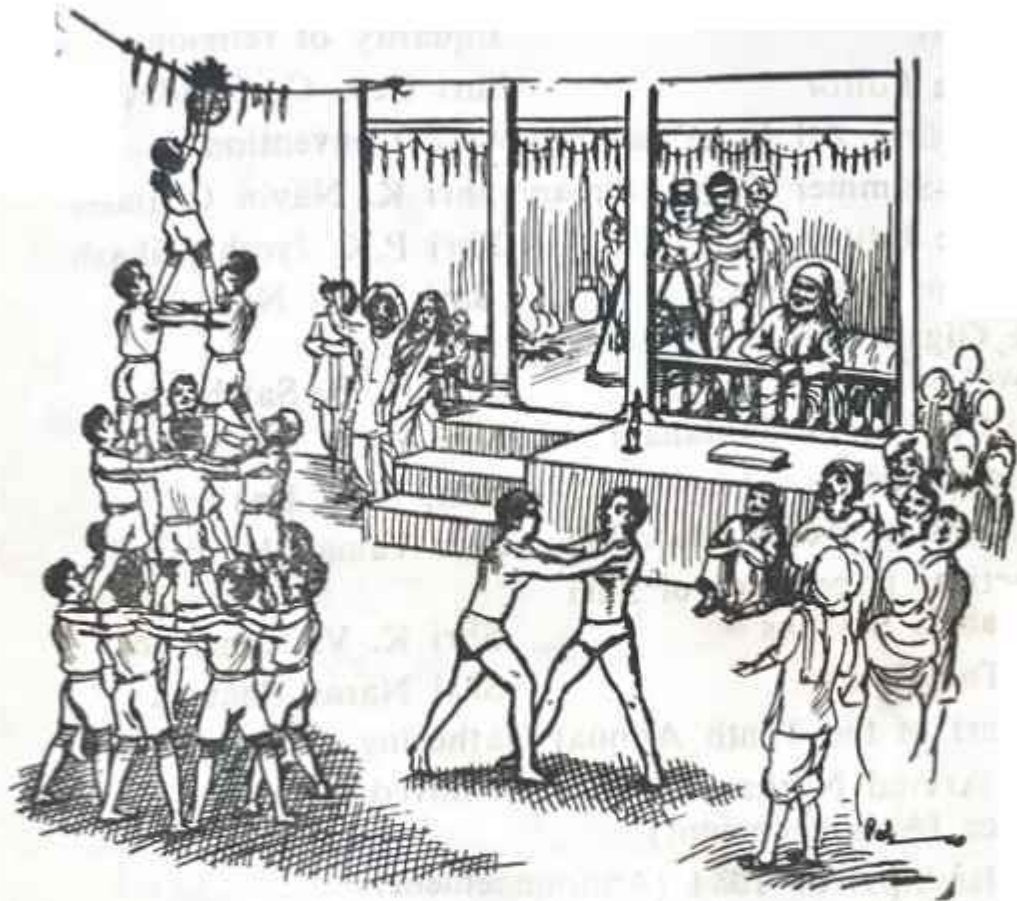


SHRI SAILEELA

Official Organ of Shirdi Sansthan



DAHI - HANDI IN DWARKAMAI

During Sai Baba's life-time He used to celebrate many festivals at Shirdi. On Gokul Ashtami day Dahi-Handi was being hung in the court-yard of Dwarkamai for celebrating the birth day of Lord Krishna. Along with the Dahi-Handi programme wrestling bouts were also being arranged at which tempting prizes were being given. This festival will be celebrated all over India in this month.

August 1984

Rupee One

श्री साईनाथ मठनालय
श्री साईनाथ संस्थान, शिर्डी

SHRI SAILEELA

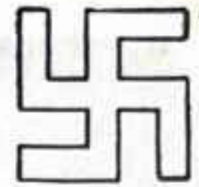
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“Bhumipoojan” ceremony of the staff quarters at Shirdi, was performed at the auspicious hands of Shri V. S. Apte, Chief Accounts Officer of the Shirdi Sansthan, on Gudhipadwa day, the 2nd of April 1984. Shri D. C. Pathak, the Office Superintendent of Shirdi Sansthan presided on the occasion.



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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Equality of Religions

All civilized people of the world follow some religion or the other. Religion is a part of their life and therefore it cannot be separated from them. Why is it so?. What is the part that religion plays in the life of a human being?. Shall we get an answer to these questions by trying to analyse the definition of religion? Let us try. Different people in this world have tried to define religion. If we try to look at all of them and scan them then we may come to queer conclusions. We will therefore examine only one simple definition framed by one of our ancient Rishies. It is यतोऽभ्युदयनिश्चयसंप्राप्तिःसःधर्मः (that which helps a person to achieve prosperity in this life and relief from the cycle of birth and death in the next world is religion). Out of all the definitions of religion (धर्म) the above definition is chosen for discussion because it is a part of the Indian philosophy.

The definition quoted above first of all refers to the life in this world. Every human being wants to prosper in this life. He wants wealth, health and prosperity. The religion has therefore to help him in achieving them or acquiring them. How does religion do this?. For getting answer to this question we have to imagine the state of affairs of the human society ages before when it had no religion. At that time the law of the jungle must be prevailing and ruling everywhere. Nobody must be having security. There must not be any rules of morality governing that society. Then under such circumstances how can the human race prosper? The wise man in such a society must

have therefore got an idea of starting a religion, which would regulate the actions of the society. This religion, which might have consisted of certain set of rules, was followed by a certain society or group and therefore they must have started calling themselves as the followers of certain religion. One other thinker said about religion “धारणाद्धारयति सःधर्मः” (that which holds together a group of people is called dharma) and if we think about the groups of people in this world, who profess certain religion, we can see how these people have close bonds with each other. Thus when a number of people live together abiding by certain set of rules, mostly moral and religious, then we find that they do not bother each other. They try to help each other and thus they work hard keeping faith in God in order to obtain their goal in this life. They thus prosper in this world and they are cemented together with each other to such an extent that when there is any aggression on their religion they are even ready to wage a war in order to defeat the aggressor. History has recorded so many crusades in different ages, which go to show how close people come together due to this bondage of religion.

After thus seeing how the rules of morality and ethics, laid down in all religions, help to maintain law and order in a society and thus how it helps a society to prosper materially in this mundane life, we may now turn to the other part of religion viz. निश्चयस. A human being is seen after he is born in this world. He continues to live for his period of life and during this time he leads a life as he likes. Some live for their own sake, some go on doing things, which will be found useful for all the society. Some people go on pestering others and troubling others; but one thing is sure. Every person who is born, meets his death and he is out of sight. However there has always been a question before all people, who are near and dear to a person, as to what happens to the person, who passes away. Is there any life after death? Can we do something in this life in order to make our life after death a smooth one? These questions have been

posing a problem for some thinkers and for some sincere followers of religion. All the religions in the world do not believe in life after death, but those religions that believe in it have tried to give a reply to the above questions. Though naturally no one has returned and told that what those religions have told is true and that it is experienced and found to be correct, but those followers of religion, who believe in the teachings of that particular religion, take the life after death to be as true as explained in their religious books and behave in this life as per the orders of their religion in order that their life after death may be happy.

We have thus seen that every religion is trying to achieve the prosperity and well-being of the followers of that religion. It may be only about the life in this world or the life after death or about both of them according to the principles of that religion which are taught to the followers of that religion by two means. One is the religious books and the other is the practice or observance of certain religious rituals,

Out of the above two sides of a religion let us first look to the rituals prescribed by the different religions. In general we may say that every religion has prescribed certain rituals about birth, marriage, prayer, death, death anniversary, thread ceremony etc, but the beauty of it all is that, the rituals of no two religions are identical. Even if we look at the way in which prayer is done by the people, professing different religions, we will observe that the Hindus sit down or lie down on the ground, they fold their hands together, touch the feet of the idol, ring a bell in the temple and so on. The Mohomedans kneel down while praying and turn their face only in a particular direction. They also touch their head to the ground so many times that an extra religious man among the Muslims is recognised from the mark on his fore-head which he gets by touching his head to the ground at the time of offering Namaj. The way of offering prayer of the Christians is somewhat different. Other religions also will

be found to be observing slightly different practices while offering prayers; but if we go to the mental state of all these devotees of different religions what shall we find? Their faith in God, their feeling of inferiority before God, the hope in their mind that God will fulfill all their desires as a reward of the prayer will all be alike and thus even if the ritual of the prayer might be observed slightly different by the followers of different religions, their inner principle is the same. This can be said about other rituals also. Why go so far?. There is no wonder that the people belonging to different religions observe the same ritual in a different way when we find that the people, who are professing the same religion, observe the same ritual in a different way because they stay in a different State or they belong to a different caste. Only if the customs about marriage in the Hindus, staying all over our country, are observed closely we will see how they are different from each other in spite of being followers of the same religion. We may thus say that the rituals observed by the various people, under the garb of religion, are not alike and therefore we feel that there is diversity in religions.

If, however, we look to the religious books of different religions what do we find there? The principles laid down in Qoran, the teachings of Jesus Christ and his disciples as stated in the Bible or the guidance given in the Vedas, Upanishads, Geeta or such other religious books of the Hindus do not differ from each other. They all lay down the same principles of morality and ethics. No religion has encouraged its followers to commit theft or to rape a woman. No religion has directed its followers to take narcotic drinks or swallow somebody's property by foul practices and this is quite natural. As pointed out earlier in this article a religion is meant to hold people together and if any religion would encourage antisocial acts then anarchy would prevail in that society which would follow that religion. Knowing this fully well all the founders of different religions

always embodied such principles in their religions which would foster brotherly feeling among the followers of their religion.

Thus though there might be some differences in observing some religious rituals in the followers of different religions, still their philosophy is based on the same principles and all religions therefore guide their followers in the same direction and in the same way on the spiritual path. The story of Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa is fully relevant in this respect. After knowing the principles of Hinduism, Shri Ramakrishna wanted to know the principles of other religions. He therefore placed himself under the priests and saints of different religions and did all the things that they directed him to do; but what was his ultimate experience? He found that in the end he would come to the same end which he had come to when considering the Hindu philosophy. This is the unity of all religions. Though the followers of the different religions are fighting among themselves for religious supremacy, they are doing so not for the sake of establishing some religious truth but it is for their own ultimate end. Shri Sai Baba had a very good knowledge of all the religions and especially the two religions, whose followers were fighting with each other in those days and who are fighting even now. Thus knowing the rules of morality and ethics of the different religions to be one and the same, Shri Sai Baba never distinguished between person and person because of his religion. In his Darbar everybody had the same place and same status. Because Shri Sai Baba knew this equality of all religions, he never encouraged or advised conversion or embracing some other religion by casting away the religion in which someone was born. On the other hand he would advice the followers of particular religion to observe the rituals as prescribed by their priests. Shri Baba knew that by converting to other religion one is likely to change the mode of his outward rituals; but so long as the main principles of all the religions are the same what is the use of conversion? During his life-time therefore Shri Sai Baba tried his utmost to achieve the unity of all religions and it is the duty of we Sai devotees to

follow Shri Sai Baba in this respect. Considering the present religious unrest in our country, it is felt that our country needs to know and master the teachings of Shri Sai Baba especially in the religious matters. We Sai devotees should therefore try our best to preach this philosophy of equality of all religions in order to spread the philosophy of our beloved Guru in this world, which is full of unrest due to various reasons.



The Editor

Shri Sai Leela

Sir,

This is God's Land

This is with reference to your editorial 62 years of publication (Saileela, May 1984), regarding some devotees who are staunch devotees of Shri Saibaba and who say that in the magazine, nothing else should appear except about Shri Saibaba.

I feel, when it comes to religion, one of the key words seems to be tolerance. Tolerance is pleasant and we should all try to cultivate appreciation for one another. But don't make the mistake of being tolerant only as far as your own religion is concerned. Be sure yours is true. The stakes are very high. Remember our stewardship. Our responsibilities are first of all to God who gave all. But we also have duties to our neighbours who need what we enjoy. Remembering our creator and knowing that God made of one blood, the whole human race, let us work wisely and well in God's great world. ★

Yours faithfully,

Gov. C. Gandevia

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Twentyfirst All India Sai Devotees' Convention

(Continued from July 1984 issue)

Dr. Parchure recalled how it was very appropriate that the 21st Convention was being held at Calcutta—the one time capital of India as it is bound to create a great awareness of the teachings of Sai Baba in the eastern parts of India. He said that Maharashtra and Bengal were closely associated from very early times not only in the sphere of social reforms but also in political struggles for the independence of the country beginning from the of partition of Bengal. He referred to the closeness in the leadership provided by stalwarts like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Bipin Chandra Pal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and many others, by these two states in various fields and paid great tribute to the dynamism and progress so characteristic of the great people of the city of Calcutta and Bengal. Paying tributes to the yeoman services rendered by H. H. Narasimhaswamiji in propagating Sai Baba's teachings, Dr. Parchure stressed how Sai Baba's teachings were badly needed now and compared Swamiji to Swami Vivekananda but from whom Swami Ramakrishna Pramahansa's wonderful teaching would not be known. He expressed his happiness in attending this convention, which was being held in Calcutta after 34 years and though he was down with fever, he cast his lot to Baba and attended this convention. He pointedly referred to the good work being carried on by the All India Sai Samaj, which was founded by Narasimhaswamiji and which was later headed by Saipadananda Radhakrishnaswamiji followed by Shri T. Kesava Rao with his eminent band of devotees.

Dr. Parchure pointed out how our faith in Baba had brought all the people together. Building up on the main plank of Bhakthi, the main theme of the convention, he appealed to all the delegates to extend humanitarian services to the needy. He emphasized that only devotion enabled people to visit various

places like Kashi, Rameswaram, Pandharpur, Shirdi, Nasik etc. and so Bakthi was the sheet anchor of life. Bakthi was fostered by Saburi and Nishta and this would ultimately result in greater good of the society and people endowed with Bakthi would be able to render better service.

He concluded by saying that when one became Sai minded from an early age, he is sure to be a good citizen. He prayed to the Master to shower his blessings on all.

Requested to release the attractive souvenir brought out for the occasion, Dr. Dabholkar released the souvenir by handing over the first copy to Shri C. V. Bhaskara Rao of Bangalore and the second copy to Shri Sreeramamurthy of Nellore.

Called upon to speak on the occasion, Shri Nandaji of Calcutta said that the devotees of Calcutta were indeed very happy to host the 21st All India Sai Devotees' Convention. He stressed upon (1) Desirelessness (2) Love all—the dictums followed by Shri Sai Baba and so well expounded by great saints like Kabir, Tulsidas, Valmiki and others and called upon one and all to emulate such lives.

Shri Chinta Sreeramamurthy, president of Nellore Sai Baktha Mandali, speaking next said that the Nellore Mandali wanted to set up a precedent by which the hosts of the previous convention will honour the hosts of the present convention. He offered Baba's vastram to Srimathi Sarojini Devarajulu. He also referred in very appropriate terms to the selfless services rendered by Shri T. Kesava Rao, President, All India Sai Samaj, in arranging such conventions and offered him a Baba vastram.

Proposing a vote of thanks, Shri T. Kesava Rao President, I S S, expressed his gratefulness to the various distinguished speakers of the day. He recalled how the coming together of like minded Sai devotees at different centres of the country is a great moral force which will surely usher in peace, tolerance and

co-operation all round, overcoming the narrow prejudices bringing about national integration.

The function concluded with Bhajan and arati to Baba,

22nd March, 1984 - Second Day

The morning session of the 2nd day of the convention commenced at 9 a. m. Shri C. V. Bhaskara Rao, President of Bangalore Sai Spiritual Centre, took the chair. The topic for the session was "Devotees' Experiences".

At the outset, homage was paid to the memory of Shri Basheer Baba, Sarvashri R. L. Reddi of Nellore, M. K. Rajagopalachari, Vadrevu Rama Rao, Mrs. Tarabai Chendwankar, Smt. T. Balathripurasundaramma mother of Shri T. Kesava Rao all the delegates standing in silence for a minute.

Shri T. Kesava Rao expressed his happiness that nearly 150 delegates from various outstations - 50 from Nellore, 48 from Madras, 5 from Bangalore, 7 from Hyderabad, 1 from Chandigarh, 1 from Tirupathi, 2 from Kakinada, 11 from Pune, 3 from Hubli, 2 from Eluru, 1 from Nayudupet, 3 from Rourkela, 10 from Kharagpur, 1 from Visakha Patnam 2 from Rajahmundry and 1 from New Delhi had come. Then each delegate introduced himself to the audience.

Shri I. P. Mehta of Chandigarh commenced the morning session narrating the experience he had that morning. As he was praying to Baba early in the morning, as though to make him feel that Baba is always present to take care of his devotees, a small child suddenly came to him and touched his folded palms and ran away.

Shri Dattatreya of Bangalore gave out in graphic detail how Baba saved him from a very critical situation in his official life. One day as he was coming out of his factory, a friend of his had requested him to take a lock in his bag and said that he would

collect it after going out of the gate. Shri Dattatreya obliged him. But to his utter surprise at the gate, unusually the supervisory checking staff were doing their duty. He could not retreat as that would create suspicion in the minds of the checking staff nor could he go out boldly, as an examination of his wallet would expose the lock. The rules were that no item should go out of the factory without proper documents. The discovery of the lock would mean very serious consequences for him. He at once prayed to Bhagwan Baba to save him from the perilous situation and walked out to the gate having full faith in Baba. His bag was examined by the checking staff and lo! the lock (a substantially big size one) was not visible to the checking staff with the result he was allowed to go out. After crossing the gate and coming out on the road, Shri Dattatreya found the lock when he looked at the bag. How the lock disappeared when the checking was done (or became invisible to the checking staff) and how it reappeared after crossing the checking point, only Baba knew. This demonstrated how Baba helped his devotees in times of danger.

Another thrilling experience of Baba's *chamatkar* was narrated by Shri P. Malakondiah, Secretary, Nellore Sai Baktha Mandali. He said that a bill collector, who had been sent out by his industrial concern for making collections, had, after making collections to the extent of Rs. 1,25,000, was sleeping in the *Dwarakamayi* at Shirdi with the cash under his head. In a dream Baba appeared before him and asked him to drop the whole bundle into the *hundi*. The bill collector, as was only to be expected, did not muster that much courage. So, he slept again. Again, Baba appeared in his dream and now commanded him to drop the amount. The bill collector now did as Baba commanded. However, he went to his home town and was hiding himself in the house, being afraid to face his employers. The next day, one of the members of the staff came to his house and narrated how the management were very happy to receive from him the draft for Rs. 1,25,000 just when they needed it very badly and how

they were eagerly looking forward to his return to the office. The bill collector was overwhelmed by Baba's extraordinary grace.

Shri K. Ramakrishna Sastri, of Tirupathi, narrated how Baba helped him (an utter stranger to Calcutta) to reach the convention venue from Howrah in the form of a guide. The picture of Lord Venkateswara and Padmavathi Thayarau, sent through him by the Tirupathi Devasthanam, was given to all the delegates, inserted in the souvenir.

Shri K. V. Ramanamurthy of Kakinada narrated how a Nastika was converted into an Asthika by looking into the moving eyes of Baba in His picture at his house.

Shri Vinayak, son of Dattatraya of Bangalore, gave an instance to demonstrate how Shri Radhakrishnaswamiji like Baba saved his devotees. A certain devotee was wishing to go to a circus in Bangalore along with his family members. But Swamiji showed them the whole circus in their dream and consequently the family did not go. It so happened that the circus tent was destroyed by fire on the day during the show for which the devotee had originally planned to go to the circus.

Shri K. Viswanathan, Hon. Secretary of the All India Sai Samaj, Madras, explained how Shri Sudhakar, Treasurer of the Shirdi Sai Mandir Society, Calcutta, lost his bag containing valuable documents during the previous evening and how miraculously it was recovered that night itself due to Baba's grace.

Nearly 22 delegates spoke on their various experiences. At 11.30 a.m. all the delegates went to the main mandir to participate in the Kumbabhishhekam and Arati.

The afternoon session commenced with Shrimathi Sarojini Devarajulu giving in detail the history of the Shirdi Sai Mandir Society. On behalf of the All India Sai Samaj, Shri K. Viswanathan offered Baba's vastra to Shrimathi Sarojini Devarajulu, invoking

the blessings of the Great Master, Shri Sai Baba, Shri Narasimhaswamiji and Shri Radhakrishnaswamiji.

Shri I. P. Mehta of Chandigarh said that the devotee should infuse love and forge universal brotherhood.

Shri K. V. Ramanamurthi stressed that all institutions in one place should work harmoniously, though the number may be many due to the extent of the town, for the common cause of spreading Sai's glory and teachings.

Shri C. V. Bhaskar Rao, of Bangalore, asked the delegates to practice Sath Sangh by calling together all the members of their families every day at an appointed hour and pray to Baba for some length of time - 5 minutes. This could be in the form of recitation of Vishnu Sahasranama also, which was a panacea for all the ills of humanity. This concept of Sath Sangh should be gradually enlarged to include neighbours. He stressed on the essentials of Bhakthi and Guru Seva. He appealed to one and all to develop love and humility and invoked Baba's blessings to one and all.

Shri Patnaik of Berhampur said that a Sai devotee should be free from ego. Devotion and dedication should mark out a devotee from the rest.

Shri Sundaram of Calcutta (P.S.Varadaraja Iyer's son) then sang the life of Shri Sai Baba in beautiful poems.

Vishnu Sahasranama recitation was also done in the Convention

The following resolutions were adopted unanimously :-

1. This convention of the devotees of Lord Sai Baba prays to the Master to bestow His grace for promoting international peace, in the light of the dissensions amongst the super powers.

2. This Convention reiterates its firm faith in the teachings of the Lord Sai Baba which highlights the need for communal amity amongst the various religious sects in our land. It appeals to one and all sections of the society for eschewing hatred and cultivating Universal Love.

3. This Convention resolves that the All India Sai Samaj should, as in the past, co-ordinate the activities of various Sai institutions and take such steps as are necessary to further the Sai movement.

4. This Convention notes with great pleasure that many institutions from Hyderabad, Guntur, Garhwal (Himachal Pradesh), and Madras are eager to have the next Convention. The President of Aiss was directed to fix up a suitable venue and advise well in advance to all the devotees about the venue of the next All India Sai Devotees Convention.

Shri K. Viswanathan proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Shirdi Sai Mandir Society for their efforts in holding the convention at a short notice and so successfully.

Shri Rajagopalan of Shirdi Sai Mandir Society thanked the various persons who were responsible for the success of the convention.



A Mid - Summer Night's Dream

The oppressive summer night made me sleep out in the court-yard. Being light in sleep, the sudden noise of the coconut fronds waving in the open breeze gently lifted me into wakefulness. The starry open sky of the velvety night came into full view as I opened my eyes. Lying on my back I regarded the great vault of the sky filled with the indescribable spectacle of the little twinkling things dancing out there in the immeasurable expanse of time and space. I could not help being impressed by the mystery of God and the majesty of His creation. I felt I saw Baba looking down from the stars—still rubbing those proverbial coins for the benefit of the devotees. The light emitting from those stars, it is said, take hundreds of years—in some cases millions—to reach Mother Earth! If so big is the expanse of the Universe how great must be our Baba who is controlling them!!! As sleep eluded me I began to relive those enchanting halcyon days when Baba lived and moved about in flesh and blood among the poor and simple folk. Those were the nostalgic days never to come again.

My mental vision turned to a day about a hundred years back. A pale moon was covered by a billow of dark clouds. Inside a dilapidated mosque in a dusty village, a group of men and women were clustered around a fireside. Those simple villagers, for whom truth was a religion and honesty a habit, were listening with rapt attention to an old man in tattered flowing robes. It was not a serious talk but on whatever He talked He touched their souls. He, however, sometimes talked in parables; sometimes in riddles. The hubble-bubble of a chillum was making its rounds as the night wore on. Suddenly there were peals of thunder and lightening which rent the sky as it turned murky with dark rolling clouds. Soon there was a deluge of swirling waters inundating everything on the way. The old

man saw it. He quietly came out and raised a wooden staff to the sky and shouted an order for the nature's fury to stop. Like a liquid crystal throbbing to change shape fascinatingly in a couple of minutes the sky cleared and the storm ceased. The pale moon came out of the clouds once again. The frightened but grateful villagers could not help comparing the old man to Lord Giridhar Gopal who lifted a mountain with his little finger to shelter a similarly frightened folk from a deluge. Thinking thus they made their obeisances and returned to their homes happy in their souls. How charming it is to relive this eye-filling spectacle of this old man who later rose to more than life size in the hearts of millions of devotees all over the world!

The scene flitted back to a day of two more decades earlier. Oh! A wrestling bout! What a grand spectacle! Mohdin Tamboli and a young man named Sai Baba. A huge ring was spread out by the villagers crowding round. The wrestlers interlocked their arms and spread out their legs. With feints of hand they circled around trying to bring each other down whenever they could get a chance. Tamboli was full of sinews and muscle. The young man was serene but frail-looking. He was the target of the fanatic's attack. The shouts of the maddening crowd rose to a pitched crescendo as the young man was brought down to the ground. Unable to withstand my anguish, I rushed to Him in my mind's eye. Lying spread-eagled on the ground, He said, "Grieve not. I lost the bout for those were still my days of spiritual learning. In later years you know Javed Ali came to kill Me from behind and I had only to stare at him to drain away all his thoughts of killing Me"...Oh! Baba! What an illuminating face I came to know today!

The next scene was around 1910. Baba was holding His 'darbar' as usual. A rich man, obviously a Mammon worshipper, came to Him and pleaded for instant Brahma Gnana. Baba looked kindly at him more out of pity for the man. As always He did not blow a sermon into his ears but chose to teach him

in His own telling way. The Omniscient Baba sent a man into the village for a small loan of Rs. 5/- from a devotee. He returned back saying the house was locked. This was repeated twice more but He could not secure the loan. The Bania saw all that but he never allowed his hands to reach his waist pocket where a wad of notes was securely tucked inside.

Bringing this fact to his notice, Baba stated that sacrifice is the first virtue to enter the portals of the God's domain. It is easier for a rich man to pass through the eye of a needle than to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Richness are Achilles' heel for spiritual emancipation. A man seeking Brahma Gnana shuns money as filthy lucre. But an ignorant one thinks that with his money he can achieve the grace of God. He thinks he has intelligence for it. But without the power of discrimination, nature only gives him enough to illuminate his own stupidity. Destiny will humble the rich; raise the poor. Discrimination is the key to life. Bereft of humility and humanity and the will to sacrifice, the path to spirituality will lead only into a confusing labyrinth. This world is a complex spectrum of what is known as Maya. Under its influence man is an intricate mosaic of human weaknesses. Unless one steers clear of these compelling barriers, it would be futile to reach the unexplored divinity within ... What a beautiful message Baba gave to this seeker of Brahma Gnana? In the hoary deserts of such miasmatic hearts, let the healing fountain of Baba's love sprout to make this world a grand spectacle worth living!

The next scene turns to the tall and well-built figure of Shri Madhavrao alias Shama. Despite many weaknesses Baba drew him near. He was to Baba what Arjuna was to Shri Krishna - a dearly loved companion. He was the stepping stone for all the Sai devotees to approach Baba with their problems. It was out of this filial closeness he dared to declare in Baba's own darbar that if He failed to fulfil the desire of a woman devotee to have the boon of a male child, he would break the coconut on His head and throw Him out of the Masjid! ... Baba took it with a chuckle. How magnanimous!

Thinking of Shama's association with Baba, my vision somehow metaphorically reveted to the back-drop of those huge galleries of the snowclad Himalayan ranges. From their massive heights my vision saw a huge avalanche of snow and rubble fall down the giant slopes with deep rumbling noises. At the base of the mountain, a great mass of thousands of tons of ice was formed into a glacier. Along with the massive chunks of snow a huge boulder also got itself dislodged from a mountain ridge and joined the glacier. It was big, rough, unkempt. As more snow began to hurtle down the mountain, the glacier slowly began to inch its way down the slopes where it melted as it reached the holy shores at Uttar Kashi, Rudra Prayag and Hrishikesh. The journey of the boulder was painfully slow and it took a millennium before it reached the plains. Its rough edges were smothered by the time it reached Haridwar. But from there it took another millennium for the rolling rock to reach Prayag, Kasi, Pataliputra, Mounagir, Hooghly and finally reach the Bay of Bengal. All the while it kept restlessly rolling and rolling, every inch of the way, washed and prodded by the holy Bhagirathi waters of the aeons of time. When it reached its final goal it was a small pebble with all the refinements of smoothness. It lost its original identity, like the lost ego of a relentless sadhaka, when it finally made the journey.

Likewise, it takes aeons of time -over countless number of births for a man to reach Godhead. The 72 births of earlier association with Baba had chistled all the rough edges and made Shama a spiritually refined man fit enough for God realisation. Similarly, our association with Baba, by enshrining Him as a living being in the portals of our hearts, will surely chistle away all our rough edges too on our way to reach the Godhead. It is only a matter of time. One should have the qualities of that boulder - steadfastness (Nishta) and patience (Saburi) to reach the ultimate Goal. This is the essence of the two cardinal principles which Baba always exhorted His devotees to emulate

and follow. If you have the inclination He has the time - to serve you reach Godhead.

Even as I was thinking thus the great Eastern vault of the sky charmingly turned from grey to crimson. The dancing stars and my mid-summer night's dream both faded into the brightness of the awakening day on that memorable morning of 3rd April this year. Shri Samarath Sadguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai! ★

K. Navin Chander

Deputy Secretary to Government, Finance Department,
Secretariat, Hyderabad - 500 022



The Editor

Shri Sai Leela Magazine

Dear Sir:

I had the pleasure of reading 'Saileela' by the courtesy of my colleague Dr. V. C. Parekh, who received her 1st copy of the 'Sai Leela' yesterday. The book inspired me to write the following lines:

SAI BABA

Sai's grace is enough to dry our sins. He forgives everybody's shortcomings. In the holy place which we all call Shirdi, bathed in divine light, amidst the chanting of Baba's home, we all enjoy the bonanza, brought to us by one single Vibhuti rub an almighty miracle of our Almighty Baba' ★

Sincerely in Sai Spirit,

P. K. Jyothi Prakash

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Baba For Everyone

Though Sai Baba blessed me many years ago, when I was a resident of Bombay, I had not thought of putting my experiences in words. Very recently, I happened to come across "Sai Leela" monthly which inspired me and induced me to write this article.

Before I proceed further, let me say a little about my belief in saints, sadhus and other God-men. I had not believed in saints and sadhus, though I was and am definitely a theist; except a few namely Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Bhagwan Shri Ramana, etc. Apart from these saints, I, with my limited knowledge, had considered all the other saints cheats and believed that they used sainthood merely as a means of livelihood.

One day when I had gone out for a stroll with a friend, I heard bhajan from a roadside building. On enquiry, my friend explained that Baba's bhajan was being conducted there. I did not know who Baba was and upon asking my friend who He was, he replied that Baba was a great saint. The surprise at my ignorance was evident in his voice. My disposition towards saints and sadhus being what it was, I smiled sarcastically and pooh-pooed the information. After this incident, I particularly noted multitudes of Sai devotees wearing rings and pendants with the picture of Baba on it. It had amused me and I pitied them for being the ignorant people I then thought they were. Now dear reader, do you think there is any possibility of such a person becoming an ardent devotee of Baba? But that is just what happened. I, with all my sarcasm towards Sai devotees, with the contempt I had felt for the almost fanatic followers of Baba, found myself in Shirdi at the Lord's feet without me even desiring such an event.

One day in April 1957, my friends (a newly married couple) informed another of my friend and myself of their intention of

going to Pune and persuaded us to accompany them. I had no way of knowing that they were lying and were in fact heading for Shirdi for Baba's darshan. On the way only was I informed of what our real destination was to be. We were travelling in a Fiat car.

We had left Bombay in the afternoon and by five in the evening we had reached a Ghat section, when disaster struck. The car broke down and the amount of smoke which rose from the engine was truly frightening. Immediately we got out of the car since the dense smoke led us to believe that any moment the car would burst into flames. Fortunately, the smoke subsided soon. My friend cautiously approached the car and opened the bonnet of the car, to discover that there was not a drop of water in the radiator and that the engine was really hot. The most frightening aspect of that incident was that the car had gone out of order in an extremely remote area which showed little evidence of human inhabitation. The only sign of human existence were the small huts very far away. This being the case, I feared for our safety and thought it was dangerous for us to be stranded there and that too with a lady in our company. I was really worried. In this perturbed state of mind, I had thought,—"though I don't believe in Baba, the people with me are ardent devotees of Baba and are going for His darshan. If there really exists such a saint with genuine saintly powers, then that power should see to it that they reach His abode and then back home safely". I prayed for this.

My friend walked towards the huts and brought water and filled the radiator. I had very little hope of seeing the car's engine working. But I was in for a surprise. The engine resumed working and the car was in perfect running order till we reached back home. This made me think about Baba and looking back, I think now that this was the stepping stone to my present belief in Baba.

On reaching Shirdi, half-mindedly I went along with my friends to the temple. On entering the temple, I was struck by the divine force and the feeling that He really exists in that place, which attracts everyone to His feet and I was no exception. Such feeling has to be experienced since it cannot be explained or expressed by words. This killed my sarcasm towards Baba's devotees and I soon became one among the million devotees of Baba. But soon human nature surfaced and as such, I could not resist the temptation of praying for worldly things. I prayed for three major happenings. My first desire was to work for a good company and hold a better job than the one I held at that time. When I prayed for this, I did not even have a dream of achieving it. So hopeless the desire seemed! But Baba's immense power was at work and within a month, I had a job in one of India's most reputed companies and I held a responsible post till my retirement. Secondly, I prayed for the restoration of my mother's sight, which had diminished and thirdly, for my niece's wedding. Needless to say, all my hopes and prayers were granted within a short period.

Today, I am a man with the firm conviction that Baba's blessings and His divine power will certainly take care of everyone. ★

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The Gigantic Healing Power of Udi

As regards my humble self, I frankly admit, that I happen to be a very insignificant devotee, as nearly the whole of my life had been engrossed in unworthy mundane affairs, and it was only after the demise of my good and pious wife in November 1970, that a turning point came into my hopelessly dreary and bitter existence. Incidentally during July 1971, I came across some thrilling articles regarding the spiritual grandeur of Shri Sai Baba which impressed me deeply, and prompted me to meet Shri R. S. Chitnis, the President of Sai Bhakta Samaj, Delhi, and a true votary of the eminent saint. I was immensely profitted by his uplifting talk, and the illuminating literature relating to Shri Sai Baba, which he so kindly gave to me, and which I read carefully and reverentially, augmented my faith all the more in the personality and the universal life of Shri Sai Baba. Soon afterwards in October 1971, I became a regular member of the Sai Samaj, and began to take a lively interest in all its activities, and functions. Since then I have drunk deep into the ambrosia contained in the notable books dealing with Sai's life, and teachings, as well as the miracles and leelas performed by Him when He was still in flesh and blood. Fortunately I had the rare privilege of offering my obeisance at the hallowed Maha Samadhi of the exalted Shri Sai Baba at Shirdi on four occasions, which I cannot help stating had always given me tremendous mental relief.

So far the domain of actual personal experience is concerned, I cannot in all humility boast of any extraordinary experience, as popularly understood, but I have of course got rid of a very acute and obstinate pain, as described below.

Round about the year 1947, at the age of approximately 50, when I was working in Kanpur, probably as a result of exposure to severe cold, I had a sharp attack of sciatica, taking complete

hold of me, from the left foot right upto the lower back, which caused such violent and excruciating pain, that for nights together, I could not get a wink of sleep. Sciatica means an inflammation of the supporting tissues of sciatic nerve and much pain is produced on stretching the nerve by bending the extending leg at the hip joint. I had all sorts of oral medication, combined with powerful injections and constant hot fomentation. This state of my acute suffering and agony lasted for more than six months. After the intensity and poignancy of the nasty disease was practically over, I discovered disgustingly, that it had left its horrible remnants in the shape of a few patches of numbness in my left leg, and a varying sort of pain, stiffness, and heaviness was felt at times in my lower back. For the first few years, the pain whenever experienced, was of a mild nature; but from the year 1954 onwards, it took a serious turn, and I had to remain mostly bed-ridden during the winter, and the rainy season. I could not even bend properly or carry any heavy weight, and was asked to sleep on hard wooden board, and use low pillow. This sorry state of affairs, which included very heavy drugging continued upto the end of the year 1973. Thereafter some inner voice told me, that I was a big fool to depend entirely on allopathic medicines, and to ignore the widely known, and the all-powerful efficacy of the Udhi (Sacred ashes) which I had collected at Shirdi, on my last pilgrimage done in February 1974, specially when all medical treatment applied to me had failed so miserably. As soon as the cardinal truth dawned on me, I felt quite strengthened, and started in right earnest the Udhi application on my aching back, supplemented by a little Udhi put on my tongue, this being done every morning, after finishing my prayers; and before taking any eatables.

It is no exaggeration to say, that the application of the sacred Udhi on my lower back has brought about a miracle, as I am no more harrassed by any pain, severe or mild, and even if (this of course happens very seldom) I get any nominal attack, I take a double dose of Udhi, and this puts me right.

All praise to the unceasing and unfailing compassion of the adorable Lord Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi, the Indweller of all beings and redeemer of the fallen, the forsaken, and the destitute.

Lastly I end the said experience with the following prayer:

Oh my Lord Sai, treat me completely as Thine and may Thy bounty make me ever feel fine. ★

H. B. Sawhney
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Eswarah Sarva Bhutanam

Just as every science has got its own elements, God Almighty also has His elements, being earth, water, fire, air and ether (sky). Everything consists of a fraction of the Almighty in any shape of the five. Though subtle, fraction of the Almighty exists in the five elements, as activity in earth; pragynana in water, caution in fire; life in air and lastly, sound of Om in ether (sky). To survive every being requires the five resulting to conclude "Eswarah Sarva Bhuthanam". Beloved Sainath attained all, bequeathing them to all. ★

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Narayan Sewa

Swamy Vivekanand is the originator of this great terminology "Narayan sewa". It specifically means as serving food to the poor and hungry. It is also termed as "feeding the poor." In some quarters it is termed as "Poor Feeding" which sounds as technically injudicious. In other words it is Anna Dana (अन्नदान), which is considered to be the greatest charitable virtue in the present age of Kali Yuga.

This is well-known fact, which we learn from "ages and sages" that Narayan or Parmatman dwells in each and every heart. As such this is very rightly stressed by Swamy Vivekanand that serving the hungry with food amounts to serving the 'In-dwelling Narayan' and which is rightly termed as "Narayan Sewa".

There are various kinds of charities such as giving away wealth or money, property, clothes, food etc. Amongst all these, serving food to the poor and hungry is considered to be the best mode of charity. In other modes of charities, suitability of a person to receive the same is considered. But in case of 'food' no such consideration is necessary.

In this universe, hunger is a specific experience, which afflicts everybody equally. It never discriminates between a very rich person or the poorest of the poor. As such whenever a hungry person approaches our door, we should serve him with food according to our own resources, without considering the status of the person to be fed.

Our beloved Baba Lord Sainath used to take keen interest in feeding the people. For this all necessary arrangements including cooking etc. used to be done by Him personally. He had a great soft corner for the animals too.

According to Baba the sting of hunger is felt equally by the human beings as well as the lower animals and creatures. As such so far as the hunger was concerned our beloved Baba never discriminated a human being or an animal and treated both with equal love and sympathy.

From study of Sai Satcharit we learn that Baba used to procure His food by begging from five different houses every day. In other houses he was simply giving the call, but passing away to next door without taking any thing and so on. The dry food such as rice, bread etc. was being collected in a Jholi and liquid or semiliquid such as pulses, curd, milk or butter-milk etc. was being collected in a tin pot.

After returning to Dwarkamai the whole food, whether solid or liquid, used to be emptied in a big earthen pot. Baba used to take a very little quantity out of it for Himself. The woman, who was entrusted with the work of cleaning the court-yard, used to take as much as she required and the rest was being utilised by cats, dogs, crows and other animals, to which Baba never objected.

Baba is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent and His mode of teaching to His devotees is also exemplary. From Sai Satcharit we learn that one day Mrs. Tarkhad, during one of her visits to Shirdi, was about to commence her lunch, when a hungry dog approached her in expectation of food. She immediately gave a piece of bread and the dog devoured the same with great contentment and went away.

In the evening when Mrs. Tarkhad came to Dwarkamai for Baba's darshan, Baba praised her for feeding Him so affectionately during the noon that very day. At first she could not understand any thing. But every thing was crystal clear to her when Baba narrated in detail how affectionately she fed the hungry dog that noon. Baba blessed her and thus impressed on her that He dwells in every heart, no matter a human being or an inferior animal.

We learn a lesson from this illustration that in performing Narayan Sewa we should observe proper sanctity with utmost love and affection. And also we should not discriminate between a human being or an animal. ★

Smt. Uma Das
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Millions of Roses Blooming

Immortal have become the roses, which are blooming day and night at the Samadhi Mandir, Shirdi (In Ahmadnagar District of Maharashtra State). Lord Sai Baba is incarnate Shri Dattatreya of Nath sampradaya.

Sai Baba's darbar was and is open to all whether he be a sinner, saint, poor or rich. "Sinners," it is said, "are the saints of the world."

Shri Sai Baba was the father and the mother of all the Sai devotees who came to His darshan. It is a joy to look at Him. He always said, "Look at me and I will look at you". He said, "you are my children. I am the strongest man to look after your welfare, believe me. Don't be afraid of anyone. My love towards you all is eternal (even animals and creatures)."

His lotus eyes bloomed with joy. It was and is a veritable dawn of what is auspicious or Mangal in this universe. "Those who come to the darshan of Mother Dwarakmai (mosque) all his sins, I assure, would be washed away". This mosque Dwarkamai is a Tirtha, the holiest of all the Thirthas in the world. It is, indeed very true that the glimmering fire of his Dhuni has proved a nectar to all the ills and dangers; ups and downs, one has to

face in this mundane world. Faith (श्रद्धा) and Patience (सब्रुरी) are its two steps. Look at the Nimb tree whose leaves have become sweet due to the abode of Shri Sai Baba. What more proof could be cited about His Incarnation !!

Lucky are those, who visit this sacred place. The garden, that He watered with His own hands, is blooming with flowers and fruits. Fair roses, stay, stay for long, for we have to sing songs of love and pray before the altar of Shri Sai Baba, do not shrivel and shrink and fade. Ah! The flowers are blooming.

Ye, Sai devotees, go and surrender yourself at His feet and you will feel delightful strength, perhaps unexpected in your life.

Have you ever visited Dwarkamai? (Mosque). It is not a mosque but a mandap of national integration and solidarity of Hindu-Moslem unity. Shri Sai Baba achieved this. The light of glimmering sombre rays outview to peep the Mai wrapped in perfect silence. It is the deepest silence, it is to be experienced by oneself. Go, go there and enjoy the lustre of the halo of the benevolent eyes of Shri Sai Baba.

Oh, incarnate God, Shri Sai Baba, kiss my humble cheeks. Let Thine fervent kiss, awake in me the boundless universe of bliss. Let it thrill my mind and soul. It is an ecstatic moment of unfading joy. It is a blooming rose. And what he says, "I am always alive." Those who remember Him, Goddess Lakshmi dwells in their home and hearts.

Oh, lord Shri Sai Baba I am Thy humble child, please kiss my cheeks with thine rose-bud lips and feed me with Thy luscious sweetness. I surrender at Thy lotus feet and He says: "One who has become mine, that one is blessed. Blessed thirce. Blessed blessed forever".



Vaman H. Pandit
17, Khatipura Road, Indore City (M. P.)

Practical Experience of Shri Sai Baba's Sayings

On 17-11-83 I happened to visit Shri Shanti Ashram Thotapalli in East Godavari Dist., founded by Pujya Shri Omkar Maharaj in 1917. On the next day, I was reading a small book "Gems from the gospel of Shri Sai Baba", sitting in an easy chair in the verandah and stretching my legs on the floor. I was reading the following lines: "It is on account of Runanubandha (former relationship) that we have come together. Let us love and serve each other". Just then a cat came near my feet and was looking at me. Observing the cat for a minute I thought of driving it away by waving my legs; but I continued my reading the passage which is as follows: "Have regard to Runanubandha, whatever creature comes to you, do not drive away; but receive it with due consideration. Give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty and clothes to the naked. God will be pleased".

Then the cat nearing my right foot began rubbing its neck with my toes. I was really astonished. It was not my pet cat as I was there in that room only the previous night, nor did I see that cat till then. What a strange coincidence it is! Due to instinctive nature I would have scared away the cat, when it came close to my foot. But just then I am reading Baba's sayings noted above. So I dared not scare the cat which was still rubbing its neck with my toes.

After a few minutes I got up and went inside my room to have a cup of milk. The cat also came into the room and standing very close to me it was looking at me. I gave a small quantity of milk to it and I wanted to go out locking the door. Then I told the cat, "Look here, I am going out locking the door. Will you please leave the room?" So saying and offering pranamams to Sai Maharaj's photo on the table I came out and the cat also followed me as if it had understood my words.

This practical experience which took place on 18-11-83 is nothing but a reminder to me as well as to all the devotees of Sadguru Sai Baba that Baba's sayings are always true and never fail and that He will be testing us by such incidents. ★

K. V. Ramarao

"Maruti Nilayam" Vidyanagar Visakhapatnam - 3

To
The Respected Editor
Shri Sai Leela

Dear Sir

I am a member of your magazine and after going through your articles I thought that I should also write something about it.

I was having some eye trouble for the past few months, for which I was advised operation few months back. But since I was to visit Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam I had to postpone the same. I was back from vizag on 20th of February 1984 then I came to know of one Sai Baba's temple near dock yard, and through my good luck one day I got a chance to go to that side with my brother-in-law. At gate number five he stopped his car and told me, "we are going to visit Sai Baba's temple". So after taking some coconut from the gate we reached the temple, and after darshan I was immensely pleased. During my one week's stay I got four chances to visit that temple although it was far off from my place of residence. After going back to Delhi I went to my doctor who referred me to Wellington hospital for check up. While coming home my wife told me to have a date so that could go for the operation. After examining the doctor told me to go to room no. 57 for the date of operation. When I reached there and showed my chit to the doctor on duty, I was surprised

to note when I asked for the date, the doctor (Miss Kanchana) smiled and told me, "actually today there is no patient waiting for operation and if you want I can operate you even now". Thinking that it was only Baba's grace that I was the only patient for operation, I readily agreed and my operation was performed that very time. Reaching home everyone was surprised to see my eye bandaged; but they too were very much surprised as to how in such a big hospital it so happened. It was only Sai Baba's grace and it was thus proved beyond doubts that Baba's blessings were freely available to anyone, who just looked at Him. Within few hours of the operation I was quite well. It was only due to Sai Baba's peerless blessings that I recovered so soon. ★

Yours faithfully

Shri Naran Sharma

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Prayer to God gives peace to the heart

A poor man regularly prayed at home and in the temple he used to say: "Thy will be done". His neighbours laughed at him and thought he was stupid. He lost his wife and children and still he said to God: "Thy will be done." Due to a natural calamity, he lost his little hut and land and migrated to another region along with thousands of others. Still he said to God: "Thy will be done." The rest of the people understood his prayer only after they all became poor like him. Because of his sensible prayer, he was peaceful at heart and never felt the burden of life while others prayed for only gains.

Saipadanand Late Shri Radhakrishnaswamiji

Report Of the Tenth Annual Gathering at Shirdi

(Continued from July 1984 issue)

30-1-84(Monday) Evening Session. Shri Jagdeesh Devpurkar announced about a poetic competition to be started in the name of late Sow. Tarabai Chendwankar for which a shield was proposed to be kept for the best. poem. He requested the poets to forward their poems before the end of February 1984. Dr. Dabholkar ex-president and son of Annasaheb Dabholkar had some rare photographs of Shri Sai Baba. They were also shown to the delegates. Shri D. B. Potnis, from Pimpri, had composed a poem paying homage to Mrs. Tarabai Chendwankar which was read out by Mrs. Revankar. Shri Ramesh D. Chavan sung his poem "Salam" and thus thanked all for making the gathering a complete success. Prof. Pujari, Shri Nagesh Moglaikar and Shri Jugalkishore Puri thanked the organisers for arranging all the programmes of the gathering and conducting them properly. On behalf of the lady delegates, Dr. Sumati Khanvilkar from Lonavala thanked the Court Receiver and his staff for holding the gathering as usual and bringing it to a successful culmination. She also expressed her desire, that the gathering should continue permanently from year to year.

Shri Kakresheb then delivered his speech. He said, "Before two years the marriage of my elder son took place round about our annual gathering. This year also the marriage of my younger son is proposed to be held immediately after our gathering. I took charge of the post of the Court Receiver of Shirdi Sansthan in 1978 and from that time this gathering is being held annually and I am very glad that you all are taking part in it enthusiastically. I look upon this gathering as the gathering of the schools

and colleges, which are expected to foster love and friendship among the delegates and I hope that you will go back to your home with these feelings." Shri Kakresaheb then felicitated the President Shri Naik by offering him a shawl, a coconut and a garland. Dr Parchure, executive editor of the English edition of Shri Sai Leela, thanked the Court Receiver, Office Superintendent Shri D. C. Pathak, the staff of the Shirdi Sansthan, the President Shri Naik and the ex-Presidents Mrs. Sa ojinibai Muley and Dr. Dabholkar, all the delegates, who had come from all over India, Shri Chendwankar and Shri Subhash Chendvankar for the Co-operation they have given in conducting the programmes of the gathering.

Shri D. C. Pathaksaheb, Office Superintendent of the Shirdi Sansthan, thanked all the delegates for having Co-Operated with the staff in carrying out the programmes of the gathering. All the delegates, who attended the gathering, were then felicitated at the hands of the president by giving them prasad, coconut and a garland on behalf of the Shirdi Sansthan, Along with this, one calendar with Shri Sai Baba's photo, sent by Shri R. S. Chitnis from Delhi, a copy of the book of the collection of poems of Shri Kamakant Pandit from Matunga, a picture of Shri Shankaracharya, printed on art paper, which was offered by Shri R. S. Ramkrishnan from Madras, multicolour calendar given by the Ganapati colour co., from Madras and the calendar given by Shri P. L. Goyal from Garkhel, Himachalpradesh were also given to each delegate. In the end Mrs. Asawari Waikul sang the farewell song composed by Shri Nagesh Moglaikar from Dhule and this gathering of the contributors to Shri Sai Leela magazine, which lasted for two days, came to an end. In the night from 9 P.M. to 11 P.M. the delegates gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir. Some of the delegates left Shirdi on the same night and others left on 31-1-84 by the morning or evening S. T. or trains according to their convenience. The delegates left Shirdi with a heavy heart, choked throat and with tears in their eyes. While taking leave of each other they

were assuring each other to meet at the next year's gathering. Such is the brotherly and sisterly fraternity that is established by this annual gathering, which is being held at Shirdi regularly from 1975.

The following delegates attended the gathering :-

Dr. Dabholkar, Shri D.R. Khadke, Shri Vijay Hajare, Shri Madhav Gore, Shri G.R. Palkar, Shri Radhakrishna Gupta, Shri Anil Rasal, Shri Vilas Padwal, Shri Ramakant Pandit, Shri Madhusudan Karambelkar, Shri Prabhakar Kolamkar, Sou. Asawari Waikul, Shri waikul, Sou. Asmita Dandekar, Sou. Shanta Sarode, Sou. Shakuntala Jagatkar, Shri Sanjay Paralkar, Shri Suryakant Dalvi, Shri Jayawant Kulkarni, Shri Vasant Pradhan, Shri Bipin Swadiya, Sou. Snehalata Swadiya, Sou. Wasundhara Chore all from Bambay. Mrs. Kumudini Tilak and Shri Tilak from Dombivali, Shri Shashikant Revankar, Sou. Shashikala Revankar and Shri Deepak Revankar from Ambarnath. Dr. Sou. Sumati Khanvilkar, Dr. (Miss) Indutai Naik, Kumar Rahul Khanvilkeer from Lonavala. Prof. R. S. Pujari, Lt. Col. M. B. Nimbalkar, Shri D.M. More, Shri Raghunath Sandbhor, Mrs. Sandbhor, Mrs. Ushatai Muley, Shri J.N. Kulkarni, Miss Neelam Sanglikar, Shri K.K. Thite all from Pune. Shri Bapusaheb Nirkhe Shri Prakash Karpe, Sou. Sarojinibai Muley, Miss Rege from Indore. Shri Nagesh Moglaikar, Sou. Leelatai Marathe, Shri Jagdeesh Devpurkar from Dhule. Shri D. B. Potnis from Pimpri. Shri Madhukar Mandalik, Shri Hasmukh Onkar Patil, Shri Ramesh D. Chavan from Navapur. Shri Shiwaji More from Dondaicha. Sou. Sindhutai Mulik, Sou. Sindhutai Sanas from Nagpur Shri Balasaheb Nadkarni and Shri Ranjit Patil from Kolhapur. Dr. Hibare, Mrs Mathurabai Hibare, Prof. Gunderao Patwari from Bidar. Shri Madhukar Ambade, Shri Teckchandani, Smt. Premlata Meher from Baroda. Shri Dileep Lande from Tarala. Shri Laxman Rapatwar from Nanded. Shri Anil Lutade from Wardha. Dr. Malati Rahate from Bhandara. Shri G.D. Kulkarni from

Amarawati, Shri Subhash Vaishnav from Ranale. Shri Goururam Urankar from Panvel. Shri Chandrakant Gargate from Satara, Prof. H.B. Mahale and Prof. A.P. Tripathi from Baitul. Shri P. L. Goyal from Gadkhal. Shri I.P. Mehta and Shri Jugalkishore Puri from Chandigad. Shri R.S. Ramakrishnan, Shri T. Keshav Rao, Shri C. Vishwanathan from Madras. Shri Machinder Das from Warangal. Shri Chandawarkar from Bagalkot. Dr. B.G. Das and Mrs. Uma Das from Kanpur. Shri Gokul Gopal and Shri K. Navin Chander from Hyderabad. Shri K.R. Loria from Kazibad. Shri D.L. Kantarao from Ponnapuram, Dr. Vijaykumar and Mrs. Seetha Vijaykumar from Chikmagalur District, Shri C. Suryanarayan Rao from Machchalipatnam. Shri L. Viranna from Adoni, Shri S.B. Hosgudar from Dharwad, Shri Deenanath Gupta from Jabalpur. Shri Radhakrishnan from Hubli. Shri D. Satyanarayan from Hasankonda. Shri C.H. Kersy from Thane. Shri B. Meghashyam from Patan. Swami Sanjayanand from Badrikedar and Smt. Leelatai Gujrathi from Shirdi.

It will be seen from the above list of delegates that the contributors to Shri Sai Leela Magazine are spread all over India and they make it a point to attend the gathering in large numbers. This annual gathering at Shirdi has therefore now taken a shape of an all India Sai devotees' convention and its annual session therefore helps to spread Sai devotion all over our country.

Shri Arvind Narhar alias Uttam Kulkarni (Khadkikar) Temporary Clerk, Enquiry Office has been removed from the Sansthan services.

Henceforth nobody should, therefore, make any dealings with him, on behalf of the Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi. The Sansthan will not be responsible for such transactions.

K. H. Kakre
Court Receiver

Shirdi Sansthan of Shri Sai Baba, Shirdi, Dist. Ahmednagar

Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi

Scholarships for 1984

Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Shirdi intends to grant scholarships for 1984 to poor and intelligent students.

Students obtaining 60 per cent or more marks at the S.S.C. (10th standard new) or at any College examination or at any examination for a training course after S.S.C., should apply for the scholarship in the prescribed form through the head of their institution.

The prescribed forms will be supplied free of charge by the Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi, Taluka Kopergaon, District Ahmednagar. The forms will be supplied by post if a self-addressed envelop, bearing 50 paise postal stamps, is sent to Shirdi Sansthan or if 55 paise worth Postal stamps are forwarded to the Shirdi Sansthan Authorities.

The last date for applying for obtaining the prescribed forms is 31-8-'84 and the last date for receiving the prescribed forms, duly filled in, is 15-9-'84.

The forms received after the due date or the forms giving incomplete information will not be considered for granting the scholarships or no correspondence will be entertained regarding those forms. ★

K. H. Kakre
Court Receiver,
Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi, Taluka Kopergaon
District Ahmednagar





Gurupournima Festival At Sainiketan Bombay

All Sai devotees believe that Shri Sai Baba is omnipresent. They therefore attend the nearest Sai temple for darshan of Shri Sai Baba on festive days with a firm belief that Shri Sai Baba is present there. Though at Sainiketan, there is the office of the Shirdi Sansthan, a statue of Shri Sai Baba has been installed there and therefore Sai devotees look upon that office as a Sai temple and visit that office for darshan of Shri Sai Baba. Because of that belief of the devotees, all the three important festivals, which are celebrated at Shirdi on a grand scale, are celebrated at Sainiketan by singing the noon arati at mid-day and keeping the office open for darshan out of the office hours.

On Thursday the 12th of July 1984, the office at Sainiketan was opened at 8 a.m. and the devotees started coming for darsnan. From 10-30 a.m. onwards the devotees, who came for darshan, waited for the noon arati and therefore the hall of the office was packed to capacity at 12 noon. The arati was started at that time and it was sung with devotion with the result that devotees felt that they were standing and singing the noon arati in the Samadhi Mandir at Shirdi itself. At the time of the arati there were nearly five hundred devotees present in the hall. As this year Gurupournima came on Thursday, the rush of devotees was more. The office was kept open upto 7 p.m. and the devotees contnued coming for darshan upto that time. On a moderate estimate it may be stated that more than 2000 devotees must have visited Sainiketan for darshan on the Gurupournima day.



Shri Pathaksaheb Crosses Seventyfive



On 12th May 1984, Shri K. S. Pathaksaheb, Ex-Court Receiver, completed seventyfive years of his age. After a good academic career Shri Pathaksaheb joined the Secretariat at Bombay and retired from there on completion of his service. The Shirdi Sansthan was in a developing stage and it needed a good administrator. As during his service Shri Pathaksaheb was known to be a good administrator, he was appointed as Court Receiver of the Shirdi Sansthan in 1970 and he worked very hard from that time to develop Shirdi very fast. Before appointment as the Court Receiver Shri Pathaksaheb used to visit Shirdi as a devotee of Shri Sai Baba. He was therefore aware of the inconveniences that were caused to the devotees, who visited Shirdi. Therefore during his regime Shri Pathaksaheb tried his best to provide residential accommodation to the devotees at Shirdi.

Shri Pathaksaheb had a very sympathetic heart. He was always trying to give as much facilities to the staff of the Shirdi Sansthan as possible. He therefore made applicable the pay scales of the Maharashtra Government to the staff of the Shirdi Sansthan. He further noticed that the staff was finding it difficult to secure accommodation at Shirdi. He therefore arranged to provide quarters for the staff of the Sansthan. Shri Pathaksaheb started giving scholarships to the sons and daughters of the employees. This encouraged the staff to educate their children and today most of the children of the staff are well-placed.

We wish Shri Pathaksaheb a very long and prosperous life and we hope that we will be able to celebrate his centenary in due course. We pray at the feet of Shri Sai Baba that Shri Pathaksaheb may get a long and happy life.

(Adopted from the original article written in Marathi by Miss Rekha Dighe and published in July 1984 issue.)

Where is God ?

Man has become more attached to the materialistic things and is carried away by the obsession of possessing more and more of the things that catch the eye. He finds little or no time to think and feel the presence of God. As a result of this we very often hear "where is God?" and "God is no where".

Let us take up the first question "where is God?". Answer to this lies in the question itself, provided the letter 'w' of 'where' is dropped. This signifies that the feeling of 'I' and 'you' which combinedly gives rise to the double you (w) should be dropped. If we can achieve this, then we are left with "here is God". Isn't it worth trying to drop off this feeling of double you (w)?

'Now turning to the statement "God is nowhere" we find that the same process holds good here too. Attach the letter 'w' to 'no' and the sentence reads "God is now here". Attaching of 'w' to 'no' is again significant of removing the the feeling of 'I' and 'you'. If there is no feeling of 'I' and 'you' then we can say that "God is now here".

Thinking of Shirdi Sai Baba and visiting Shirdi and having the darshan of Baba will certainly enable one to achieve the above.

A. N. Ramesh

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Shri Sai Baba's Grace

I have been reading Shri Sai Leela Monthly Magazine since three years. Ultimately I came to know that Shri Sai Baba was a great saint, who was deputed by God to protect the people on the earth.

I would like to mention here one incident which recently occurred in my day-to-day life. I worked as a Clerk in Hal Hyderabad from 1981 July, to 1984 Jan. during this period (i.e.) in Sept. 1982 all of a sudden my appointment was cancelled by Hal Management without indicating any reason. In this situation I was very much worried and wept vigorously meditating on Baba, I also decided, "in case I may get a job in Hal and afterwards have a permanent job in Hal, I will go to Shirdi and have darshan of Shri Sai Baba".

In Sept, 1982 last week I was taken in Hal with Shri Baba's grace in the previous position. During the month of March/83 I was interviewed for permanent Job and I got selected also. But there was a problem between Hal Management and concerned Employment Exchange regarding our Employment Seniority. This case has gone upto the State Minister level with the support of the Union Leaders. Finally the Minister was also unable to give employment exemption to us because of less seniority. Ultimately we had decided to file a writ petition in A. P. High Court regarding our Employment Exemption and submitted writ petition in High Court leaving decision on Baba.

Fortunately, with Baba's blessings the court directed our Management without insisting that our names should be sponsored by concerned Employment Exchange because we were working since long in Hal as Clerks on casual basis. According to Court Order the Management issued orders. Because of Baba's grace only I received my orders. If you believe in Baba with concentration, he will be always with you. This was proved in my case: I am very much interested to go to Shirdi and have darshan of Baba and Samadhi.

Baba is omnipresent. If any difficulty arises, I always think about Baba then it will be solved within few minutes like this



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Baba The Saviour

During my husband's transfer to Nizamabad in the month of May, 1983 it was decided that my husband should proceed to Nizamabad along with the lorry, loaded with household goods and myself and children were to go by bus next morning. All the goods was loaded in the lorry except big framed photo of Lord Shri Sai Baba, which was to be carried personally by my husband and it was to be kept in the cabin along with him. To make sure whether the Sai Baba's photo has been kept separately or not I came out to the main door to verify the fact. But to my utter dismay I found the photo placed near the main door in a bag. Then I casually glanced at the lorry where smoke was emerging from the top of the cabin and soon there were flames due to the sudden wind blowing, I was shocked at this scene and called out for help. Immediately my husband, the lorry driver, cleaner and the neighbours brought water from the well and extinguished the fire by pouring water on the upper portion of the Cabin. Had I not thought about the verification of Baba's photo, I might not have detected the fire and the whole lorry would have been engulfed with fire which would have put us into a great loss. Thus the very thought of Baba has prevented us from a major fire accident. Thus Baba saved us at the hour of the need. ★

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Way of Wisdom

I have read with interest, Shri D. Sankaraiah's article 'Sai Baba left no heir/disciple' in the Nov'83 and Dec'83 issues of 'Shri Sai Leela' and the reactions of Shri T. A. Ram Nathen published in Feb'84 issue and Shri B. S. Tatapudi published in May 84 issue.

This reminds me of the quarrel among the apostles of Jesus Christ amongst themselves as to who was the greatest among them. When Jesus came to know of this, he called them together and told them, "He who is the servant of all is the greatest. There are twelve of you. He who is the servant of the rest is indeed the greatest of all."

Lord Sainath has advised us to visualise divinity in every living soul. It is unfortunate that inspite of the fact that God has infinite grace, many possessive groups clasp one single manifestation of that inexhaustible power as the final and foremost and shut their eyes to the same light, which is pouring through another window. Sainath resides in all saints for every Sai devotee. There are many instances in Shri Sai Satcharita to prove this point.

Here is a story : A Bhakta once heard that Shri Krishna was in Brindavan and so he went there to see the Lord. His only thought all the way was of Shri Krishna. At Brindavan he enquired about Krishna and he was told that Krishna was in Gokul. So he went to Gokul. There he was told that Krishna was in Dwaraka, where also he went, but did not meet the beloved. Utterly disappointed, but still thinking only of the Lord, the devotee sat on the roadside exhausted, praying intensely to Shri Krishna. Then, at last, he heard from within him Krishna's voice saying, "Look within : I am here." He now knew that the Lord he was seeking outside was within himself and felt happy.

We are obsessed by the ego-sense to such an extent that we cannot free ourselves easily from its clutches. To all, who put questions to Ramana Maharshi of Tiruvannamalai, he would say. "Try to find out who you are. Find out who that 'I' is who wants to know." So we have to find out who that 'I' is. This enquiry will lead us to the conclusion that there is only one truth, one existence and one God. Then we know that ourselves, God and the world are one. This freedom can be gained, the obscure removed, only by our identifying ourselves with the all pervading spirit.

To those, who indulge in a controversy as to who is the real Sai Baba, whether he left a successor or disciple or not etc., I can only remind them of what a great Sufi-Saint of Islam, Rabia (767-815 A.D.) said. (Rabia was like our Andal of Tamilnad). Someone asked her whether she loved God. 'Yes' she replied. 'But do you not hate the devil?' they inquired. 'My love of God does not give me time to hate the devil' - was her characteristic reply.

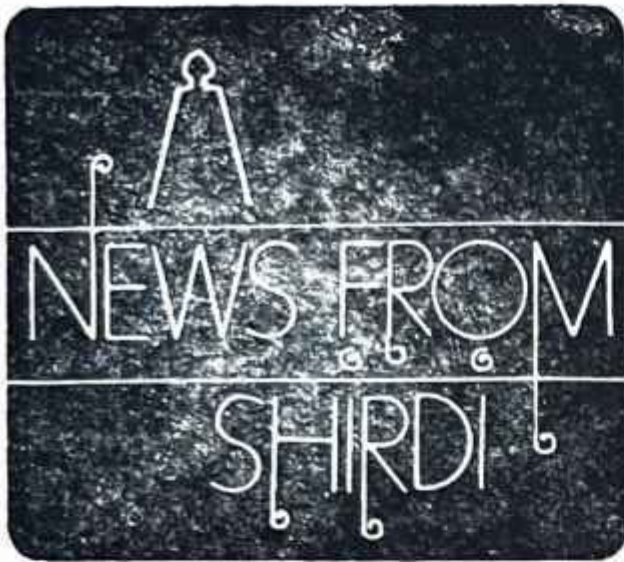
Therefore it is of utmost importance, Sai-devotees stop commenting on other contemporary saints. They should have an attitude as described in Upanishads in a famous verse (Mandukya II 2-9) :-

"The knots of the heart are cut asunder, all doubts become destroyed and all his actions (bondage producing seeds of actions) become eliminated, when the Supreme Truth is realised."

Dear Lord Sainath : I ask not for a faith that will move a mountain but for a faith that will somehow move me. ★

Mrs. Usha Ranganathan
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MAY 1984

Because of the holidays for the schools and colleges in this month many Sai devotees made it convenient to come to Shirdi for the darshan of Shri Sai Baba along with their families. There was therefore heavy rush of devotees in this month and the staff of the Shirdi Sansthan had a very busy time throughout the month. The following artists gave their various programmes in the Samadhi Mandir during the course of this month.

Keertan :- 1) Sou. Pramila Dattatraya Paithankar 2) Shri Laxman Ananda Mirajkar.

Pravachan :- 1) Shri Vishwanathmaharaj Surale 2) Shri Chandrakant Umakant Belhekar.

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music Bhajan, dance etc :-

1) Shri Sant Muktabai Bhajani Mandal, Solapur 2) Shri Sankeertansamrat R. Indudasaji, Secunderabad 3) Shri B. Satyanarayan 4) Shri I. Vyankatrao, Vishakhapatanam, 5) Shri T. Shreeragalu, Hyderabad 6) Shri Dattatraya Viththal Ghag, Bombay 7) S. Raju Naikar, Ghatkopar 8) Shri Eknath Jayaram Ghag, Thane 9) Shri Balasaheb Shantaram Nadkarni, Kolhapur 10) Shri Nandakishor Purohit 11) Shri A. M. Manuja 12) Sou. Jyoti A. Manuja 13) Miss Meena Manuja 14) Shri Chand A. Manuja 15) Shri Mahesha A. Manuja 16) Shri Suresh V. Dande, Nagpur 17) Shri Godavar Gangawani 18) Smt. Vidya B. Makhija 19) Smt. Sudha Surendrarao Sapanekar 20) Shri K. T. Tikku, 21) Smt. Jayashri Tikku, 22) Shri Popatrao Gopal Dudhavade,

Sawlivihar 23) Shri Harishet Kanha Dadaram Keshav Arekar, Murbe 24) Smt. Nalini Kapildas Dave, Bhavnagar 25) Divyanand Nathan, Bhopal 26) Rajsamrat Theaters Bhajani Mandal, Kolhapur 27) Shri Vinayak Kashinath Gupte, Karjat.

Weather :- The weather at Shirdi was quite hot during this month. The nights however used to be cool. There was no epidemic of any sort at Shirdi during this month.

JUNE 1984

In this month the rush of devotees was rather heavy in the first half of the month. It however got slowly reduced in the second half of the month as the schools and colleges opened at that time.

The following artists gave their various programmes in this month :-

Keertan :- 1) Shri Laxman Ananda Mirajkar, 2) Shri Dashrath Appaji Ukirde, 3) Shri Parmeshwar Trimbakrao Zige, Math Pimpalgaon 4) Shri Pralhad K. Chavan, Alandikar, Wadagali 5) Shri Madhukar Ganesh Suryawanshi, Niphad 6) Shri Bhaktaraj Dnanoba Bhosale, Khapat Pimpri 7) Smt. Ramabai Mule Ner.

Pravachan :- 1) Shri Murlidhar Maharaj Deshmukh, Shirdi, 2) Shri Laxman Maharaj Wakchoure, Shirdi.

Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Bhajan, dance etc.

1) Shri Dattatraya Tukaram Dayal, Satara 2) Smt. Meera Rao, Bhopal 3) Shri Dattatraya Laxman Sakhare, Vasai 4) Shri Malhar Bhajani Mandal, Indore 5) Shri Jayawant Kulkarni, Bombay 6) Shri Laxman Dewaskar, Bombay 7) Shri Shahu Bhosale 8) Shri Daulat Sharma, Bombay 9) Smt. Kausalya Chamanlal Chopada 10) Shri Subhash Satarkar, Panwel 11) Shri Mahadeo Wagh, Panwel 12) Shri Harischandra, Panwel 13) Shri Mukund Kirjat 14) Shri Deenanath Thakre, Nagpur, 15) Sou. Suneeta G. Kelkar,

Sangali 16) Smt. Shakuntala Mujumdar, Sangali 17) Shri Bhanudasbuwa Gurav, Miraj 18) Smt. Vijayabai, Madura 19) Hari Om Sharan 20) Sow. Nandini Sharan 21) Shri Umashankar, Allahabad 22) Sow. Tarubai Yardur, Pune 23) Shri Vasant Yardur, Pune 24) Shri Ratanlal Sharma, Dhantoli 25) Shri Shanti Mudaliar, Jamshedpur 26) Balkrishna Sukhadeo Patil, Wadangali 27) Shri Bhagwati Sai Sansthan, Kurla 28) Shri Shrikant Domodar Jevurkar 29) Miss Mugdha Damodar Jevurkar.

Weather :- The weather at Shirdi was quite healthy. The monsoon started in this month and there were occasional showers which brought down the temperature substantially.

CHOKHA

There are some in whom the spirit is awake as electric light. One of them was a man who lived centuries ago. His name was Chokha. He was poor. He had deep love for Shri Krishna. They of the superior cast drove this poor man out of the Krishna-temple. Chokha went to the other side of the river, and on the river-bank built a little cottage and dedicated it as Krishna-mandir. Chokha was a true servant of the people. He loved the poor. A wall had to be raised. He worked as a labourer. The wall fell down. He was crushed. Chokha died in the service of the town. But he had passed on his message to some. He did not confound religion with caste.



श्रीसाईलीला

हिंदी विभाग

अनुक्रमणिका

अगस्त १९८४

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श्री सद्गुरु कृपा

कभी मैं बिलखता पाया, एक बालक के रूप में
देखा मैं सिसकता, एक अबला के रूप में
बन गया धडकन प्रेमीका के दिल की मैं कभी
प्रेमी बनके विलाप करता रहा मैं कभी-कभी
बनगया राही जो भूल गया हो गुजर कर मन्जील
मैं होगया कभी किसी भटके हुए राही की मन्जील
मैं नही शरीर कि नश्वर हो जाऊं बिखरकर कभी
हूँ मैं विश्वात्मा बनकर धडकन दिलों की सभी
मैं चमकता अश्रु बनकर किसी विरहनी के आंखों की
मैं बनजाता ज्योति किसी योगी के आँखों की
हूँ मैं अनादी - अजन्मा - अविचल परमज्योति
खोजने निकला था मैं, खो गया वन के ब्रम्हज्योति !
भटकी आत्मा का इस एक सद्गुरु ने किया निहाल
कि जिसकी परम कृपा से पाया निज स्वरूप बेमिसाल
बिन्दु ने पाया अंततः निज-स्वरूप एक अथाह सिन्धु में
सिमटकर आ गया सारा सिन्धु तब एक ही बिन्दु में
मिटगया भेदा - भेद - ज्ञान - अज्ञान - सत्य - असत्य का भेद
जब हो गई कृपा सद्गुरु की समाप्त हो गया सारा भेद

कुँवर सिंह चौहान

C/o आर. एन. चतुर्वेदी २२-६-१०७८ B-६ कालीकमान, जुबिली
डाकघर हैदराबाद (आंध्र प्रदेश) (५००००२)



मंडला के श्री धनीराम दादा

(गन्ताक से आगे)

इसी प्रकार एक बार सिनेमा-वान द्वारा जनता को सिनेमा दिखाने का ऐलान किया गया । हजारों नर-नारियों की भीड़ टापू में एकत्र हो गई । सिनेमा शुरू होने ही वाला था कि हल्की हल्की पानी की झड़ी आरम्भ हो गई । आयोजकों ने कहा--“आप लोग घबराइये नहीं, पानी नहीं बरसेगा । आप सब लोग एक बार जोर से “धनीराम दादा की जय” बोलिये और आश्चर्य यह कि दादाजी की जय-जयकार होते ही वर्षा बन्द हो गई । सिनेमा खतम होने पर सभी लोग सुरक्षित अपने घरों को वापस गये । दूसरे दिन पता चला कि उस टापू को छोड़कर चारों ओर रातभर घनघोर वर्षा हुई, । प्रकृति के तत्वों पर साई बाबा के नियन्त्रण के अनेक प्रसंग हमारी जानकारी में हैं । दादा धनीराम का भी प्रकृति के तत्वों पर ऐसा ही नियंत्रण था । वर्षा ऋतु में नर्मदा नदी में प्रति वर्ष बाढ़ आ जाती थी । धनीराम दादा नर्मदा के तट पर जाकर निशान लगा देते थे । फिर उस क्षेत्र में नर्मदा दादाजी की लक्ष्मण-रेखा का कदापि उल्लंघन नहीं करती थी ।

निस्सन्तानों को सन्तान प्राप्त होने के तो अनेक उदाहरण हैं, जिसमें केशोमल सिन्धी और आर. एम्. दुबे की सन्तानहीनता से मुक्ति की कहानी विलक्षण है । आर. एम्. दुबे को दादाजी ने आम का फल दिया, जिसके फलस्वरूप उन्हें चार सन्तानों की प्राप्ति हुई । भगवान श्री साई बाबा ने दामू-अण्णा को आम का फल देकर ही उन्हें सन्तानहीनता के दुःख से मुक्तप्रदान की थी । इसी प्रकार अपने भक्तों के रोग अपने ऊपर लेकर भक्त को कष्टमुक्त करने के प्रसंग श्री साई बाबा और धनीराम दादा में समान रूप से मिलते हैं ।

महाराजपुर ग्राम के जमीनदार श्री भैयालाल श्रीवास्तव के चार वर्षीय पुत्र अरविन्द की हैजे से जीवन-रक्षा असम्भव हो गई थी, पर दादाजी ने उनसे केवल इतना ही कहा था--“ठीक ठीक हो गया भैयालाल”--और घर जाकर उन्होंने देखा कि उनका पुत्र अरविन्द मृत्यु के पन्जे से बाहर निकल आया है ।

आज्ञा प्राप्त किये बिना आश्रम से वापस जाने पर भक्त को सन्कटो का सामना करना पडता ही है । इसके असंख्य उदाहरण साई बाबा, ताजुद्दीन बाबा,

सूखे हैं, उसी प्रकार साहित्य के धनीरसकालदा साहित्य के अभाव में उनकी अत्यधिक शक्तियों का ज्ञान बहुत कम लोगों को है। उनके दिव्य सम्पर्क से लक्षान्वित व्यक्ति जो देश के कोने-कोने में विद्यमान हैं, यदि अपने स्वानुभूत संस्मरण लिखकर प्रकाशित कराये तो अफ़्यात्म के क्षेत्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण लोक-सेवा होगी, इसमें सन्देह नहीं।

प्रो. आद्यप्रसाद त्रिपाठी
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साई सुमिरन

पल-पल सुमिरन तेरो नाम
साई साई साई राम
यह मन तेरे चरण न छोड़े
चाहे कितने भी आवे सकट

सदा तेरे तस्वीर मन मन्दिर में रखूँ
खुब सजाकर मनको - तेरी आरती पूजा करते
अन्तरन्म ध्यानकर मन ही मन दर्शन पाऊँ

पल पल सुमिरन तेरो नाम
साई साई साई राम
दर्शन दे मुझे साईनाथ
तडपत मैं तुम्हारा दास नरेन

नरेन्द्रनाथ मुन्गादा
"पंचवटी", ३३९ समर्थनगर, औरंगाबाद (मराठवाडा)

दामगणु (आधुनिक महिपती)

नर से नारायण हो गया,
पितामह से गणपती हो गया,
साई की कृपा हो गयी जब तुझपर,
गणु से तु दास गणु हो गया ॥ १ ॥

नव वर्ष की आयु में हो गया उपदेश,
मन को नही भाया, लौकिक आदेश,
भटकने लगा तब, तमाशा के पिछे,
हो गया आवारा, भागनिकला परदेश ॥ २ ॥

मिले जब साई से शिरडी में आकर
लिया उपदेश तब मसजिद में जाकर
शिरडी को पन्ढरपूर, साई को पान्डुरन्ग
धन्य हुआ जीवन, सर झुकाकर ॥ ३ ॥

दास गणु ने रची कवन कथा सुन्दर,
वामन शास्त्री का हाथ था, उनके सरपर
साई ने बतलाया, चरणों में पान्डुरन्ग,
साई को कह दिया, कुत्ता हूँ यही मेरा दर ॥ ४ ॥

प्रा. गुन्डेराव पटवारी
ब्राह्मण वाडी, विदर ५८५४०१



उलटे पडे घडों का सन्देश

कोपरगांव का स्टेशन मास्टर बड़ा नास्तिक था। शिरडी जाने के लिये भक्तों को कोपरगांव से जाना पड़ता था। शिरडी जानेवाले यात्रिकों से वह बाबा की निन्दा करते। कहने लगा, “साई एक पागल फकीर है। वह महिमाओं या लीलाओं से विभूषित नहीं।” इस प्रकार उसका प्रचार कई दिनों तक चलता रहा। कुछ यात्री स्टेशन मास्टर की बातें सच मानकर बीच ही में यात्रा रोक कर वापस लौट जाते थे। सुप्रसिद्ध साईभक्त तथा कीर्तनकार दासगणु इस स्टेशन मास्टर का बड़ा दोस्त था। एक बार जब दासगणु शिरडी जाने कोपरगांव स्टेशन पर उतरा तो स्टेशन मास्टर मामूली तौर पर उसकी भी दिल्लगी कर दी और कहा, “साई एक पागल बाबा है। उस पागल बाबा के दर्शन के लिये तुम शिरडी जा रहे हो? यह कैसी नादानी और पागलपन है।” दासगणु ने अपने मित्र की ऊपरंग बातें सुनकर उसे झिडकी दी और जवाब दिया, “दोस्त! तुमने अभी तक बाबा का दर्शन नहीं किया। उसे देखे बिना ऐसी दिल्लगी करना ठीक नहीं एक बार उनका दर्शन कर, उनकी रहन-सहन की जांच कर निर्णय कर लो कि वह सचमुच पागल है या नहीं। सिर्फ स्टेशन पर बैठकर गाड़ियों की तरफ देखते साधु पुरुषों तथा महात्माओं की निन्दा न करो।”

बाबा की परीक्षा लेने स्टेशन मास्टर दासगणु के साथ शिरडी गया। जब वे दोनों मसजिद पहुंचे तो उस समय बाबा घडों को साफ करके उलटा रख देते थे। उसे देखकर स्टेशन मास्टर ने बाबा से पूछ लिया, “तुम इन घडों को उलटा क्यों रख देते हो?” उस पर साई ने जवाब दिया, “क्या करना साहब! मेरे यहां पहुंचनेवाले सारे घडे उलटे ही होकर आते हैं।” साई का यह जवाब सुनकर स्टेशन मास्टर की आंखें खुल गयीं और सीधा उसके मन पर उसका असर पड़ा। तुरन्त मास्टर बाबू ने समझ लिया कि उलटे आनेवाले घडों में वह भी एक घडा था।

बिना जांचे परखे सचाई को न मानकर, जिशासा के बिना महात्मा और साधु पुरुषों के बारे में नास्तिक जो बुरे विचार रखते हैं, उनके दिमाग गोबर से भरे उलटे पडे घडे के समान होते हैं।

डॉ. यल्लराजु सुब्बाराव
राजापानगल रोड, अँगोल - ५२३ ००२ (आन्ध्र प्रदेश)

भक्तकी पुकार

हमारी नावको साई, किनारे कब लगाओगे,
दयासागर कहाते हो, वो कब बरसाओगे साई

फसा है जीव मायामें,
कुछ समजमें नही आता,
बुझाउं आग ये दिल की,
जगह ऐसी नही मिलती
हमारा हाथ पकड के, किनारे कब लगाओगे ...

हम तो रात और दिन,
तुम्हारे गुण ही गाते,
फिरभी क्यों हम पर
दुःखोंकी यह लहर छाई,
हमारी आँखके आँसु, साई कब मिटाओगे ...

हमारी आस को साई,
कभी निराश ना करना,
हम कतरा तुम समन्दर,
अब जुदाई ना करना,
हमारे दिलकी यह इत्तेजा, साई कब स्वीकारोगे
हमारी नावको साई

शांतिलाल सी. दवे

दत्तमन्दिर के सामने, नवापूर ४२५ ४१८ जि. धुले, महाराष्ट्र



साई से मेरा अनुभव

१९८३ अगस्त की बात है। मेरा लडका जो हर गुरुवार को साई बाबा के दर्शन करने मन्दिर जाया करता था - एक गुरुवार को साई बाबा के 'सत्चरित्र' घर लाया। 'सत्चरित्र' का अध्ययन करने पर, हमारे सारे परिवार को आनन्द और शान्ति मिली। मेरा मन जो हर वक्त चिन्तित रहता था हल्का होने लगा - जैसे मानो मेरी सारी उलझने साई ने ले ली।

१९८३ अक्टूबर में जब बच्चों को मलेरिया हुआ, तो मैंने मन में साई से प्रार्थना की, और उन्हें हल्के का प्रसाद चढाने का सन्कल्प किया अगर वे बच्चों को चुस्त बना दे। बच्चे तो कुछ ही दिनों में चुस्त हो गये पर, मेरा प्रसाद चढाने का वादा पूरा न हो सका। १९८३ चला गया और १९८४ भी आ चुका। जनवरी और फरवरी आकर तो चली भी गयी। मार्च में एक दिन गुरुवार को मुझे अचानक ख्याल आया कि क्यों न हम आज बाबा को हल्के का प्रसाद देकर अपना वादा पूरा करें। जैसे ही यह बात मेरे मन में सूझी तो सारा घर घी के स्वाद से भर उठा। उसी दिन बाबा के मन्दिर में एक सो के करीब लोंग बाबा का प्रसाद लिये तो मेरा मन आनन्द से भर उठा।

अगले गुरुवार को जब मैंने बाबा के मन्दिर में औरतों को बाबा के लिये खाना लाते देखा, तो मेरे मन में भी उन्हें इसके बाद वाले गुरुवार को खाना खिलाने की इच्छा हुई। इसके दो ही दिन बाद मुझे बहुत तेज बुखार चढा। बुधवार रात को मेरी लडकी मन में यह चिन्ता लेकर सोई कि माँ कल 'बाबा को मन्दिर में खाना' इतनी दुर्बलता में कैसी लेकर जायगी। जब सबेरे होने लगा तो मेरी लडकी के स्वप्न में बाबा आकर बोले कि 'माँ उनको घर में ही परदा डालकर खाना खिला सकती है।' जागकर मेरी लडकी ने मुझे स्वप्न में बाबा का बताया सब बात बोली। लडकी का कहना न मानकर मैं सारा खाना बनाकर अपनी वादा के अनुसार मन्दिर में बाबा को खिलाने गई। पर आश्चर्य की बात यह है कि मन्दिर पर ताला लगा हुआ था और मैं घर लौटकर बाबा के इच्छा के अनुसार परदा डालकर उन्हें खाना खिलाई। इस घटना के बाद मेरा और मेरे परिवार का बाबा के प्रति प्रेम और विश्वास और भी दृढ़ हो गया।

इसके बाद भी चाचा हमें अनेक रूप में दिखाई दिये और मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि चाचा के प्यार और सहारे से मैं और मेरी परिवार जिन्दगी के हर कठिनाई को सफलता के साथ सामना करेंगे ।

लक्ष्मी प्रेमामूर्ति

५ तारा रोड, फ्लॉट नं.६ कलकत्ता (वेस्ट बेन्गॉल) ७०० ०२६

प्रभु विनती

साई प्रभु तेरे बिना चैन न आए ।
चैन न आए मन कल नही पाए रे,
विरह तडपाए - साई प्रभु तेरे बिना
चैन न आए ॥ ५ ॥

तू तो है शमा मेरी, मैं परवाना ।
तू तो है मेरा प्रियतम, मैं हूं दीवाना ।
पलकें बिछाऊं जिस राह से तू आए रे ।
राह से तू आए साई प्रभु तेरे बिना
चैन न आए ॥ १ ॥

तू तो है चन्दा मोरा, मैं हूं चकोर ।
कारीबदरिया तू है, मैं इक मोरा ।
तेरे बिना पल पल वर्ष बिताए रे,
वर्ष बिताए --- साई प्रभु तेरे बिना
चैन न आए ॥ २ ॥

हरिवंश भाटिया

८१, नरबदा रोड, जबलपुर (म. प्र.)

श्री साईनाथ महिम्नस्तोत्रम्

(संस्कृत से हिन्दी काव्यानुवाद)

[प्रस्तुत स्तोत्र का बन्तर्भाव साईनाथ सगुणोपासना में हो रहा है ओ-
माध्यान्ह आरती और धुपारती के समय वह पढ़ जाता है । यह स्तोत्र संस्कृत
भाषामें होने के कारण कई लोगों को उसका पठण आसान नहीं होता है ।
विशेषतः हिन्दी भाषी साईभक्तों को यह मधुर और सरल हिन्दी अनुवाद ज्यादा
पसन्द होगा और हररोज माध्यान्ह आरती के समय वे यह पढ़कर बहुत खुश होंगे
क्यों कि वे यह आसानीसे पढ़ सकेंगे । ठाकुर भूपतेसिंह को यह अच्छा अनुवाद
के लिये धन्यवाद देना उचित होगा और सब हिन्दी भाषी साईभक्तों की ओरसे
हम उनको धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं । सम्पादक]

सदा सत्स्वरूपी चिदानन्द जय हो ।
जगत हेतु पालक महाकाल जय हो ।
भक्तों की इच्छार्थ मनुज रूप धरते ।
हे दत्त दिगम्बर, तुम्हें हम सुमरते ।
प्रभो साईनाथ ! नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥१॥

भवतमविनाशक हे, मार्तण्ड जय हो ।
मनबंच परे हे महायोगी जय हो ।
मर्म न पाते तव मुनि ध्यान धरते ।
निर्गुण निराकार व्यापक को भजते ।
प्रभो साईनाथ ! नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥२॥

जन भवांभोधि मग्न दीनार्त तेरे ।
चरणों में पाये शरण नाथ तेरे ।
सुदृढ भक्तिभाव सदा जो हैं रमते ।
प्रभु उद्धार करने अवतार धरते ।
प्रभो साईनाथ ! नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥३॥

निंबवृक्ष मूलाधिवासी जयती हो ।
मधुर तिक्त रस को बनाते रहे हो ।
अमरतरु महिमा उसे आप देते ।
भक्तों की मनसा सभी पूर्ण करते ।
प्रभो साईनाथ नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥४॥

कल्पवृक्ष तल में अमित भक्त आते ।
प्रभु छवि दर्शन मन दर्पण में पाते ।
भाव बुद्धि चित से प्रभु सेवा करते ।
दान भुक्ति मुक्ति उन्हें आप करते ।
प्रभो साईनाथ ! नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥५॥

अश्रुत अलौकिक लीला नाथ करते ।
स्व-महिमा प्रकाशित सरस भाव भरते ।
अहंभाव हीनं प्रसन्नात्म रहते ।
गरल पान करते सुधादान करते ।
प्रभो, साईनाथ ! नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥६॥

सदा सज्जनों को सुख विश्राम देते ।
सदा भक्त-जन को मोद आप देते ।
सदा सन्त जिनका स्तुति-गान करते ।
भक्ति-सुधा वे सतत पान करते ।
प्रभो, साईनाथ ! नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥७॥

एकाकी अजन्में, परब्रह्म तुम हो ।
रामचन्द्र साक्षात् अवतार तुम हो ।
पाते जो दर्शन, पवित्र उनको करते ।
स्व-इच्छा जगत् में स्वयं रूप धरते ।
प्रभो, साईनाथ ! नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥८॥

तुम्हारी कृपा सिद्धि-सर्वार्थ-दात्री ।
पदरज तुम्हारी अतुल शक्ति-घात्री ।

अकथ-नाथ-महिमा कहें वेद थकते ।
द्वयहस्त जोरे शरण तव हम गहते ।
प्रभो, साईनाथ ! नमस्तें ! नमस्ते ॥९॥

जय राघवोत्तम साईरूप-धारी ।
भक्त-काम पूरण विबुध द्रुम तमारी ।
अहिर्निश जपूं नाम सुखमय खरारी ।
जय मायापते चित्त-शुद्ध विहारी ॥१०॥

शीतल शरच्चन्द्र से ज्योतिदाता ।
भवत्ताप मेटो, कृपादानदाता ।
प्रणतपाल वत्सल, दया आप धरो ।
करुणा स्वप्रेरित स्वयं नाथ धारो ॥११॥

इष्टदेव मेरे, सदा तेरी जय हो ।
कहैं स्तुति तेरी तनमन भगन हो ।
तव पाद युग में रहूँ नित रमा यों ।
रस लोभी भँवरा कमल में पगा ज्यों ॥१२॥

पातक जन्मों के क्षण में कट जावें ।
चरण कभल दर्शन जब हम पा जावें ।
हे दीन बन्धों, दया इतनी कर दो ।
अपराध मेरे क्षमा दाता कर दो ॥१३॥

तव चरणामृत सें पुण्य-लाभ मिलता ।
तव पाद पन्कज सदा हिय जो रखता ।
जगज्जन्य पापों से मुक्ति तुरंत हो ।
कैवल्य तेरी कृपा से सुलभ हो ॥१४॥

स्तोत्र साई का यह भक्ति-दाता ।
श्रद्धालु मन से जो नित छन्द गाता ।
प्रभु का कृपापात्र निश्चय वह होता ।
भव खेदखोता अचल शान्ति पाता ॥१५॥

काव्य—सुमन ये उपहार प्रभो लो ।
 कृपाफल अपना ही स्वीकार कर लो ।
 विनययुत मन : शुद्धि सद्भाव भरा है ।
 प्रेम—सूत्र पावन हृदय का गुंथा है ॥१६॥

“भूपति” भाषा अनुगायन तव करता !
 तुमने दिया जो तुम्हें भेंट करता ।
 गोविन्द सदन जो जगमग हैं करते ।
 काशीनाथ पूजन हित नाथ भजते ।
 प्रभो, साईनाथ ! नमस्ते ! नमस्ते ॥१७॥

[इतिश्री साईनाथ महिम्न स्तोत्र सम्पूर्ण]

ठाकुर भूपतिसिंह
 पाटन (जबलपुर) ४८३ ११३ (म. प्र.)

शिरडी नगरमें

सबका तू मालीक, तेरा बोलबाला शिरडीवाला
 तू हि रखवाला - सबसे निराला ॥ १ ॥

माँ की ममता सबको, तू ही दिलाये
 घरमे गरीबोंके, दिपक जलाये
 मनाई दिवाली, कर उजाला ॥ १ ॥

मुद्दे जिलाये तुने, शिरडी नगरमें
 उंची डगरीया तेरी, है घरघरमे
 राम रहिम तू, मुरलीवाला ॥ २ ॥

लेकर मुरादे तेरे, दरपे जो आये
 खाली हातोंसे ओ, रन्जीश न जाये
 बेडा पार तू ही, करनेवाला ॥ ३ ॥

आज मैं दरपे तुझको, दुखःडा सुनाये
विलास सुधबुध खोकर, तेरे गुण गाये
तेरे नामकी ये, जपके माला ॥ ४ ॥

विलास गुलाबराव सूर्यवंशी
E/२८, बी. ई. एस. टी. क्वार्टर्स, भोईवाडा, परेल, मुं. ४०० ०१२

हमारे बाबा

साई तुम बिन कौन मेरे रक्षणहार ॥ १ ॥

रेल पटरीसे हटाकर दिया तुने जीवन दान
पढाई लिखाई में दिलवाया ओजस्वी ज्ञान मान ॥ १ ॥

दिलवाया शिक्षाक्षेत्रका पुण्य व्यवसाय ।
तरक्की अविरत धारसे मली श्रद्धा तुमपर ॥ २ ॥

नित्य नियम पूजामें लगा मेरी मनवा ।
साई साई जपन मे रत मेरी जिह्वा ॥ ३ ॥

गुर्जर राजधानी मे दिलवाई राजसेवा ।
तेरी आशिषसे निर्माण हुआ भवन मनोहरा ॥ ४ ॥

इस भवनमें शोभित है तेरा 'गृहमन्दिर ।
इसमें तेरी मूर्ति प्रस्थापित अति सुन्दर ॥ ५ ॥

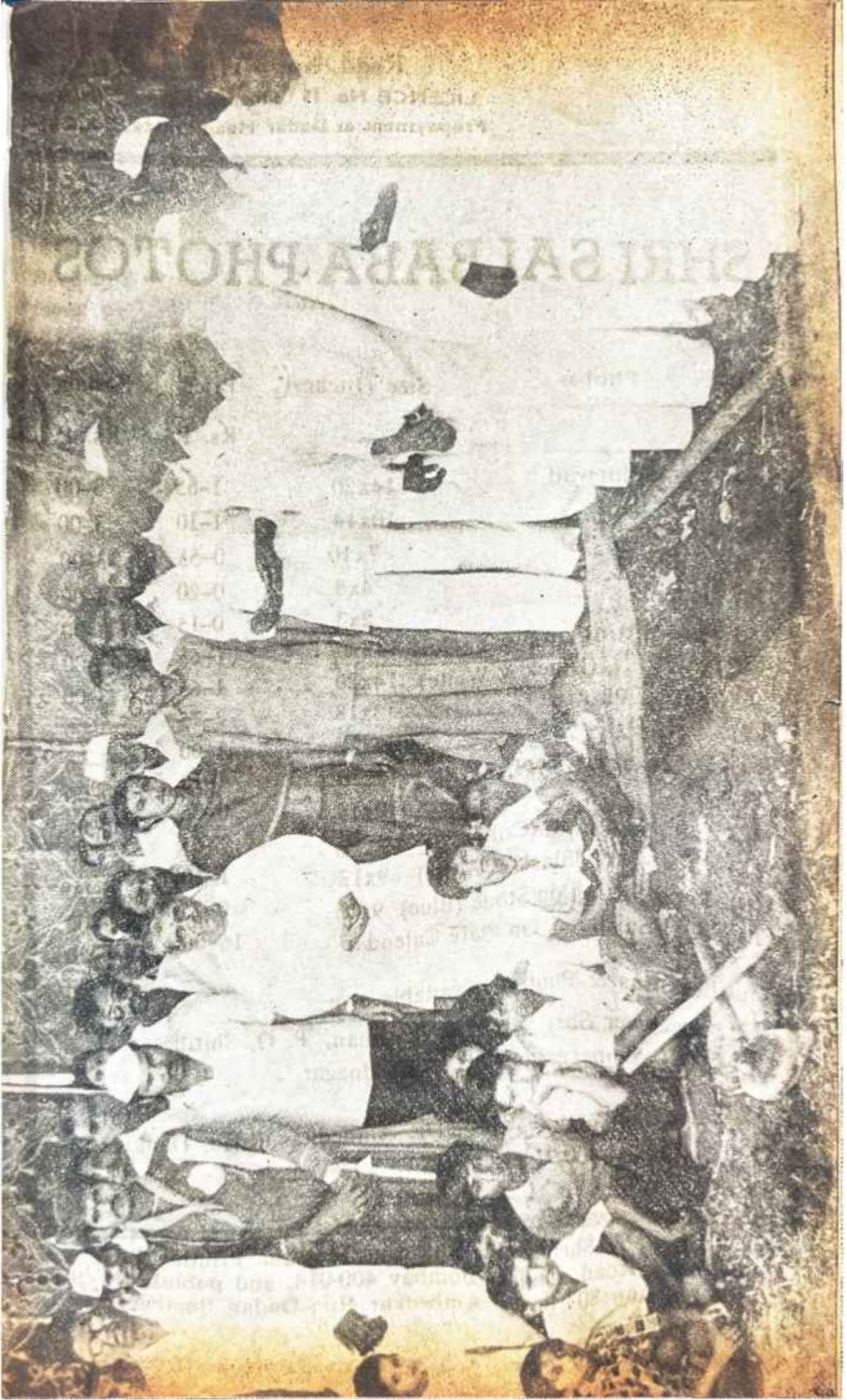
तेरी ही भक्ति में मग्न रहती भार्या
दो पुत्र का भी तूने जीवन सुखसे सींचा ॥ ६ ॥

शत शत प्रणिपात देवा, तुझे कबी न भूले साई बाबा ॥

महेशभाई वैष्णव

३, पूर्वी फ्लैटस, साई मन्गल लिसत्रिभ्र, पो.ओ.

आंबावाडी, अहमदाबाद ३८० ००६



SHRI SAI BABA PHOTOS

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