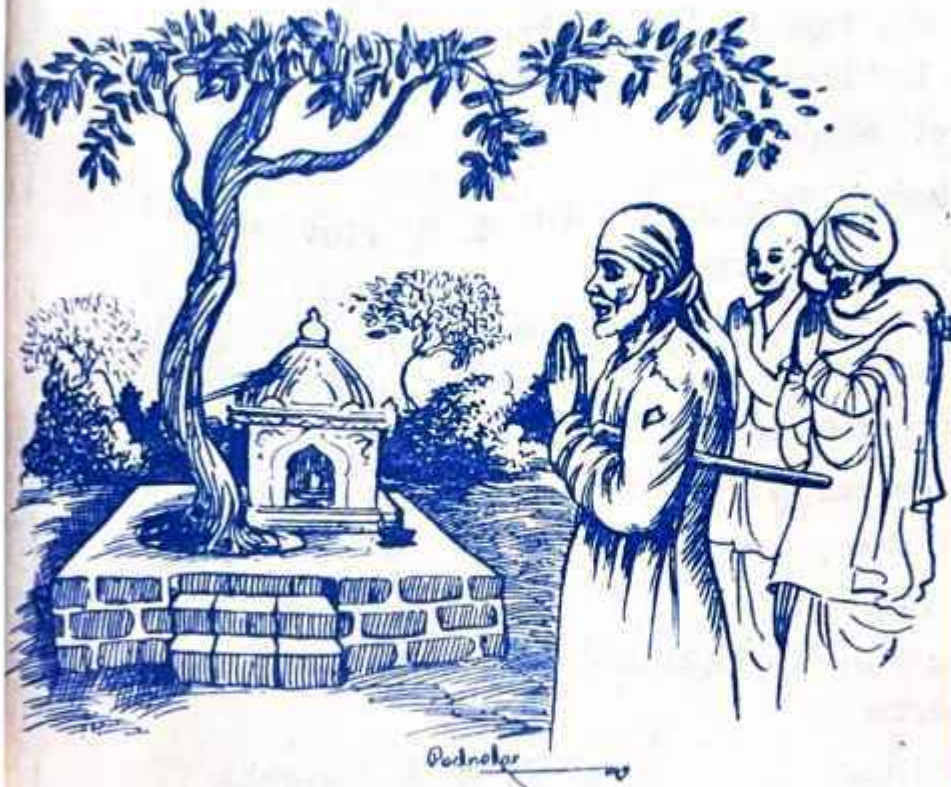


SHRI

SAI LEELA



Shri Baba paying homage
to His Guru's Samadhi



August

60 Paise

1979

SHRI SAI LEELA

(Official Organ of Shirdi Sansthan)



TO GUIDE THE WORLD ON THE RIGHT PATH
IS THE PRINCIPAL AIM OF SHRI SAI LEELA.

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No. 5

Faith and Friendship

Love all. Love is the greatest giver of happiness. With love comes faith in God and man. Faith is the greatest wealth of man, it is the only wealth worth striving for. Faith in God and Man fills the mind with hope, joy and courage. Dejection and depression disappear. You feel calm and serene within and without. Entire creation becomes your friend and helper. All join with you in joy.

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EDITORIAL

Correcting People

It is a common experience that bad news travels faster than good one. Similarly vices are cultivated more easily than virtues. In our normal life we often see people with so many bad habits. A man's character is usually formed and framed in his childhood. The mother, father and teacher, in whose close contact a child grows and whom the child usually imitates, therefore, have great responsibility in shaping a child's character. If they do not exercise proper control over the child in his childhood, he naturally goes astray and cultivates bad habits. The environments and the company of other children also affects a child's character to a certain extent; but if the trio, referred to above, is strong enough, then it is able to overcome other influences and is able to guide the child to steer on the proper road.

In the circumstances described above, it has been taken for granted that the trio always exists; but in some cases the trio may not exist. A child may unfortunately not have his father or his mother. Certain children may not have had the opportunity of attending the school and therefore in the absence of these guarding spirits, the children might be going astray; but apart from these unlucky children there are certain defiant children, who take pride in flouting the orders of their parents and elders and such children also are led to vices.

During the course of our contact with different people in the society, we often come across such people, who have some vice or the other. Our reactions with these people are of various type. We sometimes feel pity for these people. Sometimes we start hating these people. Sometimes we even get angry with these people; but in our heart of hearts, we have a desire to correct these people and cure them of their vice. Even though

we may have this desire, it is often times not practicable to do it, because the person concerned is not receptive. If we have got some authority over such a person, then he will at least listen to us; but in other cases the person concerned may not listen to us at all. In some cases he may even reply to us in an offensive language; but as good citizens we should not be disheartened by such experiences. For the good of the society, in general, we have got to make an effort to correct these people.

After the fame of Shri Sai Baba started spreading in Maharashtra and Marathwada, many devotees started visiting Shirdi for taking Baba's darshan. Among these devotees, there used to be people of different temperaments. Shri Sai Baba had to tackle all these people. He being omniscient, He would know the ways of behaviours of all of them. In the Sai Satcharita we find the following two cases where Shri Sai Baba corrected slanderers. In chapter No. 19, the following account is given :-

"Once it so happened that a Bhakta of Baba reviled another behind his back before other people. Leaving aside merits, he dwelt on the faults of his brother and spoke so sarcastically that the hearers were disgusted. Generally we see that people have a tendency to scandalize others unnecessarily and this brings on hatred and ill-will. Saints see scandal in another light. They say that there are various ways of cleaning or removing dirt, viz. by means of earth, water and soap, etc., but a scandal-monger has got a way of his own. He removes the dirt (faults) of others by his tongue; so in a way he obliges the person whom he reviles and for this he is to be thanked. Sai Baba had his own method of correcting the scandal-monger. He knew by His omniscience what the slanderer had done and when he met him at noon near the Lendi Baug, Baba pointed out to him a pig that was eating filth near the fence and said to him, "Behold how, with what relish it is gorging dung. Your conduct is similar. You go on reviling your own brethren to your heart's content. After performing many deeds of merit, you are born a man and if you

act like this, will Shirdi help you in any way?" Needless to say that the Bhakta took the lesson to his heart and went away'. (Page 103, Chapter 19, Sai Satcharita, 8th edition 1978)

What a nice way of correcting a person of his bad habit! Another example of this type is given in chapter no. XXI. This refers to a pleader from Pandharpur. The whole episode is narrated by Shri Dabholkar as follows:—

“Pandharpur Pleader

We shall close this chapter with a short story showing Baba's omniscience and His using it for correcting people and setting them on the right path. Once a pleader from Pandharpur came to Shirdi, went to the Masjid, saw Sai Baba, fell at his feet and, without being asked, offered some Dakshina and sat in a corner eager to hear the talk that was going on. Then Baba turned His face towards him and said, “How cunning the people are! They fall at the feet, offer Dakshina, but inwardly give abuses behind the back. Is not this wonderful?” This cap (remark) fitted the pleader and he wore it. None understood the remark. The pleader grasped it but kept silent. When they returned to the Wada the pleader said to Kakasaheb Dixit, “What Baba remarked was perfectly right. The dart (remark) was aimed at me. It was a hint to me that I should not indulge in reviling or scandalizing others. When the subjudge or munsiff of Pandharpur (Mr. Noolkar) came and stayed here for the improvement of his health; a discussion about this matter was going on in the bar room at Pandhapur (as it ever happens in many a bar room). It was said or discussed there whether the ailments from which the sub-judge suffered were ever likely to be got rid of without medicines, by merely going after Sai Baba, and whether it was proper for an educated man like the sub-judge to have recourse to such methods. The subjudge was taken to task, i. e. was criticised, as also Sai Baba. I also took some part in this affair; and now Sai Baba showed the impropriety of my conduct. This is not a rebuke to me but a favour, an advice that I should not

indulge in any scandal or slander of others and not interfere unnecessarily in others' affairs."

Shirdi is about 100 Koss (Koss = 3 miles) distant from Pandharpur; still Baba by His omniscience knew what transpired there in the bar-room. The intervening places—rivers, jungles and mountains—were not a bar to His all-perceiving sight and He could see or read the hearts of all. There was nothing secret or veiled from Him. Everything far or near, was plain and clear to Him as broad daylight. Let a man be far or near, he cannot avoid the all-pervading gaze of Sai Baba. From this incident, the pleader took the lesson that he should never speak ill of others, nor unnecessarily criticize them. Thus his evil tendency was completely got rid of and he was set on the right path.

Though the story refers to a pleader, still it is applicable to all. All should, therefore, take this lesson to heart and profit thereby". (Pages 114-115, Chapter XXI; Sai Satcharita, 8th edition 1978)

It will be seen from the above two examples that Shri Sai Baba had peculiar way of behaving with the people. He never liked any out-of-the way behaviour. He wanted that all people should behave soberly. Nobody should talk ill about others especially behind their back. He therefore selected the proper opportunity to advise a person regarding his bad habit. The saints, all over the world, have similarly been guiding their devotees to proceed on the right path. We Sai devotees can learn much from the two examples quoted above. In the first place we should know that Shri Baba does not like such bad things as slander, flasehood, wicked thoughts etc. Therefore as his devotees, we have not to entertain any of them. The second thing is this that Shri Baba, in his own way tried to correct such people with vices, whenever he came across them. Hence we also should always try to correct the people, who may be going astray and bring them on the path of righteousness. ★

SHRI SHIVALEELAMRIT

(Continued from July 1979 issue)

By:- Shri S. N. Huddar

CHAPTER 7

Shive Yogi Rishabha And Bhadraya

Padmakar, a Vaishya, was the Ruler of the city. He was very liberal and wealthy. He asked Sumati about her whereabouts. She narrated all her miserable story. Hearing it, Padmakar took pity on her and said that it was a bad luck that Vidarbha's chief Rani, Sumati, was roaming about as an orphan. Padmakar said, "you are like my daughter. You may live in the neighbouring house." He made all arrangements for her to stay there. He asked the best physicians in his city to treat her and her child; but there was no relief. Sumati said, "unless God Shiva comes in the form of a physician, there is no hope of recovery." There was relapse and the child ultimately expired. Sumati lamented bitterly on his death: Padmakar and others tried to console her; but all their efforts were in vain.

Fortunately Rishabha yogi came there. Padmakar received him and worshipped him respectfully. He told the Rishi all about Sumati. Rishabha then gave some advice to Sumati. He said, "why are you mourning? Do you know the past life of your husband, son and father? You are moving through 84 lakh yonies. Whence did the relatives of different yonies come and where did they go? You have taken many births in the past and still you will have many more births. For whose son are you weeping? Whence did you get the son and where did he go? Whence did you and these men come and where will you and they go? The soul is god Shiva and he is eternal. Our body is for the time being and it is perishable. The soul is unperishable and has no brothers and sons. You are weeping for the perishable body in vain. There arise waves and bubbles in the water, which

vanish in no time. Who can sit in the shadow of the tree which is painted in a picture? Can the fire in a picture burn anything? This body is an abode of diseases, germs and worms, ocean of sins or a sky of doubts. It is full of urine, cough, flesh, blood, and a bundle of bones covered with skin. Mother's menses and father's semen are impure and not true. If one does not surrender to God, how can one get rid of the cycle of birth and death? Sumati, tell me where are your husbands of past births. This is all illusion. The son was given to you by god. If god takes him back, why should you mourn? This body is built of qualities and five sticks of bamboos. When it will be burnt or when these clothes will get worn out, cannot be said. All this is like an illusion or a dream. All the persons are sinful, who long for wealth, corn and sons. Logs of wood meet in the Ganga and disperse, so do the males and females come together and depart. Such is this false game.

The two birds, life and soul, live on the illusory family tree. The soul is witnessing all, while life eats the fruits of senses. After eating the object of senses, he forgets himself and has birth and death again. The virtuous people amongst them surrender to Sadguru and worship Shiva and get relieved of the worldly miseries." Hearing this, Sumati and Padmakar bowed to Rishabha Muni and said, "you are omnipotent, what can you not do? You are Umaraman Shiva, who runs to assist your devotees." The Shiva Yogi then told Sumati the Mrityunjaya mantra and applied 'vibhuti' to her and her son. Both were soon transformed into divine bodies. All the eruptions on their bodies had vanished. The boy looked bright. Rishabha yogi advised him to worship God Shiva. As 'paras' touches the iron, which is transformed into gold, similarly the mother and the son became meritorious. Padmakar wondered the great power of the Guru-mantra. Sadguru can save anyone from the 'Kal Mrityu' also.

Sumati placed her son at the feet of the Yogi and said, "The cost of your favour would not be repaid, even if I offer

the shoes of my skin for your holy feet." The Shiva Yogi said, "your son will have a long life and all glory. I name him as 'Bhadrayu'. His fame will spread in all the three lokas. I shall live here till your son learns 14 Vidyas and 64 arts. Do not disclose that he is a prince. Recite Mrityunjaya mantra thrice with devotion." Shiva yogi then disappeared.

Padmakar was delighted. He loved Bhadrayu more than his son Sunaya. Padmakar spent money and celebrated the thread ceremonies of both these boys. He made them conversant with the Vedas and Shastras. Bhadrayu became 12 years old. He was brave and of good morale. He served his mother Sumati.

Shiva Yogi appeared suddenly. Sumati and Bhadrayu fell at his feet, worshipped him, had his 'pad-tirth' and took rounds. Sumati said, "I am having this pleasing son due to your blessings."

Shiva Yogi then taught Bhadrayu politics and social behaviour as per Vedashastra and Puranas and asked him to behave as per religion and morality. He said further, "Have respect for the mother, father and guru and always protect the cows, the Brahmins and the subjects. See Shri Shiva in all the living beings. Do not give up 'Varnashram' behaviour. Do not promise without thinking well of the past and the future, speak wise words. Think of the friends and the enemies, the income and expenditure and the servants, giving good name or ill fame. Take care of the guest, god, friend, master, Vedas, Agnihotra, animals, agriculture, wealth, vidya, carelessness of issues, wife, enemies, servants, house, home affairs, disease and causes of loss. Follow the path of the learned and wise persons. Do not speak ill of the mother, father and yati. Do not enquire about the caste of the atithi (guest) coming at the time of Vaishwadeo. Give food and clothes to all in order to please Shri Shiva. Do favour, but do not trouble any body. Do not abuse, blame or discuss vainly. Always recite Shiva name. Consider other's wealth and females as vomit. Daily bath, homa, shiva-pooja, recitation, five yadnyas,

protecting cows and brahmins, listening to, thinking, meditating, learning of Shastras should be duly continued. There should be moderation in sex act, sleep and meals. Sex act is allowed with one's wife; with other females it is undesirable. Punish the enemies; but bow to saints and brahmins. Be humble before the saints and the devotees. Envy the enemies of the family; but be friendly with all others. Exhibit strength to the wicked; but bow to the good. Conquer the earth with valour; but be humble before the brahmins. The tongue is adored by recitation of God's name, the hands by giving in charity, the feet by visiting mandirs and the holy places, the ears by hearing Puranas, keertan and the eyes by meditating on the Shiva-roop. Smell the 'Bel' leaves, removed from idols or Linga. Show favour to the weak, orphan and the illiterate. Love God and be friendly with goodness. Act morally in the game of hunting. Vidya, friendship, merit power of memory, enthusiasm, courage, charity and forbearance should be progressive. One should not disclose one's wealth, age, defects, sex-act, medicine, mantra, charity, honour and dishonour. Do not go to the meeting of the wicked, atheist, deceit, cheat, cruel, thieves, adulterers, treacherous and vulgar people. Do not see the despisers of Shiva, drunkards, doers of illegal acts with guru's wife, dacoits and the irreligious. Do not be too much attached to one's wife, wealth and sons. Do family affairs selflessly. Be friendly with brothers, relatives, father-in-law and men, who wear 'rudraksh' on the neck, head and hands. Do not give up Shiva worship for any reason any time."

Shiva yogi taught Bhadrayu to wear Shiva Kavch on his body and said "If vibhuti or bhasma is applied all over the body, there will be no harm from weapons in the battle. Chanting of Mrityunjaya mantra will save from the fear of death. One, who attacks or kills brahmins, steals on the path, should be killed. Observe Somwar and Shivaratrivrat. Listen to Shiva and Hari Keertan at all costs. Do not have sex-act on Mahaparva, Anniversary-day, Vyatipat, Vaidhriti, Sankranti and unauspicious days. Do

(Continued on page 11)

One Lac and Twentyfive Thousand Laddus And Equal Number of Modakas !!!

Whether one believes in spirituality or religion or not, for the sake of the national life, one has to get hold on spirituality and religion and try to keep them.

The people of Khjarana, a suburb of Indore, 5 kms. off from Indore, offered as a Naivedya to Lord Ganesh one lac and twentyfive thousand laddus and the same number of modakas on 3rd April 1979.

The history of this temple of Shri Ganesh is as follows. During the reign of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, an image of Lord Ganesh was found while digging a well. In all three images were unearthed, one very big and two smaller ones.

These three images were installed in a temple, known as Kapil Ashram. Nearby there are other temples also. A week long programme was arranged by the Trustees of the temple with the co-operation of the local people, mostly kisans, who donated willingly large sums of money.

When it was asked: "Why this festival was being celebrated?" A spokesman of the fair said, "the two images on either side of Lord Ganesh, were broken when a temple wall collapsed in 1885. So the people thought of re-installing new images of Ridhi-Siddhi goddesses. These beautiful images had come in this week, as ordered to a sculptor of Jaipur and hence this occasion is being celebrated."

A one mile long procession or Shobha Yatra was taken out through the main streets of the city, consisting of 2 elephants, 11 horses, 11 tractors and several cars, all decorated with flowers, bunting and flags.

It is said that the deity of Lord Ganesh is a live one and people from far and near flock there on Sankashti Chaturthi

day every month. A regular fair is held near the temple on that day.

Offerings to Lord Ganesh were distributed as prasad to the people, who had come to see this gigantic festival. It is also said that if a swastik symbol is drawn before the shrine in an inverse way, the Lord fulfills the desire of the person doing so, in particular, women desirous of children, conceive soon and many other boons are granted by the deity. ★

Vaman H. Pandit

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(Continued from page 9)

not take meals during eclipse. Give in charity as this increases one's glory. Listen to Veda-shastras and Purans read by brahmins. Keep promise of 'dan'. Honouring the unfit and dishonouring the respected, gives poverty and death. Struggle with great men, envy with the strong and leap in the deep waters create adversity. One having a sweet tongue, a beautiful wife, and a liberal mind gets success in life. Help the students, have courage in adversity, successful speech in discussion and bravery in battle. 'Dan' to beggars is good. Worship the neglected Linga. Give help for the funeral of the orphans. Envy of the brahmins is a most strong poison. Company of the good is more valuable than nectar. Do not be proud of bravery. Do not be overjoyed by the resources of pleasure. Food, water, good speech and liberal mind are the four jewels on the earth. Do not speak ill of any one. Have blessings of the good and the devotees. Do not forsake one's religion. Protect the subjects well. Do not make distinction between the Guru and Shiva. The glory of knowledge is in forgiveness and peacefulness. Do not be elated by 8 qualities as good family, good conduct, learning, wealth, kingdom, penance, beauty and youth." If this advice of Shiva yogi to Bhadrayu is followed by anybody, he would have no difficulty in life. (to be continued)

Shri Sai Baba's Divine Grace

On perusal of my diary, I found that the year 1954 was very eventful in my life, because of two calamities which would have ended my life, but for the timely help rendered by Shri Sai Baba.

Andhra State was constituted in 1953. A separate list of Government personnel was prepared to man the newly created state from the original Composite State of Madras. My name was retained in the State of Madras. Because there was a dearth of suitable qualified persons, my services were lent to Andhra State for a period of two years as a transferred Officer. Hence, I had to stay in Visakhapatnam till 1955.

I purchased a maroon coloured Vanxhaul car from a close friend and a colleague for a price, which I considered reasonable. He assured me that the car was in perfect condition and that it was not likely to need any expenditure for a fairly long time. Though I was an experienced driver, my knowledge about detecting defects in second hand cars was almost nil. I was not wise enough to distrust my friend and get an expert mechanic to test the soundness of the vehicle.

For the benefit of Shri Sai devotees, who have the patience to read this narration and not had the pleasure of visiting Vishakhapatnam, a short description of the place may be useful, because it has a bearing on the incident that happened on 15th August, 1954.

There is a ridge of hillock about 2000 feet high almost abutting the sea coast along its whole length. Houses are built on the side of the ridge facing the sea and as such, roads are steep almost precipitously running from the top of the ridge to the sea at the bottom. We were living in the official colony next to K. G. Hospital almost near the top of the ridge.

The car was received by me on the afternoon of 15th August 1954 and put in a garrage which was about 500 feet above our house level. My young daughter aged about 12 years had learnt Bharata Natyam and as such was very popular by giving free performances in the college, Lady's Club etc. Her dance performance was arranged to take place at 5 p. m. on Independence Day eve at the local Lady's Club where my wife also was taking active part as a member. My daughter had dressed up and was ready to go to the club along with the accompanying musicians at about 4 p. m. My wife also was dressed up and was ready. When I told them to wait in the house until I get the car, my wife insisted that she would come with me to the garrage. So, we both sat in the newly acquired car and started coming down the slope. To my great consternation when I pressed the foot brake of the car, it did not respond and the car was going downhill very fast with great acceleration. Immediately, I tried the hand break but it also failed miserably. We were panicky and did not know what to do. We were sure the car would run down the slope with tremendous speed directly into the sea below and thus both of us would end in a watery grave. We called out "Baba Save Us". There was a big gutter running along the road abutting a compound wall on the left side. Shri Sai granted me presence of mind at that time to turn the car directly towards that big gutter. We dashed against the compound wall and in a flash both the left side wheels were dangling high in the air. I immediately switched off the engine and both of us got out of the car without even a scratch by the divine grace of Shri Sai. It was a miraculous escape from certain death. The mechanic who examined the car after it was taken out of the gutter told us that no damage had occurred to the car except for, a few scratches to the paint on the left side because it was leaning against the compound wall. He examined the car thoroughly and told us that the master cylinder of the hydraulic brake system was completely empty without a drop of oil as it was leaking badly. The hand brake cable was cut and

as such was in need of replacement. It seems the same mechanic, who was attending on the repairs of the car before had advised the original owner to get the master cylinder replaced and get a new cable fixed up to the hand brake. The reply he got was that as he was selling away the car, he was not prepared to spend any money for the said repairs and purchaser has to get the repairs done at his cost. After hearing that, I swore that day that I will never trust any human being however great he may be but repose all our trust in Bhagavan Shri Sai, who is always vigilant to protect His devotees.

The second calamity occurred in the month of October, 1954. One night while taking food, I felt that a little sharp thing scratched my throat. I thought it was probably a rough vegetable fibre and never bothered about it. But next day, the pain in the throat increased and my neck began to swell up. I immediately consulted the E. N. T. specialist, who assured me that there was nothing serious and all will be well with a little throat paint. But swelling of the neck continued and gradually I found that I could not swallow either solids or liquids. I was hospitalised and kept alive by intravenous glucose and antibiotic injections. I was extremely hungry and thirsty but not even a drop of water could be swallowed. I was almost at the death's door in a miserable condition. The E. N. T. Surgeon was not sure of the diagnosis and expressed his inability to adopt any other treatment. I was praying to Shri Sai everyday and applying His Udi to the head and neck. A number of my colleagues, some of them quite famous surgeons, E. N. T. Specialists used to visit me daily to enquire about my health, but none would suggest any operation. My wife and children had almost given up any hope of my survival and as such were very unhappy. But I had full confidence in Shri Sai and used to assure them that He will come to my rescue at the proper time. In the early morning of seventh night, I had a dream in which I saw clearly that Baba was getting into my mouth and that I was swallowing

Him. I called out that Baba was going into my throat when suddenly I felt that something burst into my throat. When I got up a gush of blood and pus came out of my mouth which I spat out. Immediately I felt intense relief and felt I could swallow. I asked my wife to give me some water which I was able to swallow without any difficulty. We were immensely happy because my life was saved by ever merciful Baba. Next morning, I was able to take in milk, coffee and porridge and later on even solid foods. The E. N. T. Surgeon then told me that it was probably an abscess which had formed behind the food pipe (Retropharyngeal abscess) and because it was pressing the food pipe, I could neither swallow solids nor liquids. He was also very much surprised to learn that it had burst into the mouth and thus my life was saved. As the abscess was deep down the neck, no surgeon could do anything on that area. Where surgeons dread to operate on account of unapproachability, Shri Sai was able to go in and conduct the required operation. Nothing is impossible for Him and He will come to the rescue if we have implicit faith in Him.

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GURU POORNIMA MESSAGE (9-7-1979)

This world is like a market place, where the wise man increases his capital plentifold while the unwise loses it entirely.

Thus there are two ways of gain and loss open to everybody; let him make his choice. The wise man is one, who chooses the way of gain, while the unwise takes to the way of loss. By gain, in its widest sense, is meant the accomplishment of our purpose in life, which may be expressed in other words as the realisation of a healthy, happy, good, and honourable life. Such a life can only be the result of the right use of all the faculties and resources, great or small, granted to us by Providence. Out of all the creatures inhabiting this wide world, only human beings have been endowed with certain extraordinary powers - physical, intellectual, and spiritual - which are the glory of this universe.

These powers can lead us to the highest pinnacle. Therefore, let us fully develop them and wisely use them. The test of wisdom lies in foreseeing results and consequences, and in rightly analysing causes and effects. As universal experience shows, every one wants to be happy. Our Rishis and great men of yore have explained that happiness must be distinguished from pleasure, and for emphasizing this distinction, they have used the words **Sreya** and **Preya**. **Sreya** means what is good, i. e., what will bring us some gain and improvement, although, for the moment, it may not be agreeable. This is something quite different from **Preya**, which means what is pleasant or agreeable. A striking instance of this is supplied by the use of quinine for a person, suffering from malaria. For the time being, it tastes very bitter and is unpleasant and disagreeable, but it is good, and, therefore, liked and used, because it drives away malarial fever.

The wise man is, therefore, one who chooses the way of God, and is not tempted by the momentary glare of pleasure. The reverse is the case with the unwise, who will not care to

consider the ultimate consequences of his actions in all the fields of his activities. He will always be attracted towards fleeting pleasures in disregard to consequences.

In order that we may increase our wisdom, it is essential that we must come into contact with wise men either in person or in the form of books (related to their sayings and teachings) in which their experience and injunctions are recorded. As we see around us, everything is affected more or less by what it comes into contact with. Even the elements like air and water are fundamentally affected by their surroundings. Human mind and intellect are also constituted in such a manner that they are very much affected by their surroundings.

Let us, therefore, create healthy surroundings for our bodies, minds, and intellects, and scrupulously eschew and avoid everything that is likely to contaminate them. This is the way of gain and of wisdom. This path leads us to success and happiness here and hereafter.

The consequences of choosing the wrong path by abusing our faculties and resources for the sake of momentary pleasures are evident from the huge mass of pain, misery, trouble, and discord that we see in this world. The chief characteristics of the wrong path are vanity and luxury. Therefore, let us shun them as if they were germs of plague and cholera.

Let us keep vanity and luxury at a very great distance by cultivating self-control, love of simplicity, sincerity, and an ardent desire to help our fellowmen by becoming strong and using our strength for the good of the society.

May our obeisance be unto those great Saints and Seers, who, in ancient times, expounded all systems or pathways to God for realization. Hence, this Guru Pooja and His worship is most valuable to remember them on this Holy occasion for our good.

May Shri Samartha Sadguru Sainath of Shirdi bless us all with peace in plenty to attain the highest good in our life! ★
Saipadanand Radhakrishnaswami Sai Spiritual Centre, Bangalore.

The Grace of God

I, James Wood, bow in the Holy feet of God Shirdi Sai Baba with sincere prayer and self surrender, as His divine grace was bestowed upon me through the guidance of Doctor Babaji. To day (21-2-79) when I am sitting here (**Sai Baba Samadhi Temple**) to pen down the few lines of His divine grace in my life, I am surrounded by the flower of pleasures and happiness. But even to-day I can visualize very vividly the merciful glances of respected Doctor Babaji, by which my restitute life has been altogether changed into the new life. The first glance of mercy was showered by Doctor Babaji in June, 1978. When I was introduced to him by my real sister Leslie Bonnie, Doctor Babaji was staying at her residence in Lingly Canada. It was a very short meeting with respected Doctor Babaji but being omniscient Doctor Babaji could very easily study the disturbed condition of my mind. Yes, I was too much disturbed. Truly what I can do? Why? A little over six months, I was on death bed. The doctors had called in my family and it appeared to be the end. I had Kidney failure. They put me on a Kidney machine, but they did not believe my heart would take that or a Kidney transplant. I went into death convulsions several times. It was hard not to die. I tasted it so many times. On 19th June, 1978, I was admitted to Govt. hospital to operate my kidney for transplant. My sister Bonnie called Dr. Babaji for prayer on my behalf. I was put on the prayer list and respected Babaji came to the hospital to see me again. He told me "Don't worry; Don't fear. God Shirdi Sai Baba will bless your good kidney without any operation within some hours" and went away.

Next day Bonnie came with some powder (UDHI), water, Incredible Sai Baba and Alphabetical prayer. She gave me all things for my good self. At that time the doctors came and examined my kidney again and again. Daily the doctors came and examined me as usual. On 3rd night the Lord healed me. He

performed a miracle when there was no hope and no faith. The doctors crowded around. They had never seen anything like it. They had no record of a person with total Kidney failure, who had lived and my kidney had been restored. The Grace of God did more than just heal me. He showed me a picture of what a life of sin I had been living. May be on the outside it did not look so bad. But I was like a ship without a sail. Many times in my younger years, I had felt the Grace of God; but had put off becoming a devotee of Jesus Christ.

When the God healed me on the 3rd night, a dream came to me and He said, "This is probably the last time, the grace of God will shower on you." That put fear into my heart. I cried out for grace from the God. For three days and nights the tears of repentance flowed. I could not sleep. I asked Him to forgive me, and He saved my soul. Tears of joy began to flow after seeing the dream.

Shirdi Sai Baba is sitting on a stone. Dr. Babaji is standing there. Dr. Babaji said, "Mr. James, you must go to Him". After this noble dream, I awakened. On 22nd June, the doctors came and examined me again. They were surprised. My kidney was found working smoothly. After hearing the statement, the tears of joy began to flow. Yes, the tears are overflowing. During the last four days I developed burning patch over my kidney. In the mean time I read the whole book of "The Incredible Sai Baba." written by Arthur Osborne. It was also conserated by respected Babaji by giving the sacred powder, "Udi".

Now I am attending the daily prayers in Shirdi Sai Baba temple at Shirdi. The activities of the temple servants are giving me mental peace; but I did not understand the words fully. Next week I can go to Delhi to see respected Dr. Babaji. Today (22.2.79) is Thursday. I opened a letter to read before the Samadhi. This letter is given by Dr. Babaji, when I stayed in the Hospital Caneda on 19.6.78.

Aum Sai Baba; Shirdi Sai Baba
 Our God, Who art in Shirdi.
 Hallowed by Thy Holy name
 Thy Grace does come
 Thy wish will be done
 Everywhere on the earth
 As it is in Shirdi
 Give us in this life
 Our daily health, wealth, wisdom, freedom,
 light and peace

And forgive us our faults
 As we forgive our debtors and sinners,
 And lead us not into temptation.
 But deliver us from sins and darkness.
 For Thine are the Holy Divine places,
 Dwarakamai and Samadhi Temple
 And Thy grace
 Today and for ever. Amen.

Really my head and heart seem to scarcely stay on the ground of Sai Baba Temple, because of the joy that the grace of God Shirdi Sai Baba puts in my heart through respected Babaji. Many many sincere thanks to the Lord for the call He gave me and that He did not let me go in my sins. I want to go all the way with the grace of God into life ever lasting. ★

JAMES WOOD, CANEDA



SAINT GADGEMAHARAJ

(Continued from July 1979 issue)

By Dr. S. D. Parchure M. A., Ph. D.

The Bhajan, sung by the Bhajan Party and Shri Gadgemaharaj, created an atmosphere quite suitable for a keertan. In that crowd of more than ten thousand people, there was pin-drop silence. All were listening intently to what Shri Maharaj wanted to tell. Shri Maharaj began, "Saint Tukaram has advised the people not to spend the life only in earning money and looking after the family. He says that we have to use it on concentrating on God and meditating on Him. The question then arises, what is the use of this devotion to God? Shri Tukaram Maharaj replies to this question that when he wanted to see God, he himself became God! Tukaram Maharaj further said that he was the son of a farmer. Where did he have the knowledge of devotion to God? He turned towards this path of devotion by listening to the words of the saints and intended to see God; but what was the result? Did Tukaram Maharaj see God? No, he did not see God; but he himself 'became God!'"

"God is no doubt a very great power. By His order the whole universe goes on; but He has never been seen by anybody. Since the birth of this world nobody has seen God, God is in the temple. He is near the river. He is in the tree He is here. He is there. Rameshwar is God, Badrinarayan also is God; but then God has not been seen by anyone so far. Still if we meditate on God, if we sing songs in His praise, then man himself becomes God as told by saint Tukaram Maharaj."

"How is God? God is like the wind. In Dynaneshwari we find the wind described as follows :-

वायु वसे सकळ ठाऱ्यां ।

परि त्याचे बिन्हाडचि नाऱ्ही ॥

The meaning of this 'owee' is 'wind or air pervades every where; but it has no fixed abode.' Will you be able to show any place in this world, which is void of air? Air is in the house, in the door, in the tree. Air is everywhere; but does anybody say that yesterday night the air had stayed at a railway station in Bombay? Does anyone say so," By this time the audience was fully under the control of Shri Gadgemaharaj and it was fully engrossed in his keertan. Hence a spontaneous reply to the above question came from the audience in a loud tone, "No." Shri Gadgemaharaj asked a further question, "Does anyone say that the air had stayed on the Satara station, day before yesterday?" To this also a spontaneous, "No" came from the audience.

Shri Maharaj then continued, "The air is therefore everywhere; but if you claim that it is only at a particular place, then your thinking is not correct. It is therefore wrong to say that God is only in a particular holy place of pilgrimage like Jagannath, Rameshwar etc. These gods are only the gods created for misleading people and swindling them. In this connection it would be worth-while noting the experience of Shri Tukaram-buwa. In one of his Abhangas he says, 'देव देव करता शिन्हे माझे मडन' (I searched for God for a long time; but my mind got tired.) When Saint Tukaram went round in search of God, he said that he got tired; but what did he find? What did he see? He says he saw, 'पाणी आणि पाषाण जेथे...तेथे।' (everywhere there is only water and stone) What is this stone? and what is this water? The stone is the idol and water is the Teerth (holy water), that is being given to the devotees. Saint Tukaram was thus deluded when he went in search of God. He only saw stone and water not God."

"Even Saint Kabir ratifies the statement of Saint Tukaram. Saint Kabir says, 'जत्रामे फत्रा विठाया तीरथ बनाया...पाडनी ।

दुनिया भई दिवानी पैसे की धुलधाडनी ॥'

(In a fair, a stone was declared as God and water was given as Teerth. The world is full of mad people, who are wasting their money.)

The priests in the places where fairs are held, place a stone idol and call it God. The common people go there with faith, take the darshan of the idol and drink the water which the priest calls 'Teerth'. The devotees pay for the 'Teerth'. Is this the way of attaining God? What will you achieve by this? By going to such places of pilgrimage what will you get? Nothing else but wastage of money.

गोपाला गोपाला देवकीनंदन गोपाला ॥''

Shri Maharaj sang the above bhajan and the Bhajan party also joined, the people too sang this Bhajan.

After a short pause, Shri Maharaj continued, "Ego is the worst enemy of man. An egoistic person is always showing himself off. Wherever he goes, he moves with such airs that there is nobody like him. From his behaviour it appears that he feels that he will never get any disease. He also feels that he will be able to hoodwink even death; but is this possible? Saint Tukaram has said in this connection,

‘ज्याचा अभिमान - - - गेला
अन् तुका म्हणे देव - - - झाला’

The meaning of this quotation is that when the ego of a person leaves him, then that person becomes like God. In this connection we have to look to Government Officers. A poor man has to bow to Bhausahab with great respect. If any one does not bow properly Bhausahab will frown on him and express his disapproval. His ego is so strong that he is not able to tolerate want of proper respect in anyone; but what is the way of behaviour of Bhausahab himself? Will he become humble before anyone? No! No! He has no time for that. There is another saying, which gives a warning to the persons full of ego.

‘वंदे मत करना अभिमान
कोई दिन उखड जायेगा - - - प्राऽन ।’

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‘वंदे मत करना अभिमान
कोई दिन उखड़ जायेगा - - - प्राण ।’

Oh man, do not have ego, because this may result some day in losing your life. This is the substance of the above quotation. Gymnasts, who are doing wresting, have ego of their strength. Similarly there are people, who are proud for various reasons. Some have undue ego of their money. Some are proud because of their family traditions and past history of their ancestors; but the behaviour of all these people vexes others and they are hated by others. Hence we should be away from ego and behave in a humble manner.

गोपाला गोपाला । देवकीनेदन गोपाला”

After singing the aforesaid bhajan, Shri Gadgemaharaj continued further, “Today why this keertan has been arranged here? Because of Satyanarayan Pooja! But is this pooja done without any motive? Who does Satyanarayan Pooja? Only greedy people! Those who want something, always arrange such pooja. Someone has no issue. He invokes Satyanarayan and prays for an issue. Similarly some are doing Pooja for getting a car. Some are invoking God for getting money. Some are wanting promotion in their office and they are performing Satyanarayan Pooja for that purpose. These are all greedy people. This is not devotion to God. This is selfishness. In the Pothi of Satyanarayan, one story is told of Sadhuwani. In that story it is told that because Sadhuwani did not perform Pooja and did not accept prasad, so his boat worth crores of rupees sunk in the water. It is told further in that sotry that Satyanarayan worth two and a half rupees was performed, the prasad was distributed and it was taken by all the inmates of the family and what a wonder? The boat worth crores of rupees came up! Do you believe in all this? No! No! This is not true! In the last war, so many ships worth fifty crores each, were sunk. The Maharaj, who performs Satyanarayan Pooja, may be given a challenge. Why are you prating like this by taking two and a half rupees? Take two and a half lakh rupees - - - - - Why? Take even two and a half crores of rupees; but perform the pooja on the seashore and

bring up at least one of the sunken ships. Will he accept this challenge? Will he be able to do it?"

To this straight question by Shri Gadgemaharaj a loud "No" was responded by the audience.

After a little pause, Shri Maharaj continued further. "when the question of presence of god is discussed, the saints have loudly proclaimed about god that नहीं मेहजिदमें नहीं देवलमें. God is not in the masjid or in the temple. Why have they said so? Take the example of a temple. Some philanthropic person may have donated some money for building a temple or sometimes subscriptions are collected from the common people for building a temple and the temple is thus erected; but after that we have to instal an idol in that temple. Then how this idol is procured? Do we get it free of cost or on payment? If we are required to pay for the idol, then tell me can God meet you by making certain payment? If it is so easy, then why not buy the sun himself? Let us make whatever payment that is required to be made and bring the sun and lock him in our house. It is not so easy. God is not like vegetable, which can be purchased very easily in the market. A man, who cannot even understand that God cannot be purchased, should not be called a man at all. Can we call him a man, who does not understand such simple thing?"

"After bringing the idol, we instal it with great ceremony in the temple. It is alright so far, but does that God know how to take a bath?" To this question Shri Mahara himself gave the reply, "No" and continued further. "A pujari is required to give bath to the God. Then can you call this idol your God? Let us move further. Does your God know to wear a dhoti? No! Then tell me. Is that your God, who does know how to wear a dhoti? You are keeping naivedya before the god. Now if a dog comes and starts eating it, does your god drive that dog? Has he power to ward off the dog? That idol, which cannot even drive away a dog, is called god by you! Is it proper? God

is almighty, all powerful and bright as per the supposition of all. Then does the whole temple get illuminated by the light of the idol? The idol is not able to shed light even sufficient to illuminate the temple. When the electricity fails, all devotees start running helter skelter in search of a light, saying, 'devotees have come for darshan, bring a light'. Then tell me who has shown the God? The God is made visible by the light. Then who is superior? The light or the idol? Naturally the light! Then where do you think that the God exists. From what I have told you so far, you must have been convinced that at least the God does not exist in the stone idol placed by man in the temple. Then where is God? God is everywhere in the world. God pervades the whole world. So serve the world then that will be the real service and worship of God! Let us sing the bhajan in praise of God.

गोपाला गोपाला । देवकीनेदन गोपाला ॥”

(to be continued)

They Need Not Laugh Now !

A professor used to tell the same joke in his first lecture, every year. One year a student, who had failed and who had therefore heard the joke before, got up and said, "Sir you told us this joke last year". Without batting an eyelid, the professor grandly announced "Those who laughed last year need not laugh now".



PEACE FOR PROSPERITY

This is the life without any emotion
Leading it without any notion.
One takes Doctor's degree and becomes an actor
Another takes Pleader's degree and becomes a leader
One may have health,
Another may have wealth.
The prince becomes a pauper,
A pauper becomes a prince.
None is happy with the carnal desires,
So be detached from these desires.
The destiny's game remains unknown
One lives unknown and dies unknown.
Men are born and men die
But the Soul will never die.
Dedicate the Soul to Him and
Look at Sai Ram then
He will look after you.
Fear not for sorrows
Don't postpone for morrows.
Enjoy the manifestation of God
Cast away the egoism and surrender to the Lord
Then one will have peace
The one and only one "Eternal Peace".

Kolanupaka Muralidhar Rao
House No. 6-55, Ramagiri, NALGONDA

“Miracles Happen Yet” Experiences of A Humble Devotee

Shri Sai Baba's devotees, who have read "Incredible Sai Baba" by Saint and sage Shree Arthur Osborne of Bhagwan Shri Raman Ashram and first editor of "Mountain Path", will find full confirmation that our Shree Sai Baba is ever present and is living. He materializes in visible body to help any person in distress, known or unknown. If the call of a devotee in distress is deep and genuine, the help does come. The call (KIRTAN, in the real sense) must be from the depth of the heart, even though the devotee in distress, may not have known before "Shri Sai Baba" in that form of body or description before or after "Maha Samadhi" by books or other sources.

This incident, related below, is one of those which are experienced by this writer in day to day life. I was drawn to "Shri Sai Baba's" presence at Shirdi in 1959 for the first time in my life and through books about five years earlier to that 'Sai' has always kept me near to "HIM". He always helped me in distress and confirmed me in "HIS" "faith" and "GRACE". These incidents can be termed to be miracles in common language. In reality these incidents and experiences are "HIS LILAS" for favouring a devotee and looking after an ordinary "Jiva" like me in the same manner as Lord Shri Krishna, the "Supreme personality of God head" looked after his real devotees the five Pandvas, their mother Kunti, their wife Draupati and all their children in their life time.

Recalling this incident, it was four years back that I went to wish safe flight and give blessings to my daughter and grandson returning back to States. My daughter was staying at her husband's parent's place about 50 miles away from Santacruz Airport. Jumbo Jet 747 flight, by which reservation was booked

was at 21.0 hrs. on that date. Her inlaws and she, decided to start in the nick of the time by train and then by taxi from the nearest railway station to the Airport. I constantly prayed to "Sai Baba" and I was commanded by him not to take risk of the train and other transport as they delay due to unforeseen circumstances. I conveyed my intuitive feelings to all and of warning that I was receiving from time to time from Sai Baba. On great persuasions, the programme of start was made little earlier than decided. There was little effect of my warning on the minds of the family members. My daughter and present day teenagars and youngsters were scoffing and laughing at me as superstitious.

When we came to the station, the trains were reported little late and eventually we boarded the first train which stopped dead after proceeding further by few furlongs due to some defect due to power failure. We waited patiently for an hour but the train did not start.

I imploringly prayed to "Sai Baba for help and I was directed to detrain and take a taxi, which might help me to reach the Airport in time with my daughter and grand son. We took out the kit and walked back to the Railway Station and with great difficulty could get a rickety old taxi, the driver of which agreed to take us to the limits of Greater Bombay only (Mulund Naka). I continuously prayed to Sai Baba as the old taxi ploughed through distance coughing and crying at reasonable speed and we eventually reached "Mulund Naka". To our surprise there was no taxi available for taking us to the Airport. If we were delayed for fifteen or twenty minutes more, we could miss the flight. I therefore cried in distress to "Sai Baba" and prayed from my heart to help us in distress and fervently prayed to "HIM" to come to our rescue. To our surprise, one taxi with passengers came to the spot and on directions from "Sai Baba" I stopped the same and told them of our plight. All the occupants came out and willingly gave us the use of taxi, agreeing

to take another one for their use. I later on continued praying to "Sai Baba" and we could reach the Airport 20 minutes before the scheduled time. I ran to Police Immigration Section and explained the situation where the Officer on duty helped us to get the kit booked and gave us his van to proceed to the plane along with himself where he was giving clearance documents to commander of the plane to proceed and even delayed some time to get completed other formalities. This saved us all from the loss of Rs. 13,000/- and from worries of change of programme and delay in reaching States in time. This was all "GRACE" of Sai Baba".

I went next day to Shirdi to my "Sai Baba" to offer sincere thanks, reverence and "Pranams" for the "Leela" and "Miracle" in saving me from bad situations.

All Glory of Sai Baba - I make this incident public in view of the vow taken by me at that moment. ★

P. J. Singh
C/o. Teckchandani, Shri Ram Nivas,
Rajmahal Road, BARODA 390001

Pain and Sympathy

Pain is an experience which the Gods on other planes may envy. For in pain is born sympathy for suffering humanity. A symbol of that sympathy is Krishna. So it is that He is born, again and again, in the darkness of the jail ! ★



Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi
Open Drawing Competition for Children
on account of International Child Year

An open drawing competition for children is being held by the Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi on account of International Child Year. This competition is open to all children (boys as well as girls) in India and abroad. The special feature of this competition is that it has no admission fee. The children will have to compete from their age groups, shown below and will have to fulfil the following conditions:-

Age group No. 1 :- Children between the ages of 6 and 9 will be included in this group. They will have to draw in black pencil a picture of Shri Sai Baba in one pose (e. g. Benedictory pose, sitting on the stone, alongwith the horse etc).

Age group No. 2 :- Children between the ages of 10 to 16 will be included in this group. They will have to draw a picture of Shri Sai Baba as expected by group one above, but in addition to that they will be expected to paint it with either three or four colours.

Rules of the Competition

1. The picture shall be drawn on a white drawing paper 10 inches x 8 inches. Adequate blank space should be left on all sides of the picture.
2. In the right hand corner of the picture, the competitor shall write clearly, in block letters, his full name, address, standard in which he is studying and the institution at which he is studying. He should also forward alongwith his picture, a certificate from his teacher that he himself has drawn the picture.

3. The competitor shall send only one picture for the competition
4. The picture should be sent so as to reach the authorities not later than 31st August 1979. Pictures received after that date will not be considered for the competition under any circumstances.
5. Two prizes will be awarded to the first 2 numbers from each group and one consolation prize will also be awarded to each group. The names of successful competitors will be announced in the "Diwali Number 1979" of Shri Sai Leela magazine.
6. An exhibition of all the pictures received for the competition, will be held at Shirdi during Diwali.
7. The successful competitors will be called and felicitated at Shirdi somewhere in January 1980, at the time of the annual gathering of the contributors to Shri Sai Leela magazine. The first and second prizes in each group will be of Rs. 51/- and Rs. 31/- respectively. The consolation prize will be of Rs. 11/- only.
8. The pictures may be sent by post or handed over personally at the following addresses -
 1. Court Receiver, Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi,
Taluka Kopergaon, Dist. Ahmednagar.
Pin Code No. 423 109.
 2. The Editor, Shri Sai Leela,
Sai Niketan,
804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Bombay-400 014.
9. The covers containing the pictures, should be clearly marked as "Sai Baba Picture Competition".
10. The pictures, winning the first prize, will be printed in Shri Sai Leela magazine in due course.

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

The Executive Editor, 'SHRI SAI LEELA'

Sir,

I have read with interest Shri G. V. Rao's article captioned "Saint Sai Mission" in the February 1979 issue of Shri Sai Leela and your practical comment thereon. Shri Rao's suggestion, no doubt, is catchy; but bristles with many ideological difficulties and appears to run counter to Baba's concept and philosophy and his own way of living.

Baba was the very ocean of life and our attempt to bund it is bound to be futile and ludicrous.

If one but casts one's eyes on the history of religions and the religious institutions and churches, which were founded in the wake of the teachings of the Prophets and promulgators of such religions, it would, at once, strike any unbiased student of religious history that straitification and fragmentation of the original living faiths of the founders of the religions followed thereafter. Such institutions only resulted in word-splitting. Whilst the spirit of the faiths died, rituals and formalities flourished. The Christians and Mohomedans plunged themselves into internal warfare or religious wars, shedding colossal human blood. Beliefs and dogmas gripped the minds of the followers of these religions resulting in terrible carnage. God was sacrificed on the altar of such beliefs and dogmas

Nearer, home, whilst there were no religious wars, the sects raised their heads and social intercourse was greatly hindered. Untouchability and caste poisons spread apace.

Founding of an institution straitifies and fossilizes any living faith. Religion is the living nexus between man and God, the highest being who permeates and yet transcends creation. All men are not born equal physically, psychologically, emotionally, intellectually or spiritually. Every individual person is a unit by

himself. He is not just a statistical average. Tastes, temperaments, yearnings, aspirations, emotional requirements and stages of evolution differ from man to man. Even the same man is in need of different spiritual feed-backs at different stages of his evolution.

We have in our country, since ancient times, holy places and monasteries and in recent years Ashrams and Missions like Ramkrishna Mission, Arobindo Ashram and Ramanashram and other religious institutions. If one looks at them without any bias or prejudice or sectarian glasses, one necessarily has to admit that their popularity is on the wane. In one or two Shankar Peeths, litigations have gone on for years to decide succession matters. The main reason in these cases, was the vested interests and the creeping fossilization.

On the other hand we witness today that Shri Baba's fame and following are yearly on the increase. The reasons are many. To enumerate, Shri Baba (i) did not prescribe any rituals, (ii) frowned on foolish orthodoxy (iii) created no hierarchies among his followers (iv) did not set up a body of disciples (v) founded no sect (vi) promulgated no doctrines and (vii) claimed no Avatarship; but humbly accented that he was a यादेहक, a servant of God.

Shri Baba opened his arms to embrace every man and woman at various stages or levels of evolution. He even deprecated secret and arduous religious practices as He rightly believed that no one, however high, could force the pace of evolution of a man. He simply gave a gentle push to the right person.

Like the Geeta, Shri Baba believed that man has to pass through innumerable incarnations or births before he attains godhood. His counsel was be good, loving and unselfish; face all situations with a smile; have patience and faith in God; and help those who need help and succour. The garb of religion is only an outer cloak beneath which is man, the divine spark of life.

Shri Baba's followers have to keep true to this rich heritage which least deserves to be dissipated into making a dead framework of rituals, beliefs, hierarchies and set rules and regulations, which for all one knows, may shut out many a seeker from finding his solace in Shri Baba. Moreover, institutions and power policies are handmaids.

Shri Baba's numerous devotees and followers may ponder over the foregoing loud-thinking, before embarking on any scheme as envisaged by Shri Rao. They should seek unity in diversity and aim at resilience more than dead uniformity. Freedom is the breath of true religion. Regional and local settings lend colour to the mosaic of life, which must stream forward inexorably. ★

Yours truly,

R. S. Gavankar

Sadhana, 3rd floor, Om Shri Guruprasad Co-op. Housing Society,
Agripada, 18th Rd., KHAR, Bombay-400 052



The Rishies of ancient days prayed as follows through their holy hymns :-

असतो मा सद्गमय ।

Lead me from the unreal to the real !

तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ।

Lead me from darkness to light !

मृत्योर्मा मोक्षं गमय ।

Lead me from death to the life eternal !



The Great Saviour - Shirdi Sai Baba

Before I joined my present post as Chief Medical Officer of District Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), I had very little knowledge about the Great Master Sai Baba of Shirdi. All that I knew about Him was that He was one of the foremost saints of South India, who possessed miraculous powers. Little did I try to read or to find out more about His eminence.

But He willed otherwise. My promotion from a Senior Medical Officer to the post of Chief Medical Officer in May 1977 brought me to this place, where I had a pleasant surprise in store for me.

And that was like this. Here I heard about the presence of Dr. Babaji and his power of healing and curing the sick. Many a doctor friend of mine related to me their own experiences and encounters. I was told, how due to the miraculous "Vibhuti" administered by Rev. Dr. Babaji, Dr. Charanjit Singh, formerly a Medical Officer at a nearby place, Nadaun, was blessed with a child, after his wife had had six repeated abortions due to which the couple had lost all hope of having a child during their life time. (His article appeared in Sai Leela Magazine in July 1976 issue).

Another surprising event that was related to me was regarding Mrs. and Dr. Thakur Datta Sharma (Now Deputy Chief Medical Officer at Dharamsala, District Kangra), who were blessed with a lovely son, years after their marriage through the sacred "UDI" administered to them by Dr. Babaji (Their articles appeared in Sai Leela in August and October 78 issues).

One day Dr. Thakur Datt Sharma came to me and asked me if I had ever met Rev. Dr. Babaji, who was at that time living nearby and persuaded me to see him. I was yet making

up my mind to do so, when suddenly on 17-7-1977 a message was received by me from Rev. Dr. Babaji himself and I was blessed with his Darshan. I had a very pleasant talk with Rev. Dr. Babaji for an hour or so. In the end he gave me a book on Swami Vivekananda to read. I took that book and kept it in my attache in order to read it sometimes after at a time of leisure and then forgot to do so. Not a few days passed when I received orders of my transfer from my present post to a post of much lower status and designation. I sought the blessings of Rev. Dr. Babaji, who simply handed over a copy of the "Ramayana" by Shri C. Rajagopalachari to read and asked me to go through it at once. I had only half finished the book when my transfer orders were cancelled without my putting any effort on my side. Thus I became convinced of the miraculous powers that Rev. Dr. Babaji possessed. He then gave several of the books regarding the Great Master, Sai Baba of Shirdi and due to guidance on his part, my faith in the Great Master took firm roots.

In the month of March 1978, my younger daughter fell ill. She had very high temperature, which was constant and which would not come down, despite heaps of medicines administered to her. As her condition deteriorated, she was brought by me from home to my present place of posting, where a team of expert doctors examined her and put her on revised treatment. Several investigations were also carried out, but no conclusion could be reached at and the diagnosis still remained "P. U. O." i. e. fever of which no cause could be ascertained. Her condition still worsened and a stage of "no hope" was almost reached. Some of the doctors started advising that she be taken to some big medical institutions for investigations.

It was at this time that I again approached Rev. Dr. Babaji. He was serious. He told me he was expecting me to come to him for the last 2-3 days. He also reminded me he had hinted me about a certain calamity, which I was to face during the

month of April 1978; but since the same had come earlier, due to good fortune, things could take a good turn, if regular prayers were offered to the Great Master (Shirdi Sai Baba) and His blessings sought to grant life to the child. He also gave some sacred "Vibhuti" along with sacred water from Shirdi to be administered to the child several times a day. That was the day when all, who came to see, whispered "The child is in too precarious a condition to survive".

However, with regained faith, in the mercy of the Great Master, I began, to pray. As the prayer commenced, the temperature began to fall and it got steady at a level not dangerous to life. The administration of the sacred UDI and the holy Shirdi water, also continued, along with continuous prayers in accordance with the advice of Rev. Dr. Babaji. A picture of Shirdi Sai Baba was also given by Dr. Babaji which was placed near the bed of the child, with "Akhand Jyoti" burning in front of it.

About 2 to 3 days after I started thus praying, one of my office clerk came to see my child. He was previously on leave and had come to ask the welfare of my child for the first time that day. As he came in, several persons were sitting in my drawing room and so he kept quiet till all of them had left one by one.

When we were alone, he told me that he had a dream the previous night, which he had come to tell me. He had seen in that dream, that my child was sick and was lying in a bed wrapped in a blanket. Her mother, i. e. my wife, was sitting by her side and she had a very sad look on her face. As he went near the bed of the child, he saw a "Mahatma" with a white beard and smiling face, sitting on the head side of the bed of the child. As he (my clerk) wanted to talk to me about the welfare of my child, the Mahatma forbade him to do so, saying that I am not to be disturbed and whatever he (the clerk)

wanted to know, he could know it from him (Mahatmaji). Then the clerk asked Mahatmaji, how the child was. Mahatmaji smiled and said, that the child was in a precarious condition; but to know the final answer he would have to wait. After sometime the Mahatma asked the clerk to put his hand below the back of the child and draw out a plate and see if it contains "foot prints" of a child. If there were "foot prints" on his plate, the result will be good. As the clerk put his hand below the back of the child, and took out a plate, it contained small beautiful "foot prints" of a small child. Then the Mahatma asked the clerk to draw inference himself and just then the dream was over.

I asked the clerk if he had ever seen the photograph of that Mahatmaji before. The clerk replied that he had not. Then I took the clerk inside and showed him the picture of God Shirdi Sai Baba, at the bed head side of the child and after seeing the photograph the clerk remarked in astonishment that he had seen this very Mahatma in his dream as he could recognise Him from his white beard and smiling face.

It was a great miracle in our life. The child began to improve gradually and within 8 to 10 days was completely cured of the fever. Most of the medicines were stopped and only sacred UDI and holy water from Shirdi were continued alongwith regular prayers.

Thus a dear life was saved with the Lord's grace. We are all thankful to Rev. Dr. Babaji for showing us the way and pray for his long life so that he may be able to guide us and many others to follow the Master's path. ★

**Dr. R. L. Sharma, Chief Medical Officer,
HAMIRPUR (Himachal Pradesh) 177001**

भवसागर पार करने का मार्ग

एक बहुत बड़े भक्त थे। उन्होंने भगवान से कहा हे भगवान मैंने तीन पाप किये हैं।

हे भगवान आप सर्वान्तर्यामि है, सर्वव्यापक है, दीनदयालु, कृपावर्षी करनेवाले हैं। आपका रूप असीमित है।

मैंने आपको असीमित रूप से किसी रूप में चंद्र सोचकर आपको सीमित किया है। आपके सहस्र नाम को एक खास नाम देकर, आपकी पूजा करता हूँ। हे असीमित नामवाले भगवान आप निर्गुण निराकार होकर भी मैं आपको साकार रूप दे रहा हूँ। आग विश्वभर में व्यापक है लेकिन मैं आपको एक विशिष्ट स्थान देता हूँ।

कहते हैं तेरा स्वामी तो तुझमें निवास करता है। तुम उमे नदी पहचान रहे हो, और बाहरी आवरण को भज रहे हो, तुम अपने अंदर छिपे हुए भगवान को जगाओ। लेकिन कैसे?

उसे प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रयत्न करना जरूरी है। प्रयत्न कैसे करें! उनकी भक्ती में लग जाओ। हर एक के अंतःकरण में वह परमपिता, परमदयालु परमात्मा चाचा विराजमान हैं उनको प्राप्त करो लेकिन प्राप्त करने के लिए साधना, उपासना करना आवश्यक है। वह कैसे उपलब्ध करें। यह साधना से मक्ति से परमपिता परमदयालु परमात्मा को अपने में साक्षात्कार के लिए पूर्ण ब्रह्मपिता तत्वदर्शी ऐसे महान संत सद्गुरु के चरणों में लगाकर उनकी शरण में जाकर उनको प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

समुंद्र में तैरनेवाले समुंद्र में जब लहर आती है तो उसका फायदा उठाकर तैरते हैं। उनको तैरने के लिए जादा प्रयत्न नहीं करना पडता क्योंकि वह लहर में आराम से लेट जाते हैं जिससे वह लहर के साथ आगे निकल जाते हैं। वह लहर खुद ही उनको आगे ले जाती है। लेकिन क्यूँ लेट जाते है? वे लहरका फायदा कैसे उठाते हैं? क्योंकि उन्होंने प्रयत्न किया है, उन्होंने लहर का फायदा उठाना सीखा है, उसका अनुभव प्राप्त किया है। इसी तरह भक्तों वह लहर (current) अपने में लेकर अपने अंतःकरण में जो शक्ती छिपी है उसका फायदा उठाओ। लेकिन यह फायदा तब मिलेगा जब आप प्रयत्न करेंगे, अनुभव करेंगे। अनुभव का बढ़ायेंगे तो वह लहर (current) हमें भवसागरमे बिना किसी तकलीफ का सामना करते पार कर देगा। मन की इच्छा त्यागो। उनके

स्मरण में लीन रहो, सदा उनका ध्यान करो, संत साधुओं के शरणागत हो जाओ जो लहरों के समान इस भवसागररूपी समुद्र से आपको पार करावेंगे मन को अविनाश समय शून्य अवस्था में लाओ। उनकी शरणागत हो जाओ जीवन का बाबा को ही पानेका बनाओ। जीवन सफल हो जायेगा। अगर हमें अपनी समस्या हल करनी है, जीवन में सुख शान्ति प्राप्त करनी है, तो हमें सोचना चाहिये कि दूसरोंकी क्या समस्या है, उनको कैसे हल करें, उनकी कैसे मदद करें, उनकी सेवा करें। सेवा में लगे दूसरों का सोचकर अपने को बचाओ।

श्री साईं सेवक नारायण

श्री भगवती साईं संस्थान, आर. वी. २, ९२/४, रेल्वे कॉलनी, कुर्ला, मुंबई ४०००२४

साईं की महिमा

पूछा किसीने मुझे,

“बता तेरा खुदा कहाँ है” ?

खुदा का नहीं जिसे पता

वह खुद लापता है

॥ १ ॥

यह धरती के तनपर

हरियाली कैसे छाई है ?

पता ! पता ! रूँज उठा

“यह तो महिमा साँईकी है”

॥ २ ॥

पृथ्वी खुदी से कहाँ है आँसमा ?

और कहाँ वह धरती ?

अरे यही है वो जमी

जहाँ कोई तमन्ना नहीं मरती

॥ ३ ॥

न रहेगी खाली झोली तुम्हारी

यह बात नहीं जुवाँकी,

आत्मा कह रही है मेरी।

बस दुवाँये लेते रहना

इस शहेनशाहों का

अब तकदीर बदलनेवाली है तेरी

॥ ४ ॥

मैने मिटकर अपनी आँखे
 उसकी आँखो से दुवाँये मांगी ।
 तेरी दयासे मेरी नही खाली झोली ।
 और भी है बाकी वह गरीबो का चमन
 जहाँ होती नही कभी दिवाली ।
 तेरे होते हुए जहाँ पहुंची नही
 मुरजकी सुन्दर लाली
 मेरे नवाज, मेरे मालीक
 और भी है वह जमी
 जो बोकर बीज है अब खाली ।
 शरमाने है नाम लेने को जिसका
 वह बेनाम बदकिस्मत गली

॥ ५ ॥

मैं कुछ भी नही मांगता ।
 तेरे सिवा मेरे चमन के माली ।
 बस संभाल ले साईं ।
 इन्सानियत की टूटती हुअी डाली ।
 नही तो खत्म हो जायेगा हर चमन
 और बस्ती रहेगी खाली

॥ ६ ॥

कौन कहता है यह सब बात होनेवाली ?
 उसीके समाधीपर फैला दो अपनी झोली ।
 देखो अब दुनिया
 है बदलनेवाली ।
 उसीकी दुवाँ है
 साथ रहनेवाली

॥ ७ ॥

बस, थोडासा मन साफ कर ये इन्सान
 उसके होते हुए
 कयामत नहीं हानेवाली,
 माली चाहे कोई भी हो
 चमन नहीं होता खाली

॥ ८ ॥

Celebration of Gurupournima at Sai-Niketan, Dadar

Gurupournima was celebrated as usual at Sai-Niketan, Dadar on 9-7-79. From 8 a. m. in the morning, the devotees, started coming for darshan. It is known to all devotees in Bombay that according to the custom at Shirdi, the Aarti at Sai Niketan also is sung on all festival days at 12 noon. Hence the devotees, who pay a visit after eleven usually stay for the noon Aarti. Hence some programme is arranged at Sai Niketan on the days of festival at this hour. This year a pravachan was arranged at Sai Niketan from 11-15 a. m. to 12 noon. Dr. S. D. Parchure, the Executive Editor of Shri Sai Leela, delivered the pravachan on the greatness of Guru and the greatness of Shri Sai Baba as a Guru. He first of all quoted the following owee from the sixth chapter of Shri Sai Satcharita.

“असौ परमार्थु वा संसारु। जेथें सद्गुरु कर्णधारु।
तेंचि तारुं पैलपारु। नेऊनि उतारु लावील ॥ १ ॥

He then said, we are all Sai devotees and as such we are reading the Sai Satcharita daily. Hence I propose to deliver a pravachan only on one owee from that Pothi. Hemadpant alias Shri Govindrao Dabholkar was a sincere devotee of Shri Sai Baba. He was brought up in the tradition where the guru was honoured much. Hence in almost every chapter of the Sai Satcharita he has written something in the praise of guru; but in the present owee he has described in short the norms of a sadguru and hence I have chosen this owee for my pravachan.

While explaining who is a guru, Dr. Parchure said, “He who teaches us something or from whom we learn something is our guru. God Datta is said to have had twenty four gurus. God Datta never went to these Gurus as their disciple; but he

noticed some inherent good qualities in them and he acquired those qualities from them. Therefore from that point of view, he started recognising them as his gurus. Hence it does not matter if we learn any good thing from anyone and to that extent call him our guru; but can that guru be called a sadguru? There is some subtle distinction between a guru and a sadguru. The teaching of a guru usually gives you guidance to lead a good worldly life but is he always able to guide you on the [spiritual path? It is not always so. Hence in spiritual matters, we are therefore required to seek guidance from elsewhere. Shri Hemadpant however says in this owee that whether in case of the worldly affairs or in spiritual matters if we choose a sadguru as our leader and place full confidence in him, then he will surely lead our boat (human life) to the other shore quite safely like a skilled captain. As this owee describes in short the qualities of a Sadguru, it is important to remember the same on the Gurupournima day ”

“Gurupournima is also known as Vyas Pournima, because of the works composed by Shri Vyas, which guide the humanity both in the wordly and spiritual matters. Our society acknowledges the debt of everyone on it and wants to repay the same as and when possible. We therefore feel that everyone owes a debt to gods, to the forefathers and to the Acharya (guru). Our religious rituals have assigned certain days for repaying these debts and hence it is no wonder that a day i. e. the full moon day in the month of Ashadha, which is commonly known as Gurupournima, should be reserved for paying respects to the guru. Though our government does not celebrate this day officially, still the birthday of our late President, S. Radhakrishnan, is celebrated as a teacher's day by the Government. This shows that our ancient tradition of honouring the guru is accepted and continued by the Government at their level also. It is therefore proper that we all celebrate this day with full devotion.”

“We all call Shri Sai Baba as our Sadguru and worship Him on the Gurupournima day. In view of the owee from the Sai Satcharita, sighted just now; we find that Shri Sai Baba has advised all his devotees by his words and actions in such a way that all of them have led successfully not only this life but they also have attained Moksha. Shri Sai Baba has thus proved to be a real sadguru as described by Shri Dabholkar in the Sai Satcharita. We all are lucky that we have been associated with a sadguru like Shri Sai Baba. Let us all therefore worship Shri Sai Baba on this Gurupournima day with full devotion and repay our debt to him for all that He has done for us during his life time and even after his Mahasamadhi.” With these words Dr. Parchure concluded his Pravachan

While Dr. Parchure was delivering his Pravachan, the devotees were coming slowly and slowly and at about 12 noon, the devotees present numbered about one hundred. They all sung the Aarti with ardent devotion and love and said loudly at the time of conclusion of the Aarati, “Shri Samarth Sadguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai.” Prasad and Udi were distributed to all who were present for the Aarati and they all dispersed after waiting for a short while. The stream of devotees was flowing continuously upto about 7 P. M. and (on a very moderate estimate) we may say that more than fifteen hundred devotees visited Sai Niketan during the whole day for taking darshan of Shri Baba. ★

S. D. Parchure



News from Shirdi

JUNE 1979

As most of the schools reopened, after the vacation, by the middle of June, the rush of the devotees was more during the first half of this month. The number of the devotees, however, lessened in the second half of this month. The following artists gave their programmes in this month.-

Keertan :-

1. Shri G. V. Joshishastri, the Sansthan singer performed keertan on Ekadashi days and other important religious days in this month.
2. Mrs. Kalavati Chavan, Dadar, Bombay also performed keertan during this month.

Pravachan :-

The following persons delivered pravachans in this month.-

1. Shri Laxmanbuwa waghchowre, Shirdi.
 2. Shri Narayanrao K. Kulkarni, Pandharpur.
- Vocal music, Instrumental music, Bhajan etc.

The following artists gave their various entertaining programmes :-

- 1 Shri Hiralal Bela, Khadakpur
- 2 Shri Damodar B. Hirve, Pune
- 3 Smt. Anjanma, Hyderabad
- 4 Smt. Nirmala R. Naidu, Shirdi
- 5 Shri Bhagvati Sai Sansthan, Kurla, Bombay
- 6 Shri Premraj Pooranlal, Hyderabad
- 7 Shri G. Premraj, Secunderabad
- 8 Smt. Wedavati, Hyderabad
- 9 Sou. Seetalaxmi, Pune
- 10 Sou. Sunayata Agarwal, Mahim, Bombay
- 11 Shri Prasadilal Agarwal, Bombay
- 12 Shri Rameshkumar Jule, Bikaner
- 13 Shri Prabhudatta Vajpeyee, Pragag
- 14 Sou. Rajan Sounda, Andhrapradesh
- 15 Shri Subharao Samitri, Bangalore
- 16 Shri Bhupalan Bogam, Bombay
- 17 Miss Sunil P. Deshpande, Shirdi
- 18 Swami Sanjayanand, Badrinath
- 19 Sou. Mirabai Sanjayanand, Badrinath
- 20 Sou. Kousabai C. Chopada, Shirdi
- 21 Shri Seetaram B. Pawar, Pune

22 Miss Vijaya Radhakrishna, Madras 23 Miss Lalita Radhakrishna, Madras 24 Miss Khyatidevi, Madras 25 Sou. Mangala S. Apte, Belgaum 26 Sou. Pramila N. Puranik, Hyderabad 27 Shri Shailesh Bhagwat, Thane 28 Shri Balkrishna Mistry, Kolhapur 29 Shri Janardan Gandhi, Kolhapur 30 Shri Shiwaji T. Dhumal, Shirdi 31 Shri Lakhanbabu Warkhede, Nagpur 32 Shri Shreepad S. Sathe, Pune 33 Shri Madhav R. Potnis, Pune 34 Shri Prabhakar D. Parkhi, Pune 35 Shri Virendrasinha Jaherval, Wardha.

Visits of Important Personalities :-

The following persons, having outstanding status, visited Shirdi during this month :-

1. Shri K. B. Jitkar, Collector Ahmednagar District.
2. Shri K. Kannan, Assistant General Manager, Bank of Baroda.
3. Shri T. R. Desai, Retired Judge, City civil Court, Bombay.
4. Dr. Bahal I. A. R. I. New Delhi.
5. Shri Varma, Collector, Central Excise, Bombay.
6. Shri Dalal, Civil Judge, Thane.
7. Shri Bharde, Ex. Chairman, Village Industries, Maharashtra.
8. Shri D. D. Ranadive, Maharashtra Revenue Deptt, Pune.
9. Shri Padhye, District Sessions Judge, Usmanabad.
10. Shri Wajekar, President Zilla Parishad, Colaba.
11. Shri Ashok Basak, I. A. S., Collector Nasik District.
12. Shri J. C. Kohali, under Secretary Ministry of Defence, Delhi.
13. Shri Doulatram chouhan, Minister for Industries H. P.
14. Shri B. N. Adarkar, Chairman, State Transport, Maharashtra St.
15. Shri B. P. Dalal, I. C. S. (Retired) Law Secretary, Maharashtra State.
16. Shri Dikkat, Brigadier Southern Command.
17. Shri Choudhari, D. I. G. Armed Forces, Pune,
18. Shri Samant, Settlement Commissioner, Maharashtra.
19. Shri Bhangе Prant officer, Sangamner.
20. Shri Sant Dayaram Bapu, Amelee.
21. Shri Shivajirao Bhosle, Principal Mudhoji College, Phaltan.

22. Twenty officers, who are undergoing a training course at the Vaikunthlal Co-operative Training Centre, Pune.
23. Shri Durgadas Rathod, Chairman Khadi and Village Industries, Himachal Pradesh.
24. Shri D. V. Mehta, Divisional Engineer Phones, Indore,
25. Shri Bhuchandra, Director, Ministry of Railway, New Delhi.
26. Shri R. N. Vaidya, Excise Commissioner, Gwalior.
27. Shri N. K. Phadanivis, Director of tourism, Bombay.
28. Shri Rao, Director Textiles, New Delhi.
29. Shri Tumkar, Joint Director, Industries, Bombay.
30. Shri Arjan N. Mirpuri New York.
31. Shri Indra Arjan Mirpuri „
32. Shri Kumar Bhagchandani „
33. Shri Ramakumar Bhagchandani „
34. Smt. Shanta Daryamani „

Weather :-

The weather was free from any infectious diseases. Though it did not rain at all in this month, still the day temperature did not rise too high. Similarly the nights used to be comparatively cool in this month.



Sai Baba Tutorial Academy's

JUNIOR COLLEGE CLASSES

(Specialised Std XII Arts / Commerce Classes)

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2. Probable Questions with class – getting cyclostyled answers issued for Board Examination.
3. Patronised by the children of the Honble Shri Shankarrao Chavan, the then Chief Minister & the present Finance Minister, the Govt. of Maharashtra, the Hon'ble Shri Bhausahab Hire, the then revenue Minister, Govt. of Bombay, the Hon'ble Justice Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India, Shri S. M. Parekh, Principal of Bhavans Hajarimal Somani College, Shri Surendra Mehta, Managing Director of Ambika Silk Mills, Shri Navin Kamani, Managing Director of Kamani Engg. Corporation.

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