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श्री साई लीला

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In the morning of day, January 1, 2026

In the afternoon of day, January 1, 2026

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A Prayer To Baba...

After my usual morning walk on the velvet-like lawns of Rajpath (New Delhi) I came back to my mess. In a moment of utter peace within myself I started reading a small booklet titled "You can be Happy" by Swami Shivanand of Rhishikesh. I came across this beautiful passage and poem :

"Blessed are they who can spare a few moments to commune with the Lord before starting the day. Pray to Him from the core of your heart.

O Adorable Lord of mercy and love,

Salutations and prostrations unto Thee.

Thou art Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent.

Thou art Soul of my soul,
life of my life.
Grant us an
understanding heart,
equal vision, balanced mind,
faith, devotion and wisdom.

To resist temptations and control the mind, free us from egoism, lust, greed and jealousy.

Fill our hearts with Divine virtues.

Bless me O Lord! to be truthful
in thought, word and deed.
Bless me O Master Supreme!
to become Thy fit instrument
to fulfil Thine own will.
Bless me O Lord! to serve Thee
in all these names and forms.
I am Thy child, my Lord!
guide me, protect me. save me."

As I read through the prayer, it touched my inner core and I thought how appropriate is the prayer as a prayer to Baba. We express these sentiments in one way or another, some time or other, in our prayers to Baba. But, I thought the above poem combines and sums up the various sentiments that we express in our prayers. Since reading the poem I keep trying to incorporate these thoughts when I think about Baba and pray to Him. I wish to share this with the other Sai brothers and sisters...

- Sairag (Gp. Capt. T.M.M. Raghavan)

- Published in the September 1985 issue of Shri Sai Leela in English

Imagery of the Good Shepherd in the Spiritual Domain :

A Contemplative Glance At Jesus Christ, Lord Krishna and Shirdi Sai Baba

Dear Sai devotees! This article is a humble offering at the Feet of the *Sadguru* Sai Nath, Who walks beside us in every age and every form - be it as the gentle Shepherd of Galilee, the divine Cowherd of *Vrindavan* or the compassionate *Fakir* of Shirdi. My reflections are born of a lifetime of spiritual yearning, daily recitation and the grace-filled moments where the Divine reveals itself - not through thunder or spectacle, but through a whisper, a glance, a presence that never leaves.

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the most tender and powerful metaphors in Christian scripture. In John 10:11, Jesus declares : "I am the Good Shepherd..."

In the sacred Gospel of John, Jesus continues :

"The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep… I know my own, and my own know me… and, there shall be one flock, one shepherd." This profound statement, rich in compassion and divine commitment, finds beautiful resonance in the Indian devotional *(bhakti)* tradition.

Across the unfolding epochs of human history, the Divine has walked among us, revealing itself in the tender guise of the shepherd - ever guiding, guarding and gathering the wandering soul. In the twilight of the *Dwāpar Yug*, more than three millennia before the Common Era, Lord Krishna, the Cowherd of Vrindavan, charmed creation with His flute, and illumined the battlefield of *Kurukshetra* with the immortal wisdom of the Bhagvad Geeta. Centuries later, upon the hillsides of Galilee in the first century of our era, Jesus Christ declared Himself the Good Shepherd, laying down His life in boundless love for His flock. And, in the nineteenth century, in the humble lanes of Shirdi, Sai Baba, clad in a torn *kafni*, became the Universal *Fakir*, calling His children to

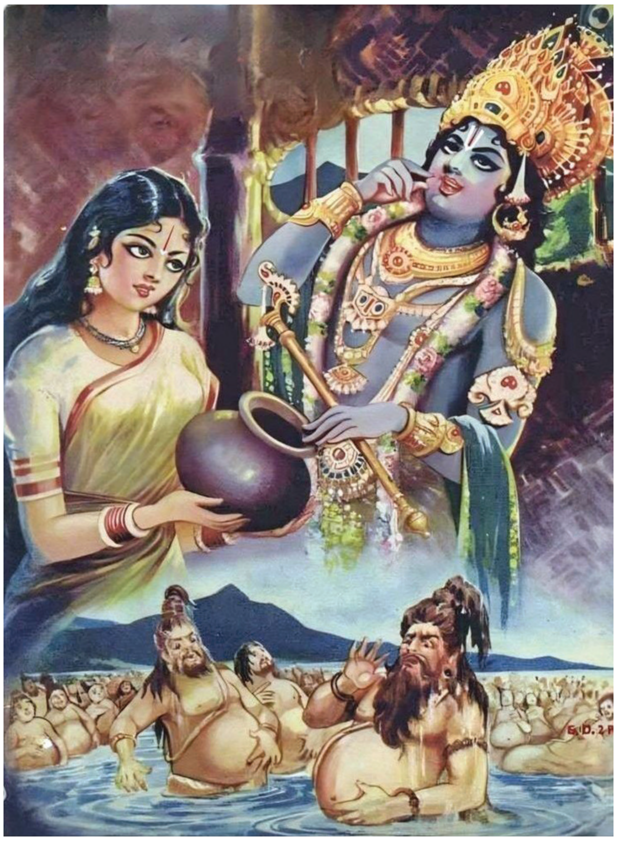
faith and patience. Though separated by vast distances of time and culture, these three stand together in eternal kinship, embodiments of the Shepherd Spirit that transcends all frontiers, and leads humanity towards its divine pasture.

In the sacred tapestry of world religions, the figures of Lord Krishna, Jesus Christ and Shirdi Sai Baba stand as embodiments

of divine compassion and selfless service. They each assumed the role of the 'Good Shepherd', guiding and nurturing their followers with a profound sense of care and unconditional love. While their lives unfolded in distinct times and places, the essence of their mission remains strikingly similar, transcending cultural and geographical boundaries.

Lord Krishna, the Divine Incarnation of Vishnu, is revered in the lush, pastoral

surroundings of Vrindavan, where He spent His early years as the cowherd boy. He



is perhaps the most tender image of the shepherd in Indian tradition. *'Gopal'* means 'protector of cows', but it also means the one who nurtures and guards the innocent souls. Like Jesus, Krishna knows each soul intimately, calls them by name through His flute, and draws them into divine play *(leela)*. The Bhagavat *Puran* speaks of how the *gopis* left everything behind, drawn only by His call - just as the sheep respond only to the voice of the Good Shepherd. As He led the cows to graze, He also led His devotees towards spiritual fulfillment, teaching them through His actions, music and dialogue, emphasizing the importance of *dharma* (righteousness) and *bhakti* (devotion).

And, when the dark clouds gathered over *Gokul*, pouring torrents at Indra's

command, Krishna once more showed the heart of a Shepherd. With the ease of a child at play, He lifted Govardhan Hill, and held it aloft as a shield for His people and their cattle. Beneath its vast shelter, fear gave way to faith as the flock rested secure. This *leela* reveals not merely divine power, but divine care : the Shepherd places Himself between the storm and His children, bearing the burden upon His own shoulders, so that none are lost. In lifting the hill, He lifted also the hearts of His people, teaching that true love protects, sustains, and carries the weight of the flock.

Though Lord Krishna Himself is not recorded as cooking for others in the *Puranic* texts, yet His providence ensured that none who turned to Him in faith were left uncared

for. The Lord, Who is the eternal sustainer, need not always stir the pot or kindle the fire with His own hands; His divine will is enough to provide abundance where want prevails. And so, it was during the Pandavas' exile in the forest, when sustenance was scarce, and hunger shadowed every day. To protect them, the Sun God bestowed upon Yudhishthir the divine *Akshaya Patra* - a vessel that would provide limitless food until the family had eaten for the day. Day after day Draupadi used it with devotion, feeding all who came, until one day the mighty sage Durvas and his disciples arrived after the vessel had been emptied. Faced with the impossible, Draupadi turned her heart to Krishna in desperate prayer. By His *leela*, a single grain remaining in the vessel became the source of inexhaustible satisfaction, and the revered guests were fed without want. In that sacred act of provision, Krishna's loving guidance was revealed : though He did not cook with His own hands, He orchestrated the miracle, ensuring that the flock under His care - the Pandavas, Draupadi and their visitors - were nourished and sustained. Krishna's providential role here aligns perfectly with Jesus feeding the multitudes, and Sai Baba serving His devotees, highlighting the shepherdly essence : guiding, protecting and sustaining His flock. Thus, Krishna too stands before us as the Good Shepherd, tenderly providing, foreseeing needs, and protecting His children from the pangs of hunger. Just as a shepherd tends to his flock, protecting them from danger, and leading them to safety, so too did Krishna seek to guide His

followers, offering them the solace of divine love and forgiveness. His compassionate words and miraculous healings provided spiritual sustenance, much like a shepherd who ensures the well-being of his sheep in every way.

In *Advaita*, the individual soul *(jeev)* is lost in the forest of ignorance *(avidya)*, forgetful of its divine source. The Good Shepherd - be it Christ, Krishna or Sai - acts as the revealer of truth, leading the soul back to its true identity in *Brahman*, the Supreme Self. "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30) is a profoundly *Vedantic* statement, pointing to non-dual unity between the manifest and the eternal.

In the Gospel narratives, the figure of Jesus emerges as one who both commands the forces of nature, and nourishes the deepest needs of humanity, weaving divine authority with boundless compassion. Once, when a furious storm swept across the sea of Galilee, the disciples cried out in fear, certain their boat would sink. But, Jesus, their Master, arose from His repose with calm authority, rebuked the winds and the waves, and the waters stilled at His word.

The same Shepherd who protects His flock from the storm also nourishes them in the wilderness. On one occasion, five thousand hungry men, besides women and children, sat before Him, and with just five loaves and two fishes, He blessed, and broke the bread until all were fed and satisfied.

Again, on another day, four thousand gathered with Him in a deserted place, faint with hunger. Seven loaves and a few small fishes became, in His hands, a banquet that left none empty. In each act - stilling the tempest, feeding the multitudes - Jesus revealed the Shepherd's heart : guarding His sheep from peril, and sustaining them with providence, so that not one soul entrusted to Him would be abandoned. Thus, the Good Shepherd walks with His flock, turning fear into peace, and hunger into abundance.

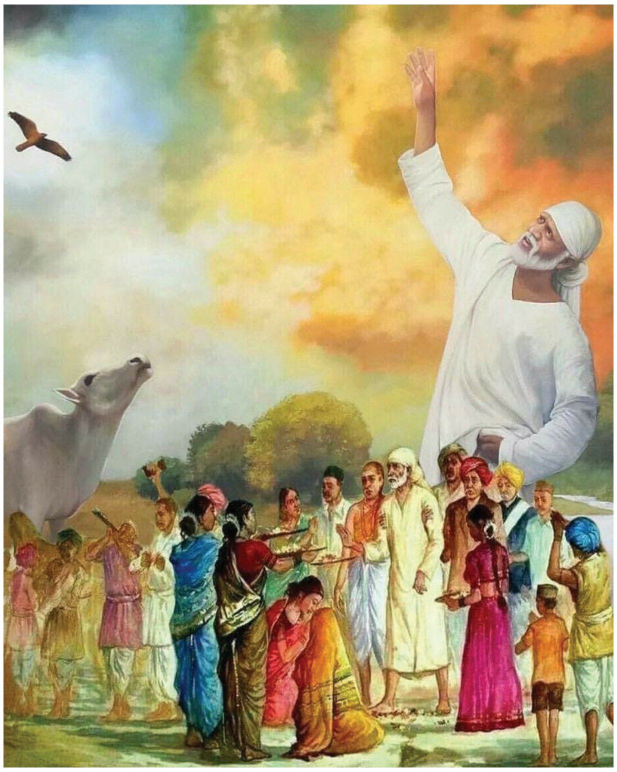
Among the many titles Jesus of Nazareth used to describe himself, one glows with an unmistakable warmth : "The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep… I know my own and my own know me… and there shall be one flock, one shepherd."

Far to the east, in the humble village of Shirdi, Shirdi Sai Baba took on a similar role, though with a unique emphasis on service to the underprivileged and the downtrodden. Sai Baba's 'flock' was not limited to any specific religious or cultural group. His kindness extended equally to Hindus, Muslims and all those in need of solace. In a metaphorical sense, the goats that Sai Baba tended to represent those who were often neglected or marginalized in society. Just as the goat is often seen as a humble animal, symbolic of sacrifice and submission, Sai Baba embodied these qualities, offering comfort and guidance to those who sought Him out, irrespective of their social standing or background. His acts of selfless service, His healing touch and His unifying presence continue to inspire millions around the world.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, protects His flock to the point of laying down His life. Sai Baba too bore the sufferings of His devotees, taking on their *karmic* burdens. Many *leelas* (miraculous episodes) describe how Baba absorbed illnesses or dangers that were meant for His followers. His simple life at Dwarkamai was a life of constant vigil - like the shepherd who stays awake while the flock sleeps. Just as Jesus sacrificed for humanity, Baba too lived for others, often going without food or rest to protect and heal.

In the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7), Jesus speaks of the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one who is lost. Similarly, Sai Baba's grace reached those who were forgotten by society. As He said, "No one who comes to my feet will ever be turned away."

This inclusivity and divine outreach

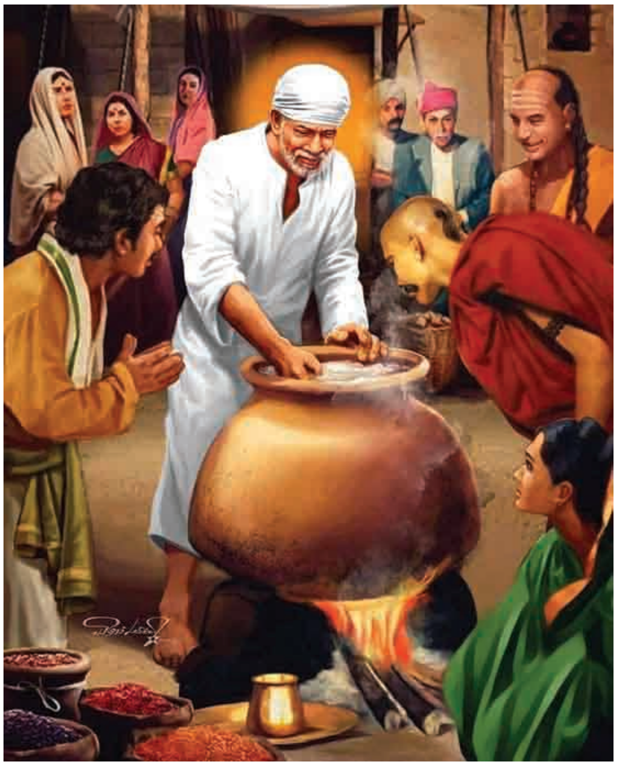


is the hallmark of both Jesus and Baba - seekers or strays, all are embraced.

Sai Baba was ever the Shepherd of Shirdi - watchful, unbidden, yet ever present when His flock trembled. Once, when a storm raged over the village, blackening the skies and driving men and beasts to panic, the people ran not to the old shrines, but to the *Masjid*, crying only His name. Baba stepped forth, faced the tempest with calm command, and at His word the winds hushed, the clouds broke, and the night was restored to peace.

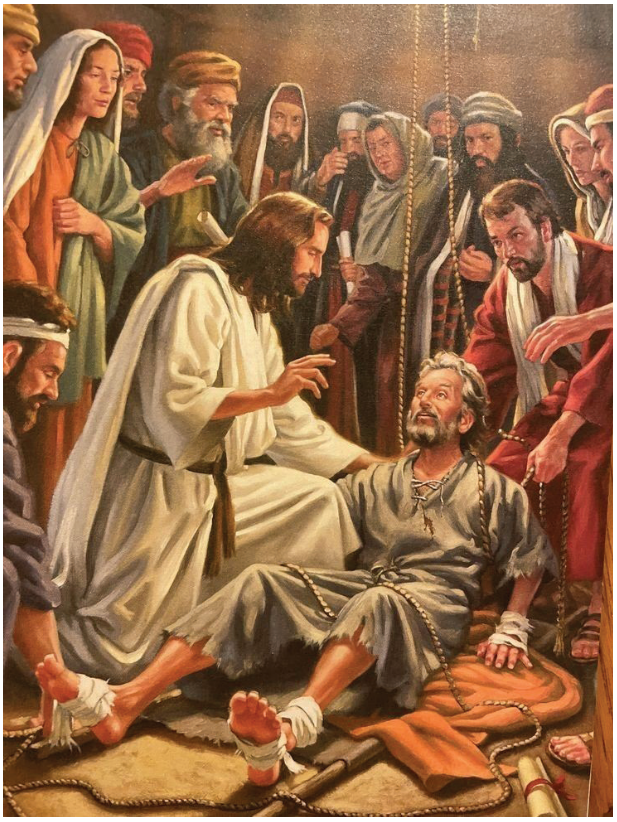
On another day, when the *dhuni* flared dangerously high, threatening the very roof of His abode, Baba struck the pillar with His *satka*, and rebuked the flames as one would a restless child. Instantly they obeyed, subsiding into a gentle glow. Whether storm above or fire within, nature itself bent to His voice, for in Shirdi the Shepherd's care embraced not only men, but the elements themselves, lest harm befall His flock.

In Shirdi's humble Dwarkamai, Sai Baba lit the fire, cooked the food, and served it with His own hands to those who came hungry and weary. In that tender act, the *Fakir* of Shirdi revealed Himself as the Good Shepherd - one who not only watches over His flock, but feeds them with His own love, making their hunger His concern. Each morsel He served became a token of divine care, assuring His devotees that the



Shepherd's duty is not only to guide, but also to nourish, not only to teach, but also to sustain.

The healing power of Jesus Christ



transcends time, reaching from ancient biblical accounts to countless testimonies today. His promise - "I am with you always" wasn't limited to His disciples, but extends to believers everywhere who seek His divine intervention.

These modern miracles happen through prayer, faith gatherings and quiet moments of desperate belief.

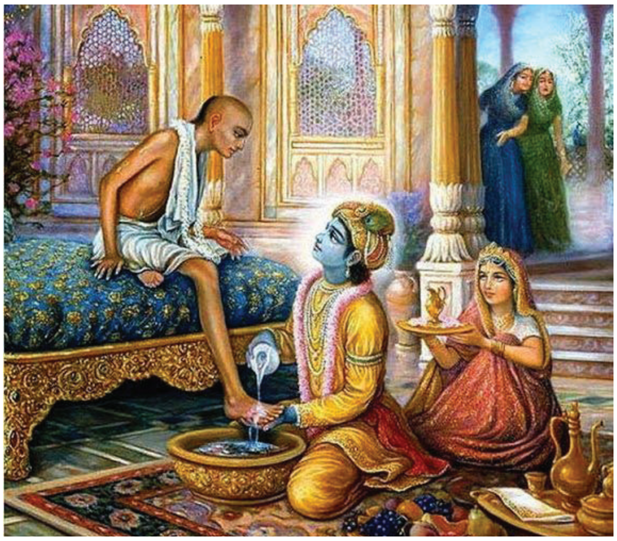
Through testimonies shared across communities and social media, we see evidence that Jesus's healing ministry didn't end with His ascension. It continues unabated, offering hope to those facing physical, emotional and spiritual afflictions in our broken world. His grace flows quietly through prayer, surges in the fellowship of faith, and shines in countless testimonies of lives renewed beyond human explanation.

In the same stream of compassion, Shirdi Sai Baba blessed His devotees with remedies that healed body and soul alike -

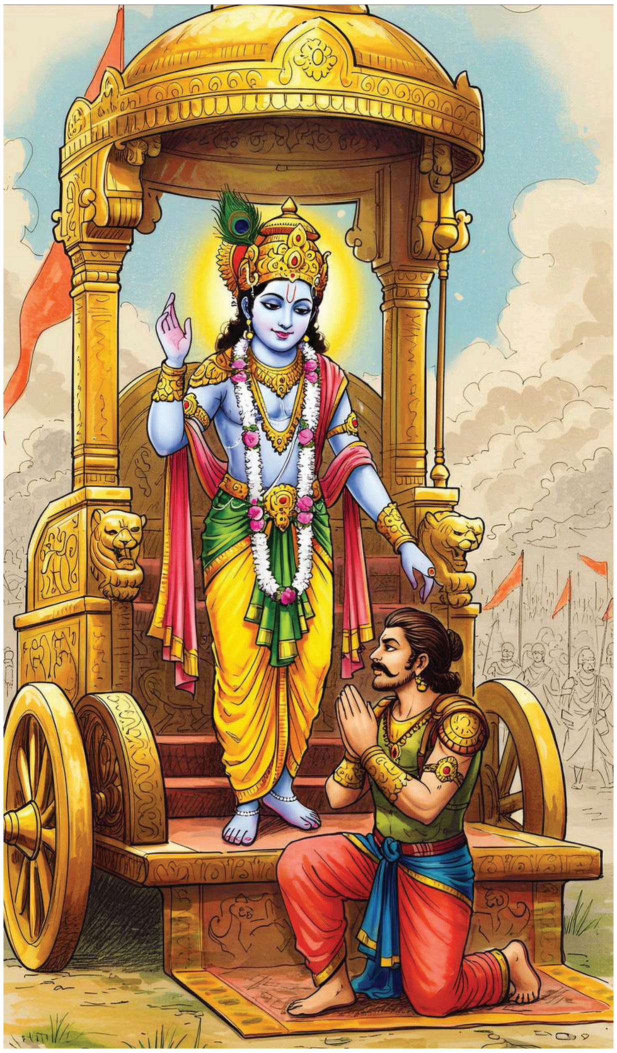
sometimes with the mere glance of His eyes, at times through the sacred ash of *Udi*, and always through His presence that removed the deepest afflictions of the heart.

And, long before, Lord Krishna bent low to wash the weary feet of His friend Sudama, teaching us that the touch of the Divine is not lofty and distant, but tender and near. In the dust of friendship He revealed the fragrance of eternity, where love outweighs grandeur. The Shepherd of *Gokul* showed that divinity stoops not in weakness, but in strength, to lift the humble heart. And, in such gestures, heaven itself bends towards earth in quiet majesty.

Far back in time, before the Shepherds of Galilee and Shirdi walked the earth, the meadows of Vrindavan echoed with the



lilting notes of a divine flute. At their sound, calves paused mid-step, cows looked up



with love-filled eyes, and *gopas* and *gopis* left all tasks behind - for it was Krishna, the cowherd boy, who called them.

And, like Sai Baba, Krishna knew each soul intimately. When the *gopis*, lost in separation, cried out in longing, Krishna appeared in many forms at once - one for each heart.

So also, when Arjun trembled in confusion on the battlefield, it was the same Krishna, the Shepherd of *Dharma*, Who guided him with the immortal wisdom of the Bhagvad Geeta. In that moment, He held not just a chariot's reins, but the reins of Arjun's soul.

Despite their differing traditions, Krishna, Jesus and Sai Baba share a deep, abiding connection in their role as the Good Shepherds. Their lives were not merely about physical sustenance for the body, but spiritual nourishment for the soul. Each, in His own way, demonstrated the qualities of a true shepherd - compassion, selflessness and the commitment to guide their flock towards higher spiritual consciousness.

The environments in which these Shepherds worked - the verdant fields of Vrindavan, the sun-baked roads of Galilee and the sacred lanes of Shirdi - serve as poignant symbols of the various paths through which divine care and guidance manifest. Whether it was the lush greenery of Vrindavan, the dust of Galilean roads or the tranquil village of Shirdi, each locale reflected the contextual needs of their time and the unique ways in which these Spiritual Leaders served the communities.

Across the ages, these Holy Manifestations reveal one truth : God's love is healing love. Whether in Christ's enduring touch, Baba's all-embracing mercy or Krishna's humble service, the Divine bends towards the suffering with infinite care. Like the Good Shepherd Who knows each sheep by name, they guide the lost, shelter the weak, and carry the broken upon their shoulders. Their staff is protection, their call is love, and their pasture is the peace of the soul. To remember this is to live in hope - that no affliction, no sorrow, no wound is too deep for the gentle balm of God's grace :

Shepherds of souls, with tender hands they guide,
In pastures of grace, their flocks safely abide.
Storms turn to stillness, hunger fades away,
Their love lights the path, like dawn's gentle ray.

Om Sai, Shree Sai, *Jai Jai* Sai...

Sabka Malik Ek

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बाबा को यदि कोई हिंदू घोषित करें तो वे सदा मस्जिद में निवास करते थे और यदि कोई उन्हें यवन कहें तो वे सदा वहाँ धूनी प्रज्वलित रखते थे तथा अन्य कर्म, जैसे - चक्की पीसना, शंख तथा घंटानाद, होम आदि कर्म करना, अन्नदान और अर्घ्य द्वारा पूजन आदि सदैव वहाँ चलते रहते थे।... यदि कोई कहें कि वे यवन थे तो कुलीन ब्राह्मण और अग्निहोत्री भी अपने नियमों का उल्लंघन कर सदा उनको साष्टांग नमस्कार किया करते थे। जो उनके स्वदेश का पता लगाने गए, उन्हें अपना प्रश्न ही विस्मृत हो गया और वे उनके दर्शनमात्र से मोहित हो गए। अस्तु इसका निर्णय कोई न कर सका कि यथार्थ में साईं बाबा हिंदू थे या यवन। इसमें आश्चर्य ही क्या है! जो अहं व इंद्रियजन्य सुखों की तिलांजलि देकर ईश्वर की शरण में आ जाता है तथा जब उसे ईश्वर के साथ अभिन्नता प्राप्त हो जाती है तब उसकी कोई जाति-पाँति नहीं रह जाती। इसी कोटि में श्री साईं बाबा थे।

- श्री साईं सत् चरित

ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी, रे बाबा!...

ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी, रे बाबा!
ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी...

भट्टी लगे दिव्य हांडी चढ़े
लोग कहें वाह जी
चलो–चलो भंडारा
बाबा के ठांव जी

ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी, रे बाबा!
ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी...

पीसे दले कभी पानी भरे
डाल कुआँ बालटी
धौंके वो भट्टी को
शाहों का शाह जी

ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी, रे बाबा!
ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी...

खिचड़ी पके कभी मुटकुल पके
और कभी आमटी
खाएँ सब हिल–मिल के
दीन धनी गाँवटी

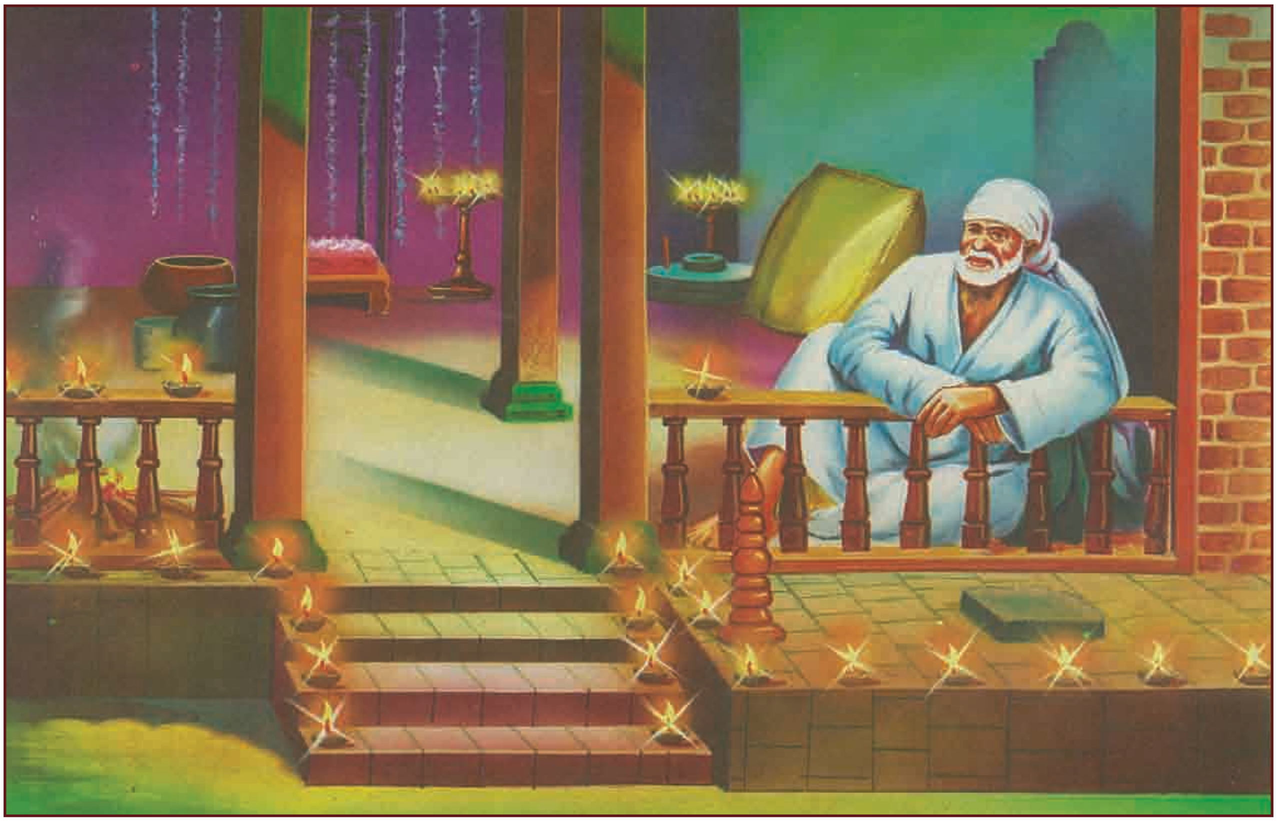
ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी, रे बाबा!
ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी...

अल्ला कहे कभी विठ्ठल कहे
और कभी राम जी
जाने न जात कोई
माई बाप गाँव जी

ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी, रे बाबा!
ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी...

हांडी प्रसाद जो–जो भी चखे
पार होय भाँवरी
भूखों की भूख मिटे
रूह न रहे प्यासी

ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी, रे बाबा!
ग़ज़ब तेरी हांडी...



संसार को सुख और आनंद देने वाले, हे सच्चिदानंद सद्गुरु साईंनाथ, तुम्हारी जय हो! भक्तों के प्रणतपाल हे साईं दयाल, तुम्हारी जय हो! संकटमोचन, हे भक्त मनमोहन, तुम्हारी जय हो! भवसागर के तारणहार, हे करुणाकर साईं, तुम्हारी जय हो! हम सभी भक्तजन तुम्हें साष्टांग प्रणाम करते हैं।

अहा! तुम्हारी उस अद्भुत, आनंदमयी, दिव्य हांडी का तो कहना ही क्या! उसमें तुम्हारे हाथों से पका भोजन–प्रसाद जन–जन की आत्मा की क्षुधा शांत करता था। इसके लिए तुम स्वयं कितनी मेहनत–मशक़्क़त करते थे। एक माँ के सिवाय कौन करेगा इतना? महापुरुषों और अवतारों की परंपरा में बिरला ही कोई संत हुआ होगा, या कहूँ कि शायद ही कभी ईश्वर ने मनुष्य रूप में आकर भट्टी सुलगाई हो, अपने हाथों से दाल–मसाले पीसे हों और भोजन पका कर अपने भूखे–प्यासे भक्तों को तृप्त किया हो! तुमने किया, दीनदयाल, अन्नदान का वह महायज्ञ तुमने किया। तैत्तिरीय उपनिषद में कहा है कि अन्न ही ब्रह्म है। उसी से सब जीवों की उत्पत्ति होती है, पालन होता है और अंत में सब उसी में लय हो जाते हैं। अन्न ही जीवन का आधार है। इसलिए अन्न ही महादान है, इससे बड़ा और कोई दान नहीं। जैसे भक्ति के बिना भजन व्यर्थ है, वैसे ही अन्नदान बिना किसी भी दान–पुण्य का कोई अर्थ नहीं, वह अपूर्ण है। तुमने इस वेद–वचन को अपनी लीला से चरितार्थ कर दिखाया।

कितने भाग्यशाली होंगे वे भक्त जिन्होंने अपनी आँखों से तुम्हारी वह सुभग लीला देखी! तुम मसजिद के आँगन में भट्टी लगा रहे हो! भट्टी में लकड़ियाँ डाल रहे हो! अग्नि प्रज्वलित हो रही है। वह थोड़ी भी मंद पड़ती है तो तुम अपनी साँसों की फूँक मार कर उसे फिर प्रज्वलित कर देते हो! तुम्हारे भक्त हाथ बाँधे तुम्हारे पास

ही खड़े हैं। वे तुम्हारी मदद भी करना चाहते हैं; पर तुम किसी से मदद लेना ही नहीं चाहते। फिर वे बेचारे क्या करते! विवश होकर तुम्हें पसीना बहाते हुए देखते रहते हैं। छोटे-से छोटा काम भी तुम ख़ुद ही करते थे, यहाँ तक कि अपनी कफ़नी और लंगोट भी तुम अपने हाथों से ही सिलते थे। किसी से किंचित भी मदद की आशा नहीं रखते थे। तुम्हारी अनुमति के बिना किसी की क्या मजाल कि वह आगे बढ़ कर तुम्हारी मदद करने का दुस्साहस कर सके। भोजन पकाने का भी हर काम तुम ख़ुद ही करते थे। मसजिद का फ़र्श गोबर से लीपते। भट्टी सुलगाते। कुएं से पानी खींचते। हांडी में पानी भरते। हांडी भट्टी पर चढ़ाते। कभी ज्वारी, तो कभी दूसरा अन्न पकाने के लिए हांडी में डालते। ख़ुद ही बाज़ार से नगद दाम देकर दाल, मसाले आदि ख़रीद कर लाते थे। ख़ुद ही सिल पर उन्हें पीसते थे। गाँव की स्त्रियाँ मदद करना चाहतीं, तो तुम उन्हें भी मना कर देते थे। कहते, ''राहू दे! तुम्ही स्वत:ला मदत करा! तेवढे पुरेसे आहे. माझी कर्मं माझ्यासोबत! तुमची कर्मं तुमच्यासोबत!'' (''रहने दो! ख़ुद की मदद करो! वह ही काफ़ी है। मेरे कर्म मेरे साथ! तुम्हारे कर्म तुम्हारे साथ!'')

हांडी के खौलते पानी में कलछुल या चमचा नहीं, बल्कि तुम अपना हाथ डाल कर पकते अन्न को हिलाते-डुलाते थे। लोग अचरज से देखते कि हांडी के खौलते-उबलते पानी से तुम्हारे हाथ पर न फफोले पड़ते, न जलन का कोई निशान दिखता था। क्या किसी साधारण मनुष्य के लिए यह संभव है कि वह आग की ज्वाला को पकड़े और हाथ भी न जले! हांडी में भोजन पकने के बाद तुम मौलवी को बुला कर इस्लामी रीति-रिवाज के साथ फ़ातिहा पढ़वाते थे। हालाँकि इसकी ज़रूरत नहीं थी। तुम्हारे हाथों के स्पर्श से ही भोजन स्वयं ही पवित्र हो जाता था; किसी मंत्र या फ़ातिहा से उसे पवित्र करने की आवश्यकता ही कहाँ थी! लेकिन, तुम तो लोकाचार निभाना चाहते थे। हिंदू-मुस्लिम मेल-भाव की ऐसी मिसाल भला और कहाँ मिलेगी! तुम्हारे अलावा ऐसा कर भी कौन सकता था! फिर भी दुनिया वालों ने तुमसे कुछ नहीं सीखा। किया यह कि मज़हबी झगड़े-टंटे खड़े किए। मंदिर में नमाज़ या मसजिद में देव-मूर्ति दिख जाए, तो हंगामा खड़ा हो जाता है, दंगे-फ़साद होने लगते हैं। तुम्हारे इसी तरह के आचार-व्यवहार के कारण कुछ लोग तुम्हें सनातन विरोधी और मुस्लिम तक क़रार देते हैं। मैं उनसे पूछता हूँ, क्या इस्लाम में रामनवमी होती है? गोपाल काला (कृष्ण जन्माष्टमी) होता है? तुम (बाबा) तो यह सब मानते थे, हिंदू देवी-देवताओं को मानते थे। अपनी दक्षिणा के धन से तुमने कितने ही देवी-देवताओं के टूटे-फूटे मंदिरों का जीर्णोद्धार किया था! तुम्हारी मसजिदमाई में धूनी, पूजा-आरती, अग्निहोत्र होते थे। घंटे-घड़ियाल बजते थे। शंखनाद होता था। भजन-कीर्तन होते थे। क्या यह सब इस्लाम के निशान हैं! तुम्हें याद है न, बाबा! भगवान् दत्तात्रेय की उपेक्षा के अपराध में तुमने नानासाहेब चाँदोरकर को कितना डाँटा था! उन्हें फटकारते हुए कहा था, ''नाना! तू एवढा प्रदीर्घ काळ माझ्यासोबत आहेस; तरीदेखील असे आचरण तुझ्याकडून कसे घडले? तुझे मन का गोंधळले?'' (''नाना! तुम इतने समय से मेरे सान्निध्य में हो; फिर भी तुमने कुछ भी नहीं सीखा। तुम्हारी बुद्धि भ्रमित कैसे हुई?'') नानासाहेब को तुम्हारे इन शब्दों का अर्थ समझ में नहीं आया। वे तो अपने साढ़ू भाई बिनीवाले के साथ जल्दी से जल्दी तुम्हारा दर्शन करने के लिए कोपरगाँव से लगभग भागते हुए शिर्डी आए थे; फिर क्यों तुम उन्हें डाँट रहे थे? उन्होंने तुमसे क्या नहीं सीखा? बहुत सोचने के बाद भी उनकी समझ में कुछ नहीं आया, तो उन्होंने तुम्हारे चरण पकड़ लिए और पूछा, ''बाबा! माझ्याकडून काय चूक झाली?'' (''बाबा! मुझसे क्या भूल हो गई?'') तुमने फिर पूछते हुए कहा, ''तुम्ही कोपरगावहून थेट इथे का आला?'' (''तुम कोपरगाँव से सीधे यहाँ क्यों आए?'')

अब नाना की समझ में आया कि उनसे क्या भूल हुई थी। कोपरगाँव से शिर्डी के रास्ते में भगवान् दत्तात्रेय का मंदिर पड़ता था। वे जब भी कल्याण से शिर्डी आते, तो बीच में कोपरगाँव रुक कर पहले भगवान् दत्तात्रेय का दर्शन करते थे; फिर शिर्डी की ओर क़दम बढ़ाते थे। उस दिन उन्होंने जल्दी से जल्दी तुम्हारा (बाबा का) दर्शन करने की उतावली में दत्त देव की उपेक्षा कर दी। वे कोपरगाँव का दत्त मंदिर छोड़ कर ताँगे से सीधे शिर्डी चले आए। उनके साढ़ू भाई बिनीवाले विशेष रूप से दत्तात्रेय के परम भक्त थे और शिर्डी जाने से पहले कोपरगाँव के मंदिर में उनका दर्शन करना चाहते थे। उस दिन नाना ने उनकी भावना की परवाह न की। बस्, यही उनकी भारी भूल थी। तुम (बाबा) नहीं चाहते थे कि तुम्हारा कोई भक्त किसी देव-देवता की उपेक्षा करके तुम्हारा दर्शन करने आए। किंतु, नाना ने यह नहीं पूछा कि तुम्हें कैसे पता चला कि वे दत्त मंदिर की उपेक्षा करके शिर्डी आए थे। पूछने की

ज़रूरत भी नहीं थी। नानासाहेब अनेक वर्षों से तुम्हारे साथ थे। वे जानते थे कि तुम सब जानते हो! तुम अंतर्यामी हो! सर्वव्यापी हो! तुमसे कुछ भी छुपा नहीं। तुम्हारे आगे छल, कपट, झूठ, फ़रेब, दुराव, छुपाव की कोई चाल चलने वाली नहीं। भलाई इसी में है कि समर्पण कर दो। नानासाहेब ने भी वही करना श्रेयस्कर समझा। हाथ जोड़ कर बोले, ''बाबा! गोदावरी में स्नान करते समय मेरे पैर में काँटा चुभ गया था। बहुत कष्ट हुआ।'' तुमने उन्हें चेतावनी देते हुए कहा, ''ही तर छोटीशीच शिक्षा होती. यापुढे कायम सावधान असावे. जो भगवान दत्तात्रेयांकडे दुर्लक्ष करून मला भेटायला येतो, त्याच्यावर मी कसा प्रसन्न होणार!'' (''अब से सदैव सावधान रहना। वह

काँटा तो एक छोटा–सा दंड था। जो भगवान् दत्तात्रेय की उपेक्षा करके मेरा दर्शन करने आयेगा, क्या मैं उस अभागे से प्रसन्न होऊँगा?'')

साईंनाथ! देवी–देवताओं के लिए इतना श्रद्धा भाव और सम्मान था तुम्हारे हृदय में। तो फिर कौन हो तुम? हिंदू या मुसलमान? बताओ न, बाबा! बोलो, न!... क्या कहा?... अल्लाह मालिक... सबका मालिक एक... बस्, तुम्हारी यह गोलमोल उलटबाँसी ही तो हमें भ्रम में डाल देती है। तुम समझाना कुछ चाहते हो और हम समझते कुछ और हैं। अब, मैं कैसे समझाऊँ, किस–किस को समझाऊँ, साईंनाथ? किंतु... किंतु तुमने कहा है, विवाद में मत पड़ो। कोई तुम्हें (बाबा को) कुछ भी कहे, उसे कहने दो। ठीक है, दयानाथ! मैं ही मौन हो जाता हूँ।

हाँ, तो मैं तुम्हारी हांडी की चर्चा कर रहा था। हांडी का प्रसाद सबसे पहले तुम म्हालसापति और तात्या को भिजवाते थे। फिर, प्रसाद पाने के इच्छुक अन्य भक्तों को पंगतों में बिठा कर अपने हाथ से प्रेम पूर्वक उनके आगे भोजन परोसते थे। वे खाकर तृप्त होते थे। तुम उन्हें खिला कर तुष्ट होते थे। भोजन परोसते हुए तुम प्रेम से कहते, ''घ्या, घ्या! आणखी थोडे घ्या! असे स्वादिष्ट, पोषक अन्न पुन्हा लाभेल याची आशा धरू नका. हे भोजन मनसोक्त ग्रहण करा! तृप्त व्हा!'' (''लो, लो! थोड़ा और लो! ऐसा स्वादिष्ट, पोषक अन्न फिर मिलने की उम्मीद मत करना। यह भोजन यथेष्ट ग्रहण करो! तृप्त हो जाओ!'')

शाकाहारी और मांसाहारी भक्तों की पँक्तियाँ अलग–अलग होती थीं। तुमने कभी किसी शाकाहारी के सामने मांसाहार नहीं परोसा, न खाने दिया। अलबत्ता कभी–कभी तुम अपने भक्तों की परीक्षा अवश्य लेते थे। सुनाऊँ वह कथा?

दादा केलकर कर्मकांडी ब्राह्मण थे और तुम्हारे कट्टर भक्त भी। उन्होंने अपना तन, मन, वचन और कर्म अपने गुरु, अर्थात् तुम्हें (बाबा को) समर्पित किया हुआ था। गुरु का आदेश पालन ही उनके लिए सबसे बड़ा धर्म था। यह जानने के लिए कि वे अपने धर्म में कितने दृढ़ हैं, एक एकादशी के दिन तुमने उन्हें बाज़ार से मांस ख़रीद कर लाने का आदेश दिया। आश्चर्य! कट्टर ब्राह्मण दादा केलकर तनिक भी नहीं झिझके। एक क्षण के लिए भी नहीं सोचा कि वे कौन–सा धर्म निभाएँ? ब्राह्मण का या

शिष्य का? वे कट्टर ब्राह्मण थे, तो तुम्हारे कट्टर भक्त! उनके लिए तो गुरु का आदेश पालन ही सबसे बड़ा धर्म था। वे तुरंत मांस ख़रीदने बाज़ार जाने के लिए तैयार हो गए। तभी तुमने उन्हें रोक कर कहा, ''राहू दे, गणेश! दुसऱ्याला पाठव!'' (''रहने दो गणेश (दादा केलकर का असली नाम)! किसी दूसरे को भेज दो!'') केवल धन, वस्त्र, वस्तु आदि अर्पण करना गुरु दक्षिणा नहीं, गुरु के आदेश का पालन करना भी गुरु दक्षिणा है। दादा केलकर गुरु भक्ति की इस परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण हो गए थे। अब उन्हें बाज़ार जाने की आवश्यकता ही कहाँ रही थी! जय हो, साईंनाथ! तुम धन्य हो! तुमने दादा केलकर की परीक्षा भी ले ली और उनका अपना सहज धर्म भी क़ायम रखा।

तुम्हारी हांडी का कार्यक्रम सन उन्नीस सौ दस तक ऐसे ही चलता रहा। इसके बाद दासगणु महाराज के भजन-कीर्तन के प्रभाव से तुम्हारा यश ऐसा फैला कि मुंबई और दूरदराज़ के गाँव-शहरों से भक्तों के झुंड तुम्हारे दर्शनार्थ शिर्डी आने लगे। वे आते, तो अपने साथ भारी मात्रा में फल, मिष्टान्न और तरह-तरह के पकवान तुम्हारे लिए नैवेद्य लेकर आते थे, जो भक्तों, भिक्षुकों और फ़क़ीरों को खिलाने के बाद भी बहुत-सा बच जाता था। इसलिए अब हांडी चढ़ाने की कोई आवश्यकता न रही। हांडी के बिना भी भंडारा चलता रहा; बल्कि पहले से अधिक ज़ोर-शोर से चलने लगा। पहले से अधिक प्रकार के स्वादिष्ट व्यंजनों से भक्तों की क्षुधा तृप्त होती रही। धन्य थे वे बड़भागी, जिन्होंने तुम्हारे (बाबा के) हाथों से परोसे दिव्य भंडारे के स्वादिष्ट व्यंजनों के सुस्वाद का भरपूर आनंद लिया। हम अभागे तो बस् उस आनंद की कल्पना मात्र श्री साईं सत् चरित से कर सकते हैं। अब कहाँ मिलेगी वह आमटी, जो तुम हांडी में अपने हाथों से पकाते थे! कहाँ मिलेंगे वे मुटकुले, जो प्रेम से अपने भक्तों को तुम खिलाते थे!

वह छाछ! तुम्हारे हाथों से बनी वह अमृतमयी छाछ, जो तुमने अन्य भक्तों के साथ अपने अनन्य भक्त, गोविंदराव दाभोलकर जी को पिलाई, वह स्वादिष्ट छाछ हमें अब पीने को कहाँ मिलेगी? अहा! वह दिव्य छाछ, जिसे पीकर गोविंदराव हेमाडपंत हो गए, जिसे मथ कर हमें साईलीलामृत दे गए। हम तो, बस्, अब उसी लीलामृत की अमृतमयी छाछ पी सकते हैं, पी रहे हैं, पीते रहेंगे, पी-पी कर भी न थकेंगे!

लगन लगाई साईं तुमसे
जग छूटे तो छूटे...

लीला मधु तेरा चाखेंगे
गुण तेरे ही हम गाएंगे
विषय भोग में दुनिया वाले
रस लूटें तो लूटें

लगन लगाई साईं तुमसे
जग छूटे तो छूटे...

नाता जोड़ा तुमसे साईं
धूनी तेरी मन सुलगाई
रिश्ते-नाते सब मतलब के
अब टूटें तो टूटें

लगन लगाई साईं तुमसे
जग छूटे तो छूटे...

हमने तो बस् यही सुना है
साईं तेरा नाम दया है
नाम भजेंगे अब तेरा ही
सब टूटें तो टूटें

लगन लगाई साईं तुमसे
जग छूटे तो छूटे...

जय साईंनाथ!

- दास कुम्भेश
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संचार ध्वनि : (०)९८९०२८७८२२

साईं बाबा की लीलाएँ...

श्री साईलीला (मराठी – प्रकाशन प्रारंभ सन् १९२३) से

वर्ष : १ वैशाख शके १८४५ अंक : २

उपरोक्त तथ्यों से महाराज की दिव्यता पर विश्वास होता है और प्रत्यक्ष दर्शन एवं सहवास से यह विश्वास और भी दृढ़ हो जाता है। तथा यह विश्वास हो जाता है कि महाराज ही सद्गुरु हैं और उनके प्रति पूर्ण समर्पण ही मोक्ष का मार्ग है। मन के इस दृढ़ निश्चय से यह निश्चित हो जाता है कि हमारे शास्त्रों में वर्णित संतों और आध्यात्मिक गुरुओं के लक्षण सब महाराज के लक्षणों के अनुरूप ही हैं।

महाराज के गुणों या उनकी लीलाओं का सटीक वर्णन करना असंभव है; लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि कुछ मार्गदर्शन देना वांछनीय होगा। ऐसा करने का सबसे अच्छा तरीक़ा यह है कि मैं यहाँ उन अनगिनत अनुभवों का उल्लेख करूँ जो मुझे या मेरी जानकारी में अन्य लोगों को हुए हैं। मैं उनका वर्णन यहाँ कर रहा हूँ।

७. मेघा नाम का एक गुजराती ब्राह्मण साईं बाबा का बहुत बड़ा भक्त था। एक दिन वह महाराज की तस्वीर के पास वाली दीवार पर त्रिशूल खींच रहा था। यह देख कर मैंने उससे पूछा, ‘‘तुम यह क्यों बनवा रहे हो?’’

मेघा ने कहा, ‘‘मैं आज सुबह जल्दी उठा। मैं बिस्तर पर ही लेटा था। उस समय, मुझे लगा कि मैंने महाराज की आवाज़ सुनी है और जो शब्द मैंने सुने, वे थे, ‘मेघा, त्रिशूल लगाओ!’ उस समय, मैंने देखा कि बाबा (महाराज को ज़्यादातर लोग ‘बाबा’ कहते हैं।) वहाँ नहीं हैं और हमारे वाड़े के दोनों तरफ़ के दरवाज़े बंद थे; लेकिन वह आवाज़ बाबा की ही थी और कुछ अक्षत बिस्तर पर पड़े हुए थे। मैं तुरंत उठा, मस्जिद में बाबा के पास गया और पूछा, ‘बाबा, क्या आप त्रिशूल निकालना चाहते हैं?’ बाबा ने कहा, ‘हाँ।’ इसलिए मैं यह त्रिशूल निकाल रहा हूँ।’’

– श्री साईं सत् चरित अध्याय २८ –

यह कहने के बाद, अगली सुबह लगभग दस बजे मेघा बाबा के पास गया और बाबा ने उसे एक शिवलिंग दिया; किसी ने इसे उसी समय बाबा के हाथ में लाकर दिया था। बाबा ने कहा, ''मेघा, इसे ले जाओ और इसकी पूजा करो!''

मेघा शिवलिंग लेकर घर आया और मुझे दिखाते हुए बोला, ''देखो, बाबा ने मुझे पूजा करने के लिए एक शिवलिंग दिया है।'' उस समय उसके चेहरे पर अपार प्रसन्नता थी। उस प्रसन्नता का विशेष महत्व समझने के लिए, उसका थोड़ा इतिहास बताना ज़रूरी है।

यह मेघा खेड़ा ज़िले में डिप्टी कलेक्टर रावबहादुर हरि विनायक साठे का सेवक था। उसे गायत्री मंत्र भी नहीं आता था। वह उसे रावबहादुर साठे ने सिखाया। कुछ दिनों बाद, साठे ने उसे शिव मंदिर में पूजा के लिए रखा। उसके बाद, साठे बाबा के पास गए और उनकी श्रद्धा श्री बाबा के चरणों में दृढ़ हो गई। उन्होंने बाबा के दर्शन के लिए आने वाले लोगों की सुविधा के लिए शिर्डी में एक वाड़ा भी बनवाया। साठे चाहते थे कि मेघा को बाबा की सेवा के लिए शिर्डी में रखा जाए। साठे ने उसे ऐसा बताया। यह सुन कर मेघा दुखी हो गया। उसने सुना था कि महाराज एक मुसलमान है और शंकर की पूजा करने के बजाय मुसलमान की सेवा के लिए मालिक उनके पास भेज रहे हैं, यही उसकी उदासी का कारण बना। साठे ने उसे समझाया और महाराज के वास्तविक स्वरूप से थोड़ा परिचित कराया। उसका दुख कुछ हद तक कम हुआ, लेकिन दूर नहीं हुआ। फिर वह शिर्डी चला गया। जैसे ही उसने मस्जिद के आँगण में पैर रखा, महाराज उठ खड़े हुए और बोले, ''ऊपर मत आओ! सावधान रहो! तुम एक मुसलमान के पास क्यों आए हो?''

महाराज का क्रोध, जो ऊपरी तौर पर और सिर्फ़ पहचान के लिए था, तुरंत शांत हो गया। मेघा कुछ दिन शिर्डी में रुका और फिर अपने घर लौट गया। लेकिन, वहाँ महाराज के प्रति उसका इतना लगाव हो गया कि वह शीघ्र ही शिर्डी लौट गया और वहीं रहने लगा। वह बाबा को शंकर मानता था और सदैव ''शंकर... शंकर'' कहता था और जब भी वह बाबा का उल्लेख करना चाहता, तो 'शंकर' नाम का ही प्रयोग करता था। बाद में, बाबा की एक बड़ी तसवीर लाकर साठे वाड़े में रख दी गई। तब से, वह उस तसवीर को शंकर मान कर उसकी पूजा करता रहा। उसके लगभग एक वर्ष बाद, उपर्युक्त घटना घटी। जिस दिन शिवलिंग महाराज के हाथों में आना था, उससे एक दिन पहले मेघा को त्रिशूल बनाने का आदेश दिया गया और वह भी महाराज प्रत्यक्ष नहीं दिखाई देते हुए भी! लेकिन, उनकी वाणी सुनाई दी। यह चमत्कार निश्चित रूप से उत्सुकता भरा है ही; परंतु ध्यान रखने योग्य एक और बात यह है कि महाराज ने उसे उसकी वह पूजा जारी रखने के लिए प्रेरित किया। जैसा कि महाराज की आरती में कहा है, जैसी मन की भावना, वैसा ही अनुभव, देते हैं तुम दयाघन! यह तुम्हारी लीला है। इस प्रकार भक्तों के अनुभवों द्वारा ऐसा हमेशा प्रतीत होता है।

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श्री साईं अनंत हैं। वे एक चींटी से लेकर ब्रह्मांडपर्यंत सर्वभूतों में व्याप्त हैं। वेद और आत्मविज्ञान में पूर्ण पारंगत होने के कारण वे सद्गुरु कहलाने के सर्वथा योग्य हैं। चाहे कोई कितना ही विद्वान क्यों न हो, परंतु यदि वह अपने शिष्य की जागृति कर उसे आत्मस्वरूप का दर्शन न करा सके तो उसे सद्गुरु के नाम से कदापि संबोधित नहीं किया जा सकता। साधारणतः पिता केवल इस नश्वर शरीर का ही जन्मदाता है, परंतु सद्गुरु तो जन्म और मृत्यु दोनों से ही मुक्ति करा देने वाले हैं। अतः वे अन्य लोगों से अधिक दयावंत हैं।...

... श्री साईं बाबा हमेशा कहा करते थे कि ''मेरा भक्त चाहे एक हज़ार कोस 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।''

– श्री साईं सत् चरित –

Divine Experiences of Sai Maharaj

The Sacred *Udi* of Shree Sai Baba

Almost 15 years have passed, an incident unfolded that devotees of Sai Baba still recall as a shining example of the power of faith and the unseen protection of the *Guru*.

Bapusaheb Jog remembered Baba speaking one day at the mosque...

"*Kaka* (late Bhausaheb Dixit) is very ill with fever. He will not take medicine without me. I have to go to Parle. But, you call him here!"

It was the fifth day of Bhausaheb's high fever. True to his unwavering devotion, he had refused any medicine, relying only on Baba's

Late Shri Hari Sitaram alias Kakasaheb Dixit

sacred *Udi* (sacred ash) and *Tirtha* (holy water).

When a message reached through Bapusaheb, Bhausaheb immediately resolved to leave for Shirdi the next evening. He sent a message to me to take him from Parle to Shirdi so that his wife would not worry.

As preparations for departure began, a subtle worry about Bhausaheb's condition arose afresh. On visiting his bungalow, it was clear that his health was still frail. A wise decision was made by Baba : Bhausaheb, his wife, the family cook woman would travel together to Shirdi.

The journey itself soon proved why this arrangement was providential. At Manmad station, a tense moment occurred when some foreign soldiers attempted to barge inside the women's compartment where only the two ladies (aforementioned) sat.

Just imagine, if Bhausaheb been alone in the train with his frail health condition, the situation could have turned ugly and dangerous... We reached Shirdi without any further incident.

Most remarkably, the fever that had plagued Bhausaheb in Parle for days, subsided like a miracle once he set foot in Shirdi - and never returned…

To Bhausaheb's companions and Baba's disciples, it was clear : Faith in the *Guru* had not only brought healing, but also shielded them from unseen dangers lurking along the way.

This small episode illustrates a big and timeless truth : when faith is complete, even in the darkest uncertainty, wisdom and strength arise through the grace of the *Guru*.

For while many call themselves teachers, only the rarest *Guru* lightens the burden of suffering for his followers.

To find such a true *Guru* is exceedingly rare - and in Sai Baba, the devotees found one who guided them through illness, danger and doubt, with love beyond measure.

Neelkanth Ramchandra

Sahasrabuddhe (Pune)
Dated 29.04.1931
Shri Saileela (Year 8, Issue 4)

When *Udi* Became the Cure : A Child's Life Saved in Nashik

For decades, many have turned to Sai Baba's grace in times of helplessness and countless testimonies stand as living proof of His unseen presence. One such moving incident occurred in Nashik, where faith alone brought hope to a household in despair.

I am a long-time devotee of Sainath, and it was by His blessings that I had acquired my home in Nashik.

Last summer, the family of the late Madhavrao Chitale (lawyer) of Daryapur - his wife Mrs. Gangutai, son Gajanan and daughter Sushila - had come to stay, seeking relief from the heat in their region.

But, within days, tragedy struck. The girl, Sushila suddenly fell gravely ill. Her fever soared to 106 degrees, as the family panicked.

Doctors were summoned, medicines were given, but nothing worked. The family watched helplessly as her condition grew worse, and all hope of recovery seemed lost.

In that desperate hour, I turned to the one source of solace I knew : Baba's *Udi*. Placing a pinch into her mouth, I also lit its incense, and set Baba's photograph near her pillow.

With folded hands, I prayed silently : "O Nath! Protect this innocent child, resting in our home, as only You can."

Late Shri Laxman Govind Mungi

The response was nothing short of miraculous. Within two hours, the raging fever began to subside. By nightfall, the child stirred, and slowly regained consciousness.

Within the next few days, Sushila had fully recovered. What no medicine could achieve for so many days, Baba's grace accomplished in a matter of hours, and she became her usual playful self.

When the family departed safely for their native Daryapur, their gratitude overflowed. They handed over me five rupees to offer to Baba's Permanent Fund. The amount has been sent to you by money order to be deposited in the permanent fund.

Laxman Govind Mungi
House No. 43, Main Road,

Nashik

- Shri Saileela. Year 8, Shravan

How a Painful Boil Vanished Without Surgery...

Among the countless stories of Sai Baba's divine grace, some shine through their sheer simplicity - reminding us that where human effort fails, faith in the *Guru* prevails.

One such incident occurred within my own family, when my younger brother suffered from a stubborn boil on his hand.

It began in the village, where his hand grew swollen and painful. He tried local remedies, but none worked. Later, when he came to stay with us in Andheri, I took him to doctors.

They examined him carefully and declared that only an operation could help. The very thought of surgery filled us with fear. Meanwhile, my brother's suffering worsened.

At that moment, Baba's *Udi* came to mind. Encouraged by my elder brother, I mixed *Udi* in water, and applied it to the boil that night.

Strangely, after doing so, the hand trembled, and brother could not sleep all night. By morning, there was still no sign of the boil breaking. My elder brother then suggested we give it one more try.

"Apply the *Udi* again," he said, "and if it does not break within a few hours, we will take him to the doctor."

There was no sign of change. My elder brother finally told the patient, "Wash your hands, and go to the doctor."

But, just as he began washing his hands, the miracle occurred! The boil suddenly burst on its own, the pain subsided, and within a few days he was completely healed - without the need for a complicated surgery.

This incident once again proved the power of Baba's *Udi*. It was not medicine, not the doctor's knife, but the blessing of the *Sadguru* that brought relief.

Truly, *Udi* is not mere ash - it is Baba's grace in tangible form, curing both the body and the spirit.

Sai devotee

Shri Sai leela , Year 8, Bhadrapad

(Contd. in the next issue)

Translated in English
from Marathi by

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There is an experience of Baba recorded by Hari Sitaram Dixit, thus :- Once, Bapusaheb Jog was stung by a scorpion, around about 8 o'clock at night. He went immediately to Maharaj. As he was climbing the steps, Maharaj said, "What is the matter, Bapusaheb?" Bapusaheb answered, "Baba, I have been stung by a scorpion." Maharaj said, "It will be alright. Go!" Bapusaheb returned from the steps only; and before he left the compound, his pain totally stopped.

Shirdi News

✼ Public Relation Office ✼
Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi
- Translated from Marathi into English by
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Millions of devotees have incessant faith in Shree Sai Baba. Out of this spirit of devotion, the devout continually offer various donations at the Feet of Shree Sai Baba...

Sai devotees Shri Naren Mahanta and Smt. Kaveri Mahanta from Guwahati, Assam, offered a gold medal weighing 16.180 grams with the word 'Om' inscribed in it, at Shree Sai's Feet. The cost of this gold medal is ₹ 1,86,135...

After the gold medal was offered, the Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Goraksha Gadilkar, felicitated the donor Sai devotees, and expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Sansthan...

"मेरे एक गुरु, जो बड़े सिद्‌ध पुरुष थे, मुझ पर बड़े दयालु थे। मैं उनसे कभी अलग होना भी नहीं चाहता था। मेरी प्रबल उत्कंठा थी कि उनकी सेवा कर जिस प्रकार भी संभव हो, मंत्र प्राप्त करूँ; परंतु उनकी रीति न्यारी ही थी! उन्होंने पहले मेरी मुंडन कर मुझसे दो पैसे दक्षिणा में माँगे, जो मैंने तुरंत ही दे दिए। यदि तुम प्रश्न करो कि मेरे गुरु जब पूर्ण निष्काम थे तो उन्हें पैसे माँगना क्या शोभनीय था? और फिर उन्हें विरक्त भी कैसे कहा जा सकता था? इसका उत्तर केवल यह है कि वे कंचन को ठुकराया करते थे; क्योंकि उन्हें उसकी स्वप्न में भी आवश्यकता न थी। उन दो पैसों का अर्थ था (१) दृढ़ निश्चय और (२) धैर्य। जब मैंने ये दोनों वस्तुएँ उन्हें अर्पित कर दीं तो वे अत्यंत प्रसन्न हुए।" - श्री साईं बाबा

Sai devotee Shri Jitendra Umedi from Chennai offered a copper umbrella weighing 15.185 kg plated with pure gold at the Feet of Shree Sai Baba...

Having handed over this umbrella to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Bhimraj Darade, it was recently installed over the idol in the Shree Sai Baba *Samadhi Mandir*. This umbrella, symbolizing the devotion to Shree Sai Baba, now further enhances the beauty of the temple. Shri Darade informed that Shri Umedi also donated ₹ 23 lakhs to the Sansthan via cheque.

On this occasion, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shri Bhimraj Darade felicitating Shri Jitendra Umedi expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Sansthan...

"The donation and faith of Sai devotee Shri Jitendra Umedi are an inspiration to the devotees. His contribution will provide further strength to the religious and social welfare activities of the Sansthan," stated Shri Darade.

Mitral Valve Repair Surgery Camp Successful at Shree Sai Baba Hospital...

The Mitral Valve Repair Surgery Camp organized at the Shree Sai Baba Super Specialty Hospital, of Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, on October 13 and 24, 2025, was successfully conducted. During this camp, very complex, but successful heart surgeries were performed for free on 7 patients.

Such surgeries cost lakhs of rupees in private hospitals. But, all these surgeries were provided completely free of cost at the Shree Sai Baba Hospital. Renowned Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Priyankar Sinha from Ahmedabad served as the lead surgeon

for this camp, and Cardiac Surgeons, Dr. Mahesh Mistry and Dr. Shreyash Potdar of Shree Sai Baba Hospital assisted.

Dr. Santosh Marathe and Dr. Vijay Kardile oversaw the work as Anesthesiologists. Shri Nadeem Ahmed and Shri Shubham Pachpind assisted as Perfusionists. The entire Cardiac Surgery Unit provided excellent support to this camp.

The camp was organized under the guidance of Shri Goraksha Gadilkar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan. These surgeries worth about Rs. 35 lakhs were performed free of cost for the patients.

Relatives of the patients expressed, "Our patients got a new lease of life at this hospital run by the inspiration of Shree Sai Baba in the sacred land of Shirdi. This true service to the patients is service to God".

Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Mahesh Mistri stated, "Advanced technology is now available to repair the natural valve instead of replacing the Mitral Valve entirely. Having got their own natural Valve repaired in this camp, hence, the patients need not depend on medicines lifelong."

"Service to the patients is service to God" with this teaching of Shree Sai Baba, the Shree Sai Baba Sansthan started the Shree Sai Baba Super Speciality Hospital and the Shree Sainath General Hospital. Several complex surgeries have been conducted successfully at these hospitals.

Shri Goraksha Gadilkar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Bhimraj Darade, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Lieut. Col. Dr. Shailesh Oak, Medical Director, as also Dr. Pritam Vadgave, Deputy Medical Director, congratulated Dr. Priyankar Sinha of Ahmedabad and the Cardiac department of Shree Sai Baba Hospital for this successful camp.

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Brain Blood Clot Removal Surgery via Endoscopy at Shree Sai Baba Hospital...

For the first time in the Neurosurgery department at the Shree Sai Baba Hospital, of Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, a blood clot in the brain of a patient was successfully removed using Advanced Telescope (Endoscopic) technology.

After this critical surgery, the patient was brought out of the ventilator in a short time. Normally, after such brain surgery stitches patients have to be on a ventilator for 7 to 10 days; but patients get instant relief due to this method with the help of an endoscope.

The patient Shri Kisan Ananda Pawar (Age 55, resident of Hatani in taluka Umbari, Nanded district) was admitted for treatment in the Shree Sai Baba Hospital following a brain hemorrhage. After necessary investigations Dr. Santosh Unavane (Neurosurgeon) diagnosed a blood clot in the brain.

Giving information to the patient and the relatives about the surgery in detail, the removal of the clot via Endoscopy was advised. After getting the permission this surgery was performed, and the patient is now fully well.

The benefit of special efforts of Dr. Santosh Unavane (Neurosurgeon), Dr. Nihar Joshi (Anaesthetist), as well as the entire neuro-department team, were got for the success of this surgery. This surgery was performed completely free of cost under the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana. All such surgeries are done free of cost through the Government schemes in the Shree Sai Baba Hospital, appealed Dr. Santosh Unavane.

Shri Goraksha Gadilkar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Bhimraj Darade, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Lieut. Col. Dr. Shailesh Oak, Medical Director and Dr. Pritam Vadgave, Deputy Medical Director, heartly congratulated the Neuro OT team for this successful surgery.

Mahaprasad on Kartiki Ekadashi...

The festival of *Kartiki Ekadashi* was celebrated with enthusiasm by the Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi. For this, *'Mahaprasad'* of *Sabudana Khichdi* was arranged for devotees at the Shree Saiprasadalaya.

Availing the occasion of *Kartiki Ekadashi*, the Sansthan organized various programmes.

From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. a *kirtan* programme by *Hari Bhakt Parayan* Shri Lahu Maharaj Upale (Parner) from Sant Dnyaneshwar Mauli Ashram, Nimgaon-Korhale, was held. At 9.15 p.m., Shree's *Palkhi* (palanquin) procession was taken out through the Shirdi village. After the *Palkhi* returned to the *Samadhi Mandir*, the *Shejarti* (night *aarti*) of Shree was performed.

For the *Sabudana Khichdi Mahaprasad* at Shree Saiprasadalaya on *Kartiki Ekadashi*, the following ingredients were used, 50 sacks of *sabudana* (sago), 34 sacks of peanuts, 740 kg of peanut oil and about 2360 kg of potatoes, along with various other materials. In the morning, 20,248 devotees availed the benefit of food packets.

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Enthusiastic Response to *Paduka Darshan* Ceremony in Vidarbha !

The *Paduka Darshan* ceremony of Shree Sai Baba was organized in various cities of Nagpur and Vidarbha from October 10 to 16, 2025.

The ceremony began in Nagpur at the Chitnavis ground on October 11 and 12, 2025. After this, the *Padukas* reached Chandrapur (Datala Sai *Mandir*) on October 13, Gadchiroli Sai *Mandir* on October 14 and Wardha Sai *Mandir* on October 15 for *darshan*.

The *Padukas* were accorded a grand welcome at various locations with bike rallies, *rangolis*, *tal-mrudung* (traditional musical instruments), *bhajan* groups and *dhol-tasha* troupes. During this entire tour, lakhs of devotees took *darshan* of Shree's holy *Padukas* (footwear). In many places, the elderly, the blind, the disabled and children from orphanages and the aged in old age homes, devotees also availed the *darshan* of Shree Sai Baba with great devotion.

The pinnacle of this ceremony took place

on October 16, 2025. In Shegaon, a historic ceremony of *'Sant-Bhet'* (Brotherly Meeting) between Shree Sai Baba and Shree Sant Gajanan Maharaj took place.

Amidst the name chanting of "Om Sai *Namo Namah*; Shree Sai *Namo Namah*" by *bhajan* groups, amidst the sounding of cymbals-*mrudangs* the Hon'ble Chairman of Shree Sant Gajanan Maharaj Devasthan, Shri Nilkanthbhau Patil, as also, the Managing Director of the *Devasthan* Committee and senior officials, accorded a grand welcome to the *Padukas*. Worshipping the *Padukas* and the image of Shree Sai Baba in front of the *Samadhi* of Shree Sant Gajanan Maharaj the *Padukas* were placed for *darshan* on the dais in front of the idol of Vitthal in the temple premises.

The Hon'ble Chairman of Shree Gajanan Maharaj *Devasthan* performed the *Padya-Poojan* (ritual worship of the Feet) of Shree's *Padukas*. Thousands of devotees witnessing this historic moment availed the *darshan*.

After the Shree's greeting, *'Bhojan Prasad'* (sanctified food) was distributed to everyone by the Shree Gajanan Maharaj *Devasthan* Committee.

This ceremony, availed the guidance of, Smt. Anju Shende (Sontakke), Hon'ble Chairperson of the Ad-hoc Committee, Dr. Pankaj Ashiya, Committee Member and District Collector and Shri Goraksha Gadilkar, Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan.

And, the Sansthan's Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shri Bhimraj Darade, Administrative Officer, Shri Sandeep Kumar Bhosale, the then Incharge Administrative Officer, Shri Vishwanath Bajaj, Incharge Superintendent, Shri Ramdas Kokane, Shri Sanjay Shinde, Shri Navnath Mate, Shri Atul Kumbhakarna and other employees were present during the tour.

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Apology for Objectionable Statements...

Shri Ajay Gautam, who had made objectionable statements through various social media regarding Shree Sai Baba and the Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, recently appeared in the Rahata Court, and admitted his mistake. He stated before the court that, "My misunderstandings regarding Shree Sai Baba and the Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi having been cleared; henceforth, I will not make any wrong statements, interviews, discussions, or commentary."

In 2023, in the background of the objectionable statements made about Shree Sai Baba, the Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi filed a legal suit in the Rahata Court against individuals making such remarks, in which Shri Ajay Gautam was included.

In the intervening period, as his misunderstandings were cleared, he clarified in court that his previous statements

were based on a misunderstanding caused by incomplete information. After this, he attended the Noon *Aarti* of Shree Sai Baba, and availed the *darshan* of Sai *Samadhi*.

In a press conference organized after the *darshan*, Shri Ajay Gautam, expressing regret about his remarks, stated, “I will now write a book very soon to spread and propagate Baba’s teachings.”

The Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Goraksha Gadilkar, welcomed this positive stance. He stated that, “Those who still have misunderstandings should contact the Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi directly; otherwise, legal action will continue against such individuals who defame in such a manner.” Former Trustee of the Sansthan, Shri Mohan Jayakar and Shirdi resident, Shri Kamalakar Kote coordinated this entire process.

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Tulsi Vivah Celebrated in the Samadhi Mandir...

As per the annual traditional custom, the *Tulsi Vivah* (marriage) ceremony was celebrated this year too with the faith and devotion at Dwarkamai by the Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi. For this, the *Tulsi Vivah Pooja* was performed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Sansthan, Shri Goraksha Gadilkar and his wife, Sou. Vandana Gadilkar, in the assembly hall of Dwarkamai.

The programme commenced with Shree Ganesh *Poojan*, after that the Tulsi-Vishnu marriage rituals, *Aarti*, *Naivedya* (food offering) and other religious programmes, were conducted with great enthusiasm.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shri Bhimraj Darade, Administrative Officer, Shri Sandeepkumar Bhosale, Temple Head Shri Vishnu Thorat, temple priests, Shirdi residents, as also Sai devotees were present in large numbers.

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धन्य हैं श्री साईं, जिनका जैसा जीवन था, वैसा ही अवर्णनीय लीला विलास और अद्भुत क्रियाओं से पूर्ण नित्य कार्यक्रम भी। कभी तो वे समस्त सांसारिक कार्यों से अलिप्त रह कर कर्मकांडी से प्रतीत होते और कभी ब्रह्मानंद और आत्मज्ञान में निमग्न रहा करते थे। कभी वे अनेक कार्य करते हुए भी उनसे असंबद्ध रहते थे।... यह तो सर्व विदित है कि वे बालब्रह्मचारी थे। वे सदैव पुरुषों को भ्राता तथा स्त्रियों को माता या बहन सदृश ही समझा करते थे। उनकी संगति द्वारा हमें जिस अनुपम ज्ञान की उपलब्धि हुई है, उसकी विस्मृति मृत्युपर्यंत न होने पाए, ऐसी उनके श्री-चरणों में हमारी विनम्र प्राथना है। – श्री साईं सत् चरित

Recently, a total of 42 foreign Sai devotees attended the *Madhyanha* (Mid-day) *Aarti* and took *darshan* of Shree Sai Baba's *Samadhi.* This group included 40 Sai devotees from Germany, 1 Sai devotee from Canada and 1 Sai devotee from France. All these devotees were felicitated on behalf of the Sansthan by the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Goraksha Gadilkar.

In the evening of day, January 1, 2026

RNI Regd. No.
MAH/BIL/2000/8048

SHRI SAI LEELA

Date : February 15, 2026

In the night of day, January 1, 2026

श्री साईबाबा संस्थान विश्वस्तव्यवस्था, शिर्डी के लिए मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी द्वारा टैको विजन्स प्रा. लि., गाला क्र. ९ और १०, ब्लू माऊंट वर्क स्टेशन, वालीव फाटा, सातीवली रोड़, वसई पूर्व, पालघर – ४०१ २०८ में मुद्रित और साईं निकेतन, ८०४ बी, डॉ. आंबेडकर रोड़, दादर, मुंबई – ४०० ०१४ में प्रकाशित।
* संपादक : मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, श्री साईबाबा संस्थान विश्वस्तव्यवस्था, शिर्डी