

SAI LEELA

Official Organ of Shirdi Sansthan



Once Shri Baba was seen pouring water on the fire in the Dhuni. The devotees who saw that asked Shri Baba what He was doing. Shri Baba replied, "I am putting out the fire in Tajuddin's Dargah." Next day a word came from Tajuddin that a fire had broken out of his Dargah.

श्री साईनाथ सान्थालय
वा साईबाबा दर्शनार्थ, शिर्डी.

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SHRI SAILEELA

AUGUST 1982

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SHRI
SAILEELA

**Official Organ of
Shirdi Sansthan**

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

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ENVY

The human mind has many natural instincts. They are inherent in human nature. Whenever we see any beautiful thing we feel happy. If somebody troubles you or teases you, then you get angry. Seeing any danger to your life, you become afraid. Similarly if you see something good with your neighbour and if you are not able to get that thing easily, you start envying that person. This instinct is known as (मत्सर) and it is defined as the sixth enemy of the human race by the saints as this also leads people to disaster. In the previous editorials we have dealt with the other five natural enemies of the human race and it is proposed to deal with the last of them here.

Though (मत्सर) envy is placed last in the group of the enemies of the human race, we should not think that it is so because it is less harmful than others. The saints had to warn human race against certain natural instincts and they chose a few of the prominent ones for sounding a note of warning. The order in which these enemies are mentioned should not therefore be taken to indicate the degree of their harmfulness. We should treat them all on par and guard ourselves against them and save ourselves from their upper hand over us.

The famous epics of all countries expose the human race in all respects. The characters portrayed in most epics show the variety of human nature. The epics are therefore more or less universal in nature. The two great epics of India viz. Ramayana and Mahabharat depict human nature in all its

aspects. Hence envious people are also portrayed in them, which show how envy leads to disaster. The whole story of Ramayana is based on envy. Kaikeyi the junior queen of king Dasharath, became jealous of the fortune of the senior queen Kausalya, whose son Rama was proposed to be crowned as the king of Ayodhya. If envy was not at the bottom of her request, then to what else can we attribute her queer demands? Sending away Rama to the forest, the abduction of Seeta by Ravana, Rama's expedition to Lanka, the capital of Ravana and ultimately the defeat of Ravana are all the events, which followed because of the boons which were granted by king Dasharatha to his beloved queen Kaikeyi. The epic Ramayana is therefore a very good example of a big disaster resulting from the envy of one person.

Mahabharat is the second Indian epic showing the bad effects of envy. The Kaurawas and the Pandawas were near relatives. They were brought up together. They were educated under the same preceptor. Under such circumstances they should have developed deep affection for each other; but this did not happen. On the other hand they became each other's dire enemies. Why was it so? The Kaurawas became jealous of the lot of the Pandawas. They started envying the Pandawas and wanted to usurp their kingdom; but they perhaps knew that in a straight fight they would not be able to win. Hence they first took recourse to the game of dice which resulted in the Pandawas going to the forest. The later events in the Mahabharat are known to every body and they need not be repeated here; but the main thing to be noted here is that the rivalry resulting from envy of the two groups is the root cause of the story of Mahabharat. In modern times the kingship has become out of date. Hence such rivalry cannot be pointed out in certain dynasties; but this legacy of envy has now been inherited by nations following different theories. The communist and capitalist nations in the world are envying the lot of others and are always trying to encroach on the territories of each

other. Apparently we feel that this is a fight between two theories but on a second thought we will come to know that the instinct of envy rooted deeply in the human character is collectively acting in this manner and creating all this trouble and turmoil in the world. The nations that want to expand their boundaries on the grounds of the spread of their religion are also envious of the lot of the people, who have got a religion different from their religion and though apparently they seem to be fanatic, the real cause of their aggression is the envy of others.

The envy which manifests itself collectively through the aggressive policy of the nations can be seen in individuals also. All invaders in the historic times, right from Alexander, were ambitious as well envious of others. The Mohamood of Gazani had heard much about India. He was told that it was a country having lot of gold. He therefore coveted that gold and envied the people of India for their wealth. He succeeded, in amassing large wealth which he collected by force. Alexander envied the prosperity of other kings. He subdued them and made them to surrender. His ego and ambition prompted him to become an aggressor. This type of envy is seen at low level amongst individuals. All people usually have an experience of the envy of their own class fellows. Intelligence is a gift given by God. It is somehow not bestowed by God equally among all people. Naturally therefore in every class there are some students more clever than others. The students who lag behind always envy the clever students. They never think that others are more intelligent and hence they have gone ahead. Hence in order to come to their level we have to study hard. Thus this envy of others in the class leads to enmity, which some people carry to the end of their life. Of course there are certain people, who know the natural limits of the human beings and their envy does not lead to hatred. This rivalry which arises out of envy is called a healthy rivalry which results in more output and the students study very hard and achieve good results. In common life we see this sort of envy in shopkeepers, who have their

shops in the same locality. They envy each other's lot and try to be on the top. This sometimes results in the ruin of one of them or of both of them. This rivalry however sometimes helps the customers as they get things at reasonably fair prices as both the shopkeepers sell things with a little margin of profit in order to maintain competitive rates.

In common life ladies are found to be more envious than men. From epic period ladies are known for that. As already stated the whole of the epic of Ramayana took place because of the envy of one lady. In the chawls in most cities, the ladies are more friendly with each other than the men, who are staying in the same chawl. The ladies staying near each other are visiting each other's houses very often. They therefore never fail to observe the prosperity of their neighbours. They will then start envying the lot of their neighbours which then leads to unrest in the family itself and the whole building. Sometimes if the children from two families, staying in the same chawl, are studying in the same class then the mother of the child, who lags behind, starts envying the other child and the parents of the other child, who is marching ahead. There are various reasons for the difference in the rank achieved by the two students. Sometimes the intelligence of the two students is not on par. As stated before intelligence being a God's gift nobody can augment it or blame anyone for its want. Thus when the intelligence quotient itself is different the ranks of the students are bound to be different. Sometimes the environments in the two houses are different and they affect the studies of the two students staying in two different houses. The health of any two students also has effect on their studies as the one who is more healthy is naturally able to study for longer hours and is thus able to achieve better results; but all these factors are seldom considered by the parents and the mothers in particular and the children are scolded and sometimes even punished for lagging behind in studies. For some time when the children are very young, they

bear all that; but when they grow up they revolt and sometimes even develop a sort of hatred for their parents. Thus the envy among people is sometimes likely to lead to far-reaching ends.

We have so far seen the effects of envy on human life. At different levels the envy leads to different ends; but in general it affects the human life adversely. The whole object of human life is to achieve pleasure and happiness. We have so far seen the bad effects of envy and the other five enemies of mankind. Shri Sai Baba also wanted all His devotees to achieve pleasure and happiness. For that purpose He had advised his devotees to have devotion towards Him with full faith (श्रद्धा). He had also advised His devotees to have patience (सबूरी) because all things do not take place all at once. The child is not born at once. It has to lie for nine full months in the womb of its mother and develop there bit by bit. A chicken also is not obtained at once. The hen has to lay eggs and hatch them for a certain time when the young ones are born. Thus in order to earn prosperity in this life we have to first follow the teachings of Shri Baba; but from what we have seen so far, the six enemies of the mankind are always hampering the devotees from following this advice in some way or the other. It is therefore necessary to have full control over these natural enemies of the mankind, which are inherent in human nature. Though the apparant aim of human life is to achieve pleasuae, still the real aim should be eternal peace and breaking the cycle of birth and death. Shri Sai Baba wanted his devotees to first have happiness in this llfe so that a happy mind could later think about achievements on the spiritual path. Thus if we have faith and devotion toward Shri Sai Baba we can first achieve the most coveted happiness in this world and also the later progress on the spiritual path. The way to have control over the six natural enemies of mankind thus simply lies in devotion to God or Shri Sai Baba. All Sai devotees will therefore follow this simple path of Sai devotion thereby achieving a speedy progress on the spiritual path.



Sai Sees, Saves and Serves You

When we were staying in Bangur Nagar, Goregaon, we had gone to see that marvellous movie 'Shirdi Ke Sai Baba' in Topiwala Theatre. This Hindi film was going on in full swing there and so we had booked in advance to see that picture.

On that day, I had put on four gold bangles. In the interval, when my husband went out, one hefty man passed through our row three or four times, staring at me all the while. But then, I never thought that he was observing my gold bangles with an intention to take a chance to snatch them away.

After the show was over, we were coming out from the crowded audience. He was following us but some how, he could not succeed in his plan. Of course, this was realised by me when the final attempt of his sneak took place.

When we came to the bus stand on the Goregaon (W), side near the station for catching a bus for Bangur Nagar, that man also stood in the queue. Our housemaid was very clever to observe his uncommon gestures. I have to compliment her alertness because no sooner did the bus come than he, immediately and unexpectedly rushed to me and caught my wrist. He tried his level best to take out my bangles but my clever maid came in between, put her arms on my bangles and pushed that man away. He desperately gave a blow to her and then flew away in the darkness. All this happened within a twinkle of eyes. We were completely nonplussed because of such sudden attack, which was never thought of. That was the evening time with dull day light and darkness was slowly following. Such convenient time particularly in the overcrowded area gave him an opportunity to abscond safely and we could not have any trace of him. However, we just took a sigh of relief as nothing was stolen. My bangles were completely bent down due to his

heavy jolt on my bangles and wrist. These bent bangles are still with me and I did not get them repaired as I avoid wearing gold bangles thereafter. I don't dare to put on such valuables after that incident had taken place! I feel that we female folk should avoid putting on such gold ornaments and other valuables because Sant Sai Nath has already favoured us with much more valuable ornaments of श्रद्धा, भक्ति and सबूरी (faith, devotion, patience, dedication and perseverance)

When we go to see BABA's movie we are bound to be carried away emotionally in HIS thoughts immediately after the picture is over. It is then very obvious that nobody in this world can dare to snatch away the belongings of HIS ardent devotees.

It was none else but beloved Sai Baba only, Who came to our rescue on that day. I am therefore reminded of those immortal words uttered by Him "My eye of vigilant supervision is ever on those who love Me. I will not allow My devotees to come to harm. I have to take care of My devotees And if a devotee is about to fall I stretch out My hands so as to support him. I will not let him fall" ★

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The Two Swamijees

In the year 1941, after completion of my Mechanical Engineering studies at Madras, I returned to my native village. From there I was in pursuit of a suitable job. In that effort, I spent 2 full years, and became tired and wearied. Being young and inexperienced, I was upset for being jobless. I spoiled my health by my mental anguish. In 1942, I had to go for an interview to Madras and during that period I stayed with my brother in the Medical College Hostel. In that effort also I failed. During my stay with my brother, one Dr. Gadiar, a medical student from Mangalore, suggested to me a surprising and awakening guidance which brought me to the lotus feet of Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi which was a turning point in my life.

He suggested to me to approach one Swami Kesaviah who was at that time a Sub-Registrar at Penkonda, Andhra Pradesh. He asked me in that connection to refer to an article which had appeared in "The Sunday Times" of Madras. I got the Weekly and read the article. It was electrifying, and thrilling to me, a young man with a depressed mind and an indifferent health. It gave me gleaming hopes about my future. My faith was such that I was wonder-struck at the predictions of Swami Kesaviah and his faith in Sai Baba about whom I heard for the first time only then. On every Thursday he did Pooja to Shri Sai Baba and then gave his blessings to the crowd which waited till late night to take Udhi Prasadam from him. People ventilated their troubles and grievances to him. He with Baba's grace forecast their future accurately, gave remedy for their ailments and distributed Baba's Udhi. Those who were unable to go over personally to him from distant places could correspond with him to the ready address that was given in the weekly.

I immediately corresponded stating my difficulties and predicaments. He replied to me that after eleven months time

everything will be alright with me and sent Udhi with Baba's blessings. At the same time he asked me to think of Baba always, do Pooja to Him and to fast on every Thursday. I had not even seen Baba's photo then nor I knew anything about him. I wrote to my brother at Madras to obtain a copy of Shri Baba's photo which I heard was available at Madras in Nieli Veerasamy Chetty Street, Triplicane, Madras in a house. My brother purchased a copy of Shri Baba's photo and also a copy of the "Devotees' Experiences" written by Shri Narasimhaswamiji. Thereby I brought the real Sai Baba to my house. I went through the book and my faith in Baba increased manyfolds. The experience was thrilling, and I had the first-hand information of Sai Baba. I began to worship Sai Baba as per the advice of Swami Kesaviah.

Meanwhile in the year 1943, fortunately for me Shri Narasimhaswamy himself visited my village for Sai Propaganda and delivered magic lantern lectures with slides of Baba's life and miracles. My time came, hence I contacted him personally. A venerable, saintly, personality with pretty old appearance with a long beard, wearing Thulasimanimalai. I met Shri Narasimhaswamy also for the first time and I was wonderstruck to see his dedication and noble service to Shri Sai Baba at that old age. I explained to him my difficult situation. After returning to head quarters, he wrote to me a letter instructing me how to proceed on the spiritual path. Every thing was a great miracle to me and I contacted two personalities of great eminence in the line of the great saint Sai Baba of Shirdi. I was fortunate in that respect.

Exactly after eleven months of worshipping Baba as advised by Swami Kesaviahjee in the year 1943 in March I believe, I got a call from the Southern Command, Poona to join the Military Engineer Services as Superintendent, electrical and mechanical at the Garrison Engineer's Office at Ambarnath, Bombay Presidency. I reported for duty there. We were constructing

the Ordinance factory there. I stayed with my cousin who was already working as a Civil Engineer, in building and roads section of the M.E.S. We were staying in the quarters provided alongwith our aunt. As I was in the Bombay Presidency where Shirdi is situated, to fulfil my vow, I mooted out my cousin of my desire to visit Shirdi. My aunt was also pressing me to start. Look at the pity, my cousin who is more a sceptic began to question me about my worship of Sai Baba of Shirdi, poos-pooed the idea and began to discourage me. My predicament became pitiable, as I could not go against his wishes as he was senior to me and also as he was also in those parts for a long time. I was new ta that place and I had no guts or stamina then to discard his opinion and start. My aunt was pressing me again. The contractors who were working under me promised to take me to Shirdi as they were native of that place. They had also participated in the construction of the dome of the Samadhi Mandir. Every time talked about that subject, my cousin dissuaded me and so I had to put off the visit fretting and fuming waiting for an opportunity.

Later I was transferred to the prisoner of war camps at Jalahalli, Bangalore where the Italian prisoners were kept. The same thought was predominant in my mind. I had become free from any interference. I was free to act on my own will and therefore I took the opportunity by the fore-lock and I started for Shirdi in 1947 reserving an interclass compartment. I reached Shirdi via Chitali and entered the holy Shirdi soil. I placed my foot there. At that time the village was in a very primitive stage. There was no bus stand. The village was full of mud walled dwelling houses which had fort like appearance, except the Samadhi Mandir, Dwarkamai, Chavadi, Dixit Wada, Sathewada, Nawalkar wada along with the temples of gods here and there. Khandoba temple was intact. I had put up in the Dixit wada, the present Bhojagraha and was provided with a little rice and jawari roti for my meals.

Look at my fate. I could not visit Shirdi as long as I was near but I had to take up travel from a far distant place like Bangalore. Inscrutable are the ways of Baba. The four or five days I stayed there, I was in bliss supreme. My whole body was in a state of ecstasy. I forgot myself and was going round and round about Shirdi, Khandoba Temple, Laxmibai's house, Samadhi Mandir, Dwarkamai, Chavadi, Gurusthan, Mbalsapati's house and all other places connected with Baba. Abdulla Baba was living then. I prostrated before him and obtained his blessings. He came to the Sai Mandir every day at about 11 a.m. and placed flowers over the Samadhi, He then used to go away to his cottage doing something like waving his hands towards the Samadhi Mandir facing the same, moving backwards. He was staying in the stable of the horse Shyam Sunder. Afterwards balls of rice were carried in plates to him. At that time there was one Ranganathaswami doing service to Abdulla Baba. The Samsthan was managed by the trustees. I participated in the Thursday Guru pooja and carried Chammer during the palanquin procession through the village. As there was no crowd except devotees from South India due to the propaganda of Narasimhaswamiji, I myself did the Abhishekam and also the Ashtottar Pooja.

As per my vow, I walked barefoot to Shri Upasani Baba's Samadhi at Sakori and returned barefoot to Shirdi after paying my obeisance to Upasani Maharaj. I climbed the steps of the Dwarkamai leaving the rest to Baba to fulfil His promise. As long as I was there I met Bhagat Mhalasapati's son and I met him in my later visits. I met Sagun Meru Naik, a good devotee of Baba and had talks with him, who is no more now and whose reference is found in Sai Satcharita. At Shirdi, I felt much the absence of Baba though I was attending the arati etc. at the Samadhi Mandir. Of course my disappointment was satisfied to some extent by seeing the portrait of Baba kept at Dwarkamai. The gleaming eyes of Baba piercing the heart, made me feel his presence. On my later visits to Shirdi, I was

surprised to find palatial buildings around the Samadhi Mandir, Shirdi brimming with activities the full day round the clock except for few hours of rest at night. In my recent visit to Shirdi in 1978, after attending the Sai devotees' convention at Poona, I was still more awestruck to see the Samsthan grow so huge in dimension with its daily routine with so much of amenities. A sight to see the minitown of Sai with the international hotel in the offing. Now Shirdi has the Bhojan Griha to feed thousands and the international hotel functioning with new additional constructions.

The glory of Baba is increasing day by day by the visit of lacs of people to that holy place thereby proving that He is more active now than when He was alive. Looking back to the olden days when Baba was active in a crude village without any lighting even with the least amenities I could imagine, the atmosphere there, where Baba lived with glory with illiterates and high class aristocrats, serving them, blessing them. It might have been a sight to see the Lord moving as a human but full of divinity. We were unfortunate that we never contacted Him then, to be with the Lord. After the darshan of Sai Baba I returned to Jalahalli, Bangalore. Later in 1948 I was transferred to Fort St. George, Madras. At that time, the All India Sai Samaj was in full swing in Brodies Road, Mylapore and was founded by Narasimhāsawami. Every day, I visited the Mandir, attended the Arti and meditation held there. I met every day Narasimhaswami and bowed before him and got his blessings. He was always available at the Samaj premises. At that time, I met Radhakrishnaswami as a middle-aged person wearing dhoti and shirt, with cropped hair and well shaven face. I got acquainted with him. Later also I met him as a Swamijee after he had taken over command of Sai propoganda from his master. Later on Narasimhaswami purchased his own premises and constructed the present new Sai Mandir with Dhyana Mandir, printing press, Medical Centre, library, auditorium for conference,

a High School for children with the official organ of its magazine "Sai Sudha" a monthly. It is another Samsthan. In the Sai devotees' convention held at Madras in the year 1968, I had the privilege to be the Ankita child of Baba, the Rege Maharaj and obtained his blessings. I also met Kakasahab Awasthi and obtained his blessings also.

Narasimbaswami was a Vyasa in writing. He had published many books on Baba under various captions. His books reveal the inner mystery of Baba. His larger work in four volumes is an excellent one, and many of the latest books are mere adoptions of his work. He has written a book on Shri Ramana Maharshi, as the "Sage of Arunachala" when he was there with him. He has written a book on Upasani Maharaj, as the "Sage of Sakori" while he was there with him. I read all his books which enlightened me and made me understand Baba at the first hand. After his Mahasamadhi in the year 1956 he was interned in the Dnyana Mandir in the Samaj premises itself. Later I was transferred to R. I. N. and R. I. A. F., Tambaram and then out of Madras. Meanwhile Swami Kesaviah was transferred to Madras as Registrar after his illness in 1949. He was continuing his Thursday poojas at his house "Sai Nilayam" at Shenoy Nagar, Madras. People were attending his Thursday Poojas and they obtained prasadam from him ventilating their ailments and grievances to him. There were heavy crowd to receive his blessings. I met Swamiji personally in the year 1952 and attended the Thursday pooja. I was wonderstruck to see his personality, his faith in Baba and his dedication for Baba's cause. He had obtained enormous powers and potency due to meditation and concentration on Baba. His mere look itself will heal the afflicted. Later I met him many times. He founded the Shirdi Sai Baba Baktha Samaj. Later he obtained the site opposite his house and constructed a huge, palatial and beautiful Sai Mandir with a large meditation hall. Still he was continuing his Thursday pooja and was blessing the huge congregation of people assembled at the meditation hall. He was giving solace to the

vast crowd that assembled on Thursdays. His blessings and guidance to me and family were of immense value in times of distress or otherwise. We are all well today on account of him. I received a letter from him just a week before his Mahasamadhi and the Gurupoornima message. After his Mahasamadhi in August 1981 he was interned in the Meditation Hall.

I owe my allegiance to these two great saints to come at the feet of Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi. I am ever grateful to them. In the 40 years of my acquaintance with Baba either providentially or willingly or circumstantially to be at the feet of the master, consciously or unconsciously I feel that everything in my life is a part and parcel of His Divine Majesty Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi and nothing myself. ★

R, Subramaniam

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S H I R D I

A Film of 16 Minutes duration in Eastmancolor screening Samadhi Mandir, Dwarkamai, Dhuni of Om Rajadhiraj Yogiraj Parabrahma Satchidanand Sadguru Shri Sainath Maharaj & other Scenes in the vicinity of Shirdi with Commentary in Marathi & Hindi

The Songs accompanying the film are in Marathi, Sanskrit & Hindi. The original film is shot in 16 mm. but 8 mm., 16 mm. & 35 mm. prints can be easily taken from it. A VIDEO copy can also be prepared from it

Sai Devotees & Institutions Please Contact :

SHRI SUNIL CHUMBLE

Madhuli, 5 Ninad Apartments, Ashok Stambha.

NASIK 422 001

A P E T I T I O N

My heart is a turbulent ocean
Which can't stand temptation
My weak spirit
Plays many a witch-craft

My weak faith
Has no moral strength
In search of placid peace
I succumb to many a vices

My tantrum of emotion
Plays havoc in disrupted deviation

Om dear Datta Sai Lord
Extend Your hand to guard me
From the vicious evils
And from the darkest perils

If at all I have true devotion
Guard me from evils of temptation
Don't turn me aside
If at all You reside in me

Give me sublime peace
Not of the temporary nature

I turn to You in good faith
So that You may put me on right path.

K. Sitaraman

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Malad (East), Bombay 400 064



Sai Baba, The Saint of Shirdi

(Continued from July 1982 issue)

CHAPTER XVIII

1. Baba's Sanction and Promise (cont.)

2. Different Works Assigned to Devotees 3. Mission of Saints

Thy leelas being listened devoutly
And into Thy leelas diving deeply
The waves of devotion and love being strong
Will help the precious jewels knowledge throug

Thy promise sure thus hearing
Much pleased was the writer to listening
Feeling fearless and confident of success
The work thought he bound to be a success

To Shama said Thou, "Man utters Thy name when
With love, fulfil all his wishes Thee then
If a man sings Thy holy life earnestly
Thou shalt beset his all sides firmly.

With love if one utters Thy name
Shalt Thou increase his devotion fame
Earnestly if one sings Thy various deeds
Thou shalt always be with him infeds."

Attached all Thy devotees to Thee
With all their hearts and soul free
When all Thy stories to hear free
Naturally will feel happiness ye

Assured Thou all joy infinite
Sing who Thy leelas determinate
Shalt Thou bless him with joy lasting ever
And contentment all through increasing ever

Thy special characteristic is in
 To set free all who see Thee in
 And surrender completely to Thy fin
 Worship and meditate with their kin

Shalt Thou liberate souls all
 Worship Thee with full faith all
 Meditate and remember Thee constantly
 Thou to souls pained hasten instantly

Utter those Thy name free
 Worship those my person ye
 Think those always of my stories life
 Can never be conscious of worldly life

Advised Thou to all Thy devotees so
 To listen to Thy stories eminent so
 Assured them their diseases to get rid of
 And to save them from death's jaws

Tempt Thou thus Thy devotees loving
 Thy stories with respect to hearing
 And to think, meditate and assimilate lore
 Brings that happiness and contentment core

Pride and egoism of Thy devotees being vanished
 Their minds being free furnished
 With complete and whole-hearted faith consciousness
 Will become one with Supreme Consciousness.

Thou showed further Thy devotees
 A way simple to win Thy trophies
 By uttering Thy name 'Sai Sai'
 And that will free from sins of speech and hearing

Entrust Thou the works different
 To men, who see Thee in form different

To some Thou asked to temple build
To others maths and ghats to build

To some Thou set to Thy glories sing
To pilgrimage send Thou to ring
To some Thou sent to tops mountain
To meditate upon Thee to sustain

But to the author Thou set
To write Thy Satcharit best
Thy faith of secularism trend
Throughout the country spread

Unqualified being the author
Began to linger to sip the saucer
He knew no one who would describe
And Thy life true to prescribe

But complete surrender of his
To Thee the God incarnate to be
Made him bade Thy grace
To thy life write by trace

Complete surrender of his to Thee
At Thy lotus-like feet holy fee
Made him believe in Thy grace alone
Can enable to accomplish the work lone

The venture of his to write Thy life
An exercise faculty rope like
Though a work difficult to accomplish
Believed he in Thy favour to achieve dish

The writer was at the desk to write when
Removed Thou his egoism all and made write then
And thus Thou got Thy stories written
As the writer being free from fright

Though the writer a brahmin being
 Lacked in him the two eyes seeing
 The vision of smruti and shruti being
 Incapable was he to write Satcharit feeling

But Thy grace makes a dumb speak
 And a lame to cross the mountain
 So Thee alone knows the knack
 To get the things done to Thy clock

Neither the flute nor the piano knows
 How the sound produced goes
 This being not the concern of the instrument
 But the concern of the player credulent

Chandrakant jewel oozes not by self
 Nor the sea surges by itself
 But the rise of the noon is the cause of it
 So art Thou the cause of writers try of it

Lord Krishna in Bhagwadgeeta says
 There is decay of righteousness when
 And an ascendancy of unrighteousness fen
 On the earth I myself manifest then

The virtuous to protect from
 The vicious to destroy
 To establish righteousness core
 I manifest from age to age more

The saints and the sages clever
 Thy representatives ever
 At proper times appear
 Lord's mission to fulfil dear

The so called four sects then
 Entrusted duties neglect when

The usurpation of rights of one
Makes Thee hail on earth and none

Humiliated being the preceptors
None hearing religious instructions
Beings all possessed by egoes
Thou descend to the earth below

Partaking forbidden food when
Drinking intoxicating drinks then
Under the cloak of religious den
Thou try to put a tight fen

Malpractices people indulge in
And amongst themselves fight kin
When brahmins fail adoration to do
Thou come to the earth to see them do

The meditation yogis neglecting
In wealth, progeny, wife, people engaging
And turning away from path salvation
Appear saints to set them right carnation

Appear the saints to show
The right path to plough
The right way for us to follow
And serve us as beacon light to glow

The saints Sopana, Dnyandeo,
Nivrutti, Muktabai, Namdeo,
Gora, Gomaji, Eknath, Tukaram
Born on this earth to spread Thy mission ran

Narahari, Narsibhai, Sajan Kasai
Sawata, Ramdas, Kanhopatra, Sakhubai
The saints and devotees innumerable
Took birth to show the right path reasonable.

Thou the so-called saint lastly
 The God incarnate the Sai fastly
 Appeared at the village Shirdi
 To profess the faith of love greedy

Though Thou acted like men ordinary
 Thy actions showed Thy skill extraordinary
 And whatever Thee did then
 Did for the devotees' good fen

Wert Thou never for any asana
 Nor did Thou blow any mantra
 But advised Thy devotees all
 To utter Thy name 'Sai Sai' all

(To be continued)

M. M. Amingad

Gulunche, Via Nira, Tal. Purandar, Dist. Pune

Gurupournima Festival in Sai Niketan

All the three main festivals, which are held at Shirdi, are also celebrated on a small scale at Sai Niketan, Bombay. The office was therefore opened at 8 a. m. and the devotees started visiting the office for darshan from that time. From 10-30 a. m. to 11-45 a. m. Shri Prakashchandra Malhotra and his daughter, who are staying at Ambarnath, gave a programme of recital of devotional lyrics on Shri Sai Baba. The programme was appreciated much by the devotees, who had gathered for the noon arti, which was started exactly at 12 noon. About 150 devotees were present for the arti. Prasad was distributed to all the devotees, who attended the arti. As the festival came on a working day, the devotees came for darshan early in the morning and late in the evening. The office was kept open upto 7 p. m. and on a moderate estimate, we may say that over 2000 devotees took darshan of Shri Baba on that day.

Shri Sai Baba's Divine Grace

On perusal of my diary, I am shocked to learn that my life would have ended nearly sixteen years back, but for the intervention of ever vigilant and merciful Shri Sai. I am convinced that He is always guarding His devotees like an affectionate mother keeping a watch on her child who is playing in the park.

Quite a number of trees and plants had grown in our back yard which is vast in area. There we have observed a family of mongoose living happily for nearly two decades. Through the kitchen window, we have watched for hours the young ones playing nicely almost everyday. Hence we had never seen a snake in our compound at any time.

Kasturibai Nagar Residents' Association is within a distance of about one kilometer from our house. It has a spacious hall suitable for Katha Kalakshepams, Pravachanams and meetings. On 20th Feb. 1966 we had arranged for a Harikatha Kalakshepam by one famous Vidwan Sri Krishna Bhagavathar of Bangalore. He was wellknown for a versatile presentation of Shri Ramadasa Charitra in Kannada. The time fixed for the Harikatha was 6 p.m. but due to unseen circumstances, Bhagavathar arrived almost 2 hours late.

As my wife was having fever and the children were fast asleep, I went alone walking to the residents' association. The Kalakshepam ended by about 11 p.m. My eldest brother with his son had also come there from Gandhinagar in car. His house was more than 3 kilometers from the association hall. After the Harikatha was over, I went upto Shri Bhagavathar to offer my respects. He was very happy to see me after a long time and blessed me with an affectionate embrace. He made enquiries about my wife and children. When I told him that my wife could not attend the evening programme on account of fever, he was very sorry to

hear the news. He expressed a desire to visit our house then itself. It was already 11.30 p.m. and as such I thought within myself if this brahmin comes to our house at that odd hour, we may not be able to receive him properly. So I requested him to come to our house next day and also have food with us. Then I did not comprehend Shri Sai's leela, which is beyond human understanding. As he persisted that he would like to come then only, there was no choice left and so I agreed to the proposal. I also told him that I would gladly take him and his accompanying musicians to Saidapet in my car, which was in my garage. My brother was listening to our conversation. He asked me whether I had come in my car. When I told him that I had come walking, he immediately asked me to take his car along with the Bhagavathar to my house and then after our return to take the rest of the party to Saidapet. He would send his driver next day morning to collect his car. When he told me that he and his son would walk home at that odd hour I felt very unhappy because he was nearly ten years elder to me. I thought it would be cruel on my part to make them suffer for my sake. Hence I flatly refused to accept his very kind offer. He again insisted that I should take his car without any mental reservation. I therefore accepted his generous offer. Mother Sai plans every movement meticulously carefully, but we fail to understand His divine will.

I took Shri Krishna Bhagavathar in my brother's car and reached our house within a short time. Both the gates were closed. When I got down from the driver's seat to open the gates, probably on account of the bright headlights, a big cobra suddenly got up hissing, with its hood fully open from the middle where both gates meet. As I was taken aback, I called out Baba to save us and got back into the car. Baba gave me flash message to switch off the head lights, which I did at once. After a few minutes when I switched on the headlights, the cobra had disappeared from the scene. That was the first and the last time, I have seen a cobra in our compound. Then we

entered the house. Bhagavathar enquired with my wife about her health and after that he straight went into our puja room, where he sat meditating for a few minutes. We offered him milk and fruits. He took only a little milk. Then he asked me to take him and his accompanying musicians immediatly to Saidapet. He also expressed his inability to visit our house next day, on account of some prior engagements. I took him and his companions, to the place where they were staying in Saidapet and returned home safely.

When I narrated all the details to my wife, she shed tears of joy before Baba's photo and expressed her sincere gratitude to Him. I also joined her for offering my heartfelt thanks.

In retrospect while going through the events that occurred on that night, the following appear to me of utmost importance.

1. Because my wife was not well and children did not come, I did not go to association hall in my car. Instead I went there walking.

2. Because Shri Krishna Bhagavathar insisted that he would come to our house at that odd hour, my brother forced me to take his car.

3. But for the event (2) in the ordinary course I would have walked back home, stepped on the cobra in the darkness with the consequent fatal ending of my life.

4. So some higher force planned all the events meticulously carefully to save me from an akala maranam. I believe I am sure you will all agree with me if I state that Shri Sai, our affectionate mother and all pervading Brahman has showered His divine grace in extending my life for some more time.

No logical or scientific explanation could adequately and satisfactorily answer the sequence of events.

With my sashtanga namaskarams and sincere gratitude to Shri Sai, I close this narration and I pray to Him to shower His divine grace on all the Sai devotees impartially. ★

A. R. Govindarao

25 II Main Road, Kasturibai Nagar, Adyar, Madras-20.

Winning Sainath's Grace

Be free from egoism, lust, greed, hatred and danger, yourself,
Resist the temptations posed by the nature unto you,
Seek Lord Sainath, to instil unto you an inner spiritual
strength,

As also equal vision, balanced mind, devotion and faith,
Pray Lord Sainath for granting you wisdom and an
understanding heart.

Fill with divine virtues ever your heart,
Watch your word, action thought, character and heart,
Let yourself behold Him in all these names and forms,
Let yourself serve Him in all these names and forms,
Let yourself remember Him ever,
Let yourself hear and sing His glories ever,
Let His name be on your lips ever,
Let yourself abide in Him for ever and ever,
Then Sainath's gracious blessings will fall on you forever.

Y. V. Subbaya.

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Report of the 8th Annual Gathering at Shirdi

(Continued from July 1982 issue)

Monday 1-2-82 (Morning Session)

Speeches by the delegates :

Shri Madhav Gajanan Gore, Kurla :- In order to remember all old Sai devotees, the venue of the gathering may be named as Hemadpant Nagar and a cloth banner may be hung at the entrance of the place. Similarly in the years to come we may have Dasganu Nagar, Dixit Nagar, Gopalrao Buti Nagar, and so on.

Mrs. Usha Prabhakar Mulay, Shirdi:- In Shri Sai Leela we should publish only articles relating to Shri Sai Baba. We should not print other material like marriage ceremonies etc. The words uttered by Shri Sai Baba, which are mentioned in the Sai Satcharita should be reprinted in Shri Sai Leela in simple language so that the common man will be able to follow them.

Shri Raghunath Shankar Junnarker :- The standard of English in Shri Sai Leela (English version) should be improved. Get up of the cover page should be improved and best paper should be used as this is an international magazine dedicated to Sai devotion. A pamphlet giving information about Shri Sai Leela magazine should be printed, framed and displayed in every room, which is being given to the devotees. So that it will help to boost the sale of the magazine. Advertisements for books on Shri Sai Baba should be given concession. The annual gathering should be close to Diwali or Dasara. Hindi issue should be separate,

Shri Jugalkishore Puri:- The eleven sayings of Shri Sai Baba should be printed separately in the magazine. Similarly it should be printed on the title page of Shri Sai Leela that 'Shri Sai Baba left no disciple or heir after his Mahasamadhi'. A separate stall should be opened at Shirdi in the Shirdi Sansthan

premises for selling Sai Baba's photos, lockets, books, issues of Shri Sai Leela etc. The library in the Sansthan premises is in a corner and is therefore not known to the devotees, who visit Shirdi. It should be shifted to some other suitable place, where all the devotees, who are visiting Shirdi, will be able to see it.

The following contributors had also sent their suggestions with the idea of attending the gathering; but it appears that all of them except Shri Machander Das could not attend the gathering due to some unavoidable circumstances. Shri Machander Das could not stay upto the end of the gathering and therefore he could not personally put his suggestions before the meeting:-

1 Shri Utsavlal Tiwari, Ujjain, 2. Shri Suryakant Garje, Pune 3. Shri K. R. Gopinath, Hubli 4. Shri M. M. Amingad, Gulunche 5. Shri Nagore Machander Das.

The suggestions made by the aforesaid contributors may briefly be summarized as follows:-

On completion of 60 years of publication of Shri Sai Leela we may publish a selection of poems published in Shri Sai Leela from time to time. The editor should be felicitated. The biography together with a photo of those writers, whose more than five articles have been published in Shri Sai Leela, may be published. The biographies of all important saints of India may be published in Shri Sai Leela.

The contributors who remain present in Shirdi for the gathering may be allowed to have Abhishek together in a group. A group photo of all delegates alongwith the president may be taken. In the gathering we should have discussion about the teachings and biography of Shri Sai Baba. If possible a competition of writing some essay on spot about Shri Baba may be arranged in the gathering and nominal prizes may be granted to the first three competitors. An elocution competition should also be arranged in the gathering. The delegates should contribute

some amount and arrange naivedya of "zunka and bhakar" to Shri Baba.

In one issue of Shri Sai Leela (English) we should have all articles translated from Marathi issue for the benefit of the readers of the English issue.

Only articles of high standard should be published in the issues of Shri Sai Leela. Sai cult should be spread far and wide. The number of Telugu speaking devotees in Andhra Pradesh is increasing appreciably and there is a demand from that state for a separate issue of Shri Sai Leela in Telugu. Each delegate should explain how he is making efforts to spread Sai devotion.

After the speeches of the delegates were over, Dr. Parchure gave a reply to all the suggestions. He said, "many of the suggestions made by the delegates are to be carried out by the administration. The Court Receiver, Shri Kakresaheb has noted them down and he will take whatever action that is possible for him to take. Some delegates have expressed satisfaction that some of their suggestions have been carried out. I thank them for having acknowledged the same. I further assure all the delegates that whatever action is possible on their suggestions at our end (executive editors) will be taken immediately. Some people have tried to advise that we should not report things which will bring the Shirdi Sansthan in trouble; but let me tell you that reporting comes after the speech and hence the speakers should be advised first not to talk at random and hurt the feelings of others. I thank all delegates for having made valuable suggestions, which will be given due consideration as already told by me before in my speech"

As the clock was approaching twelve noon and as it was time for the noon-arti, Shri Chendwankar informed the delegates to attend the house of Shri Kakresaheb in the afternoon at

3 p. m. for a tea party in honour of the wedding of his son, Dr. Prakash and declared that the morning session had come to an end.

In the afternoon all the delegates gathered at the house of Shri Kakresaheb at about 3 p.m. where tea and snacks were served to them. This programme went on upto about 4.30 p.m. and all the delegates then came to the venue of the gathering viz the old Bhojagriha.

Monday (1-2-82 evening session) :- The main attraction of this gathering was the speech of Shri Nanasaheb Rasane, the president of the gathering, who was born because of the blessings of Shri Sai Baba. Hence Shri Nanasaheb Rasane was requested by Shri Kakresaheb to deliver his presidential address. Shri Nanasaheb said, 'Shri Sai Baba is everything to me as I was born because of His blessings to my father. I had the good fortune to have His company for the first eighteen years of my life and hence I will remember Him with reverence for the whole of my life. I will narrate today all the facts that I have experienced when I was in His company.

Shri Sai Baba always gave his advice orally and that too when He would speak casually. He never told anybody to leave his religion. On the other hand He always told everybody that he should behave according to the orders of his religion and obey them. Some fake people say that I am the disciple of Shri Baba ; but let me tell you that this is not true. Shri Baba never formed any hierarchy of his disciples and hence today nobody can have a claim over Shirdi. I had the good fortune to see Shri Sai Baba from very close quarters. He had exceptional lustre in his eyes. His whole personality had a hallow around it. His lustre could not be tolerated by anyone. Therefore very few people could face Him and stand before Him.

I would request you all to have full faith and devotion to Shri Sai Baba. I would also request you to behave as per His

advice. Then He is sure to run to you in your difficult times to ward off your calamities. Many so-called big people come to Shirdi for darshan of Shri Sai Baba; but let me tell you that they have no real devotion. Because they have cars at their disposal therefore they drop at Shirdi on their way. As they have no real faith, they do not get any favour from Shri Baba.

Many people make conditional offers to Shri Baba and promise to offer Him something if their wishes are fulfilled; but is this correct? Does Baba owe anything to those people? What Baba wants is "Shraddha" and devotion. He blesses them who have real devotion for Him. Therefore you have devotion for Him and you pray to Him so you will automatically get the fruit of your prayer. Fruit will follow your prayer. Some people have no devotion and they only want to get the fruit. Do you think of deceiving Shri Baba in this manner?

All the sincere devotees of Shri Baba were known to me very closely. Kakasaheb Dixit, Sathe, Shyama, Buty, Navalkar, Nimonkar, Gopalrao Gund, Dasganu are some of them. I can tell you many more names of Shri Baba's devotees. All these devotees had firm faith in Shri Baba and they looked upon Him as "Parabrahma". Shri Baba also had love for all these devotees and He always blessed them all.

Sai Baba used to look upon everyone with the same eye. Rich and poor, learned and ignorant such differences never touched Him. He treated all in the same manner. Similarly he did not distinguish between people because of their religion. He never enquired about anyone's religion. In his darbar nobody was prevented from coming. He never considered anyone to be high or low. Therefore he treated people of all religions equally. Today the politicians are talking about the equality of all religions for their own interest; but Shri Sai Baba told this thing several years before and he really had the feeling of equality of all religions.

The words, 'Allah Malik' used to be uttered very often by Shri Sai Baba; but do you know to whom this word "Allah" referred to? People have curiosity about this word. By this word Shri Baba referred to "Allakniranjan". Shri Sai Baba was a Yogi of the Nath sect and therefore he had very high regard for the Guru of the Nath sect viz. "Allakniranjan"

All the old people, who were looking after the affairs of the Shirdi Sansthan, were being advised by me from time to time and after the work of the Shirdi Sansthan was taken over by the Court Receivers, I have been advising them regarding the administration of the Shirdi Sansthan. I am glad to say that the Court Receivers are listening to my advice and I shall be continuing to do this work upto the end of my life not with the expectation of any benefit but as my duty towards the



President Shri Nanasaheb Rasane delivering his Presidential Speech

Sansthan of Shri Sai Baba. In the end I have to say that the udi of Shri Sai Baba is very powerful. It cures all diseases and gives relief to all. You should have the experience of the curative power of the udi by using it daily. Shri Sai Baba was merciful and kind and you should all try to win His blessings by your devotion."

Shri Nanasaheb Rasane spoke in a very fluent way and with fixed conviction. Even the old age did not have any effect on his memory and tone of his speech.

After the presidential address, Shri Kakresaheb delivered his concluding speech. About the separate Hindi issue, he said that he could not tell the audience anything on the spot. However he promised to look into the matter. He observed further that in the Sai Leela (Marathi edition) many poems are being published while prose articles are few. Hence he requested the contributors to pay more attention to prose articles. He also thanked all the delegates for having attended the gathering in large numbers.

Mrs. Rasane and Shri Nanasaheb Rasane were then felicitated by Shri Kakresaheb on behalf of the Shirdi Sansthan by offering a cocoanut, shawl and a garland. The delegates also felicitated Mrs. Rasane, Shri Nanasaheb Rasane, Shri Kakresaheb and both the executive editors, Dr. Parchure and Shri Sadanand Chendwankar. Because Shri Jagdish Deopurkar was recently married, he and his wife were also felicitated by the delegates.

Dr. Parchure then thanked Mr. Nanasaheb Rasane, Mrs. Rasane, Shri Kakresaheb, the staff of the Shirdi Sansthan and Shri D. C. Pathank in particular, Dr. Gavankar and Shri G. J. Chitambar, presidents of the previous gathering Dr. Babaji, Acharya Bhardwaj, and all delegates who came from long distances, Shri Sadanand Chendwankar and his son Shri Subhash Chendwankar for the hearty co-operation given by them for making the gathering a complete success.



**President Shri Nanasaheb Rasane being felicitated by
the Court Receiver Shri Kakresahb**

On behalf of the Shirdi Sansthan Shri D. C. Pathak, Office Superintendent, thanked all for having attended the gathering. On behalf of the delegates Prof. R. S. Pujari, Shri Nagesh Moglaikar and Dr (Mrs). Sumati Khanvilkar proposed a vote of thanks and thanked the Court Receiver for the excellent arrangements done by him. On behalf of the Shirdi Sansthan every delegate was given a cocoanut, a garland, prasad and a calendar having beautiful photo of Shri Baba. These calendars were presented by Shri R. S. Chitnis, the trustee of the Sai Mandir at Delhi.

Thus ended the 8th gathering of the contributors to Shri Sai Leela magazine at 7 p. m. Tilgul was also distributed to all the delegates so that they may carry with them the sweet memories of the gathering. After lunch, the delegates gave a

programme in the Samadhi Mandir upto 10 p. m. and retired for rest after attending the Shejarati

Some delegates left Shirdi by the same night. Most of the other delegates left by the next morning (2-2-82). As this gathering is awaited by the delegates for one year, they took leave of each other, while leaving Shirdi with choked throats and with tears in their eyes and assuring each other to meet at the next year's gathering. ★



A Bond Divine

When I worship the LORD
 I see Him in your form
 When I meditate on you Sai
 I see you in all !

When I think of them all
 I see a FLAME celestial
 Is that the HOLY SPIRIT
 Dwelling in us all ?

Sure it is the LIFE
 That keeps us alive
 Then why not infer
 We are all divine ?

Raghunath S. Junnarker

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What Baba Means To Me

The very presence of the image of Shri Sai Baba radiates serenity, simplicity, divinity. These virtuous qualities blend themselves and feed our mind with peace and prosperity. Whenever I have been troubled or discouraged or I am taking new tasks, I think of BABA whence I get a new courage and self-confidence with which I am able to accomplish my desired goal.

The great saint of Shirdi looks so simple in his attire and yet in him we find a dynamic power and personality. In today's world man's desire knows no limit. We need badly the guidance of the great Mahathmas like SAI BABA. BABA'S message of peace, love for humanity and for all living creatures must be echoed in the four corners of the globe. "Peace" which cannot be bought in any super-markets of the world can be had from Sai Baba. True devotion truly awards the much cherished "peace". Sai Baba, the apostle of peace and love generously showers on his devotees the noble peace.

Serve, love and meditate on BABA and you will be amazed how happy you will feel. That's what I experience in life. BABA'S image urges me to serve, to love and to meditate. From the twenty-four hours we have in a day, it should not be difficult for us to devote a little time and meditate on the saint of Shirdi. I experience the peace that I long for. I do not want to be selfish. I want others too to enjoy likewise and so I write this article for SAI LEELA. ★

V. Subramanian
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The Advent of Baba Into My Life

It was March, 1942. I had been sick for some months, practically bed-ridden without an income except for Rs. 25/- p.m. earned by a nephew as an apprentice. On this the family of seven, four adults and three children, had to be maintained. I was almost bereft of hope of recovery, a physical wreck in my thirties.

One afternoon, a will-wisher of about my age named Syed Abdul Aziz, S. M.'s clerk at Waltair, S. E. Rly, who, however, held me in high esteem as his friend, philosopher and guide came to see me after a pretty long interval. He was aghast to find me in such a moribund condition. He wished to know what I was doing to regain my health. I simply said, "Nothing, except that we all have taken vows individually in the family to different deities for the sake of my recovery". He was visibly surprised to hear me say so. What a stupid thing to do, he seemed to feel. He, however, wondered how he could venture to advise one whose advice he had always sought. Yet, in that situation he felt it obligatory to do so. If he were to fall sick, he continued, every one in his family would individually and together pray to one God for redress. Would it not be the right thing to do, he queried. At least now it was high time we did so.

To me, these indeed were words coming from the depth of truth relayed through a friendly medium. They had the illuminating effect of a gospel truth.

"Whene'er a noble deed is wrought
Whene'er is spoken a noble thought,
Our hearts in glad surprise.
To higher levels rise." (H. W. Longfellow)

Here was I, a drowning man, and there comes a messenger, deputed by Baba (as I now know in retrospect,) to be my

'margadarshi', holding out the anchor of hope reviving for me to catch and hold on to save myself.

I replied meekly that no doubt he was right but such was our tradition which perforce we had to follow. Be that as it might, my friend went on to tell me about the miracle of cure of a 15-year old gastric ulcer, which had been subjecting another friend of mine to periodical fits of torture, which could be alleviated only with injections of morphia, since he was averse to go under a surgeon's knife. I myself had been a witness on one occasion to his suffering which did not respond to the usual dose of morphia, his system having become immune to it by repeated use and the doctor had reluctantly to repeat the injection (saying that it might prove fatal in a normal case) before there was relief.

This gentleman was the late Shri D. Durgaiah Naidu, a P. W. I. of the S. E. Rly. stationed at Waltair, where I too was staying at that time. Having heard of many a miraculous cure of chronic and incurable diseases effected through the healing touch of Udhi by a blessed devotee of Shirdi Sai Baba, then staying at Penukonda in Anantapur District, he had gone there on a Thursday and was accordingly blessed and cured. The long-standing ulcer vanished like magic and not a trace of it could be seen when x-rayed at the K.G. Hospital, Vishakhapatnam. 'Fools who came to scoff remained to pray.'

I was thrilled to hear this account of the incredible coming to pass and my heart melted away into secret raptures.

I immediately sent a note to Sri Naidu requesting for full details and advice. He said that the name of the great devotee was Shri S. B. Kesavaiah and he was Sub-Registrar at Penukonda, and all that I had heard from Aziz was true. He also sent me Baba's Udhi and three different photos of Baba from which I could choose one and keep. I selected the one, now familiar to millions, showing Baba sitting cross legged with

his serene, beneficent eyes, which I am continuing to worship. Looking at those benevolent eyes, I was overwhelmed and my cheeks were bedewed with tears of thoughtful gratitude.

“The tidal wave of deeper souls
 Into our inmost being rolls
 And lifts us unawares
 Out of all our meaner cares.” (H. W. Longfellow)

There are moments in a person's life when due to something seen or heard or experienced or all put together, a turning point is brought about, the beginning of a new phase, a new vista. I was experiencing it.

I forthwith wrote to Shri Kesavaiahji telling him about my helpless condition and praying for his blessings. I received a prompt reply asking me to be devoted to Baba, to utter His name at least 108 times daily, fast every Thursday night for nine months and give my meal to the first fakir that might call, and I should become all right by Baba's grace.

I did accordingly and became all right. ★

Dr. P. S. R. Swami

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Super Baba Shri Sai

It was some time in the middle of the year 1976 and I was overwhelmed with all sorts of troubles., perhaps for the first time in my life. The troubles were not of ordinary and routine nature which are natural with anybody and everybody on the earth. But the troubles which I was confronted with were of such grave nature that nothing short of committing suicide was the only solution. All possible efforts were made

from all sides but they were of no avail and on the other hand the problems went a step further, still deteriorating the situation.

This is at this juncture my mother, a staunch devotee of Shri Sai Baba, advised me to worship Shri Baba with intense faith and in an attitude of complete surrender. As advised by my mother, I started worshipping Shri Sai Baba in full faith to redeem me from the difficulties. One day in the month of January 77 in the early hours of the morning, I heard a voice in a clear tone in my mother tongue Telugu ordering me to come down to Shirdi and He would grant me relief from all the difficulties. Accordingly within a few days I rushed to Shirdi and prostrated before Baba in the Samadhi Mandir in deep meditation and after staying for two days I returned to Hyderabad. Oh! What a surprise. All sorts of difficulties and problems have started resolving themselves one by one in my favour without anybody's interference or influence and exactly on 17th February '77 which was a Mahashivaratri day, I was completely relieved of all the difficulties and problems. I am now a happy and contented man. Shri Sai Baba used his vast supernatural powers to redeem people from their difficulties who approached Him sincerely and so the case happened with me. Baba's grant of relief, even temporal relief, was always a multiple gift. While relieving distress by the use of His supernatural powers, He roused the gratitude and love of the devotee filling him with admiration and devotion. Baba is the embodiment of prema, the joy and solace of His bhaktas. ★

P. Janakiram Reddy

C-3, P & T Colony, Ashoknagar, Hyderabad-500020.



Instant Reply by Sai Baba

On 15th February 1980, I had been to my father-in-law's house for some work. As usual I enquired from my mother-in-law about her son's three year old baby. I was told that they wanted that the baby should eat something else instead of drinking milk as she was grown up enough to take food. In order to prevent her from drinking the milk, they had applied a bitter herb to the nipple of milk bottle with the result that she had stopped taking milk and also she did not take anything else. They had tried many ways to the extent that they told the baby that as the old nipple had turned bitter because it was very old, and with her consent they alongwith their baby went to the shop and purchased a new milk bottle with the hope that the baby would again start drinking milk, but this was all in vain.

As they were narrating the above matter to me, I felt pity for the baby and by His Grace, I found one photo of Shri Sai Baba in their room. Immediately, I put my glance at Him and prayed for His mercy for the small child and at the same time I told my mother-in-law to put milk in the bottle and give it to the baby. I was sure that she would take the milk. They resisted first because they had already unsuccessfully tried it on many occasions. But on my request, they put the milk in the bottle. No sooner did they put the nipple in her mouth than she started sucking the milk with the result everybody in the house became happy. I also again and again prayed to Shri Baba for showering his mercy on the small child, who had not taken any food except water for three days. ★

H. V. Talreja

BK 905/6, Section 20, Ulhasnagar 421 003



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To
Dr. S. D. Parchure M. A., Ph. D.
Executive Editor,
Shri Sai Leela (English.)

Respected Sir,

I got the "Souvenir" of 19th All India Sai Devotees' Convention held at Bangalore from 4th to 6th Dec. 1981, and also information re: installation of Shri Radhakrishnaswamy's statue on 6th Dec. 81 from my friend and Sai Devotee Sri. R. Chandrashekar, Hubli, who by Baba's grace attended the above functions at Bangalore.

The "get up" of the "Souvenir" is very nice. I opened the book and went through the contents viz. the list of "contributors" to the Souvenir and saw your name and the article written by you under the caption, "An Unassuming Saint". I immediately hurried to the pages of your "article" and read it with interest. In this article, you have said that "Swamiji" has been showing special liking & regard for you whenever you were requested to translate the summary of his speech from English to Marathi during Shri Sai Leela contributors' gathering held at Shirdi in 1978, 1979 as well as, in Sai Devotees' convention held at Pune in 1978 and also when you met Him in Shri Inamdar's house at Bombay.

It is no wonder, for, you are Executive Editor of the great Sai Leela Magazine and Swamiji was also the great editor of Sai Sudha (for a number of years) published by "The All India Sai Samaj, Mylapore, Madras-4". He wrote in it valuable sacred articles such as "Brahma Sutras" Narada's Bhakthi Stuthi, "Yoga Vasistha", etc.

So, Swamiji knew the importance and the onerous task the editors have to perform and also the great responsibility entrusted to them in "editing" a spiritual magazine. Further both are great scholars having high qualification (Yours being M. A., Ph. D.)

and Swamiji M. A. (Lit). Both possess vast spiritual knowledge. I have read with love and devotion the life history of "Shri Gadge Maharaj" written by you in "Sai Leela" only from June 1980. I wished I should have read the same from the beginning, when you started writing about him in Sai Leela.

By Baba's grace I had Shri Gadge Maharaj's darshan, in the compound of a College Building near Pune Railway Station. I do not exactly remember in which year I had his darshan. It may be perhaps between 1950 to 1954 during which period I was working as a Railway "Material Van Clerk" delivering Railway Materials to Ghorpuri "Loco Shed." Shri Gadge Maharaj would not allow anybody to fall at his feet. So, I prostrated before him from a distance. I remembered at that time my Kula Guru His Holiness Shri Chandrashekara Saraswati, Senior Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, who is a living God today and who also would not allow anybody to fall at his feet. I have great reverence to both Shri Baba and Kanchi Sadguru. Whenever I pray to them fervently, both give me "darshan". This is due to my parent's blessings.

Coming to the subject proper, after having Shri Maharaj's darshan at Pune, I had been anxious and eager to know more about him which you have fulfilled by writing his life history in Sai Leela. Like Shri Radhakrishnaswamiji's writings, editorials in Sai Sudha in those days, your editorials in Shri Sai Leela are also now well appreciated by all the readers, who are able to learn more and more about Shri Baba and other saints and their teachings.

Lord Krishna says in "Bhagwadgeeta" that He is impartial in dealing with one and all. But, He would show special favours to those bhakthas, who love Him with all their heart and soul.

So Swamiji, I think, has shown special regard for you on seeing your amiable nature, well versed in the knowledge of

seers and saints, full of devotion to Shri Sai Baba and kind and loving to one and all.

I feel very happy for having met personally such a noble, cultured and devoted person on 10-12-81 Thursday in Shri. Gopinath's house at Hubli, where every Thursday Pooja and Bhajan to Shri Baba is going on. Further Datta Jayanthi has also coincided this year on this Thursday viz. on 10-12-81.

It is nothing but Baba's sheer Leela that He enabled me to read your article in the morning of 10-12-81 and have your darshan on the same day at night in Shri Gopinath's house.

Before closing this letter, I have to add that throughout the night on 10-12-81 I was enjoying the Bliss of Baba.

With Baba's Blessings,

Yours, in the Humble, Service of Sai.

R. Radhakrishnan

No. 938/B Vidyanarayanagar, Rly. Qts., Gadag Road, Hubli-20

Moral Law

Temples or mosques or churches.....I make no distinction between these different abodes of God. They are what faith has made them. They are an answer to man's craving somehow to reach the Unseen.

The highest moral law is...that we should unremittingly work for the good of mankind. When once we have grasped this vital truth, all other laws of morality will stand self-revealed.

— Mahatma Gandhi



MAY 1982

As the schools and colleges were having their vacations in this month, many parents took opportunity to visit Shirdi during this month along with their wards. Hence there was abnormal crowd of devotees at Shirdi during the whole of the month. The staff of the Shirdi Sansthan had therefore very busy time during this month. The following artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir during this month :-

Keertan :- Shri Dattatraya Damodar Rasane, Shirdi

Pravachan :- 1) Shri Laxmanbuwa Wakchoure Shirdi, 2) Shri Murlidhar Patil, Deshmukh, Shirdi.

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Dance, Bhajan etc.

- 1) Shri Sainath Benjamin, Prabhadevi Bombay, 2) Dr. Sushant Bhattacharya, Hyderabad 3) Shri Sudhakar, Kamtekar Wadala
- 4) Sou. Madhuwanti Mirashi, Bombay 5) Shri Amarnath Fakte Allahabad 6) Shri Kamalakarmaharaj Chopadekar Paithan
- 7) Sou. Kaushabai Chimanlal Chopra, Shirdi, 8) Shri Arvind Wasudev Kelkar, Poinad, Dist. Raigad 9) Shri Bharat Bhojan Party Ungol, 10) Shri Anand Kumar Puri, Bombay 11) Shri Puranlal Vyas and Party, Hyderabad, 12) Shri Harendra Shukla, Baroda
- 13) Shri Ramakrishna Arunneray, Changam, Wellore 14) Sou. Jyoti A. Manuja and Party 15) Shri A. M. Manuja 16) Shri Chand A. Manuja 17) Shri Mahesh A. Manuja 18) Kumari Meena A. Manuja 19) Shri Sanju Bhanganani 20) Shri Vasanttrao Dattatraya Walunjkar, Dombivli 21) Shri K. M.

Shidhole, Gwalior 22) Shri Kamalesh Madhu, Delhi 23) Shri Dewaskar, Bombay 24) Shri Vasantao Dadarao Pawar, Shirdi 25) Shri Mahila Mandal Uranpan 26) Smt. Vedawati M. Gopal, Hyderabad. 27) Smt. Smita Babre, Bombay 28) Shri Vijaykumar Narayan Pethkar, Narayanpeth 29) Shri Madhukar R. Bhat 30) Remand Home Band Pathak, Shrirampur 31) Shri S. V. Sharma, Nagpur 32) Shri M. Snbbarao Yellur.

Weather :- The weather used to be very hot during day time in this month. The nights used to be comparatively cool. There was no disease in the Shirdi Village.

JUNE 1982

During the first half of this month there was a good rush of devotees, coming to Shirdi. As the schools and colleges opened, the rush of devotees receded in the second half of this month. The following artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir during this month :-

Keertan :- Shri Ramrao Govindrao Dukre, Peth, Buldhana

Pravachan :- 1) Shri Ghanshyam Madhavrao Paithankar, Yeola 2) Smt. Mirabai Sanjayanand, Badrinarayan 3) Shri Murlidhar Patil, Deshmukh, Shirdi 4) Shri Rameshwar Radhakisan, Selu.

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, dance, bhajan etc.

1) Sou. Nalini Mulgaonkar, Bombay 2) Shri Umesh Mulgaonkar, Bombay 3) Shri Ratanlal Lakhichand Chajed, Kolhapur 4) Shri Jaywantrao Kulkarni, Bombay 5) Shri Anil Mohile, Bombay 6) Miss Sangeeta Kulkarni, Bombay 7) Shri Sainath Bhajani Mandal, Ontimitta 8) Shri Dattavenkat Sai Sansthan, Kalloor 9) Sou. Arati Ashok Jadhav, Vasai 10) Shri Ashok Bhimsen Jadhav, Vasal 11) Swami Sanjayanand Badrinarayan 12) Shri M. Keshavaiyya, Hyderabad 13) Shri Manohar Shahane, Indore 14) Shri Sudhakar D. Dixit 15) Smt. Rajeshwari Dixit 16) Shri Hitendra Dixit 17) Shri K. K. Prakash Sicunderabad

18) Shri G. B. Ishwarrao, Sicunderabad 19) Shri R. Ishwardasaji Sicunderabad 20) Smt. Chandrakala, Guntoor 21) Smt. Vijaya, Madurai 22) Shri Ratanlal Sharma, Nagpur 23) Sou. Chandraben Vitthaldas Bhate, Bombay 24) Kumar Parasmal Champalal Porwal, Chandrai 25) Sou. R. Challamma, Gwalior 26) Shri Satyanarayan Jadhav, Hyderabad 27) Shri Avinash Laxman Kathale, Satara.

Weather :- The weather at Shirdi was rather hot during this month. It was however healthy and free from disease. ★



Request to Contributors

It is observed that inspite of previous requests, many devotees are forwarding their articles in English in hand-written form. As the compositors find it difficult to compose such articles, the contributors are again requested to send their articles duly typewritten only on one side of the page.

After sending their articles many devotees expect that their articles should be published immediately. In this connection it may be stated that innumerable Sai devotees are contributing their articles to Shri Sai Leela for publication with the result that an article is sometimes required to wait in a long queue. Hence as real Sai devotees, the contributors are requested to master Shri Sai Baba's teaching of "Saboori" (सबूरी) and wait for publication of their article.

श्रीसाईलीला

हिंदी विभाग

अनुक्रमणिका

अगस्त १९८२

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पथदर्शी

पथदर्शी बनकर तुम आओ,
ओ मेरे साईनाथ,
पथ अपना हम भूल न जावे,
ओ मेरे साईनाथ ॥ १ ॥

अनेक पथ हैं मंजिल के,
और मंजिल पाल नहीं,
पग-पग पर टोकर लगती हैं
और कोई साथ नहीं, ॥ २ ॥

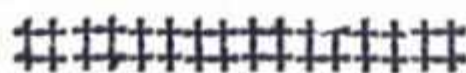
गगन गजना है पथ में,
और निशा का साया है,
दिख डूबा डूबा रहता है,
कोई काम न आया है ॥ ३ ॥

ऐसे में तुम आकर बाबा,
पथ हमको दिखाओ,
पथदर्शी बनकर तुम आओ,
ओ मेरे श्री राम ॥ ४ ॥

अंधकार के तिमिर हटाके,
ज्योतिर्मय कर दो, तुम पथको,
ज्ञान रूपी सागर में बाबा,
हमको भी साथ लेलो ॥ ५ ॥

प्रकाश लालवानी

c/o भगवति साई संस्थान ९२/४, रेल्वे कालौनी कृला (पूर्व) बम्बई



सद्गुरु कृपा तिहारी

श्री साईबाबा धन्य हैं। उनकी लीलाएं अनन्त हैं। उनका पुनीत स्मरण ही सभी प्रकार के सामाजिक दैहिक व मानसिक दुखों के निवारण में समर्थ है। वे लोग निःसंदेह भाग्यशाली हैं, जो सच्चिदानंद, आनन्द घन, सद्गुरु साईनाथ की कृपा कोरसे निरंतर सांसारिक एवं आध्यात्मिक सुखोंका अनुभव करते हैं। साई प्रभु अत्यन्त दयालु हैं। उनका हृदय अगाध समुद्र की तरह विस्तृत है, जिसमें प्रेम और दया का जल निरन्तर उन्नत लहरों रूपी करों से सम्पूर्ण मानवता को परमशांति व आत्मिक सुख के लिए आमंत्रित करता है। उनकी पवित्र एवं प्रेममयी वाणी सांसारिक दुखों से पीड़ित मानवता में निरन्तर नवजीवन व ज्ञान की वर्षा करता रहती है। ऐसे परम कृपालु श्री साईनाथ का बारम्बार स्मरण करके आओ हम सब सद्गुरु की महिमा का चिंतन करें !

श्री गुरु की आवश्यकता

साई सत्वरित के आदि प्रणेता प्रातः स्मरणीय श्री हेमाडपन्त व साई बाबा में एक बार आरंभ में विवाद होने लगा कि मनुष्य को गुरु की आवश्यकता ही क्या है ? वह अपने शास्त्रीय ज्ञान व बुद्धि बल से आत्मिक शान्ति व ब्रह्म-ज्ञान प्राप्त कर सकता है। गुरु तो केवल शिष्य से अपना सेवाकार्य लेता है और सुखपूर्वक जीवन मापन करता है। अतएव व्यर्थ ही गुरु का बन्धन क्यों स्वीकार किया जाय ? लेकिन साई बाबा का मंतव्य इससे भिन्न था उनके अनुसार "इस निजी विद्वत्ता से कुछ कार्य सिद्ध न होगा, व्यर्थ ही अहंकारभाव उत्पन्न होगा।" सद्गुरु साईनाथ ने दोनों की बातें गुप्त रूप से सुनकर बुलाया और कहा "तुम लोग व्यर्थ ही आपस में झगड़ रहे हो। शांति पूर्वक यह दृष्टान्त सुनो। जिस प्रकार बिना किसी पथप्रदर्शक (गुरु) के कोई व्यक्ति केवल पुस्तकीय ज्ञान के आधारपर वन, पहाड़, समुद्र आदि से गुजरा नहीं जा सकता है, उसी प्रकार यह ब्रह्मज्ञान का मार्ग भी दुर्गम है। जिसे बिना किसी गुरु के पार नहीं किया जा सकता है। श्री सद्गुरु का यह उत्तर कितना सही था ? सत्य भी है, श्रीराम व श्रीकृष्ण तो अवतारी थे फिर भी आत्मानुभूति के लिए श्रीराम को गुरु वशिष्ठ तथा श्रीकृष्ण को अपने गुरु सांदीपनि की शरण में जाना पडा। इस

मार्ग को प्राप्त करने के लिए श्रद्धा व धैर्य आवश्यक है अन्यथा गुरु की कृपा एक कल्पना मात्र होगी ।

इसके साथ ही श्री साई महाराज ने स्वयं अपना दृष्टान्त देकर एक अन्यत्र स्थान पर श्री गुरु की आवश्यकता का प्रतिपादन किया है । एकबार श्री साईनाथ व उनके तीन मित्र ब्रह्म की खोज में निकल पडे । श्री साई को छोड़कर तीनों व्यक्ति अपने शास्त्रीय ज्ञान के अहंकार में बिना किसी पथ प्रदर्शक की अपेक्षा किये वीहडवन में निकल पडे । इन चारो लोगों को वन में घूमते हुए देखकर एक बंजारे को दया आ गयी; ये लोग वन का मार्ग न जानने के कारण बार-बार इधर-उधर से धूम-धामकर फिर उसी पूर्व स्थान पर आ जाते थे । उसने आगे बढ़कर अत्यन्त नम्र भाव से पूछा 'श्रीमन् । मैं देख रहा हूँ कि आप बिना किसी पथप्रदर्शक के इस वन खण्ड में भटक रहे हो । मध्यान होने को आ गया है । आप लोग इस प्रचण्ड दुपहरी के कारण बहुत ही भूखे प्यासे व थके प्रतीत हो रहे हैं । आपसे मेरा निवेदन है कि आप लोग मेरे यहाँ चलकर विश्राम करें तथा अन्न-जल ग्रहण करके फिर किसी पथप्रदर्शक के सहयोग से इस वीहड वन प्रान्त को पार करें । भूखे प्यासे रहकर किसी भी कार्य में अभीष्ट सिद्धि प्राप्त करना सम्भव नहीं है ।' लेकिन दुर्भाग्य ! वे तीनों अहंकारी, बेचारे सरल बंजारे के इस गूढ कथन को न समझ सके और आगे बढ़ गये ।

श्री साई क्षुधा और तृषा से व्याकुल थे, और फिर बंजारे के प्रेमपूर्ण आग्रह को टुकरा न सके । वह बंजारा यद्यपि अनपढ व गंवार था फिर उसके हृदय में दया थी प्रेम था, जिसने साई बाबा को बरबस ही रोक लिया । बाबा ने उसके यहाँ जाकर सप्रेम भोजन करके विश्राम किया । तभी उनके गुरुदेव प्रकट हुए और उन्हें साथ लेकर जंगल की ओर चल पडे । मार्ग में एक कुएं के पास बाबा भी श्रद्धा व विश्वास की परीक्षा लेने के लिए दूके उनके पैर रस्सी से बाँधकर उसी कुएं में उल्टा लटका दिया और वे वहा से चले गये । श्री साई का सिर जलसे लगभग तीन फुट की ऊँचाई पर था जिसे न तो वे हाथ से छू सकते थे और न जल को मुँह में जाने की सम्भावना ही थी ।

कुछ घंटों के बाद गुरुजी वापस लौटे । उन्होंने बाबा को कुएं से बाहर निकाल कर पूछा—तुम्हें कैसा प्रतीत हुआ? श्री साईने उत्तर दिया 'अतिसुन्दर । गुरुवर । मुझे परम आनंद का अनुभव हुआ है । मैं उस आनन्दका वर्णन नहीं कर सकता

हूँ ।' इस उत्तर से वे बहुत प्रसन्न हुए और उन्होंने श्री साईनाथ को गले लगा लिया । इसके बाद गुरु ने उन्हें कभी अपने से अलग नहीं किया । वे सदैव उनको अपने साथ ही रखते और सदुपदेश देते रहते थे ।

जिस प्रकार एक चिड़िया अपने बच्चों का सावधानी पूर्वक पालन करती है, उसी प्रकार श्री गुरु उनके शिष्य का पालन करते थे ! श्री गुरु की कृपा से उन्हें अपने माता-पिता की कभी सुध न आयी और न उन्हें कोई कष्ट ही हुआ !

श्री साईनाथ की उक्तकथा सुनकार श्री गुरु की आवश्यकता व महत्ता का प्रतिपादन हो जाता है !

शिष्य की योग्यता एवं प्रकार

सद्गुरु अपने शिष्य की योग्यता पर विशेष ध्यान देते थे । उनका विचार था कि योग्य क्षेत्र में ही जिस प्रकार उत्तम बीज बोने से उत्तम फसल की आशा की जाती है । उसी प्रकार योग्य और श्रद्धालु शिष्य के बौद्धिक स्तर व लगन देखकर ही श्री गुरु उपदेश दिया करते थे । कुछ लोगों का विचार है कि सद्गुरु से प्राप्त उपदेश को अन्य लोगों पर प्रकट करने से उसकी महत्ता कम हो जाती है । यथार्थ में यह दृष्टिकोण संकीर्ण विचारधारा वाला है । सद्गुरु तो वर्षा कालीन मेघ सदृश हैं । जिस प्रकार मेघ, गिरि, वन, उपवन, मैदान, नगर, समुद्र सभी पर समान रूपसे वर्षा करते हैं । उसी प्रकार श्री गुरु अपने अमृत उपदेशों को सभी के लिए प्रसारित करते हैं ।

जिस प्रकार दयालु माता बालक के उपचारार्थ कड़वी औषधि को बल पूर्वक पिलाती है, उसी प्रकार श्री साईनाथ भी अपने शिष्यों के कल्याणार्थ ही उपदेश दिया करते थे । वे अपनी पध्दति को गुप्त न रखकर पूर्ण, स्पष्ट और सरल रखते थे । इसी कारण श्री साई के जिन शिष्यों ने उनके उपदेशों का अनुसरण किया वे पूर्ण सफल हुए । श्री साईनाथ जैसे सद्गुरु ही ज्ञान चक्षुओं को खोलकर आत्मा की दिव्य सुन्दरता का अनुभव करा देने में समर्थ हैं ! विषय वासनाओं की आसक्ति नष्ट हो जाती है, भक्तों की इच्छाएं पूर्ण हो जाती हैं; जिसके फलस्वरूप सांसारिक वस्तुओं से वैराग्य हो जाता है और ज्ञान की उत्तरोत्तर वृद्धि होने लगती है ।

श्री हेमाडपन्त के अनुसार शिष्य तीन प्रकार के होते हैं १ उत्तम २ मध्यम और ३ साधारण ! उत्तम श्रेणी के शिष्य गुरु की इच्छा को पहले ही जानकर अपना कर्तव्य स्वतः ही करते हैं । मध्यम कोटी के शिष्य गुरु इच्छा को अपना सर्वस्व समझ कर सच्चे हृदय से उसका अनुशीलन करते हैं । साधारण प्रकार के शिष्य गुरु की आज्ञा की निरन्तर अवहेलना किया करते हैं । शिष्य यदि अपनी बुद्धि धैर्य और निष्ठा के साथ श्री गुरु चरणों में लगा दे तो हठयोग व कठिन साधना के बिना ही श्री गुरु की कृपासे सहज ही अभीष्ट सिद्धि की प्राप्ति हो जाती है । उन्होंने अपने जीवन में ही श्री गुरु की कृपा से आठों सिद्धियाँ प्राप्त कर ली थी लेकिन उन्होंने उनका उपयोग जीवन में कभी नहीं किया । उन्होंने अपने सहज व सत्यजीवन द्वारा परम शान्ति का अनुभव कर लिया था ! संसार सागर में भटकने वाले मनुष्यो ! अपने ज्ञानचक्षु खोल श्री साई अवतार को स्वीकारो ! उनकी भक्ति करो वे तुम्हें जीवन के सर्वोत्कृष्ट सुख एवं परमानन्द का आस्वादन करावेंगे !

श्री गुरु का उपदेश

एक बार एक महिला श्रीमती राधाबाई देखमुख श्री साईबाबा के पास आयीं और उन्हें गुरुमंत्र देने का आग्रह किया । श्री साईनाथ ने सप्रेम उन्हें समझाते हुए कहा-‘माँ ! मेरे गुरुदेव बहुत ही बड़े सिद्ध पुरुष थे । मैंने उनकी तन मन से खूब सेवा की थी फिर भी उन्होंने कोई गुरुमंत्र नहीं दिया जो मैं आपको बता दूँ । मेरे गुरुदेव की रीतिही न्यायी थी उन्होंने केवल मेरा मुण्डन करके दो पैसों माँगे । मैंने उन्हें तुरन्त दे दिये यदि तुम कहो कि जब श्री गुरुदेव पूर्ण काम थे तो उन्होंने कैसे क्यों माँगे । इसका उत्तर है कि उन्हें कांचन या धन की स्वप्न में भी लालसा न थी, उन्होंने तो दो पैसों के रूप में दृढ़निष्ठा व धैर्य की याचना की थी । मैंने इन दोनों वस्तुओं को श्री गुरु के चरणों में सादर समर्पित कर दिया ! श्री गुरु मुझपर अत्यन्त प्रसन्न हुए और मेरे सारे संकट सदा-सदा के लिए दूर कर दिये । वे प्रेम की साक्षात् मूर्ति थे । मैं आठों पहर एकटक उनके श्री मुख को निहारता था इससे मुझे अतीव आनन्द मिलता था केवल गुरुसेवा की अतिरिक्त मेरे लिए और कोई चिंतनीय विषय न था । यह हुई एक पैसे की दक्षिणा । धैर्य है दूसरा पैसा । मैं धैर्यपूर्वक बहुत समय तक श्री गुरु की सेवा करता रहा । इसलिए हे माताजी ! तुम भी अपनी दृढ़

निष्ठा एवं धैर्यपूर्वक मेरी शिक्षा व उपदेशों का अनुसरण करो । यही तुम्हें भी भवसागर से पार उतार देगा । धैर्य ही मनुष्य में मनुष्यता है । धैर्य धारण करने से सभी प्रकार के कष्ट दूर हो जाते हैं ! धैर्य ही मनुष्य में आत्माविश्वास जगाता है जिससे जीवन के ध्येय की सहज ही प्राप्ति हो जाती है !

श्री गुरु का प्रेम

श्री साईनाथ ने अपने गुरु की कृपा व प्रेम की भागे चर्चा करते हुए कहते हैं—'मेरे गुरु सदैव मुझपर अनन्त प्रेम की वर्षा करते थे । उन्हें मुझसे किसी सांसारिक वस्तु की आकांक्षा न थी । उन्होंने कभी भी मेरी उपेक्षा नहीं की वरन् सदैव मेरी रक्षा करने रहे । सदा मुझपर कृपादृष्टि रखते थे । जिस प्रकार कछुवी का प्रेम अपने बच्चों पर सदैव बना रहता है और वह चाहे अपने बच्चों के पास रहे या नदी के दूसरी ओर रहे, उनको बच्चों की विंता बराबर वनी रहती है ! सो हे माँ ! तुम किसी मंत्र या उद्देश की चिन्ता त्याग कर मुझ में पूर्ण निष्ठा और धैर्यपूर्वक नित 'साई नाम' का स्मरण करो । तुम्हें निःसंदेह परमगात प्राप्त होगी ! मेरी ओर अनन्यभात्र से देखो, मैं भी तुम्हारी ओर वैसे ही देखूँगा । पूर्ण विश्वास रखो, कि गुरु ही कता है और वह ही सच्चा पथप्रदर्शक है । जो गुरु की महानता से परिचित हो जाता है उसे गुरु, हरि, हर व ब्रह्म में कोई अन्तर नहीं दीखता है ।

नवविधा भक्ति

श्री साई महाराज ने एक बार अपने शिष्यों को नवविधा भक्ति समझाने के लिए एक सौदागर की कथा सुनायी ! उन्होंने कहा 'एक बार एक सौदागर मेरे यहाँ आया । उनके सम्मुख ही एक घोड़ी ने लीद की । सौदागर जो कि लीद के लिए उत्सुक था, उसने घोड़ी का छोर बिछाकर उसमें लीद के नौ गोले बनाकर रख लिये । इस प्रकार उसके चित्त को शांति मिल गयी और वह बहुत प्रसन्न हुआ !' उपस्थित लोग इस कथा का भावार्थ बिल्कुल न समझ सके । श्री साई समर्थ ने उन्हें इस प्रकार समझाया 'घोड़ी है ईश कृपा और सौदागर है ईश्वर भक्त । लीद है ईशकृपा से प्राप्त नवविधा ईश्वरभक्ति । यथा- (१) श्रवण (२) कीर्तन (३) स्मरण (४) पाद सेवन (५) अर्चन (६) वन्दन (७) दास्यभाव (८) सख्यता और (९) आत्मनिवेदन । ये नव भक्ति के प्रकार हैं । इनमें यदि एक को भी सत्यता एवं लगन से कार्यरूप में लाया जाय तो श्री हरि के दर्शन

हो सकते हैं । समस्त साधनाएं जप, तप व शुक्र वेद ज्ञान बिना भक्ति के व्यर्थ और अलाभकारी है ।' इस प्रकार श्री साईनाथ के अनुसार औदागर की तरह हर भक्त को व्यग्रता एवं उत्सुकता पूर्वक सत्य की खोज कर भक्ति को प्राप्त करना चाहिए तभी मानासिक शांति व परमगति प्राप्त होगी ।

इसी नवविधा भक्ति को महत्त्व देते हुए अपने अंतिम समय में श्री साईनाथ ने अपनी प्रिय सेविका लक्ष्मीबाई शिंदे को बुलाकर अपने खीसे से प्रथम पाँच रुपये दिये और फिर बाद में चार रुपये दानस्वरूप दिये । इस प्रकार लक्ष्मीबाई को कुल नौ रुपये देकर नवविधा भक्ति के महत्त्व का सदैव स्मरण मे लाने का उपदेश दिया ।

पवित्र ग्रन्थों द्वारा शिष्यों का मार्गदर्शन

श्री सद्गुरु साईनाथ अपने शिष्यों को उपदेश देने में काल व स्थान का कभी भी ध्यान नहीं देते थे । वे उपदेश देने के लिये अपने भक्तों को जहाँ भी पा जाते अपने हृदय से उठे उद्गारों को भक्तों पर उडेल देते थे ! श्री साईने किसी धर्मविशेष का प्रतिपादन नहीं किया । उन्होंने सभी धर्मों व मतों को उदारता पूर्वक सत्य की कसौटी पर जाँचकर एक सत्य रूप को अपनाया और उनकी अपने भक्तों को शिक्षा दी ! उन्होंने अपने प्रिय शिष्य शामा को 'विष्णु सहस्रनाम' तथा बापूसाहेब जोग को श्री बाल गंगाधर तिलकरचित 'गीतारहस्य' का अध्ययन करने का सुझाव दिया । श्री साईनाथ अपने हाथों से छूकर धर्मिक ग्रन्थों को पढ़ने के लिए देते थे । इससे शिष्यों का विना किसी असुविधा व बाधा के उनके पढ़ने में सहायता मिलती थी !

श्री गुरु द्वारा अज्ञान का परिचय

श्री साईनाथ का मतव्य था कि ज्ञान को जानने के लिये अज्ञान को जानना आवश्यक है । उन्होंने गीता के श्लोक के 'अज्ञानेनावृतं ज्ञानं तेन मुह्यति जन्तवः ।' अंश को श्री नाना साहेब चांदोरकर को समझाते हुए कहा— अज्ञान—वश मनुष्य समझता है कि मैं जीव हूँ, एक निर्बल प्राणी हूँ । ईश्वर, विश्व, जीव सभी भिन्न वस्तुएं हैं । यही अज्ञान है । श्री गुरु इसी अज्ञान रूपी जड़ को नष्ट कर देते हैं । वे अपने शिष्य को शिक्षा देते हैं कि तुम ही ईश्वर हो, समस्त उच्छ्वास तुम्हीं में समाया है ! विश्व के सभी कार्यों के तुम्हीं कर्ता

हो । केवल गुरु कृपा से शरीर, आत्मा व परमात्मा का भेद मिट जाता है । यही संक्षिप्त ज्ञान सार है !

प्रार्थना

हे सद्गुरु साईनाथ । भक्तों के कल्पतरु ! मैं आपको किन नामों से स्मरण करूँ । हे दीनानाथ । मुझे ऐसा अशीष दो, कि पलभर भी हमारा मन आपके श्री चरणों से अलग न हो ! हमारी इंद्रियाँ सांसारिक विषय पदार्थों की ओर आकृष्ट न होकर सद्गुरु के ध्यान व स्मरण में ही संलग्न रहें ! हे साईनाथ ! हमारी मनोवृत्तियों को बाह्य जगत से हटाकर अंतर्जगत की ओर लगा दो । जिससे हम आत्मदर्शन में प्रवृत्त हो सकें । हे साईनाथ ! मैं संसार के सारे रिश्ते-नाते तोड़कर 'ब्रह्म सत्यं जगन्मिथ्या' का स्मरण करके परब्रह्म स्वरूप आपका ही स्मरण व दर्शन करना चाहता हूँ !

डॉ. ब्रजमोहन मौर्य
सिंगाही-खीरी (उ.प्र.) २६२९०५

साई सत्चरित सप्ताह का चमत्कार

हमने हमारे यहाँ साई सत्चरित का सप्ताह पाठ पहली बार किया । जैसे तो शिरडी एक दो सालमें जाते रहते है । हमारे यहाँ बद्रिनाथ हिमालय के गृहस्थी सन्यासी दम्पती श्री स्वामी संजयानंद तथा सौ. मीराजी, सालमें अेक बार आते हैं, तथा एकसे दो महिने तक उनका निवास हमारे यहाँ रहता है ।

इस अवधीमें स्वामीजी साई सत्संग और शिरडी की मराठी भारती नियमपूर्वक शिर्डी के नियमानुसार करते है ।

हम लोग सप्ताह पाठ का महत्त्व नही जानते थे । नहि हमे साई सत्चरित सप्ताह पाठ पता था ।

स्वामीजीनें हमें पाठके बारेमें समझाया । इसपर हमने स्वामीजी से हि कहा कि आप पाठ हमारे घरपर रख दीजिये तथा आपही पढ़िये ।

दि. ६-५-८२ को यथाविधी बाबा का पूजन करके स्वामीजी ने पाठ गुरु किया । पाठ सुनने के लिये स्त्री पुरुष प्रतिदिन आते थे । पाठकी समाप्ती दि. १३-५-८२ बृहस्पतीवार को थी । समाप्तीके दिन गरीबोंको भोजन देना निश्च था. । उस दिनका यह साईं चमत्कार है ।

गरीबोंको भोजन देनेके पहले बाबाको महाभोग एक बड़ी थालिमें दुसरी बड़ी थालिसे ढककर बाबाकी मूर्तीके सामने रख दिया था समाप्तीके कारण बहुत स्त्री पुरुष आये थे साईंचरित के आखरी अध्याय का स्वामीजी पाठ पढ रहे थे, सब भक्त शांतीसे मुन रहे थे ।

अर्चानक बाबा की मूर्तीके सामने जो महाभोग रखा था और पानीका गिलास भरकर रखा था उस भोगकी ढकी हुयी थाली एकदम उपर उठ गयी, जैसे किसीने अपने हाथसे जोरसे हटाया हो, पाठ सुनने वाले सब लोग डर गये (यह डर सात्विक था) बाबाने अपनी उपस्थिती का और भोग ग्रहण करने का अनुभव सबको कराया, सबको रोमांच हुआ और नेत्रोंसे आंनु आये क्यों कि उन्होने ईश्वरी अनुभव कभी नहि किया था । पाठके द्वारा बाबाने हमे यह शिक्षा दी कि मैं श्रद्धा और प्रेमकी मिष्ठा स्वीकार करता हूं । बाबा के भोजन पानेके बाद जो भोगके साथ एक गिलास मे पीनेके लिये जल रखा था वह स्वामीजीने तीर्थ स्वरूप प्रसाद वितरण के लिये उठाया तो वह साधारण जलसे सुगंधयुक्त जलमे परिवर्तित हो गया था । जिसे पीकर भक्तगण अपने को धन्य मानने लगे ।

साईं की महिमा अगाध है ।

यू. सी. कपूर

सनवीम कॉटेज, एन्जिन घर सजली, सिमला, हिमाचल प्रदेश.



साँई नाम

साँई को ना भूल्ये तुम कमी
नाम ले लो घडी दो घडी
ओ मोहमाया और ममता को छोडो
नर-देह मिली है बडी.....नाम ले ले

॥ घृ० ॥

उस जीवन का जीना भी क्या.....
जिस जीवनमें साँई न हो
वो मनुष्य, मनुष्य नहीं
जिसमें कोई भलाई न हो
ओ भलाई न हो.....

जिंदगी है अनमोल बडी.....नाम ले ले

॥ १ ॥

ओ साँईबाबा.....तेरे बिना
लागे ना.....रे जियरा
आजसे अपना वादा रहा.....
इम रहेगे साँईदास बनकर
दिलमें साँई बिठायेगे इम
धूठी दुनियाका दर छोडकर
ओ दुनियाकी

दुनियाकी न हमको पडी.....नाम ले ले

॥ २ ॥

लाख प्यारा हो जीवन तो क्या
साँई से कुछ भी प्यारा नहीं
साँई की दीवानी हर मौजपर
दुनियादारी का पहरा नहीं
ओ टल जाएगी

टल जाएगी हर बद घडीघडी नाम ले ले

॥ ३ ॥

श्री हसमुख ओंकार पाटील ("साँईशरण")
गुजरगली, मु. पो. नवापूर, जि. धुलिया, पिन-४२५४१८

भक्ति का प्रवाह

भारत को पुण्य-भूमि और त्याग-भूमि कहा गया है। इस पावन धरती पर आज तक अनेक संत एवं महात्माओं ने जन्म लेकर भारत का सिर ऊँचा कर दिया। इस धरती को वेद-भूमि भी कहा गया। यहीं पर वेदों की रचना एवं विद्या का दान दिया गया। जिनके आधार पर महात्माओं को मोक्ष का ज्ञान प्राप्त हुआ था। संसार के सभी देशों को ज्ञान की भिक्षा भारत से ही मिली।

मध्यकाल में भारत पर अनेक संकट आ चुके थे। मुसलमानों के साम्राज्य में हिन्दुओं की संघटनाशक्ति बिछुड गयी थी। हिन्दु अपने आप को डरपोक एवं कायर समझने लगे थे। एक दूसरों की सहायता करना छोड़कर अपने ही स्वार्थ के पीछे समय बिताने लगे थे। जिससे हिन्दु स्वतंत्रता से न भगवान की आराधना कर सकते थे, न अपने विचारों को जनता के सामने फैला सकते थे। केवल मन ही मन भगवान को पुकारने में लगे थे। उन दिनों में भक्ति की धारा निर्गुण तथा सगुण के रूप में सारे भारत में फैल चुका था। निर्गुण धारा शाखा के भक्त बड़े कट्टर थे। वे सामाजिक परिस्थितियों पर कटु विचार व्यक्त करते थे। हिन्दु तथा मुसलमानों के धर्माडंबर को देखकर दोनों प्रकार के धर्मों में हुए आडंबरों का खंडन करते थे। इस शाखा के महान प्रचारक कबीर माने जाते हैं। मन में फैले हुए दुर्गुणों को दूर हटाकर ईश्वर की आराधना करने के लिए कबीर ने सुंदर उदाहरण दिये।

“केस न कहा बिगारिया, जो मूडो सौ बार।”

मन को क्यों नहिँ मूँडिये, जामें विषय विकार ॥

बालों को मूँडाने से भगवान के भक्त नहीं बनते। मन के विकारों को दूर हटाना चाहिए। हृदय की आत्मा जब पवित्र बनेगी, तब वह स्वयं ही परमात्मा को खोजने सच्चे मार्गपर आगे बढ़ेगी। इस पंथ में ईश्वर की आराधना प्राणायाम से करते थे।

अपनी आत्मा को परमात्मा के दिव्य चरणों में रखने के लिए कट्टर सिध्दांतों का पालन करते थे। तेरहवीं शताब्दी से लेकर आज तक अनेक अद्वैत भक्त अपनी सिध्दांतों के आधार पर भक्ति के प्रवाह में जन साधारण लोगों के दुःखों को दूर करते हुए, जन कल्याण के लिए अपना सर्वस्व अर्पित कर चुके। सन्त ज्ञानेश्वर, तुकाराम, कबीर, रामकृष्ण परमहंस, वेमना, स्वामी विवेकानंद, दयानंद सरस्वती, समर्थ रामदास, रमण महर्षि और शिर्डी के बाबा आदि अनेक महात्माओं का जन्म इस पावन धरती पर समाज सुधार के लिए ही हुआ था।

शिर्डी के बाबाने अहोरात्र दीन-दुखियों की सेवा की। जनता के बीच रहकर जन-साधारण लोगों की पीड़ाएँ दूर करते रहे। सामाजिक आडंबर एवं दुराचारियों को मिटाते रहे समाज सुधार के लिए बाबा ने अपने अमूल्य विचारों को जन मानस के हृदयों में फैलाये। परोपकार के लिए ही मानव का जन्म हुआ है। इस सृष्टि का रहस्य ही परोपकार से भरा हुआ है। इसे जानने वाले ही महात्मा एवं महान संत माने जाते हैं। रहीम कवि ने ठीक ही कहा है -

“तरुवर फल नहीं खात है, सरवर पियहि न पान।”

कहि रहीम परकाज हित संपति सुचहि सुजान ॥

जिस प्रकार वृक्ष स्वयं फल न खाकर दूसरों की भूख मिटाते हैं और तालाब स्वयं पानी न पीकर दूसरों की प्यास मिटाने के लिए जल का संग्रह करते हैं। ठीक उसी प्रकार सज्जन एवं महात्मा अपने धन को एवं ज्ञानभण्डार को समाज के लिए, लोक कल्याण के लिए अर्पण करते हैं। उसी पुण्यकार्य से कीर्ति एवं आत्मानंद प्राप्त होता है।

आंध्र प्रदेश के निजामाबाद जिले के कामारेडु तालुके में ताडुवायि नामक गांव बसा हुआ है। इस गांव में श्री शबरी माता नामक एक महान योगिनी है। जिनके चरणों से गांव का सारा वातावरण पवित्र हो चुका है। माता की अमृत वाणी इसी ग्राम से चारों-ओर व्यापित हो रहा है। जन कल्याण के लिए श्री माताजी हरदिन भगवान से प्रार्थना करती हैं। जन-मानस के हृदय में भगवान को देखते हुए जन कल्याण का कार्य करते हुए श्री शबरी माताजी प्रतिदिन भक्तों को अपनी अमृतवाणी से संदेश दे रही हैं।

भारत जैसे पवित्र भूमि पर समय-समय पर ऐसे महान संतों का जन्म होना भाग्य की बात है। देशवासियों को सच्चे मार्गपर आगे बढ़ाने के लिए महान दिव्य संत आज भी भारत माँ के गोद में अनेक स्थानों पर तपो-साधना में तल्लीन हैं। जिनकी कृपा से ही आज भी भारतमाँ की महानता का गर्व सारे विश्व में फैला हुआ है।

बच्चुला राजवीर

अध्यक्ष, सरस्वती बालानंदम् विद्या समिति, करीमनगर ५०५००१



वन्दना

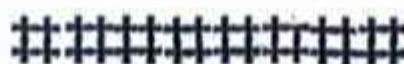
हे साई नाथ, दुख में दिया है तूने मेरा साथ,
दया के देवता, हर पल रखना मुझे,
अपने चरणों का दास ।
हे साई नाथ ----- ।

तेरी भक्ति का जो दीप-जलावे,
वह बन्दा दुख कैसे पावे ?
मैं तो हर-पल जपता हूँ,
साई राम, साई राम, साई राम ।

प्रभु 'वन्दना' करता हूँ,
'शाही' दास का सदा रहें,
आपके चरणों में सदा ध्यान ।
आप ही है इस नादान के,
साई महाराज जी पालनहार, भगवान ।

अशोक शाही

न्यू बैंक आफ इंडिया, सेक्टर १७ बी., चण्डीगढ़



साई तारणहार

हे साई आपही हर्षवदन, आपके स्मितसे नाचे अंग अंग ।
विराजमान हैं आप शिलधीमें, दरशनसे आशिष मिले शत शत ॥ १ ॥

अनेक भक्तों के तारणहार, अनुभव हम सब भक्तों का पल पल ।
जो कोई जिस भावसे मांगे, सो आप देते ही रहे क्षण क्षण ॥
...हे साई आप..... ॥ १ ॥

पूजा नित्य आपकी करते रहे, तो हम पार उतरे भव भव ।
आरती आपकी करे गाकर "आरती साई बाबा" बय जय ॥
...हे साई आप..... ॥ २ ॥

मंदिर में दीपमाला सजी, आनंद विभोर नाचे तब तब ।
आखोंसे प्रेमल अश्रुधारा बहती जाय निर्मल गंगा गंगा ॥
...हे साई आप..... ॥ ३ ॥

शिलधी क्षेत्र फेरी पावनकारी, हम करे हर्षोल्लाससें चल चल ।
आपकी पुण्यदायिनी प्रदक्षिणा नित करते रहे जयघोष पद पद ॥
...हे साई आप..... ॥ ४ ॥

चरणोंमें मस्तक रखे, उदी ग्रहण करें, निनाद साई सत सत ।
चरणामृत का पान करे, आपके प्रिय पात्र बने सच सच ॥
...हैं साई आप..... ॥ ५ ॥

महेशभाई वैष्णव

१, अमेय अपार्टमेन्ट, नवरंग पुरा, अहमदाबाद-३८०००९



साई फिर आना

हे साई फिर जन्म लेना
बनाना इस देश को पुण्यभूमि ॥

पापी बने है ये लोग
तुच्छ बने है ये लोग
काम, क्रोध में पिस गये है
माया में डूबे है ये लोग

रक्त में है स्वार्थ
हृदय में है लोभ
मन में है काम
डूबे गये है इन में

हे दीन बंधु फिर आना
सबके हृदय को प्रेम से
भरना, मन को भक्ति से
बदलना इस रक्त को

बनेगा सुखमय सब जीवन
रहेगा देश सुखसंपत्ति से
गायेगा तेरा गुण गान
बनेगा सज्जन सभी इससे

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