

THE GLORY OF SHIRDI SAI

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**GURUR-BRAHMA, GURUR-VISHNUH; GURU-DEVO MAHESWARAHA;
GURUR-SAKSHATH PARAM BRAHMA; THASMAI SREE GURAVE NAMAHA:**

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VIJAYADASAMI

VijayaDasami is celebrated all over the globe as the triumph of good over evil. For Sai Bandhus, it is acclaimed as an important day that their beloved Guru attained Mahasamadhi and is celebrated in Shirdi and all over the globe. Great numbers of people gather in Shirdi during this Festival.

Shri Shirdi Sai Baba left His mortal coil on 15th October 1918. Two years before His passing away i.e. in 1916 Baba gave an indication.

Ramchandra Patil became seriously ill. He tried all remedies, but found no relief. He was dejected of his life and was waiting for the last moment. Then one midnight Baba stood near his bed. Patil held His feet and said, "I have lost all my hopes. Please tell me definitely when I shall die". Merciful Baba said, "Don't be anxious, your Hundi (Death-warrant) has been withdrawn but I am afraid of Tatya Patil. He will pass away on Vijayadasami of 1918.

Ramachandra Dada soon recovered from his illness. Time passed quickly. The month of Bhadrapada of Shaka 1840 (1918 A D) was ending and as Baba predicted Tatya fell sick and was bed ridden. Baba was also down with fever. Tatya had full faith in Baba. Tatya's illness became worse and could not move. He always remembered Baba. Vijayadashami was approaching and Ramchandra Dada and Bala Shimpi who knew the prediction, were nervous about Tatya's end which was near. But a strange thing happened, Tatya remained and Baba passed away instead. People said that Baba gave up His life for Tatya and made *Vijayadasami more significant for Sai devotees*.

FROM THE SATSANGHS OF SAIBANISA JI

THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL LIFE

We are constantly in a whirl of tensed life especially in this world of fast growth and western integrated culture. After we work continually for years maintaining our physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and psychological endeavors, suddenly we realize the need for a peaceful life. We try to figure out the different ways and methods possible to attain the peaceful life that we envy of. But by the time we understand the importance of contentment and peace of mind, we are so much

attached to the worldly pleasures that we cannot figure out the ways to come out of our routine.

To try to achieve the PEACE OF MIND, we have to remove our desires and passion from the comforts in this universe. We have to remove our ego, and understand that peace is internal and external. "Sharanagati" is the best module to be followed in life to attain the peace we are looking for. If we reach this state of mind set, then whatever incidents happen in life (even misfortunes) will be accepted as blessings sent by Him. As Sai said, you take one step towards me; I shall take ten steps towards you. With such assurances from our Sadguru, we will live life and He knows what is best for us.

To be continued.....

SAI'S NEWS FROM TIME MACHINE

September 1918: Nath Panthi Saint Rama - Maruthi of Kalyan passed away.

September 28, 1918: Sai Baba had a slight attack of fever which lasted for 3 - 4 days. Since then Baba abstained from food and day by day his weakness increased.

QUINTESSENCE FROM SHRI SAI BABA'S PHILOSOPHY

(By Late Sri Bharam UmamaheswaraRao) ~ Contribution by "Shashi": shashi_31@yahoo.com

Chapter 34. Self Knowledge can overcome Karma

There is another classification based on the time of fruition of the Karma. They are

1. Sanchita Karma – the package of Karmas due to our past actions, which have to be exhausted in our future lives;
2. Prarbdha Karma – the portion of the past Karmas that has given rise to the present body and which has to be exhausted by experiencing during the present life.
3. Agami Karma – the karmas yet to be earned in the present life or in the future lives.

Some say that Karma is considered to be congruent with fatalism. But in fact, these are poles apart. Karma means willed action with full freedom. This is not fettered by chains as the popular belief seems to portray it. All willed actions carry their own reward or reprimand according to their own rights and reason.

Our philosophy points out that no willed action is isolated and the actions of the individual are influenced not only by the circumstances of the present life, but also by the impressions imbibed in the previous lives. It follows, therefore, that an individual has some previous knowledge of the actions and the consequences which is called 'Jnana Shakti'. This in turn induces of 'Icha Shakti; or power of desiring. This has again the power to translate it into action, which is known as Kriya Shakti.

All these internal mental factors that shape a man's actions and give it a specific orientation may be called as character while the set of actions that manifest themselves may be called as conduct. But then these two are inter-dependent, each molding the other by depleting or deepening the other all the time.

Baba had declared in many of His daily discussions with His disciples that 'Nishkayma Karma' is the open door, thru which one can aspire to go up the spiritual ladder to the final emancipation.

IN THE DAYS OF SHRI SHIRDI SAIBABA

Baba Cured the Pneumonia of Shri Ramakrishna G. Kothare's Father
Contribution by Saibandhu Sreedhar Taduri

Shri Ramakrishna G. Kothare was born in 1908. His father and mother first came to Shirdi in 1911 and worshipped the photo of Baba (Dwarakamayi Posture). They visited Shirdi atleast twice a year. Baba gave Ashirwad and Udi to His devotees standing at the rails of Dwarakamayi and wearing violet colour-edged Peethambaram. Shri Ramakrishna Kothare loved Baba sincerely and his family was full of devotion towards Shri Sai.

After Kothare's first visit with family in 1911, he organized and started a group called Sai Laj that performed bhajans and Aarati daily. In 1913, his father fell seriously ill with pneumonia. One Dr. Naik who treated him said that his case was serious and had no hope for survival. At that time Shri Ramakrishna Kothare's

mother made a vow to Baba that if her husband was cured of his illness, she would come to Shirdi by walk and take darshan of Baba.

The people of Sai Laj came and did bhajan in the name of Baba before the patient. Kothare's uncle also came with his bhajan mandali and did bhajan and told to his sister that his brother-in-law would not die of pneumonia.

Dr. Naik came at 10:00 P.M, gave an injection to the patient, and told everyone that the patient will live only for a few hours. The Holy Bhagwad Geeta was read out to the patient. After 11 P.M, the patient began to feel suffocated and could not breathe. At this time, the patient's wife cried and wailed out "Baba save my husband!" The suffocation lasted until 1 A.M.

They told the situation to the doctor. The doctor came and examined the patient and gave one injection and told that crisis was over. Bhajans went on till 4 A.M and all of devotees told the patient's wife, that Baba has yielded her request and that she should be ready for the Shirdi trip on foot.

From that time, the patient improved day by day and cured completely in few months. As per her vow, the wife accompanied by her husband and the Sai Laj Bhajan Mandal came on foot up to Kopergaom. From Koperagaom all came in 5 carts to Shirdi while the wife alone followed the cart on foot up to Shirdi as per her promise.

She walked some distance in an uneven, rocky and thorny way, and sat below a tree with uneasy, swollen legs. A man with white beard with a shepherd's attire hurriedly came to her and told her that her vow had been accepted by Baba and that there is no harm in riding in the cart to Shirdi. But she could not accept this and continued her journey by foot up to Shirdi.

At this point in Shirdi, Baba asked Jog to stop Aarti for a little time so that Kothare's mother and the other travelers could join them. When the party arrived, Baba told Nansaheb, "I had met her on the way and told her to come in cart. But she refused and came by foot. See how her legs are! But they will be alright by evening." The group stayed in Shirdi for a while and left with Baba's permission. From that time, patient improved day by day and cured completely in few months. As per the vow of the patient's wife, patient, patient's wife and the bhajan mandal came on foot up to Kopergaom. From Koperagaom all came in 5 carts to Shirdi where as patient's wife alone followed the cart on foot up to Shirdi as per her vow.

She came to some distance in an uneven stony and thorny way and felt uneasy with swollen legs and sat below a tree. A man with white beard in shepherd dress straight away came to her and told her that her vow had been accepted by Baba and that there is no harm in getting into the cart and go over to Shirdi. But she did not accept and came away by foot along up to Shirdi. At that time, Baba asked Jog to stop Aarati for a little time. In the meanwhile all came to Aarati.

Baba told to Nanasaheb that I met her on the way and told her to come in cart. But she refused and came by foot. See how her legs were! They will be alright by evening." Later, they all stayed at Shirdi and gone to their homes with Baba's permission safe and sound.

THE DREAMS TRAIN

(Dreams Of Saibanisa after Undergoing Bypass Surgery on 17-5-1996)

Compiled by Saibandhu Raghu Raman Satulury

Introduction:

The first volume titled 'Sai In Dreams' of Saibanisaji was released and become popular among Shirdi Sai devotees. The first volume covered his dreams sequences up to his undergoing Bypass surgery on 17-5-1996.

Saibanisa penned down these messages received in meditation during Brahma muhoortham (around 04:00AM), the early morning hours, later neatly refined and recorded in a diary.

It is felt that these messages would help Sai devotees in self-refinement and increasing their faith in Shirdi Sai. In every message, there is a deeper meaning hidden underneath, which would eventually come out when put into in a simple language that could be understood by one and all. Therefore it was decided by Saidarbar, Hyderabad, India to translate these dream messages into English language from Telugu-his mother tongue so as to reach a wider section of Shirdi Sai devotees.

Encouraged with the response to the first volume-'Sai In Dreams', a humble attempt is made once again on similar lines to extend coverage of Saibanisa's dream messages after getting discharged from the Hospital on 28-5-1996.

Hopefully, we expect this new volume-II, Titled-‘The Dreams Train’ will also gain the same popularity as in the past and the readership will derive the expected benefits.

Jai Sai Ram.

27-05-1996 (CDR Hospital-Hyderabad):

My heart surgery was completed successfully. Before retiring to Bed, I expressed my gratitude to Baba and prayed Him to send me home at the earliest. Sai blessed me in my dream by touching all over my body with a bunch of peacock feathers. I bowed down before Him in reverence. He disappeared with a Gentle smile.

In another scene, Sai blessed a mother and child in a pediatric Hospital as the child fully recovered and was being discharged. Having gone through these two scenes, I developed confidence that I shall also regain my normal health and go home.

Sai never fails to guard His devotees.

29-05-1996(At my Residence in Kamalanagar, Hyderabad):

Yesterday, I was discharged from the Hospital. I prayed Baba to advice me as to how I should lead my future life. Sai appeared in the form of an unknown person and said-

1. From now onwards, avoid partying and outings.
2. Friends from the past would keep troubling you, on your part exercise restraint and cultivate forbearance.
3. Journey through life will be like travel by passenger train. Get mentally prepared to welcome such a change.
4. In future, never cheat others nor get cheated by others.
5. Do not enter into arguments with colleagues while working in office.
6. Keep away from money and other women.
7. Do not marry again in the event of losing the life partner.
8. In spiritual life, you have to go all alone; therefore do not attempt Satcharita parayan in other’s houses.

Practice non-indulgence.

DEVOTEES CORNER

Devotees Experiences

“I just wanted to mention that I recently got the opportunity to make yatra to Shirdi for the first time. I had read Sri Sai Baba's life many years ago and was very impressed, but I felt no immediate connection with him thereafter, and was content for my mind to be occupied with Anandamayi Ma.

I had read Sri Sai Baba's life many years ago and was very impressed, but I felt no immediate connection with him thereafter, and was content for my mind to be occupied with our Anandamayi Ma. I recently met some devotees in Mumbai, and they invited me to accompany them to Shirdi. I'm always interested in holy pilgrimages, so I went along.

I was really overwhelmed with the whole experience of Shirdi. First of all, on the material level, the mandir and surroundings are so nicely built and maintained, that it makes a very good impression. The spiritual atmosphere was stunning. I approached the samadhi with a particular mental request to Sri Sai, concerning some elements of my sadhana. It was so wonderful to find him living, moving and acting in his samadhi! I felt he was right before me, listening to me with such mercy and love. I felt an immediate lift of my burden I had brought before him, and a great inner joy. We spent two days in Shirdi, and sat for long periods in Srimaiya masjid and had several darshans. I bought some books on his life and began reading more about him. I bought his photo and touched it to the rock that he sat on for so many years, and it now adorns my room in Omkareshwar along with Ma's photos.

In conclusion I think I can now be placed among the ranks of ardent Sai Baba devotees! His presence is so living and immediate, and I don't feel any difference between him and Ma.

They are two forms of the same Reality. We are so fortunate to have these Gateways to the Infinite that we can turn to in our needs and longing for God. Jai Ma! Jai Sai Baba! “

Swami Mangalananda, Omkareshwar

Articles from Devotees

IT IS MY PROMISE

"It is my promise to redeem the one who, with faith sings my praises, totally surrenders to me, remembers me constantly and meditates on me." - Shri Sai Samartha Satcharita, Ch. 3, Ovi 15.

A poor woman was abandoned by her husband and left with no visible means of support. When the case came up in court, the judge asked the wife: "Madam, Do you have any means of support whatever?"

"Well, your honor," she answered, "I have three, to tell the truth."

"Three!"

"Yes, Sir."

"What are they?" asked the astonished judge.

"My hands, my good health and my God, your honor," came back the reply.

The resourcefulness of this woman, her self-reliance, and her dependence upon God, can be a lesson to all of us. The old saying, "God helps those who help themselves," is still valid. The strength we derive from our faith in God gives us the courage to have confidence in ourselves.

-N. Sivanandam (Contribution by vasuki_mahal@yahoo.com from the Archives of SaiDarbar)

Letters from Devotees

Dhunda sara jamana mere sai jaisa koi nahin
jo har kisi ko apnaye aisa duniya main koi nahin

pyar ki khoz main hai duniya sari yahain
mujhe mere sai se pyara koi nahin

sab kuch mila ek tujhe pa kar sai
mujhe is se para sahara or koi nahin

khata ho mujh se to mafi ke kabil bana
hai tujhe pata mujh se bara gunahgar koi nahin

- Sudha sudha_vohra@hotmail.com (Posted from the Archives of SaiDarbar)

SAI WITH CHILDREN

Hello Friends,

I would first like to introduce myself. My name is Sneha and I am currently a college student. For all these years, Madhu Aunty has been telling you wonderful stories with great lessons to be learned. From now onwards, I will be sharing with you similar moral stories that I have heard growing up. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

Guru's Grace Brings Eternal Glory

S'ankara, the great âcârya, had four chief pupils: Thotaka, Hastamalaka, Sureswara and Padmapada. Of these, Padmapada was intent only on service to the Guru; he could not pay attention to the lessons. The others used to sneer at him for his backwardness in studies. But his deep reverence for the guru made up for it. One day, he washed the clothes of his guru and dried them on a rock in the middle of the river; but, even as he was folding them, the river rose fast in a swirling flood; and he had scarce a foot-hold on the top of the rock. It was getting late; the guru would need the washed clothes soon; so Padmapada resolved to walk across, over the raging waters. He knew that the blessing of his guru would rescue him. It did. Wherever his foot was planted, a sturdy lotus bloomed and bore him on its petals. That is why he came to be called, lotus-footed Padmapada! The grace of the guru enabled him to master all knowledge and shine as a brilliant exponent of the ancient wisdom.

Source: Chinna Katha Stories

Bye friends and see you in the next issue!

SPIRITUAL GEMS FROM SAI SATCHARITA

Contributed by: swamy@saimail.com

Shri Sai Satcharitra Chapter XXXIV

Greatness of Udi (continued)

(1) Doctor's Nephew - (2) Dr. Pillay - (3) Shama's Siste-in-Law - (4) Irani Girl - (5) Harda Gentleman - (6) Bombay Lady.

This Chapter continues the subject "Greatness of Udi" and describes cases in which the application of Udi was most efficacious.

Doctor's Nephew

At Malegaon (Dt. Nasik) there lived a doctor (qualified and degree-holder). His nephew suffered from an incurable disease - Tubercular bone-abcess. The doctor himself and his brothers, the medical practitioners, tried all sorts of remedies and even an operation. There was no relief and there was no end to the little boy's suffering. Friends and relations advised the parents of the boy to seek divine aid and recommended them to try Sai Baba, who was known to have cured such incurable cases by His mere glance.

Sai Ram. The last sentence is worth noting and reading many times and getting into one's mind and heart. It is not just udhi that is powerful, but it is the grace of Sadguru Sai behind that udhi and it is clear that He does not need to even send His udhi to cure. He does that to teach faith and to teach Vairagya as we will see somewhere else. Sai Ram.

The parents, therefore, came to Shirdi. They prostrated themselves before Baba, placed the boy before Him and pleaded humbly and respectfully, and implored Him to save their son. The merciful Baba comforted them saying "Those who resort to this Masjid shall never suffer anything in this life and to the end of time. Be now care-free. Apply Udi on the abcess and within one week he will recover. Believe in God. This is no Masjid, but Dwarawati. He who steps here will soon get health and happiness and his sufferings will come to an end". The boy was made to sit before Baba, Who moved his hands on the affected part and cast His loving glances on him. The patient was pleased and with the application of the Udi, he

began to recover, and was all right after some days. The parents then left Shirdi with their son, thanking Baba for the cure, which was effected by Udi and Baba's gracious looks.

Sai Ram. The udhi carries Baba's grace just as water, wind, fire and sunlight carry God's energy to us. Since the udhi has come from the dhuni that was started by Sai and is blessed by Sai, it carries His grace. But let us be clear, He is everywhere and hence He does not need the udhi to cure us of our illness, physical, mental and spiritual. We will see stories of such cures too at other places. Sai Ram.

After knowing this, the doctor, the uncle of the boy became wonder-struck and desired to see Baba while he was on his way to Bombay for some business; but at Malegaon and Manmad somebody spoke to him against Baba and poisoned his ears. He therefore, dropped the idea of visiting Shirdi and went to Bombay direct. He wanted to spend the rest of his leave at Alibag, but at Bombay he heard three successive nights, a voice crying out, "Still you disbelieve me?". Then the doctor changed his mind and resolved to go to Shirdi. He had to attend in Bombay to a case of Infectious Fever, which showed no signs of abatement soon. So he thought that his Shirdi trip would be postponed. He however proposed a test in his mind and said, "If the patient gets all right today, I start for Shirdi tomorrow." The wonder is that exactly at the time when the determination was taken, the fever began to abate and the temperature became normal. Then he went to Shirdi as per his determination, took Baba's darshan and prostrated himself before Him. Baba gave him such experiences that he became His devotee. He stayed there for four days and returned home with Baba's Udi and blessings. Within a fortnight he was transferred on promotion to Bijapur. His nephew's case gave him an opportunity for seeing Baba and this visit engendered in him a neverfailing love for the Saint's feet.

Sai Ram. Baba cured the boy of a physical ailment but used that occasion to cure the doctor of a still more dangerous affliction and that was lack of faith in the Doctor of all Doctors, God / Guru. That indeed is a greater cure!

To be continued....

EDITORIAL

Jai Sai Ram

Our thanks to Shri Gopala Rao Ravada (SaiBaNiSa Uncle), Shri Raghuram Satulury, and Shri Sreenivasa Rao Kasturi of SaiDarbar Editorial Team of the Newsletter, 'The Glory of Shirdi Sai', for the wonderful work they carried out for the past six years in delivering Baba's message to the devotees around the world. It was their Shraddha and Saburi, the two cardinal principles of Shri Sai's teachings, which took this Newsletter to its heights.

It gives us an immense pleasure to say that the publishing of this magazine has been entrusted on SaiDarbarUSA. SaiBaNisa Uncle has always been our profound inspiration. His support and guidance always took us towards our Dear Lord. We take this opportunity as a blessing from Sadguru SaiNath and with His guidance we shall put our best efforts to present it before you. I would like to thank Ms. Radhika Nistala, Ms. Sumathi Vijayabaskaran, Ms. Sneha Narasimhan, Mr. Sreedhar Taduri and Ms. Kanchana SenthilKumar for being a supportive part of the new editorial team.

We also extend our thanks to Mr. Raghav Subramanian for Web publication and posting the PDF version in the archives of www.saidarbar.org and to Mr. Vijay Aggarwal for publishing this magazine in an e-book format. You can find the latest Issue of "The Glory of Shirdi Sai" in the 3d Page turning format at: <http://www.ettitudemedia.com/loadbook.php?BookName=EMagazineCurrent>.

Sai devotees may continue to write about their Sai-related activities, essays, articles or poetry and send to the email id editor@saidarbarusa.org. We shall put in our best efforts to include them in the upcoming issues of the magazine. Unless the author of the articles explicitly instructs not to publish his/her email id, we will publish them as a matter of routine practice. The editor does not accept any responsibility for the views expressed in the articles published. This e-magazine is intended for private circulation only. Information contained in this email is about Sri Shirdi Sai Literature and Sanatana Dharma.

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Bow to Shri Sai ~ Peace be to All