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RAM NAVMI | NAV DURGA | SAI LEELAS

SAMARPAN

April 2021



Sai Ram to all the devotees,

Happy Ram Navami & Navratri to you and your loved ones!

SAMARPAN is here with yet another edition based on the theme of Ram Navami.

In this edition, we have included the Sai Satcharitra Chapter-VI, which gives an insight on how Baba initiated and encouraged the celebration of Ram Navami in Shirdi. We have also included a short explanation for nine forms of Durga with specific mantras for each form.

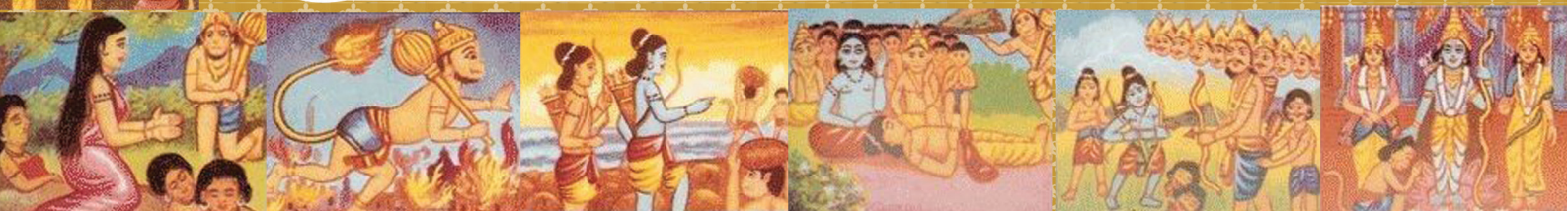
*Samarpan can never be complete without Sai Leelas and so we have incorporated various divine Leela's of our beloved Baba, experienced by his devotees around the world. I pray to Baba that he helps you all to dive deep in the ocean of these Leelas and get the precious pearls of **Shraddha** and **Saburi** in your life.*

Last but not the least we have added a beautiful article, which I am sure will change your perspective towards the problems in your life.

I'd like to thank the entire team of Samarpan for their efforts and inputs. Hope you enjoy this edition.

Om Sai Ram!

*On the behalf of Samarpan Team
Neha*



TEAM SAMARPAN



**Under Baba's blessings
and guidance**

Ravi

Dr. Neeta Pradhan Das

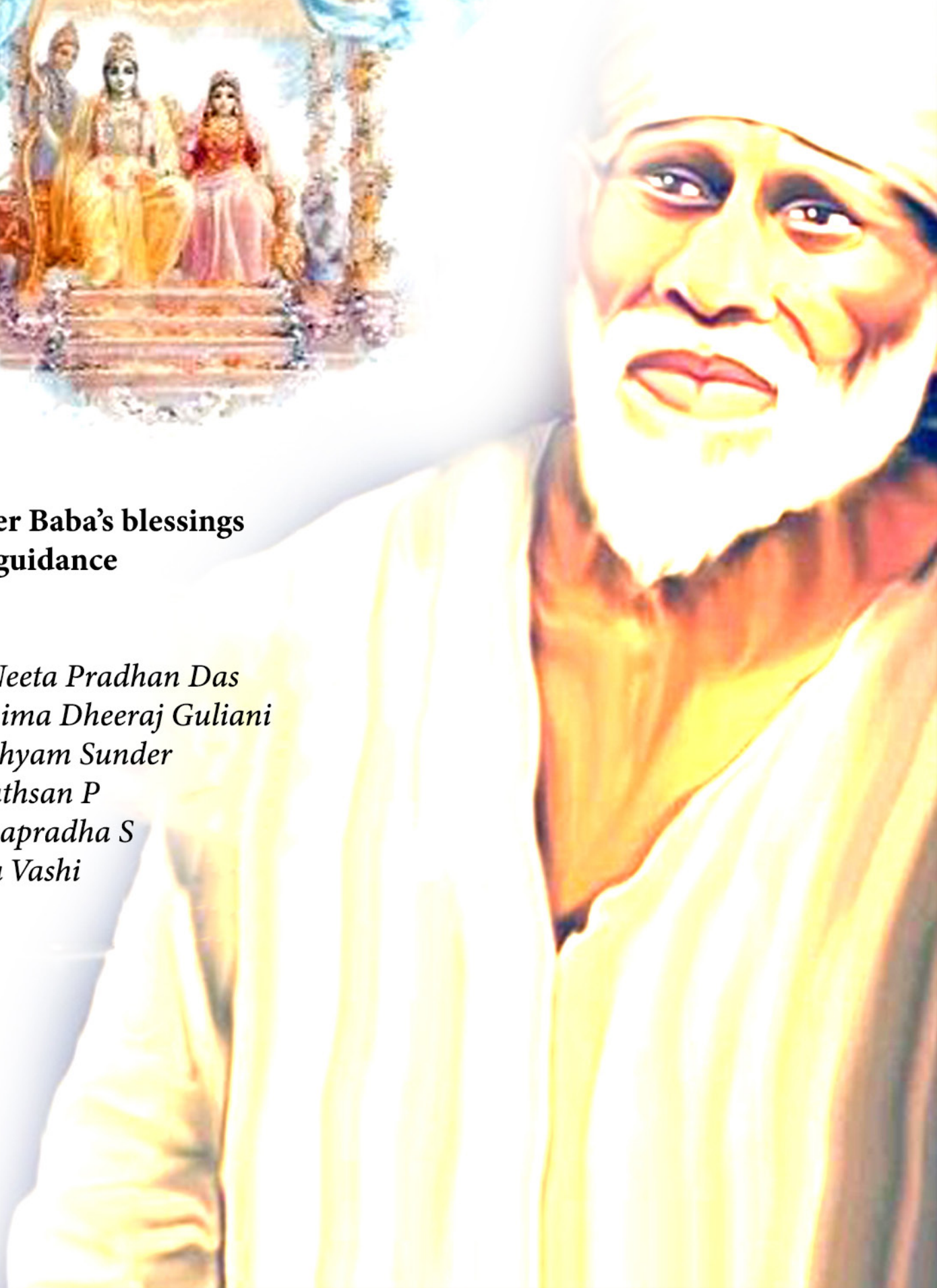
Purnima Dheeraj Guliani

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Subhpradha S

Neha Vashi



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SAI SATCHARITRA CHAPTER VI

RAMA-NAVAMI FESTIVAL AND MASJID REPAIRS

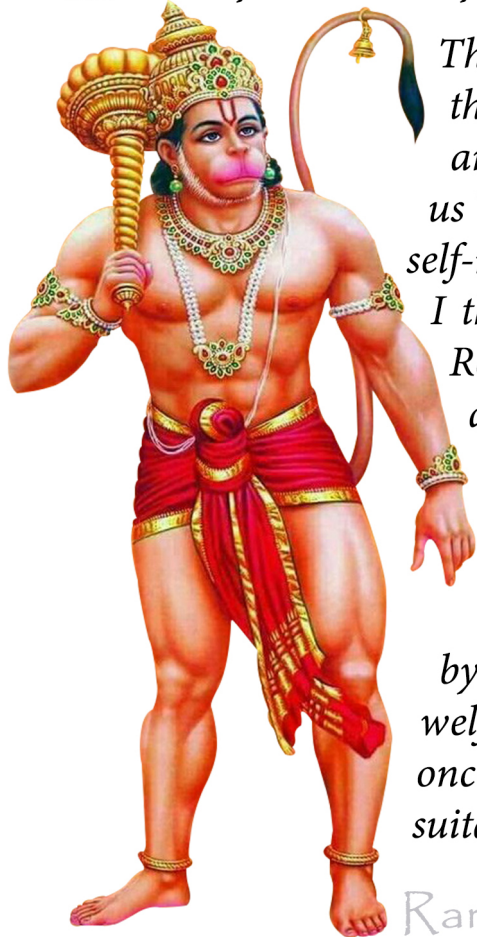
Efficacy of the Touch of Guru's Hand - Rama-Navami Festival - Its Origin, Transformation etc. Repairs to the Masjid.

Before describing Rama-Navami Festival and Masjid Repairs, the author makes some preliminary remarks about Sad-Guru as follows: -

Efficacy of the Touch of Guru's Hand

Where Real or Sadguru is the helmsman, he is sure to carry us safely and easily beyond the worldly ocean. The word Sadguru brings to mind Sai Baba. He appears to me, as if standing before me, and applying Udi (scared ashes) to my forehead and placing his hand of blessing on my head. Then joy fills my heart and love overflows through my eyes. Wonderful is the power of the touch of Guru's hand. The subtle-body (consisting of thoughts and desires), which cannot be burnt by the world dissolving fire, is destroyed by the mere touch of the Guru's hand, and the sins of many past births are cleaned and washed away. Even the speech of those, whose heads feel annoyed when they hear religious and Godly talks, attains calmness.

The seeing of Sai Baba's handsome form, chokes our throat with joy, makes the eyes overflowing with tears, and overwhelms the heart with emotions. It awakens in us 'I am He (Brahman)' consciousness, manifests the joy of self-realization, and dissolving the distinction of Thou, and I then and there, makes us one with the Supreme (One Reality). When I begin to read scriptures, at every step I am reminded of my Sadguru, and Sai Baba, assumes the form of Rama or Krishna and makes me listen to his Life. For instance when I sit to listen to Bhagwat, Sai becomes Krishna from top to toe, and I think he sings the Bhagwat or Uddhava Gita (song of teachings by Lord Shri Krishna to His disciple, Uddhava) for the welfare of the devotees. When I begin to chitchat, I am at once put in mind of Sai's stories for enabling me to give suitable illustrations. When I myself start to write anything,



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He also was similarly unhappy in the matter of progeny, though he married two wives. Sai Baba too blessed him with sons, and Mr. Gund prevailed upon his friend to prepare and supply one simple flag for the procession of the fair; he also succeeded in inducing Mr. Nanasaheb Nimonkar to supply another embroidered flag. Both these flags were taken in procession through the village, and finally fixed at the two ends or corners of the Masjid, which is called by Sai Baba as Dwarkamai. This is being done even now.

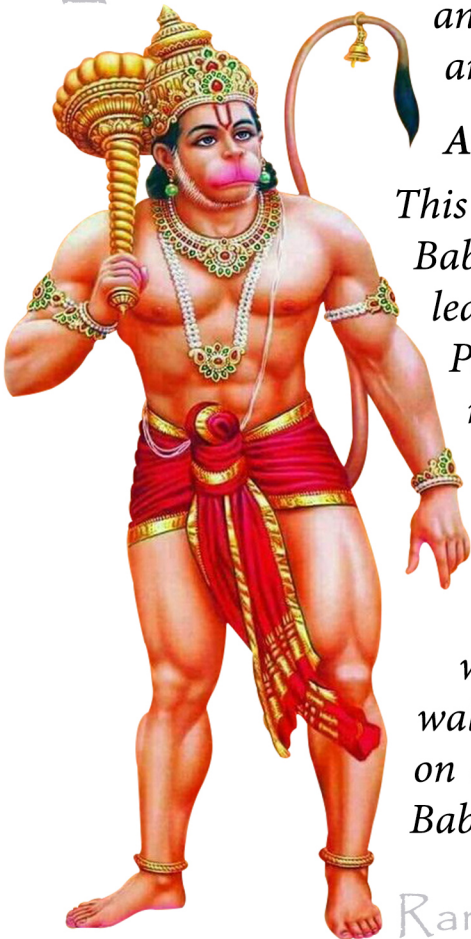
The 'Sandal' Procession

There was another procession, which was started in this fair. This idea of 'Sandal' procession originated with one Mr. Amir Shakkar Dalal, a Mahomedan Bhakta from Korhla. This procession is held in honour of great Muslim Saints. Sandal i.e. Chandan paste and scrappings are put in the THALI (flat dishes), and these are carried with incense burning before them in procession to the accompaniment of band and music through the village and then after returning to the Masjid, the contents of the dishes are thrown on the 'Nimbar' (nitche) and walls of the Masjid with hands. This work was managed by Mr. Amir Shakkar for the first three years, and then afterwards by his wife. So on one day, the two processions, the 'Flags' by the Hindus

and that of 'Sandal' by the Muslims, went on side by side, and are still going on without any hitch.

Arrangement

This day was very dear and sacred to the devotees of Sai Baba. Most of them turned out on the occasion, and took a leading part in the management of the fair. Tatyia Kote Patil looked to all outward affairs, while the internal management was entirely left to one Radha Krishna Mai, a female devotee of Baba. Her residence was full of guests on the occasion, and she had to look to their needs, and also to arrange for all the paraphernalia of the fair. Another work, which she willingly did, was to wash out and clean and white-wash the entire Masjid, its walls and floor, which were blackened and were full of soot on account of the ever-burning Dhuni (sacred fire) of Sai Baba. This work, she did during the night, when Sai Baba



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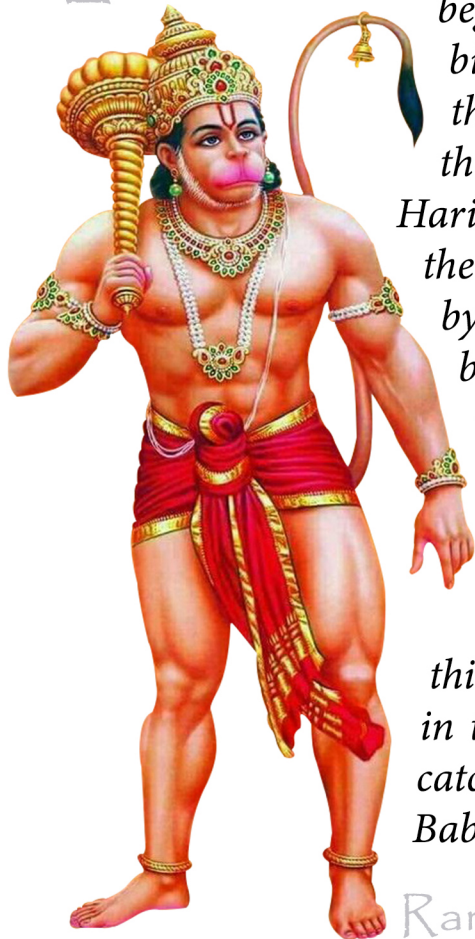


went to sleep every alternate day in the Chavadi. She had to take out all the things, including even the Dhuni, and after thorough cleaning and whitewashing replace them, as they were before. Feeding the poor, which was so dear to Sai Baba, was also a great item in this fair. For this purpose, cooking, on a grand scale and preparing various sweet dishes, was done in Radha-Krishna Mai's lodging, and, various rich and wealthy devotees took a leading part in this affair.

Transformation of Urus into Rama-Navami Festival

Things were going on in this way and the fair was gradually increasing in importance till 1912 A.D., when a change took place. That year one devotee, Mr. Krishnarao Jageshwar Bhisma (the author of the pamphlet 'Sai Sagunopasana'), came for the fair with Dadasaheb Khaparde of Amraoti, and was staying on the previous day in the Dixit Wada. While he was lying on the verandah, and while Mr. Laxmanrao alias Kaka Mahajani, was going down with Puja materials to the Masjid, a new thought arose in his mind and he accosted the latter thus - There is some providential arrangement in the fact that the Urus or fair is celebrated in Shirdi on the Rama-Navami day. This day is very dear to all the Hindus; then why not

begin the Rama-Navami Festival - the celebration of the birth of Shri Rama here on this day? Kaka Mahajani liked the idea, and it was arranged to get Baba's permission in this matter. The main difficulty was how to secure a Haridas, who would perform 'Kirtan' and sing the glories of the Lord on the occasion. But Bhisma solved the difficulty, by saying that his 'Rama Akhyan' (composition on Rama's birth) was ready, and he would do the 'Kirtan' himself, while Kaka Mahajani should play on the harmonium. It was also arranged to get the 'Sunthavada' (ginger-powder mixed with sugar) as Prasad prepared by Radha-Krishna Mai. So they immediately went to the Masjid to get Baba's permission. Baba, who knew all things and what was passing there, as to what was going on in the Wada. Being rather perturbed, Mahajani could not catch the purport of the question and remained silent. Then Baba asked Bhisma, what he had to say. He explained the



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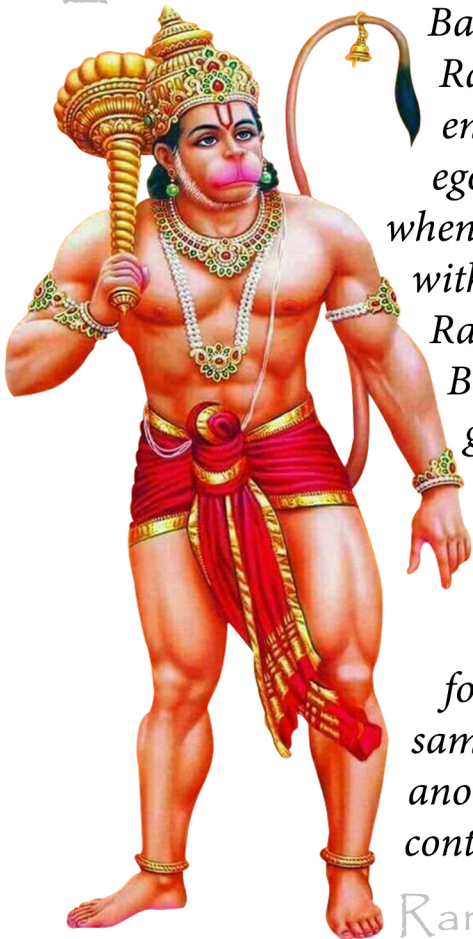


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idea of celebrating Rama-Navami festival, and asked for Baba's permission and Baba gladly gave it. All rejoiced and made preparations for the Jayanti-festival. Next day, the Masjid was decorated with buntings etc., a cradle was supplied by Radha-Krishna Mai, and placed in front of Baba's seat and the proceedings started. Bhishma stood up for Kirtan and Mahajani played on the harmonium. Sai Baba sent a man to call Mahajani. He was hesitating to go, doubting whether Baba would allow the festival to go on, but when he went to Baba, the latter asked him as to what was going on and why the cradle was placed there. He answered that the Rama-Navami festival had commenced, and the cradle was put on for that purpose. Then Baba took a garland from the 'Nimbar' (nitche), and placed it round his neck and sent another garland for Bhishma. Then commenced the Kirtan. When it came to a close, pound sounds of "Victory to Rama" went up; and Gulal (red - powder) was thrown up all round, amidst band and music. Everybody was overjoyed, when suddenly roaring was heard. The red-powder thrown promiscuously all round, went up, somehow entered Baba's eyes. Baba got wild and began to scold and abuse loudly. People got frightened by this scene and took to their heels. Those intimate devotees, who knew Baba well, took these scoldings and outpourings of

Baba, as blessings in disguise. They thought that when Rama was born, it was proper for Baba to get wild and enraged to kill Ravana; and his demons, in the form of egoism and wicked thoughts etc. Besides they knew, that whenever a new thing was undertaken at Shirdi, it was usual with Baba to get wild and angry, and so they kept quiet. Radha-Krishna Mai was rather afraid; and thought that Baba might break her cradle, and she asked Mahajani to get the cradle back. When he went to loosen and unfasten the cradle, Baba went to him, and asked him not to remove it. Then after some time, Baba became calm, and that day's programme, including Mahapuja and Arati was finished. Later on, Mr. Mahajani asked Baba, for permission to remove the cradle, Baba refused the same saying, that the festival was not yet finished. Next day, another 'Kirtan' and Gopal-Kala ceremony (an earthen pot containing parched rice mixed with curds is hung, only to be



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Though all this paraphernalia increased enormously, Sai Baba ignored all these things, and maintained His simplicity as before. It is to be noted that both the Hindus and Mahomedans have been working in unison in both the processions, and during the entire festival, there has been no hitch or quarrel between them at all so far. First about 5000-7000 people used to collect, but that figure went up to 75000 in some years; still there was no outbreak of any epidemic or any riots worth the name during so many past years.

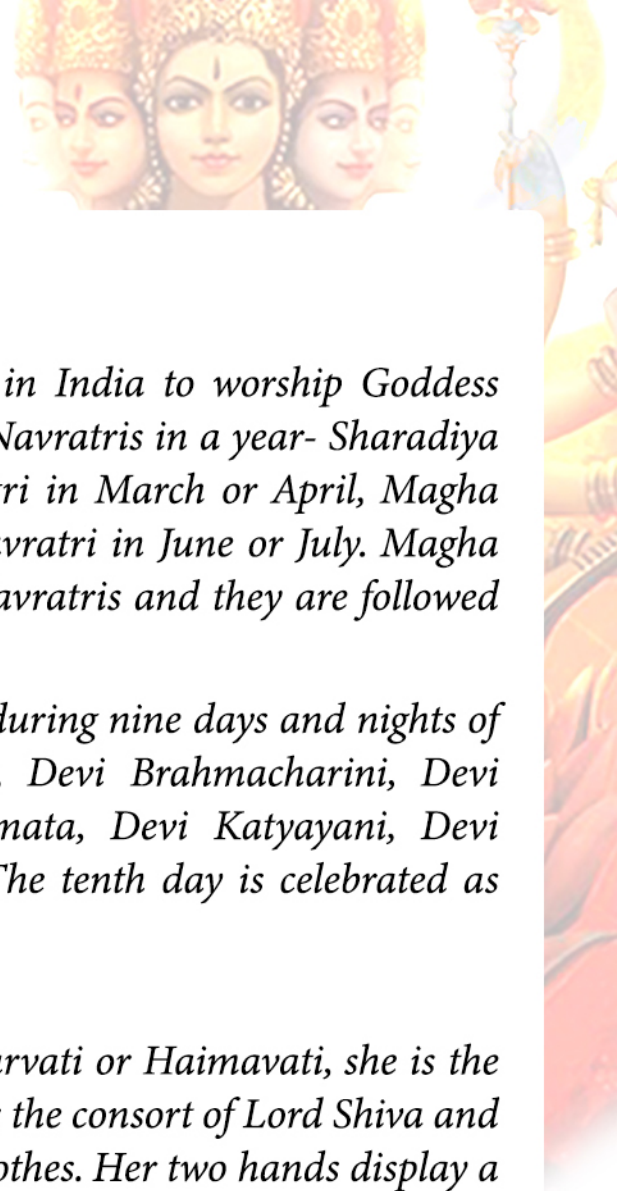
Repairs to the Masjid

Another important idea occurred to Gopal Gund. Just as he started the Urus or fair, he thought that he should put the Masjid in order. So in order to carry out the repairs, he collected stones and got them dressed. But this work was not assigned to him. This was reserved for Nanasaheb Chandorkar, and the pavement-work for Kakasaheb Dixit. First, Baba was unwilling to allow them to have these works done, but with the intervention of Mahalsapati, a local devotee of Baba, His permission was secured. When the pavement was completed in one night in the Masjid, Baba took a small Gadi for His seat, discarding the usual piece of sack-cloth used till then. In 1911, the Sabha-Mandap (court-yard) was also put in order with great labour and effort.

The open space in front of the Masjid was very small and inconvenient. Kakasaheb Dixit wanted to extend it and put on it roofing. At great expense, he got iron-posts, and pillars and trusses and started the work. At night, all the devotees worked hard and fixed the posts; but Baba, when he returned from Chavadi next morning, uprooted them all and threw them out. Once it so happened that Baba got very excited, caught a pole with one hand, and began to shake and uproot it, and with the other hand caught the neck of Tatya Patil. He took by force Tatya's Pheta, struck a match, set it on fire and threw it in a pit. At that time, Baba's eyes flashed like burning embers. None dared to look at Him. All got terribly frightened. Baba took out a rupee from his pocket and threw it there, as if it were an offering on an auspicious occasion. Tatya also was much frightened. None knew what was going to happen to Tatya, and none dared to interfere. Bhagoji Shinde, the leper



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NAVDURGA AND MANTRAS

Shared by: Dr Major Nalini Janardhanan

Navratri (Festival of Nine nights) are celebrated in India to worship Goddess Durga who is the form of Shakti. There are total 4 Navratri in a year- Sharadiya Navratri in September or October, Chaitra Navratri in March or April, Magha Navratri in January or February and Ashadha Navratri in June or July. Magha Navratri and Ashadha Navratri are called Gupt Navratri and they are followed only by the Tantric practitioners.

Navdurga or Nine forms of Durga are worshipped during nine days and nights of all the 4 Navratri. They are Devi Shailaputri, Devi Brahmacharini, Devi Chandraghanta, Devi Kushmanda, Devi Skandmata, Devi Katyayani, Devi Kalratri, Devi Mahagauri and Devi Siddhidatri. The tenth day is celebrated as Dussehra.

1. MAA SHAILAPUTRI

She is worshipped on the 1st day. Also known as Parvati or Haimavati, she is the daughter of the King of Mountains, Himalaya. She is the consort of Lord Shiva and the form of Shakti. She rides a bull and wears red clothes. Her two hands display a trident and a lotus.

Mantra:

**Vande Vanchhit Laabhaay, Chandrardhkritshekharaam |
Vrisharudham Shooldharaam Shailputriim Yashaswinim ||**

Meaning: *I worship Goddess Shailputri to fulfil my wishes, who is adorned with crescent moon on her head, rides on a bull, carrying a trishul and is illustrious.*

2. MAA BRAHMACHARINI

She is worshipped on the 2nd day. She is dressed in white clothes and is holding a rosary of Rudraksha beads in right hand and a Kamandalu (holy water pot) on left hand. She did tapasya (penance) for getting Lord Shiva as her husband.

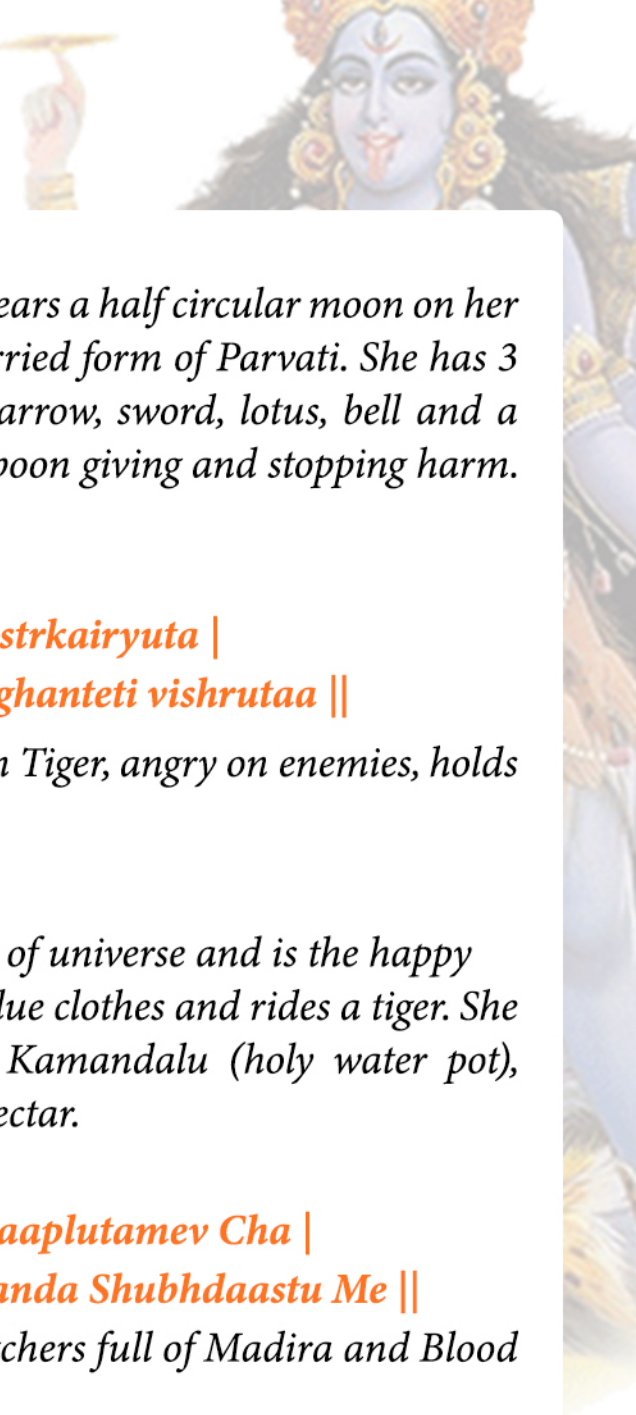
Mantra:

**Dadhaanaa Kar Padmaabhyamakshmala
Kamandaloo |**

Devi Prasidatu Mayi Brahmcharinyanuttamaa ||

Meaning: *O Goddess Brahmcharini, who holds Rosary and Kamandalu in her hands, please on me.*





3. MAA CHANDRAGHANTA

She is worshipped on the 3rd day of Navratri. She wears a half circular moon on her forehead which is shaped like a bell and is the married form of Parvati. She has 3 eyes and 10 hands holding a trident, mace, bow-arrow, sword, lotus, bell and a water pot. The remaining hands are in mudras of boon giving and stopping harm. She has a golden complexion.

Mantra:

***Pindaj Pravaarudh chandkopastrkairyuta |
Prasadam Tanute Madhyam Chandraghanteti vishrutaa ||***

Meaning: O Goddess Chandraghanta, who rides on Tiger, angry on enemies, holds many weapons in 10 hands, be propitious to me.

4. MAA KUSHMANDA

She is worshipped on the 4th day. She is the creator of universe and is the happy manifestation of Goddess Durga. She wears royal blue clothes and rides a tiger. She is depicted as having 8 or 10 hands holding a Kamandalu (holy water pot), bow-arrow, disc, mace, lotus, rosary and a pot of nectar.

Mantra:

***Suraasampoorna Kalasham Rudhiraaplutamev Cha |
Dadhaanaa Hastpadmaabhyaam Kushmanda Shubhdaastu Me ||***

Meaning: Goddess Kushmanda who holds two pitchers full of Madira and Blood in her lotus hands, be propitious to me.

5. MAA SKANDAMATA

She is worshipped on 5th day of Navratri. She is riding a lion and has 3 eyes and 4 hands. She holds her son Skanda (Karthikeya) on her lap with her right lower arm. Her two upper arms are holding lotus and her left lower arm is in abhay mudra.

Mantra:

***Sinhaasangataam Nityam Padmaanchit
Kardwayaa |***

Shubhdaastu Sadaa Devi Skandmata Yashaswini ||

Meaning: Skandmata, who rides on Lion with Karthikeya, holds lotus in her two hands and Varmudra in one hand, be propitious to me.



6. MAA KATYAYANI

She is worshipped on the 6th day. She wears green clothes and rides a lion. She holds a sword in one hand and the other hand is giving blessing. Even when fighting the demons of the vices, this hand shows her children that she fights for us and we shouldn't worry. She has 3 eyes. She is also known as Mahishasuramardini. All the Gods gifted her different weapons.

Mantra:

**Chandrahaasojval Karaa Shaardoolvarvaahanaa |
Katyayani Shubham Dadyaad Devi Daanavghatini ||**

Meaning: Devi Katyayani, who holds Chandrahaas Sword and other weapons in her ten hands, rides on Lion and destroying demons, be propitious to me.

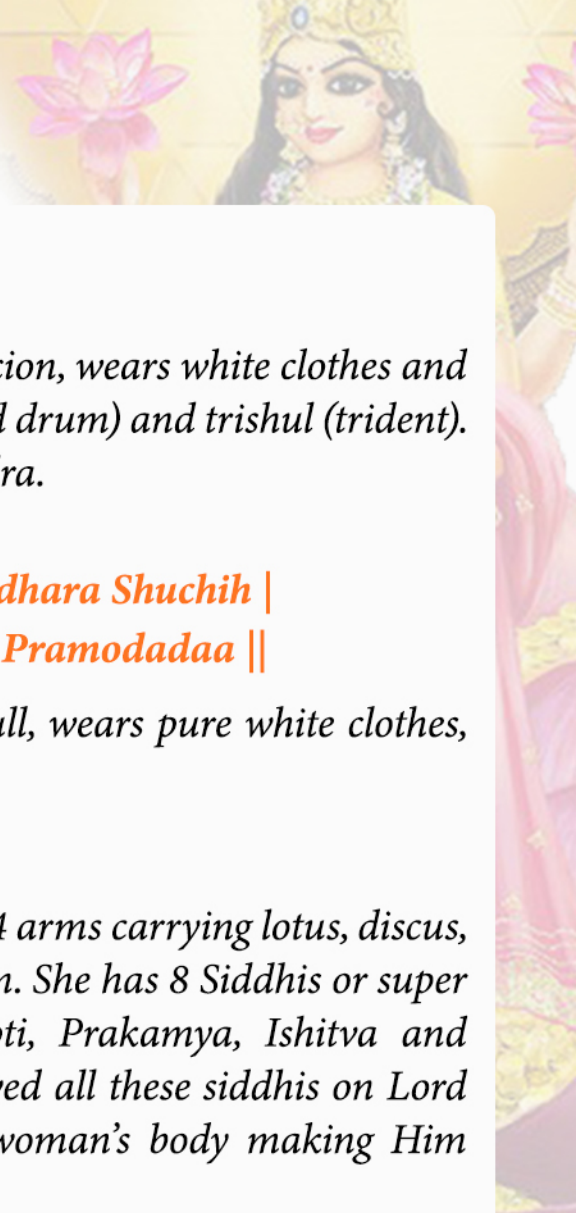
7. MAA KAALRATRI

She is worshipped on the 7th day of Navratri. She has a black or dark blue complexion and long hair. She has 3 eyes and 4 hands -2 hands holding a cleaver and a deadly sabre. 2 hands in mudras of giving abhaya and protecting varada.

Mantra:

**Ekveni Japakarnpoora Nagna Kharaasthita |
Lamboshthi Karnika karni Tailaabhyaktshariirini ||
Vaam Paadollasallohlata Kantakbhushanaa |
Bardhan Moordham Dhvajaa Krishnaa Kalratrirbhayankari ||**

Meaning: This mantra describes her form. She is naked, rides on a donkey, long tongue, lustrous body, wearing ornaments in legs like lightning, black in colour, unlocked hair, big eyes and ears and very dangerous looking. Meditating on this form of Kalratri removes all obstacles as well as removes all magical effects created by others.



8. MAA MAHAGAURI

She is worshipped on the 8th day. She has fair complexion, wears white clothes and rides a bull. She has 4 hands - 2 holding damaru (hand drum) and trishul (trident). The other 2 hands in abhaya mudra and varada mudra.

Mantra:

***Shwete Vrishesamarudha Shwetaambardhara Shuchih |
Mahagauri Shubham Dadyanmahadev Pramodadaa ||***

Meaning: Goddess Mahagauri who rides on white bull, wears pure white clothes, giver of happiness, be propitious to me.

9. MAA SIDDHIDHATRI

She is worshipped on the 9th day of Navratri. She has 4 arms carrying lotus, discus, mace and conch shell. She sits on a lotus or rides a lion. She has 8 Siddhis or super powers -Anima, Mahima, Garima, Laghima, Prapti, Prakamya, Ishitva and Vashitva. As per the legend, Maa Siddhidhatri bestowed all these siddhis on Lord Shiva and also converted half of His body into a woman's body making Him Ardhanarishwar.

Mantra:

***Siddha Gandharva Yakshdyairasurairamarairapi |
Sevyamaanaa Sadabhuyaat Siddhida Siddhidayini ||***

Meaning: Goddess Siddhidatri who is worshipped by Siddha, Gandharva, Yaksh, Gods, Demons, etc., holds Conch, Chakra, Gada and Lotus in her hands, giver of all siddhis and victory all over, be propitious to me.

***May Maa Durga bless us.
Om Dum Durgayei Namaha!***



BABA UNITED US WITH “BELLA”

SHARED BY: BHARATH BAIL

Om SAI Ram!

It was somewhere in the first week of February 2021, that one evening we noticed our Pet Cat “Bella” was missing. She is just 8 months old and totally domesticated and has no outside world experience.

This upset us badly because just a couple of weeks earlier we had lost our Dog who was part of our family for over 13 years and losing the cat would have shattered us :(

My wife and daughter looked all over... inside our house as well as outside, but found no signs of her and a few hours later it left us with a sinking feeling that we have lost her too. Then I looked at the photo of BABA and prayed to Him from the bottom of my heart and requested His help. I also promised BABA that if we find her, I will share my

experience in the Samarpan Magazine....

Believe it or not...

a few minutes later, we got a call from my Dad that Bella, our cat had found its way to their apartment, which is right above ours and was meowing gently looking at his face and looking lost. The joy we felt when we were reunited with our Bella was absolute...

BABA has always guided me and helped me; I know He is always there for his devotees...

Keeping with my promise to BABA, I feel very happy to share this experience!

Om SAI Ram!





SAI GAVE ME A NEW LIFE!

SHARED BY: ANONYMOUS

Aum SAI Ram!

With SAI BABA's blessings, I would like to share this miracle with all of you.

On 18th March 1994, that also happens to be my Wedding Anniversary, I was almost on my death bed. Doctors Said only miracles could save me. That time my husband prayed to BABA for my

recovery and promised Him that we will visit Shirdi and get SAI's blessings for our next Wedding Anniversary.

Soon, BABA blessed me and to the surprise of everyone, including the Doctors who were attending me, I started recovering.

So with SAI's blessings the next year we boarded the train with family to celebrate our Wedding Anniversary at Shirdi Mandir. A Doctor also accompanied us. Suddenly, I developed high temperature in the train. The Doctor immediately gave me antibiotics but my fever did not reduce. As planned we got down at Ambarnath. I was so weak that my Uncle carried me from the station to the car and we stayed a night at Ambarnath.

The next day we had to leave for Shirdi but the Doctor advised us that I should not take the journey to Shirdi because my temp was 104 degrees Celsius. But my husband insisted that he had promised to SAI that we will go for His darshan. So we proceeded on our journey, as planned. I was still running very high temperature.



You will not believe but the moment I reached the Mandir my fever just vanished.

Our BABA is divine and I feel blessed to have experienced this Leela of BABA.

Till date SAI is taking care of me and trust me, SAI will always take care of all His devotees.

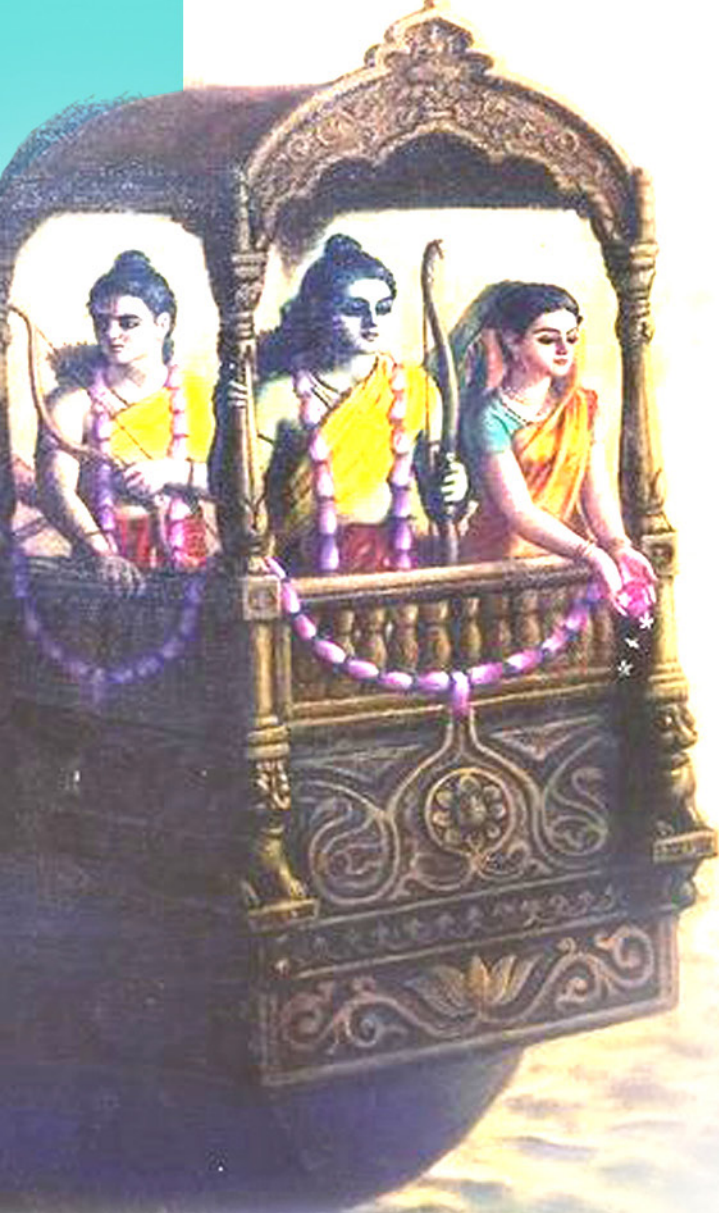


Just keep Faith and have Patience, like He has preached "Shradha" and "Saburi".

He tests us often but we have to hold Him with unconditional faith.

Sarvasva Sharanagathi

Aum Sai Ram!





BABA'S MIRACLE IN SAVING OUR HOUSE

SHARED BY: RAJALAKSHMI BOGGAVARAPU

Om Sai Ram

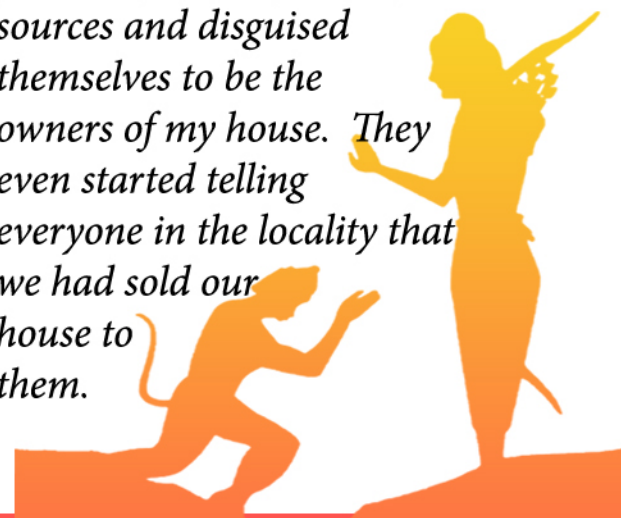
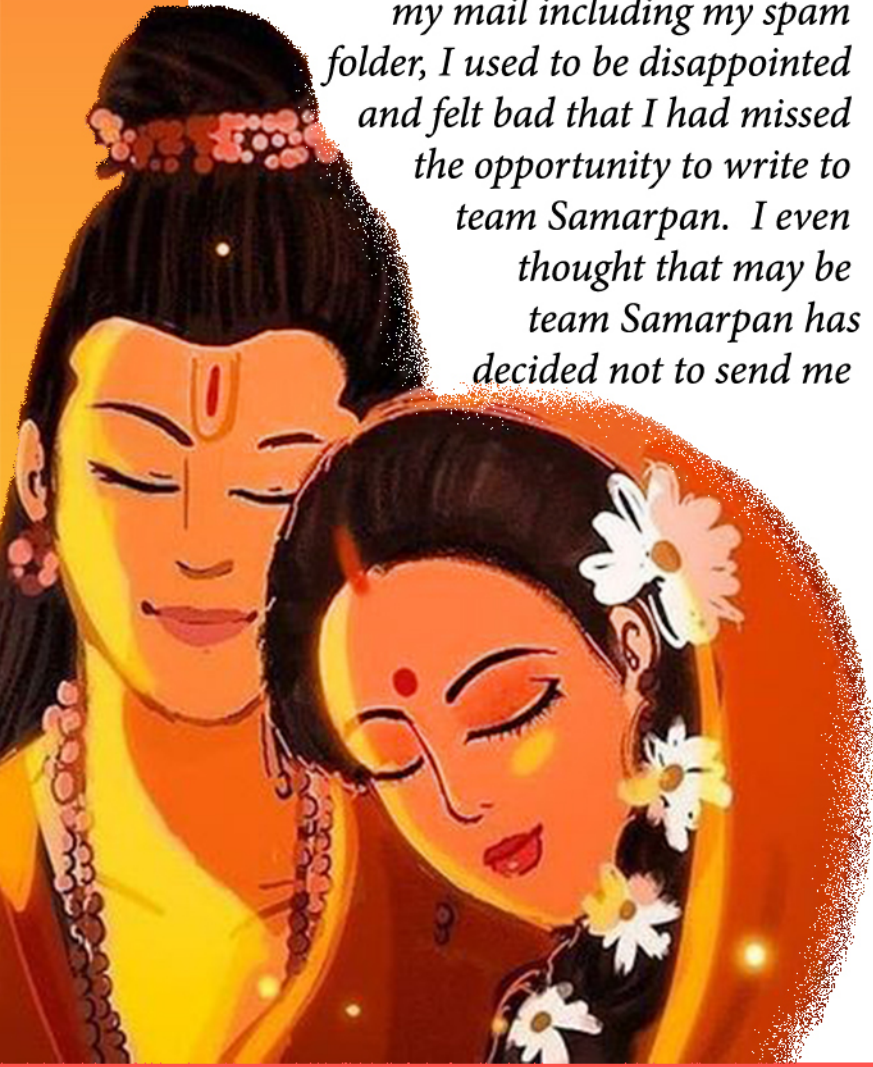
I would like to share this miracle of Sadguru Sainath with all of you. Am really blessed to see BABA's grace on me irrespective of all the difficulties that came along the way.

During January 2021, I was wishing to share my experience about SAIBABA in Samarpan and I was literally waiting for an e-mail inviting devotees to share their experiences. But whenever I checked my mail including my spam folder, I used to be disappointed and felt bad that I had missed the opportunity to write to team Samarpan. I even thought that maybe team Samarpan has decided not to send me

any email regarding the same. I prayed to BABA that I wanted to share my experience and gradually, I forgot about this topic.

To my surprise, I think within 2 weeks time, I got an email from team Samarpan, to submit any spiritual experiences. Am so happy with this little miracle, that I wanted to share this miracle with all devotees even before sharing my actual experience with BABA.

So, coming to the actual miracle of BABA. We had given our house on a lease for an agreement of 3 years tenure. Unfortunately, the tenants were behaving really bad and were rude to us. Moreover, they started to threaten us, that they will not handover our house even after the agreement. With their strong political background, they started gathering people from different sources and disguised themselves to be the owners of my house. They even started telling everyone in the locality that we had sold our house to them.



This problem was beyond our control and caused a lot of stress and anxiety for me and my family. That's when I started to remember, Sai Satcharitra and I followed one story exactly, where 2 persons come from Goa to get blessings from BABA. One of the person, who lost his currency 30,000 by his cook and then the Fakir tells him to leave his favourite food till he gets back the lost money. The person stops eating rice till he gets his money back.

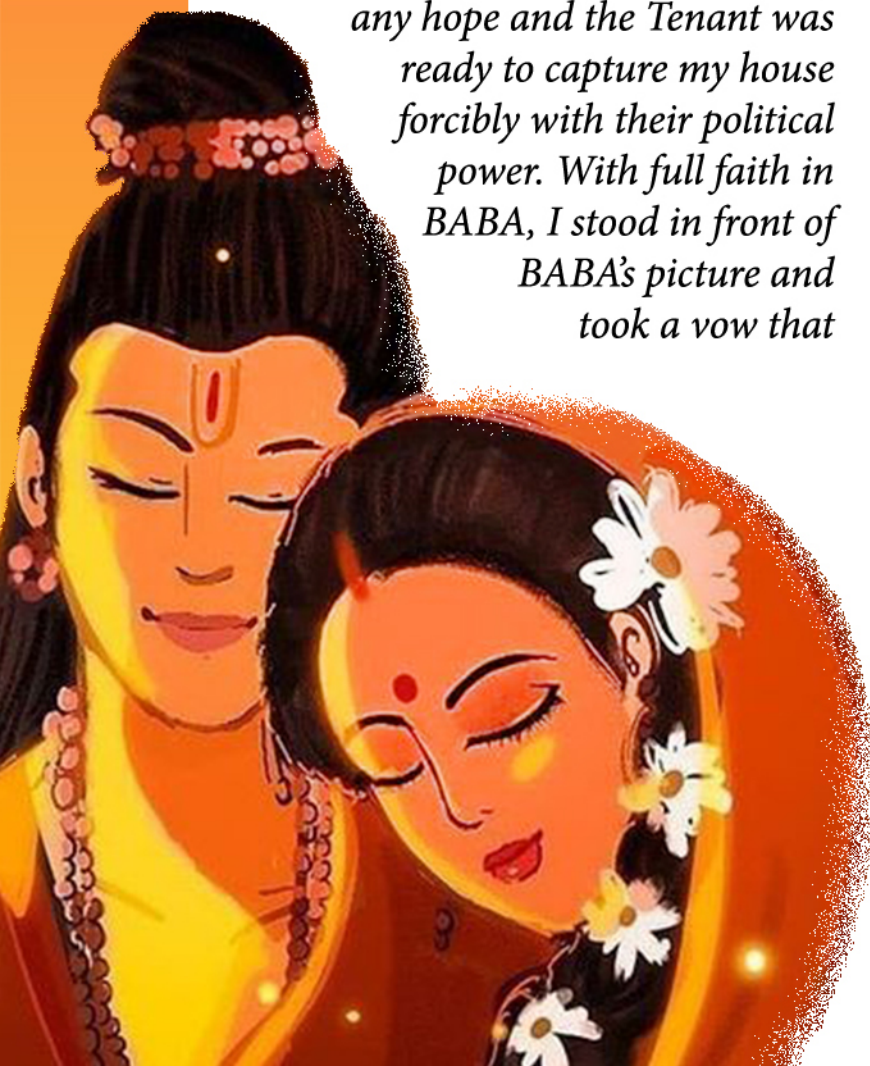
In my case as well, there was hardly any hope and the Tenant was ready to capture my house forcibly with their political power. With full faith in BABA, I stood in front of BABA's picture and took a vow that

“I will stop eating rice till I get my house back from them peacefully, without any violence.”

Believe it or not, I stopped eating rice from March 2020 and much before the expiry of the 3 year tenure, the tenants moved out of my house in November 2020. This is indeed nothing else but SAI BABA's miracle.

My house is saved by BABA and now we are happily living in that house, after Guru Puja. My crores of Pranam to Sai BABA for saving my family and my house from evil minded people.

May BABA shower His blessings on us always.





SAIRAM IS MY FATHER

SHARED BY: DTP & DESIGNING

Dear SAI Devotees,

I too am a devotee of SAIRAM. I want to share my experience with all of you. I feel SAIRAM is my father as He always takes care of me and my child. I am dependant on Lord SAIRAM every second of my life.

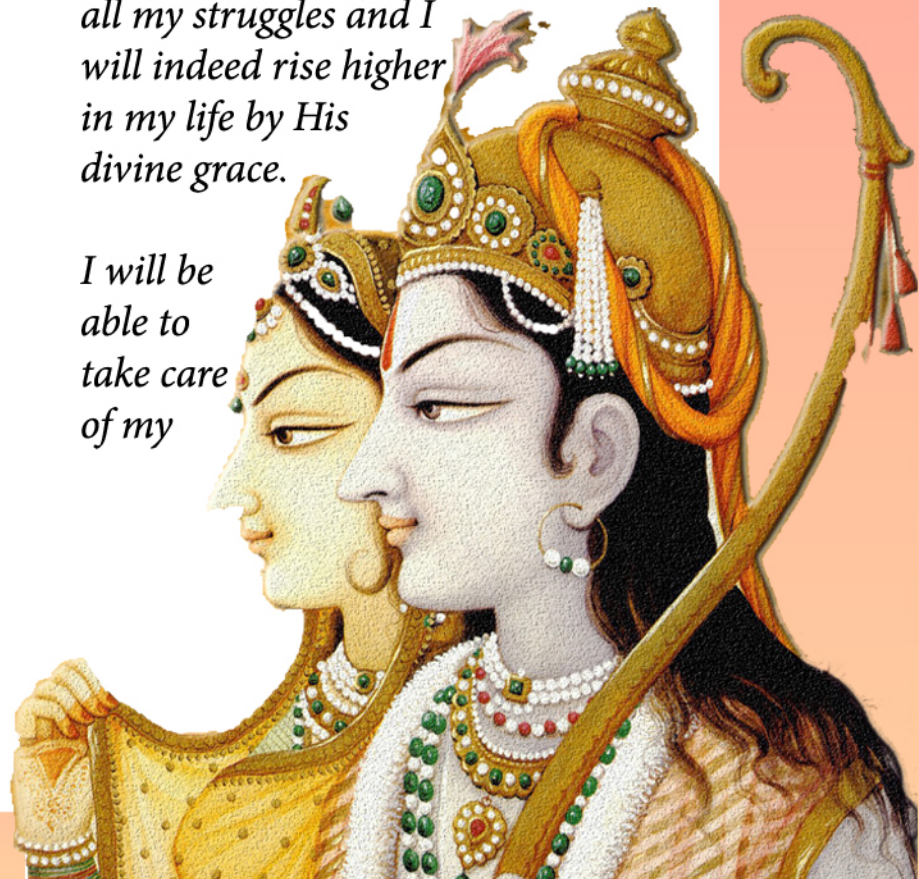
Even during Covid lockdown, me and my child had to go out of our house for work; nobody is there to take care of both of us. I used to pray to SAIRAM whenever we had to go out. With BABA's grace, both of us have been safe till now.

I used to talk with Lord SAIRAM in front of His photo and share all my inner feelings with Him, including where I go and what I do, etc. I always pray to SAIRAM to take care of everything. I truly believe that SAIRAM is always

As I feel that SAIRAM is my father, I cry in front of Him, I have even shouted with my SAIRAM a few times. I sometimes fight with him too, as if we do with our parents. Owing to COVID lockdown, I am not going to temple to meet Him; am doing all my praying in the house. I am not offering anything to HIM, but still HE is taking care me and my child, just like His own Children.

With SAIRAM by my side, I have full faith that He will take care of all my struggles and I will indeed rise higher in my life by His divine grace.

I will be able to take care of my





child too. If we believe in humans, they may cheat or take advantage of our situation and circumstances but if we believe in God, He will show us the right path; He never cheats.

Whatever you want, ask from God, HE will give you everything what we want to get surely. I suggest that you don't depend on fellow humans too much. Keep your trust and faith only in God. I believe that my Beloved Father SAIRAM will help me in all my struggles, He is and will always be my Protector. May God bless everybody in this world!

OM SAI RAM!





BABA ACCEPTED MY SMALL OFFERING

SHARED BY: SHUBHRA

Om SAI Ram!

When talking about BABA's Leela's, words fall short and eyes tear up but I believe that nothing should stop a true devotee to pen down their thoughts and divine experiences, as in hindsight, it is these memories only that help us realize how BABA has touched our lives in so many ways.

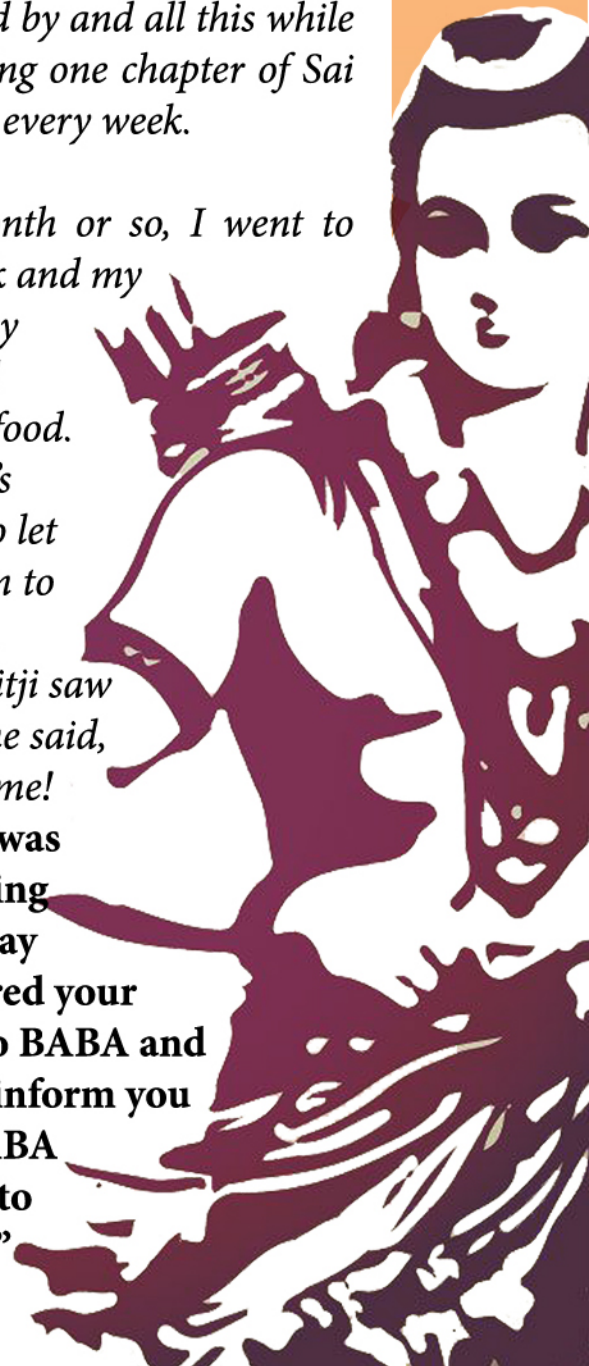
I had this desire to offer Chadhar to BABA's idol in Jersey city, NJ temple. As I had planned an India trip, I got a Chadhar from Bhopal, my hometown. Once back, I was too lazy to go and offer the Chadhar and it was sitting in my cupboard for 3-4 months. It was Navratri, so I finally thought of visiting the temple and took the Chadhar with me. I gave the Chadhar to the Panditji in the temple and left it at that.

On one other occasion, I met Panditji and he informed me that the size of the Chadhar was not right and that it will probably fit the

idol that Panditji has at his home - I was glad as to me BABA is BABA so even though it was offered to different idol, what difference would it make.

Time passed by and all this while I was reading one chapter of Sai Satcharitra every week.

After a month or so, I went to nearby park and my son was very hungry and demanded food. I thought it's Thursday so let me take him to SAI temple, when Panditji saw me. What he said, astonished me! He said, "I was remembering you, as today only I offered your Chadhar to BABA and wanted to inform you and see BABA called you to the temple"





and what amazed me the most was when before retiring to bed, I opened the Sai Satcharitra, it was the last Chapter of the book. To me it was just the right timing for everything and looked like BABA worked it out so perfectly and indicated his acceptance of it by bringing all things together! Feel blessed to get BABA's experience in this way!



*Yah SAI
Aum Sai Ram!*

“I accept offerings, offered with love and devotion.”



MY EXPERIENCE WITH BABA

SHARED BY: SUMAN KESHARI NAYAK

Om Sai Ram.

Since August 2016, after getting successful in my long pending promotion, it was in my mind to write the blessings of BABA to whom I owe my success. It took me more than 4 years to settle my mind to pen down my experience.

It is written beautifully in Chapter VI of Shree SAI Satcharitra that

“.....when I myself start to write anything, I can't compose few words or sentences; but when He of his own accord makes me write, I go on writing and there is no end to it. When the disciple's egoism prop up, He presses it down with his hand and gives him

His own power, makes him achieve his object and thus satisfies and blesses him.”

I was introduced to miracles of SAI BABA's world by one of my good friend Geeta, while I was in Mumbai in the year 2010-11. She one day gifted me the holy book “Shree SAI Satcharitra” and narrated me how to do the Parayan. Since that time I started gradually drifting towards SAI.

At this juncture, I must confess that unlike thousands and lakhs of BABA's ardent devotees, who at a very short span of time, with blessings of BABA, completely surrendered to Him, whereas I am still a laggard, i.e. very slow in my journey. I am not hesitant to admit that with great difficulties I have been able to do the Parayan; have done the Parayan, on a few occasions so far.



Nothing is possible unless, BABA blesses and disposes off matter in His own way. But yes, I diligently chant his name at least 108 times a day and am a firm believer of Him. Even with such scant efforts by me, He is magnanimous enough to shower His blessings on me and rescued me on several occasions.

One of such incidents, I would like to dedicate at the feet of BABA.

After putting a prolonged period of 8 years, I received my first promotion

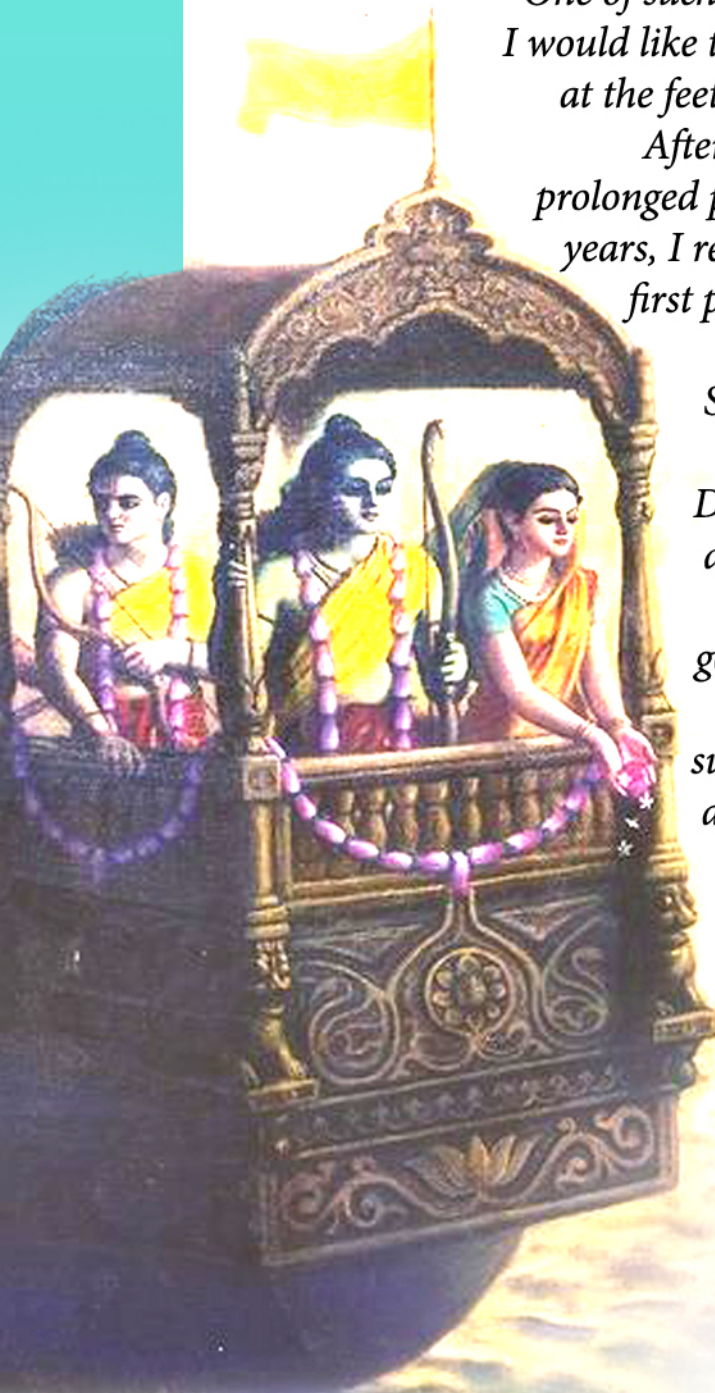
call in September 2015.

Despite my dedication to work, goodwill of my supervisors and strong rapport, I could not cross the hurdles and failed in that attempt.

Such failure was first time in my professional life and I felt so dejected before my parents, wife, my kid and all my well wishers. At that time, though I had strong faith in BABA but I felt that his green signal was not there.

My second attempt came in month of August 2016. The jolt I received in my first attempt had shattered my confidence and I felt restless. Despite this, I had strong faith on BABA and those days I was writing His name "Om Sai Ram" 108 times a day in addition to chanting his name.

Unlike the last time, this time I felt the vibes that BABA's blessings are with me. This was because, just few days before my scheduled interview date, one of our neighbors, whose wife is a good friend of my wife, went to Shirdi and brought a "SAI" idol for her. While gifting that idol of BABA to my wife, she said



SAI will definitely help your husband to be successful this time. That had boosted my confidence since I could clearly feel His blessings.

As usual, as the interview date was getting near, I again started getting restless thinking about my earlier debacle. Human beings have their own limitations and I am not an exception. The interview process comprised of Group Discussion (GD) followed by the interview. On the day

of the interview, my GD performance was

not up to the mark. So after

that till my turn came

for the

interview, I

was very

anxious and

was just

seeking His

blessings.

Another

matter,

which was

concerning

me from

inside was

the Interview

Panel Head, who

was earlier my boss

and some misunderstanding cropped up between us in past, which had led him to believe that I am not very competent. Even in one such occasion, I received his severe scolding and rebuke while working.

I was anxiously waiting for my turn to come for the real interview. My heart kept on beating very fast. When the moment cameI took a long breath and chanting BABA's name, I entered the room, where panelists were sitting. I was asked to take my seat and after exchange of preliminary pleasantries, real interview had commenced. To my utter surprise, the Head Panelist appeared to be very nice and cordial to me. His gestures had put me suitably in my comfort zone. As the interview progressed, I had come across many questions from the panelists and due to the grace of BABA, I could handle those questions well with humility.



Lastly, when the interview was over and I was about to vacate my chair, Panel Head, with a smile on his face, asked me to dwell upon one question related to strategies for growth of business and how I would react if on promotion, I am posted to a new place; this was asked after the interview was over. I was totally eased and very much convinced with the affirmative body language of the panelists about my success.

As usual, the final result took about few days to come.

During those days, unlike my past experience, I was full of confidence since I continued to get positive signals from BABA.

For an example,

I was reciting one chapter of Shree SAI Satcharitra during those day and I asked

BABA that if this specific chapter ends at certain page, then I accept it as your affirmation. Ultimately, I found that chapter exactly ended at that specific page no, which was in my mind. We do these strange tests with BABA, just to reaffirm our faith in Him.

After a week or so, the result was announced and with the blessings of BABA, I emerged as successful. But the things have not stopped here. I could feel the magnanimity of BABA, who ensured a suitable posting for me and blessed me with one of the finest young teams to lead & a very nice & supportive supervisor as Regional Head. I have termed this tenure of mine as most successful part in 20 years of my career as a banking professional.

When one starts facing problems in his/her life, then one can understand that God has started showering His blessings



on you....so don't worry about such problems.....BABA Himself takes care of these problems.

While sharing my experience through this article, a thought has come to my mind that whether this piece of writing will reach to other devotees. Today I was stunned, when I received an email from Samarpan team inviting articles, stories, experiences having spiritual significance for their next edition



scheduled in April 2021. I owe and dedicate this wonderful experience of mine at the feet of BABA.

I would like to conclude my article with another beautiful excerpt from "Shree SAI Satcharitra" in Chapter VI -

"When BABA is helmsman, He is sure to carry us safely and easily beyond the worldly ocean".

Bow to Shri SAI - Peace be to all.





BABA RESTORED MY HEALTH IN THE FORM OF LORD GANESHA

SHARED BY: RANADHEER K A

*Jai Sadguru SAINATH Maharaj Ki
Jai*

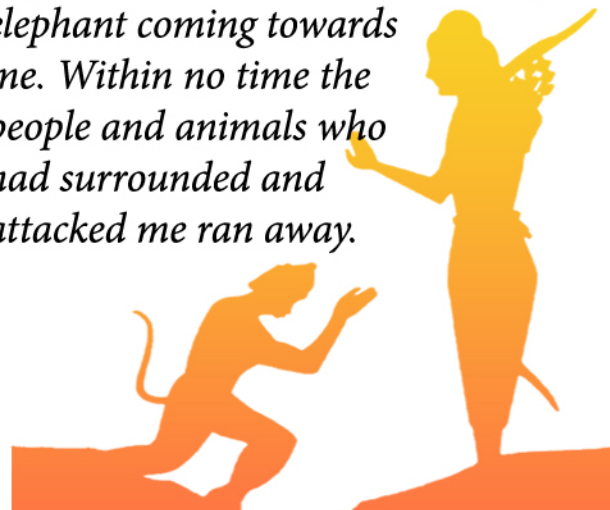
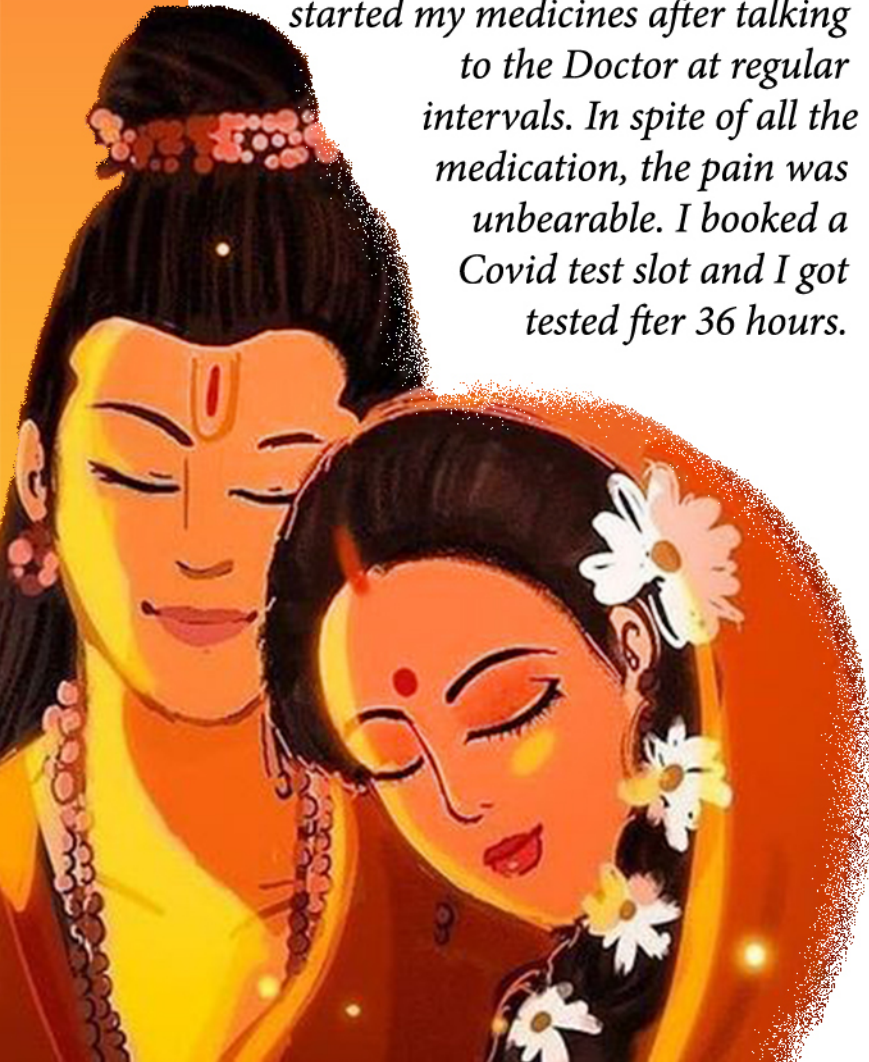
It was the August of 2020, which was peak Covid time. I live in Hyderabad, India where at one point in time the spread was high. I fell sick with fever and body pains and I was unable to get up and even take a few steps. I suspected that I was suffering from Covid.

In sheer anxiety, I isolated myself and started my medicines after talking to the Doctor at regular intervals. In spite of all the medication, the pain was unbearable. I booked a Covid test slot and I got tested after 36 hours.

Those 36 hours seemed like many years put together. All along I chanted BABA's name continuously.

The next day morning my wife fell sick, she too had temperature and the very next day my daughter fell sick and was down with temperature. All of us felt helpless as none of us could take care of each other. My only resort was to BABA and I kept chanting BABA's name throughout and asked HIM for strength to face this challenging situation.

That night I had a strange dream, that I was in some isolated place and few people and animals surrounded me and were about to attack me and I felt they would take my life. Suddenly, I heard one big elephant sound and I saw one huge elephant coming towards me. Within no time the people and animals who had surrounded and attacked me ran away.



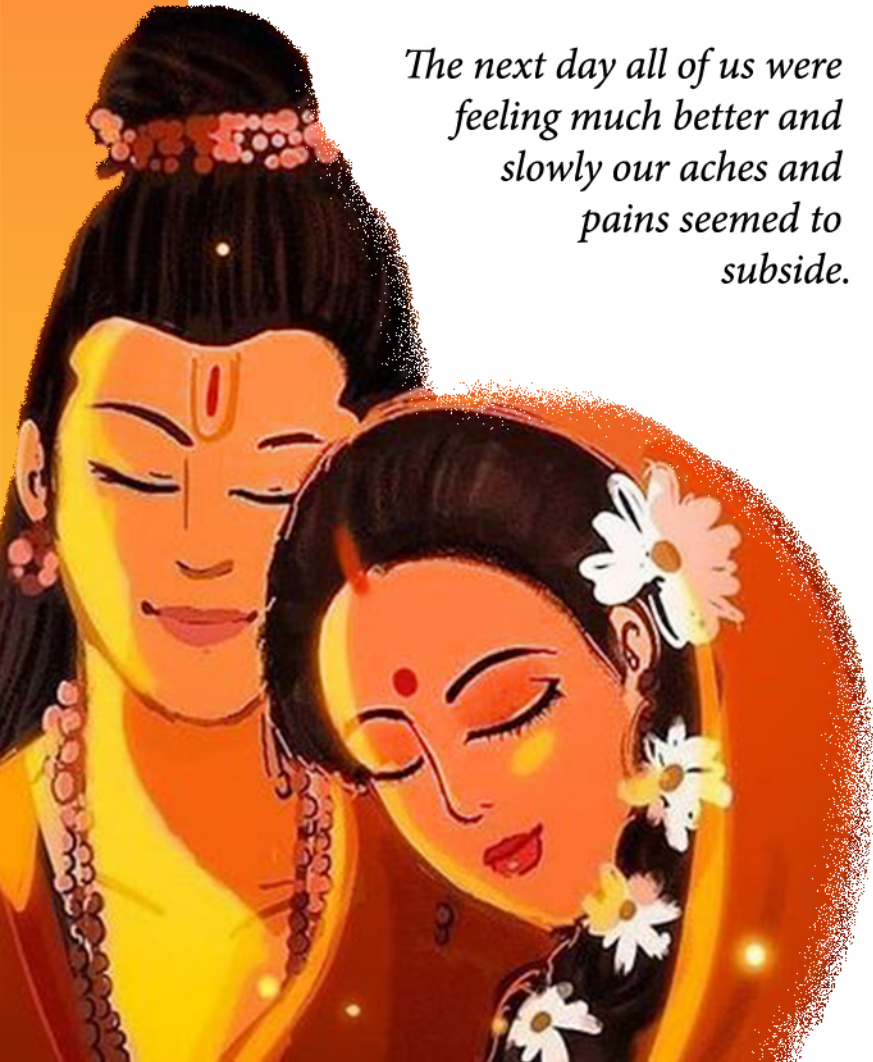


The elephant chased them with his trunk, it pushed everyone away who were trying to attack me. I was so happy and thanked the elephant reverently and in a second the elephant took the form of our dear Lord Ganesha. I bowed down and thanked Lord Ganesha wholeheartedly and in return asked for His blessings. I can't express the feeling, it was beyond anything I had ever experienced. Just then, I opened my eyes only to realize that it was a dream then I saw BABA's smiling face in a brief vision.

The next day all of us were feeling much better and slowly our aches and pains seemed to subside.

I thanked BABA for giving us strength. My Covid result was also negative. In my mind it was only BABA who could have given us this relief, as I had all the symptoms. I thanked BABA for blessing me with such good doctors and friends, who helped us by giving us food and the confidence to carry on in these difficult times.

*I have only **BABA to thank, for coming in the form of Lord Ganesha** and giving me the strength and in removing, not just this but all the obstacles in my life. All I can say is that **complete faith in BABA can turn any challenge into a blessing.***





BABA SAVED ME FROM ILLNESS

SHARED BY: DEBASHISH

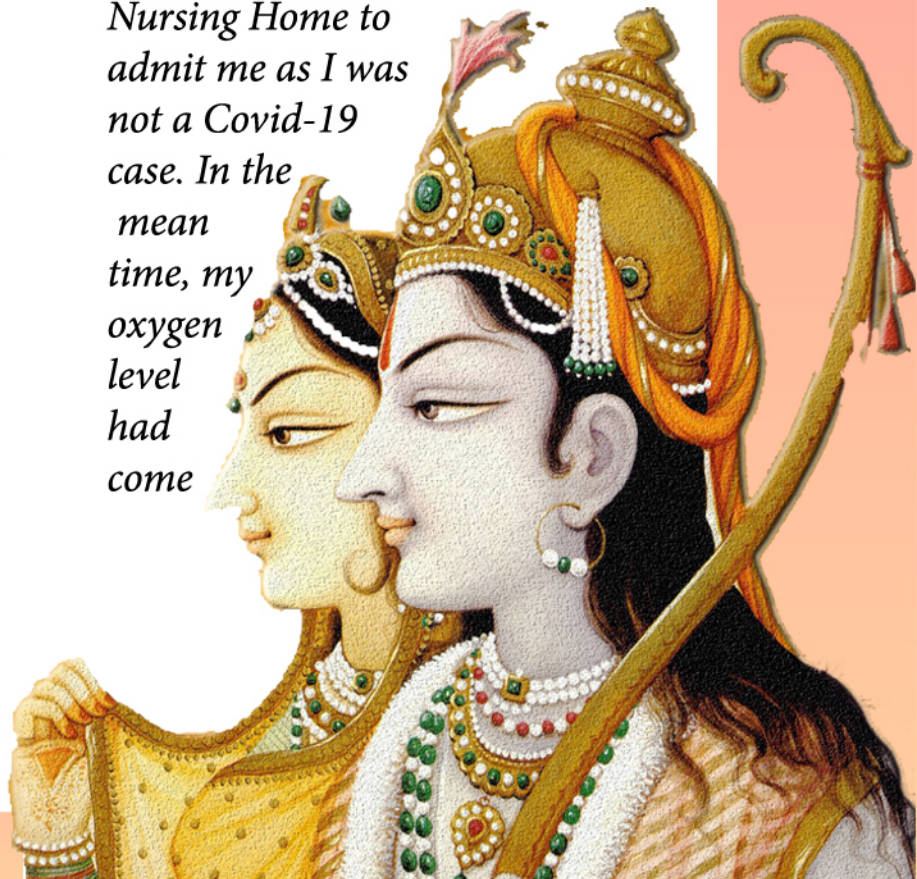
OM SHRI SAI RAKSHAK
SARNAM.
OM SAI RAM.

I am a SAI devotee and my name is Debashish. I would like to share BABA's miracle which was a true blessing. In the October of 2020, when the pandemic was still spreading, I started feeling unwell and noticed symptoms of the Covid-19 virus.

I immediately visited a doctor along with my wife. On my visit, I was told that my oxygen saturation levels had come down to 46. I was advised to be hospitalized immediately. We came back home as we could not make a quick decision due to the high expenses of the hospital as my Mediclaim amount was not enough. I am a senior citizen so, we called many hospitals and realized my Mediclaim would not be enough for this kind of a situation.

We then decided on a two pronged strategy. I would first get admitted in a Private Hospital and if I tested positive, I would shift to a Government hospital. With this line of thinking, we shifted to a Nursing Home near my house. At the Nursing Home, they first took a chest X-ray but no doctor at the Nursing Home wanted to see me till they were sure if I was a Covid-19 case.

We then consulted another doctor with the same chest X-ray. He then advised the Nursing Home to admit me as I was not a Covid-19 case. In the mean time, my oxygen level had come





down to 36. As an emergency I was administered oxygen even before completing the formalities and once my condition level was little stable I was shifted to the ICU.

The next day they sent my swab for the test and told my wife that I will have to be shifted to another Hospital if it was positive. My wife was praying to BABA constantly. The result finally came and she was thrilled as the test result was negative. We were saved from illness and financial hassles because of our DIN DAYAL BABA. I stayed in the Nursing Home for 6 days, got cured of pneumonia and came home.

BABA please keep showering your blessings on all your Devotees always.



BABA'S BLESSING IS ALWAYS WITH US

SHARED BY: KAVITHA

Om SAI Ram!

I am Kavitha from Kelambakkam, I will share three personal experiences that further strengthened my belief in our BABA.

(1) My engagement day - I expected SAI to attend my engagement but I could not see him so I was upset. After the engagement everyone left the hall and we had to vacate the hall. However, since the car was delayed I waited downstairs in the Shopping Mall. As I was waiting for the car, fully dressed in my engagement dress, one of the shop owners requested me to sit inside the shop and not to stand outside, so I waited in his shop. To my pleasant surprise, there was a full sized picture of BABA and I felt like He was laughing at me. I then realized that BABA never leaves us. HE is so so kind and generous that He is always around blessing us.

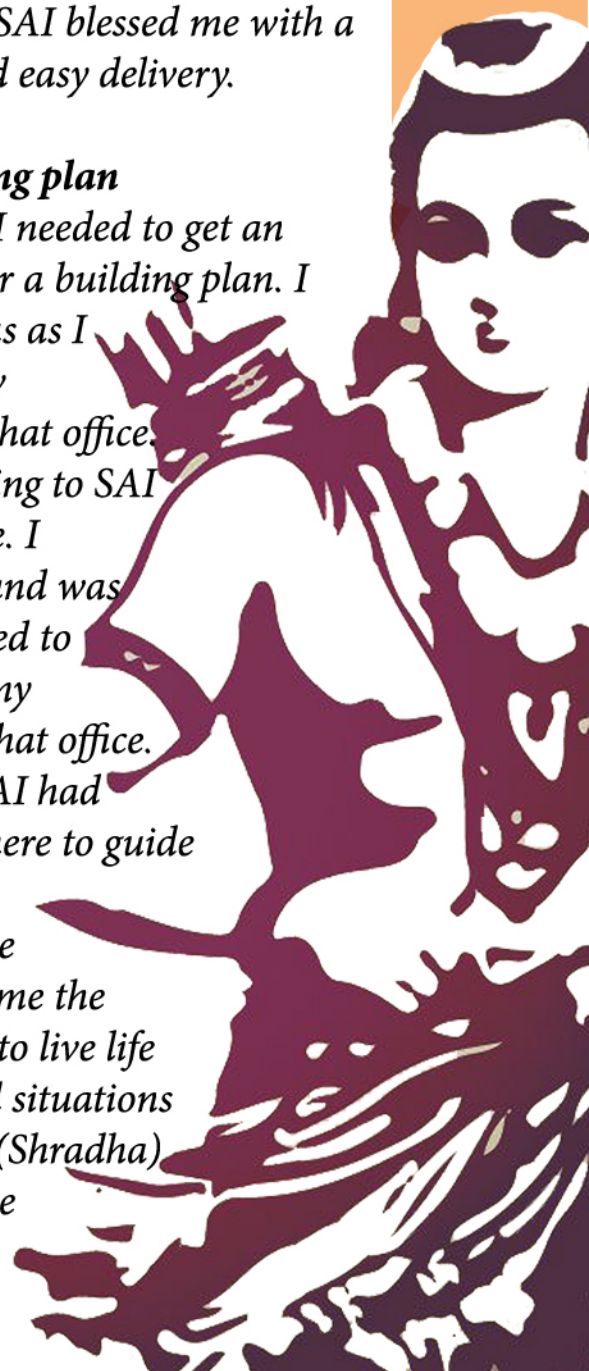
(2). My second delivery - I was not well during my second delivery and I constantly prayed to SAI to save me and my child and help

me to have a normal delivery.

When the day arrived, I was admitted at 7.15 am and my second daughter was delivered at 10.15 am without any complications. This was possible only because of SAI's grace and blessing, as, in spite of a difficult pregnancy SAI blessed me with a normal and easy delivery.

(3). Building plan

approval- I needed to get an approval for a building plan. I was anxious as I didn't know anyone in that office. I kept praying to SAI to guide me. I walked in and was most relieved to see one of my friends in that office. I felt like SAI had sent here there to guide me. SAI's blessings are what gives me the confidence to live life and face all situations with Faith (Shradha) and Patience (Saburi).



**BABA ANSWERS THROUGH THE SAI
SATCHARITRA**

SHARED BY: DEVIDUTTA MOHAPATRA MANCHIKANTI

*Jai Shree Sadguru SAINATH
Maharaj ki Jai*

Few months back, we started a small group to read SAI BABA Satcharitra on every Thursday. I selected Chapters through a lottery system and allotted to everyone. This group continued till Vijayadasami. On the last day many devotees joined and

we were able to complete SAIBABA

Parayan 108

times. We

managed

this only

due to

BABA's

blessings; we

would not

have been

able to

complete

the Parayan

without

BABA's

grace..

At about

the same

time we

started the

Parayan, as my

Husband was

admitted to the

Hospital with fever but nothing was getting diagnosed. They did Covid tests and many other tests but all in vain. I was under a lot of tension and it was already

Wednesday but doctors had not given us any cause of the fever and headache. I left everything to BABA and decided to do my duty and allot the Chapters for all the devotees. This is usually completed by 4 A.M. as we need to read the Chapters by Thursday. Just when I had finished allotting the Chapters, the doctor informed me that my Husband's brain fever report was negative. While the tests were negative, the doctors said that it would take around 1-2 months. However, I was extremely confident that BABA will take care.

Then again on next Wednesday, I did my duty and left everything upon BABA. Then once again I saw BABA's miracle when the doctor told me that my Husband was completely fine and he could be discharged. I have firm belief that the situation took a positive turn only due to BABA'S blessings. We do not have to worry when BABA has given us a powerful tool "Sai Satcharitra" to guide us all along.



MY LOVE EMBRACES THE ANIMAL AND HUMAN KINGDOM - SHIRDI SAI BABA

SHARED BY: RAJIV KAICKER

Excerpts and teachings from "Sai Satcharitra"

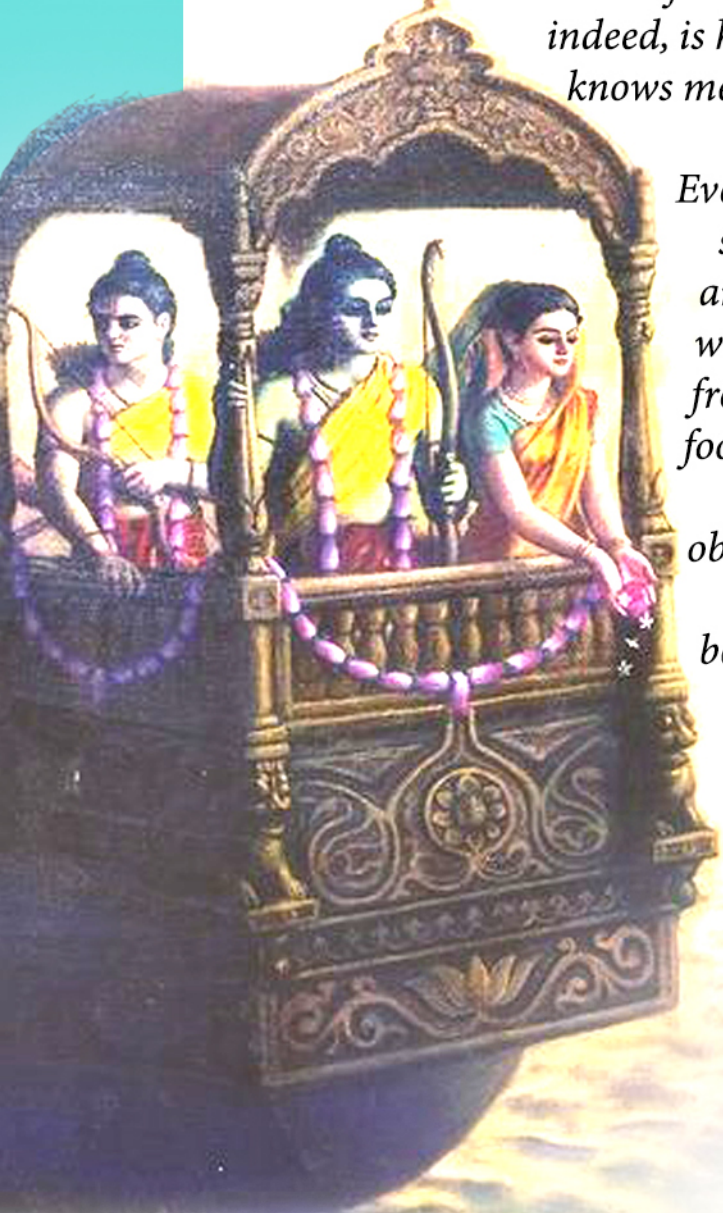
SAI BABA emphasized on the oneness of all creation. In His own words, "My abode is in your heart and I am within you. Always worship me, who is seated in your heart, as well as, in the hearts of all beings, blessed and fortunate, indeed, is he who knows me thus."

Everyday several animals were fed from the food that HE obtained from begging.

HE also told His devotees not to torture/hurt any living creature. If man believes in the Fatherhood of God, then he is bound to follow His precept "All Are One" and acting upon it, by being "Alike to Everyone. It is important to foster the tiny seed of Love in us and let it sprout into the Love for the group around us, and grow into Love for all mankind and spread out its branches over animals, birds and all beings in the entire world."

INCIDENT 1

Once, Mrs. Tarkhad was staying in a certain house in Shirdi. At noon, meals were ready and dishes were being served, when a hungry dog turned up there and began to cry. Mrs. Tarkhad got up at once and threw a piece of bread, which the dog gulped with great relish.



In the afternoon, when she went to the Masjid and sat at some distance, SAI BABA said to her, "Mother, you have fed ME sumptuously up to MY throat, MY afflicted pranas (life-forces) have been satisfied. Always act like this, and this will stand you in good stead. Sitting in this Masjid I shall never, never speak untruth. Take pity on ME like this. First give bread to the hungry and then eat yourself. Note this well."

She could not at first understand the meaning of what BABA Said.

So she replied, "BABA, how could I feed YOU? I am myself dependent on others and take my food from them on payment."

Then BABA replied — "Eating that lovely bread I am heartily contended and I am still belching. The dog which you saw before meals and to which you gave the piece of bread is one with ME, so also other creatures (cats, pigs, flies, cows, etc.) are one with ME. I am roaming in their forms. He who sees ME in all these creatures is MY beloved. So abandon the sense of duality and distinction and serve ME, as you did today." Drinking these nectar-like words, she was moved, her eyes were filled with tears, her throat was choked and her joy knew no bounds.

Animals sense and feel energy way beyond what we humans perceive it. At home as pets, they absorb the negative energy so that their owners do not get affected.

SAI BABA said "I am formless and everywhere, I am in everything and beyond, I fill all space. All that you see taken together is Myself. I do not shake or move. All that is seen is my form; ant, fly, prince, pauper. I am in the water, in dry places, in woods, in the crowds, and in solitary wilderness. I am in the fire and in ether I am not limited to any place".



INCIDENT 2

Once BABA said to Laxmi Bai Shinde that He was very Hungry, Laxmi Bai ran post haste and prepared the food and brought and gave it to BABA, full of love and devotion. BABA immediately fed the food to a hungry dog. Laxmi Bai got upset and said BABA I prepared the food especially for you and you fed the dog. BABA then said that the dog was hungry and to feed the dog was as good as feeding HIM. BABA identified Himself with the dog.

INCIDENT 3

Once he went in the form of a dog to Kasinath Govind Upasani Maharaj (who met Baba in Shirdi in 1911). Upasani Maharaj prepared food and wanted to offer it to BABA. So he took the food and was walking to the Masjid and saw a black dog was watching him. Offering nothing to the dog, Upasani Maharaj went to the Masjid and offered the food to BABA. HE asked Upsani Maharaj "Why did you bring it here. I was there". Upasani Maharaj said that He did not find BABA, HE then said, I was that black dog. So the message Upasani Maharaj learnt, was that He has to recognize BABA in each form.

INCIDENT 4

BABA also took various forms to help His devotees. Hansraj, was an Asthma patient. he was not supposed to take curds or taste sour things. But Hansraj was daily preparing curds overnight to drink it at the noon meal. Daily a cat drank it off. Hansraj decided to punish the cat and one day he beat the cat. Hansraj went to the Masjid and found a fresh weal on BABA's shoulder.



There are many such stories, we can recollect innumerable of such stories. SAI Satcharitra is full of such stories, we have also read about experiences of various devotees about BABA coming in various forms. If we keep our mind and eyes open, we can see and feel BABA in various forms.

From the above stories we learn that BABA was an Incarnation of the

Divine. If we identify BABA in every living being and love them and respect them, then His grace will be on us.

Compassion was inherent in SAI BABA. His emphasis was to show compassion to anyone who came to your door, be it a human being or an animal since the same Divinity is the dweller of all beings.



The life ahead can only be glorious if you learn to live in total harmony with the Lord.

- Shirdi Sai Baba



SWAMIJI' S WONDERFUL WORK

SHARED BY: SAYEE HARINI THIRUNARAYANAN

Om SAI Ram

Introduction

We all know Pujuyasri Narasimhaswamiji is Shri SAI BABA's Apostle who spread the name and fame of Sri SAI in the nook and corners of the world.

Today you can see Sri SAI's Temple in almost every street, even in small towns. Many people have in their names Sri SAI's name. Also many business establishments proudly have SAI Nama in their names. We can credit this to our Swamiji. He spread BABA's name after he attained enlightenment at BABA's Samadhi in August 1936.

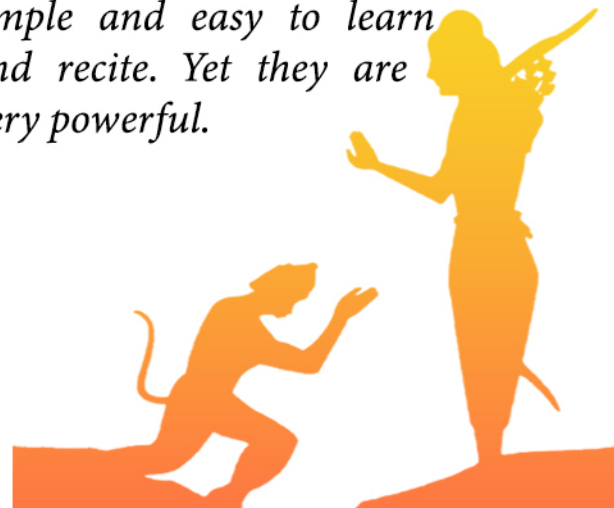
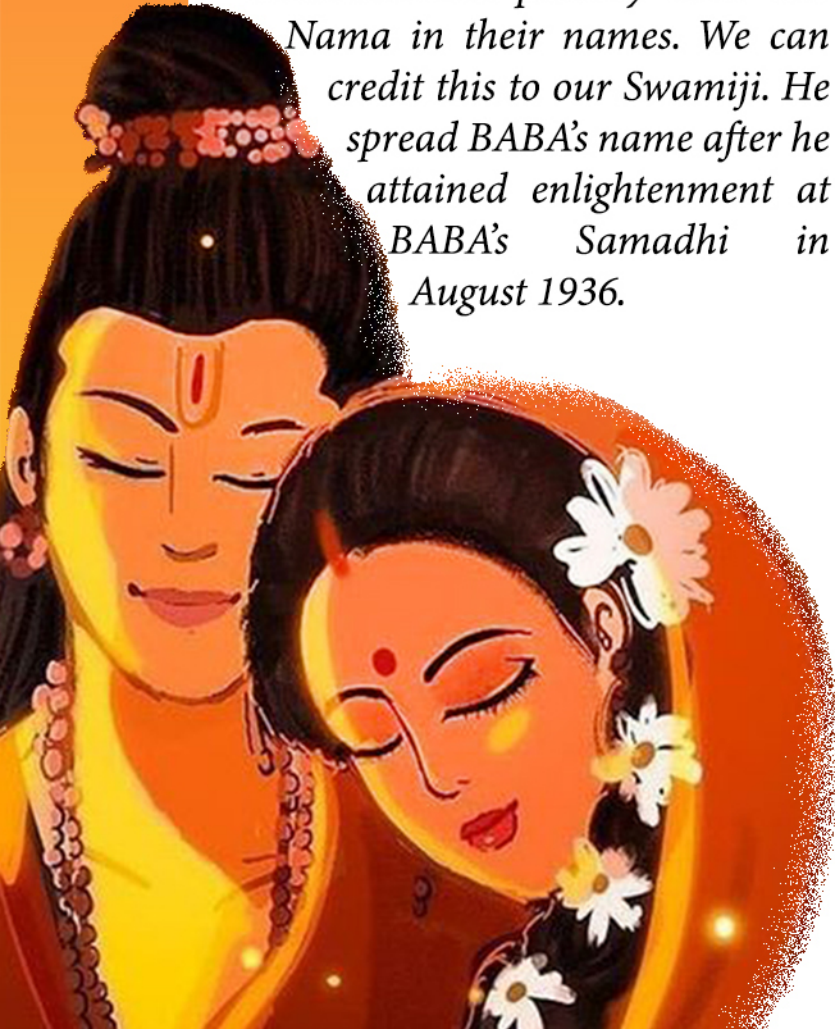
He travelled across India's length and breadth even without bothering about his old age. He wrote many books on Sri SAI.

About his work

Shri SAI Natha Mananam is one of his works and it is a rare gem that Swamiji has gifted to mankind. It is the duty of every SAI bhaktha to know about this work and practice Parayan on a daily basis.

This book was originally published in the late 1930s by All India SAI Samajam, Mylapore.

There are around 400 shlokas in this book. Each shloka is just 2 lines like Doha, Thirukural. The shlokas are in Sanskrit. Swamiji himself had written the English meaning for these shlokas. The shlokas are very sweet, simple and easy to learn and recite. Yet they are very powerful.



Construction of the book

Swamiji has very well constructed this great work under various important topics. In the preliminary part there are around 42 shlokas. In the 42 shlokas he is calling us and makes us understand why we need to recite SAI Nama and how it saves us.

Then from 43 to 67 shlokas, he speaks about Sadhus and Sants. In that also he is emphasizing about recitation of SAI Nama.

Then from 68 to 73 Guru Mahima, 74 to 85 (Padodhakam) the greatness of SAI Pada Thirth are all well explained.

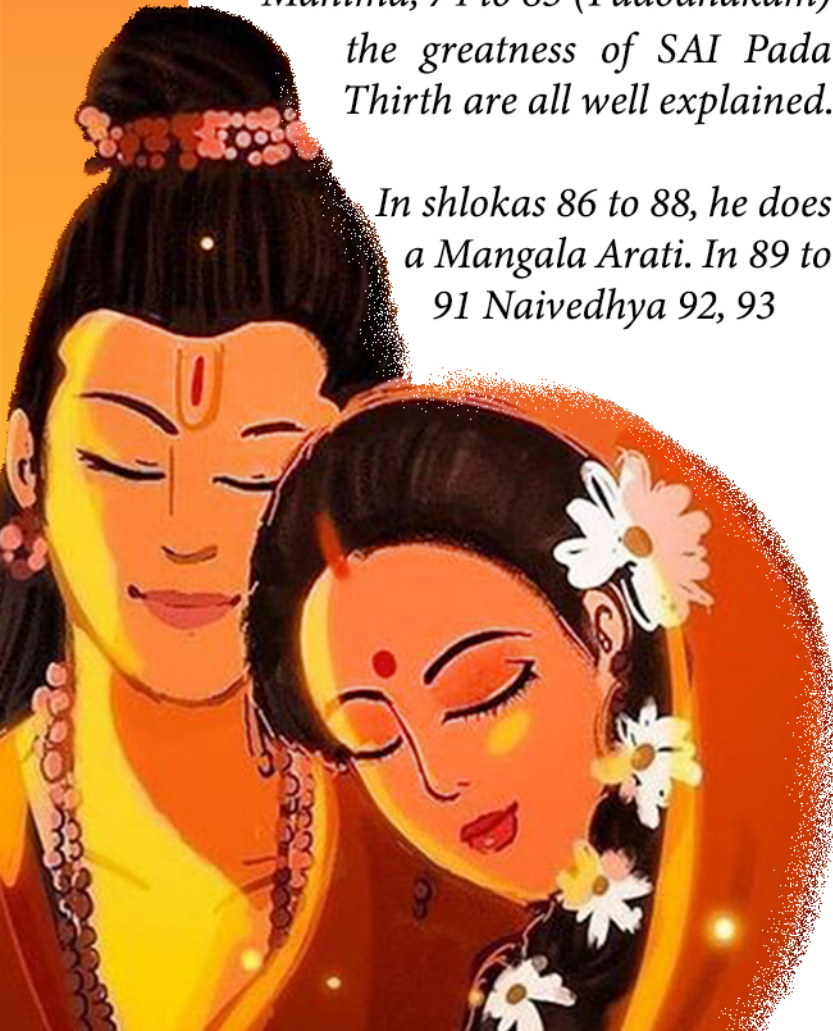
In shlokas 86 to 88, he does a Mangala Arati. In 89 to 91 Naivedhya 92, 93

Adhyatma Naivedhya. 94 to 100 Atma Nivedanam, then under the headings

Arati, Dyanam, Mananam shlokas are given. Then he gives Mantras which is again but SAI Nama and then He does Saranagathi (Surrender to SAI Nath). Later in the book he has given about the need for Saranagathi. Then pray for acceptance of Saranagathi. The mantra for Moksha and then Sakshatkara.

What does this Work convey?

This book emphatically declares that repeating SAI Nama is the only way to salvation in the Kaliyuga. Just by repeating SAI Nama you get everything for this life and beyond.





Shloka 20

*SAI nama Japun nithyam Sayee
dhyanam karothi Cheth |
Dharmartha Kama
Mokshashcha siddhas Thasya
Na Samshayaha ||*

Meaning

If one daily repeats SAI's name and meditates on Him, the four aims of life, Dharma, i.e. Righteousness, Wealth, Sense gratification and Liberation are surely and without doubt achieved.

By reading this book one can understand how much stern belief Swmaiji had for Sri SAI Nama.

Shloka 10

*SAI Namaiva namaiva
namaiva mama jeevanam |
Dhruva nasthyeva nasthyeva
nasthi me Gathir anyatha ||*

Meaning

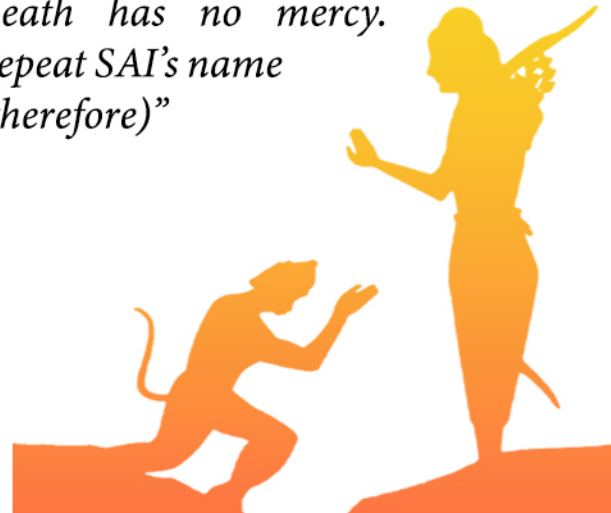
SAI's name alone, SAI's name alone, SAI's name alone is the support of my life. There is no other assured resource, no other for me.

In this great work Swamiji is advocating SAI nama is greater than everything.

To quote Shloka 131 says, "What one earns by residing at Kashi for sixty thousand years one gains in half a minute by the love of Sri SAI." What a strong message he is giving us.

Why we need to recite SAI Nama?

To quote Shloka 22 says, "Waste no time, Life is ebbing away every minute, Death has no mercy. Repeat SAI's name (therefore)"



When is the good time to recite SAI Nama?

Shloka 49 “ Let us remember and repeat Sri SAI’s name, at all waking hours and meditate on SAI japa, We must always take his name.”

Shloka 50 “Let me be engaged always in calling on Him thus, “God SAI, SAI Natha, SAI BABA, My Lord, “as my days come & go”

What is the lakshana of a good house?

In Shlokas 54 and 55 he describes about the lakshana of a good house.

Shloka 54 explains “The house in which SAI’s Padukas, Udi, Pada-thirtha, images and pictures are found will be

house without harnessing troubles Else (If these are absent) it will be harassing and troublesome as a forest.”

Shloka 55 “A house is well equipped and laden with abundant supply of goods and wealth, if it has no padathirtha of SAI (i.e has no SAI worship) is but a well laden (fruit), tree that is ever infested by snakes.

Path to achieve

By Shloka 67 he shows us the great path to achieve great things.

*Mamethi Dwaya akshara
papasthvashte kashtam
praneshyathi |
sarvartha sadhako
mantraha Sayeeshaha
Saranam Mama ||*

Meaning

The di syllable Mama i.e Mine is sinful. By the eight syllables, (all) distress vanishes. The eight syllables “Sayeesha Saranam Mama” form a mantra that achieves all objects.



Phala Shruthi (Fruit of the Parayan)

As a phala shruthi he is giving what is all that you achieve in doing Parayan of this work.

Shloka 371 "He, who daily and with full faith reads or hears this SAI Natha Mananam – this holy and sacred work that destroys sins and promotes longevity will be saved from all sins & troubles & be happy Sthitha pragna (i.e. one firmly established in Divine path),

Sthitha pragna (i.e. one firmly established in Divine path), and being protected by Sayeesha, he will speedily and surely attain all objects."

What else is required for a SAI Bhaktha? He has covered everything. I request each and every SAI Devotee to own this priceless Treasure and do the

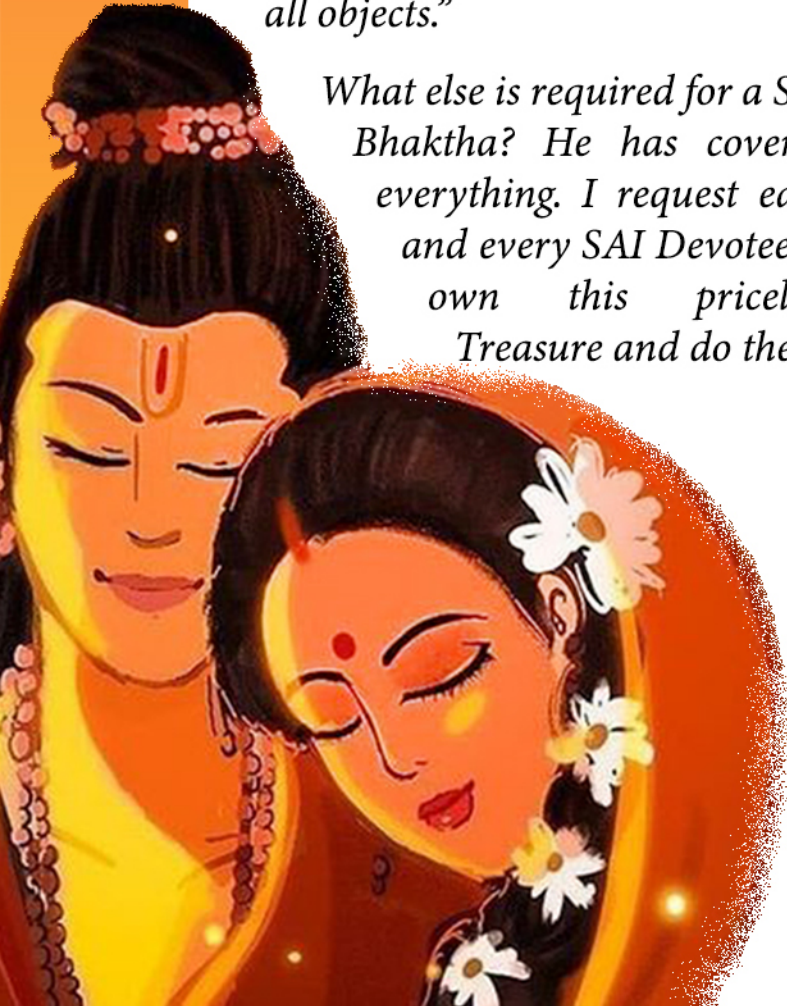
Parayanam of atleast 5 shlokas a day.

How and where to get this Treasure?

This priceless treasure is available at a very very low cost Rs.50 in All India SAI Samajam, Mylapore which contains Sanskrit Shlokas (Shlokas in Devanagari Script, Tamil Script) meaning in English and Tamil. This book is also available and Tamil. This book is also available in Amazon published by Diamond books which has shlokas in Devanagari script and meaning in English alone. Also on the internet, you can get the pdf version of the book for free:

(<http://saiamrithadhara.com/docs/SRI%20SAINATHA%20MANANAM.pdf>)

which has just English meaning as written by Swamiji himself.



Conclusion

You need volumes and volumes of books to write about the greatness of this Treasure. It is very tough to explain the feelings expressed by Swamiji, in order to understand, one has to read this.

Being such an ordinary person I have taken a big leap by writing this so that SAI Bandhus who do not know about this book can get this and reap the benefits. I have given book availability details as I was frantically searching for this book and finally got this.

Jai Shri Narasimhaswamiji
Jai SAI Nath



Statue of Shri Narasimha Swamiji with Sai Baba
in Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Mylapore, Chennai





FOUND MY TREASURE!

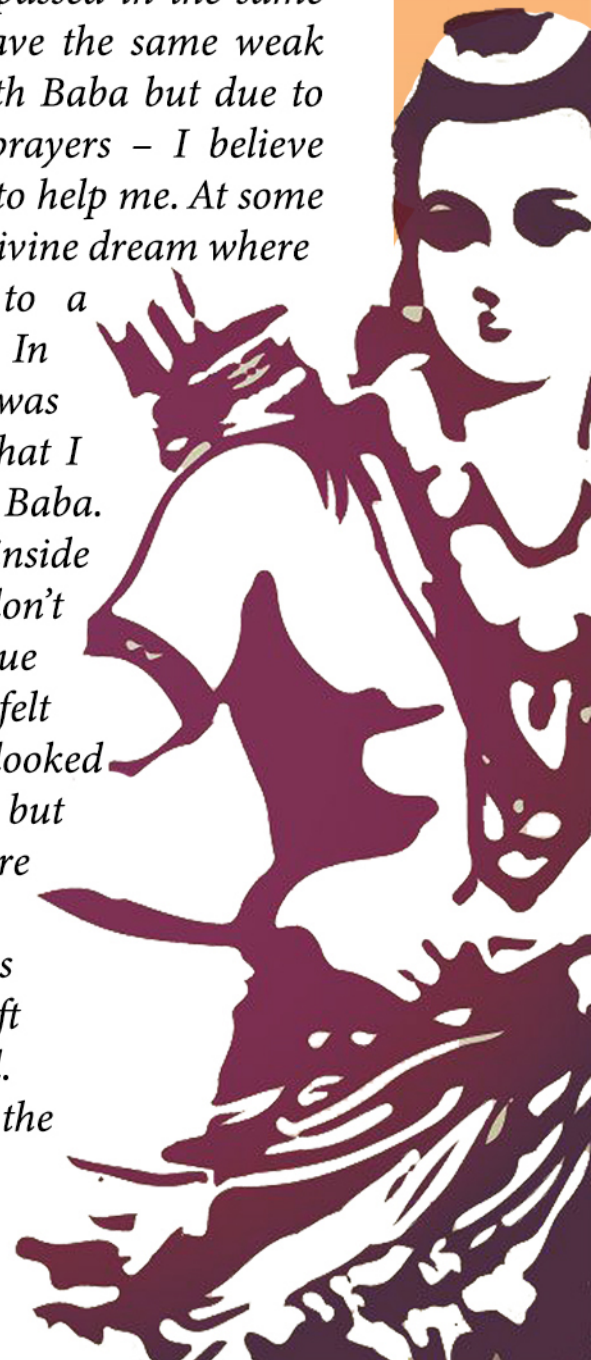
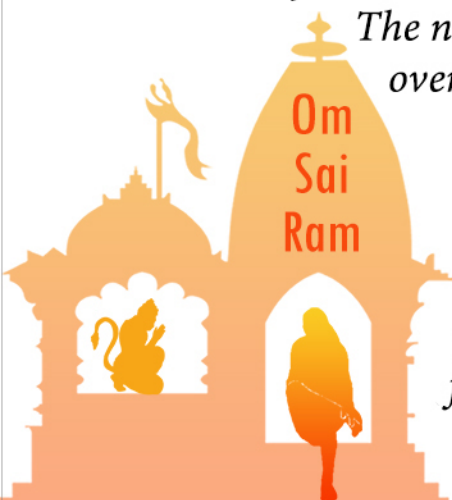
SHARED BY: ANONYMOUS

Baba has been part of my existence since I have started understanding the meaning of the word - God. I grew up with his name in my mind. There are numerous moments when I was unintentionally chanting His names without any reason. I continue to enjoy Baba's blessings throughout my life. Several years ago, I have to move to a new place. This was also the time when my connection with Baba was at its weakest level. While He still dominated my mind, I felt I wasn't doing enough to keep the connection alive and strong. I could cite 100s of reasons and hide behind them, but it was me - solely responsible for this weak connection. I was desperate to get back, but life keeps pulling me away from Baba.

And then my relocation happened.

The new place was overwhelming & while I try to adjust myself, I continue to pray to baba for the strong connection I

have shared once with Him. And as usual, I was on and off with my prayers. In the new place, I found a general temple where we have one small statue of Baba. I try to go there and worship Baba but never able to connect much. Several years passed in the same state, I still have the same weak connection with Baba but due to my constant prayers - I believe Baba decided to help me. At some point, I got a divine dream where I am going to a Baba's temple. In that dream, I was so optimistic that I will find Baba. When I went inside the temple, I don't see Baba statue at all. I felt shattered, I looked every where but Baba is nowhere to be found. The feeling was unsettling & left me with a void. I remained in the same state of mind for few days.





And my relationship with Baba kept going the same old way.

Eventually, I started praying more and more to Baba. And a few months later, I had the same dream – going to Baba’s Temple and not finding Him in there. I was in the same state of mind again, I felt like a thirsty traveler - who traveled far in search of water, but upon arriving at the destination – water was nowhere to be found. And this time, I was agitated and desperate. It was a divine dream and I realized this was a message for me. So, without any further delay, I started searching for a Baba temple – I felt there should be one – dedicated to Baba only. And I found one soon – it was a Venkateswara temple with huge Baba statue – I checked the pictures on Google. I was happy that finally, I have found one temple with a bigger statue of Baba. I decided to visit the temple and the next afternoon I was in the

temple – the temple has a South-Indian setting. I went inside and eagerly searching for Baba statue. I checked all the nooks and

corners and couldn’t find anything related to Baba remotely. I even asked a devotee inside the temple, and he had no clue. I couldn’t find Baba! I felt betrayed and heartbroken.

I came out of the temple, as a last resort I asked a random person if he knows any Sai Baba temple nearby, to my surprise he said there is one behind this Venkateswara temple. All my sorrow and disappointment just disappeared. I was optimistic again – I rushed to the backside as pointed by the stranger and saw Sai Baba temple written on a board with a picture of Baba.

I felt extremely emotional and grateful that Baba allowed me to see Himself. I was like a lost child separated from his parents for decades and now I have all the hopes to see them but have no courage to face them.

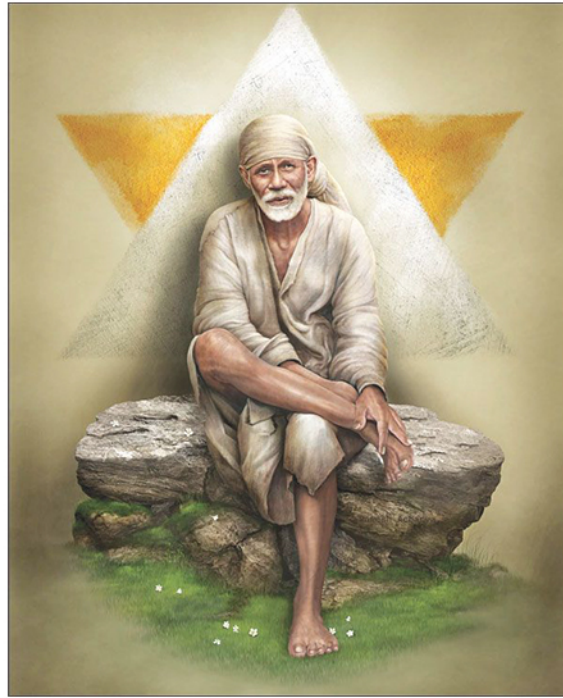




I gathered the courage to face Baba –with tears trying to free themselves– and I was in constant struggle not to let them loose – I felt like I have waited for this moment for a lifetime and finally the moment is here. Navigating through the door, I was reaching the main hall, where Baba statue was placed.

Now I could see Baba from that distance, like a slightly faded figure. I could see what I struggle to find in my dreams – I could see what I desire the most in that singular moment – the moment that felt like an eternity. I started losing the sense of surroundings – like a tunnel vision and Baba is on another side. I haven't felt this strongly connected to Baba throughout those years. The weakened and almost lost connection was alive again – I was no longer controlling those tears – it's their chance to free flow. The dream was a divine intervention and I found Baba again.

Sai Ram





HEY MOM - DO I EAT THIS?



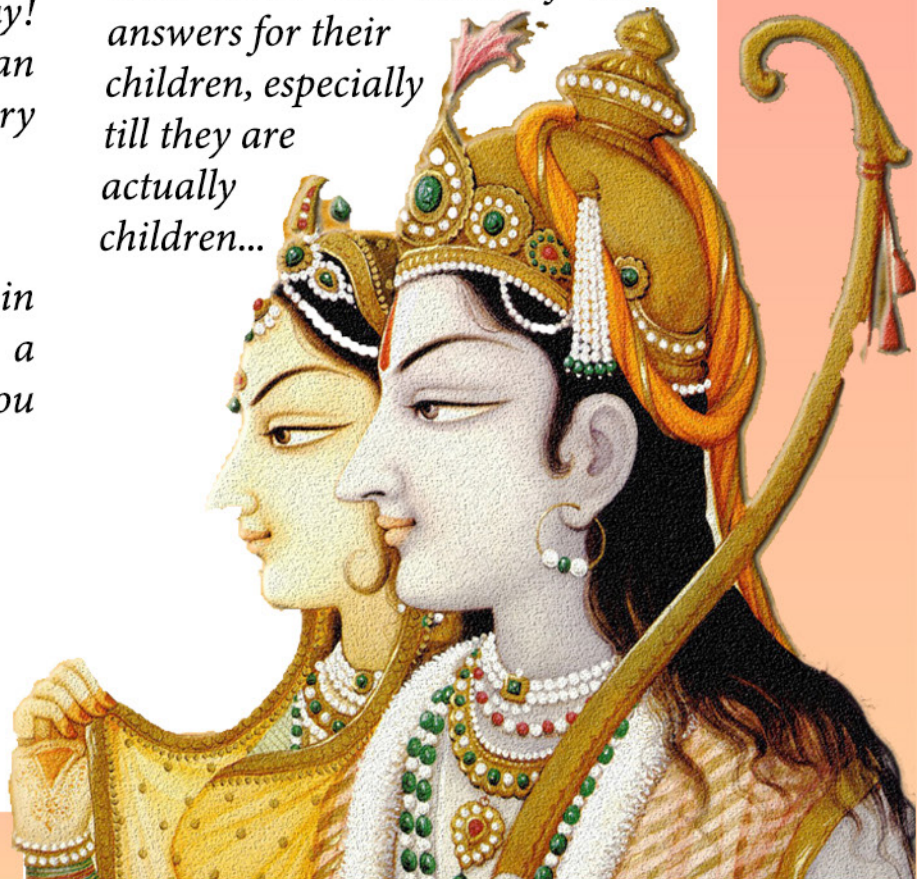
Tina, my friend's 6-year old daughter went for a birthday party at her friends house. Just when the food got served, she got something in her tray that she liked from the look of it but she didn't eat it right away! You will laugh what she did, She ran with her tray to her mom and very innocently asked her:

"Hey Mom! Do I eat this?"

Suzie, Tina's Mom held her tightly in her arms, kissed her and with a smile replied, "Yes sweetheart! you definitely eat this and indeed you

will love this dish! Help yourself with a bigger serving my love!"....Cute, isn't it!! Wondering the connect?

Like Mom has most of the answers for their children, especially till they are actually children...





it's kind of same with God, Almighty or with whatever name you call that Power! We are His children and the beauty of this fact is that we remain His children for our entire life; age does not matter here!

God like a loving mother, not only takes care of us and loves us unconditionally but also like a strict mother, disciplines us, pushes us to take that step that we are hesitant to take sometimes. Do you agree?

Have you ever heard a Mom over feeding her child?

Probably not.... as mothers seem to have this sixth sense that makes them fully aware of their children's limits both inner as well as their outer limit!

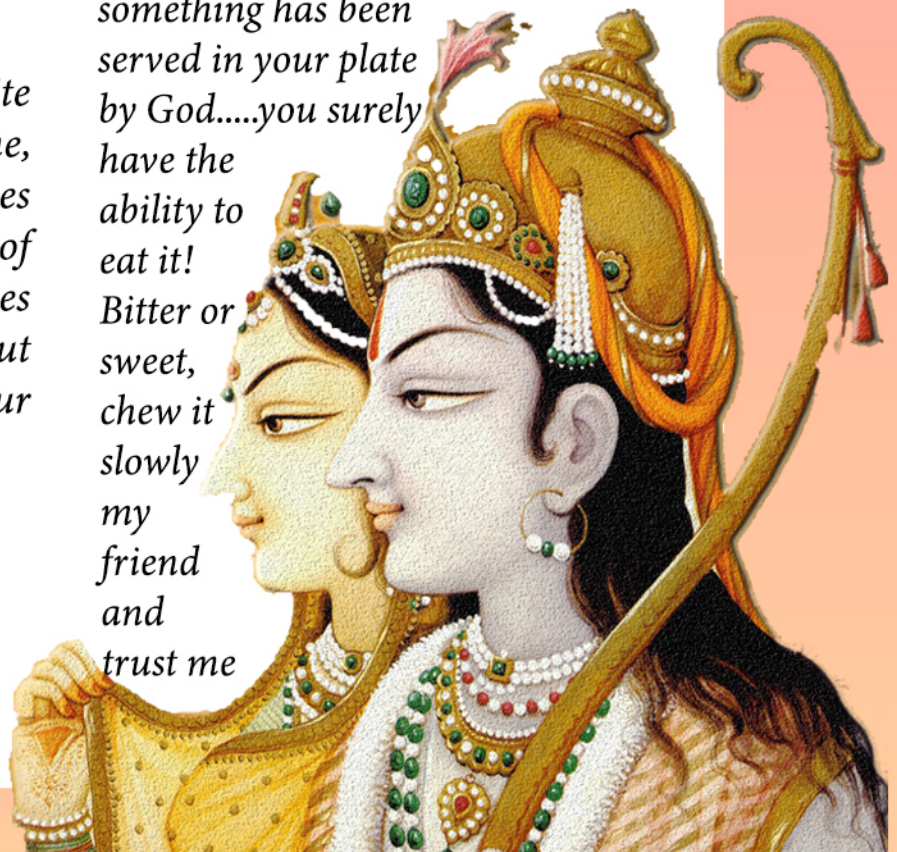
Similarly, God knows our appetite for taking hardships and trust me, what we get in our bucket of troubles and hardships, we are worthy of pulling it off! We sometimes underestimate our capability but God knows our purpose & our

strengths much more than we ourselves realize!

So, don't hesitate, don't be scared, don't feel weak my friend, when you are put in situations you don't feel comfortable in! You are indeed capable of handling any situation, if you have been put in it! Truly believe in the fact that God as your kind mother is testing you to make you stronger, sharper and brighter with each passing moment!

Believe me, the journey will only become easier with this little change in your thought process...

To put it simply, like little Tina, if something has been served in your plate by God.....you surely have the ability to eat it! Bitter or sweet, chew it slowly my friend and trust me





you will realize the benefits of everything that you go through in due course :)

To conclude:

Keep faith in whatever you believe in, surround yourself with lots of positivity that whatever has come your way, both good as well as bad has come for a purpose and have faith that you are capable of handling it! Believe me, with faith and a positive frame of mind, nothing can stop you from achieving a happy, fulfilling life , Smile and march ahead my friend. Each step accompanied with bundle of positivity!

Jai Sai Ram

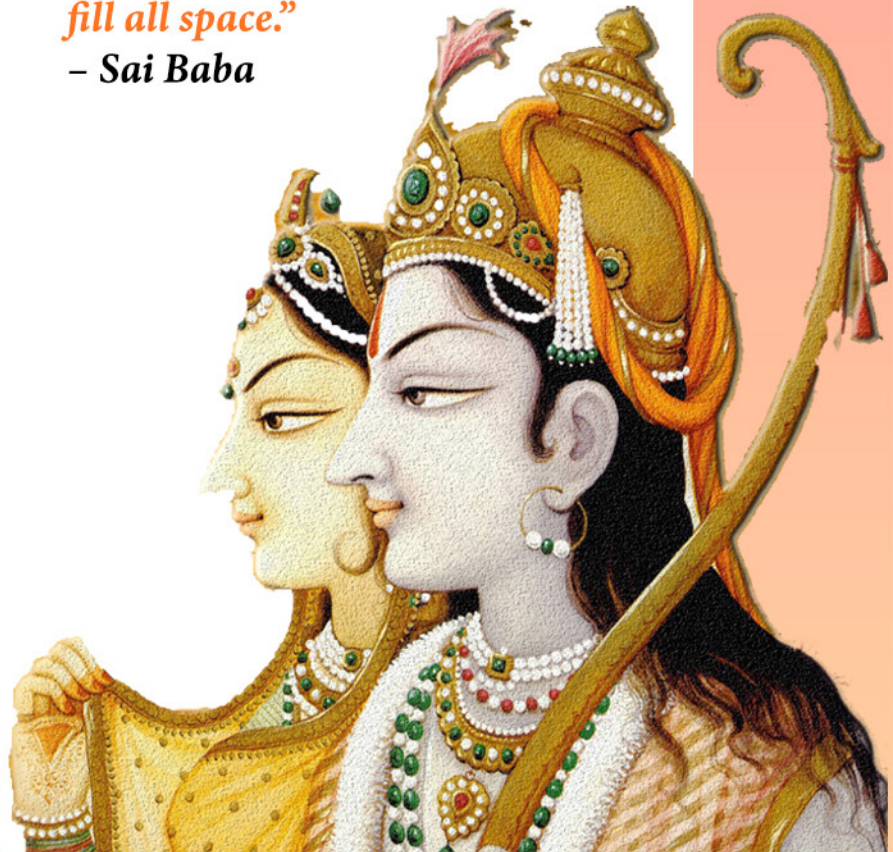
The writer is a blogger, to read more such blogs, please visit:

<https://wordpress.com/view/successstories.news.blog>



“I am formless and everywhere. I am in everything and beyond. I fill all space.”

– Sai Baba



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