

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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FROM THE SATSANGHS OF SAIBANISA JI

Bhakti

Bhakti is solely in your mind, i.e. you can have faith or not. There are no pre-requisites for Bhakti. It helps you if you have a group, but it is not a requirement. You could sit by yourself alone and have faith (Bhakti) in Sri Sai. Bhakti implies Dhyana or Seva.

Pure Bhakti generates absolute faith and leads to complete surrender to Sri Sai. The joy of surrender is unique and can only be experienced. That feeling cannot be explained using words. Blessed is the devotee who has acquired it through the grace of Sri Sai. If one bhakta has some unpleasant happenings in his life, and if he attributes it to Sri Sai, take it for certain that this person is not a true bhakta. A true devotee will not, even in his thoughts, attribute the mishappenings to Sri Sai. The true bhakta would accept it as a result his "Prarabdha" (a collection of past karmas, which are ready to be experienced through the present body).

People in the path of devotion develop certain qualities that manifest in their daily life activities. They become humble, sacrificing, and sensitive to the pain of others. They love Sri Sai and flow in that thought carrying along with them all those who come in contact with them. They have nothing to prove and therefore do not allow ego to assert itself. We have to examine ourselves, once a while to see if we are in the path of TRUE BHAKTI.

If you are a true bhakta to Sri Sai, you will always be recognized by the Guru and blessed. Dr. Pillay was an intimate Bhakta of Baba. He was much liked by Baba, Who always called him Bhau (brother). Baba talked with him off and on and consulted him in all matters and wanted him always at His side.

Sai's great devotee and a great saint of Nath-panth order, Shri Rama Maruti visited Shirdi. Ram Maruti offered 'Naivedya' to Baba and He very affectionately took a part of it.

SAI'S NEWS FROM TIME MACHINE

October 19, 1956:

H.H.Narasimha Swamiji passed away (Aged 82 years).

Nov 5, 1918:

Khushalchand sheth of Rahata passed away.

Nov 6, 1960:

Shirdi Sansthan's administration was taken over by the City Civil Court and a "Court Receiver" was appointed.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MEDITATION

Significance of Colours seen in Meditation

(Source: Saidarbar.org)

Significance of Colours seen in Meditation

How do we say that our Meditation is pure and free from thoughts?

Once our meditation becomes pure, it becomes free from thought. For example, when our meditation is fixed on the Blue Colour, the mind becomes permeated by it and in fact, we temporarily lose consciousness of our Self. We become oblivious of the inner and outer worlds. Objects are not seen when there is no one to see them. In that state, there is neither happiness nor sorrow, nor ignorance, neither perceiver nor perceived. Only the pure Paramatma, the Supreme Self, remains pulsating in His own Being. It is an unwavering, thought free, tranquil condition. It is the goal of our meditation. If we stay in this state for a short time, and then, when we begin to come out of meditation, we go from 'Turiya State'. Afterwards, in Turiya, no matter what happens. We will retain the realization of transcendental state Turiyatita.

Preliminaries to Meditation

We must sit down with peace. Raise our hands to our head as if it were our Baba's head and touch our two eyes, our ear, our nose, our tongue, our neck, our shoulders, imagining that they are all parts of our Guru Sai. Same way touch our chest, our heart, our stomach, back, thighs, knees, calves, feet, saying over and over, thinking that they are all Sai's parts, keep repeating in our mind 'Guru Sai Sai'. Concentrating on this feeling, we have to begin our meditation. When we sit in meditation, our conduct should be pure and have noble thoughts, so that they may be able to conserve the Sakthi aroused by Sai's Grace.

We must first of all offer our body, mind, heart and soul to Sai Baba. Let us realize the purpose of our existence and let our eyes clearly see so that we may not mistake the unreal for reality of God. Thy light alone can dispel all the darkness from the mind of us. We must feel that our heart is captivated by thy enticing smile. Our soul is singing with joy in the embrace with love intoxicated. Sitting in meditation, we can clearly see and feel that our soul is enjoying right now. We must pray that our ego should be melted and our mind merge in God.

We must remain alert and vigilant in this matter.

On the importance of meditation, Sri Sai Baba said to Sri G.R. Dabolkar: "To get Atma-Jnana, meditation is necessary. It pacifies and carries the mind into Samadhi. So give up all desires and let God dwell in your mind. If the mind is thus concentrated, your goal is achieved. Meditate on Baba either with form or as formless. If such formless contemplation is hard, then think of any form, just as you see it here. Think of it night and day. With such meditation, the mind dissolves

into unity, and attains 'Laya'. The difference between subject and object (Myself and you) and the act of contemplation will be lost. This results in 'Chaitanya Brahma Samprapati'. The Guru's Grace is bread and milk for the pupil."

Baba further said: "I will be with you, whenever and wherever you think of Me. If one perpetually thinks of Me and makes Me his sole refuge, I am his 'debtor' and will give My Head to save such people. If one ever meditates on Me, repeat My name, sings My deeds, and thus transformed into Me, one's Karma is destroyed. I stay by his side always. You should have truth always with you. Then I shall always be with you, wherever you are and at all times". Sai encourages His devotees to adopt his own form of meditation as an easy aid for concentration. Dhyana may thus be "Rupa" or 'Arupa'. In one of the verses Sri Jnaneswar has written "Seekers after the knowledge of perfection, the very eye of your eye, where the void comes to an end, the Blue Pearl pure sparkling, radiant that which opens the centre of repose when it arises is the great place of the Conscious Self. Look, this is the hidden secret of this experience. This is what Paramashiva told Parvathi Devi. Jnanadev says: 'I saw this through the Grace of my Sadguru Nivirttinath.'

Swamy Muktananda says that the significance of the Blue Colour, the Blue Goddess, just from seeing this Blue Pearl, you can attain 'Jivan Mukthi', the state of liberation. But this is not full realization, nor the state of perfection or the final goal of Siddha Path. When you see the Blue Pearl all the time, this means, that you are in the 'Turiya State', the state of complete transcendence. If a seeker dies after having this vision, he will go to Brahma Loka and attain complete fulfillment by finishing his sadhana here."

He further clarifies - "When Blue Pearl appears, mind would converge on it for long period of time, experiencing extremely joyful repose. Breathing becomes steady and shallow. When you breathe out the breath would go only the distance about two fingers from your nostrils and when you breathe in, it goes down only as far as your throat, never to your heart. During this stage, many Divine fragrances will come. They are so fine compared with finest scents. With the coming of these fragrances breathing becomes very short and slow and a special kind of Pranayam takes place." "He also says: God is the Supreme Light of all; lights take their brightness from Him only. There is no darkness about Him. This inner, external Blue of consciousness is the 'So Ham Brahma' - 'I am He - the Absolute' of Jnanis. This Blue is the adorable one chosen by Bhakta, who fills them with the nectar of love. This eternal Blue of Consciousness is the Divine Power of Grace. If this is not realized, you cannot understand that the Universe appears within God. When one who sees Blue Light always, he will see the entire Universe as a luminous sport of 'Chitsakthi'. He acquires the Divine vision by which he sees the Blue light of Sthithi in every one."

Continued...

SHIRDI SAI BABA'S SERMON

(Four Chapters on Shirdi Sai Baba by Dasganu Maharaj)

The four Chapters are Chapter 31, 32 and 33 from Shri Bhakta Leelamrut and Chapter 57 from Shri Sant Kathamrut.

This is in continuation from the last issue.

Appa Kulkarni of Shirdi was a great devotee of Sai Baba. He was once charged with embezzling government money, may be because of his past karma. God alone knew whether the charges were true or false but people started whispering that Appa was a cheat. Appa was scared that he might be taken to court and tried. Soon, sure enough, he received summons from the Deputy Collector asking him to face a court of enquiry. Appa feared that he would never return to Shirdi once he left the place, so before leaving, he went up to Baba with folded hands and pleaded for help. "You are a Sadhu, a Satpurusha. You know whether the charge is true or not. I do not wish to say anything about it but please save me." He caught hold of Baba's feet and started weeping. He then went on to say; "People say I am your Kalyan.(Kalyan was Saint Ramdas' closest disciple). If I am sentenced, your name would be tarnished, You are my father and mother, my sole refuge."

Moved by the Bhakta's earnest pleas, Baba said to Appa, "The Deputy Collector is at present at Nevasa on the banks of the river Pravara. There, in Nevasa, is present the Lord himself, to whom Dyaneswara prayed while writing the Dynaneswari (Bhawartha Deepika). Pray to him before you present yourself at the court of enquiry." Appa did accordingly, and what a wonder! He was acquitted of the charge of embezzlement and his honour vindicated. The next day Appa returned to Shirdi and told Baba everything. Baba said to him, "The Lord controls everything. He turns the impossible into the possible."

Narayan Krishna Penshe did not believe in Sai Baba but his wife -Mai did. She had a keen desire to go to Shirdi and have Baba's darshan. She pleaded with her husband to take her to the holy man of Shirdi but in vain. "My dear" said Penshe, "there is no holy man in Shirdi. There is only a mad Muslim fellow cheating the foolish people who consider him a saint. Don't insist on having the darshan of such a person. He is simply a beggar who lives off the alms obtained by begging from door to door. The lady was very much disappointed. However, once Penshe happened to go to Shirdi with his wife in the ordinary course of his official work, and while he was busy attending to his duties, his wife went and had Baba's darshan. She was filled with bliss on bowing to Baba. On her return home she told, her husband of her experience and urged him to go and pray to Baba instead of slandering him. Thereupon Penshe went to have Baba's darshan. Seeing him approach the mosque, Baba picked up a stone and shouted at him, "I'll hit you if you come forward. I am a mad low caste Muslim while you are a high-caste Brahmin. Beware of coming near. You'll lose your piety."

Hearing the echo of his own words, Penshe realized that Baba is omnipresent. He said to himself "We talked about him at home and yet he knew what had passed between us. He knows everything. He is present everywhere like air," Later Penshe sought the help of Appa Kulkarni and secured Baba's darshan.

A few days after this incident, Sai Maharaj casually said to Appa, "Thieves have come to our village. They are not the ordinary run of thieves. They do not steal anything tangible from the house. Their eyes are set on the most valuable part of one's wealth. What is more, nobody can catch them in the act of stealing. They will be attacking you first. Go and make proper arrangements." Appa did not understand the meaning of these words. However, he hired some Bhils to guard his house and patrol the lanes.

Continued...

THE DREAMS TRAIN

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

Compiled by Saibandhu Raghu Raman Satulury

19-06-1996:

Sai appeared as my Primary School teacher and said:

Life is like a blank paper. Good words written will attract attention from all. Paper with bad words will be shown the way to dustbin. Always engage in performing good deeds.

Good deeds alone command respect.

24-06-1996:

Sai appeared as an unknown person and said:

1. Presently people are deeply rooted in exhibiting their positions and earning money by any means with utter disregard for the fellow human beings. It makes little or no sense to preach spiritualism to such people.
2. Do not grieve in not being able to give even a Rupee to a fellow human being. Instead feed grass to a cow with the same Rupee. God will appreciate the action.

Human minds are polluted, whereas animals are bestowed with inherent service motto.

DEVOTEES CORNER

Devotees Experiences

GIRNAR Visit & Experience with Sainath Maharaj

OM SAIRAM ~ JAI SAIRAM ~ JAI DATTATREYA

Dear All Shirdi Sai Devotees,

With great excitement, pleasure & happiness, am sharing with you all my experience of shirdi sai baba and visit to Girnar mountains in Junagadh , Saurashtra , Gujarat for the DARSHAN OF THE PADUKAS OF SHRI DATTATREYA. Before narrating the visit details, I would just like to mention the connection of this visit with 2 dreams I had nearly 4 years back and how Baba fulfilled my desires of having his Padukas and rudraksha mala for worship. THE ALL MERCIFUL Sainath Maharaj always gives anubhav and shows his leela's in a very unique way and fulfill the desires and wishes of his true devotees. All we need to have in life is to follow the two divine words given to the world by our perfect master, our Samarth Sadguru Shri Sainath Maharaj of SHRADDHA & SABURI. This visit to girnar was indeed a dream come true in all the ways for me.

As mentioned above, in one of the dreams which I had early morning, I saw the foot prints of Baba in the sky and also the smiling face of Baba which is exactly like one of the very popular photographs of Baba. After some days in another dream, there is aarti of Baba going on and after the aarti I am telling a couple of people about going to Guru Ashram and meeting Baba. A clear mention was made to reach Ahmedabad by a morning flight and from there to go to Guru Ashram. Till this last 2 weeks of October 2009, I had no clue about where Guru Ashram is, what is the Ahmedabad connection and what's the meaning of those dreams which I had. By the grace of Shri Saibaba and guidance of Shri Saibanisa ji, I planned my visit and purchased silver padukas of Baba to touch it to the all Divine and powerful padukas of Lord Dattatreya & perform puja on the Girnar mountains. Saibaba being the avatar of Lord Dattatreya follows the Guru parampara of Shripada Shri Vallabha, Narsimha Saraswati , Manikya Prabhu , Swami Samarth of Akkalkot and then Shirdi Sai Samarth. Baba called me to Girnar Mountains and fulfilled my dream completely and totally by giving the all powerful padukas and darshan in the form of lord Dattatreya.

Now comes the connection between the dreams and Girnar Mountains. As seen in the dreams the padukas in the sky and to my and every one's big surprise in my family we learned that the Dattatreya temple and Padukas are on the last peak of the Girnar Mountains and which can be REACHED ONLY BY CLIMBING 10000 (TEN THOUSAND) STEPS on the Mountains. It is indeed in the sky. Though Rajkot is the nearest airport to reach Junagadh for Girnar , but I could not manage to get a air ticket from Mumbai to Rajkot . Firstly, there are only two Airlines operating between these sector and flights were full. I tried my best but what has to happen will happen. My programme was well decided by Baba in advance and then finally after many failed attempts to reach Junagadh from other places, I finally got a morning flight to Ahmedabad and was thrilled to understand the link and connection.

It was the day to start the journey. On the 25th October Sunday I reached Ahmadabad. The car was arranged on the airport by my friend who also accompanied me for the Girnar visit. Everything about this travel and visit was divine and we could feel Baba's presence every time and in every one. From the airport we first went to Saibaba temple in Sardar colony and took Baba's blessings before starting. Then after a short drive as we got down to have some refreshments, a beggar approached me suddenly and said JAI SAINATH with a big smile on his face and looking straight in to my eyes. I had goose bumps and started talking to him doesn't know why and how. After getting money from us we felt that giving dakhshina to Baba, he left the place giving us all good wishes. The journey was indeed beautiful as we crossed some nice cities of Morbi , and Chotila where the famous Chamunda Mata temple is situated. Drive was very smooth and good and so was the Gujarati food on the way. Finally we reached Girnar in the evening around 5 pm and after checking in the hotel went for a walk towards the mountain to get all required details about the mountain and the dattatreya temple so that we could plan accordingly about climbing which we had decided to start early next morning.

Next morning we woke up early and after doing the Aarti of Saibaba started marching towards the mountain. At one place from the ground from where we could see the mountain and the temple on the top, we first offered our PRANAAM to Lord Dattatreya , Lord Sainath to give us strength and power to climb the otherwise difficult 10000 steps. In the end we did NAMASKAAR to the Girnar Mountain to help, protect us and to make the climb easy for us to reach to the temple. Exactly at 7 am we started to climb the steps chanting JAI SAI JAI JAI SAI continuously. It was the power of this mantra that we succeeded in reaching the temple and coming down safely. Devotees from all walks of life had come for this divine pilgrimage of the Girnar mountains which is the mountain of Sadhu's and Saints and is widely believed and prayed by lakhs of people as the mountain which has all the 36 crores devi , devataas of Indian mythology. It's a very very sacred and holy place. I was so happy and excited as my dream had come true of getting Baba's padukas. I was continuously thanking Baba for showing this leela and offered my koti koti pranaams to Him from my heart for calling me here and giving darshan.

It was a very beautiful sight as there was greenery all over and to entertain you there are lot of monkeys on the way. At 5500 steps first comes the famous AMBAJI temple. This temple of the goddess is very popular and thousands throng to the hill to have darshan of the Goddess Ambaji to get their desires fulfilled. Ambaji temple comes after crossing the Digambar Jain temple. From Jain temple to Ambaji it's a very steep and vertical climb. After having darshan of Ambaji, we started for Dattatreya temple. This climb was not that easy but for every Sai devotee no marg or way is difficult to reach him as he helps you reach him. Once you are on His bhakti marg , he takes complete care of you and helps , guides and protects you all the time. Baba gave me the courage & strength to reach to his temple climbing the sacred & holy 10000 steps. I had a big surgery of abdomen at Hinduja hospital in Mumbai on the 7th of August 2009, but still I managed to climb the mountain just by believing on my master Sainath Maharaj. It was Baba's power and strength that made me successfully complete my darshan.

On reaching Lord Dattatreya temple, we worshiped the Padukas and Lord Dattatreya. The Padukas carried by me were kept on the Padukas of God and with all the rituals and customs the puja was performed and the Padukas were handed over to me back. As I kept the Padukas on my

head for some time I was totally in a different world, completely divine and powerful. I had lots of vibrations and the feeling cannot be expressed in words. Without asking, the priest gave me a rudraakhsa after touching it to the feet of Lord Baba. I was astonished and thanked Sainath Maharaj for fulfilling my desires to have his rudraakhsa maala along with the padukaas. The place there on the top of the mountain is so divine and one can feel Baba's presence there. We started the return journey and by the time we could reach Ambaji temple again, it was 7-30 pm and already dark. We managed to come down another 1500 steps to reach Gaumukhi. My friend wanted to come down that night itself but I wanted to do meditation under a Audumbar tree for some time as per the divine instructions. Audumbar tree is the tree of Lord Dattatreya where he resides and under which he use to meditate and do his dhyaan sadhna. Since morning we did not eat anything except few biscuits and tea at the halts that we took. By this time we were hungry and tired. Now look the Leela of the all MERCIFUL SAIBABA, at Gaumukhi , in the night, in the jungle Baba arranged food and shelter for us to stay overnight. Some sanyasis who reside there came to us, spoke so nicely and invited us for dinner. After the dinner we were given a room to sleep with mattresses, pillows etc. I cannot express my feelings in words. We were in tears of happiness and kept thanking Baba for arranging everything for us in the jungle on the hill top. To my surprise there were three Audambar trees there and in the early morning between 4 & 4-30 I sat under the tree for meditation for an hour. Baba wanted me to do the meditation in the bhrama muhurat and it so happened. Then after, the return journey started and we touched the ground around 11 am. Baba kept us on the holy Girnar Mountain for more than 24 hours and blessed.

Special mention has to be made of a incident that happened while coming down the steps. All of a sudden, a women typically dressed in maharastrian style approached me with a great smile on her face. I don't know what happened to me and we both started chatting. I did not see her group or anybody with her at all. She looked exactly like Bayaji bai , the famous , blessed and true devotee who use to feed Baba daily in Shirdi. She herself asked me that "oh so you have come down after the darshan of Dattatreya so I offer you my pranaam and namaskaar." I was getting positive vibrations. She was looking so concerned for me exactly like how a mother is for her child. Then she informed me that she was from Ahmednagar district. On hearing this I was speechless for a while and then I told her that you are from my Baba's village so I should touch your feet for which she agreed and blessed me. Then in the end she asked me that you have come back down after the darshan , will I be able to climb ? then I removed a small photo of Sainath Maharaj from my pocket and gave it to her and said just keep this in your hands and keep chanting JAI SAI JAI SAI then Baba will himself take you up there and bring back. She again blessed me and we left the place. Now, to think over it, who was this lady? Why did she stopped only me and talking to me? Why did I have the feel of attachment with her? The answer is simple. IT WAS SAIBABA who gave me darshan in that form and blessed me. Finally the journey completed and we touched the grounds after sometime around 11 am.

Baba once again proved that when He calls, He makes all the arrangements. We were very happy and feeling great after reaching down. Thanked Lord Saibaba & Lord Dattatreya . Maa Ambaji and Maruti Bhagwaan and left for our hotel. This is the best memory of my life so far as my dreams came true; I got Baba's Padukas from Him and felt His presence all the time.

My sincere request to all SHIRDI SAI devotees specially those who live in Saurashtra , Gujarat or anywhere in the Western India to surely visit the Dattatreya temple on the Girnar mountains and feel Baba 's bliss and presence and get His blessings. He will come in any form and bless you.

Shri Satchitananda Samartha Sadguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai. BABA BLESS,

ANAND JOSHI (andyboss.anand@gmail.com)

Articles from Devotees

"Sankaraiah Dubagunta" sainama@yahoo.com

Sri Sai Satyavrata Pooja

Baba declared "I do not need any paraphernalia of worship either eight fold or sixteen fold. I rest there where there is full devotion."At the same time He does good to his friend's i.e who surrendered themselves to him and who remember him with unchanging faith. It was in the year 1909 one Bhimaji patil of Poona district (India) suffered from acute tuberculosis. Man looks to god after his efforts to find solutions to the problems fail to produce good results. So also our Bhimaji. He consulted Nanasaheb Chandrorkar who advised him to resort to Baba's feet. He left for Shirdi. On seeing him Baba pointed out that the distance was due to the previous evil karma and he did not leave Baba. Baba was moved and assured his suffering would come to an end.

Doctor's Doctor Sainath gave treatment through the dreams. In the first dream Bhimaji was punished by the school teacher for not reciting poetry lesson. In the second dream someone caused him & intense pain and torture by rolling stone up and down over his chest. With the pain he suffered in the above two dreams, Sai's treatment was over and he went home. As a memory of this happy event Sri Bhimaji started Sri Sai Satya vrata pooja instead of Satya Narayana vrata pooja in his house.

Shri Syama Rao jayakar who was taken to Shirdi by M.V.Pradhan for painting life like picture in oil painting was the painter of famous "Dwarakamai" photo. He narrates that one day one Mr.Varde sought Baba's permission for performing"Satyanarayana" vrata. He brought a small plantain plants and set them on both sides of Baba, to make a pandal and tried to use Baba himself for the God Lakshmi Narayana or Satyanarayana. Though Baba refused, He was ultimately persuaded to accept. Thus Baba himself played the role of Satyanarayana.

Now let us try to analyze and understand what lessons Sai taught us through Bhimaji Patil. One suffers according to one's previous evil karma. But a divine Sainath could save one from the effect of evil karma by making one to suffer as Bhimaji had undergone through dreams. One should be grateful to the lord for interfering and relieving us from evil effects. By playing the role of "Satyanarayana"Sai confirmed He is divine and no difference between him and Lord Narayana.

OM SAI SRI SAI JAYA JAYA SAI. ~ (Posted from the archives of Sai Darbar)

Letters from Devotees

SaiRam

Thank you so much for the "Glory of Shirdi Sai" magazine. I am an ardent reader of this since 5 years and I am so happy that I found this site. May SAI give you the divine blessings.

JAI SAI RAM. ~ Siva

SAI WITH CHILDREN

Dear Children,

This is an amazing story which proves that a “*true devotee*” is superior to the God. I hope this inspires you to increase your faith and devotion towards God.

The devotee was even greater

Once upon a time, sage Narada came into the presence of the Lord. The Lord asked him, "Narada, in all your travels through the world have you been able to discover the principal secret of the universe? Have you been able to understand the mystery behind this world? Everywhere you look you see the five great elements, earth, water, fire, air and ether. Which do you think occupies the first place? Of everything that is to be found in the universe what is the most important of all?"

Narada thought for awhile and then answered, "Lord, of the five elements the densest, biggest and most important is surely the earth element." The Lord answered, "How can the earth element be biggest when three-fourths of the earth is covered by water and only one-fourth is land? Such a big earth is being swallowed by the water. What is bigger, the thing that is being swallowed or that which is swallowing it?" Narada acknowledged that water must be bigger because it had swallowed the Earth.

The Lord continued his questioning. He said, "But Narada, we have the ancient tale that when the demons hid in the waters, then in order to find them, a great sage came and swallowed up the whole ocean in one gulp. Do you think the sage is greater or the ocean is greater?" Narada had to agree that without doubt the sage was certainly greater than the water he had swallowed. "But," the Lord continued, "It is said that when he left his earthly body, this same sage became a star in the heavens. Such a great sage is now appearing only as a small star in the vast expanse of the sky. Then what do you think is bigger; is it the sage or is it the sky that is bigger?" Narada answered, "Swami, the sky is surely bigger than the sage." Then the Lord asked, "Yet we know that one time when the Lord came as avatar and incarnated in a dwarf-body, he expanded himself so hugely that he was able to cover both the earth and the sky with his one foot. Do you think God's foot is bigger or the sky?" "O, God's foot is certainly bigger," Narada replied. But, the Lord asked, "If God's foot is so big, then what about his infinite form?"

Now, Narada felt that he had come to the final conclusion. "Yes," he said exultantly, "the Lord is the biggest of all. He is infinite beyond measure. In all the worlds there is nothing greater than he." But the Lord had still one more question. "What about the devotee who has been able to imprison this infinite Lord within his own heart? Now tell me, Narada, who is greater, the devotee who has the Lord locked up or the Lord who is locked up by the devotee?" Narada had to admit that the devotee was even greater than the Lord, and that, therefore, the devotee must rank first in importance over everything, surpassing even the Lord.

Source: Chinna Katha

SPIRITUAL GEMS FROM SAI SATCHARITA

Chapter XXXV

Tested and Never Found Wanting

Kaka Mahajani's Friend and Master - Bandra Insomnia Case - Bala Patil Newaskar.

This Chapter also continues the subject of the importance of the Udi; it also gives two cases in which Baba was tested and was not found wanting. These cases will be taken up first.

Preliminary

In spiritual matters or endeavours, sectarianism is the greatest bar to our progress. Those, who believe that the God is without form, are heard saying that to believe the God is with the form is an illusion and that the Saints are only human beings. Then why should they bend their heads before them and offer Dakshina? Persons belonging to other sects will also raise objections and say, "Why should they bow and offer allegiance to other Saints, leaving their Sadgurus?" Similar objections regarding Sai Baba were heard before and are heard even now. Some said that when they went to Shirdi, Baba asked for Dakshina from them. Is it good that Saints should collect money in this fashion? If they do so, where is their Sainthood? But there are many instances where men went to Shirdi to scoff; but remained there to pray. Two such instances are given below.

Sai Ram. God is indeed without form and can take any form as needed to help us, who are His creations and thus carry the divine spark in us. To say that the creation is different / separate from the Creator is to look at Truth from a narrow, sectarian, blinkered vision like the blind men trying to describe the elephant.

Continued...

EDITORIAL

Jai Sai Ram

“Do not be idle: work, utter God’s name and read the scriptures.”

Dear SaiBandhu's,

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.

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Submitted by:

Sai Sevak Badri Narasimhan

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