieve my tension.

This was nothing but wonderful Sai Leela.

I reported the incident in detail to my higher authorities and with their permission I gave a cash award to the Policeman. These are all on record.

My Promotion :

My promotion as Chief Manager was due. It was to take place in October, 1980. It did not materialise. I was much disappointed. Some of my juniors were promoted. I was slowly sinking into depression. Then I was told by my higher authorities that I am one of the four candidates from my zone and the promotion would be announced in October. My Asst. General Manager even asked me to get ready for a posting outward. But alas! when promotion list was announced my name was not there. It was on a Vijaya dashami day. I was very much upset. I went to Sai Baba Mandir on the day and literally wept. I asked Baba "I have been worshipping you since long. Is this the reward?" I returned home. At about 10. 30 p. m. on the same day, telephone rang. My boss, the A. G. M. was on the line. He told me that when he came to know that my name has been dropped, he had contacted the Head office and has been assured that I am placed on the top of the waiting list and that I will be promoted in March, 1981. Even without a representation from me who prompted my Boss to ring up the Head Office to know about my fate? No one other than Baba who cared for me. This is nothing but a Sai Leela.

The promotion came in March, 81. I was posted back to Bombay by the end of April. On reaching Bombay, on 9-5-81 my first duty was to report to my benefactor Baba. I went to Shirdi on 10-5-82 and prostrated at Baba's Samadhi Mandir and distributed sugar candy before I took charge on 14th May, 81.

Baba blesses my daughter :

My daughter had completed 20 and was doing her final B. A. It was my wish that she should do post-graduate course or

appear for I. A. S. as she was a bright student. But, several marriage proposals came though we did not care much.

In March 1981 our family, friend, prof. Gopal Menon, about whom I have mentioned in one of my articles in Sai Leela, brought a proposal for his brother's son. But, the horoscopes did not match and the good professor was disappointed. However, he said that he would certainly find a boy for my daughter. A few days later, prof. Menon told me to my surprise, "Unni, you have an eligible bachelor in your neighbourhood. So and so's son has just come from States after his post-Doctoral training. If you are willing, I will try." He gave me the boy's horoscope and next day I got the same examined by a well-known astrologer known to me. To my disappointment, the astrologer said the horoscopes did not match and advised me not to proceed. I was returning from the astrologer's house rather disappointed. I do not know what power made me to step into the house of a friend of mine, whom I had not met for sometime and tell him what had happened. Then the wife of that friend told me not to rely on the said astrologer's verdict and advised me to consult another, for in their case similar thing had happened. I remembered the incident quoted in Sai Leela where Sai Baba had over-ruled the verdict of an astrologer. Baba consoled Mrs. Tendulkar thus "Tell your son to believe in Me, to throw aside Horoscope and predictions of astrologers and palmists and go on with his studies. Let him appear for examination with a calm mind. He is sure to pass this year. Ask him to trust in Me and not to get disappointed (Shri Sai Sat Charit Chapter XXIX)"

I decided to proceed with the proposal and entrusted the horoscopes to prof. Menon who consulted another famous astrologer. The horoscopes were found well-matched by him. I was happy but my anxiety was not over as I was not sure whether the Boy's people were agreeable. I remember it was on a Guru pournima day. I had been to the Sai Baba Mandir at Trivandrum alongwith my wife, son and daughter. we all prayed

for the alliance and returned home at 7. 30. When we were distributing the prasadam, prof. Menon's son came from the Boy's house and announced that the Boy's people were happy with the alliance and we can proceed. The marriage was fixed.

When the invitation cards were ready, I decided to invite Baba first, and went to the mandir and placed an invitation card at the feet of Baba's statue alongwith dakshina of Rs. 1.25 and prayed for his blessings. The poojari, as usual, took some vibhoothi from the silver bowl at the feet of Baba, wrapped it in a newspaper and gave it to my wife alongwith flowers. When we reached home and opened the prasadam packet, my wife was surprised to find a separate small white paper packet with the writing 'Sai Ram' and on opening the same she found vibhoothi inside. It was in front of us the poojari packed vibhoothi in the newspaper and it has never been his practice to place any separate packet. Let alone writing of Sai Ram. This was nothing but Sai Leela. Tears rolled down my wife's eyes and she said Baba has accepted our invitation and everything will go on very well.

New year day at shirdi :

I had been to Shirdi on the New Year Day, 1. 1. 1982 as I wished to start the New Year with darshan at Baba's Samadhi Manir. We proceeded to Shirdi from Bombay at about 5 a. m in a tourist taxi. The Bombay - Nasik road is very clear straight road and there is no chance of losing the way particularly to a tourist taxi driver. But, incidentally, the driver lost the way. He took us through some isolated road via Vada and we were very anxious till we reached Nasik. This must be only another Sai Leela to suppress my ego as I had developed an ego that I am Baba's man and Shirdi is my place etc. When the ego of a devotee crops up, Baba suppresses it and then guides him. On reaching, Shirdi, I had difficulty in getting a room inspite of an introduction letter to the man-in-charge. Perhaps, Baba did not want devotees to go to Him with recommendations.

I had another experience at Shirdi which I considered as a blessing. Before returning from Shirdi, I went to Baba's Samadhi and asked the poojari for some flowers from the Samadhi. The poojari readily gave. I offered him one rupee coin as dakshina. He refused to accept. Suddenly he asked for the coin, took it from my hand and returned it to me after touching it to Baba's feet saying, "take this home and worship". There was much crowd in the Samadhi Mandir and people were made to pass by quickly. In this crowd, it was only Baba, who made the poojari to take the coin from my hand and to return it to me after consecrating the same. ★

V. K. S. Unni

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GURUPOURNIMA FESTIVAL AT SHIRDI

This year's Gurupournima festival will be celebrated at Shirdi for three days from Saturday the 23rd of July 1983 to Monday the 25th of July 1983. The main day of the festival will be Sunday the 24th of July 1983. All Sai devotees are cordially invited to attend the festival.

K. H. Kakre
Court Receiver, Shirdi Sansthan of Shri Sai Baba

A Ramanavami Offering to Shri Saibaba

On the occasion of Shri Ramanavami on April 21, 1983 the Sai Baba Mission (formerly Shirdi Sai Cultural Mission Vidyanagar - Venkatagiri, Nellore District, A. P.) had organised special Pujas, Bhajan and Anna Santarpana (feeding of devotees and the poor) at the Sai Baba Mandir at Vidyanagar. A large number of devotees from the neighbouring towns and villages joined the local devotees in festivities. Numerous Sai devotees in and outside Andhra Pradesh, who could not personally participate in the function, had sent their offerings to Sai Baba's worship and Anna Santarpana.

However, this year's Ramanavami had witnessed a special offering to Baba by the Mission.

The Founder - President of the Mission, Shri Acharya Bharadwaja has always been stressing the need for a systematic propagation of the Leelas, life and teachings of Sai Baba through well-planned satsangs in every town and village. Commencing with an hour's exposition or reading out of Baba's life-stories, followed by half an hour of Bhajan and ten minutes of silent meditation, the satsangs should conclude with Arti to Baba. Through over a decade of his Herculean efforts, Shirdi Sai Publications (a wing of the Mission) have brought out the most comprehensive account of Baba's life and Leelas in three languages viz. 1. Sai Baba the Master (in English), 2. Sai Baba Charitra (in Telugu), 3. Shri Sayin Thiruvilayadagal, and the most profound and cogent exposition of Baba's teachings, Shri Sai probodhamrutham in Telugu (all written by Shri Acharya). These books have helped quite a large number of people all over the country and abroad to be drawn into Baba's fold. Shri Acharya has also started several Sai Organisations like the Dwarakamayi Educational Society (Venkatagiri), Shirdi Sai Cultural Mission (Ongole). Sai Satsang Sabha (Kalichedu), Lendi Sai Bhaktha Samaj (Podalakur), and

Sai Brotherhood (Nellore). A few more organisations are taking shape. The first three of the above organisations have already commenced construction of Sai Baba Mandirs in those places. Satsang groups have taken shape in several places in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere under his inspired guidance. The executive Body of the Mission has helped him in all these activities most unstintingly.

The present Ramanavami has marked the second stage of the Mission's work. It has fully appreciated Shri Acharyaji's plan to nurture every Sai devotee organisation into a band of well equipped missionaries of spiritual and moral values capable of guiding every section of the society out of the present cultural chaos. He envisaged the idea that every one of them should be capable of -

(1) Presenting the Perennial spiritual wisdom as represented by Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi in the light of the latest findings of modern science to the younger generation which is misled into fancying the spiritual wisdom to be a relic of primitive man's superstition.

(2) Expounding the true spirit of ancient spiritual wisdom in the light of Baba's life and teachings so that all our religious traditions could be understood by our people to be something far more relevant and imperative to human life and civilization than the mere dead weight of blind religious formalism that they have become today.

(3) Separating genuine spiritual life from blind superstition and socio-cultural evils so that the former may not be lost sight of owing to the predominance of the latter in the present Indian life.

With these objects, the Mission has launched a unique Telugu fortnightly on Ramanavami (April 21st, 1983.) entitled "Sai Baba" (half Crown size). The issue contains priceless articles on (1) the life of Sai Baba, (2) a serialization of Hujrat Tajuddin Baba's life,

(3) a few leelas of Sai Baba, (4) a serialization of an invaluable spiritual book, Vartalapam, (5) an article spelling out the relation between modern scientific outlook and Spiritual wisdom. (6) There is a special article comparing the life and teachings of Shri Rama and Sai Baba. (7) There is one article on the famous Sai devotee Nanawalli. (8) A very penetrating article on certain modern ways of our society which is sure to challenge the younger generation to heart searching and impress on it the need to reform its ways. Every bit of space is loaded with beautiful anecdotes from the lives of sufi mystics. While releasing the journal, the founder President of the Mission has explained that the journal promises to fulfil a need which no other single spiritual journal in Telugu is at present doing - the need to make every devotee a guide, friend and philosopher to everyone around, and an active responsible and capable individual committed to the ideal of building a highly enlightened society. The inauguration of the journal was conducted in the newly constructed Dwarakamayi Satsang Mandir at Ongole in a well attended function. Further, Shri Acharyaji said that the journal was intended to link together the various satsang groups in Andhra Pradesh into a dynamic family of dedicated workers for the revival of spiritual values in our society. The copies of the inaugural issue were avidly read by large numbers of devotees. Everyone felt that not even a part of any page in it could be thrown aside as back-dated. It is hoped that the journal Sai Baba can do more to the cause of Sai Prachar in particular and to the spiritual awakening of the society in general than most others and it bids fair to the transformation of every Sai Mandir, that utilizes its services into a college of spiritual wisdom that caters to our society, which is day by day drifting into moral and intellectual chaos.

Sainathuni Sarth Babu

General Secretary, Sai Baba Mission,

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Report of the Ninth Annual Gathering at Shirdi

(Continued from June 1983 issue)

As stated before the delegates this year were singularly lucky in having the blessings of the president of this year's gathering and four Ex-Presidents, who all had the good fortune to get the blessings of Shri Sai Baba, when He existed in flesh and blood. Two of the Ex-Presidents Viz. Shri Nanasahab Rasane and Sou. Sarojinitai Muley were requested to address the gathering and Shri Rasane first spoke as follows, "President Dr. Kapadisaheb, Ex-Presidents, Court Receiver Kakresaheb and delegates, I am very happy that you all have gathered here to consider ways and means to improve Shri Sai Leela magazine and to spread Sai devotion. The greatness of Shri Sai Baba has no end. It is unlimited and it will last upto the end of the world. From the speeches of some delegates I could conjecture that they are worried about the future of Shri Sai Leela Magazine and the annual gathering; but let me tell you that you should not at all worry about these things. Shri Sai Baba will solve all the questions in a way, which will be favourable to you. Shri Baba is the doer of all things. He knows all the things that are happening everywhere. You should have full faith in Him. You should not take any sort of doubts. Keep full faith in Shri Baba. When Shri Baba is in your mind, you should not fear from anything. Mother Sai is pervading the whole universe and is still remaining. The name and fame of Shri Sai Baba has reached America and England. There are hundreds of devotees of Shri Sai Baba in those countries. They honour me because I was born due to the blessings of Shri Baba and because I had the good fortune to have darshan and blessings of Shri Baba during His lifetime. When they meet me I explain to them the stories and the philosophy that are embodied in Shri Sai Sachhirat. I pray at the feet of Shri Sai Baba that He should have His favour on me, that he should give me good health and that I should be able to

move about upto the end of my life. I also wish that you should have regards for me as you are having now upto the end of my life. I thank you all for having given a patient hearing to me.'

Sou. Sarojinitai Muley then addressed the gathering as follows, 'President Dr. Kapadisaheb, Court Receiver Shri Kakaresaheb, the executive editors, the delegates and ladies and gentlemen. I thank you all for having called me to attend this gathering as its ex-president. Saint Tukarammaharaj said that you should recognise that man as a sadhu who considers the oppressed as his own relatives and he further adds that you should feel the presence of God there. By serving those who were suffering from woes and from diseases like leprosy, Shri Sai Baba proved the aforesaid saying of Saint Tukarammaharaj. Other persons would have hated such people; but Shri Sai Baba served them and nursed them with his own hands and showed to the world that all human beings are the children of God. He was caring for the good of humanity day and night and He worked for that during the whole of His life.

I have got a habit of noting down something very striking which I come across. In one magazine, which is published from Pune. I once read that Shri Akkalkot Swami was the Guru of Shri Sai Baba. In His boyhood Shri Sai Baba was at Akkalkot when He used to prepare the "hukka" regularly in the morning and evening and He used to present it to Swamiji. Due to this sincere service, Shri Swamiji once threw his silver padukas at Shri Sai Baba and said, 'Go and settle down on the bank of Godavari. Hoist my banner there and preach real religion to the people.' From that time Shri Sai Baba Came to Shirdi and started his penance in front of the padukas of His Guru.

Shri Baba is reported to have said once that the underground cellar was the sacred place of Samadhi of his Gnru and therefore it should not be used commercially. These words of Shri Baba must be quite true.

The religion or caste of Shri Sai Baba is not known to anybody; but it is said that because of the sincere worship of lord Shiv done by a religious couple, Shri Baba was born as the only son of that couple. He was later on found by a Muslim in the forest and he took him to his house. The Muslim gentleman brought up Shri Baba as his own son. The effects of Muslim customs that we see on Baba may be because of that. Otherwise Shri Baba is really a Hindu and his ears were pierced by his parents. His advice is very simple, "Have implisit faith in the Guru and be patient. Those who are having 'Nishtha' and 'Saburi' will not feel shortage of anything in their life. In the desert of life they will not feel any want.

How can we describe the greatness of the touch, word, darshan and company of Sadguru? Those who 'got it' are really lucky and there is nobody in this world as lucky as them. Because of Shri Sai Baba's favour I got all these things in my childhood. I had the good fortune to sit in his lap and get his pat on my back. I consider myself to be specially fortunate as I had His blessings in my childhood.

There is nothing more sacred in this world than the feet of Sadguru. If your mind is fixed there, then there is no end to your happiness. The merit of those persons, who were called to Him by Shri Baba, must be really immense. Even I had the occasion to experience that favour from Shri Sai Baba. In 1981 I was elected as the president of the seventh annual gathering at Shirdi. When Shri Chendwankar told me that not only once, twice but thrice Shri Baba whispered in his ears about my name, I really started wondering about the leela of Shri Sai Baba and I felt that there must not be anyone in this world, who must be so fortunate to have the blessings of Shri Baba even after many years of His Mahasamadhi.

The story of how Shri Baba came to my house and gave me darshan on the day previous to the day when I started to

come for this gathering, is also very wonderful. On that day one gentleman aged about 24 to 25 was standing in front of my house and was shouting "Take darshan of Sai Baba of Shirdi". The man had an upper garment of saffron colour and on it the words "Sai Ram" were printed in red ink. When we heard his words, we all rushed outside the house and requested him to come in our house. He no doubt came in but he declined to sit. He had Shri Sai Baba's photo and Shri Dabholkar's Sai Satcharit with him. We bowed to him and offered to him rupees five by way of dakshina. However he declined to accept it and said, "I have come only for your darshan. I do not want any money". Ultimately when we pressed him too much, he retained only two rupees out of that amount and returned three rupees to me. I took those rupees as the prasad of Shri Sai Baba. While leaving us the gentleman told me, "We will meet at Shirdi on Thursday" How did he know without telling him, that I was going to Shirdi? After coming to Shirdi, I tried hard to search him in the crowd during the morning and noon aarti; but I could not see him. Instead of that when I saw at the marble statue of Shri Sai Baba, He moved his head and smiled. In this way Shri Sai Baba gave me darshan at Indore in the form of that gentleman. I would request you all to keep implicit faith in Shri Sai Baba. Then He is sure to give you darshan in some form or other. You must only try to recognise Him in that disguise.

I thank you all and Shri Kakresaheb in particular for having invited me for this gathering as its ex-president. I also thank you for having listened to my speech very patiently."

The following delegates attended the gathering Dr. M. K. Kirtekar, Shri Dwarkeshbhai Shah, Shri. D. R. Khadke, Shri Anil Rasal, Shri Ramakant Pandit, Shri. Vijay Hajare, Shri Madhav Gore, Sou. Vasundhara Chore, Sou. Kalawati Chavan, Shri Radhakrishna Gupta (Chetan), Shri Anil Risbud, Shri Shreeram Satardekar, Sou. Kumudini Tilak, Sou. Asmita Dandekar, Sou. Tarabai Chendvankar, Shri. G. R. Palkar, Shri. Vasantao Pradhan

Shri Prabhakar Kolamkar, Shri. Bipin Swadia, Dr. A. K. Pathak, Shri Suryakant Dalvi, Shri D. R. Dalvi, Sou. Shanta Sorode, Smt. Leelatai Golatkar, Shri. Madhusudan Karambelkar, Shri. Suresh Satpute, Sou. Shashikala Revankar, Shri. Belwalkar (all from Bombay) Shri. Sanjayanand Swami and Mira Sanjayanand from Badrinath. Dr. Indutai Naik and Dr. Sumati Khanvilkar from Lonawala. Sou. Sushilabai Hajare from Malegaon, Shri and Mrs. Potnis from Pimpri. Shri Dattatraya More, Shri Raghunath Sandbhor, Shri. M. B. Nimbalkar, Sou. Ushatai Mulye from Pune. Shri. Pandurangrao Bhujbal, Dr. M. G. Shinde, Shri. Prabhakar Kamble from Satara. Shri Madhukarrao Ambade from Baroda. Shri Nagesh Moglaikar, Sou. Leelatai Marathe and Shri Jagdeesh Devpurkar from Dhule. Shri. Ramesh D. Chavan, Shri Hasmukh Onkar Patil, Shri Madhukar Mandlik, Shri. Shantilal Dave from Navapur. Professor Patwari, Dr. Hibbare, Mrs. Mathurabai Hibbare from Bidar. Dr. Malati Rahate from Bhandara. Shri B. D. Jagatpuria from Shirud. Shri. Laxmanrao Rapatwar from Nanded. Shri Bapusaheb Nirkhe, Shri. Prakash Karpe and Dr. Babaji from Indore. Shri Jugal Kishore Puri from Chandigad. Shri. Goyal from Garkhal. Sou. Sindhu Krishnarao Sanas from Katol. Dr. B. G. Das from Kanpur Sou. Sarojinidevi Rajalu from Calcutta. Shri. R. S. Ramkrishnan from Madras. Shri. M. Ganga Reddi from Hyderabad. Shri. N. Machander Das from Warangal. Smt. Lilawati Gujrathi from Shirdi. Shri. Maheshbhai Waishnav from Ahmedabad. Shri. Brijmohan Mourya from Singahi-Khiri. Shri Prakash Lalwani from Kurla, Bombay Shri V. Sunderam from Calcutta. Shri Lutade from Wardha and Shri Ranjit Patil etc.

It will be seen from the above list that the contributors to Shri Sai Leela magazing have been spread far and wide. A few others from various other places had a mind to attend the gathering; but they could not come due to their personal difficulties. The places from which the aforesaid delegates came, are spread on all sides of India and therefore this gathering of the contributors to Shri Sai Leela magazine becomes a miniature All

India Gathering of Shirdi Sai devotees. This gathering helps people from all over India to meet each other and they establish a relation of Sai brotherhood and Sai sisterhood among themselves. Shri Sai Baba's teaching was of universal brotherhood and it will be seen that this gathering is helping to achieve that goal quite effectively. There is therefore no wonder that all the delegates feel that it should be continued for ever for fostering this Sai brotherhood and Sai sisterhood among all the Sai devotees, spread throughout the length and breadth of our country. ★

Shri Sai The Guiding Force

"I shall be active and vigorous even from my tomb", said Shri Baba and the devotees generally happen to find one incident or the other which proves to be very helpful for them in future.

Further, Shri Sainath has said, "I am ever living to help and guide all who come to me, who surrender to me and who seek refuge in me". Once you tell Him that it is He who has to do a particular work and you will only be doing whatever He governs, you will only be dancing the way He wants you to, you will find that the work is done without any efforts or hindrances.

I, like other devotees, experience a number of occasions when the timely help by Him proves to be very important for me. Rather, he is the doer of my every big and small work as I do not believe myself as the doer of any work. However, I would like to share with the Sai-devotees, what I experienced in connection with Baba's activity and help.

I was married in December, 1982 and like most of the Sai-devotees, the first thing I wanted to do after my marriage was

to visit the biggest shrine, Shirdi, alongwith my wife. So, I chalked out a programme to go to Shirdi and then, to go to Pune, Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar on a pleasure trip. A suite was booked for me in one of the best hotels at Panchgani and everything else was also settled.

I, alongwith my wife, proceeded for Shirdi as per my programme. We dropped at Belapur and got a room in a hotel to keep our surplus luggage. After taking our bath, we went to Shirdi by bus. Like others, we also went to Dwarkamai. We had some pooja-rice with us, which we had to offer in the sacred Dhuni. When we were doing so, a priest came to us and started talking about the 'Udi', the remains of Dhuni. He also advised me to take some Udi with me. Since, I was having sufficient quantity of it at my house, I told him that I do not need any more of it. But, as he insisted that we should take some, I picked up some Udi and kept it with me after wrapping it in a piece of paper.

We returned to Belapur and had to stay there overnight. Next morning, my wife (who knew very little about Baba before marriage), demanded the Udi which I brought from Shirdi and told me that we had forgotton to bring it from our home.

Had Baba not encouraged the priest to ask us to take Udi, our routine of applying some Udi on our forehead and lips after morning prayers would have been disturbed for fifteen days.

How active and vigorous he is even today! Baba has said, "My tomb shall bless and speak to the needs of my devotees." How much careful He is of the needs of His devotees!

He further said, "If you cast your burdon on me, I shall surely bear it." Now, let us see how He bore my burdon on himself during that journey.

We decided to get reservation for our return journey when we reached Pune. During our onward journey. I was told by a

fellow passenger at Pune that one can get reservation for Delhi only if the application is made, at least, three weeks in advance. We were thinking that our programme will be upset if we do not get reservation as per our schedule. But, I thought that we can't make any programme ourselves. It is Lord Sainath who has to do it.

My first work on reaching Pune was to try for our reservation for the return journey and to our surprise, we got it on the date we preferred, which was only ten days ahead.

Next afternoon, we reached Panchgani. When we reached the hotel and contacted the receptionist, he told us that all the suites were pre-occupied and that the suite booked for me was occupied only an hour back. I could not blame the hotel men, since, the suite was allotted to me by my employers, who have booked it for their employees permanently. There had been double allotment by mistake. So, I had no alternative, but, to arrange for my accommodation elsewhere.

Here also, Baba came to our rescue. He did not only arrange good accommodation for us, but, also helped us to get a nice company, the family of a senior of mine, posted at my Head Office. This family not only helped us in getting a suite in State Tourism Corporation rest house, but, also took us with them to the nearby places worth seeing. In short, we had a nice stay there by His grace. We returned to our place as scheduled after experiencing hundreds of Baba's miracles.

In fact, if one wants to have any type of help, one gets it from Him, ★

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SAI KRIPA

Shri Sai Baba is watchful on his devotees. He comes in different forms in order to help his devotees at the time of distress. I would like to share one such incident that occurred recently.

After attending a marriage at Ongole on 25-7-1982 we had to come back to Nellore on 27-7-1982 in connection with "Sravana Mangala Vara Nomulu" (a function which is performed by the newly wedded bride for 5 years on all the Tuesdays of "Sravana Masam".) positively. So, we had to start on 26-7-1982. As all the buses were heavily crowded we could not catch the bus. We had to wait upto 9.00 P. M. My wife and myself could get into the bus when my mother and grandmother could not. It was decided that they should come on the early hours of 27-7-1982. They left the bus stand after we boarded the bus. When the bus was about to start, suddenly my wife asked me to get down the bus as she felt that the others may not be able to catch the bus on the next day for attending the programme. On enquiry at the K. T. C. enquiry office, I was informed that the last bus was at 11.30 P. M. and there were no buses till 7.00 AM. So, we decided to go to the bride's house at Kothapet where my mother and grand mother would be staying. We engaged a rickshaw and went there, where we came to know that they had left for my grand mother's friend's house which was nearby. On hearing the same we rushed to that house in vain. Then I prayed to Baba that there may not be any difficulty for the next day's programme. We came back to the bride's residence. As we were engaged in chit chatting, suddenly my mother came there. We were surprised to see her.

Then we rushed back to the bus stand. On the way to the bus stand I asked my mother how she could come to know that we were at the bride's house. Then she narrated the following

incident. As the bride's residence was full of relatives, they were in a dilemma whether to go to my grandfather's house at Ramanagar which is far off. On their way while they were talking to their friends, a rickshawwallah came there and asked my mother whether they would like to have a rickshaw. My mother told him that they did not need him. He told her that Sundaramma and a man were searching for them and they were at the bride's residence at Kothapet. She was surprised to hear the same and thought that he was lying as she saw us boarding the bus. So saying he went away. She thought it better to go over to the bride's residence along with the grand mother. On coming to the bride's residence, she was surprised to see us. Our prayer to Shri Sai was fulfilled and we could catch the bus at 10.30 P.M. and came to Nellore by 1-45 A. M. without any problem. Everything went well on 27-7-1982. On Tuesday we went to Shri Sainath Mandhir at Gandhinagar, Nellore. I was astonished as to how the rickshawwallah came to guide them to us. It is still afresh in our memory.

We are sure that it was Shri Sai Baba who inspired the rickshawwallah to inform my mother about our stay at the bride's residence ; or else we would have been put to a lot of difficulty in searching for each other and could not have reached for the function in time.

K. L. V. S. Sarma, Librarian
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APRIL 1983

(Continued from June 1983
Issue)

Friday 22-4-83

As the Samadhi Mandir was open for the whole night there was no Kakad aarti today. The programme of this day therefore started with the holy bath of Shri Sai Baba and the Abhishek thereafter. Rudrabhishek was done at 7-30 (a. m.) at Gurusthan.

From 10-30 a. m. to 12-30 p. m. the kala Keertan was performed in the Samadhi Mandir by Shri Tukarambuwa Ajegaonkar from parbhani. This Keertan also was appreciated much by the audience; The dahihandi programme took place after the keertan. The noon aarti was sung thereafter and teerth and prasad were distributed to the persons present for the aarti. From the point of view of most of the devotees the performance of the kala keertan marks the end of the festival. Hence many of them start returning after taking prasad in the bhojagriha. At 10 p. m. Shejarati was sung and the Samadhi Mandir was closed.

In the compound of the new bhojagriha a performance of the drama "Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon" was given by M/S Aarti Theatre from 10-30 p. m. to 1-30 a. m. Shri Kumarsen Gupte wrote the play and he also presented it on behalf of the Aarti Theatre. The play was acted well and the script of the play was also well-written. The audience appreciated the programme very much and were pleased with the performance. Before the play, the documentary "Shirdi darshan" was also screened. With these programmes the Ramanawami festival at Shirdi, which lasted for three days, came to a successful end.

During the days of the festival a sweet dish was served to every devotee taking prasad in the bhojagriha in the usual rates. Thousands of poor persons were served food free during the festival days. In the premises of the Sansthan pendals and arches were erected in order to give shelter to the devotees visiting Shirdi and to decorate the surroundings. Electric illumination was also done. As during these days there is lot of heat at Shirdi, people feel constantly thirsty. Hence arrangements were made for serving drinking water at several places in the Sansthan premises. In order to face the water shortage, if any, the tankers of the Zilla Parishad and the Taluka Panchayat Samiti were kept ready.

The Police, Home Guards and security force of the Shirdi Sansthan helped a lot in maintaining law and order. Shri Bakre, Dy. Inspector of Police Shirdi Out post, Shri Subhash Kotasthane, officer of the Home Guards and Police Inspector Shri Gaikwad have taken special trouble to help the maintenance of law and order. The Rovers and Rangers of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Western and Central Railway, did very commendable work under the able guidance of District Scout leader Shri Y. K. Kakre and other leaders.

The articles offered to Shri Sai Baba by the devotees were sold by auction to the devotees on all the three days of the festival and it was gratifying that the devotees vied with each other in purchasing those articles. The State Transport authorities arranged for extra buses which helped to ease the traffic. Irrigation Deptt Maharashtra Government, helped the Sansthan by supply of water through the canal. For the first time, devotees were housed in the new building named "Sai Uddyan" constructed at a cost of Rs. 40/- lacs. This new building is quite spacious and it is able to accommodate about 1500 to 2000 devotees at a time.

On a moderate estimate we may say that over 4 lacs people visited Shirdi during the three days of the festival. As this influx of devotees was much beyond the expected crowd, there was

great strain on the employees of the Shirdi Sansthan for making adequate arrangements for the devotees, coming to Shirdi. The Court Receiver, Shri Kakresaheb, Shri D. C. Pathak, the Office Superintendent of Shirdi Sansthan, Shri V. S. Apte the Chief Accounts Officer and other officers of the Shirdi Sansthan had to work very hard during the days of the festival in order to see that all programmes went on smoothly.

Rangapanchami :-

On 2-4-83, the Chariot of Shri Sai Baba, duly decorated, was taken in procession through the Shirdi village on account of Rangapanchami. On the way of the procession many devotees from the village took darshan of Shri Sai Baba. On that day the Dhuparati was performed at 7 p. m, after the procession returned back to Samadhi Mandir.

During this month the following artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir.

Keertan :- 1) Shri Shankar Maharaj Wadgaonkar, Javala Parbhani 2) Smt. Pramila D. Paithankar, Nasik 3) Shri Tukarammaharaj Ajegaonkar, Parbhani 4) Shri Manohar Vasudeo Koklegaonkar alias Manumaharaj Nanded.

Pravachan :- 1) Shri Murlidhar Ramrao Deshmukh, Shirdi 2) Shri Jagannath buwa Wakchoure, Shirdi 3) Shri Raghunath Krishnaji Karkhanis, Pune.

Vocal Music, Instrumental music, Dance Bhajan etc.

1) Shri Sai Bhajani Mandal, Shirdi 2) Shri Vasant Dattatraya Phulambrikar, Bandra 3) Shri Vasantrao Dadaram Pawar, Shirdi 4) Sou. Rajan, Delhi 5) Smt. Jyotibhen A. Manuja 6) Shri A. M. Manuja 7) Smt. Radhabai Sainani 8) Miss. Ratna H. Sainani 9) Shri G. A. Deonani 10) Shri Dattaram Laxman Sathale, Bombay 11) Shri Mukund Krishnaji Mhatre 12) Shri Shreeram Vishnu Satardekar, Parel 13) Dr. M. K. Kirtekar, Bombay 14) Shri Raghuveer Shantaram Mirane, Shirdi 15) Shri Ajit Kade, Bombay 16) Shri Datta Jogdand 17) Shri

Sai Bankar 18) Shri Krishna Chari 19) Shri S. K. Kulkarni, Nagar
 20) Shri Ramdas Dattatraya Daithankar 21) Shri. Dilip Mukund
 Salavane 22) Shri Bholanath Samel Bombay 23) Shri Raghunath
 Sandbhor, Pune 24) Shri Sudhakar Kamtekar, Bombay 25) Smt.
 Gajrebai 26) Smt. Sudha, (A. P.) 27) Smt. Manorama Bajpai,
 Kanpur 28) Smt. Gouri Bajpai, Kanpur 29) Smt. Srroj Shukla
 30) Shri Ashok 31) Shri Subhash Mukund Munase, Andheri,
 Bombay 32) Shri Vasant Dhumkar, Bombay 33) Shri Ahmad
 Pathan, Shirdi 34) Shri Nandkishor Purohit, Baroda, 35) Dr. I.
 Ramachari, Hyderabad 36) Shri Harakchand Chandrabhan 37)
 Shri Suhas Sadashiv Kshirsagar 38) Shri Parasmal Champalal
 Porwal 39) Shri. Neelesh Bhiwandkar 40) Shri G. L. Choudhari,
 Anantpur 41) Shri Mahesh Rane, Bombay 43) Shri Mukesh Shirke
 44) Shri Sadanand Parchure 45) Shri Balasaheb Kulkarni,
 Laxmiwadi 46) Smt. Annapurnadevi, Shirdi 47) Smt. Manibai,
 Shirdi 48) Shri Krishnarao, Shirdi 49) Shri Anjayya, Hyderabad
 50) Shri. Dnyaneshwar Vaidya, Shirdi 51) Shri Lalit Kumar, Shirdi
 52) Shri Digambar Uddhav Bhatwadekar, Rahata 53) Shri
 Shashikant Dattatraya Joshi 54) Shri Arun Somani, Sangamner
 55) Shri Prakash Barde, Sangamner 56) Shri. Pise Barshikar,
 Barshi 57) Shri Mahadeo Dattatraya, Sangamner 58) Shri Narayan
 Rajendra Chadole, Sangamner 59) Shri Shiwaji Rambhau Pandhare,
 Karmala 60) Shri. Maheshwar Anant, Bombay 61) Shri Yadav
 Jadhav 62) Shri Bala Pilaji Gurav, Shirdi 63) Shri Shivram Baburao
 Bidwe, Sangamner 64) Shri Bhide 65) Shri Sakharam Raghujji
 Gurav, Kopargaon 66) Shri Bhimrao Shinde - Bansode, Sakuri
 67) Shri Yashwant Purushottam Ranade, Kopargaon 68) Shri.
 Jadusing Usman Thakur 69) Shri M. Kiran, Hyderabad 70) Shri
 F. S. Chourase, Bhilai 71) Shri Rambhau Satarkar, Chandrakant
 Dhavalpurkar Mandal 72) Smt. Tarabai Munshi 73) Shri Dnyanoba
 Tatyaba Wadekar, Kopargaon 74) Shri Bapurao Tukaram Kamble
 75) Shri. Shiwaji Tukaram Dhumal, Shirdi. 76) Shri Dattopant
 Lakhe 77) Smt. Leelawatibai Gujrathi, Shirdi 78) Shri Dattatraya
 Naik, Tukaram Khekar Lokanatya Mandal 79) Shri Ramdas
 Bhausahab and artists 80) Shri Vishwanath Kishan Kher 81) Shri

Vasant Damoder Rasane, Pune 82) Shri Dattatraya Damoder Rasane, Pune 83) Shri Vasant Joshi, Bombay 84) Shri Yashawant Naik 85) Shri Vilas Pawaskar 86) Shri Datta Kadam 87) Shri Shashikant Raul 88) Shri S. B. Narkar 89) Shri Shashanka Tawde 90) Shri Shashikant Chavan 91) Shri Haribhau Warge 92) Shri Chandrakant Kokam 93) Shri Vilas Mahadik 94) Shri Shashi Dalvi 95) Shri Suresh Hirlekar 96) Shri Suresh Anjarlekar 97) Shri Barku Shet 98) Shri Ravi Satghare 99) Shri Raghunath Nagare 100) Shri Shantaram Mirane 101) Shri Madhukar Bhalerao, Shirdi 102) Shri. Anand Dattatraya Karambelkar, Bombay 103) Shri Chaturdhan Nagare, Shirdi 104) Baraukar Kaka 105) Shri Manik Sali 106) Shri Y. K. Karle of Rovers and Rangers, Western Railway Scouts and Guides, Bambaay 107) Shri V. S. Dhumkar 108) Shri Bhosale 109) Shri N. C. Parikh 110) Shri. Bhagubhai V. 111) Shri Narayan S. Rane 112) Shri Uday Patil 113) Shri Bhajanlal K. 114) Shri Madhusudan Gaurde 115) Shri Ashok L. 116) Shri Devendra P. 117) Shri Shantaram B. 118) Shri S. S. Murti 119) Shri Pradip L. 120) Shri Kundan K. 121) Shri Suresh B. 122) Shri Ganpat S. 123) Shri S. K. Bhogle 124) Shri G. T. Suryavanshi 125) Shri P. Malkani 126) Shri A. S. Bhkshi 127) Shri S. P. Rajawat 128) Shri P. T. Sawant 129) Shri P. B. Chawla 130) Shri F. S. Christophar 131) Shri Santanu Ambekar 132) Shri Madhu Upaskar 133) Shri Sunil Rane 134) Shri R. S. Katiyar 135) Shri P. G. Goyal 136) Shri Suresh J. 137) Shri Ramlakhan G. 138) Shri Kesharlal B. 139) Shri A. K. Devle 140) Shri V. D. Gaikwad 141) Shri Kaghuraj Bairagi 142) Shri Mahendrasing 143) Shri. M. A. Joshi 144) Miss. N. S. Trivedi 145) Sou. Geeta Mehta 146) Miss, Jamna Khatanhar 147) Miss. Reskha Joshi 148) Sou. Sunita Desai 149) Miss. Usha Dani 150) Miss. Geeta S. 151) Miss. Maitheke 152) Miss. Bharti Mehta 153) Miss. Hemalata Patel 154) Miss. P. Padmarao 155) Sou. Beena Malkani 156) Miss. Anamika Ambekar 157) Sou. Bharati Ambekar 158) Shri Damodar Vasudeo Bhandarkavathe, Pandharpur 159) Shri Vivek Muley, Bombay 160) Shri Vilas Paralkar, Bombay 161) Shri. Subhash Jayawant Kampli, Bombay 162) Shri Kumarsen Gupte. 163) Shri

Hemant Chitnis, Bombay 164) Late Tukaram Khedkar, Pandurang Muley Majarwadikar Lokanatya Tamasha Mandal 165) Artists of the play Shegavche Gajanan Maharaj 166) Shri Dinanath Lad 167) Shri Kishor Dandekar 168) Shri Arun Mondkar 169) Shri. Madhusudan Angane 170) Shri Datta Kherade 171) Shri Shashi Sakpal 172) Shri Baliram Gamre 173) Shri Shreeram Mahadik 174) Shri Anant Dhuri 175) Shri Manohar Sawant 176) Shri Vijay Bhalekar 177) Shri. Abhinandan Patil 178) Shri Siddhesha Gupte 179) Shri Vilas Rokde 180) Shri Madhukar Shankhapal 181) Shri Bhaskar Jagtap 182) Shri Shrikant Kulkarni 183) Shri. Prakash Gawde 184) Shri. Datta Patil 185) Shri. Anna Sakre 186) Miss. Nayan Naik 187) Miss Nanda Sonawane 188) Miss Aarati Gupte 189) Miss Sangeeta Gupte 190) Sou. Mangala Joshi 191) Shri. Datta Rane 192) Shri. Shantaram Surve 193) Shri Shankar Kambli 194) Shri. Suneel Kambli 195) Sou. Vidya Khandawe Umarawati 196) Shri Narayan Vasudo Phal, Bombay 197) Shri. Mohan Madhukar Khandwe 198) Shri Suresh Maruti Bhosale, Natepute 199) Shri. Tanaji Laxman Pale, Pandharpur 200) Pandit Tukaram Dhumal 201) Shri Nana Krishna Wadekar, 202) Shri Yadav Bom.

Weather :- the weather at Shirdi was quite healthy during this month. Due to scanty rain last year some water shortage was felt. The days have started getting hotter every day.



श्रीसाईलीला

हिंदी विभाग

अनुक्रमणिका

जुलई १९८३

पृष्ठ

१ बन्धु सखा	श्री शिवदत्त रामपाल जोशी	५०
२ संकल्प कैसे पूरा हुआ	श्री एन्. एन्. कर्महे	५१
३ साईं मन्दिर	श्रीमती प्रेमलता मेढ	५३
४ शिष्य की परीक्षा	सौ. तारादेवी मालवणकर	५४
५ भजन	श्री लक्ष्मण बापूराव रापतवार	५८
६ शिर्डी के वार्षिक अधिवेशन	श्रीमती उमा दास	५९
७ साईं! साथ सदा मेरे	श्री राधाकृष्ण गुप्ता 'चेतन'	६१
८ चँदन गंध तुम्हारी साईं	श्री विजय	६२
९ साईं भगवान ही हमारा सहारा है	सौ. सिंधु देवीदास मुळीक	६३



बन्धु सखा

लक्ष्मीपति विष्णु
बड़े दयालू
महा कृपालू
दीनों को गले लगाए
दीनबन्धु कहलाए !

बड़ा हौसला दीन का
लक्ष्मी को भाभी माना
उसको ताने मारे
भाभी ने उसे छकाया
दीनता गले लगाए
जीवन बिताए !

लक्ष्मीपति पिता
लक्ष्मी माता
मां का प्यार वो पाता
दुखनिवारण हो जाता !

बन्धु की व्यथा सुनी
सुनो अब कथा सखा की
श्री कृष्ण
पार्य सारथी
कुरुक्षेत्र में
गीता का पाठ पढाया !

बोले पार्य .
हे नाथ
वर्षों से मैं साथ
रहा अज्ञानी
भेद नहीं पाया !

तू सखा रहा था मेरा
अब शरणागत
समर्पण पूर्ण हुआ, तेरा
माया का परदा हटा
ज्ञान की ज्योत जली
हो कर्म को अग्रसर
मुक्ति का व्दार खुला !

प्रभू को माता-पिता ही मानो
बन्धु सखा बन मत इतराओ
भले पूज्य जन दें सम्मान
गले लगाएं दे वरदान
करो प्रार्थना एक ही
प्रभो दो चरणों में ही स्थान !

शिवदत्त रामपाल जोशी

७, अर्चना, महात्मा गांधी रोड, घाटकोपर (पूर्व) बम्बई ४०० ०७७



संकल्प कैसे पूरा हुआ

सन् १९७२ में श्री जे. पी. पाठक तहसील्दार के सम्पर्क में आने पर मुझे शिरडी साई बाबा के विषय में प्रारम्भिक ज्ञान प्राप्त हुआ। साई लीला और साईसच्चरित भी पढ़ने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ उसमें उल्लेख है कि यह कोई व्यक्ति कोई संकल्प करता है तो साई उसे पूरा करा देते हैं। ऐसी ही एक घटना मेरे साथ भी हुई।

मैंने संकल्प किया था कि शिरडी में मैं ग्यारह रुपये का दान करूंगा। तीन बार यात्रा की सब तैयारी करने के बाद भी शिरडीयात्रा स्थगित करनी पड़ी क्योंकि मैं वहां की यात्रा अकेले ही करना चाहता था। मैं यह सोचता था कि अपरिचित स्थान में परिवार सहित यात्रा में सब को असुविधा होगी। दिसम्बर ७२ में मेरे खाते में केवल तीन दिनों का अवकाश शेष था। इसी माह में मुझे कवधा से शिमगा स्थानान्तर आदेश प्राप्त हुआ। मैंने घर का सामान बांध लिया। यात्रा और वेतन अग्रिम निकाल लिया। कार्य भार सोपने के तुरन्त बाद कार्यभार ग्रहण करने की अवधि का लाभ उठा कर मैंने पूरे परिवार के साथ शिरडी की यात्रा प्रारम्भ कर दी क्योंकि आर्थिक समस्या और अवकाश की समस्या की व्यवस्था हो ही चुकी थी। बिना किसी असुविधा के हमलोग लगभग रात्रि १० बजे शिरडी पहुंचे। उस दिन गुरुवार था अतः रात्रि की शोभायात्रा देखने और पालखी उठाने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ। दुसरे दिन दत्तजयन्ती थी। संस्था कार्यालय में मैंने ग्यारह रुपये दान लिए दिया। मुझे जो रसीद मिली उसमें पूजा अर्चना के सामने ग्यारह रुपये लिखा था। मैंने सम्बधित लेखा पाल से कहा कि इस राशि को दान के खाते में लिख दीजिये। उन्होंने ने कहा कि इससे कोई अन्तर नहीं पडता। अभिषेक तथा पूजा के बाद हमलोग चावडी और व्दारकामाई मस्जिद गये एवं बाजार से कुछ सामान भी खरीदे।

दोपहर की आरती में जब मैं सम्मिलित हुआ उस समय वाद्य यन्त्रों की आवाज और भक्तों की आरती गायन के बीच मुझे ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ की शिरडी साई नाथ मुझ से कह रहे हैं कि तुमने ग्यारह रुपये दान देने को कहा था

अभी तक नहीं दिये हो तुरन्त ही दे डालो । मुझे बंचैनी लगने लगी । मन बड़ा अशान्त हो गया । मैंने मन ही मन बाबा से प्रार्थना की कि मैं ग्यारह रुपये देना चाहता हूँ आप स्वयं आकर ले लें ।

शाम को हम लोग व्दारकामाई मस्जिद में बैठे थे । घनी काली ढाडी और काली मूछ वाला एक व्यक्ति कुछ लोगों के बीच बैठा था और कह रहा था कि वह पशुपति नाथ का रहने वाला है । वह विश्वनाथ बाबा के दर्शन करने काशी आया था । उसे आदेश हुआ कि बिना शिरडी यात्रा के उसकी तीर्थयात्रा पूरी नहीं होगी ! अतः वह शिरडी आ गया । ८-१० व्यक्ति वहाँ बैठे थे परन्तु उसने केवल मुझसे रुपये देने कहा मैंने उसे १-०० दे दिया । उन्होंने कहा "बस" मैंने कहा "जी" । कुछ देर में आरती का समय होने पर मैं समाधि मन्दिर चला गया । ज्योही आरती प्रारम्भ हुई मुझे पुनः ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ कि साई नाथ मुझसे कह रहे हो कि ११-०० के स्थान पर केवल एक रुपये दिया शेष १०-०० तुरन्त दो । आरती समाप्त होते ही मैं पशुपति नाथ के उस यात्री को बहुत ढूँढा पर वे नहीं मिले ।

दूसरे दिन प्रातःकाल जल्दी ही व्दारकामाई मस्जिद पहुंचकर जप सन्ध्या और पाठ पूरा कर बाबा से प्रार्थना की वे १०-०० लेकर मुझे संकल्प पूरा करने में सहायता दें ।

ज्योही विभूति लगाकर मैं व्दारकामाई मस्जिद के आंगन में आया त्योंही एक व्यक्ति ने मुझे कहा कि वह श्रृंगी देवी का पुजारी है तथा उसे तुरन्त ही जाना है । मैंने उन्हें रु १०-०० दिये और प्रणाम किया ५ मिनट बाद परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों को मैंने बताया कि रु १०-०० श्रृंगी देवी के पुजारी को देने के बाद मुझे बड़ी शांति मिली । वे लोग उनका दर्शन करना चाहते थे परन्तु श्रृंगी देवी के पुजारी का मस्जिद और बस स्टैंड में भी पता नहीं चला । उन लोगों को पशुपति नाथ के तीर्थयात्री और श्रृंगी देवी के पुजारी का दर्शन न कर पाने का दुख था ।

दोपहर की आरती में जब मैं सम्मिलित हुआ तो हार्दिक शान्ति का अनुभव हुआ और ऐसा लगा कि मैं श्रृण से उश्रृण हो गया यद्यपि मैं बाबा को उनके विविध रूपों में पहचान न सका था ।

शिरडी से कुशलता पूर्वक वापस पहुंचने पर मुझे आदेश प्राप्त हुआ कि मैं पुनः कार्यभार ग्रहण कर लूं। यह साई की ही कृपा है।

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साई मन्दिर

जब मैंने मन्दिर में साई की मूर्ति निहारी,
मेरे रोम रोम तब सिंहर उठे।
उनकी अपार अनुपम शोभा निरख कर,
मैं कैसी मतवाली हो गई थी ॥ १ ॥

जब मैंने साई का अभिषेक किया,
तब मुझे न अपनी सुध बुध रही।
मेरे मन की सारी कटुता,
न जाने कहाँ विलीन हो गई ॥ २ ॥

वहाँ न जाति पाति का भेद था,
वहाँ न ऊँच नीच में अन्तर था।
वहाँ केवल मानव, मानव था,
साई से कुछ पाने आया था ॥ ३ ॥

हाथ जोड़कर लोग खडे थे,
साई से दुवा पाने के लिए।
उनके चेहरे की मधुर स्मित निरख,
वे कृत कृतज्ञ हो रहे थे ॥ ४ ॥

श्रीमती प्रेमलता मेढ

c/o डॉ. ओ. पी. शाह नानी छिपवाड, बडौदा (गुजरात) ३९०००६



शिष्य की परीक्षा

(डॉ. राजाराम सीताराम कापडी जो के शिरडी में जनवरी दि. ३०-३१ १९८३ को सम्पन्न हुए श्री साईलीला मासिक के लेखक-कवि सम्मेलन के अध्यक्ष थे उनका एक लेख मार्च १९८३ के 'भालचन्द्र' (मराठी) मासिक में प्रसिद्ध हुआ । डॉ. कापडी का अम्यासपूर्ण मराठी लेख पढ़कर प्रभावित होने से मैंने उसका हिन्दी रूपान्तर करने का साहस किया है । मुझे आशा है डॉ. कापडीजी और भालचन्द्र मासिक के सम्पादक उनकी बिना अनुमति लेख का अनुवाद करने पर क्षमा करेंगे ।)

—अनुवादिका : सौ. तारादेवी मालवणकर

अपने शिष्य की परीक्षा लेने के अनेक मार्ग सन्तजन अपनाते हैं । साईबाबा आज के युग के अवतारी पुरुष माने गये हैं । परन्तु साईबाबा खुद को 'अनस हक्क' या 'मैं ही परमेश्वर हूँ' ऐसे कभी नहीं कहते थे ।

बाबा खुद को 'यादे हक्क' मतलब परमेश्वर का एक सेवक मानते थे । 'अनल हक्क' 'यादे हक्क' 'अल्ला तेरा भला करेगा' यह ऐसे वाक्य थे जिन्हें बाबा हमेशा प्रयोग करते थे । उनकी 'राम तेरा भला करेगा' यह उक्ती शायद सबने सुनी होगी । 'जैसा देश वैसा वेश' तो सार्थ करके दिखानेवाले बाबा थे । खुद हिन्दु है या मुसलमान वह हमेशा यही चाहते थे कि सब लोग उन्हें मुसलमान ही समझे इसका भी एक कारण था । वे हिन्दु मुसलमान के बीच का भेदभाव मिटाना चाहते थे । और बन्धुत्व स्थापित करना चाहते थे । साईबाबा सब धर्मों के एक देव थे । उनके भक्त परिवार में अधिक हिन्दु थे जो प्रातः काल से शोजतक की पूजा हिन्दु धर्म की पद्धति के अनुसार करते थे । फारसी जाती में जन्म लेने वाले सन्त भी पूज्य माने जाते हैं । परन्तु इन बातों को दुर्लक्ष कर अब भी हिन्दु धर्म का वेदो नारायण, योगाभ्यासी, प्रकांड पण्डित ऐसे लोग बाबा के समक्ष झुक जाते थे और झुक जाते हैं । अब ऐसे भी लोग उनके चरण छूने आते हैं जो एक दिन यह कहते थे कि हम बाबा के चरण नहीं छूयेंगे, दक्षिणा नहीं देंगे ।

एक बार नानासाहेब चान्दोरकर नामक साईभक्त ने उधानी दासगणू नामक व्यक्ती को साईभक्त बनाकर भजन में व्यस्त किया । वह पातञ्जल योगशास्त्र

के अभ्यास थे । उन्होंने पातञ्जल योगशास्त्र के यम, नियम, प्राणायाम, प्रत्याहार आदि आसनों का सम्पूर्ण अभ्यास किया था । परन्तु आखरी 'अंग समाधी योग' की शिक्षा प्राप्त करने में वह असमर्थ ही रहे ।

महाराज साई योगिधर । कृपा हो गयी जो मुझपर ।
शंकाएं दूर हो जायेगी ! समाधी निर्घास्त मिल जायेगी ॥

उन्होंने यह सुना था कि साईबाबा योगिधर हैं और योग साधनों में से धोती, पोति, खंडयोग, समाधी इत्यादि विषयों में वे पारंगत हैं ।

बाबा की प्रसिद्धी होने से पूर्व मध्याह्नकालमें वे अपने शरीर के स्नायु निचोडकर एक वृक्षपर डालते थे ।

कभी कभी ऐसाभी करते थे कि अपरात्री में अपने अंग प्रत्यंग के अवयव अलग करके मशीदी में कहीं कहीं बिछाकर रखते थे ।

एक बार उन्हें जैसी भयंकर खांसी हुई । तब उन्होंने प्राणायाम से प्राण मस्तक में लाकर तीन दिन समाधी लेने का निश्चय किया और निश्चयानुसार अपने परमश्रेष्ठ भक्त म्हाळसापति को यह आज्ञा दी की वह उनके शरीर की रक्षा करे । तीन दिन के उपरांत बाबा का शरीर ठन्डा पड गया और जीवित होने की हर आशाएँ दूर होने लगी । यह पता चलते ही शिरडी के मौलवी फकीरोंने साईबाबा का निवाण हो गया ऐसा निश्चित कर बाबा को समाधी देन की तैयारी करने लगे परन्तु म्हाळसापति भक्त ने इसका विरोध किया ।

निश्चित नियमानुसार प्रातः काल ही साईबाबा के देह में हलचल होने लगी । यदि म्हाळसापती ने सावधानता न रखी होती तो शिरडी के मौलवी ने समाधी पूर्व ही उन्हें समाधिस्त कर दिया होता ।

भगवान श्रीकृष्ण ने भगवद्गीता में कहा है :-

अपाने जुहति प्राणं प्राणे ऽपानं तथा ऽपरे ।

प्राणापानगती रुद्ध्वा प्राणायमपरायणाः ॥ ४ । २९ ॥

भावार्थ :- प्राणायाम इस शास्त्र में निपुण लोग कुछ देर के लिए प्राणवायु को

अपानवायु और अपानवायु को प्राणवायु बदलकर अपने हलचल रोक सकते हैं ।

साईबाबा देव ही थे । देवत्व की हर विद्या उनमें प्राप्त थी ।

नानासाहेब चान्दोरकर के साथ उनके स्नेही बाबा के दर्शन लेने आए जो विद्वान योगसाधक थे । जब वह बाबा के पास आये बाबा प्याज और रोटी खा रहे थे । इसे देखकर वह स्नेही मन में यह सोचने लगे कि 'यह अनाडी मुझे क्या समाधी योग सिखायेगा' बाबा अन्तर्धान भी जातते थे । उन्होंने अगले ही क्षण कहा " नाना जिन्हे रोटी और प्याज खाने की क्षमता हो उसीने यह खाना चाहिये, दूसरोंने नहीं, है ना ? उस उत्तर से नानासाहेब के स्नेही प्रवित हो गये । उन्होंने बाबा के चरण छू लिये, उनसे क्षमा याचना की । इसके बाद उसकी मनोकामना बाबा ने पूरी की ।

दूसरी ऐसी ही कथा से यह देखें कि बाबा अपने भक्तों की परीक्षा किस तरह लेते थे । एक दिन एक भेड़िया बाबा के दरवार में लाया गया । वह मरणोन्मुख था, उसे एकभयंकर व्यथा थी । इसकी व्यथा बाबा दूर करेंगे इसी आशा से यहाँ आये थे । जब बाबा ने देखा कि इसका मरण निश्चित है उन्होंने बडेबाबा नामक मुसलमान फकीर से आज्ञा की वह मन्त्र पठित कर उसे मुक्ती दे, परन्तु फकीर ने यह करने से इन्कार कर वहाँ से नौ दो ग्यारह हो गये ।

यह देखते ही बाबाने उनके भक्त माधवराव से यह आज्ञा की की वह सुरा लेकर उस व्यथित प्राणी को मुक्ती दे । आज्ञा होते ही पडोसी से सुरा लेकर माधवराव वहाँ उपास्थित हुए । यह सुरा देखकर बाबाने उनका मजाक उडाते कहा इससे सब्जीयाँ काटी जाती है ? यह सुनकर माधवराव लौट गये और वापस आने की हिम्मत उन्होंने नहीं की ।

बाबा उस समय दीक्षित काका की परीक्षा लेना चाहते थे । उन्होंने दीक्षित से आज्ञा की कि वह सुरा लाकर उस प्राणी को सद्गती दे । दीक्षित बाबा के परमभक्त थे । दीक्षित ने बिना संकोच किये कमर कसकर हिम्मत करके सुरा उठाया और भेड़ियों के गले की तरफ बढ़ाते हुए आखिरी बार पूछा 'इसे मारू ?' बाबा भी बिना संकोच कह दिया 'क्या देख रहे हो, देर किस बात की है मार

दो' । बाबा की आज्ञा होते ही भेड़ियों को मारने की तैयारी में जब दीक्षित ने सुरा उठाया तो अचानक बाबा की आवाज आयी "अरे, अरे यह क्या कर रहे हो तुम, जाने दो उसे, तुम ब्राह्मण होते हुए भी ऐसी ह्मकत कर रहे हो, यह तो हिंसाचार है यह करोगे तो तुम्हें नरक में भी जगह नहीं मिलेगी ।" तब अचानक दीक्षित काका अनायास बोल पड़े "बाबा, तुम तो हमारे माता, पिता हो । तुम्हीं हमारे सब कुछ हो । जो आप बोलते हो वही हमारे लिए वेदवाक्य है ।" यह सुनकर बाबा ने उसे आशीर्वाद दिया और कहा " जैसे तुकाराम महाराज को लेने विमान आया था उसी तरह तुम विमान से ही स्वर्गलोक जाओगे । कुछ दिन बाद यह सुनने में आया कि प्रसिद्ध ग्रन्थकार अण्णासाहेब दाभोलकर और काका बाबा की कथा बोलते बोलते ही अचानक दाभोलकर के बाहों में अपना सिर रखकर श्री काका दीक्षित ने आखिरी सांस ली ।

माधवराव देशपान्डे भी साईबाबा के परम भक्तों में से एक थे । प्यार से माधवराव का नाम शामा रखवा था । दीक्षित काका की परीक्षा तो हमने देख ली, अब अगली बार माधवराव की परीक्षा देखेंगे । — (अपूर्ण)

सौ. तारादेवी मालवणकर

'साई स्मृति' २५, व्हिन्सेन्ट स्केअर, दादर बम्बई ४०००१४

शिर्डी में गुरुपौर्णिमा उत्सव

हर साल के मुताबिक शिर्डी में गुरुपौर्णिमा उत्सव शनिवार दिनांक २३-७-१९८३ से सोमवार दिनांक २५-७-१९८३ तक मनाया जायगा । उत्सव का मुख्य दिन दिनांक २४-७-१९८३ होगा । आम साई भक्तों से यह प्रार्थना है की वे उत्सव के लिये शिर्डी पधारने की कृपा करें ।

क. हि. काकरे
कोर्ट रिसीन्हर, शिर्डी संस्थान

भजन

रूठ गये क्यूं साईं मोहे, भूल गये क्यूं भगवन मोहे
अब तो जीवन हो गया भारी, कृपा करो अब मोरे साईं

डर लागत है मन को मोरे, दया करो अब भगवन मोहे
साईं अब तुम दौडकर आवो, उदास मन को मोरे जगा दो
शक्ति नहीं है तन मे मेरे, भक्ति नहीं है मन मे मेरे
दुआ दे दो बाबा मुझको, तन और मन दोनों जगा दो
फिर से उमंग पैदा कर दो, दर्शन को मांहे शिडी बुलावो
श्रद्धा मुझमे आवे ऐसी, हर जा देखूं तुझको साईं ॥ १ ॥

दृष्टान्त मुझको देकर बाबा, मनवा कर दो पक्का मोहा
उत्साह पैदा कर दो मुझ मे, गीतावली लिखवाले मुझसे
भय को मन से पार भगा दो, नयी रोशनी उसमे जगा दो
कुछ ऐसैं करम मुझसे होवे, महिमा बाबा तेरी ही बडे
एक पल भी मुझे फुरसत न मिले, साईंनाम का जप ही चले
ऐसी शुध्दी कर दो मन मे, तस्वीर साईं की बैठे जिसमे ॥ २ ॥

बैठे ही बैठे दिल धवराता, मनवा मोहा डगमग करता
ऐसी करणी कर दो साईं, हिम्मत जिससे आवे माई
जा सकूं मैं मन्दिर दरगाह, कर सकूं मैं तीरथ यात्रा
लिख सकूं मैं गीत माला, गा सकूं मैं तेरी महिमा
प्रसन्न रहे यह मनवा मेरा, कुछ भी रहे ना उसको परवा
साईंदास लक्ष्मण को आस लगी, दर्शन दे दो उसको साईं ॥ ३ ॥

रूठ गये क्यूं साईं मोह, भूल गये क्यूं भगवन मोहे
अब तो जीवन हो गया भारी, कृपा करो अब मोरे साईं

लक्ष्मण बापूराव रापतवार

रिटायर्ड ड्राफ्टसमन किल्ला बाटर वर्क्स, नांदेड



शिर्डी के वार्षिक अधिवेशन

कल्याणामय बाबा की अनुकंपा से प्रतिवर्ष हमें पुनीत शिर्डी धाम के दर्शन का अपारो आनन्द प्राप्त होता रहता है । परन्तु चालु वर्ष १९८३ जनवरी में नवम वार्षिक अधिवेशन के सुअसर पर सम्मेलन में भाग लेने व बाबा के पवित्र धाम के दर्शन करने का सौभाग्य अत्यंत अनोखा रहा—जो कि सामान्य लेखनी से प्रस्तुत करना अत्यंत कठिन है ।

‘साई सत् चरित्र’ के अनुसार हमें जानकारी है कि “नौ” अंक हमेशा शुभ होता है और इस प्रकार यह नवम अधिवेशन भी । यह अधिवेशन हमें उत्तर में बद्रीनाथ (हिमालय) से लेकर दक्षिण में तामिलनाडु, कर्नाटक आदि, पूर्वे में कलकत्ता व पश्चिम में अहमदाबाद, बडौदा (गुजरात) आदि स्थान से आये हुए असंख्य साई भक्त कवियों व लेखकों से मिलने तथा पारस्परिक विचार विनिमय करने का अवसर प्रदान किया । यह सम्मेलन यद्यपि मात्र दो दिन का ही था—पर प्रतीत होता था जैसे हम एक दूसरे से बहुत दीर्घ समय से सपरिचित हैं ।

(इस सम्मेलन में हमें एक और विशेष सुअवसर प्रदान किया कि उन महान विभूतियों के दर्शन प्राप्त करना व बाबा के बारे में उनके व्यक्तिगत अनुभव के भ्रमण भी सुनना जिन्होंने स्वयं अपने नेत्रों से बाबा के चलते फिरते भौतिक शरीर को देखने को और बाबा के सुमधुर कंठस्वर सुनने का एवं बाबा के चरणस्पर्श करने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त किया था । उन्होंने व्यक्तियों से बाबा के बारे में आंखों देखा हाल सुनना हमारे परम सौभाग्य की बात है ।

वे महान विभूतियाँ हैं नवम अधिवेशन के अध्यक्ष डॉ. कापडीसाहेब और भूतपूर्व अध्यक्षगण जानासाहेब रासने, श्रीमती सरोजनी मुले, डॉ. दाभोलकर, श्री गजानन चिताम्बर आदि जो मंच पर उपस्थित थे । बाबा के अंतरंग महान भक्त व पार्षद काका महाजनी की सुपत्री श्रीमती सरोजनी मुले के साथ भेंट वार्ता से पता चला कि वह बाबा की महा समाधि के पूर्व ८ या ९ साल की अवस्था तक बाबा के सान्निध्य में रहीं थीं तथा उनकी गोद में बैठकर, प्यार लेने का सौभाग्य भी प्राप्त किया था । बाबा प्यार से उन्हें ‘मैना’ नाम से पुकारते थे ।

श्री नानासाहेब रासने के पिता दामुअण्णासाहेब बाबा के अनन्य भक्त व सेवक रहे । उनके कई पलियाँ होते हुये भी काफी दिन तक निःसन्तान रहने के लिये वह बेहद दुःखी थे । हेमाडपन्त जी के “साई सत् चरित्र” से सबको ज्ञात होगा कि बाद में बाबा के आशीर्वादस्वरूप चार आम से उन्हे चार पुत्र रत्न हुये थे । रासनेसाहेब से पता चला कि आप बाबा की महा-समाधि के पूर्व १८/१९ साल की उम्र तक उनके सन्निध्य में रहे थे ।

बाबा निःसन्देह भगवान के अवतार थे । परन्तु इन विभूतियों ने बाबा के पार्थिव शरीर के सान्निध्य का लाभ प्राप्त किया था । वे सब भी कितने महान हैं । उनके पूर्व जन्म के कर्मफल कितने उँचे रहे जो उन्हे साक्षात् ईश्वर के साथ खेलकूद व वार्तालाप करने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ । घन्य है, इन महान व्यक्तियों का जीवन व उनकी पूर्वजन्म की साधना ।

इस अधिवेशन में भाग लेने आये हिन्दी, मराठी व अंग्रेजी के लेखकों और कवियों से मिलकर व विचार-विमर्श करके अत्यन्त आनन्द हुआ । आशातीत सहृदयता, व मधुर व स्निग्ध वातावरण में कार्यक्रम चला । प्रोफेसर गुन्डेरारव जी पटवारी के विचार व सुझाव विशेष सगहनीय रहे । खीरी (उ. प्र.) के डॉ. ब्रजमोहन मौर्य, बिदरके डॉ. द्विबारे व श्रीमती द्विबारे, बाबा प्रति प्रगाढ निष्ठा श्रद्धा व सबूरी के लिये बघाई के पात्र हैं । हैदराबाद के हनुमन्त जी राव से मिलकर बहुत आनन्द प्राप्त हुआ । हनुमन्त जी कतिपय विभूतियों में से एक है जिनको केवल स्वप्न में ही नहीं, परन्तु जाग्रतावस्था में भी बाबा के दर्शन प्राप्त हुए ।

बाबा की अनुकम्पा से दो दिन का अधिवेशन अत्यन्त हर्ष-उल्लास के साथ समाप्त हुआ । देश के विभिन्न स्थानों से आये हुये प्रतिनिधिगण बाबा की स्नेहमयी छत्रछाया में इस प्रकार आपस में घुलमिल गये थे, देखने में एक परिवार के सदस्य जैसे प्रतीत होते थे । अन्त में विदाई का समय आया जो कि अत्यन्त दुःखद, बेदनापूर्ण व मार्मिक था । बाबा के चरणवन्दना के उपरान्त अगले वर्ष पुनः मिलने की आशा लेकर हम सब अपने अपने स्थान को प्रस्थान किये ।

इस अधिवेशन की अपार सफलता के लिये काकरेसाहेब, चेन्दवणकरसाहेब, डॉ. परचुरेसाहेब व संस्थान के समस्त अधिकारी व कर्मचारीगण विशेष रूप से सभाई के पात्र है !

श्रीमती उमा दास

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

साई! साथ सदा मेरे

जहाँ जहाँ मैं जाता, साई! साथ सदा तू मेरे
जब जब तेरा ध्यान लगाता, घिरते विषय घनेरे ॥ ५ ॥

जनम् दिया और ढाली काया
रक्त मांस की है ये माया
जन्म-मरण के परचक्रों में, जीव लगाता फेरे ॥ १ ॥

'अहंकार' की है यह कारा
कैसे होगा फिर छुटकारा
जनम् से ही आता है यह, बीच में तेरे-मेरे ॥ २ ॥

तू तो रहता सदा साथ में
फिर क्यों आता नहीं हाथ में?
दर्शन हेतु मन-प्राण मेरे, व्याकुल सांझ सबेरे ॥ ३ ॥

राधाकृष्ण गुप्ता 'चेतन'

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

चँदन गंध तुम्हारी साईं

चँदन गंध तुम्हारी साईं

जनम जनम के पुण्य हमारे मिली व्दारिका माई

महल अटारी छोड़ वो आए
सुखमय नीद जो नित सोते हैं
दुखी दीन निर्धन जन आए
शूल शिला पर जो सोते हैं

तेरी नगरी सबको भाई

चँदन गंध तुम्हारी साईं

मिली व्दारिका माई

बायजा माँ जसुदा बन आई

मीग नेह से भाखरी खाई

युग युग से भटके पंथीको

नीम तले तूने राह दिखाई

स्तुति तेरी जगती ने गाई

चँदन गंध तुम्हारी साईं

मिली व्दारिका माई

वेद तेरे शब्दों के बन्दी

इंगित नाचे माया नटनी

राग व्देष से मुक्ति दिलाई

वीतराग की पहन के कफनी

प्रेमसुधा निशदिन बरसाई

चँदन गंध तुम्हारी साईं

मिली व्दारिका माई

विजय

७६, पटौदी हाऊस, नई दिल्ली - ११० ००१



साई भगवान ही हमारा सहारा है

साई यह एक ममतामयी स्वप्न है। जिस तरह बालक बार बार जिरह करके माँ को मनाता है और माँ सब कामकाज छोड़कर बालक के पास दौड़कर आती है और उसे हृदय से लगाकर उसकी जिद पूरी करती है। इसी तरह जब कोई व्यक्ति हर तरफ से दुख से ग्रस्त हो जाता है तो उसे माँस्वरूप भगवान की याद आती है और वह आर्तिस्वर से आराध्य दैवता को आवाज देता है तब भगवान भी अपना सब छोड़कर उसकी ओर शीघ्र दौड़ जाते हैं। शरीर के अन्दर उसे हुये हृदय में शरीर को बनने बिगाड़ने की शक्ति है। संशयग्रस्त साया जब मानव पटल से दूर हो जाता है और उस जगह यदि उसके आराध्य देव अपना स्थान ग्रहण कर लेते हैं तब चारी और मानव को केवल प्रकाश और आनन्द ही दिखायी देता है। दुख रूप घेरा उससे बहोत दूर निकल जाता है। साईनाथ महाराज यह हमारे दुखरूपी भवसागर से पार करने वाले नाविक है।

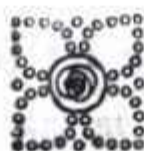
हमारे जीवन की हर मोड़ पर साई भगवान साथ देते हैं। जनवरी १९८२ में मुझे लडकी एवं दामाद के साथ मध्य प्रदेश डोंगरगढ की माँ त्रैमलश्वरी देवी के दर्शन को जाना था। मेरी ससुराल रायपूर जिला के कुम्हारी गाव में है। हम दोपहर तीन बजे की रेल से जाने वाले थे। किन्तु अधिक थन्ड की वजह से हमने कार्यक्रम बदलकर ११ की गाडी से जाना निश्चित किया। मैं दस बजे नौकरी से छुट्टी लेकर आनेवाली थी। इसलिये मेरे दामाद ने टिकिट ऑफिस से टिकिट निकाल ली और मेरा भतिजा मुझे ढंने आया तो किसी कारणवश मुझे नौकरी से छुट्टी लेने में देर होने लगी तो मैंने उसे बताया की रेलवे स्टेशन पहुचकर गाडी में बैठ जाओ मैं ठीक वक्त पर आकर गाडी पकडुंगी। तब वे सब लोग रिक्सा में बैठकर स्टेशन की ओर रवाना हुये। इसके पश्चात् मैं गाडी छुटने के समय पर स्टेशन पहुची मगर मुझे प्लॅटफॉर्म पर वह लोग दिखायी नहीं दिये। मैंने सोचा वह लोग गाडी में बैठे होंगे। मैं अगले स्टेशन पर उनसे मिल लुगी। ऐसा सोचकर मैं अपने भतिजे के साथ गाडी में बैठ गयी। किन्तु जब हमने आगे चलकर पूरी गाडी में जब उन्हें ढुंढा तब उनका कही पता नहीं था। उस समय मेरे दिल में बहुत घबराहट होने लगी। मेरे पास रेल का टिकिट नहीं था। वह उन लोगों के पास था। मेरा भतिजा

गोंदिया उतरने वाला था । हमारे पास पैसा भी ज्यादा नहीं था । हर पल हर घड़ी आखों के सामने अन्धेरा छाने लगा । तब मेरा सहारा केवल साईनाथ था । गोंदिया स्टेशन आते ही मेरा भतिजा उतर गया और मैं अकेली रह गयी । साईनाथ के सहारे मैं दुर्ग तक पहुँच गयी । दुर्ग से कुम्हारी का टिकिट लेकर अकेली शाम सात बजे घर पहुँच गयी ।

शायद रुके हुये लोग शाम की गाड़ी से आयेंगे इसलिये मेरे पति नौ बजे दुर्ग स्टेशन पहुँचे । पर वह लोग न ही आये । मेरी चिन्ता और बढ़ गयी जब दूसरे दिन सबेरे वह लोग घर पहुँचे तब मेरी सब चिन्ताये दूर हो गयी ।

यह साई भगवान ही हमारा एक आधारस्तंभ है । ईश्वर ने हमें सब कुछ दिया है । हृदय का रुख जिस ओर हो उसी तरह हम मोड़ लेते हैं । जब अनन्त दुख हमारे सामने यमदूत के समान खड़े रहते हैं तब हम हताश हो जाते हैं । यदि हम अपना सब विकास छोड़कर उस परमपूज्य साई के चरणों में अपना हृदय विनम्र करे तो वह हमें अपने हृदय में स्थान देता है । फिर हम हमारे नहीं होते । हमारी समस्या अपनी नहीं होती । वह उसकी ही होती है और फिर वह प्रतिक्षण हमारे साथ रहते हैं । इसलिये हमें हमारे दुखों से मुक्त होकर विचलित न होकर अपना पूरा ध्यान अपने आराध्य देवता की ओर लगाना चाहिये । उसका उपयोग बुरें कर्मों की ओर न लगाकर केवल सत्कर्मों की ओर चलना चाहिये । जिस दिन दिल में बुराई आयी वह हम से उसी वक्त कोसों दूर निकल जायेगी । कलियुग में साई भगवान यह एक ऐसी देन है जो मानव को अति सरलता में प्राप्त होती है । उसके लिये तन और धन की जरूरी नहीं । महान यज्ञ की जरूरी नहीं । जरूरी है सिर्फ पवित्र मन की । साईनाथ हमारे हैं और हम उनके हैं । कबीर जी ने कहा है “घट घट में वह साई समता । कटुक वचन मत बोलरे । घुंघट के पट खोल रे । तो हि पिया मिलेंगे ।”

सौ. सिंधु देविदास मुळीक
उंटखाना, अशोकचौक, नागपुर



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