

Official Periodical of Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi

श्री साईबाबा संस्थान विश्वस्तव्यवस्था, शिर्डी की अधिकृत पत्रिका

SHRI SAI LEELA श्री साई लीला

* Year 23 * Issue 5 * September-October 2023 * ₹ 25/-

* वर्ष २३ * अंक ५ * सितम्बर-अक्टूबर २०२३ * ₹ २५/-

SHRI SAI PUNYATITHI ANNUAL SPECIAL ISSUE



Shri Sai is beyond Death



On the occasion of **Ganesh Chaturthi**



SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI
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वर्ष २३ अंक ५

Year 23 Issue 5

सम्पादक : मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी
कार्यकारी सम्पादक : भगवान दातार

Editor : Chief Executive Officer
Executive Editor : Bhagwan Datar

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● Cover & inside pages designed by Don Bosco and Prakash Samant (Mumbai) ● **Computerised Typesetting**: Computer Section, Mumbai Office, Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi ● **Office**: 'Sai Niketan', 804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar (East), Mumbai - 400 014. Tel.: (022) 24150798 E-mail: saidadar@sai.org.in ● **Shirdi Office**: At Post Shirdi - 423 109, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar. Tel.: (02423) 258500 Fax: (02423) 258770 E-mail: 1. saibaba@shrisaibabasansthan.org 2. saibaba@sai.org.in ● **Annual Subscription: Rs. 125/-** ● **Subscription for Life: Rs. 2,500/-** ● **Annual Subscription for Foreign Subscribers: Rs. 1,000/-** (All the Subscriptions are Inclusive of Postage) ● **General Issue: Rs. 15/-** ● **Shri Sai Punyatithi Annual Special Issue: Rs. 25/-** ● Published and printed by the Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi at Sai Niketan, 804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Mumbai - 400 014 and at the Printrade Issues (I) Pvt. Ltd., 17, Pragati Ind. Estate, 316, N. M. Joshi Marg, Mumbai - 400 011 respectively. The Editor does not accept responsibility for the views expressed in the articles published. All objections, disputes, differences, claims and proceedings are subject to Mumbai jurisdiction.

SHIELD OF THE ALMIGHTY

We are glad to place in the hands of our readers this special number, which is being published in commemoration of the anniversary of Shri Sai Baba (Dasara day).

In response to our call to our readers to contribute articles regarding their experiences about their devotion to Sai Baba, we have received a number of articles from our readers of the Marathi issue and they have been published in that issue. The response from the readers of the English issue is comparatively less. However the articles received from our readers in this behalf have been published in this issue.

Mahabharat is a great epic of India. It contains everything. Truly did Vyas say about this epic यदिहास्ति तदन्यत्र यन्नेहास्ति न कुत्रचित्। (Whatever is here will be found elsewhere and that which is not here will be found nowhere). This epic contains a number of stories which have attracted the attention of all the thinkers in the world. A number of them have formed the nucleus of plays, films and novels. Hence we also intend to publish a few of them in our issues. The first such story viz Ashtavakra is published in this issue. We hope that our readers will like this new introduction.

We mortals are under constant strain and stress. We require some protection from somewhere which will make us fearless. The saints all over the world have shown the way to become fearless and that is by keeping faith in God and by being His faithful devotee. Sickness, Oldage and Death : these are the natural calamities that every human being has to face sometime or the other; but those that have no faith anywhere, are totally upset under such calamities. They simply do not know what to do and where to look for inspiration and protection; but those that are devotees of God or the incarnation of God like Shri Sai Baba, know that these are the calamities that are

(Contd. on page 13)



Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi

Online reservation services of the Accommodation, Sai Darshan, Aratis, Saisatyanarayan Pooja, Abhishek at Shirdi are available at the Sansthan's

Mumbai Office

Rent per day of the rooms

No.	Location Name	Capacity Min./Max.	Category	Toilet Type	Rent ₹
01.	Dwarawati	3/5	AC	WESTERN	900/-
02.	Dwarawati	3/5	NonAC	INDIAN	500/-
03.	Dwarawati	3/5	NonAC	WESTERN	500/-
04.	Sai Bhakta Niwas	3/5	NonAC	INDIAN	200/-
05.	Sai Ashram Bhaktiniwas	3/5	AC	WESTERN	600/-
06.	Sai Ashram Bhaktiniwas	3/5	NonAC	INDIAN	250/-

* Saisatyanarayan Pooja per person/couple ₹ 100/-

* Abhishek per person ₹ 100/-

* Kakad Arati per person ₹ 600/-

* Madhyan Arati/Dhooparati/Shejarati per person ₹ 400/-

* Darshan per person ₹ 200/-

The Sansthan's site for online booking from outside :- online.sai.org.in

Annasaheb Dabholkar narrates in Shri Sai Satcharita How Shri Sai Baba keeps His promises after His *Mahasamadhi* also...



Later, years passed. His (Shri Hari Sitaram alias Kakasaheb Dikshit's) faith was firmly rooted at Sai's feet. He attained Sai's grace fully; and wearied his body in Sai's service.

To serve Sai well, he built a house or *ashram* in Shirdi and stayed there for many years. He spread Sai's fame.

In conclusion, whosoever longs for Sai is fulfilled by Him. Sai is the abode of refuge for His devotees and the giver of ultimate joy to them.

There are myriad *chakors* for the moon, but for the *chakors* there is just one moon. Similarly, a mother may have many sons, but for the son there is only one mother.

For the sun there are innumerable white lotuses, but for the lotuses there is only one

sun giving them the light of the day. There is no dearth of devotees for You; but *Guruvar*, You alone are their father.

For the cloud there are numerous *chataks*, but for the *chataks* there is only one cloud. Similarly, He has countless devotees, but for them He alone is the mother and the father.

He respects the honour of those who surrender to Him easily with devotion. He fulfils their desires with His efforts and might. This can be observed even presently.

All living beings in this world will meet their end at the hands of death. Sai made Dikshit fearless of death by saying, "I will take you in a plane".

Dikshit's end came about as assured by Sai's words. He died with the words of Sai's glory on his lips. It happened before my (Shri Govind Raghunath alias Annasaheb Dabholkar alias Hemadpant) very eyes.

We were both sitting on a bench in a train next to one another, engrossed in the stories of Sai *Samartha*, when he seemed to take off suddenly in the plane.

He seemed to have unexpectedly seized the opportunity by placing his head on my shoulder. Dikshit had suddenly attained a place in the plane and achieved heavenly bliss.

There was no contraction nor convulsion. There was no rattle in the throat nor was there any sharp pain. While his body was normal in all aspects, with all the faculties functional, his body became still.

The mortal life was cast away. His light merged with the Self. He established in his Real Form by flying away. His light became one with *Brahma*.

When he concentrated at Sai's feet, he had completely lost his ego. His behaviour



was such that he was well content and had totally dedicated himself to the Lord.

In *shake* 1848 (AD 1926), in the Hindu calendar month of *Jeshth*, on the *Ekadashi* day of the dark fortnight of the month (It was the 5th July 1926) (i.e. the 11th day of the waning moon), Dikshit attained union with the Lord, leaving behind the world of conditioned existence.

Call it death or say that his plane had arrived. He merged at Sai's feet. Everyone is aware of the truth of this story.

'One needs to be free from such an

obligation!' Anyone who believes this must be deemed to be totally devoid of devotion. There is nothing in this world that one can give as a gift in lieu of this obligation; it would not even happen in a dream!

If one thinks of giving the *Chintamani* (the jewel that grants all desires) one will only increase one's daily anxieties. If one thinks that the obligation is repaid by giving such an object, it is only a childish thought.

Well, if one offers the *Kalpataru* (the wishfulfilling tree) to the *Guru* and tries to please him, the *Guru*, however, is skilful in granting something which is unchanging; can that free one from all debts and obligations to the *Guru*?

Be it so. Instead of all this if one gives *parees* (the stone that alchemises iron into gold) to the *Guru*, then the *parees* will turn into gold. But, the *Guru* will make one savour the divine knowledge.

If one gives the *Kamadhenu* (the wishfulfilling cow) to the *Guru*, believing that in this way his obligation is repaid, one will only greatly increase one's own desires. The *Guru* is without any expectations and is a willing giver.

If one gives the wealth of the whole world to the *Guru*, in order to repay his obligation, can one repay it by illusory or *mayik* objects when he has given the Real of *amayik*?

If one offers one's body to the *Guru*, it is only a perishable object; if one offers one's life to him then know that too is illusory.

The *Sadguru* is the bestower of the Real things. By offering him illusory objects how can he be repaid? This is an impossible concept.

Therefore, with complete and singular faith, prostrate the whole body in salutation, place your head at the feet of the *Sadguru*, remembering the benefits and abligations he has conferred.

Constant and eternal remembrance of the benefits conferred by the *Guru* is the ornament of the disciple. He who tries to repay that obligation, that disciple loses his happiness.

Sai Abode Beyond Seven Seas...

|| Shri Gurave Namaha ||

“The saints have a peculiar method of their own of getting the service which the devotees long for, successfully accomplished.

The saints inspire the work, the devotee becomes only an indirect cause or instrument to achieve the end.”

- Shri Sai Satcharita

I am Dr. Kshitija. My son Chinmay is living in Detroit city, Michigan, America. I truly feel inspired and wish to write an elaborate information about Shri Sai Baba temple in Livonia, Michigan. Since it's Baba's inspiration, I am sure that Baba will help and guide me to complete this endeavour successfully.

My son Chinmay came to U.S.A. to pursue his education. At present he is working in an automotive industry, this was his childhood passion and dream. When he went to U.S.A. I was always praying to God that he should not ever lose his bonding

with our Indian rich cultural heritage and should not succumb to the wily attractions of the foreign land. Initially I was much worried and concerned about this, but when I started visiting and staying with him, this concern gradually vanished.

During my stay in America I saw Chinmay listening to Sai Baba's *Kakad Aarati* every morning while getting ready for his work. Whenever we used to go for long trips or drives, I saw him chanting '*Maha Mrityunjay Mantra*' and listen to Sai Baba's *Aarati* before starting the journey. At this juncture I used to get overwhelmed with a sense of satisfaction and peace.

“If a man utters my name with love, I shall fulfill all his wishes and increase his devotion. And if he sings earnestly my life and my deeds, him I shall beset in front and back and on all sides. Those devotees who are attached to me heart and soul will naturally feel happiness when they hear my *leelas*.”

- Shri Sai Baba



On recollecting Baba's above promise I experienced complete assurance and contentment.

During my stay in America, I was fortunate enough to visit Shri Sai Baba temple in Livonia, Michigan thrice. The overall devout and holy ambience of the temple awoke a feeling of profound calmness in me. Shri Sai Baba's idol in Livonia temple instantly reminded me of Baba's *vigrah* in Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir*, Shirdi. The *darshan* of Baba made me forget that I was in a foreign land beyond seven seas. The idol is so mesmerizing that one is bound to see it with an unblinking stare. Your mind instantly transcends into a meditative state.

**“Karunia sthir man |
pahu gambhir he dhyan ||
Sainche he dhyan |**

pahu gambhir he dhyan ||”

- Madhyanha Aarati

At this moment I am naturally reminded of my *Sadguru* late Shri Gajanan Walavalkar alias Bhau Maharaj. Because the memory of both Shri Sai Baba and Bhau Maharaj are inseparably engraved on my mind as he is the grandson of, late Shri Govind Raghunath Dabholkar alias Hemadpant who wrote the biography of Shri Sai Baba, Shri Sai Satcharita, with the blessings of Shri Sai Baba.

All the other idols of Deities in the temple like Shri Ganesh, Shivaling, Nandi, Shri Dattatreya and Navagrahas are also equally enticing and beautiful. All the *poojas*, *abhisheks* and *aaratis* in the temple are performed with much devotion and according to the tradition. For this all the committee members, volunteers and priests



On the day of Gurupournima



Chandi hom

are not only deserving of our appreciation but are also worthy of blessings of Shri Sai Baba as He Himself promised that, **“*Jethe bhakti shraddhanvit | Tayacha minityankit*” - Shri Sai Satcharita**

In the temple premises, under the name of ‘Sai Vidyapeeth’ spiritual and educational courses like Shri Sai Satcharita, Ramayan, Bhagvad Geeta, *stotra pathan* and Sai *madhura* public speaking classes are conducted. Enthusiasm and keenness of students about learning Hindu religion and its texts, articulate pronunciations while reciting religious scripts is astonishing and admirable. We should be very much grateful to the volunteering teachers who are taking forward our rich Indian spiritual heritage in a far off land.

Temple also organizes eco-friendly clay Ganesh workshops for kids before Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

It is highly commendable that in spite of their extremely busy and challenging work life in U.S.A., Indian parents put extra effort and assure that they themselves along with their kids remain bonded to the glorious Indian traditions and practice ritual, beliefs

and acquired knowledge wholeheartedly. On taking in account, the fact that after returning home from work one has to do all the household chores by themselves makes this effort more praiseworthy.

Satyanarayan *vrat pooja* , *Griha pravesh*, *Vastu shanti* , *Upanayan vidhi* , *Vivah vidhi* , *Varsh shraddha vidhi* and *Vahan pooja* are performed on demand by temple priests at devotees’ homes. Similarly various *poojas* and *homs* are performed in the temple e.g. *Rudrabhishek*, *Satyanarayan vrat pooja* , *Chandi hom*, *Sudarshan hom*, *Sai ashtottar hom*, *Manyu Pashupat hom*, *Suryanamaskar pooja*, *Shani tailabhishek* on *Shani trayodashi*. To be able to perform all these Hindu rituals as per our vedic tradition in a foreign land is in itself is a great achievement.

Hindu auspicious festivals like *Gurupournima*, *Shri Ramnavami*, *Mahashivaratri*, *Vijayadashami*, *Ganeshchaturthi*, *Dattajayanti*, *Diwali* and *Kartik month* (All Mondays and *pournimas*) are celebrated in the temple with great devotion and magnificence.

‘Sai Leela’ book and gift center in the



Meditation hall

temple has many Shri Sai Baba related books in various languages for sale. Along with it there are many beautiful and eye-catching Sai Baba idols and photo frames for sale as well. Seeing the ocean of knowledge in the book store and various genres of it, I am at a loss to decide what I should buy.

“I am the Inner Ruler of all and seated in their hearts. I envelop all the creatures, the movable and immobile world.”

- Shri Sai Baba

As the temple committee members and volunteers have truly imbibed this teaching of Sai Baba, they devoutly serve the God seated in the hearts of the destitute. This seemed true worship of God to me. Their urge to serve the society is highly admirable and exemplary.

Some of prominent charitable works undertaken by the organization are as follows :-

1. Feeding the needy.
2. Scholarships to the needy students

in the local community and Sai Baba devotee community.

3. Backpacks with school supplies to the poor school going children.

4. Thanksgiving lunch for the poor and homeless.

5. Adopt the poor families during the Christmas and fulfill the Christmas wishes of the kids of those families. .

After bowing to the Feet of Shri Sai Baba upon total surrendering and praying...

“Guro vinanti mi karhrudaymandiri ya basa, samasta jag he Guruswarupachi thaso manasa, ghado satat satkruti matihi de jagatpavana”

- Sainath Prabhatashtak

Now towards the end we will review the gradual progress of my place of reverence since its establishment.

Location of the temple : 28875 West Seven Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48152, U.S.A.

Progress graph of the temple organization :-



Saileela book centre

2002 : Devotees started gathering at different places for Sai *bhajans* and to celebrate various Hindu festivals.

2003 : Shri Shirdi Sai Sansthan MI, was legally attested.

2005 : Shri Shirdi Sai Sansthan MI, transformed to a membership organization.

The Board of Trustees and Executive Committee took charge of activities.

'Sai *Vidyapeeth*' classes started for the kids.

2006 : 'Shri Sai Satcharita *Parayan*' conducted in cities around Metro Detroit.

First fundraiser organized.

Committee faced difficulty in finding suitable venues both for weekly *pooja* and special events. Hunt for a permanent place began.

2008 : Devotees agreed to buy a church building in Livonia according to the committee's proposal.

Shirdi Sai temple Livonia became a reality in the month of July.

Temple was inaugurated and opened to devotees all days of the week.

Baba's idol was ordered from Talim Studio, Mumbai..

2009 : *Vigraha Pratishthapana* conducted with pomp and gaiety. Lord Ganesh, Dattatreya and *Sadguru* Sai Baba *vigrahas* were consecrated and installed with detailed *vedic* rituals. Over 3000 devotees attended this 5-day ceremony.

Committee acquired 3 acres of land adjacent to the temple.

2010 : 'Sai *darbar*' inaugurated. Cultural programmes started on every 3rd Saturday of the month. Regular devotees' attendance grew steadily.

2012 : Sai bookstall expanded and shifted to a new place near the main prayer hall.

Permanent houses were purchased for the temple priests.

2013 : 'Dwarkamai' moved to the newly constructed meditation hall.

Lord Shiva *vigraha* arrived and *Vayu pratishtha* performed.

2014 : Shiva, Nandi and Navagraha *vigrahas* consecrated and installed with detailed *vedic* rituals. *Rudrabhishek* performed every Monday.

2015 : 'Sai *Prasadalaya*' became operational.

Prasad is served to devotees on all

Thursdays and Sundays.

Ramanavami celebrated with Sita-Ram *kalyan* culminating in a traditional wedding sit-down dinner for over 2500 devotees mimicking a feast at an Indian wedding.

2018 : Gazebo for *hom* completed.

Gold plating on silver *simhasan* done.

100th Year of Shri Sai Baba's *Mahasamadhi* was celebrated.

2019 : Awning on ramp area installed.

Silver *palkhi* ordered.

2020 : Multiple religious activities conducted for the well-being of the community during covid period.

Charitable donations provided to multiple institutions and communities in need as covid relief.

2021 : Vaccination campaigns held to help mitigate covid spread.

Inaugurated silver *palkhi* on Shri Ramanavami day.

Devotees offered a silver necklace to

Baba.

2022 : Organization celebrates the 20th anniversary of the temple and *Gurupournima* with 1008 *kalashabhishek* on Wednesday, July 13th 2022.

Gold necklace was offered to Sai Baba.

2023 : Temple organization celebrates the 21st anniversary of the temple and *Gurupournima* with 'Sai *Sahastra Divya Pooja*' (1008 Baba idols worshipped.) on Sunday, July 2nd 2023.

Taking the increasing numbers of devotees into account, planning for new temple construction in the same premises is in progress.

|| SHRI SAINATHARPANAMASTU ||
|| SHUBHAM BHAVATU ||

– Dr. Kshitija Rane

Mobile : (0)9594020104

E-mail : kshitija@gmail.com



(Contd. from page 4)

bound to fall on every human being one day or the other and it is only He (Shri Sai Baba) Who has got power to protect them or shield them in these adversities. They are, therefore, never afraid of these calamities and are able to face them boldly. The experiences of Sai devotees go to show that Shri Sai Baba has shielded them, inspired them and protected them under adverse circumstances. The shield of the favour of the almighty is always protecting the devotees of Shri Sai Baba and showing them light in deep darkness. May this shield, which the devotees obtain because of their devotion to Shri Sai Baba, protect them for ever.

– Shri Sai Leela,

Vijayadashmi Special Number 1973

Shri Sai blesses the first Editor of SHRI SAILEELA (Marathi)



**Late Laxman Ganesh alias
Kaka Mahajani
The first Editor of
Shri Saileela (Marathi)**

(Contd. from the March-April 2023 issue)

The devotee, Babasaheb Tarkhad, was also present there. Listen to what Sheth Dharamshi asked him out of curiosity.

“What is here? Why do you come?” Tarkhad answered, “For *darshan*”. Sheth said, “I have heard that miracles take place here”.

Then Tarkhad replied to him, “Well, this is not my feeling. But, the earnest intentions of the devotees are satisfied here”.

Kaka placed his head on Baba’s

feet and offered the grapes to Baba. The distribution began, as there was a large congregation.

Then, together with the others, Baba gave some to Dharamshi also. But, he did not like this variety. He loved the seedless ones.

He had an aversion to this kind of grapes. Thus, an obstacle arose right at the beginning. He did not feel like eating them. But, to refuse them was also difficult.

Moreover, the doctor had prohibited him from eating them without washing them first. He did not feel it proper for himself alone to wash them. Innumerable doubts arose.

Finally, he put them as they were in the mouth and after munching on them slowly, separated the seeds and put them in his pocket. This was the holy abode of a saint and he could not defile it.

Then the Sheth thought, ‘Being a saint, how does he not know that I dislike these grapes? Why has he forcibly given them to me?’

No sooner than these thoughts had arisen, Baba gave him more of these. Knowing that they were the variety with seeds, he held them in his hand only and did not put them in the mouth.

It is true that he did not like



grapes with seeds. But, Baba had given them in his hands. Sheth Dharamshi was disturbed and did not know what to do.

He did not feel like putting them in his mouth, therefore, he carefully held them in his fist. Then Baba said, "Go on, eat them". The Sheth obeyed His instructions.

Dharamshi put them in his mouth, when Baba said, "Eat them". But, he found all of them seedless. He was greatly wonderstruck.

When he found them all seedless,

Dharamshi being perplexed, thought to himself, 'Strange powers! What is impossible for these saints!

Knowing my intentions and the grapes being with seeds and unwashed, whichever ones Sai gave me, they were seedless and good for me'.

He was amazed. He forgot his doubts. His pride dissolved. He developed great love for the saint.

His earlier resolutions disappeared. Love for Sai arose in his heart. The eagerness with which he came to Shirdi was vindicated, without

a doubt.

Babasaheb Tarkhad was also there, sitting near Baba. Baba Sai gave him some grapes from the same lot.

Then Dharamshi asked him, “What kind of grapes did you get?” And, when Tarkhad replied that they were with seeds, he was very much surprised.

By this, he believed that He was a saint. But, he got an idea to get a confirmation. He thought, ‘If You are a real saint, then this time let the distribution begin with Kaka’.

Baba was distributing to many. But, when this thought occurred to the Shethji, Baba started to distribute from Kaka. The Sheth was greatly amazed.

Such indications of saintliness, such powers to read the mind, were sufficient for Dharamshi’s mind, to accept Sai as a saint.

Madhavrao, who was there, then told Baba, “This is Kaka’s master”, by way of an explanation and introduction.

“How could he be Kaka’s master? He has another master”, was Baba’s clear reply. Kaka appreciated this reply.

And, another surprise! There was a cook, by the name of Appa, who was standing near the *dhuni*. Baba gave him the credit.

He said, “This Shethji has not taken the trouble to come here for me! His love for Appa overflowed (Dharamshi was fond of good food and

Baba was referring to this weakness of his.). Therefore, he has come to Shirdi”.

This way the conversation ended. Dharamshi forgot his resolution. On his own, he fell at Baba’s feet. Then returned to the *wada*.

So be it. The noon *aarati* was over. They prepared for their departure. The time came for taking Baba’s permission. So, the group went back to the *Masjid*.

Then Dharamshi said to Kaka, “I will not ask for permission. You ask for it, as you need it”. Then Madhavrao remarked,

“Kaka cannot be sure of his departure. Unless a week is over, he will not be given permission. Why don’t you ask for yourself?”

Afterwards when the three of them reached and sat down, Madhavrao asked for permission on their behalf. Baba began relating a story. Listen to it with a calm mind!

“There was a fickle-minded man. He was prosperous. He was free from physical and mental afflictions. But, he took on him needless anxieties.

He carried upon himself unnecessary burdens. He wandered hither and thither, and had no peace of mind. Sometimes he dropped the burdens and at other times carried them again. His mind knew no steadiness.

Seeing his state, I took pity on him and said, ‘Keep your faith in any one place.

Why do you unnecessarily roam like this? Stick quietly to one place”. This story touched a sore point of Dharamshi. He realised that this was an indication to him only.

Inspite of having adequate wealth and prosperity, and without having the slightest of reason, Dharamshi was always worried and felt disturbed unnecessarily.

He had enough money and honour; but he was not contented. He was burdened with deep, imaginary problems and always got lost in them.

Hearing this story from Sai, the Shethji was extremely surprised. ‘This is the state of my mind’, he thought and listened with great respect.

It was a chance in a million for Kaka to get permission to leave early; but when he got that also, Dharamshi was very contented.

It was Dharamshi’s deep desire that Kaka should leave with him. This also was fulfilled by Baba, by giving his consent to leave.

How did Baba come to know that this was also one of the conditions of Shethji? Dharamshi strangely accepted it that this was also one of the characteristics of saintliness.

All doubts were removed, and it was clear that Sai was a saint. Baba gave experiences, which depended upon each one’s thoughts.

Whatever path one desires to take, he is helped on that very path. Sai is aware of the qualifications and

worth of one and accordingly one attains spiritual progress.

Irrespective of whether a devotee is full of faith or mocking, Sai is equally merciful to both. This loving Mother did not differentiate between the two.

Then, when both of them were about to leave, Baba asked for fifteen rupees as *dakshina* from Kaka and on His own said to Kaka,

“If anyone has given me one rupee as *dakshina*, I have to give ten times more in return, accurately.

I never take anything from anyone gratis. I do not ask all and sundry. I only take *dakshina* from those to whom the *Fakir* points out.

The *Fakir* asks from only those to whom He is indebted. The giver sows the seeds, by giving, and later reaps the harvest.

Wealth should be used only for righteous puposes. If wealth is so spent then only it is beneficial. By righteousness, true knowledge is attained.

This wealth which has been accumulated by hard labour is sometimes believed to be utilised only for one’s own pleasures. Instead of using this wealth for righteous purposes, it is wasted.

One, who amasses wealth to the tune of crores of rupees, by saving pie after pie, but never spends that wealth for the fulfilment of sensual pleasures, such a person is happy”.

Everyone is fully aware of the

shruti, which says that “Unless one gives, one does not receive”. Unless you have given earlier, you do not get it now. Therefore, Baba asked for *dakshina*.

During Ram Avatar, Raghunandan gave innumerable idols of women in gold to gain sixteen thousand wives in the Krishna Avatar.

A devotee is truly impoverished, who does not have devotion, knowledge and non-attachment. Such a person is first taught and established in non-attachment, and then given devotion and knowledge.

When Baba asks for *dakshina*, it is the sign of non-attachment. Later on by placing the devotee on the path of devotion, makes him reach excellence in attainment of knowledge.

“What do I do after all? Take one and give ten-fold. Step by step I put one on the path of knowledge”, Baba said. This created an intense desire in Dharamshi.

On his own, he placed fifteen rupees in Baba’s hands, totally forgetting his earlier resolve. The whole incident was unparalleled.

He felt that he had earlier been unnecessarily boastful. He felt glad that he had come personally so that he learnt what saints are like and with experience got attached to him.

‘If I had not made those resolutions, I would not have come to pay respect. That too, I came on my own! The saints’ ways are inexplicable!

How can anything be impossible for Him who has ‘Allah-Malik’ forever on His tongue! I was anxious to witness a miracle of the saint.

My resolutions were in vain. I prostrated before a human being and also gave Him *dakshina* unasked, on my own.

In vain was my pride. On my own, I placed my head at Sai’s feet with devotion. What more could be amazing!’

How can I describe this skill of Sai! Though He was instrumental in doing all this, He outwardly remained uninvolved. What can be more surprising than this?

Whether anyone bowed to Him or not, or whether anyone gave Him *dakshina* or not, Sai, the Cloud of mercy, and the Source of happiness, never treated anyone scornfully.

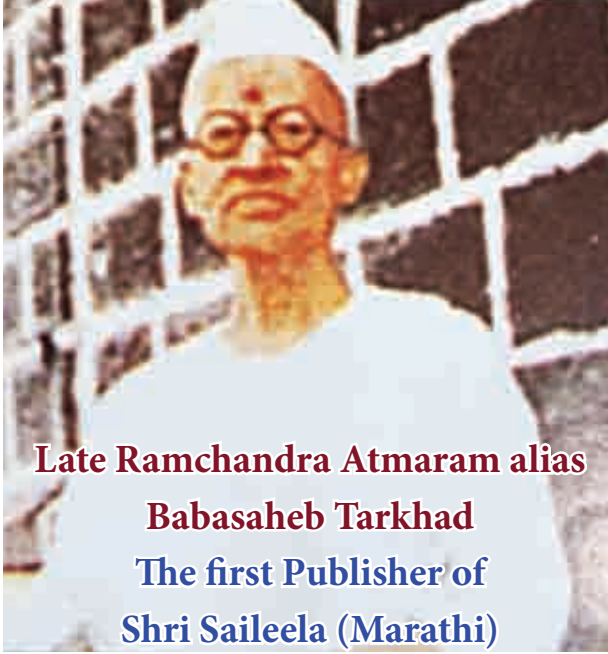
He felt no pleasure, because He was worshipped; and no pain, because He was ridiculed. Where there is no pleasure, there is no pain. His state was beyond duality.

Whatever be anyone’s intentions, when once granted *darshan*, He made the person develop devotion at His feet. Such was the marvellous power of Sai!

Enough. Later after receiving *udi prasad* and blessings, they returned without any doubts. Such was Sai’s fame!

To depart from Shirdi it was
(Contd. on page 55)

Shri Sai Graces the first Publisher of SHRI SAILEELA (Marathi) & his family



**Late Ramchandra Atmaram alias
Babasaheb Tarkhad
The first Publisher of
Shri Saileela (Marathi)**

For one of Shri Sai Baba's leading devotees, Ramchandra, whose father was Atmaram and whose surname was Tarkhad, Sai was a haven of refuge.

But, as he was known as Babasaheb Tarkhad by all, we will use the same name in this book, as it is not necessary to use the other name.

With overflowing love for Sai, Tarkhad used to be overwhelmed and, as it were, be annointed by it; and when he described his experiences listening to them was a pleasure.

Oh, how great was his devotion! At every step he would experience Sai, and each one would be more marvellous than the other. He would relate these experiences accompanied

by appealing gestures.

Babasaheb was an unparalleled devotee. He had a painting of Sai's image, at his home in a huge beautiful sandalwood shrine, which he worshipped thrice a day.

Tarkhad was very fortunate in having a son equally devoted to Sai. He did not even eat his food till he offered *naivedya* to Sai.

Having taken a bath early morning, he would always perform the *pooja* of the picture with his whole heart, mind, speech and body and offer *naivedya*, full of devotion.

This was his daily routine, which was carried on without exception. His labour bore fruit. He had excellent experiences.

Even his mother was a great devotee of Sai. She had a desire to go to Shirdi and the father wished that the son should accompany her.

She wished to go to Shirdi - take *darshan* of the powerful Lord - spend some days there - and actually serve at His feet.

Although his father wished it, the son did not wish to go, as he was worried as to who would perform the *pooja* regularly at the home.

His father was a *Prarthnasamajist*

(who do no image worship). Would it be right to ask him to take the trouble to do image worship. This was a big dilemma for the son.

Nevertheless, knowing his wishes, the son got ready to leave. He entreatingly and lovingly requested his father. Listen to that wonderful story.

“Unless Sai is offered *naivedya*, no one should eat the food at home. Until this is promised, I won’t be able to go carefree”.

The father already knew the son’s daily ritual; he said, “Go, I will do the *naivedya* regularly. You may remain without any anxiety.

Before making the offering to Sai, no one will partake of the food. Take this as my word of honour and do not hesitate. Go at ease”.

Having been thus assured, the son left for Shirdi. Then from the next day, Tarkhad himself did the *pooja*.

The next day, before starting the *pooja*, Babasaheb Tarkhad came before the portrait, prostrated himself and prayed.

“Baba, accept my services in the same way, as my son was doing the *pooja*. Let it not be just a drill, on my part. Pour Your love into my heart”.

Having bathed early morning, Tarkhad began doing the *pooja* with devotion every day and offering *naivedya* also.

Babasaheb used to offer a piece of rock sugar in the *naivedya* regularly. This practice continued uninterruptedly. But, one day it was broken.

Once, being pre-occupied with official matters, Tarkhad forgot and everybody had their meals without *naivedya* one day.

Tarkhadsaheb was the chief officer of a big mill. Therefore, in the morning he had to go out every day for his work.

Then by the time it was afternoon, he returned. As mentioned earlier about the sugar *prasad*, when he sat down to his meals, he partook of it.

This was the usual practice. On one occasion he forgot. The sugar was not put in the *naivedya*, and he also did not get the *prasad*.

Every day, the cook would serve the piece of sugar last, when he started his meals, as if it was the purification of the food.

But, on that day, at the time of the *pooja*, there was some hurry, and the sugar *naivedya* remained undone. Therefore, he also had no *prasad*.

Immediately, Tarkhad left his meal, and being very repentant, bowed down to the portrait of Sai and with tears in his eyes said,

“Baba, what illusion have You shown! How did You cause this confusion of mind? How did You let me just do a drill! First forgive me.

It's not a mistake, but a great sin. I am greatly repentant. A mistake; but I did not deliberately make the mistake. Please be merciful to me, Maharaj”.

He prostrated himself at the foot of the portrait. He was full of remorse. He said, “Maharaj, Cloud of Mercy, Have pity on me”.

Saying this he sent a letter to his son, in great humility and shame. “A great error has been committed by me. Pray that I may be forgiven.

Have mercy on one who has completely surrendered. Pray entreatingly to Sai in these words. Ask for this humble servant, His gesture of forgiveness and His assuring words”.

This incident took place at Bandra, whereas Shirdi was a hundred *kos* away. But, the news reached there immediately. Listen to Baba's words about it.

Now, have the proof of Maharaj's ability, of the knowledge without distortion, beyond time and place and about the past, present and future.

On that day here, while the son was in Shirdi, at that very moment, what happened, when he bowed down at Sai's feet, the listeners should hear carefully.

The son, full of enthusiasm, came with his mother to pay homage. Listening to what Sai said to his mother astounded him.

“Oh, mother! What should be done. To-day when I went to Bandra,

as usual, I did not get anything to eat, or drink rice-water, and had to return hungry.

Mark the bonds that we have from the past births! Even if the doors are closed, I entered at my own sweet will. Who can obstruct me?

The master of the house was not at home. I was ravenously hungry. I had to return without food, in the heat of the afternoon sun”.

When he heard these words, the son immediately realised that his father perhaps had forgotten to offer *naivedya*.

The son requested Baba to let him go home. But, Baba did not allow him and got him to do the *pooja* there only.

That very day, he sent a detailed letter from Shirdi. On receiving and reading that letter the father's heart melted.

His letter was also received there (the letters crossed). The son was also surprised. His eyes also filled with tears, which rolled down.

See the sport of Sai! Would love not gush forth? Who could be so stone-hearted, who would not melt by this?

Now, listen to the miracle about Baba's favour shown to the loving mother of this very boy, once when she was in Shirdi.

When she was in the kitchen and the leaf plates were set for the meal, in

the afternoon, a hungry dog came to the door.

A piece of the *bhakri*, which was in her plate, was about to be given by her to the dog, when a pig, bespattered with mud, arrived there, oppressed with hunger. (She fed both.)

This incident happened in its natural course. She did not give any importance to this or bear it in her mind. But, Sai on His own opened this topic, when she was present.

After the afternoon lunch, when the lady came as per usual practice, and sat in the *Masjid* at some distance, Sai said kindly,

“Oh mother! You fed me to-day, because of which I am full upto my throat. I was overcome with hunger and you satisfied me.

You must act like this always. Truly only this will prove useful, ultimately. Sitting in the *Masjid*, I do not ever speak an untruth. This is the universal truth.

Know that this is the kindness which I preach. Give food to the hungry first and then eat yourself. Remember this clearly in your mind”.

What did Sai Samarth say? The lady could not understand anything. What was the implied meaning of this? His words were never futile.

She said, “How could I have served you? How could it happen at my hands? I am dependent. I spend and eat whatever I can get”.

Baba answering her said, “Savouring that lovingly given *chapati*, I became fully satisfied and I am still belching.

When you sat down for your meals, you suddenly saw a dog come to the door, which was suffering from extreme hunger. I am one with that dog.

Similarly, I am one with that pig



bespattered with mud, which was also hungry and miserable”.

When she heard Baba's words, the lady was very much surprised. Dogs, pigs, cats which wander - are they one with Baba?

“Sometimes I am a dog, sometimes a pig, sometimes I am a cow, sometimes a cat, sometimes an ant, a fly or fish. I move about in different forms.

That person who sees me in all the creatures, you must understand is my beloved one. Give up the belief in the two-fold nature, and worship me in this manner”.

These were not just ordinary words, but nectar. She was overwhelmed with emotions. Her eyes were filled with tears of happiness and her throat was choked with emotion.

Similarly, there is another story of this lady, which is wonderful and depicts love. It shows the oneness of the great Sai with His devotee; and that the two *atmas* are one.

Once, when Purandare (Raghuvir Bhaskar Purandare, who lived at Bandra, Mumbai) with his wife and children set out for Shirdi, she (Mrs. Tarkhad) gave him brinjals with affection which she requested his wife to make *bharta* (Brinjals smoked, skinned and pulped to which spices and curds are added.),

with one, for Baba, and *kacharya*, crisp and brown, from the other, and

feed him heartily with them.

His wife accepted the brinjals and when she reached Shirdi, after the *Aarati*, at lunch time, she took the *bharta*.

As was the custom the lady offered *naivedya*, kept the *thali* (platter) and left. Baba collected everybody's *naivedya* and sat down for the meal.

When he tasted the *bharta*, He relished it and shared it with everyone. He felt like eating *kacharya* and asked for them, at that time.

A message was sent to Radhakrishnanai, that Baba is waiting to finish His meal and He desires to have *kacharya*. No one knew what to do about it.

That was not the season for brinjals, so, how could that preparation be made? Therefore, a search for Purandare's wife was made and for the *bharta*.

The *bharta* was in the *thali* which she had brought. Therefore, it was possible that she might be having some spare brinjals.

When she was questioned about it, all came to understand about the significance of the *kacharya* and also about Baba's keenness for them.

The lady said that out of one brinjal *bharta* was made and offered in the afternoon; and, had thought that she would take the *kacharya* later on. Therefore, the second one had been cut up accordingly.

Later on, when this episode about the brinjals came to be known to everybody gradually, everyone was surprised at seeing Sai's all-knowing nature.

Again, in the month of December 1915, the same lady sent a *pedha* for Baba, with great love.

Since Balaram (Balaram Mankar, who was Baba's devotee) had expired, to perform the last rites, his son had to go to Shirdi. He had come to take leave (of the Tarkhads) and ask if there was any message.

The son came to Tarkhad to say that he was leaving. The wife felt like sending something for Baba with him.

Except for the *pedha* there was nothing else to be found in the house. Moreover, the *pedha* had already been offered in the *naivedya*. The son was also in a hurry to leave.

Besides, the son was in the mourning period ('*Sutak*' i.e. thirteen days after death when a household is deemed to be impure and during which no religious rites are performed). There was only one *pedha* leftover. She sent that itself with him, as an offering for Sai to eat.

She said, she had nothing else. "Take this only. Give this with love to Sai. Sai will eat it with pleasure."

Govindji took the *pedha* with him. But, when he went to take the

darshan, he forgot it at the place where he stayed. Baba was yet quite patient.

Afterwards, in the late afternoon, when he came into the *darbar* hall, like the previous time he forgot and came empty handed into the *Masjid*.

"What have you brought for me", Baba casually asked him. "Nothing at all", said he, at which Baba tried to hint and remind him.

"Has no one given you anything for me?" On his saying no, Sai Samarth directly questioned,

"Oh, when you left home, did not mother give you a sweet lovingly?" Then he remembered.

He was very much ashamed. How did he forget! With his face downcast, he asked for forgiveness and bowed down at His feet.

He went running to his place, brought the *pedha* and gave it to Baba. As soon as He got it in His palm, He put it in His mouth and thus gratified the feelings of the mother.

Such is the great Sai, *Mahanubhav* (*Yogi*) (Devoted and hungry for devotion). He reciprocates the feelings, by giving the experiences, He increases the prestige of His devotee.

The essence of these stories is that one should perceive God in all living beings. This is also acknowledged by all the *shashtras*. The same is the doctrine of these.

In Supreme Bliss...

My faith in Shri Sai Baba grew because my father visited Shirdi quite often to seek Baba's *darshan* as he was a staunch devotee of Shri Sai Baba.

Since 1987-88 our entire family visit Shirdi at least twice a year. I was very young then and for me it was always a family trip full of fun and enjoyment.

But, in the year 2004, when I was 18 years old, I lost both my parents unfortunately. My father left his body in the month of May 2004 due to long illness and mother in the month of December 2004 due to depression of losing her husband.

I was left with 3 elder siblings. My elder brother and I had taken over responsibilities

of our two sisters, however, we children didn't know how to live and laugh without parents and we had to start everything from scratch. Baba knew that we needed some guidance to move forward in life.

At this stage, we were supported by Sai Baba at every step of life.

Gradually, my connection grew stronger with Sai Baba and I started praying to Him to come home and stay with us and be our parents. In year 2005, He accepted our request and came to our house in the form of a photo frame. We welcomed Him with great joy and merriment.

We started praying every single day, but, that didn't seem enough *seva* rendered



to my *Sadguru* Who loved us dearly just like a mother, hence I started doing Baba's *Abhishek Pooja* every Thursday.

I was an 18 year old then, and I knew nothing about His *seva*, *Aarati*, *mantra Jap*, *Abhishek* etc.; but Baba chose me and accepted me as one of His child and devotee and gave me this chance to do His *seva* for the rest of my life. My sister Kavita stood by me at every step from the date I started doing Baba's *Pooja*. She became a big support to me, or I must say that Baba chose her as a beloved to help me in doing His worship.

Like always once again I visited Shirdi in the year 2006 for my birthday. I was standing in front of Baba's idol attending *Madhyan Aarati* and soon as the *Aarati* came to an end Baba sent not one but two

gifts for me. To my surprise it was nothing else but Baba Himself. Once again He came to me in the form of His idols. One made of white marble and the other made of plaster of paris wearing orange colour robe. I was most happy to have Him come home on such a nice occasion. We kept their names as Bade Baba and Chhote Baba. Bade Baba being the marble idol and Chhote Baba the orange idol made of POP.

For me these became the most beautiful gift ever received. My Sai Baba, pleasantly smiling with His charming face and glittering eyes giving us blessings. Just spending time with my this family, Shri Sai took away all my worries. Now I had opportunity to do His *Abhishek* in a well arranged way.

We are again one big family with our



Sai Baba in form of parents living with us. Our daily routine is waking up Baba in the morning, doing His *mantra jap*, offering Him *naivedya* 3 times a day and at night putting Him back to sleep. This ritual has been followed till date, since 2006.

On one fatal day, something occurred which no devotee would wish to see in his lifetime. This *Leela* of Shri Sai Baba will never be forgotten. Why He did this, He alone knows. May be to test His devotee. He can only tell if I passed or failed His test.

My elder sister along with my 3 years old niece were staying in my house. My niece is a big devotee of Baba and the first word she uttered when she started speaking was none other than, "BABA". So, that night my sister Kavita took my niece to temple and they started making Baba sleep on His bed. My niece carried Chhote Baba in her hands and was trying to make Him sleep on His bed, when the idol fell from her hand and the head broke into pieces. At that hour, I was in my room getting ready to attend wedding reception of my friend. All of a sudden I hear loud bang on my room door. My sister asked me to rush to temple, on questioning her she told me what just happened. I ran to temple to see if what she's saying is true. Seeing my entire family standing outside the temple I believed what she just said is true. As I entered the temple, what I see is Baba's idol broken into pieces. I remember, I couldn't utter a word and was speechless. Dear devotees, I was holding my Baba's head in one hand and entire body in another. I started weeping like a child losing his mother or I should say I cried like this only when I lost both my parents in 2004.

Now my family was of suggestion to immerse Baba's idol as its broken (*khandit*) and said one shouldn't keep broken idols of God at home. My ears couldn't take these words and I asked every member to disperse. I was not convinced with the idea of immersion. I remember telling my elder brother who was standing by my side, that,

this is not just an idol. This is my *Guru*, my Baba, my father, my mother. He can't leave me like this and go. He has to come back, if this was me and I would have met with an accident and broken my arm and my neck and shoulder, would you immerse me in the sea or consider me inauspicious? His answer was "NO"... then why to immerse Baba, I asked? He's our father and today I will be His doctor and make Him alright.

I started collecting all broken pieces and sticking them together. Some body parts were matching, but few were broken badly which couldn't be fixed. While fixing the part of head and shoulder it pained me so much that tears ran down my eyes and I couldn't see anything due to blurry eyes. But, with heavy heart I continued fixing them taking Baba's name all the while. Now, that I tried to fix all parts back, there were some area where I could see blank spaces and until I filled those spaces it would remain empty with a hole. Now, the question was how do I fill these small gaps and cracks which are so visible. Thinking of what to do that these go away and Baba also gets relieved



of the pain He's suffering due to this, I started applying His *Udi* (*Vibhuti*) on the entire body. I applied so much *Udi* that the orange colour idol turned grey into colour of *Udi*. Dear devotees, as we all apply Baba's *Udi* everyday and stay away from pain and miseries, so I thought same *Udi* which is coming from the *jholi* of Shri Ram, our Shri Sai Baba, will cure my Baba immediately. So I went on applying *Udi* on the joints and head which were weak parts of idol and kept chanting OM SAI RAM... After a while I noticed that the idol is fixed like before, but the cracks were invisible due to loads of *Udi* on them. However I made Baba sleep laden in *Udi* and continued same way, we used to make Him sleep everyday, and went in my room.

Dear devotees, I couldn't sleep that night. I knew He was in pain. He must have sacrificed His idol for saving me from some misery. I also knew that the idol of Baba was almost fixed, but the question was will the cracks be visible? Will I be able to do *Abhishek* of this idol like I did every Thursday? Thousands of things were crossing my mind and I was feeling helpless. A thought crossed my mind that, was it decided that Baba will stay with me only for these many years? Thus I woke up at 3 a.m., took shower and by 4 a.m. I again saw Baba in temple and left searching for a stationery shop from where I could get orange paint and brush and a finishing paper to get the idol back into shape.

After reaching home, I removed all *Udi* from Baba's body and what I see that the cracks are almost invisible. Especially the big crack on the head which was impossible to fix, was also healed. I started running finishing paper all over the crack with soft hands and I repainted His entire idol like before. Once I finished painting, the idol started looking like before. Seeing the idol My sister and brother couldn't believe and asked me, is this the same idol which broke last night or you purchased a new



one? I smiled and thanked Baba for not leaving me.

Dear devotees, this *Leela* He played may be to test my *Shraddha*, my faith in Him. "*Jaisa Bhav, Waisa Anubhav*", is what He made me experience that night.

As of today, in 2023, we still do same worship of His idols like before. In fact, He looks more beautiful than before.

Dear devotees, I can't and will never forget what happened on that night and neither will I understand why He plays such *Leela* with us. But, all I know that if we love Him like a child, He reciprocates like a mother. He will never leave us alone, He is with us and always remain with us in our dream and waking state.

In Supreme Bliss is what I feel after this *Leela*, thus I gave this *Leela* thy name.

- Prem Kanjani

Mobile : (0)9820222522

E-mail : pkanjani@yahoo.com



हाय! क्यों ईंट टूट गई?

हे श्री साई कृपा धाम! तुम सकल सुखों के निधान हो। तुम्हारे मंगल दर्शन, नाम-स्मरण और भजन-पूजन से समस्त पाप नष्ट हो जाते हैं। कैसे करूँ तुम्हारी महिमा का बखान? तुमने अपकारी पर भी उपकार किया है। राम, कृष्ण और साई। तुम तीनों में अंतर नहीं है कोई। ऐसे दिव्य तत्वों के मरण या समाधि की चर्चा करना तो मुझे व्यर्थ की वार्ता लगती है। काल पर भी सत्ता हो जिसकी, क्या उसका निधन हो सकता है कभी? यह सब तो भक्तों के भले के लिए लीला थी तुम्हारी। फिर हमें तुम्हारी लीलाएँ तो सुनानी ही पड़ेंगी, नाथ! कहते हैं, बल्कि तुमने ही कहा है, तुम्हारी लीला-कथाएँ कहने-सुनने वाले, दोनों ही धन्य हो जाते हैं। उनके सभी मनोरथ पूर्ण होते हैं। आध्यात्मिक और भौतिक भी। तुम्हारी लीला-कथाएँ कहते-सुनते भक्तों का मन कभी तृप्त नहीं होता। कथाओं के रसानंद का मधु कितना भी पियें, प्यास नहीं बुझती। मन करता है, और सुने, और कहें। कितनी ही बार कहें-सुने, तुम्हारी लीला-कथाएँ नित्य-नूतन, रमणीय लगती हैं।

बाबा! बापूसाहेब बूटी के वाड़े का दालान कैसे तुम्हारा समाधि स्थान बन गया, यह कथानक भी बड़ा



रोचक है। है, न? नागपुर के भक्त प्रवर बूटीसाहेब ने तुम्हारे कहने पर शिर्डी में अपने रहने के लिए वाड़ा (भवन) बनवाया। वे वाड़े के दालान में मुरलीधर की मूर्ति स्थापित करना चाहते थे। तुम्हारी अनुमति से नींव खोदने का काम शुरू करने के लिए शामा (माधवराव देशपांडे) ने तुमसे नारियल फोड़ने का निवेदन किया। तब तुमने सहर्ष नारियल फोड़ते हुए अपने भक्तों से कहा था, “चलो, फोड़ते हैं नारियल। अपन सभी बाल-गोपाल इसी वाड़े में रमण करेंगे। यहीं हम सब बैठ कर दुख-सुख की बातें करेंगे। आनंद-मंगल होगा। मन को शांति मिलेगी।” यह सुन कर तुम्हारे भक्तों ने कहा था, “यह बाबा अनाप-शनाप कुछ भी बोलते हैं। भला बूटी के वाड़े में हम कैसे रहेंगे, क्यों रहेंगे?” उस समय तुम्हारी अमोघ वैखरी का अर्थ किसी की समझ में नहीं आया था। समझ में तब आया, जब तुम्हारी समाधि सचमुच वहीं बनी, जहाँ वाड़े में मुरलीधर की मूर्ति स्थापित होनी थी। तुम स्वयं समाधि रूप में मुरलीधर बन कर वहीं विराजमान हो गये। आज दुनिया के कोने-कोने से सभी बाल-गोपाल भक्त तुम्हारे, वहीं आते हैं, तुम्हारी समाधि का दर्शन करने। तुम उनके साथ उनके दुख-सुख की बातें करते हो। वहीं आनंद-मंगल होते हैं। भजन-पूजन, कथा-कीर्तन होते हैं। अतिथि, अभ्यागतों के लिए अन्नदान होता है। भक्तों के मन को शांति मिलती है। यही तो कहा था तुमने अपने भक्तों से, अपन सभी बाल-गोपाल यहीं रमण करेंगे। दुनिया भर के साई भक्तों के लिए शिर्डी तीर्थ बन गई, बूटी वाड़ा समाधि मंदिर, और तुम स्वयं मंदिर में मुरलीधर बन कर विराजमान हो! इन लीला आयोजनों के मूल में तुम ही तो हो, साईनाथ!

काश! वह ईंट न टूटी होती! हाँ, हाँ, बाबा, मैं उसी पुरानी ईंट की बात कर रहा हूँ, जिस पर कोहनी टेक कर तुम बैठा करते थे। कभी-कभी उस पर सिर रख कर सो जाते थे, और जो वर्षों से तुम्हारे साथ थी। मसजिद में साफ़-सफ़ाई करते हुए वह ईंट एक बालक के हाथ से छूट कर अचानक गिर गई, और दो टुकड़े हो गई। उस टूटी ईंट को देख कर तुम फूट-फूट कर रोने लगे। तुम्हें रोता देख लोग अचरज में पड़ गये। वीतरागी, वैरागी, माया-मोह से सर्वथा अछूता यह योगीराज एक मिट्टी की मामूली-सी



ईंट के लिए आखिर क्यों रुदन कर रहा है? मैं जानता हूँ, साईनाथ, संत-ईश्वर जीव जगत् के कल्याण के लिए जब मानव रूप में अवतार लेते हैं, तो नरलीला करते हैं। वैसे ही हँसते-रोते हैं, जैसे साधारण मनुष्य व्यवहार करते हैं। तुमने उस टूटी ईंट को देख कर विलाप करते हुए कहा था, “हाय! यह ईंट नहीं, मेरे कर्म ही फूटे हैं। यह मेरी प्राण-प्यारी, जन्म की जीवन-संगिनी थी। इस पर हाथ टेक कर, आसन लगा कर मैं आत्म-चिंतन करता था। इसी के सहारे अपने मालिक को याद करता था। यह ही टूट कर मेरा साथ छोड़ गई, तो मैं भी इस बिन अब नहीं

रहूँगा।”

साईनाथ! लोगों को उस पुरानी ईंट के खंडित होने का अर्थ भले ही समझ न आया हो, पर तुम्हें उसके टूटते ही अपने प्रयाण का पूर्वाभास हो गया था। तुमने उसी क्षण जान लिया था कि अब काया की केंचुल छोड़ने का समय आ गया है। हाँ, वह तुम्हारी महासमाधि का संकेत था। किंतु - किंतु, हे नाथ, महासमाधि से बत्तीस वर्ष पहले भी एक बार तुमने समाधि लेने का प्रयास किया था। बहत्तर घंटे की उस समाधि ने भी तुम्हारे भक्तों को अत्यंत विचलित - व्यथित कर दिया था। दमा की पीड़ा से निजात पाने के लिए तुमने समाधि लगाने का निश्चय किया। उँगली से एक स्थान की ओर इशारा करते हुए तुमने म्हालसापति से कहा था, “तीन दिन तक मेरा शरीर सम्भाल कर रखना। मैं न लौटूँ, तो उस स्थान पर मेरी समाधि बना देना।” कह कर तुमने अपने प्राण ब्रह्माण्ड में चढ़ा लिये। तुम्हें मूर्च्छा आ गई, तो म्हालसापति ने तुम्हारा सिर अपनी गोद में रख लिया। थोड़ी ही देर में तुम्हारा शरीर निश्चेष्ट, निस्तेज हो गया। न साँस चल रही थी, न नाड़ी। सबको लगा कि तुम नहीं रहे। सब शोकाकुल हो उठे, और तुम्हारे इंगित स्थान पर तुम्हारी समाधि बनाने का विचार करने लगे। मौलाना, मौलवी और फ़कीर भी आ गये। तुम्हारा ठंडा पड़ा शरीर देख कर बोले, “फ़कीर अल्ला को प्यारा हो गया। देर न करो। क़ब्र खोदने की तैयारी करो। मिट्टी को ठीक वक़्त पर मिट्टी देना ही वाजिब है।” पर, म्हालसापति तुम्हारा शरीर छोड़ने को राज़ी न थे। तुमने तीन दिन का समय निश्चित किया था। म्हालसापति तुम्हारे अनन्य भक्त थे। वे तुम्हारा वचन कैसे टाल सकते थे? तुम्हें तीन दिन से पहले वे कैसे छोड़ सकते थे भला? तीन दिन तक रात-दिन जाग कर वे तुम्हारा निश्चेष्ट शरीर गोद में रखे उसकी रक्षा करते रहे। तीसरे दिन तड़के सबेरे तीन बजे तुमने धीरे-धीरे अपनी आँखें खोलीं। साँस भी चलने लगी। अंग-प्रत्यंग हिलने-डुलने लगे। यह देख कर तुम्हारे भक्तों के चेहरे खिल उठे। चारों तरफ़ खुशी की लहर दौड़ गई।

धन्य हैं म्हालसापति जी! अगर वे तुम्हारा आदेश न मान कर अप्पा कुलकर्णी, काशीराम, मौलवी या अन्य लोगों की बातों में आ जाते, तो अनर्थ हो जाता। वे तीन दिन तुम्हारा शरीर सम्भाल कर न बैठे होते, तो महासमाधि



से बत्तीस वर्ष पहले ही तुम्हारी समाधि बन गई होती। बत्तीस वर्ष पहले ही तुम्हारे भक्त तुम्हारे सत्संग और दर्शन सुख से वंचित हो जाते। बत्तीस वर्ष पहले ही द्वारकामाई सूनी हो गई होती। किंतु, ऐसा होना न था। तुम्हें तो बत्तीस वर्ष और भी अन्य अनेक भक्तों का कल्याण करना था। बत्तीस वर्ष और भी भक्तों को अपने दर्शन-पूजन और सेवा के सौभाग्य से कृतार्थ करना था। इसलिए तुम उस अल्पार्थ समाधि से लौट आये। तुमने भक्तों पर बड़ी दया-कृपा की, दयानाथ! ऐसी ही कृपा अब भी हम सब पर करते रहना।

साई कृपा अपनी
हम पर बना रखना
फिरते भटकते थे
न चैन कहीं पाया
तेरे बसेरे में
हमको मिली छाया
ठंडी छाँव अपनी
हम पर सदा रखना

साई कृपा अपनी
हम पर बना रखना
पशु-पाखियों पर भी
तुमने दया की है
आये शरण पापी
तुमने दुआ दी है
देवा दया ऐसी
सब पर सदा करना
साई कृपा अपनी
हम पर बना रखना
दुख-दर्द भक्तों के
तुमने उठाये हैं
बिगड़े मुकद्दर भी
तुमने बनाये हैं
मालिक मेहर अपनी
हम पर नज़र करना
साई कृपा अपनी
हम पर बना रखना

दरयाव रहमत का
तुमने बहाया है
बैरी-बुरे को भी
सीने लगाया है
हम भी पड़े तेरी
दहरी उठा लेना
साई कृपा अपनी
हम पर बना रखना
तेरे करिश्मों के
किस्से सुने तो हैं
दीपक बहुत तुमने
जल से जलाये हैं

मौला दिया मेरे
दिल में जला देना
साई कृपा अपनी
हम पर बना रखना

साईनाथ! क्या पंचभूतों से बना नश्वर शरीर साई हैं? नहीं। कदापि नहीं। साई तो उस सूक्ष्म तत्व का नाम है, जो अनश्वर, अनाद्यंत हैं। ब्रह्माण्ड के कण-कण में

व्याप्त हैं। संसार के समस्त प्राणियों, प्रत्येक प्राणी के हृदय में विद्यमान हैं। सर्वव्यापी हैं। वही तत्त्व अवतार कार्य करने के लिए देह धारण करता है, और कार्य पूर्ण होने पर देह त्याग कर फिर अपना शाश्वत और अनंत रूप धारण कर लेता है। राम-कृष्ण के समान तुम (साई) भी सर्वत्र - सर्वदा विद्यमान हो। तुम्हारा निधन, निर्वाण तो मात्र लीला है। तुम्हारे अनन्य भक्त, जो पूर्ण रूप से तुम्हारी शरणागत हो चुके हैं, अब भी तुम्हारे होने का अनुभव करते हैं। कुछ को तो तुम्हारा साक्षात् दर्शन भी हो चुका है। अन्यानेक भक्त, जिन्हें अब तुम्हारा स्वरूप देखने को नहीं मिलता, वे मसजिद (द्वारकामाई) में रखा तुम्हारे प्रसिद्ध भक्त चित्रकार शामराव जयकर का बनाया जीवित सदृश चित्र देख कर तुम्हारे साक्षात् दर्शन के समान ही सुख, संतोष और आनंद का अनुभव करते हैं। तुम्हारा चित्र, मूर्ति और समाधि का दर्शन करके उनके सभी मनोरथ वैसे ही पूरे होते हैं, जैसे तब होते थे, जब तुम जीवित थे। सत्य है, साईनाथ! जिनके जीवन का एकमात्र आधार तुम हो, जो तुम्हारा भजन-पूजन करते हैं, तुम्हें याद करते हैं, तुम उन्हें पार लगाते हो।

जग असार में सार, साई है आधार...

मनुआ साई बोल, साई... साई बोल

गहरा सागर भव का, पारावार न जिसका

खतरे कई हज़ार, कौन लगाये पार

मनुआ साई बोल, साई... साई बोल

जग असार में सार, साई है आधार...

जीवन जर्जर नैया, साई एक खिवैया

नाता उससे जोड़, और सहारे छोड़

मनुआ साई बोल, साई... साई बोल

जग असार में सार, साई है आधार...

जनम मनुज का पाया, मगर न कर्ज चुकाया

बंद आँख तू खोल, एक बार तो बोल

मनुआ साई बोल, साई... साई बोल

जग असार में सार, साई है आधार...

भक्ति बिना है रुखी, मन की गगरी सूखी

थोड़ा तो रस घोल, मीठी बोली बोल

मनुआ साई बोल, साई... साई बोल

जग असार में सार, साई है आधार...

रात गुज़ारी सोये, दिन भी खेल गँवाये

जीवन है अनमोल, खोये काहे बोल

मनुआ साई बोल, साई... साई बोल

जग असार में सार, साई है आधार

मनुआ साई बोल, साई... साई बोल

श्री सखाराम हरी उर्फ बापूसाहेब जोग के जीवन का एक मात्र आधार भी तुम ही थे, साईनाथ! मेघा की मृत्यू के पश्चात् बापूसाहेब जोग ही मसजिद और चावड़ी में तुम्हारी आरती करते थे। एक दिन बहुत दुखी होकर उन्होंने तुमसे कहा, “देवा! तुम्हारे श्री-चरणों का दर्शन करके सबको परम शांति का अनुभव होता है। मैं इन श्री-चरणों की सेवा वर्षों से कर रहा हूँ। क्या कारण है कि मुझे शांति नहीं मिली? मेरे चंचल मन को विश्राम नहीं मिला। क्या मैं इतना अभागा हूँ? आपके वर्षों के सत्संग-समागम का सुफल मुझे कब मिलेगा, देवा? वह शुभ घड़ी कब आयेगी, कब आपकी कृपादृष्टि मुझ पर होगी?” जोग की विनती सुन कर तुम्हें दया आ गई। तुमने उनसे कहा, “अब तुम्हारे दुष्कर्मों की होली जलेगी। पाप-पुण्य जल कर राख होंगे। मैं उस दिन तुम्हें भाग्यशाली समझूँगा, जब तुम समस्त विषय पदार्थों की आसक्ति छोड़ कर कंधे पर संन्यास की झोली लटकाओगे। तुम्हारे सभी मोह-पाश छिन्न-भिन्न हो जायेंगे।” साई समर्थ! बापूसाहेब जोग से कहे तुम्हारे वचन सत्य सिद्ध हुये। संतान तो उनकी पहले ही नहीं थी। जल्दी ही पत्नी का भी देहांत हो गया। जोग एकदम स्वतंत्र हो गये। अब उन्हें बाँधने वाली कोई वस्तु न रही। उन्होंने संन्यास धारण कर लिया, और इस तरह अंत में ब्रह्मलीन होकर अपने जीवन का चरम लक्ष्य, मोक्ष प्राप्त किया।

जय हो भक्तवत्सल, कृपानिधान, शिर्डीनाथ! तुम्हारी जय हो! तुमने सत्य ही कहा है, “मैं अपने किसी भी भक्त की सेवा का ऋण अपने माथे पर नहीं रखता। उसका कल्याण करके ऋण उतार देता हूँ। जो अनन्य भाव से मेरी शरण आता है, मेरा नामस्मरण, मेरा ध्यान करता है, मैं सदा उसका ध्यान रखता हूँ। जिसके लिए मेरे बिना सारा संसार सूना है, मेरा प्रेम ही जिसकी भूख-प्यास है, मैं ऐसे प्रेमी भक्त के सदा अधीन रहता हूँ। पद, मद और अहंकार छोड़ कर जो मेरी भक्ति करता है, वह मुझसे मिल कर उसी तरह समरस हो जाता है, जैसे नदियाँ सागर से



मिल कर तदाकार हो जाती हैं। पूछोगे, मैं कौन हूँ, कहाँ रहता हूँ, कहाँ मिलता हूँ? तो सुनो। ऐसा कोई स्थान नहीं, जहाँ मैं नहीं। मैं समस्त प्राणियों में हूँ। तुम्हारे हृदय में बसता हूँ। ऐसा मान कर तुम सभी प्राणियों से प्रेम करोगे, तो निश्चित ही तुम्हें मेरी सर्वव्यापकता का अनुभव होगा, और मुझसे अभिन्नता प्राप्त हो जायेगी। ध्यान रहे, जो दूसरों को दुख देता है, वह मुझे दुखी करता है। जो कष्ट सहता है, श्रद्धा सबुरी रखता है, वह मुझे प्रसन्न करता है। चराचर में, भीतर-बाहर, प्रत्येक प्राणी में, केवल मेरा दर्शन करने वाला भक्त मुझे सबसे अधिक प्रिय है। एक प्रेम के सिवाय मुझे किसी वस्तु की लालसा नहीं है।”

हर प्राणी में साई
ऐसा जानो भाई
धर्म एक है सबका
सेवा दया भलाई
रूप रंग के भेद हैं
जान सभी में एक है
साई का संदेश है
सबका मालिक एक है
पढ़ता नमाज़ कोई
करे आरती कोई
प्रार्थना गिरजा की
गुरुवाणी है सोई
रब के नाम अनेक हैं
अल्ला ईश्वर एक है
साई का संदेश है
सबका मालिक एक है

देवा! दीनदयाल! सब पर सदा कृपाल! समस्त प्राणियों से एक समान प्रेम करने वाले जीवाधार, साईनाथ! तुम्हें छोड़ कर मैं किसकी शरण जाऊँ? किसे ध्याऊँ? तुम ही मेरे सर्वस्व, आराध्य, एक मात्र आधार हो। चाहे ज़माना, चराचर, ब्रह्माण्ड के सभी देवी-देवता मुझसे रूठें, तो भले रूठ जायें, तुम मुझसे कभी न रूठना।

रूठें पिता माता सुता भाई बहन रूठें
रूठें बहू बेटे सगे अपने सभी रूठें
अर्धांगिनी प्रिय भामिनी स्वामी सखा रूठें
साई महेश्वर आप ना हमसे कभी रूठें

(पृष्ठ ५७ पर)



गुरुभक्त सद्गुरु साई

(जुलाई-अगस्त २०२३ अंक से क्रमशः)

बाबा भी कहानी के इस अर्थ निरूपण से संतुष्ट थे। भक्तों को लगा कि कहानी खत्म हो गई; लेकिन कुछ अंतराल के बाद ही बाबा ने कहानी के दूसरे सूत्र से जोड़

दिया। उन्होंने कहा, “फिर गुरु मुझे एक कुएँ के समीप ले गए और रस्सी से मेरे पैर बाँध कर मुझे उलटा लटका दिया। मेरा सिर नीचे और पैर ऊपर को थे। मैं अधर में लटका था। न मैं अपने हाथों से जल को छू सकता था

और न जल मेरे मुँह में आ सकता था। मुझे इस प्रकार लटका कर गुरुदेव ना जाने कहाँ चले गए। कुछ देर बाद वे वापस लौटे और मुझे कुएँ से बाहर निकाला और पूछा कि ‘तुम्हें कुएँ के अंदर कैसा अनुभव हो रहा था?’ मैंने उत्तर दिया, ‘मैं परमानंद की अनुभूति कर रहा था। उस समय का वर्णन मैं कैसे कर सकता हूँ।’ मेरे प्रत्युत्तर से गुरुदेव अत्यंत प्रसन्न हो गए। उन्होंने मुझे हृदय से लगा लिया और अपने संग ले लिया।” भक्तों ने महसूस किया कि कहानी का उपसंहार करते हुए बाबा का स्वर थोड़ा धीमा और भावार्द्र हो गया था।

ऐसे ही भक्तों के साथ चर्चा करते हुए बाबा कभी अपने अन्तर्मन की कोई झलक दिखा देते या कभी बचपन की स्मृति खंगालते हुए अपने प्रारंभिक जीवन का कोई अंश उजागर कर देते। लेकिन, ऐसा करते हुए वे पूर्णतः सजग सावधान रहते और अपने जन्मकुल व गुरुकुल की पर्देदारी करना नहीं भूलते थे। कई बार बाबा जब मन की तरंग में डूबे होते, तो अपने पिछले जन्म और बीते जीवन पर से थोड़ा सा पर्दा उठाते, उस समय ऐसा लगता, मानों चन्द्रमा खुद बादलों की ओट से खुद को अलग कर रहा हो। लेकिन, वे जो कुछ कहते, वह इतना सांकेतिक गहन – गूढ़ और अपुष्ट होता कि हमेशा आधा-अधूरा-सा लगता, फिर भी भक्तजन उनके आत्मवचन को सुनने के लिए तरसते थे और उन दुर्लभ क्षणों के साक्षी बन गौरवान्वित महसूस करते थे। बाबा की बातों में उनका अतीत चलचित्र की तरह घूमता हुआ दिखाई देता था; लेकिन वे उसे स्पष्टतः अभिव्यक्त नहीं करते थे। एक अन्य अवसर पर बाबा ने अपने विगत जीवन की स्मृति को खंगालते हुए बताया था कि नीम के पेड़ के नीचे उनके गुरु का स्थान है। बाबा की इस अप्रत्याशित स्वीकारोक्ति पर सुनने वालों की जिज्ञासा यकायक बढ़ जाती और उनके मन में अनेक सवाल उठने लगते; लेकिन बाबा किसी सवाल का प्रत्युत्तर नहीं देते थे या बड़ी कुशलता से टाल देते थे।

भक्तों के साथ बातचीत करते हुए बाबा प्रायः सेलू, जालना, मानवद, पाथरी, परभणी, औरंगाबाद, बीड, बीदर आदि स्थानों का उल्लेख करते थे। एक दिन बीड के बारे में बताते हुए बाबा ने अपने बचपन की जीविकोपार्जन और आय-अर्जन से जुड़ी स्मृति साझा की, लेकिन कोई भी

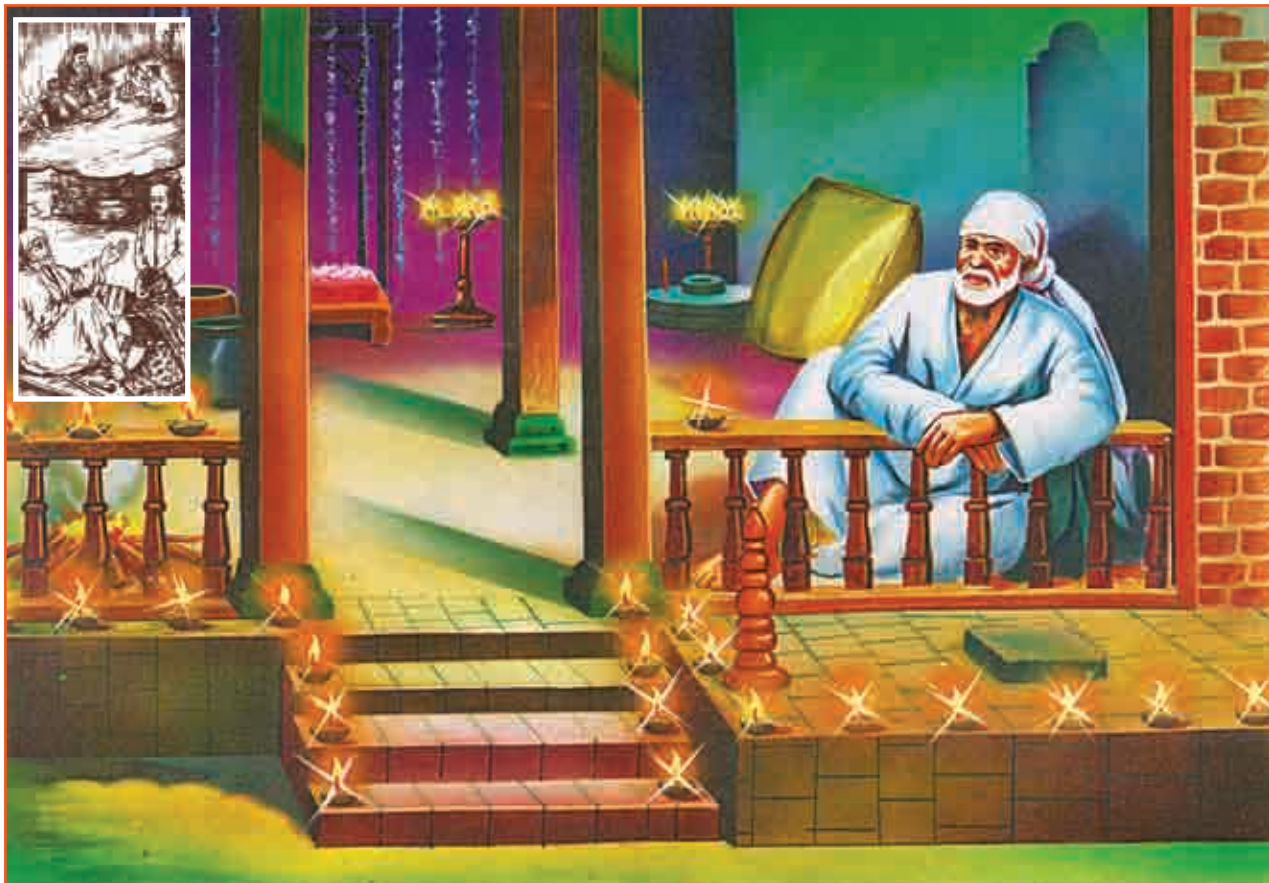


इसका सटीक अर्थ नहीं लगा सका कि बाबा इस स्मृति के माध्यम से अपनी साधना काल की कमाई को इंगित कर रहे हैं या अपने परिश्रम एवं कार्यदक्षता से अर्जित अर्थलाभ का संकेत दे रहे हैं। इस स्मृति को खंगालते हुए बाबा ने संवेदनाप्रवण भाव से न केवल अपने गुरु की वदान्यता का सश्रद्ध उल्लेख किया, बल्कि संसारी लोगों की याचना वृत्ति पर भी कटाक्ष किया और नित्य-अनित्य में भेद रचने वाली दृष्टि को भी उजागर किया। बाबा ने बताया, “जब मैं छोटा था, तब जीविका उपार्जन के लिए बीडगाँव गया। वहाँ मुझे ज़री का काम मिला। मैं पूर्ण लगन एवं परिश्रम से अपना काम करने लगा। मेरा काम देख कर सेठ बहुत प्रसन्न हुआ। मेरे साथ तीन लड़के और भी काम करते थे। पहले का काम पचास रुपये का, दूसरे का सौ तथा

तीसरे का एक सौ पचास रुपये का हुआ। मेरा काम उन तीनों से दुगुना हो गया। मेरी निपुणता देख कर सेठ बहुत प्रसन्न हुआ। वह मुझे बहुत चाहता था और मेरी प्रशंसा भी करता था। उसने मुझे एक पूरी पोशाक प्रदान की, जिसमें सिर के लिए एक पगड़ी और शरीर के लिए एक शेला भी था। मेरे पास वह पोशाक वैसे ही रखी रही। मैंने सोचा कि जो कुछ मनुष्य द्वारा निर्मित है, वह नाशवान और अपूर्ण है, परन्तु जो कुछ मेरे सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त होगा, वही अंत तक रहेगा। किसी भी मनुष्य को दिए उपहार की उससे तुलना सम्भव नहीं है। मेरे सरकार कहते हैं, 'ले जाओ, ले जाओ!' लोग मेरे पास आकर कहते हैं, 'मुझे दो, मुझे दो!' परन्तु जो कुछ मैं कहता हूँ, उस पर कोई ध्यान नहीं देता। मेरे सरकार का खज़ाना भरपूर है और वह बह रहा है। मैं तो कहता हूँ, गाड़ी भर कर ले जाओ! जो सच्ची माँ का लाल होगा वही इसे ले जाएगा। मेरे फ़कीर की कला, मेरे भगवान् की लीला और मेरे सरकार का बर्ताव सर्वथा अद्वितीय है। मेरा क्या है? यह शरीर एक दिन मिट्टी में मिल कर सारे भूमण्डल में व्याप्त हो जाएगा। फिर यह अवसर कभी प्राप्त नहीं होगा।" बाबा

अपनी रौ में बोलते जा रहे थे और उनकी बातें भक्तों के मर्म को भेद रही थीं। भक्तों को लग रहा था, मानो, अपने सरकार के सान्निध्य में बैठे बाबा ने एक अनमोल खज़ाना लूटे जाने के लिए खोल दिया है, लेकिन लुटेरे भक्त कहाँ थे? बाबा के ज्यादातर दर्शनार्थी अपने प्रपंचग्रस्त जीवन के साथ लौकिक स्वार्थपूर्ति के लिए शिर्डी आते थे। उनमें विरला ही कोई बाबा के अलौकिक खज़ाने में सेंध लगाने की सोचता था।

एक बार बाबा की महिमा सुन कर संगमनेर से कुछ लोग शिर्डी पहुँचे। इनमें राधा देशमुख नाम की वृद्ध महिला भी थी। उस महिला की बाबा में अनन्य श्रद्धा थी। बाबा के दर्शन पाकर वह गदगद हो गई और आत्मविभोर मनःस्थिति में देर तक बाबा को निहारती रही। उसके कंठ से एक भी शब्द नहीं निकला, लेकिन मन व अंतःकरण आत्मिक शांति और संतोष से भर गया। राधा को लगा कि यहाँ आकर सारी तृष्णाएँ मिट गई और सारे मनोरथ पूर्ण हो गए। उसने निश्चय किया कि अब जैसे भी हो बाबा को अपना गुरु बना कर उनसे उपदेश ग्रहण करना चाहिए।



यद्यपि हृदय ने प्रथम दर्शन में ही बाबा को गुरु के रूप में स्वीकार कर लिया था, लेकिन उनसे विधिवत् उपदेश ग्रहण करना तो अभी बाकी था। इस लालसा ने राधा को मन ही मन संकल्पित होने के लिए प्रेरित किया। उसने सोचा, बाबा को गुरु बनाए बिना वापस जाने से तो शिर्डी यात्रा अधूरी रहेगी और आध्यात्मिक साधना का पथ ही नहीं खुलेगा। राधा ने सुन रखा था कि बाबा न शिष्य बनाते हैं और न दीक्षा देते हैं। तो क्या समुद्र के पास आकर भी मैं प्यासी ही रहूँगी? मेरी अभिलाषा पूर्ण नहीं होगी? गहरे आवेश और भावना में डूबी राधा ने तत्क्षण तय किया कि जब तक बाबा उसे अपना कृपापात्र नहीं बनायेंगे और मंत्र दीक्षा नहीं देंगे तब तक वह न शिर्डी छोड़ कर कहीं जाएगी और न ही अन्न-जल ग्रहण करेगी। उसे विश्वास था कि इस हठ से वह बाबा के मन को पिघला देगी और उनसे दीक्षा ग्रहण करने में सफल हो जाएगी। यह कठोर व्रत लेकर राधा अपने विश्राम गृह में जाकर अनशन पर बैठ गई। पहला दिन तो जैसे-तैसे गुज़र गया, लेकिन दूसरे दिन तो भूख और प्यास के मारे उसकी काया कमज़ोर पड़ने लगी और तीसरे दिन तो चलना-फिरना तक दूभर हो गया।

जब शामा ने इस महिला के बारे में सुना, तो वे चिंता में पड़ गये। उन्हें लगा कि यदि इस महिला को कुछ हो गया, तो अनर्थ हो जायेगा। लोग व्यर्थ में बाबा को अनिष्ट के लिए दोषी ठहरायेंगे। यह सोचते हुए शामा मस्जिद पहुँचे और बाबा के समीप जाकर अनमने से बैठ गए। उनका ध्यान भूखी-प्यासी राधामाई में ही अटका था। जब बाबा ने हमेशा की तरह शामा से सबके कुशल-मंगल के बारे में पूछा, तो वे स्वयं को रोक नहीं पाए। उनके विकल मन का सारा ज्वर उछल कर बाहर आ गया। वे आत्मीय तलखी के साथ उपालम्भ देते हुए बाबा से बोले, “देवा, यह आपका कैसा रहस्य है? आप स्वयं ही एक-एक करके लोगों को शिर्डी लाते हो, फिर उनके विषय में हमसे पूछताछ करते हो। वह राधामाई एक वृद्ध महिला है। आपकी कृपा पाने के लिए वह तीन दिन से उपवास पर बैठी है और सूख कर काठ हो गई है, आप उसे इतना दुखी क्यों कर रहे हो और उसे उपदेश क्यों नहीं देते?” शामा

ने एक ही साँस में अपने सारे आक्रोश को अभिव्यक्त कर दिया। अपने अंतरंग भक्त का उलाहना सुन कर बाबा का कोमल मन करुणा से भर गया। वे न तो किसी को भूखा-प्यासा देख सकते थे और न दुःखी-पीड़ित। उन्होंने हठमोचन के लिए तत्काल राधा को बुलावा भेजा। राधा को जैसे इसी सुनहरे क्षण की प्रतीक्षा थी। मनचीती मुराद पूरी होने की आस ने उनकी जर्जर काया में नवशक्ति का संचार कर दिया। एक साथी महिला का हाथ पकड़ कर वह धीरे-धीरे चलती हुई मस्जिद पहुँची। बाबा जैसे उसी की ही प्रतीक्षा कर रहे थे। उन्होंने राधा को अपने समीप बिठाया और स्नेहभाव से समझाते हुए बोले, “आई, तुम अपने आपको इतना कष्ट क्यों दे रही हो। तुम मेरी माँ और मैं तुम्हारा बेटा। तुम मुझ पर दया करो और मेरी बात ध्यान से सुनो। पहले मैं तुम्हें अपने गुरु के बारे में बताता हूँ। उनके बारे में सुन कर तुम्हें शांति मिलेगी। मेरे गुरु एक सिद्ध पुरुष थे। मैं दीर्घ काल तक उनकी सेवा करता रहा, फिर भी उन्होंने मेरे कान में कोई मंत्र नहीं फूँका। मेरी प्रबल इच्छा थी कि उनकी सेवा कर जिस प्रकार भी सम्भव हो मंत्र प्राप्त करूँ, लेकिन उनकी रीति-नीति तो न्यायी ही थी! उन्होंने मंत्र देने के बजाय, दो पैसों की माँग की। तुम सोचोगी, जब गुरु निष्काम और विरक्त थे, तो उन्हें दो पैसों की क्या ज़रूरत थी? सच तो यह है कि मेरे गुरु पैसों को ठुकराया करते थे। जो दो पैसे उन्होंने मुझसे माँगे, उनका अर्थ था, दृढ़ निष्ठा और सबूरी। और जब ये दो पैसे मैंने अपने गुरु को अर्पित कर दिये, तो वे अत्यन्त प्रसन्न हो गये।” बाबा ने अपने गुरु का विग्रह रच कर क्षणभर के लिए ठहरे और स्नेह पूर्वक राधा की ओर देखने लगे। उसके लिए यह गुरुसत्ता की सर्वथा नवीन परिभाषा थी, जिसे सुन कर वह आत्मविभोर हो गई। उसे लगा, जैसे बाबा गुरुत्व का गुप्त रहस्य उजागर कर उसका पथ आलोकित कर रहे हैं।

(क्रमशः अगले अंक में)

— डॉ. ओम प्रकाश टाक

रामद्वारा गली, बागर चौक,
जोधपुर - ३४२ ००१, राजस्थान.
संचार ध्वनि : (०)९८२९०२७०१०

साई वचनामृत



(५३) कोई व्यक्ति, चाहे वह जितना वेदवेदांतों में पारंगत क्यों न हो, परन्तु ब्रह्मपद को पहुँचे हुए व्यक्ति के समक्ष उसका शुष्क ज्ञान प्रकाश नहीं दे सकता। (अ. २७, श्री साई सत् चरित)

बाबा के पास आने वाले उनके भक्त बाबा से

दुख निवारण के लिए प्रार्थना करते थे। श्री साई सत् चरित के अनुसार केवल तीन व्यक्ति, दादासाहेब खापर्डे, तात्यासाहेब नूलकर और बापूसाहेब बूटी बाबा के ऐसे भक्त थे जो बाबा के सामने सदैव मौन धारण करते थे। वे अति विनम्र और उत्तम प्रकृति के व्यक्ति थे। खापर्डे दादा पंचदशी नामक प्रसिद्ध संस्कृत ग्रन्थ के ज्ञाता थे। वे दूसरों को तो उसका अर्थ समझाते थे, परन्तु जब भी वे बाबा के समीप आते, तो वे एक शब्द का भी उच्चारण नहीं करते थे। सच्चिदानंद परब्रह्म साईनाथ त्रिगुणातीत के सामने हमारा चूप रहना ही बेहतर है।

(५४) गुरु-शिष्य दोनों को एक-दूसरे को अभिन्न जान कर प्रेम और सेवा करनी चाहिए; क्योंकि उन दोनों में कोई भेद नहीं है। वे दोनों अभिन्न और एक ही हैं, जो कभी पृथक् नहीं हो सकते। (अ. २७, श्री साई सत् चरित)

गुरु-शिष्य की महत्ता बताते हुए साई हमें शिक्षा देते हैं कि गुरु शिष्य को सद्ज्ञान देकर उसे आत्मसात प्राप्त करने का रास्ता बताते हैं। गुरु को शिष्य की और शिष्य को गुरु की आवश्यकता रहती है। संसार का कोई भी धर्म इन दोनों के बिना आधा-अधूरा है। गुरु ही शिष्य की महत्ता बढ़ाते हैं। शिष्य गुरु से शिक्षा प्राप्त कर अपने आपको सौभाग्यशाली मानता है। शिष्य गुरुदेव के चरणों में मस्तक रख रहा है, यह तो केवल बाह्य दृश्यमात्र है। आंतरिक दृष्टि से दोनों अभिन्न और एक ही हैं।

“बिन गुरु ज्ञान कहाँ से पाऊँ?

दिजौ दान हरिगुण गाऊँ।”

जिन्होंने अपना आसन सिद्ध कर लिया हैं वे ही गुरु शिष्य को भी उस चरम सीमा तक ले जा सकते हैं। ऐसे गुरु हमारे साई के सिवा और कौन हो सकते हैं! साईनाथ, हमें भी ज्ञान-दान दीजिए!

(५५) साई उवाच - “अब सदैव ‘राजाराम, राजाराम’ का जाप किया करो। यदि तुमने इसका अभ्यास क्रमबद्ध कर लिया, तो तुम्हें अपने जीवन के ध्येय की प्राप्ति अवश्य हो जाएगी।” (अ. २७, श्री साई सत् चरित)

आध्यात्मिक विषयों से अपरिचित व्यक्तियों के लिए यह घटना साधारण-सी प्रतीत होगी, किन्तु शास्त्रीय भाषा में यह 'शक्तिपात' के नाम से विदित है। यानि कि गुरु द्वारा शिष्य में शक्ति का संचार करना! साई के शब्द इतने शक्तिशाली और प्रभावकारी होते थे, जो एक क्षण में हृदय में प्रवेश कर जाते थे और वहाँ संकुचित हो उठते थे। गुरु-शिष्य के संबंध का यह एक सशक्त प्रमाण है।

(५६) साई उवाच - “मेरा भक्त चाहे एक हज़ार कोस की दूरी पर ही क्यों न हो, वह शिर्डी को ऐसा खिंचा चला आता है, जैसे धागे से बँधी हुई चिड़ियाँ खिंच कर स्वयं ही आ जाती हैं।” (अ. २८, श्री साई सत् चरित)

(१ कोस = ३ मील = ४.८ कि.मी.)

शिर्डी यात्रा की खास बात यह रही है कि जब तक बाबा का बुलावा नहीं आता, तब तक कोई शिर्डी नहीं जा सकता। अगर पहुँच भी गया, तो उसका वहाँ अधिक ठहरना नहीं होता। एक बार अगर बाबा बुला लेते, तो फिर ज़माने भर की मुश्किलें उसका रास्ता नहीं रोक पाती। जब बाबा बुलाते, तब भक्त का हर प्रकार का इंतज़ाम सरलता से हो जाता। बाबा के निमंत्रण को अपना सौभाग्य समझो। जो बार-बार शिर्डी जाते हैं, उनके मन में शिर्डी और बाबा के लिए एक कशिश पैदा हो जाती है। इसके उपरांत बाबा ने यह भी कहा कि जिनके दिलों में मेरे लिए प्रेम और आस्था है, वे चाहे दूर दराज़ देश-विदेश में हो, तो भी पैर में रस्सी बँधी चिड़ियों की तरह चला आता है। निमंत्रण तो बेगानों के लिए है, शिर्डी जिनका घर है और बाबा जिनके स्वामी हैं, वे कभी भी आ जाते हैं।

“रोके ना हमें संसार

हमें साई ने बुलाया है

अब कौन करे इन्कार

हमें साई ने बुलाया है।”

(५७) जो सद्गुरु या अन्य किसी आध्यात्मिक ज्ञान की खोज में निकलता है, उसकी ईश्वर सदैव ही सहायता करते हैं। (अ. २८, श्री साई सत् चरित)

पिछले साई उपदेश में देखा कि शिर्डी यात्रा बड़ी निराली है। कभी-कभी ऐसा भी होता है कि हमने सब इंतज़ाम कर लिया है और एन वक्त पर शिर्डी यात्रा स्थगित करनी पड़ती है। मन में व्यथा तो पैदा होती है, मगर साई-संकेत को समझ कर और उनकी सदिच्छा को मान कर शांति से हम साई बुलावे की प्रतीक्षा करते हैं। मेरे साथ भी ऐसा हुआ। सब इंतज़ाम कर लिया, मगर मेरे वाहन चालक ने बताया कि उसे एलर्जी हुई है; शिर्डी जाना सम्भव नहीं है। मैंने उसे बुलाया। डॉक्टर से इलाज़ शुरू करवाया। करीब एक महीने बाद वह स्वस्थ हुआ। तब कहीं जाकर शिर्डी पहुँचे। कोई भी व्यक्ति ज्ञान-दर्शन की खोज में निकलता है, बाबा उसकी दर्शन-अभिलाषा को तृप्त ज़रूर करते हैं। साई को जानने-मानने के लिए हमें अपना अहं उनके चरणों में रखना बेहद ज़रूरी है। साई में रम जाओ! यही तुम्हें साई धाम तक ले जाएगा। इतना जान लो। “चलो बुलावा आया है, बाबा ने बुलाया है... शिर्डी गाँव में साई ने अपना दरबार लगाया है।”

श्री साई अनंत हैं। वे एक चींटी से लेकर ब्रह्माण्डपर्यंत सर्वभूतों में व्याप्त हैं।

- विनय घासवाला

१०/३०२, लाभ रेसिडन्सी, अटलदरा,
वडोदरा - ३९० ०१२, गुजरात.
संचार ध्वनि : (०)९९९८९९०५६४



“मुझ पर पूर्ण विश्वास रखो। यद्यपि मैं देहत्याग भी कर दूँगा, फिर भी मेरी अस्थियाँ आशा और विश्वास का संचार करती रहेंगी। केवल मैं ही नहीं, मेरी समाधि भी वार्तालाप करेगी, चलेगी, फिरेगी और उन्हें आशा का संदेश पहुँचाती रहेगी, जो अनन्य भाव से मेरे शरणागत होंगे। निराश न होना कि मैं तुमसे विदा हो जाऊँगा। तुम सदैव मेरी अस्थियों को भक्तों के कल्याणार्थ ही चिंतित पाओगे। यदि मेरा निरंतर स्मरण और मुझ पर दृढ़ विश्वास रखोगे, तो तुम्हें अधिक लाभ होगा।” - श्री साई बाबा



“अनुभव करो, सत्य पहचानो” – साई वचन की प्रतीति

दुनिया में दो तरह के लोग होते हैं, आस्तिक और नास्तिक। कोई परमात्मा के अस्तित्व को मानता है, तो कोई नहीं मानता। माना तो ईश्वर, नहीं तो पत्थर।

हर एक की अपनी-अपनी सोच होती है। मेरी तो यही मनोधारणा है कि सारी कायनात परमात्मा ही चलाता है। मैं एक आस्तिक घर में पली, बड़ी, जहाँ भगवान् के वजूद को माना और पूजा जाता है। मेरे माता-पिता ईश्वर को मानते थे, लेकिन अंधविश्वासी नहीं थे।

१९५६-५७ की बात होगी। मेरा बड़ा भाई तब ४-५ साल का था। एक दिन अचानक उसे तेज बुखार आया। दवाओं का कुछ भी असर नहीं हो रहा था। बुखार की ग्लानि में वह बार-बार साई बाबा... शिर्डी, इतना ही कुछ बोल रहा था। तब तक मेरे पिता इतना ही जानते थे कि साई बाबा नामक कोई फ़कीर संत शिर्डी में अवतरित हुए थे। वे कभी शिर्डी नहीं गए थे। मेरे माता-पिता ने मन ही मन साई बाबा की प्रार्थना की, और कहा कि बेटे का बुखार उतरते ही हम उसे आपके दर्शन करने शिर्डी ले आयेंगे। दो ही दिन में भाई का बुखार उतर गया। प्रार्थना

के अनुसार मेरे माता-पिता उसे शिर्डी लेकर गए। उसी समय से मेरे माता-पिता साई के भक्त बन गए। पूजा घर में अन्य इष्ट देवताओं के साथ रखी साई की तसवीर की पूजा होने लगी। यही कारण था कि बचपन से मेरे मन में साई प्रति भक्ति निर्माण हो गई।...

मुझे याद है कि मैं जब ७-८वीं कक्षा में थी तब से मैंने श्री साई सत् चरित का पठन शुरू कर दिया था। यह सिलसिला आज तक जारी है। वैसे साई बाबा के विलक्षण अनुभव के कई किस्से हैं, जिनमें से एक मैं यहाँ साई भक्त पाठकों के साथ शेअर करना चाहती हूँ।

बात १९९१-९२ की है... किसी कारणवश मेरा बाएँ पैर की दो उँगलियाँ फ्रैक्चर हो गई थीं। सिर्फ उँगली पर प्लास्टर नहीं चढ़ाया जा सकता था; इसलिए घुटने से नीचे तक डॉक्टर ने प्लास्टर चढ़ाया। फ्रैक्चर होने के कारण मैं चल नहीं सकती थी; इसलिए मुझे दफ़्तर से छुट्टी लेनी पड़ी। लगभग १ महीने बाद प्लास्टर निकाला गया। डॉक्टर ने चलने-फिरने की इजाज़त दे दी। लेकिन फ्रैक्चर हुई उँगलियों में एक प्रकार का दर्द चालू ही था।



उन दो उँगलियों में जकड़न होने के कारण मैं ठीक से चल

नहीं पा रही थी।...

घर से कुछ दूरी पर (कृष्णाजी वामन चितले पथ, दादर पश्चिम, मुम्बई) एक साई मंदिर है। हर गुरुवार सुबह मैं उस मंदिर में जाकर श्री साई बाबा के दर्शन कर आगे दफ्तर जाती थी। उस समय ना मेरे पास मेरी अपनी मोटर थी, और ना ही इतनी सैलरी थी कि रोज़ टैक्सी से दफ्तर जा सकूँ। प्लास्टर खोलने के बाद मैंने दफ्तर जाना शुरू कर दिया। गुरुवार का दिन आ गया। निसर्गेण मैं साई बाबा के मंदिर में गई। फूलों की माला मूर्ति पर चढ़ाने के बाद मैंने अपना सिर मूर्ति के सामने झुकाया, और साई से तहे दिल से प्रार्थना की, 'हे साई, मेरे पैरों की उँगलियों का दर्द जल्द से जल्द हमेशा के लिए खत्म कर दें, जिससे मैं पहले जैसी ठीक से चल सकूँ।' यह प्रार्थना करते समय मेरी आँखों में आँसू भर आ गए थे।

यकीन कीजिए कि जैसे ही वहाँ से १५-२० ऋदमों की दूरी पर बैठे फूल वाले को मैंने फूलों की माला के पैसे दिए, और बस पकड़ने के लिए बस स्टॉप की ओर



चलने लगी, तो अचानक फ्रैक्चर हुई उँगलियों से कट... कट ऐसी आवाज़ आ गई, और उनमें जो जकड़न थी वह एकदम गायब हो गई। इतना ही नहीं, कुछ ही पल आगे जाने के बाद मैं महसूस करने लगी कि मैं ठीक से, एकदम पहले जैसे ही चलने लगी हूँ।...

साई से हमेशा प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि मेरी आखरी साँस तक साई मेरे साथ रहें, और आखरी साँस लेते वक़्त भी मेरे मुख पर साई का नाम हो!

- अनिता पाध्ये

ई-मेल : anitaapadhye@gmail.com



साई की उदी हमें आध्यात्मिक और सांसारिक लाभ पहुँचाती है।...

मैं जब सन् १९९४ में मुम्बई आया तब मेरे एक मित्र नवल सैन ने मुझे राय दी कि मुम्बई जा रहे हो, तो शिर्डी ज़रूर जाना। उसके अनुरोध के अनुसार मैं सबसे

पहले शिर्डी गया। रात भर जगा, तो काकड़ आरती का सुख मिला। साई की भभूति (उदी) लेकर आया।

मुझे एसीडिटी की तकलीफ़ थी। रात को सोने के





श्री साई सत् चरित के अध्याय ३३-३४ में श्री साई की उदी के अद्भुत अनुभव वर्णित हैं।...

४ घण्टे बाद छाती में भयंकर दर्द होता था, लगता था, छाती फट जाएगी, इतनी गैस बनती थी। मैं यूनियनजेम, बरालगन एवं डाइजीन (सिरप) लेता था, तो मुझे थोड़ा सा आराम मिलता था; पर पूरी तरह ठीक नहीं होता था। मेरे पास साई बाबा की उदी थी।

एक दिन ऐसी पीड़ा हुई कि ऐसा लगता था, मर जायें। मैंने साई बाबा को याद किया, और यह कहा, 'बाबा! या तो उठा लो, या ठीक कर दो। मैं दवा नहीं लूँगा। आपकी उदी से मुझे ठीक कीजिए।' उदी ली, तो बहुत आराम व सुख की नींद आई। दूसरे दिन भी उदी ग्रहण की, तो कोई पीड़ा नहीं हुई। दवा नहीं ली। ऐसे मैं रोज़ उदी दूध में डाल कर, सोने से पहले लेता रहा।

एक रोज़ रात को डिबिया में से उदी निकाल कर दूध में डाल रहा था कि डिबिया हाथ से छूट कर फर्श पर गिर गई, और कान में ये शब्द सुनाई दिए... 'चालिस दिन हो गए हैं, अब उदी लेने की ज़रूरत नहीं है।' मैं यह महसूस करता हूँ कि साई बाबा ने मुझे ऐसा कहा।

उस दिन के बाद मैंने रात को दूध में उदी डालना बंद कर दिया। जब कभी कोई पीड़ा होती, तो उदी पानी में डाल कर लेता था।

कुछ समय बाद मेरे मित्र जे. के. सागर, जो भारत सरकार में लेबर अफ़सर थे, वे अपने टीम को घुमाने मुम्बई आए। उनमें एक ज्योतिषी भी था (मैं अभी उनका नाम भूल गया हूँ), उन्होंने मुझे कहा कि हाथ में पानी लेकर साई का मंत्र पढ़ कर पानी पीते रहो, कोई बीमारी नहीं आयेगी।

तब से मैं ऐसा ही करता हूँ। खाना खाने के बाद हाथ में पानी लेकर 'ॐ साई राम' बोल कर नौ बार पानी में फूँक मार कर वह पानी पीता हूँ। मुझे अपचन या एसिडिटी नहीं होती।

गृहस्थी हूँ, व्यवसायी भी हूँ, कभी-कभी कुछ चिंताएँ हो जाती हैं, तो रात को नींद नहीं आती। तब मैं 'ॐ साई राम' तीन बार बोल कर तकिए पर फूँक मारता हूँ और मंत्र बोलता रहता हूँ, तो मुझे पता नहीं चलता, कब नींद आ गई। ऐसी कितनी घटनाएँ हैं, जिनसे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि बाबा डॉक्टरों के डॉक्टर हैं।

- शम्भु सोनी

वेब साइट : www.siyarampress.com

ई-मेल : patrakarshambhusoni@gmail.com

संचार ध्वनि : (०)९८१९५९४३३३



Shirdi News

* Public Relations Office *

Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi

- Translated from Marathi into English by

Vishwarath Nayar

E-mail : vishwarathnayar@gmail.com





Dr. Akash Kisave, the then Administrative Officer of the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, informed that the Sansthan received a vehicle of the XUV700AX7DAT series costing Rs. 31 lakhs from the Mahindra & Mahindra Industry Group as donation.

Shri Vijay Nakara, Chairman of the Mahindra & Mahindra, handed over the keys of the said car to Dr. Akash Kisave, the then Administrative Officer of the Sansthan, on Saturday, July 22, 2023. The ritual worship of the said vehicle was performed by Shri Vijay Nakara, Chairman of the Mahindra & Mahindra and Dr. Akash Kisave, the then Administrative Officer of the Sansthan. Shri Anil Rai, Zonal Service Chief of the Mahindra & Mahindra Industry Group, Shri B. D. Dabhade, Executive Engineer

of the Sansthan, Shri Atul Wagh, Head of the Transport department, Shri Ramesh Choudhary, Head of the Temple department and Shri Tushar Shelke, Incharge Public Relations Officer were present on the occasion.

Dr. Akash Kisave, the then Administrative Officer of the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, felicitated Shri Vijay Nakara, Chairman of the Mahindra & Mahindra Industry Group, with an idol of Shri Sai Baba and a shawl.

Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, has earlier received 15 4-wheeler and 2 2-wheeler vehicles of various series - Voyager, Bolero, Scorpio, Xylo, Logan, Maximo, Yuvraj (Tractor), XUV 500, XUV 300, Marajo and Thar, as donation from the Mahindra & Mahindra Industry Group.

Successful Surgery of Brain Tumour !

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, the Sansthan's Shri Sai Baba Hospital's Neurosurgeon Dr. Mukund Chaudhary and his Neuro O. T. team successfully conducted the critical brain tumour surgery, keeping the patient awake throughout the surgery to remove the tumour in the brain. The Sansthan's Chief Executive Officer, Shri P. Siva Sankar congratulated everyone who participated in the surgery for this successful surgery. Prior to this, Dr. Mukund Chaudhary and his team had successfully conducted a critical brain tumour surgery like this to remove a stone embedded in the

brain for five months.

Thousands of patients from the length and breadth of the state and outside the state get admitted to the Shri Sai Baba Sansthan-run Shri Sai Baba Hospital and Shri Sainath Hospital for various treatments. A total of 60 to 70 brain and vertebra surgeries are done every month in the Neurosurgery department of this hospital. This time, the family members of the 67 years old, Smt. Nanda Chandrakant Rajhans of Pabal in Shirur taluka of Pune district, who was born blind, noticed that the strength in her left hand and leg was gradually diminishing. A tumour in the right side of the brain was diagnosed in the check-up at Pune. Surgery was advised for this.

Dr. Mukund Chaudhary, Neurosurgeon in the Shri Sai Baba Hospital, examined all the reports. Hearing that the patient could lose the total strength of her left hand and leg and get paralysed during the surgery, the patient's relatives were terrified (the floor below their feet slipped). Already completely blind and now the threat of paralysis added to that! The cost of the surgery in a private hospital in Pune was not affordable. After enquiring someone suggested meeting Dr. Mukund Chaudhary, Neurosurgeon of the Sansthan's Shri Sai Baba Hospital.

Dr. Mukund Chaudhary took complete information of the health history of the patient. "I am blind; Do not make me more deformed, Doctor!" hearing this emotional request of the patient, the responsibility of Dr. Chaudhary increased further. The tumour in the brain, of the size of a normal *chickoo* (tropical fruit), was located in such a part of the brain, that was the source of the main nerve controlling the strength of one side of the body. Hence, if the other



parts get hit while removing the tumour, the possibility of getting paralysed could not be ruled out.

As a solution to this, Dr. Mukund Chaudhary took the difficult decision of operating, and discussed with senior Anaesthetist Dr. Nihar Joshi. He also expressed readiness. The relatives and the patient were given information in detail. Actually, people get scared at the mention of surgery, give me anaesthesia first, do not let me know anything, they say. This was, but, the surgery of the brain, and that too without anaesthesia, it was to be done with the patient being conscious (awake)! The old lady was a bit baffled. But, the co-operation of the patient was very crucial during the said surgery. The patient had to go through the surgery for 2-2 1/2 hours without any movement. Gaining the confidence of the patient, Dr. Chaudhary convinced that if the surgery was done with the patient being awake, the threat of losing the strength of the limbs could be avoided. The old lady was then prepared, and it was decided to perform the surgery in a conscious state without administering anaesthesia.

On July 11, 2023, anaesthesia was given by Dr. Nihar Joshi, senior Anaesthetist, only on the skin of the patient's head.

Without giving other medicines to induce drowsiness, without putting her on a ventilator, she was kept awake throughout the surgery. Dr. Chaudhary then succeeded in removing the tumour completely in two hours. The strength of the left hand and leg was frequently monitored during the surgery. Accordingly the tumour in the brain was gradually removed completely. Even after this critical surgery the patient having recovered, the strength of the limbs did not decrease and the threat of paralysis too was avoided.

Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, Shri Rahul Jadhav, the then Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Lt. Col. (retired) Dr. Shailesh Oak, Medical Director of Shri Sai Baba Hospital, Dr. Pritam Wadgave, Deputy Medical Director and Shri Suresh Tolmare, Public Relations Officer of the hospital congratulated the entire Neurosurgery team for successfully performing this critical rare surgery. The relatives of the patient expressed satisfaction and gratitude to Dr. Mukund Chaudhary, Dr. Nihar Joshi and the entire Neuro O. T. team for conducting this completely free of cost under the Government's Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Health Scheme.



Benefit of Accidental Insurance Cover Scheme

After the accidental death of Shri Deepak Aware, a permanent employee of the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, a cheque of Rs. 40 lakhs received under the 'Government Employees Salary Savings Account Accidental Insurance Cover Scheme' after the death by accident, was handed over to Smt. Rekha Aware, wife

of late Shri Deepak Aware, by Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, on July 28, 2023.

Late Shri Deepak Aware, a permanent employee of the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, died in a tragic accident some days ago. His salary account was in the Shirdi branch of Bank of Baroda. Under this



branch's 'Government Employees Salary Savings Account Accidental Insurance Cover Scheme' Rs. 40 lakhs was sanctioned to be paid to Smt. Rekha Aware, heir of late Aware. The cheque of this amount was handed over to her by Shri P. Siva Sankar. Shri Rahul Jadhav, the then Deputy Chief

Executive Officer, Smt. Pradnya Mahandule, Administrative Officer, Shri Kishorbabu K. V. K., Regional Manager of Bank of Baroda, Shri Atul Shirke, Aurangabad Sub-regional Manager, Shirdi Branch Manager and Sansthan employees were present on the occasion.



Shri Pravin Darekar, Member of the Legislative Council, Maharashtra State, availed the darshan of Shri Sai Baba's Samadhi along with his wife...



After availing the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi* along with his wife, Shri Pravin Darekar, Member of the Legislative Council, Maharashtra State, was felicitated on behalf of the Sansthan by Shri Rajendra Pawar, Superintendent of the Temple department.

Indian Independence Day Celebrated in the Sansthan

The national flag was hoisted at 8.15 a.m. on August 15, 2023 by Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan in the Sansthan's educational complex, in the background of the completion of 76 years of the Bharatiya Independence Day on August 15. The then Administrative Officer of the Sansthan Dr. Akash Kisave, Administrative Officers, Shri Dilip Ugale, Smt. Pradnya Mahandule, Executive Engineer Shri Bhikan Dabhade, Chief Accounts Officer Smt. Mangala Varade, Security Officer Shri Annasaheb Pardeshi, all Head of departments, Sansthan employees, teaching staff and students of the Sansthan's educational complex were present in large numbers.

An attractive parade was presented

on the occasion by the Sansthan's Security department, Fire & Safety department, Security agencies and the students of the educational complex. After that Shri P. Siva Shankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan and the dignitaries present handed over the Shri D. M. Sukthankar - March 2023 prize to 15 meritorious students with top 3 rankings in the X standard in all secondary schools in Shirdi and prizes to 9 meritorious students with top 3 rankings in the Arts, Commerce and Science streams in the Sansthan's educational complex. Prizes were presented by Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, the then Administrative Officer of the Sansthan Dr. Akash Kisave, Administrative Officers, Shri Dilip Ugale, Smt. Pradnya Mahandule, Executive Engineer Shri Bhikan Dabhade



and Chief Accounts Officer Smt. Mangala Varade, to the students of the Sansthan's educational complex who successfully excelled in the state level and district level elocution competition and the 5 students

who achieved success in the *tabla* (a small drum) playing examination of the Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalay Mandal, Mumbai held in April 2023.

Wishing Independence Day greetings

to everyone present on the occasion, Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, informed about the various Sai devotees-oriented programmes being started by the Sansthan. Stating on the occasion that serving Sai devotees alone is true service of Shri Sai Baba, he expressed his desire that every employee, while dealing with a Sai devotee, should greet with folded hands uttering 'Om Sainath'. This will create a good view about the Sansthan in the mind of the Sai devotees. Also, stating that efforts are being made to get all trains to come to Shirdi for Sai devotees coming from all over the country, he added that efforts are on for solid waste management, biogas

generation, increasing solar energy capacity and starting CBSE pattern in the Shri Sai Baba English Medium School. He stated that E-office and ERP work systems have been started in the Sansthan to fast-track the activities of the Sansthan. Stating that the Sansthan employees are doing good work, he expressed the need to make efforts to provide more efficient Sai-services work. After that Shri Sudhanshu Lokegaonkar, music teacher of the educational complex and the students presented patriotic song. The anchoring of the programme was done by the deputy teachers of Kanya Vidya Mandir, Shri Vasant Wani and Shri Ajinkyaadev Gaikwad.



Shri Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister of Maharashtra State availed the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi* in the presence of Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Shri Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Ministers, Shri Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Revenue, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister and Guardian Minister of Ahmednagar district, Shri Deepak Kesarkar, School Education and Marathi Language Minister, Shri Sadashiv Lokhande, Member of Parliament from Shirdi constituency, Shri Ram Shinde, former Minister, Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan and Shri Rahul Jadhav, the then Deputy Chief Executive officer...

Shri Sai Satcharita *Parayan* Function Held



Shirdi : On the concluding day of Shri Sai Satcharita *Parayan* (non-stop reading)

function, that commenced on August 17, 2023, jointly by the Shri Saibaba Sansthan





Trust, Shirdi, Natya Rasik Manch, Shirdi and Shirdi villagers, the holy *Granth* (religious book) of Shri Sai Baba was taken

out in a procession through the Shirdi town. About four thousand readers in Shirdi and the surrounding regions participated in the



Parayan function that lasted till August 24, 2023. On the concluding day, chapter number 53 (Epilogue) having been read, the *Granth-vachan* (book-reading) was concluded. After that the worship of the holy book Shri Sai Satcharita was performed by the Sansthan's the then Administrative Officer Dr. Akash Kisave and Administrative Officer of the Sansthan Shri Dilip Ugale, along with their wife. The Member of Parliament Shri Sadashiv Lokhande, Administrative Officer Smt. Pradnya Mahandule, the then Incharge Administrative Officer Shri Sanjay Jori, Shri Dinkar Desai and office bearers of the Natya Rasik Manch, the (*Granth*) readers and villagers were present in large numbers.

After that the priests conducting the *Parayan* were felicitated by the Natya Rasik Manch's Chairman Shri Ashok Nagre, Vice Chairman Shri Ganpat Gondkar, Executive Director Shri Prakash Gayake, Shri Ashok Kote, Shri Ashok Gondkar, *H.B.P. (Hari Bhakt Parayan)* Shri Bhaskar Gondkar Sir, Shri Bhausahab Sabale, Shri Ramesh Gondkar and Shri Vijay Kote and other office bearers. After that various tableaux were presented by Dev Kudaleshwar Mandal, Ratnagiri. The participants in the tableaux were decked by Shri Vilasdada Kudalkar.

Meals were arranged for the (*Granth*) readers on the concluding day. At 3.30 p.m. the holy book Shri Sai Satcharita was taken in a procession through the Shirdi town amidst the sounding of drums-metal plates and *lezim* presentation and very realistic displays. These included tambourines, *shehnai* and drums, horns, *shehnai chaughada*, cymbal troupe, drums troupe, realistic displays and Southern musical instruments. The (*Granth*) readers and villagers were present in large numbers in this procession. Discourses of Shri Gorakshnath of Nagle, Shirdi from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Sou. Ashabai Bhanudas Gondkar from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. respectively were held on the Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir Shatabdi Mandap*, beside the Hanuman temple beside the Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir*.

Various religious, cultural, *kirtan* and discourses programmes were organised in the eight days for the *Parayan* function. *H.B.P.* Shri Madhavrao Tukarampant Ajegaonkar, Parbhani's *kirtan* programme was held on Friday, August 25, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on the Sai Ashram 1 *Shatabdi mandap* and after that *mahaprasad* was served from 12.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Shri Sai Satcharita *Parayan* (non-stop reading) function that commenced with the co-operation of Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, Natya Rasik Manch, Shirdi and Shirdi villagers on Thursday, August 17, 2023, concluded with *H.B.P.* Shri Madhavrao Tukarampant Ajegaonkar's *Kala kirtan* on Friday, August 25, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on the Sai Ashram 1 *Shatabdi mandap* stage. After the *kirtan* the *dahi-handi* was broken by *H.B.P.* Shri Madhavrao Tukarampant Ajegaonkar at 12.10 p.m. Office bearers of Natya Rasik Manch, Shirdi, Shirdi villagers, priests and employees were present on this occasion. After that *mahaprasad* was served at 12.30 p.m.

Shri Sai Satcharita *Parayan* function was held jointly by the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, Natya Rasik Manch, Shirdi and Shirdi villagers from Thursday, August 17, 2023 to Thursday, August 24, 2023. The function commenced on Thursday, August 17, 2023 in an auspicious atmosphere. A total of about 4000 readers, about 2800 ladies and about 1200 gents, participated in this *Parayan* function.

On the first day, the procession of Shri Sai Baba's holy book and photo was taken in a chariot from the Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir* through Hanuman temple and Dwarkamai to the *Parayan sabha mandap* in Shri Sai Ashram (1000 rooms) amidst the sounding of musical instruments. Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan carrying the holy book, Deputy Executive Engineers, Shri Sanjay Jori and Shri Dinkar Desai carrying the photo of Shri Sai Baba, Shri Bhikan Dabhade, Executive Engineer carrying the *Veena* and Sou.

Supriya, wife of Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer carrying the *Kalash* (holy vessel), participated in this procession.

25 male Sai devotees drawn through a lucky draw carrying Shri Sai Baba's photo part by part from the entrance gate number 4 to the *Parayan sabha mandap* and 17 female Sai devotees, each drawn through lucky draws carrying Shri Sai Baba's holy book and *Kalash* in parts, registered their participation. All Shirdi villagers and Sai devotees expressed satisfaction at this absolutely new activity. Shri Annasaheb Pardeshi, Security Officer, Shri Ramesh Chaudhary, Head of the Temple department, office bearers of Natya Rasik Manch, temple priests, employees of the Sansthan, villagers and Sai devotees were present in large numbers on this occasion.

After the procession reached the *Parayan sabha mandap*, the *Parayan* of Shri Sai Satcharita commenced with the worship of the *Granth* and the *Kalsh* by Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan and the dignitaries. The reading of Shri Sai Satcharita was done from 7 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. by male readers and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. by female readers. Shri Siddharth Avdhoot Thatte, Pune's Marathi and Hindi *bhajans*, *abhangs* and devotional songs programme was held in the evening and Bhatwadi Saidarshan Mandal, Shri Nitinbuva Kargutkar, Mumbai's devotional songs, *bhajans* programme was held from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m., in the Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir Shatabdi Mandap* beside the Hanuman temple.



... The leaving of the body was an outward act. Shri Sai is pervading the whole creation and the hearts of all.

Shri Sai transcends death. Never doubt it. One can experience it according to one's devotion.

Sai fills the movable and the immovable. Sai is within us and outside us too. Sai is in your and my heart. He stays there permanently...

- Shri Sai Satcharita -

(Contd. from page 18)

necessary to have Baba's permission. To disobey was to invite trouble.

One felt repentant and humiliated, if one left on one's own volition. There would be dreadful obstacles on the way, which would be difficult to overcome.

This was what was said about the departure from Shirdi. This was the same position with me. "None can come here unless I bring him", was what Baba said.

"Unless I so desire who can cross his threshold? Who will get *darshan* by his own volition or come to Shirdi?"

We can come for *darshan* only when mercy arises in the heart of Sai Samartha, the Embodiment of mercy, in Whose hands rest our lives.

If Sai was not inclined, about the coming and the going, He did not grant permission nor gave *udi*.

If one went to ask for permission, after bowing down, and was given blessings with the *udi*, it signified permission to leave...





Shri Shaktikant Das, Governor of Bharatiya Reserve Bank, along with his wife availed the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi*... Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan was present on this occasion. After that they were felicitated on behalf of the Sansthan by Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan.



Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi's accommodations received the renewed certificate of ISO-9001:2015 certification. Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan receiving the certificate from Shri Keshu Murty, ISO Auditor... Shri Rahul Jadhav, the then Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan and the Sansthan officers and employees were present on the occasion...



Shri Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Judge, Supreme Court, New Delhi, along with his wife availed the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi*... Shri Sudhakar Yarlagadda, Chairman of the Sansthan's Ad-hoc Committee and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ahmednagar and Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, were present on the occasion. After that they were felicitated on behalf of the Sansthan by Shri Sudhakar Yarlagadda, Chairman of the Sansthan's Ad-hoc Committee and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ahmednagar and Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan... Shri R. N. Joshi, Registrar General, High Court, Mumbai and Shri S. B. Bhansali, Registrar Protocol, High Court, Mumbai were present on this occasion.



(पृष्ठ ३३ से)

पूछें न गुरु योगी यती ना साधु जन पूछें
 पूछें न हाकिम नामवर ना राहबर पूछें
 ज्ञानी गुणी दानी धनी वे ना भले पूछें
 साईं गुरोवर आप ना हमसे कभी रूठें
 रूठें विधाता ही न क्यों देवी देव रूठें
 रूठें चराचर विश्व ही ब्रह्माण्ड भी रूठें
 धरती गगन पावक पवन तारे नखत रूठें
 साईं गुरु माँ आप ना हमसे कभी रूठें

ईर्षा घृणा मद वासना दुर्भावना बिनसे
 श्रद्धा बढ़े दिन-दिन प्रीत पद की न प्रभु बिनसे
 तुम ही बसो अंतर दिखो तुम ही जिधर देखें
 बाबा हमारे आप ना हमसे कभी रूठें

– दास कुम्भेश

बी-२०३, जूही, सेक्टर २, वसंत नगरी,
 वसई (पूर्व) - ४०१ २०८, पालघर, महाराष्ट्र.

ई-मेल : kumbhesh9@gmail.com

संचार ध्वनि : (०)९८९०२८७८२२



ISRO Scientists Congratulated by Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi !



Shirdi : Bharat finally earned the honour of successfully landing a vehicle on the South pole of the moon. It is the fruitful culmination of the efforts of the scientists of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). A resolution congratulating the ISRO scientists was proposed at the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi's Ad-hoc Committee meeting in Ahmednagar on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

Shri Sudhakar Yarlagaadda, Chairman of the Sansthan's Ad-hoc Committee and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ahmednagar, Shri Siddharam Salimath, Member of the Sansthan's Ad-hoc committee, District Collector, Ahmednagar and Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive

Officer of the Sansthan and Committee Member and Shri Rahul Jadhav, the then Deputy Executive Officer of the Sansthan, were present on this occasion.

Shri P. Siva Sankar, Sansthan's Chief Executive Officer informed on this occasion that Shri Veer Muthuvel, Project Manager of Chandrayan-3 and Smt. Kalpana, Assistant Project Director, placing a model of Chandrayan-3 at the feet of Shri Sai Baba, had worshipped in the Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir* on July 1, 2023, prior to the successful launch of Chandrayan-3. On this occasion, giving Sai Baba's *prasad* on behalf of the Sansthan to Shri Veer Muthuvel, wished for the successful launch of Chandrayan-3, as also its successful



landing.

The important phase of landing the Bharatiya vehicle on the moon was accomplished at 6.04 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Bharat became the first country to land a vehicle on the South pole of the moon. Through Chandrayan-3,

Indian scientists succeeded in wiping off the last phase failure of Chandrayan-2. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) had expressed confidence that the Chandrayan-3 landing would certainly be successful, they made it a reality.



It is not just a book, but a wish-fulfilling tree, which the people engrossed in mundane existence find barren, but for the seekers of liberation it gives only the actual experience of liberation.

During the seven days, read the first eight chapters on the first day, then the next eight on the second day, followed by the next seven on the third day. Then eight, six, eight and seven chapters on the following four days, and only *Avatarnika* on the eighth day.

On the eighth day, at the end of the observance of vows and of the offering of *naivedya* to Sai Narayan, feed friends, relatives and *Brahmins* with delicacies and give *dakshina* to them to the best of one's ability...

Finally, after doing obeisance at the *Sadguru's* feet, offer Him appropriate *dakshina* and send that to the treasury (of the Shirdi Sansthan) to augment the funds of the Sansthan.

- Shri Sai Satcharita -



Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Defence Minister, Government of India, availed the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi*... Shri Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Revenue, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister and Guardian Minister of Ahmednagar district, Shri Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Bharatiya Janata Party State President, Shri Kripashankar Singh, BJP State Vice President and former Home Minister of State, Maharashtra, Shri Radhakrishna Game, Divisional Commissioner, Nasik, Shri Siddharam Salimath, Member of the Sansthan's Ad-hoc committee and District Collector, Ahmednagar and Shri P. Siva Shankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan were present on this occasion. Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Defence Minister, Government of India, and Shri Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, were felicitated on behalf of the Sansthan by Shri P. Siva Shankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan... Shri Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Revenue, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister and Guardian Minister of Ahmednagar district, Shri Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Bharatiya Janata Party State President, Shri Kripashankar Singh, BJP State Vice President and former Home Minister of State, Maharashtra, Shri Radhakrishna Game, Divisional Commissioner, Nasik, Shri Siddharam Salimath, Member of the Sansthan's Ad-hoc Committee and District Collector, Ahmednagar were present on this occasion.



... Though we cannot see Him with our naked eye He is everywhere. Though He is hiding in a subtle form, He keeps us engrossed in Him...

Worshipping Him with heart and soul, remembering Him with love and devotion, all the devotees will experience His all-pervasiveness...

- Shri Sai Satcharita



Shri Gokulashtami Festival





The Shri Gokulashtami festival, organized by the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, was celebrated with Shri Krishna birth *kirtan*, for the Shri Krishna birth festival, in the Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir* at 12 midnight on September 6, 2023.

The Shri Krishna birth festival was celebrated with Shri Krishna birth *kirtan* by H.B.P. Sou. Smita Ajegaonkar on the stage in the Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir* from 10 p.m. to 12 midnight for the Shri Gokulashtami festival. Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Tukaram



Hulawale, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Sou. Pradnya Mahandule, Administrative Officer, Shri Ramesh Chaudhary, Temple Head, priests, employees and Sai devotees were present on this occasion. After that the Shejaarat of Shri Sai Baba was done.

Also, H.B.P. Sou. Smita Ajegaonkar's *Kala kirtan* was presented between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on Thursday, September 7, 2023 for the Shri Gokulashtami festival on the stage in the Shri Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir*. After that the *dahi-handi* was broken in the *Samadhi Mandir* at 12 noon.

Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Tukaram Hulawale, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shri Rajtilak Bagwe, Administrative Officer, Shri Ramesh Chaudhary, Temple Head, Shri Annsaheb Pardeshi, Security Officer, Shri Tushar Shelke, Public Relations Officer, temple priests, employees, Shirdi villagers and Sai devotees were present in large numbers on this occasion. The Shri Gokulashtami festival organized by the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, was held in a pleasant and devotion-filled atmosphere.



Shri Uddhav Thackeray, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, availing the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi* performed the worship of Shri Sai Baba's feet... Shri Ambadas Danve, Opposition Leader in the Vidhan Parishad, Maharashtra State, Shri Sanjay Raut and Shri Vinayak Raut, Members of Parliament, Shri Bhausaheb Wakchoure, former Member of Parliament, Shri Milind Narvekar and Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan were present on the occasion



Shri Uddhav Thackeray, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, after availing the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi* and performing the worship of Shri Sai Baba's feet was felicitated on behalf of the Sansthan by Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan.



Smt. Bharati Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare availing the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi* performed the worship of Shri Sai Baba's feet... Shri Tukaram Hulawale, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan and Shri Tushar Shelke, Public Relations Officer were present on this occasion.



Smt. Bharati Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare after availing the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi* and performing the worship of Shri Sai Baba's feet was felicitated on behalf of the Sansthan by Shri Tukaram Hulawale, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan.



Dr. Dhananjay Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, New Delhi, India availed the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi*... Shri Sudhakar Yarlagadda, Chairman of the Sansthan's Ad-hoc Committee and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ahmednagar, Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Atul Kurhekar (Secretary General), Shri Rakesh Kumar (Registrar, Supreme Court), Shri R. N. Joshi (General Registrar, High Court, Mumbai) and Smt. Anuja Arora were present on this occasion.



Dr. Dhananjay Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, New Delhi, India after availing the *darshan* of Shri Sai Baba's *Samadhi* was felicitated on behalf of the Sansthan by Shri Sudhakar Yarlagadda, Chairman of the Sansthan's Ad-hoc Committee and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ahmednagar and Shri P. Siva Sankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan... Shri Atul Kurhekar (Secretary General), Shri Rakesh Kumar (Registrar, Supreme Court), Shri R. N. Joshi (General Registrar, High Court, Mumbai) and Smt. Anuja Arora were present on this occasion.

“Any one of you, wherever you are, wherever you come to me, with your hand outstretched, with devotion, I am there to respond to your faith, day and night.

Though I am bodily present at this place and you may be beyond the seven seas, and doing anything there, I am aware of it immediately.

You may go anywhere on the face of this earth, I am always with you. I reside in your heart and I am within you.

You should always bow down to that ME Who thus resides in your heart. I am also the same ME who resides in the hearts of all beings.

Therefore, whomsoever you come across, at home, outside or anywhere in the course of life, I am within them and I am myself present in them.

All living creatures - insects, ants, creatures of the water and the sky, dogs and pigs - I am always present within them. I am in all and everywhere.

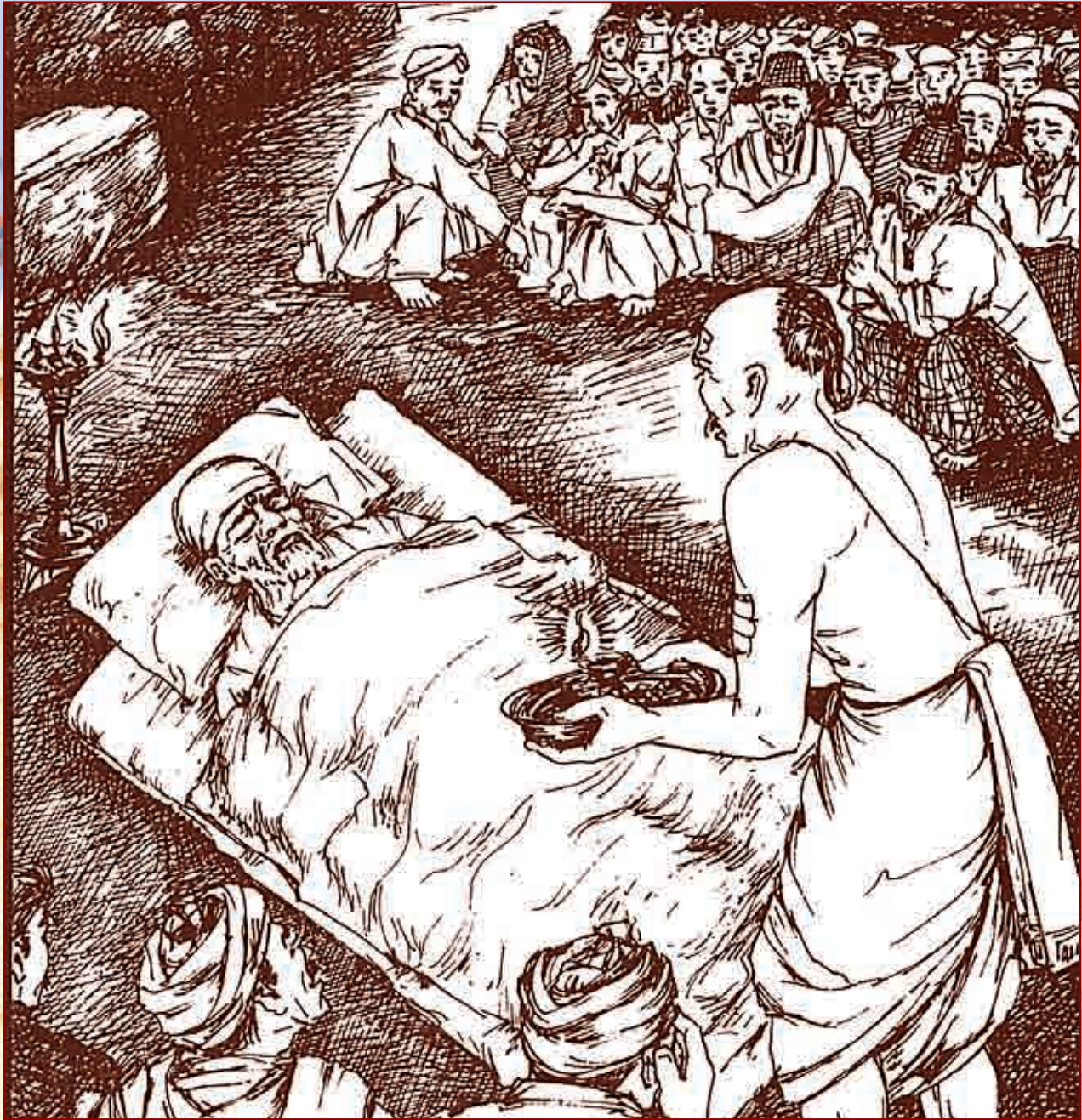
Do not keep at a distance from me. There is no difference between you and me. Whosoever regards me in this way, he is indeed fortunate.”

- Shri Sai Baba



On the occasion of *Anant Chaturdashi*





...Now, Lakshman *Mama* who was in deep sleep at his home, in the early morning hours had a dream that Baba held his hand and said, “Get up quickly and come. Bapusaheb will not come to-day. He believes that I am dead. At least you do the *Kakad Aarati* for me with the *pooja*”. Immediately, as per the usual practice, bringing with him all the *pooja* necessities, Lakshman *Mama* came on time and got ready to do the *pooja*...

...Baba gives divine visions to many; He appears in dreams to quite a number; and He grants miracles to several people secretly. He is never seen by those who have no faith; while the devotees and the believers find Him near them always. One experiences according to one's mental state. In the *chavadi*, He is present invisibly; in the *Masjid*, He is *Brahma* Incarnate; in the *Samadhi (Mandir)* He is in *Samadhi*. The bliss of His presence is everywhere. So, at present, this is the belief that the devotees should hold. Sai *Samartha* is always there, permanently and continuously...

श्री साईबाबा संस्थान विश्वस्तव्यवस्था, शिर्डी के लिए मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी द्वारा मे. प्रिंटेड इशूज (इं) प्रा. लि., १७, प्रगति इंडस्ट्रियल इस्टेट, ३१६, एन. एम. जोशी मार्ग, मुम्बई - ४०० ०११ में मुद्रित और साई निकेतन, ८०४ बी, डॉ. आम्बेडकर रोड, दादर, मुम्बई - ४०० ०१४ में प्रकाशित। * सम्पादक : मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, श्री साईबाबा संस्थान विश्वस्तव्यवस्था, शिर्डी