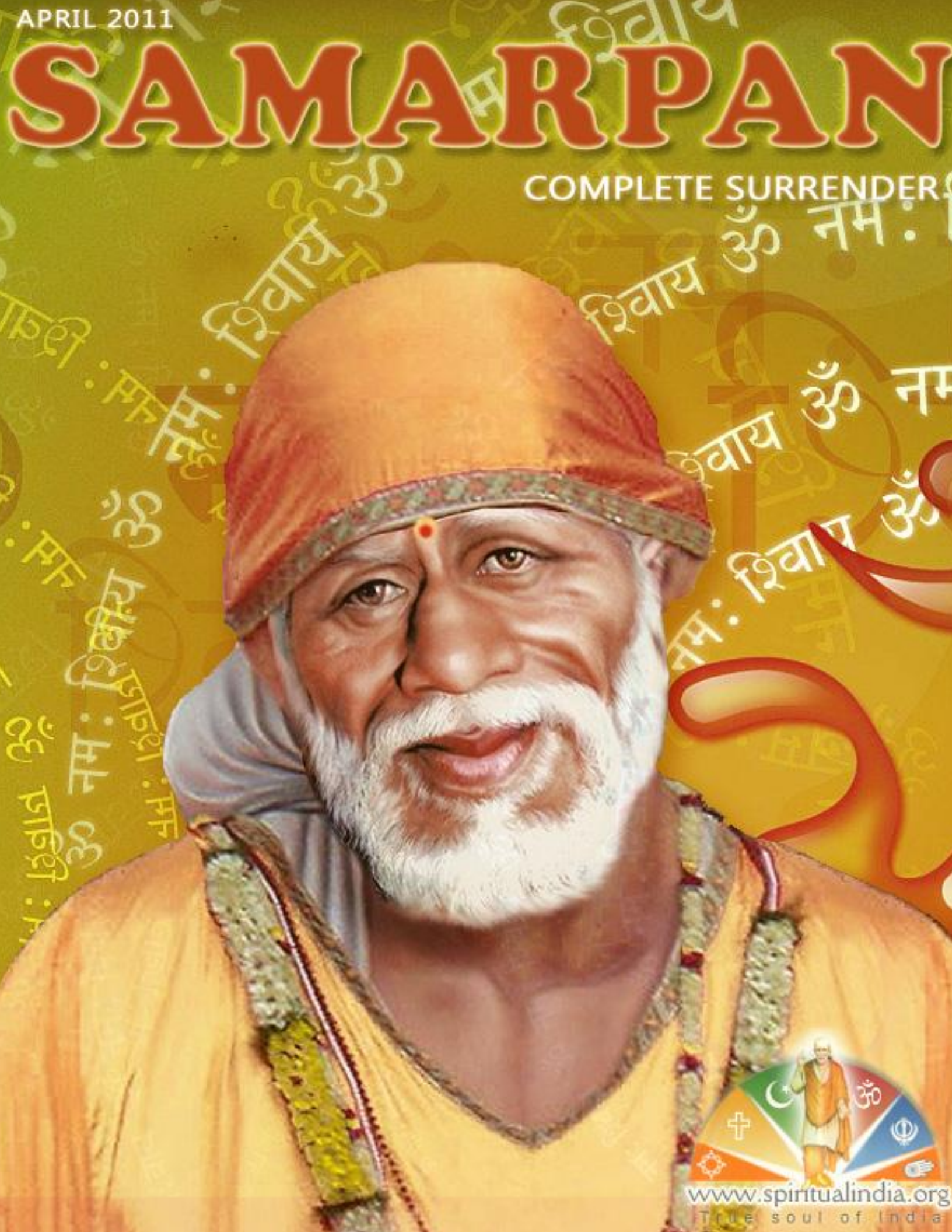


APRIL 2011

# SAMARPAN

COMPLETE SURRENDER



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## Editorial

By: Poornima S

Faith can move mountains, faith knows no boundaries. In faith, everything works. Without faith, nothing works.

To quote a small example from the great epic Ramayan, Hanuman once told Rama. "Oh Lord, there is something superior to you". Astonished, Rama asked Hanuman, "what is that thing oh Hanuman that is superior to me?" to which Hanuman replied, "Oh Lord, you crossed the ocean with the help of a boat. But I crossed the ocean only with the help of the power and strength of Thy name. The stones floated in the ocean in the faith of your name. Therefore, your name is indeed superior to you." It is evident here that it is not the object of faith, but faith alone creates miracles.

Faith may be beyond our comprehension, but the results of faith are there for all of us to see. Faith is in the realization that the force that brought you to it will also bring you through it. If faith believes in what you cannot see, then the reward of faith will be that you will one day see what you always believed in.

Faith is the initial quality in the heart of everyone who wants to talk to God

This story happens to be of a small village in ancient India. People were devastated due to scarcity of rains – there was no water, food and people fell sick. It was during this time that a Swamiji came to the village. The people of the village pleaded the Swamiji to perform pujas and pray to the rain God on behalf of the villagers so that there is ample rain, which will put an end to people's problems. The Swamiji agreed to the request of the villagers but on one condition. He asked all the villagers also to pray sincerely with faith. A

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day and time was fixed for this mass prayer after which according to the Swamiji the rain God would be pleased and there would be showers of rain. However, the Swamiji had cautioned the villagers that the basis of all this was FAITH – faith in their prayers to rain God.

The villagers agreed to this and had to assemble in the pre-decided place for their prayers. Swamiji was also there to see that all the villagers assembled there. When it was time for prayers, the Swamiji looked around and saw that a small boy had come to offer his prayer – but the difference between him and the other villagers who had assembled there was that the boy had come with an umbrella. That was the faith that he had in the Swamiji's words and his prayers. The villagers and Swamiji were pleased at the young boy's comprehension of faith.

The beginning of every journey, every path and every voyage is one of faith – the faith that we will reach, we will arrive and we will succeed. Faith is the ability to trust what we are not able to see, the ability to believe what is not yet, the ability to 'accept as true' that, which cannot be proven. Faith transforms an ordinary vibration of thought, created by the finite mind of man into a spiritual equivalent.

A classic metaphor of faith is the little child who holds the finger of his parent to cross the road and just moves along with the finger – stepping forward sometimes, running sometimes, pausing sometimes – but eventually crosses the road, still holding on to the finger. Crossing the road is just a game for the child, for the child has already transferred the responsibility of crossing the road to his parent. Faith is transference of responsibility. Faith is the force that brought me in will also see me through.

With no faith, you will know fear. When you know faith, there will be no fear. Faith and fear cannot coexist. Faith is in knowing that sometimes your plans will be upset, so that He can execute His plans for you and His plans are always right for you. That's why, in faith you don't ask, "why is this happening to me?" But you do ask with faith, "By putting me through all this, what are you preparing me for, my Lord? What is the bigger picture my Lord, that I am not able to see yet?" The force that brings you to it will also bring you through it.

The seat of your faith is your heart. You are the sole architect of your faith. Like the little one holding the finger of the parent to cross the road, with faith, let us hold HIS hand and take plunge into the future that is awaiting us.

## Articles are invited for July 2011

Samarpan is the first online magazine on Sai Baba of Shirdi. If you like to publish your articles in Samarpan, please send us an email to [mag@spiritualindia.org](mailto:mag@spiritualindia.org) with your entry. All the approved entries will be published in July 2011 edition. You can send the following types of items:

- Spiritual Article
- Mythological stories
- Poems
- Bhajans
- Spiritual Experiences with Sai Baba
- Spiritual Experiences with any other God/ Goddess
- Information about religious events
- Spiritual Photographs

Your article should be original. Please do not submit any copyrighted article. Please send your article **latest by June 7, 2010**.

Please follow below guidelines for submitting your articles for next edition of SAMARPAN.

- Please give a suitable title and write your name or the name of the author (if you are not the author).
- Please do not copy someone else's article.
- Please keep your articles in the range of 100 to 1500 words.
- Please do not type everything in capital (upper case).
- Please do not use short forms (SMS style of writing)
  - Write "you" and not "u"
  - Write "and" and not "n"
  - Please use full stop "." and not "..."
- **For Hindi articles**, use <http://www.google.com/transliterate/indic/> for translation.

Please do spell checks before you submit the article and correct all spelling mistakes.

## My introduction to Sainath

By: S. V. Sharma

It was 1953, December, I was in Madras (Chennai) and I was studying in the high school. I had never heard of Sai Baba at all. Some of my close friends asked me to accompany them to another part of the city to attend a music festival being conducted in honor of Shri Sai Baba by Sai Samaj. I readily agreed, since I loved music. The program had already started and Bhajans were being sung, songs on praise of Sai Baba. There was a large painting of Sai Baba along with that of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna. I enquired from an elderly person sitting by my side about Baba. He told me that he was a pious man, who lived in Shirdi near Poona and did a lot of good to many people. He had passed away a few years earlier. He told me that Baba's popularity was spreading very fast and he was helping anyone who seeks his help with payers. I was impressed, but did not believe that. But I started admiring him.

I completed my Engineering studies and started as a Trainer in the Madras Corporation. There were total anti Brahmin rules in Madras even then as now. So I applied for a post advertised in the Union of Burma Government. I was interviewed and selected. But I could not get a passport. In those days the passport application had to get countersignature by tax payer or property owner. I could not manage any. Then I thought of Babaji. Then I went to the Counsel General of Burma, praying to Baba and took my passport application. I was asked to come next day. Next day when I went to him, he gave passport, visa, air ticket from Calcutta to Rangoon

### SRI SHIRIDI SAIBABA MIRACLE IN MAURITIUS

By: Sreehari

While I was working in Mauritius early this year, devotees there requested me for an idol of Lord Sri Shiridi Saibaba. I managed to get the idol from Hyderabad, India to Mauritius. But, unfortunately, the idol broke down into pieces in transportation. The broken pieces of the idol were kept under a tree. After four months, devotees found to their surprise, that the broken pieces came together and, miraculously, Lord Sri Shiridi Saibaba's idol was restored to its original sitting posture! At present, the devotees in Mauritius are worshipping the Lord and are conducting religious rituals regularly.

Now I'm working in UAE. I was informed of this miracle by phone and the devotees have sent me the photos of the idol before and after the miracle. This is the greatest and most wonderful miracle of Lord Sri Shiridi Saibaba I've ever seen in my life! And Thanks to my Guruji Sri Sri Sri Srinu Baba. Thank you and God bless you all.



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by Burma Airways, and train ticket from Madras to Calcutta. That is how I joined my new job by the grace of Sainath.

Then after 2½ years in Rangoon and nearby towns, I was sent to Myktyana, the capital of Kochin state, northern most of State of Burma adjoining India. In the meantime Burma was in turmoil. Trains ran only during day time. The state was under military control. I was going back to Rangoon by train. The train stopped on a wayside station for the night. I was sleeping in the train. About 2.45 AM my window was tapped. I looked out. I could see the shadow of Sai Baba. He was waving his hand, indicating me to go back home. When I reported back my Chief Engineer called me. He told me I had two options either to take up citizenship of Burma or go back to India. I recollected Sainath signals. I gave my application to go back to Madras. All arrangements were made for me accordingly in 1959. Burma was in turmoil for many years and still under military rule. Since then I came under the care of Sainath. He looks after me. I am well, healthy and at peace.

## The Glories of Hanumanji

By: Radhika

Hanumanji never has any worldly desires. His only desire is to serve Lord Sri Rama. His activities therefore, are uttama- bhakti. He cannot forget Sri Rama for even a moment. Hanuman is the incarnation of Lord Siva. The istadeva (worshipable deity) of Lord Siva is Sankarsana and Sankarsana is a manifestation of Lord Balarama. In Rama-lila Balarama appears as Laksmana, the younger brother of Sri Rama. Hanuman is always serving Lord Ram Chandra under the guidance of Laksmana. Sometimes he took Lord Ramacandra on his shoulders, and he also served Laksmana in the same way on many occasions.

When Lord Rama and Laksmana were searching for Sita devi, Hanuman disguised as a brahmana, questioned Rama and Laksmana. While doing so he realized their identities and then revealed who he was. He told them both, "Come and sit on my shoulders. I will take you to Rishuamuka Mountain where Sugriva is hiding. He is very upset because his enemy has taken his kingdom and very beautiful wife. I think it would be of great consequence if you were to befriend him. Sugriva will discover Your Sita and somehow bring her to you, and in exchange You will be able to kill his enemy."

Another time, Hanumanji served Laksmana at a time of great need when a sakti weapon, which was thrown by Meghanatha, struck Laksmana's body, making him fall unconscious as if dead. It was Hanuman who then brought sanjivani (a powerful life-returning herb) to save Laksmana. When he was first looking for that plant, Hanuman could not recognise it. He had been told that it would be situated on a certain mountain and only recognisable due to being self-illuminated, and would thus stand out from the rest. But it so happened that the demons there had made all of the plants on that mountain self-illuminated. Therefore he decided to take the entire mountain on his head and returned to Laksmana on the very same night. At that time Susena was nearby, but being Ravana's ayurvedic doctor he was not willing to come to help. For that reason Hanuman lifted up his whole house, brought him there, and convinced him to serve. He told the doctor, "Your business is to serve all without any prejudice. For a doctor, there is no consideration of enemy or friend. If an enemy comes to you, he should be helped. So you should cure Laksmana." Susena then did so.

Once, Sri Rama and Laksmana were bound by naga pasa (snake-ropes). They had fallen unconscious and were about to die. By the instruction of Narada Rsi, Hanuman brought Garuda

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(Lord Vishnu's eagle carrier) from Vaikuntha to chase the snakes away. When Garuda arrived, just by smelling the scent of his body, all the snakes fled.

By these incidents we can see how Hanuman was doing "anukulyena krsnanu-silanam." Just as honey flows continuously from a jar without obstruction, Hanuman served Lord Rama day and night with complete devotion. We should learn how to serve from him.

The wife of Lord Rama, Sita devi, and His brothers Bharata, Laksmana and Satrugna are all servants of Lord Rama. Once they had a meeting and complained to each other about Hanuman saying, "Hanuman is always serving Rama, from the beginning of the day to the end of the day. He does not spare any time for us to serve. He is either fanning with a camara, massaging Him, bringing Him food, or performing a multitude of other services. When do we get a chance to serve? The four of us combined together, should take over all of Rama's services, day and night. Hanuman should have no time to even enter the palace." Thus they divided all of Rama's services amongst themselves. They decided that during the night time, only Sita devi would be allowed to serve Rama. In the daytime all the services were divided between Bharata, Laksmana, and Satrugna. Hanuman being left with no service, began to weep. He prayed to them saying, "Please don't do this to me. Please give me any insignificant service – otherwise I cannot survive. I will die." Can we be like Hanuman, thinking that without serving Lord Rama or Krishna we will die? When we can think like this we will actually be a servant of Bhagavan. Hanuman was always meditating, always performing kirtana, always hearing hari-katha from the gandharvas, and always offering pranama (obeisances).

Ambarisa Maharaja was also doing devotional service like Hanuman, but the devotional service of Hanuman was performed in a superior way. Maharaja Ambarisa was travelling throughout Vraja, doing parikrama. But what was Hanuman doing? He was jumping over the ocean to bring information of Sita devi back to Lord Rama. He burned Lanka. He engaged his mind, his body, his soul, his senses and his moods in the direct service of Bhagavan – not just by serving the deity form of the Lord as Ambarisa Maharaja was. Hanuman spoke to Sita, Laksmana, Bharata and Satrugna, asking them, "Please give me any service. It may be a lower service, but I want it." They contemplated what to do, and discussed amongst each other, "What service can we give him?" Not wanting to give up any of the services they told him, "Nothing." Then he responded saying, "I have a suggestion. Sri Ramacandra has never yawned – but it may happen that He will yawn. I will stay outside His room, and if He will yawn I will snap my fingers. This service should be given to me." When a person yawns the snapping of fingers is a message to "take care" and to remember Bhagavan. The four discussed Hanuman's proposal and decided that, since in His whole life Ramacandra had never yawned, there would be no harm in Hanuman taking that service. Hanuman then remained sitting outside the house. He sang, "Jaya

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Rama, Jaya Rama, Jaya Jaya Rama," and snapped his fingers continuously. Lord Ramacandra then began to yawn throughout the entire day and night and all services done by Sita, Laksmana, Bharata and Satrugna had to be stopped. They began to think, "What to do now? This Hanuman is the cause of this." They went to Rama, who then advised them, "Oh, please give him more service, otherwise he will not be able to remain alive." We should try to be like Hanuman – always serving.

In this world, we cannot directly serve Sri Krishna but we can serve Him in His deity form. Fortunately, Krishna has also appeared in the form of the most elevated devotee as Sri Guru and bonafide sadhus. The symptoms of bonafide Guru and sadhus are told in Srimad Bhagavatam and other scriptures. By directly serving and associating with bonafide Guru and sadhus in this world, we will one

day be able to serve Bhagavan directly in the spiritual world. Hanuman was a brahmachari from the beginning of his life. He never married because he thought, "My energy will then go towards family members. Why should I not serve Lord Rama from the beginning?" Hanuman considered Sita devi to be his mother. Once he saw Sita devi in the dressing-room. She had already bathed, and now she was decorating herself to prepare for entering the assembly of Sri Rama. She had put on all of her ornaments, and now she was placing sindu (vermilion) powder on



the part of her hair. This is the symptom of a chaste lady whose husband is alive. Hanuman said, "Mother, I was searching for you. What are you doing here? What is this red color, and why are you anointing your head with it?" She replied, "I am wearing this so that your Lord Rama, my husband will always be glorious, have a long life and always be happy. By this He will surely be benefited." Sita devi then left and Hanuman entered her dressing room. He took all of the red powder, mixed it with oil, and coloured himself from top to bottom. When he reached the assembly of Lord Rama, all those present who saw him laughed. Lord Rama asked Hanuman, "What have you done?" He replied saying, "Oh Prabhu, I have done this because, if by Mother Sita keeping a small amount of this reddish powder on her hair You will be happy and have a

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long life, then I should put it everywhere on my body so that You will have a very long and glorious life." In this way, he serves Lord Rama with great devotion.

By his hands, Hanuman massages and brings Rama whatever he requires. Sometimes he creates a fort by his tail to stop anyone from entering the gate. He sits as a heroic guard, protecting Rama. By mind he always remembers Sita and Rama. By his tongue he always sings kirtana of Rama, and by his ears he hears Rama's glories. Moreover, by his feet he jumps here and there for the service of Lord Ramachandra. We can see from the pastimes of Hanuman that he has a great sense of mamata for Lord Rama, which is characterized by his service mood. Mamata is the scale by which to measure any standard of bhakti. If there is no mamata, there is no bhakti. Thus, in all ways, he is Lord Rama's most obedient servant – and he can give his life for Rama.

## About Sai Dham

By: Vineet Chadha

Today, after it all started in November'09, Sai Dham is no longer the name of our house in which there is a Sai Mandir but vice versa. It's a Sai Mandir in which we are lucky to be residing with Baba. We have tried our level best to give Baba and his devotees – a feel of Shirdi, his actual home. The Murti and the backdrop of the Mandir give you a glimpse of mini Shirdi. So many people around us have got attached to Baba and everyone is serving him in their own special way. All the 4 artis are duly performed daily – Kankad arti and Snan at 5:00 am, Madhyaanya Arti at 12:00 pm, Dhoop Arti at 6:00 pm and Shej Arti at 10:00 pm. Regular Bhog and Prasad is served after each arti. Thursdays are special as it is Baba's day. In the morning at 5 a.m there is Mangal Snan in which all devotees take part and scrub and bathe Baba and later dress him up and do his Shringar. Thursday evenings are special too, as langar prasad is distributed among 200-300 devotees present, in the Mandir and also to the poor and needy outside the mandir.

Apart from this, devotees come in the mornings to meditate in the peaceful presence of Baba, read Sai Charitra, pray and get rid of their tensions. Not only their worries, people also come to the mandir to share their joys and celebrate their birthdays and anniversaries with Baba by distributing sweets and other foods items that they have prepared up for Him. In turn, they get blessings from Baba in the form of the 'Haar' (garland), 'Chola' (dress) that HE adorns. Being able to perform the arti themselves, they get so close to him, to fan him with 'Chavar', serving him food-all this gives the devotees immense joy and overwhelms them with emotion. Thus a special bond is formed between the bhakt and Baba.

Now, to get as many people connected to Baba and spread awareness about his teachings, special steps are taken which inspire the devotees to come again and again, always yearning for his darshan. These range from devotees performing artis to helping in Sai Dham's operations. Various events like celebration of festivals of all religions, Satyanarayan puja every month, Sai Bhajans on thursdays, distribution of free CDS, magazines, calendars etc also take place in Sai Dham. Ladoo prasad, Udi and Samadhi Jal from Shirdi is also distributed 3-4 times a year. Reading of Sai Satcharita, special Sai Sandhya programmes, Guru poornima celebrations with Sai Baba's chariot being taken into procession are some of the regular features at Sai Dham. Senior priest from Shirdi Sai Sansthan also visit and give discourses based on Baba's teachings to motivate devotees. Group tours to Shirdi are also organised. My family has footwear business and we do distribution of free footwear to security guards at Shirdi Sai Sansthan. For

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devotees who are interested in meditation, there are classes for meditation. Everyday Dhyan and Simran are done in Baba's presence.

The above are some of the steps done by Sai Dham to make people aware of Baba's philosophy and teachings. Families are learning various rituals associated with performing Baba's arti and even children pick up these things very smartly.

Sai Dham is blessed by Baba in that it is connecting Baba's devotees; it is giving solace and peace to all its devotees. Sai Dham strictly prohibits any donation to it. It is not a trust and not any organisation. IT is a sustained activity by Baba's bhaktas. We are doing whatever is in our capacity and Baba always returns many times of what we give to him. We also preserve spiritual experiences of devotees so that it inspires those who are new to Sai Baba and reaffirms its existing devotees.

So we, at Sai Dham, pray and hope that with Baba's blessing and support of all the team members will succeed in our mission of spreading Baba's teachings, making you aware of his miraculous powers, share experiences of devotees, help you achieve the higher goals of life through some meditations tips. May Sai Nath be always with you.

## Why No Onions and Garlic?

By: Radhika

Many of our readers are habituated to eating and onions and garlic and do not understand why devotees of Lord strictly avoid eating them. I have been asked this question so many times that I decided to devote an article to it. Our reason for not taking onions and garlic is very simple. It is not at all complicated. According to the instructions very clearly given in the scriptures, devotees of Lord are meant to eat only the remnants of food offered with love and devotion to Lord.

*yajña-śiṣṭāśinaḥ santo  
mucyante sarva-kilbiṣaiḥ  
bhuñjate te tv aghaṁ pāpā  
ye pacanty ātma-kāraṇāt*

"The devotees of the Lord are released from all kinds of sins because they eat food which is offered first for sacrifice. Others, who prepare food for personal sense enjoyment, verily eat only sin." And since great acharyas have confirmed that Lord does not accept offerings containing onions and garlic, the obvious conclusion is that devotees cannot take garlic and onions because Lord says that partaking of foods that are not acceptable is eating only sin.

The above reason is sufficient to convince the devotees to strictly avoid onions and garlic. The non-acceptability of onions and garlic is also confirmed as follows in the Manusmriti 5.5:  
laśunaṁ caiva palāṇḍu abhaḥṣyāṇi

### SYNONYMS

laśunam—garlic; ca—also; eva—certainly; palāṇḍu—onion; abhaḥṣyāṇi—are not eatable.

### TRANSLATION

Garlic and onions are unworthy of eating. Also in the Bhagavad-gita Lord Krishna advises against pungent foods such as onions and garlic:



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*kaṭv-amlā-lavaṇāty-uṣṇa-  
tīkṣṇa-rūkṣa-vidāhinaḥ  
āhārā rājasasyeṣṭhā  
duḥkha-śokāmaya-pradāḥ*

"Foods that are too bitter, too sour, salty, hot, pungent, dry and burning are dear to those in the mode of passion. Such foods cause distress, misery and disease."

Further confirmation that onions and garlic are not offerable to Lord is how bad they smell. A simple stroll through the produce section of a grocery store also can help us understand why we should not offer them to Lord. As soon as one gets near the onions and garlic one can easily detect a strong foul aroma. If the person who is cooking is accustomed to giving food an extra zing by adding onions and garlic, they can use hing (asafoetida) instead.

The final conclusion is that when we satisfy Lord by offering Him foods according to His satisfaction and take as our only eatables those offered foods, we will be fully satisfied in our eating and will advance very nicely towards spiritual perfection by such sacrificial eating.

## Feeding the mentally challenged people

By: Arvind Narvekar (compiled from web)

Ganesh Nadar in Madurai 'I don't feed beggars. They can look after themselves. The mentally ill won't ask anyone for food or money,' says N Krishnan who has been feeding them thrice a day for the past seven years. We proudly launch our Independence Day special series: Extraordinary Indians. N Krishnan feeds 400 mentally ill people on the streets of Madurai three times a day, every day, all 365 days of the year.

The 28 year old has been doing this for seven years via a charity called the Akshaya Trust. A look into the kitchen reveals a spotlessly clean room. Sparkling vessels stacked neatly, groceries and provisions all lined up in rows -- rice, dal, vegetables, spices -- all of the best quality. One would think this was the kitchen of a five star hotel.

Maybe Krishnan achieves that effect because he was once a chef at a five star hotel in Bengaluru. "Today's lunch is curd rice, with homemade pickle, please taste it," he says, serving me on a plate made of dried leaves. The food is excellent. "I change the menu for different days of the week. They will get bored if I serve the same food every day," he says with an enthusiastic and infectious smile.

Krishnan cooks breakfast, lunch and dinner with the help of two cooks. He takes it himself to his wards on the street each day. "I don't feed beggars. They can look after themselves. The mentally ill won't ask anyone for food or money. They don't move around much too. I find them in the same place every day." That morning he put the food in a large vessel, the pickle in a smaller one and loaded it into a Maruti van donated by a Madurai philanthropist. Ten minutes later we stopped near a man lying on the ground by a high wall. Krishnan put the food next to him. The man refused to even look at it, but grabbed the water bottle and drank eagerly. "He will eat the food later, looks like he was very thirsty," said Krishnan.

At the next stop, he laid the dry leaf-plate and served the food. He then scooped some food and started feeding the mentally ill man himself. After two morsels, the man started eating on his own. We then crossed a crowded traffic signal and stopped the vehicle. On seeing Krishnan, four individuals moved slowly towards the Maruti van. They stood out in the crowd with their dirty, tattered clothes and unshaven beards. They knew this Maruti van meant food. But they

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did not hurry, knowing that Krishnan would wait for them. Krishnan served them under a tree and carried water for them. "They are not aware enough to get their own water," he explained.

And thus we went around the city till the Akshaya patra was empty. Of course, it would be full again for dinner later in the day. As we returned, a startling fact hit me. Not a single mentally challenged person had thanked Krishnan. They did not even smile or acknowledge him. Still Krishnan carried on in a world where most of us get offended if someone doesn't say thank you, sometimes even for doing our jobs.

The food costs Rs 12,000 a day, but that doesn't worry him. "I have donors for 22 days. The remaining days, I manage myself. I am sure I will get donors for that too, people who can afford it are generally generous, particularly when they know that their hard earned money is actually going to the poor. That is why I maintain my accounts correctly and scrupulously." He then pulled out a bill from the cabinet and showed it to me. It was a bill for groceries he had bought seven years ago. "This bill has sentimental value. It is the first one after I started Akshaya."

The economic slowdown has resulted in a drop in the number of donors. Earlier, they sustained meals for 25 days. Software giant Infosys and TVS were so impressed with his work that they donated three acres of land to him in Madurai. Krishnan hopes to build a home for his wards there. He has built the basement for a woman's block which will house 80 inmates, but work has currently halted due to a lack of funds. This, however, is not the sum of his good deeds. Krishnan also performs the funerals of unclaimed bodies in Madurai. He collects the body, bathes it and gives it a decent burial or cremation as the need may be. He gets calls, both from the municipal corporation and general hospital for the funerals. He recalls with a little prompting how one day he saw a mentally ill man eating his excreta. He rushed to the nearest restaurant and bought the man five idlis. The man ate voraciously, and then smiled at him. The smile made Krishnan want to do it again and again.

Krishnan has not married and wonders if anyone would want to marry a man who spends his days cooking food for others. He is firm that his life partner has to agree to this kind of life. His parents were initially shocked, but are now very supportive of their son. They advise him about the cuisine and also about how he can streamline the process. One wonders why he left his job in a five star hotel to bury the dead and feed the mentally ill. To this he just smiles and says, "I like doing it."

## Blessings of Baba

By: Seema Kapoor

Today before I share my experience with all "Sai" followers, I join hands and offer my prayers to "Baba" to bless us all. In the past few years I have received great kripa from "Baba" and as I sit to write today. I have tears in my eyes and my heart is full of admiration for the great saint who has bestowed his blessings every now and then and guided me in my difficult days.

We are a middle class family leading a very normal life with no grudges. "Sai" had blessed us with all the amenities of life and life was smooth. My husband is into business but as the time never remains the same. Just to put it in words, days were turning into a nightmare and we did not know what was happening. My husband was blessed with Midas Touch but everything was turning into ruins. We were running for clothes, food, fees for the children, house rent and so on. The list is unlimited.

In between all this a friend of mine bought me a portrait of "Sai Baba" from "Shirdi". Without bothering much, I kept sometime here, sometime there and sometimes in vague corner. Little did I realize that this small gift of "Sai Baba" portrait would do wonders. One day Baba knew, he had an insight about how my heart was crying all the time.

Few days later what happened is a surprise for all. One fine day I was sitting in my shop and my husband was wandering for work. A ray of hope changed everything. I picked up the portrait of "Sai Baba" bathed it, opened the locker of the shop and placed it in one corner. Those words are still fresh in my mind that "Baba" I have made a place for you in the locker of the shop and now its your duty to fulfill the empty one. I am passing through a period where there is no day light. Do show me some lighted path.

For all my "Sai" followers. I beg to say that there was no looking back from that time. Children have been blessed with good education, husband has good business and to top it all he has not removed "Baba" from there. He makes it a point to offer his prayers everyday. If "Sai" has blessed me in times unbearable. I pray to him to bless all individuals who believe in him, who pray to him and who offer their heart and soul in his "Sewa".

## Sai Samarpan

By: Shwethambara S

I had promised Baba that I would post my experience in his newsletter if my prayers were answered and yes they did. What else can we expect from Baba, the ever loving, ever forgiving Sai, my Father. Though I have not been His good daughter always, still He has fulfilled my wish, without which I had almost lost all interest in this life.

I have been married for five years and had been craving for a baby for the last 3 years now. We had never ever thought that we would face a difficulty in this respect, since both of us were very healthy. However, when we realized we were not able to conceive, I was shattered. To top it were the repeated queries from our parents, relatives, friends, which were so frustrating. Finally, we got to know about a doctor whose success rate in such cases was very high and we approached her. An arrogant thought came to my mind that what Sai could not give me, the doctor would give. I rebuked myself for that moment when the thought crossed my mind, though my ignorance and arrogance did not allow me to realise it then. We went through 6 months of traumatic tests, treatments and 2 failed IUIs. Day after day, I questioned Sai as to why He is subjecting me to this.

Then as if Sai Himself spoke to me, suddenly a thought flashed across my mind which made me feel so foolish and sick about myself thinking that I could nourish such a feeling as doubting the Doctor of Doctors Sai. Even as I apologized to Baba for my arrogant thought, I felt very ashamed of myself. Previous to the day of my 3rd cycle of IUI which was scheduled on 13th Jan - Thursday, as I was going to sleep, a thought came to my mind that I should do the Sai Satcharitra Parayan. This thought had never come to me in so many days. I started the reading the next day, a Thursday, and then went to the clinic for my IUI. The doctor there told me that since 2 IUIs had already failed, in case, this too failed; I would have to undergo a laproscopy to see if there was any other problem. I was too worried on hearing this, since it would affect me a lot, considering I was a working woman. Also, I had weakened a lot psychologically since we were facing all this without informing our parents. I prayed desperately to Sai, that He should not let me go through that ordeal and that this time He should bless me. Thinking back at the sequence of events that followed, it looks like Baba had made up His mind to bless me.

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His saying – “Why fear when I am here” was very apt in my case. On the 5th day of my Parayan, as I was reading the Satcharitra at home in the evening, one of my ex-colleagues, who I was not in touch with, called up. I was a little irritated and reluctant to take the call, since I felt that his phone call was a disturbance in my reading. However, when I picked the call, he said that he had been to Shirdi the previous month and wanted to give the Prasad and that he was waiting outside the office. I could not believe my ears. Feeling choked with emotions, when I looked at Sai, there he was looking at me with that enigmatic smile of His. I could feel goose bumps all over me and can feel them again as I am writing this. I really felt that he was blessing my reading, else, how could a person who I was not even in touch with, would call me to give the Prasad, that too almost a month after his return from Shirdi.

Why now, when I was doing my parayana and why me, when he had so many of his other friends whom he could call and give the Prasad. Sai’s Leela is really inscrutable!!! He has His ways of conveying His message and blessings to His bhaktas. I collected the Prasad from my colleague the next day. I completed my reading with lots of positive energy and hopes due to this incident and on completion went to the Sai photo in our house with a box of sweets and closing my eyes, offered Him the naivedya. As I did this, for a brief fraction of a second, I just felt a whiff of fragrance, very similar to that near the Samadhi in Baba’s mandir in Shirdi. I was so excited that I opened my eyes, turned around and started whiffing again to see where the fragrance came from. However, I could not get it again. Although I was sure that none of the agarbathis in our house bore that fragrance, I still smelt them again to check. But no, that brief fragrant moment was heavenly and I could not experience it again.

## **Sai blessed me with courage to speak**

**By: S. Nivedita**

Some time back I was planning to switch over to another job. The company that I was working with had its own way of torturing their employees and leading them to submit their resignation. After giving much thought I finally submitted my resignation and as usual they found out reasons for delaying my relieving date. They delayed so much that I had to reschedule my joining date in the new company. Although I had enough privilege leaves available but for no reason they were delaying. Then on a Thursday I went to Sai Baba temple, prayed to him and on returning back, to my surprise, I got courage to speak to my Divisional Head and HR. I spoke to them in such a way that they got convinced immediately and decided to relieve me and thus started the process. I was astound as it was Baba who gave me courage and guts to face such a situation. That moment I really felt like sharing my experience with all in Samarpan. Now I am in another difficult situation which I can only overcome with Baba's blessings. I am sure that one day I will share it too. May all be blessed with peace and prosperity in life.

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This was the second miracle. I was more and more confident that Baba is with this daughter of His. In my younger days everytime I used to complete a parayana, that night I used to see Baba in my dream.

But it was many years since Baba appeared in my dreams. This night when I slept, I was very hopeful that I would see a dream of Baba. I tossed and turned the whole night, getting up every now and then, trying to remember if I had got any dream. But I had not. I felt a little dejected in the morning, but then also thought that I was bothering Sai too much and demanding too much from him. Each day taking us closer to the D-day passed by very painfully, as I was much tensed that nothing should go wrong and finally, the day on which the doctor had asked us to come for the check –up came. I was very happy about the fact that, this too was a Thursday!! Mysterious are the ways of Sai. Fools are we if we take these to be co-incidences. My test came positive and our joys knew no bounds!! After so many years, news that we had been so desperately waiting to hear was in front of us!!! I just cannot thank Sai enough. I had thought in my mind earlier that I would visit the Baba temple in our area, should I get positive news. However, that evening, by the time we finished at the doctor’s, it was almost 8:30 and this place was quite far from the temple. I started feeling dejected again. My husband reassured me saying that it being a Thursday, the temple would be open longer than usual. If not, we could still offer our prayers from outside and then visit the temple the next day. Again, by Baba’s grace, although we reached quite late, the temple was open and we could go and offer our thanks to Baba.

Now read the third miracle. Four days after this, I started getting cramps in my abdomen and an uneasy feeling. I got too worried, prayed to Baba to not let anything go wrong and rushed to the doctor. After a couple of checks she confirmed that all is fine. However, I was still feeling very uneasy. I again prayed to Baba to give me a re-assurance in some way that He was with me and nothing would go wrong. I begged him to come just once in my dream and tell me that all would be fine. Just see, how this Lord melts for his people how much ever unfit they are. This lord, my Sai, His heart is like butter. I really could not control my happiness, when next morning I woke up and recollected my dream. I have a large copy of an original photo of Sai Baba taken in the year 1918, where He is leaning against a wall surrounded by few of His devotees and one devotee holding an umbrella over Him. It seemed in the dream that I am supposed to go out somewhere and before going I just hurriedly go to this photo and pray to Baba to bless me and give me a reassurance of His being with me and just when I am about to go from there, I feel that Baba blinked both His eyes. I turn again towards Him and see His lips moving. Reading that, I shout “Allah achcha karega??” “Allah achcha karega??” and then start repeating continuously “Thank you Baba” “Thank you Baba”!! and there ended my dream.

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I cannot just explain how merciful this Sai is. I really felt bad about myself for even doubting for a moment that Baba is not with me and worrying unnecessarily. I have to go through another eight months of pregnancy and pray to Baba to take me through a safe pregnancy and delivery and bless my baby with a normal, happy, healthy, long life. I pray for the welfare of all us who have been lucky to take to Sai's refuge.

Loka samastha sukhino bhavanthu.



## Baba Helped Me

By: Meena Kapoor

I stay in a proper joint family. It's been 12 years of my marriage. My father in law recently expired in a road accident. Since beginning, I was very attached with my mother in law. My father-in-law is no more. She also shares the same feelings with me. We were happily staying together till my brother in law got married 4 years back. His wife (my co-sister in law) was very proud. From the beginning, she neither used to respect elders nor was interested to do any household work. She wanted to live an independent life like a free bird. I could not gel with her as there was too much difference in our thoughts and understandings. Since, she was jealous about my relationship with my mother in law, she started creating differences between both of us. My mother-in-law got influenced from her and stopped talking with me and my husband for many days. We both got very depressed. I, being an emotional and sentimental person, took it to my heart. I always used to pray Baba to help me out as I was facing lot of problems because of this.

One fine day, my husband insisted my mother-in-law to come with us in a Sai Temple. Though she didn't want to come but somehow she agreed to it. I was happy as in some corner of my heart there was a hope that Baba will now solve the problem. We reached at Baba's temple and finished our Pooja in half an hour's time. Till now my mother in law was not talking to us properly. We came outside. We bought SAI GEETA for my mother-in-law. I saw a register lying outside Baba's Mandir for his followers to share their experience with baba and write their problems if any. I felt very motivated and thought as if Baba wanted me to write my problem here. I wrote everything to Baba, what I was going through and requested Baba to please refresh our relationship once again as we can't stay without each other. While writing to Baba, my eyes were filled with tears. I didn't share this with anybody.

Next day morning a miracle happened. My mother in law all of sudden became normal with us, she started talking to us very sweetly. Me and my husband were surprised to see her changed behavior. And to my surprise, she insisted me to read SAI GEETA with her from next day onwards. My joy knew no bounds because we have got her love back. I immediately said "THANK YOU BABA" I know you have done this. THANK YOU BABA, I LOVE YOU BABA. Please be with me always. I request all of you to share your problems with BABA. He definitely listens to us and provides solutions to it. LOVE YOU BABA. JAI SAI RAM.

## Akshaya Tritiya - The Legend Behind the Celebration

By: Arvind Narvekar

Akshaya Tritiya is one of the four most auspicious days in the Vedic calendar. The other three being, Ugadi, Vijaya Dashami & Balipadyami.

On this day, the Sun & the Moon are at their brightest state. When the Pandavas were in exile, Lord Krishna gave Draupadi a bowl called "Akshaya Patram" and told that this bowl would provide unlimited amounts of wholesome food to the Pandavas. THE WORD AKSHAYA MEANS "WHICH NEVER DIMINISHES." It is considered a good time for people to bring home Goddess Laxmi in the form of valuables on Akshaya Tritiya so that it creates abundance in homes.

Akshaya Tritiya is also known as Akha Teej and is celebrated as birthday of Lord Parshuram, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Parashuram, was the son of sage Jamadagni and Mother Renuka. Once it so happened that Jamadagni who was very high tempered commanded Parshuram to kill Renuka. Obeying the command of his father, Parshuram killed his mother. Jamadagni was satisfied and granted his son a boon. Parshuram asked that his mother be brought back to life. Parashuram was highly devoted to his father & mother.

It was on the day of Akshaya Tritiya that Sage Ved Vyasa, along with Lord Ganesha, commenced writing Mahabharata. And according to Indian Mythology, this day marks the beginning of Threta Yug.

It is a faith that on the day of Akshaya Tritiya, our good deeds are rewarded multi-fold. That is why good people make donations on this day to earn Lord's Grace. People perform Pujas like Sri Sathya Narayana puja to invoke the blessings of Lord Vishnu. Akshaya tritiya involves immense charity and offerings aiming to bring about prosperity and good luck in the family. Om Sai Ram.

## A Moment's reflection

By: Neelanjana Pathak

Sai Baba saw your sadness and said "hard times are over". If you believe in Him, send this to 12 people. Watch something good will happen to you in the next 30 minutes. If you break the chain Sai Baba will punish you". Or "Tomorrow is Shirdi Sai's birthday." To get His blessings light lamps in your house and send this message to 20 friends. This will make Sai Baba happy and you will be blessed. If you delete this sms without forwarding, something bad will happen in your life. This is not a superstition but something tried and tested. Swayed by the apparent sincerity of the sender, I was about to forward the text message to many of my friends, but I paused, and thought for a minute. Does Sai Baba need such techno-aided, false propaganda? By forwarding these messages, I would only be benefitting the mobile companies as the chain would lead to thousands and thousands of sms.

In his life time Baba did not travel any further than Rahata and Neemgaon. He continued to lead a humble life in the masjid (Dwarkamai) at Shirdi from where He blessed all His followers- no paraphernalia, no luxuries, no publicity to attract attention. Yet, today almost a hundred years after He took Samadhi, there is no part of the globe from where devotees do not visit Shirdi. The moment one sets foot on the holy soil of Shirdi, one realizes the omnipotence and omnipresence of Sai-a Saint- God who is above time and space. Does such a Power require fake propaganda or fraudulent means to gain popularity?

To any reader of Sai Satcharitra it is well known that Baba was against all forms of deceit and falsehood. He believed in little deeds of kindness as opposed to a show of wealth and pomposity. The life that he led for 60 years in Shirdi is a classic example of sacrifice and austerity. He was beyond questions and beyond doubts, an incarnation of Truth. The purpose of His walking in a bodily frame was only to flood the world with unending love, hope, compassion, peace and patience.

Today we are face to face with the reality of His name being actually misused for materialistic needs. There are chains of fake mails, text messages, pseudo-saints, even hastily constructed Sai temples that are founded on vested interests. It is common to find such temples that lay claims to having connections with Sai Sansthaan, Shirdi. They announce that the temple follows the time schedule of the Shirdi temple or that the dhooni has been lit from the sacred dhooni initially ignited by Sai Baba. Some even claim that the priest is a descendant of some devotee who had served Baba in his lifetime! Surprisingly, in Shirdi there are two families that

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call themselves the legitimate owners of the nine silver coins passed on to His ardent devotee, Laxmi Bai Shinde just before He transcended the mortal frame in October 1918. These nine coins consecrated by Baba Himself are a venerable treasure to any true devotee but how can one be sure as to which family worships the original coins and which one has manipulated counterfeit coins only to pull Sai followers?

Almost in all parts of India, there are wanderers who come dressed up as Baba to the homes of devotees. They try to win our confidence by making some stray predictions on the basis of which they read minds and begin to ask for donations in Sai Baba's name. Also, it is not uncommon to come across people who claim to be office bearers of the Shirdi Sansthaan who cheat by asking for an amount for some charitable cause. Unarguably, one gets momentarily carried away: no devotee of Sai Baba would like to miss out on an opportunity to contribute generously towards a noble cause in Baba's name. However; it is time we begin to reflect and think rationally rather than be driven by false fears. Indeed, Sai Baba is not to be feared but LOVED and VENERATED.

Baba is not a keeper of our records-He does not turn revengeful against a group of people who is not forwarding messages and E-mails! Sai Baba is essentially an embodiment of light-a dispeller of darkness. We all have read of his love for lighting lamps as also of the miracle of burning them even without oil. He is above fame, popularity and propaganda. He reigns supreme not just in the hearts, but in the souls of His true followers. To please Him, we need to follow His principles and teachings-both in theory and in practice: feed the starved, clothe the needy, be compassionate towards the weak and the poor and be kind to all creatures.

Faith in Baba is a seed sown in the soul of a devotee-from the unseen depths; it should grow into a tree that provides shelter to those who volunteer to seek His blessings and benevolence. Hence, dear Sai follower, the next time you are tempted to offer money which is being requested for in Baba's divine name, pause, ponder, reflect if it may be wiser to use this money and your time on something which is nobler and therefore nourishes the soul of the giver and the receiver. Sai Baba loved light and can be best welcomed in ignited, bright, minds-clear of all dark clouds of superstition, binding rituals and pomposity.

Let us pledge to rethink and refocus our energy, dedication and devotion to the eternally enlightened ideals of Shraddha and Saburi. OM SAI RAM!

## Grace from the Omnipresent Lord Sai

By: Jagdish Kapoor

It is said, "without the Grace of the Omnipresent Supremo, nothing is possible." How true it is. In 2000, I was serving Bank of India, Bhopal Zonal Office, as an Officer. There was a big rush for Voluntary Retirement. Amongst the VRS Officers, if I had opted for VRS, I would be the most benefited, monetary wise.

By the Grace of Sai, I had plenty of very close, affection friends, they all clustered at my home, and insisted me to take VRS. I was not able to make up my mind, so we (my wife and myself) decided to put up the problem to none other than Lord Sai. My wife at that time had come from Jabalpur, as she was attending to my aged ailing mother. So we went to the adjoining room to pray to Lord Sai. Meanwhile, all my friends were sitting in the Drawing Room. I told my friend Mr Kiran Mehta, to prepare two chits, one with YES and the other NO.

We came back to the drawing room, after enchanting our prayers to Lord Sai, and picked up one of the chit and it was NO. Then Mr Kiran Mehta, told us. With the profound love and affection to our family, he wanted to write 'YES' on both the chits, as I would have been most benefited, in emoluments, and furthermore I would be escaping the ordeal conditions of working which would further deteriorate in coming years.

### Experience with Baba

By: Anitha Karthikeyan

I had a wonderful experience of Baba. I stay at Dubai and my father was getting operated for hernia. My mother was staying at the hospital with him. She as usual had carried her Satcharitha book so that she could read it when father was taken to the operation theater. She had only carried 50 thousand rupees with her. While the surgery was going on, a nurse came to her and told her that they might need another 50 thousand which was much more than we had initially thought. She was so upset that she started praying to Baba and a miracle happened.

The doctor came back to mom and said they did not require the other 50 thousand as the other lump was too tiny and they had to just remove it. This was a miracle which my family experienced.

Om Sai Ram.

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On picking up the chit it was 'NO', so saying GRACE to Lord Sai, I decided against taking VRS. Looking back now, I just cannot stop praising the benevolence showered by Lord Sai on me and my family. Because, when I retired in 2006, none before me had received such a magnificent befitting farewell, and none till this day. At that time my Deputy General Manager, Mr J N Patil, came to my residence to bid me adieu from the Bank. Moreover, there was a drizzle on that day, as if the Lord was showering his love, and affection from the sky. As it is customary for a Banker to be transferred every year or two, I would be failing, if I do not say my Grace to Lord Sai, as I was not transferred from my Administration table for six long years, that is, from 2000 to 2006.

In 2006, after retiring, on 26th September, 2006, during Navratri puja, I was busy reading the HOLY BIBLE, I received a call from a lady, asking me, whether I would like to work, as an Accountant in an Education Group. I inquired, from my son Shashank, whether I could do so, as he was studying in an Engineering College, third Year. He replied, in affirmative. By the Grace of Lord Sai, I reported to NRI Group of Institutions, Bhopal, (Comprising of Engineering, Pharmacy, MBA Institutions) as a Registrar. They, both the Chairman and his wife, the lady who had rang me up, shower their utmost respect, all by the Grace of none other than Lord Sai. Last year, they elevated me again as a Director (Finance) of the Group. The biggest reward is observed every morning, when I reach the office. May it be the cleaning maid, or the Mali, Driver, Administrative Staff, the Accounts Staff, the Faculty Staff, it is just wonderful to hear them enchant "OM SAI RAM".

All this could not have been possible, if I had taken VRS in the year 2000, my son Shashank would not gone to UK, who is presently a Quality Engineer in Birmingham, and neither would I have been in the present position.

I and my family are greatly indebted to the Benevolent, Omnipresent SAI RAM for his fathomless Grace and Love showered on us.

## His Benovalance

By: Sangita Pandit

There are many experiences where I have felt SAINATH Himself came to rescue and saved me and my family from grave calamities. I take this opportunity to share three recent incidents with Sai devotees.

My elder son was preparing for various Engineering Entrance exams in the months of May-June 2010. One day my younger son took out our pet cat to the garden. It climbed a small hillock adjoining the garden, unable to reach it he called his elder brother to rescue the cat from a height of about 50-60 ft. As it was becoming hot and there was not much shade for the cat to take shelter. So the elder son took break from studies and climbed up the rocks and reached close to the cat to bring it down into the garden. In the process he loosened the grip on the rocks and came tumbling down the almost vertical height of approximately 60 ft. He was immediately rushed to the hospital with expectations of fractures on the hip and hand. But X-ray showed no fractures and he was bandaged for deep bruises / cuts. He recovered from injuries in 10 days to prepare for the entrance exams. This happened on Thursday and my prayers to HIM were immediately heard. It appears to me HE saved my son by extending HIS invisible hands.

My son who is average in studies aspired to join computer engineering in a good engineering college but did not perform well in the entrance examinations as such he could not get admission even through management quota, in the engineering college and branch of his choice. As all of us were worried and thinking of the future action plan, I prayed earnestly to my SAI to guide us, by asking my question on the Internet based question-answer programme on one of the SAI sites. I got a positive answer and my son got admission through management quota, in the college of his choice and that too in his desired branch.

After about 6 weeks of joining college, we were to deposit the management quota fee in the form of pay order. The pay order was handed over to my son to be deposited in the college. While getting off an auto, he forgot to pick up his bag from the back rest of the auto rickshaw. After reaching the college he realized that he forgot his bag in the rick. For 2 days he tried to find the rickshaw fellow but could not even get a trace of him in this crowded city. I earnestly prayed to my SAVIOUR SAI NATH, because otherwise my son's admission would have got cancelled in another 5 days. After 2 days of intense tension, the honest auto driver called to inform that my son could contact him at his mobile to collect his bag. This miracle was done by

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HIM only. There are many such instances when My SAI bestowed his blessings on me and my family. I just pray and HE is there. My words cannot describe HIS kindness, grace and love for us.

I pray, SAI always keep an eye on us so that we don't go astray and bless us to have in Shradha and Saburi in YOUR LOOTS FEET. Jai Sai Ram



## **Baba bless me with opportunity to do service**

By : Anuj Gupta

My name is Anuj I am 33 years working in an IT company and by Baba blessings I go to Shirdi once or twice every year. Every time I go to Shirdi I get an experience of Baba's presence and blessings. This time I visited Shirdi along with my wife, my mother and my colleague with his family (this was their first visit to Shirdi). While on the way I was praying to Baba that this time I want to do some physical service at his lotus feet. The day we reached Shirdi we went to guest house, took bath and went to Dwarkamai for darshan. Fortunately I saw my mother cleaning the floor of Dwarka mai floor along with other devotees. I was touched and thanked Baba for giving my mother a chance to serve.

Two days later, we packed our bags to catch return train in the afternoon from Kopergaon. I told my friend that we should go for Mukha darshan and take Baba's blessing before leaving. Looking at Baba I said, I wanted to do some service physically in your feet, may be due to my past karma I am not getting a chance this time but please bless me for doing some service in your feet next time when I am here. My heart was filled with sorrow and my eyes were filled with tears. My friend was surprised to see me crying. We have read in Sai Sat Charita that Baba knows all that is going on in your mind and heart. All of a sudden one of the team members in the Managing Committee came to us and asked if we wanted to do some service. My heart was filled with joy. He called us inside the hall where we were asked to sit and count cash collected as Dakshina. We went inside, sat in front of Sai Samadhi in a hall and started counting cash. They offered us tea. My friend was very happy that my wish was fulfilled. While doing this service, I looked at Baba and from bottom of my heart I was thanking Sai Maa for blessing me and fulfilling my wish. There is a story I had read in Sai Sat Charita that for all the good work Baba rewards us.

After few minutes, when we completed our work and handed over things to the management team, a guard asked us "do you want to take Baba's blessing. Go... go directly to Samadhi from here and he opened the side barrier." I started crying, my eyes were full of tears, and I could not control my tears. With folded hands I looked at Baba and was surprised that Baba had read my heart and mind and rewarded us.

## My experience with TRUTH

By: Mohan Krishnan

There is a phrase which means that when intelligence increases, the existence of GOD will be questioned. In my case, it was true to an extent till I came in contact with BHAGWAN.

I am a foreigner (of Indian origin) and have been in India for the past 4 years but before that I used to come for my YATRA to Lord Ayyappa in Sabarimala. It happened in the year 2006 when I was first engaged on my assignment in Nagpur (Maharashtra) and my contact with SAI started. As I was new to the place, I had asked my driver to take me around the place and suddenly he stopped at a shop and told me to get the Bhagwan poster for my home as HE is well known in every home in Maharashtra. In reality, I am religious but may not be a pious person (there is meaning for that), and so I got it framed and had a small pooja done and since that day, I have been conducting pooja and similarly carrying out the required rituals on every Thursday. It did not end there. There was some kind of magnetic attraction to that poster as deep inside, I knew there is a POWER. Everytime I have a problem, I am there kneeling in front of him seeking his HELP and believe it or not, it comes the very day and for that I am happy.

The real trial started when my contract expired (in year 2010) but before that I have been informed that there shall be a continuity but what happened that night was really a nightmare. I got a call saying that, " from tomorrow, you need not to attend office and all your dues will be settled in due course". What a tragedy! What have I done to deserve it? What shall I tell my family? Many questions came running across my mind and I started to cry with no one to say any comforting words to me. For me my family is first and rest next. I had my confidence and I told myself that I am going to SHRIDI the next day. I left with a heavy heart and still crying inside and seeking the answers from HIM. I managed to get the whole day DARSHAN and i wanted to stay a day more just to relax my mind. Then the miracle happened. A company whom I have not heard for the past 3years called (but before that my mobile number had been changed) and they told me that they have been trying to contact me for the past 1 month and only now they managed to get the number (they did not disclose how) but that did not matter to me. The first question they asked me was that if I was interested to join them and how soon. I replied yes and at anytime.

Then it all happened. I was on my way to Bangalore and instantly appointed where I am till date. I had tears of joy in me. Next in the lineup was I had to return to obtain my visa and when

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I reached home, I narrated the whole story to my family and surprisingly I received an overwhelming support from them and I enjoyed happily during my stay there. It is true what BHAGWAN say " IF YOU COME TO ME FOR HELP WITH FULL DEVOTION, I WILL TAKE YOU IN MY ARMS". HE did it for me and I knew that.

Now, in my home I have a full size digital photo (the actual SAI MURTHI) whom I have accepted as my GURU in this birth.

*'AM SAI NAMO NAMAHE"*

*"SRI SAI NAMO NAMAHE"*

*"JAYA JAYA SAI NAMO NAMAHE"*

*"SATGURU SAI NAMO NAMAHE"*

*PEACE BE TO ALL!!!*

## Experiences at Sai Dham

By: Atul Sabharwal

I have been a casual believer in existence and presence of GOD. Though both my parents have been firm believer in GOD, for me GOD is what I feel at my convenience. My wife, Anju is firm believer since her childhood and had been advising me to believe and feel the energy and growth in thoughts and actions.

She has been regular in attending Thursday Aarti at Sai Dham. Whenever she used to come from Sai Dham, she was always full of energy and word of praise for atmosphere at Sai Dham.

On Feb 01, 2010 she took me to Sai Dham for Evening Aarti. I felt peace of mind. I was thrilled to see Baba in his majestic posture and I was in all tears. My happiness knew no bound when I got the chance to pray to Baba with pooja thalli. My thoughts immediately rolled back to Sai story, which I had read in Amar Chitra Katha during my school days. That day I felt like staying on with Baba. The chants of Aarti filled my heart and mind with a divine experience which I never felt till that day.

Though I couldn't understand the meaning of Aarti initially and started searching for its meaning. But couldn't find much help. But Baba who knows everything understood my curiosity and it gradually started happening that both of us started understanding the larger meaning on our own.

Since that day, we come daily to Sai Dham for Aarti and it has so happened that we don't feel the day has ended unless we see Baba. We never seek anything from Baba because we know that "Baba knows everything and is omnipresent. He is always with his devotees and shares their pain and happiness".

When I see around, I see Baba's marvel in uniting the society. Sai Dham is Baba's blessing to all who come there.

## My Experience with my health problem

By: Satish Bahl

Last year I was going through certain health problems. For several years continuously I was having severe chest pain off and on. So my nephew, Vineet Chadha told me to pray to Satguru Sai Baba and took me to his family doctor – Dr.Vipul Gupta in Paschim Vihar. Several tests were done along with ECG etc.The reports were not too good; so I was advised angiography and advised to get admitted to Action Balaji Hospital as an Emergency case.

I was very tensed as I thought I would have to undergo heart surgery something which I was scared about and could not afford as well. So I prayed sincerely to Baba to save me and to come to my rescue. I took a whole handful of Udi and swallowed it in one go along with Baba's Samadhi jal. This gave me a lot of confidence and I had full faith in Baba that everything would be fine. I went for the angiography and to everyone's surprise the doctor stopped it midway. The doctor told everyone outside that my heart and arteries were as clear as a 17 year old child. I am 55 years old and smoke regularly so this was a bit surprise. I think it was Baba's miracle and a warning that I should shake off this bad habit of mine. When I was shifted to ICU after the angiography, Baba gave me Darshan. He told me that if I leave smoking I will be fit and fine and then he was gone.

I now visit SAI DHAM daily to thank Baba for saving my life. I help my nephew, Vineet in all the activities of the mandir and make several trips to the market everyday to take up all the jobs and errands like procuring puja material etc. I come everyday for the noon arti and stay till evening arti and contribute in whichever way I can towards Baba.

## I am going to become mother

By : Sree Vani

It was 19th October 2010 when I was feeling very low, because though it was already 3 yrs we got married, Baba had not blessed us with an issue. One night before going to sleep I asked Baba, "Why is this happening to us? Don't you feel that you should answer me?" The next day when I was posting a prayer at our forum which was started by Sri Vishwanath, to bless me with a child, I got a message from Deepikaji that a devotee was blessed with a child by the grace of Baba within a year, when they visited Shirdi and donated a coconut to Baba at Dwarkamai. I felt that this was a message which Baba intended to convey to us.

Accordingly, we decided to visit Shirdi (Our experience of Shirdi Trip has already been posted in Jan 2011 edition). From that day onwards, I was waiting for the good news every month. And at last Baba has shown his miracle, now I am going to be a mother. Hurray!!!! That was so surprising to us, because we never expected it so soon. And another surprising thing is that the due date for my delivery is in the month of October 2011. Is it not the blessing and miracle of Baba? I am sure that my delivery will be perfect because this baby is the gift of our greatest father Baba.

Baba my father, I know that you are always with us, loving us and giving us what is good to us. But we never understand you. We are so sorry for not understanding you. I totally believe that your blessings are always there on us. Please do take care of the child and us. Om Sai Ram.

## Transfer order on my promotion

By: Amar Nath Taluja

I want to share my experience of 'Sai Grace' with Sai devotees. In the year 2008 I got transfer order on my promotion. I had applied all my sources to change the transfer orders but could not succeed. It was not possible for me to join at the place of posting due to my chronic health problems. Ultimately I had to forgo my promotion.

Again in 2009 I got General Transfer order to AGRA. This time it was also not possible for me to go there due to my chronic health problems. Again I tried all my sources for cancellation of transfer orders. This time also I could not succeed. I lost all my confidence and I had no other option except to join at the place of posting.

I prayed to Sai Baba for help. I pleaded to baba with my folded hands and told baba that I do not know what is good for me but you know what is good. I am in deep trouble, kindly help.

After 3 or 4 days I got a call from my higher office to resubmit the request along with medical certificates. I did the same and got my transfer orders postponed for a year. It was Baba's miracle only.

After few days I decided to pray to Baba for cancellation of transfer orders permanently. I did the same and in the next morning I got a call from my higher office to submit all the documents along with medical certificate for cancellation of transfer orders permanently.

I submitted all the papers as required by the cancelling authority. I may get cancellation orders permanently at any moment. I have full faith on my 'Baba' and follow the principles of SHRADHA and SABURI taught by Baba. Baba I want to thank you, thousand times and much more. Thanks for taking care of us.

## Sai Krupa - Miracle of Mallapur Sai Kshetra

By : Suman

Different are the ways of Baba in protecting his children. One feels short of words to describe them. Can a person count the number of stars in the sky? How foolish it is to measure the grace of Baba on his children. The less said about it, the better. But as the children of Baba, is it not our responsibility to share his leelas. Definitely yes, in a way it is Guru stuti and living up to the expectations of Baba. But what is the way? What does Baba expect from a devotee? Is it money, gold, jewels, diamonds etc? Baba never gave importance to all these but considered them as hurdles in realizing the self, rather Baba expects us to remember him and show our gratitude for what has been provided to us as his blessing.

So, in this small incident which may appear as a co-incidence for non-believers, but definitely a miracle and grace of Baba for all those who believe and have faith in Baba- especially for me. Since last June, when I came into contact with Mallapur Shirdi Sai temple, I have been frequently visiting that temple. It is a great temple with simple architecture replicating Shirdi. The people who constructed this temple upon the instructions of Sri Sivensan Swamiji of Shirdi constructed it in a very much similar fashion to Dwarakamayi, Gurusthan, Chavadi present in Shirdi during the 90's, because this temple was constructed around 1991. There are so many incidents associated with the temple, which if collected can become another big ocean of Sai miracles.

I strongly feel that visiting this place is almost like visiting shirdi and even to visit this place, you need permission from Baba. Just as one cannot visit Shirdi without the permission of Baba, similarly, you cannot visit this place without the permission of Baba. I can say this with authority because I have had a personal experience. A close friend of mine was in deep trouble. He was facing financial problems, family problems and was totally clueless as to how he could come out of it. During one of my interactions with him, I suggested him to visit this temple and get blessings of Baba, by offering a coconut to the Dhuni and performing Dhuni puja, so that he could get rid of his troubles. There is a great significance of the Dhuni Puja. Sri Sivensan Swamiji insisted this to be the utmost important thing saying, "Baba always made his devotees offer coconut to the Dhuni". When one asked Baba about it, He told them that through this, one would be burning away the bad karma and got relief from their sufferings. It is just like clearing the blocks acting as hurdles in progress. Once those blocks are removed, the path is cleared,



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one can proceed further. Here our bad karma is acting as a block and by offering the coconut to the Dhuni, Baba is removing our blocks and making the path clear for our progress with his blessings. Hence Sivanesan Swamiji emphasized on this. Many a times, I have offered coconut to the Dhuni and there are many instances with our relatives and friends who got relieved of their problems after visiting this temple and offering coconut to this Dhuni.

Coming back to my friend, listening about this temple, he said that the next day morning he will go to this temple and seek the blessings of Baba and asked me to accompany him. Everything was planned and he was supposed to come next day early morning, but till date he could not come and visit the temple. I only thought that he is yet to have Baba's permission and when time comes Baba will call him to his Durbar.

Let me share the real incident with you all; I started with my wife and two kids on my bike to this temple on a Sunday morning. We planned to stay in the temple till evening and then return. From my place, there are two ways to go to this temple, one is from the old city and the second one is through the ring road. I prefer ring route because of flyover which saves time and this flyover is also among the longest flyovers in Asia running through 11.4 kms. I drove through the shade on flyover so that my kids won't face the heat of the Sun. After reaching there, we spent our time under the neem tree of the Gurusthan. There was an appointment with one of the friends and we planned to move early so that we could reach home by the time my friend arrived.

So we started our return journey by 3.00 pm. It was very hot and my wife insisted to sit for some more time till the sun set so that the kids won't face the hot sun. As it was an important appointment, putting it on Baba, I proceeded further, then immediately by the grace of Baba, there was a big cloud which covered the sun giving us a natural shade like an umbrella minimizing the heat of the sun. This continued till I reached home. The cloud was always there like a shield protecting us. Thank you Baba for your wonderful grace on your children. Baba's saying always come to the mind, "why fear, when I am with you". Will Sai ever ignore protecting his children? Those who believe in Sai, He will take care of them. Om Sai Ram.

## **Baba's blessing in the form of a dream**

By: Aparna K

I became baba's devotee in the middle of year 2010. I don't know how and when I got attracted to him and today I feel blessed to be one among the blessed people who can feel Baba's presence around.

Today I am writing this post because of a recent incident that took place in my life where baba proved that he understands me and my pain and he always gives solutions as per our belief in him. My parents now-a-days are looking for a groom for me. Recently there came a proposal which impressed my parents and they were almost done with it. Somehow I did not like that boy because I felt he was too tall for me and there were some other reasons too. Not knowing what to do, I cried and prayed to baba that may the boy's parents say no to this marriage so that I don't have to say a no to my parents and hurt them. The same day I got a dream at night and i saw that the guy's parents are saying no to this marriage reasoning that I am short in height.

Finally the day arrived when the guy's parents came to our house, saw me and the his mom was much impressed with me that she took my photographs with her. I was disheartened when she took my pictures and I felt its over now. Though the situation was totally against me but I had full faith in baba that my dream will come true. I know Sai was testing me and I did not lose hope. In the evening that day I went to the nearby baba's temple and to my surprise it was aarti time. When I get the chance to be a part of evening aarti, my belief in Sai increased and the next day wonder of wonders happened where the boy's parents said "everything is fine but girl's height is a problem".

This incident proved that baba listens to my sorrows and bestows happiness seeing me sad. Today I feel extremely blessed to be accepted by baba. I pray that please bless this child of yours always. I wish his name spread far more wide and more people start believing in him and I am sure that if they trust you then there is no need to be worried about anything. You bless people in your own way and at a time which is most appropriate for them. Om Sai Ram.

## Sai is always with me

By: Jyoti Syal

I am staying in Janakpuri, Delhi and this story is of the time when I was looking for my son's admission in SFS School some six years back. I believe in Vaishno Devi maa a lot. When I was concerned about my son's admission, my sister-in-law who is a devotee of Sai Baba since her teenage used to tell me stories and teachings of baba which created curiosity in me and I started visiting baba's temple. I prayed to baba for the first time to give my son admission in the school I was desiring. It was a tough job to get admission in that school but due to baba's grace we succeeded and my son got admitted there. Since then, my faith in baba increased many folds. Later, my daughter also got admission in the same school and my husband's health & wealth increased by each passing day.

Every Thursday I used to meet Sai in temple and thanked him for everything he had given me. One day due to some communication problem in family, I was highly disturbed and did not visit temple. When we were out my husband stopped the car and went to temple, but being in anger I did not even turn my face toward baba's temple. He fulfilled my each and every wish but somehow things changed in my professional life. My official management changed and the new boss was insisting old employees to leave their jobs and was admitting the employees from his previous company. My family suffered a lot due to this issue. As I was working in that MNC from last eleven years, I suddenly received a transfer letter of Chennai in June 2010. Being a family women, I was not in a position to accept the transfer. That whole week I could not sleep and my nature was getting irritated towards my family and friends but then I realized my fault and tried to change my egoistic nature and again visited baba's temple and apologised to him and started "Guruvar Chamatkari Vrat".

Then my search for new job openings began. I gave interviews, followed up with the big organizations and after completion of my second fast, I received three job offers, out of which two were real big organizations. They were giving good hike in salary with a good designation, additional facilities and above all, it was near to my house. Then I realized the real exam of life and decided to get 100% marks in it.

My mother always says that "Only bent trees bear fruits" and today I am completely satisfied with my job and enjoy every moment with my small and happy family. Every morning before starting my official work, first thing I do is to listen Sai aarti on my mobile and then I begin my day. Every night before sleeping I again listen to his aarti and sleep. With grace of Sai Nath I got

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everything in my life. Now without a miss, I do visit baba's temple on every Thursday. Be it a rainy weather, even if I am not well or I have any problem at my home I go and see him and on regular intervals I perform Sai fasts. It is honestly a "miraculous vrat". That is why baba says:

*Tu Karta wo hai jo tu chahta hai,  
Par hota wo hai jo main chahta hoon,  
Tu wo kar jo main chahta hoon,  
Fir hoga wo jo tu Chahta hai.*

Om Sai Ram !!!

## **Sai - I need you always**

By: Sunita Gupta

I want to thank Sai Baba for being in my life and helping me and my family in all the aspects. I love him more than anything and am sure he is always there to take care of our needs. He took care of us in the past and I have faith that he will look after us in future too.

Sai Baba has made impossible things possible for me. He granted my wishes and its because of his grace that I and my sister are happily married today. Its his mercy that I am expecting and soon going to give birth to a child. There are certain wishes which I have asked him and he is for sure going to grant them too. I pray to him for a good job for my brother and that he should get married to a nice girl in life. I pray for my sisters that they may live in bliss with their husbands and children.

I have utmost faith in baba, he has done lot of miracles in my life and I request him to be with us always and show us his way where we should walk. I thank him from core of my heart and ask for strength to live life in his way. I look for a place in his lotus feet.

Bolo jai sai ram.

## Spiritual Experiences with Sai Baba

By: Asha Sasidharan

Whenever I read experiences of sai devotees, I always feel like writing my experiences with Baba. Last Friday I asked Baba for his permission. The reply I got was – “submit all your life events to me .You will be liberated. This is my promise to you.” Now with Baba’s permission I am writing my experience.

Last December one morning my son fainted and I was really scared. The doctor asked us to do many tests. As next day was Thursday I prayed to Baba and started doing Nav Guruvar Saivrat and Sai Satcharitra Parayan. I applied Udi daily on his forehead after bath and mixed Baba’s udi in water and gave it to him as thirth. We got an appointment for the test after a month. By the time of the test, I had completed Parayan 4 times. While doing Parayan, I was really feeling relaxed. This one month was my testing time and it was only with Baba’s grace that all the reports came as normal. After the test I again did parayan 3 times as I had promised Baba. Tomorrow is my 9th Thursday and Baba had chosen the correct time for me to share my experience with everyone. I have promised Baba that I will do Nav Guruvar Vrat 3 times. The day before the test after dhoop arthi (online darshan) when I took Baba blessings the reply I got from Baba was-“Remember that the rainy clouds come to pass. I am always there with you”. While the test was going on, these words of Baba gave me the strength. Now my son is also doing the parayan of Sai Sat Charitra daily. He is preparing for his 12th standard board exams next month. May Baba always be with him and guide him through the right path.

In 2006 my brother had 2 major operations and radiation for about a month. I was in gulf and I always did Sai Sat Charitra parayan which gave me strength to face the situation. One day when I called my brother he was not able to talk to me due to the pain of radiation. I cried to Baba and took an oath that I would not eat non-vegetarian food till my brother was fine and I have Baba’s darshan. In 2007 when we went to India, I, my husband and my son planned to visit Shirdi. As we reached airport we came to know that our flight was cancelled due to some technical reasons. They provided tickets for the next day but my husband rejected it. So that year we could not visit Shirdi. I felt sad but later knew that Baba was testing my patience. In 2008 vacation we went directly to Shirdi through Mumbai. To my surprise we got Baba’s darshan on my birthday. We had not planned for darshan on this day, but it was planned by Baba. Now with Baba’s grace my brother and his family are in UAE. My brother’s son also had

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an operation in 2007 which was successful. Baba please shower your blessings on my brother and his family. Baba we surrender at your holy feet, always shower your blessings on us.

Sri Sachidananda Sadguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai !

## A love filled letter

By: Shantha

My Dearest Beloved Sai Baba,

One morning a thought passed my mind to pen down and convey my heartfelt feeling, through Sai Samarpan, to you which gave me immense joy in my heart.

As always, you are ever aware of my inner feelings. As this day passed by today, there was an event which disturbed me and you know how low I felt about it. At that very moment, an SMS from the channel "mysaisays.com" saying "do not be anxious that I would be absent from you" was such a prompt reply from you to assure me of your never ending love and guidance. Moreover, the daily messages from this website is always an answer to my questions, feelings, anxiety and prayers. You are amazing and so true.

Sai your enormous love towards me brings tears of joy in my eyes. How can I ever explain or describe your wonders and leelas? Every passing day you show me how much you care and protect me. In spite of the wrong doings and the sins that I have committed, you have taken me into your arms and changed me in and out. Even in presence of countless staunch devotees you have, you still arrange time for me everyday in every way.

You have made the impossible possible, you helped my parents, my family, and I know that all this is only because you love and adore me. Though I am very small in my faith, devotion, bhakti, and love towards you, you have showered your care towards me. Whenever I look at you and say "I Love You Sai", I know my love is nothing as compared to your limitless love you have for me.

You have your unique ways of teaching me are unlike any other teachings. The more I read the Sai Satcharita, the more I realize how every word has a meaning. You always reach out to me.

I know I get engrossed and lost in my daily routine but my sincere request to you is to kindly keep me with you and complete me by uniting me with you. Please give me a place in your chaste and holy feet.



## Baba's way of calling me to Shirdi

By: Savitha Suresh

I reside in Hong Kong. It is recently that I got to read Samarpan magazine and I thought of sharing my connection with Saibaba through it.

This is true that human beings seek God's door and pray to them only when they are in dire need and I too have been one of those people. My bonding with Sai Baba began some fourteen years back and it was only one and a half year back that we moved to Hongkong. In Hong Kong I was given a Sai divya pooja book by one of my friends and I started with pooja for seven weeks and completed it in May. After its completion I was blessed with a good job which left me indeed happy. Later on I pledged in my mind that unless I go to Shirdi and see baba to my heart's content I will give up sugar and once again I started Sai divya pooja on 18 Nov 2010 for 7 weeks .

It has been my habit to always seek baba's advise from Saibaba's question & answers book. Once I asked a question and my answer was that "Someone from Pune will speak to you and go as per her advise". This was strange for me as I was wondering that who is going to meet me from Pune. When I reached the fifth week of my pooja, I had a casual conversation with the same friend who gave me the Sai pooja book and she told me that she will be visiting India for one week in coming January and while we were talking she mentioned that she was from Pune and is going to Shirdi. Then she straight away asked if I was willing to come along. At once I booked my tickets to Mumbai and we both decided to meet in Shirdi on 17th January as she was going to Pune first and I wanted to go to Shirdi directly to spend more time with baba. All went well and finally I reached Shirdi but to my surprise she did not turn up to Pune. It was all Sai's arrangement to show me the path to Shirdi. Such is the love of baba and this is how he pulled me all the way to his shrine. I had wonderful dhashan of baba for almost forty five minutes in Samadhi Mandir and I sang baba's arti with tears of joy in my eyes. I don't know what else to ask from my Maalik. I always see my father in baba and my dad during his last days had beard and looked so much like baba. My heartfelt thanks to baba for being with me always. Om Sai Ram.

## My wife got job by Baba's grace

By: Rishi Rathore

I am posting this message from Ranchi. Out of many experiences that I had, this one was unique as I (a non believer) was made to realise that Sai Nath is there to care for me.

My mother-in-law was not keeping well for sometime and one day she was very serious. She has many problems related to her health and we had consulted many doctors, even went to Vellore town for her treatment but she was not recovering at all.

One day, she was very restless since morning. We consulted many local doctors and finally I suggested them that let's go to Shirdi as I had firm believe in Baba. But it was not possible to arrange the trip to Shirdi from Ranchi at such a short notice. While I was still thinking about it, I received an SMS at around 1.30 pm. The SMS talked about a miracle of Sai Baba wherein a woman was cured by taking Baba's udi with water. I did the same with my mother in law and surprisingly she was all fine by the evening.

I am going to share with you another experience. We had a nice flourishing business in Delhi but all of a sudden I was forced to shift my business to Ranchi. Being unknown to this place and due to financial constraints I felt very dejected. But my wife said that everything will be fine. I prayed to Sai Baba for guidance. One day I saw advertisement in newspaper for clerical job in a national bank. Even though there were not enough vacancies in open category, I thought of applying for it. However, I could not apply as I had crossed the age limit. I asked my wife to apply for it and I helped her in preparation for the exam. We started preparing from 24th December for the exam which was scheduled to take place in first week of March. By Baba's grace, my wife got the job and she was one of the fortunate five people who got that job in open category. She is working in that job and I owe my happiness to Sai Baba. Thank you Baba for your inspiration and guidance all the way. Om Sai Nath. May your love be showered on entire mankind!

## The Master Calls Me

(From the book: Sai Baba The Master By: Sri Bharadwaja)

My quest for truth was awakened by the tragic demise of my nephew in 1955 on the occasion of my initiation (sacred thread) ceremony. Now I see, in retrospect, that it was indeed an initiation. The initial heartbreak had left and, in its wake, several fundamental questions arose in me: "Is there a Supreme Spirit? What is the nature? How can we contact it? What is life? What is death? Is there a soul? Why hasn't man found a way out of death? What is Time?" and such others. The search went on unanswered till 1960. One evening in that year, when I was taking a stroll, something mysterious occurred somewhere deep in me and all the questions vanished in a trice and peace prevailed. These questions seemed out of place, of no value any longer. A book on Zen which came to my hand quite unasked for, contained a description of inner illumination or satori which came nearest to my experience. It was a pleasant surprise and a promise. The quest took on a richer hue.

In 1963, my elder brother Sri E. Vedavyas invited me to join him on his visit to Shirdi. Though I had little faith in saints at that time, I consented just to give him my company. On the 8th of February we reached Shirdi at sunset and we went straight to the samadhi mandir to attend the arti. The deep faith that shone on the faces of the congregation for the saint who left off his physical frame nearly half a century ago, was surprise to me. Soon after, the devotees dispersed and the shrine was mostly empty. My brother showed me the tomb at close quarters and told me that Sri Baba's mortal remains were kept in it. That being my first close look of a tomb, I was shocked. My first reaction was to imagine in what a putrefied condition the body must have been. The marble structure of the tomb and the profuse incense that was burnt there made me suppose that it was intended to keep out any stench that might possibly leak out. The thought was revolting and nauseating. I at once took leave of my brother and slept in the room, unable even to relish food, in the wake of the shock.

Next morning, a keen appetite woke me up and I made straight for the Madras hotel. As I passed before the samadhi mandir, I found that the morning arti was over and the place was almost vacant. The sight of the marble statue over the samadhi attracted my attention and I wanted to have a close look at the form that continues to charm so many devotees. I stepped in and stood at a little distance from the statue and looked at it. It is quite life-like and I felt that the saint must have looked precisely like that. The sculptor must have been divinely inspired in capturing that mysterious smile and the inward look. The look captured my gaze. "What does his face, especially his look and smile, indicate of his attitude? Was he elated that so many visited him to pay their homage, adore and worship him? Or was he overwhelmed with

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compassion for them? Or, in that mood, was he oblivious of his separate existence, his gaze fixed on the divine mystery, the one omnipresent spirit? Or was it a look of recognition of that ancient spirit, of his contacts with those teeming crowds that had contacted him through their countless previous lives? And, was that smile of reunion pregnant with his joy of their future possibility of reaching the spiritual summit? Or was he just oblivious of all this, lost in his ceaseless contemplation of the one spirit, in his at-one-ment? And is the mysterious Monalisa-smile a manifestation of that peace which passes understanding? Or is there a possibility that at a higher level of consciousness all these attitudes could coexist without the one interrupting the other?"

This last thought flashed with a particular intensity and my spirit leaped forth to comprehend how, in that state, he was viewing all this existence: "Is the universe of myriad forms an image projected in his consciousness? And am I, then, too, a thought in his Mind and are all these my thoughts parts of it?" The intuition took off and wafted my being into far-off states. I knew of nothing else. My being was still, taut with a particular illumination and my thoughts were both existent and non-existent. I am aware how absurd these words must look to anyone. But what else can they be when I verbalize what cannot be conveyed?

Quite some time lapsed in that timeless moment and I was knocked back into normal awareness by what then felt to me like a rude knocking on my shoulders. It was then that I realized that I was seated and that my eyes were shut, that my cheeks were wet with half-dried tears. The shrine was quite noisy and crowded. I saw my brother patting me gently and asking, "You are still seated here! Had your bath and breakfast? It's almost lunch time. It's better to finish our lunch." His words were quite audible but I found it hard to catch the sense, as though I was abruptly awakened from deep sleep. It was quite disturbing even to endeavor to understand the words and still more to respond, the spirit being totally unwilling to be called out from the heart of peace. It was much easier to just obey what he said. It was nearly four hours since I stepped into the shrine which was getting crowded as the time for noon arti was nearing and the devotees were queuing up for finishing abhishek! We walked down to the dining hall but to me it was as though the walk were just a vivid reverie. My mind was all set on sinking back into the state of peace and bliss from which it was roused and with which the connection was not yet completely snapped. It was quite a task to pay particular attention to things and persons.

This mood was persistent and had never quite left me during the brief stay of two days at Shirdi. Perhaps my brother had found out that something unusual was happening to me. "You may go over here again later if you want to, but now we have to go back!" he said. And we were back.

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The significant thing, as I see it now in retrospect, is that the spiritual connection with that deeper level of being, continued for months after our return from Shirdi. My mind, when it now and then relapsed into normal awareness, quite instinctively identified that deeper level of Being with Baba. Mostly I was in a continuous state of ineffable peace and quiet and the normal activities of the day were powerless to interrupt it. Days passed as a continuous moment of timelessness; it was as though all things around, including my body, were all parts of a whole which is conscious and aware. Whenever the world around had plucked me into the everyday reality, my spirit, once again, at the earliest possible, was summoned back to its pristine state by the vivid appearance of the marble image at Shirdi before my mind's eye. And then objects and creatures all around would seem to be crystallization of a pervasive consciousness.

This experience was accompanied by a remarkable change in my physical constitution. My lean frame got filled in with flesh to robustness and I was brimming with energy which was not lowered by late hours of reading at night or by missing my meal now and then. There was a strong urge to walk and walk, almost endlessly, through most of the day and I was not tired. My mind was engrossed in the blissful peace and was not stirred by the traffic on the road. My mind, too, seemed to have grown unusually penetrating. For, the most vexatious of metaphysical questions got cleared in a wink and there seemed practically nothing which it could not comprehend. Often knowledge concerning my friends who were far off, or of the thoughts that passed through my associates' minds broke in and then I was no less surprised at it than they. Strangely enough, the pervasive peace was shared by all those around me. It was definite that my life turned a corner. The steady current of this experience has ever continued, sometimes quite vivid and sometimes a little less so.

After three or four months followed my second visit to Shirdi. This time no such spectacular experience occurred but I keenly felt that I was visiting a saint who has been my guiding Spirit through lives, that he was somehow connected with my initiation into the quest for knowledge eight years earlier. There was only an intense personal attachment to the Master, and the sense of not having the good fortune of seeing Him in flesh and blood in this life. "What could have happened then? Now that I cannot hope for this, could I at least see any living saint? What would be his impact on me?" This was the object of my prayer at Baba's samadhi mandir.

The response was prompt and striking, as has always been characteristic of him. During the years that followed, I could come into close contact with numerous saints and bask in their blessings: Mother Anasuyadevi of Jillellamudi, Sri Ranganna Babu (a great Ramabhaktha of Guntur), the late Avadhuta Swami of Chirala, the guru of the Chinthapalli forests of Sileru area, Sri Swami Purnananda of Srisailam, his guru Sri Rakhadi Baba who stayed at Ganeshpuri, Sri

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Satya Sai Baba, the two Balayogis of Mummidivaram, the Senior Sankaracharyaji of Kanchi, Sri Ma Anandamayi, Sri Akhandananda Saraswati of Muthra, the recluse saints of Kalahasthi and Cuddapah, the recluse woman saint of Chivatam, Sri Samartha Narayana Maharaj of Harihar, and the Saint of Poondi. Besides, I had darshan of some famous devotees of Sri Sai Baba. I saw others like Mother Revati Amma of Madras, and Sri Gulab Maharaj of Nagpur. It is not possible to detail here my experiences with these saints, but one significant feature in all these was I could win their gracious attention only after specifically praying to Sri Baba for the same. Baba was thus once more proving three things simultaneously; he is still alive in spirit and would gladly bless us with the best at our hearty praying; that he is still one with the being of the saints of today even as he was when he lived in flesh and blood; that he can be a competent guru or Master (Samarth Sadguru) to his ardent devotee even today. For a time, a few friends told me that I was on a "saint-gathering" spree and not stabilized on any one. I was not effected by this criticism. Now in retrospect, I am happy to find that, fortunately, my faith in Baba, if anything, grew deeper and has been constant all through. Baba's invisible hand was leading me to act according to the scriptural injunction;

*Madhulubdho yathaa bhRiNgaH pushhpaatpushhpaantaraM vrajeth || |  
Gnaanlubdhastathaa shishhyo gurorguvantaram vrajeth .*

"Just as the bee which is fond of honey moves from flower to flower, the disciple who is fond of wisdom goes from Master (Guru) to Master". -- Sree Guru Geetha.

## **Baba Helped Me to Get My Mobile Cover Back**

By: Meena Kapoor

I am a true follower of Baba. I remember him for each and everything which I do and need. Most of the times, Baba answer my prayers by fulfilling my wishes.

Here, I would like to share my craziness about my mobile. I am attached to my mobile so much that I don't let anybody to touch it neither in my office nor at home. Whosoever is close to me knows about it.

One fine day while working in office, I lost my mobile cover. I tried to search it but in vain. I became very sad and started crying. My friends in office started joking at me that just for a mobile cover; I was doing so much of drama. They said, had it been your mobile, one could have digested it but just for a cover, it is really hard to digest. I could not express my feelings that it was not just a cover but my sentiments.

Anyway, after two three hours, suddenly I remembered that I did not seek Baba's help to find out the same. I started praying "Baba please help me out to get my cover back. Baba, I know just for a small thing, I am bothering you but Baba it really matters to me a lot. Please Baba help me. Please show your miracle Baba. I promise you next time, I will keep it with proper care.

And to my surprise, after 15 minutes only my prayers were answered by Baba. I could get my mobile cover back. I could not believe that Baba listened to my prayers so fast. Tears started flowing from my eyes to say thanks to Baba from core of my Heart.

## We discover our Kul-devi by Baba's inspiration

By: Lakshmi Subramaniam

My husband has been working very hard to raise funds for a mega project since 2009 and this has taken a toll on my whole family. While we are facing challenges, I have had some beautiful spiritual experience that I am about to share. I know that God sometimes gives us pain so that we can value the beautiful experience with Him. I am a religious person but have never been a devotee of Sri Shiridi Sai. My sister in law who is a Shirdi Sai devotee had been telling me for sometime that I should go to Sri Shiridi Sai Mandhir in Chennai and it will bring a change in my life. With all the problems we were facing, I decided to go to the temple on May 13th 2009. We had to make a payment and we had no idea how we were going to raise money to make the payment. I had no idea about the timings of the Mandhir but wanted to go to the temple early to beat the terrible traffic in Chennai. When I entered the Mandhir it was exactly 6 a.m. and the Kakada Aarthi was carried out. It made me feel good and wanted and that Sai Ram was welcoming me into his hands. There were not many people there and there was a queue to the Sai Ram idol which I followed and prostrated before Sai Ram. I was given Udi as Prasad and I held that in my hand. As I was going around the temple, I was looking for a piece of paper to hold and pack the Udi for my husband but I could not find any. So I told myself I will hold it until I reach the car where I shall pack it. I prostrated once more before I left the temple.

Just outside the temple there was a bald old man wearing a beige jibba and dhoti . He came towards me very fast and told me to wait for a while as he went into the temple. He went up to the altar and took something from the back of the idol of Sai Ram. Then he came towards me and showed a piece of paper and asked me to empty the Udi I had in my hand and packed it for me and gave me. He said that he always has pieces of paper outside for this and today he did not and that is why he asked me to wait. He told me that I will lead a happy life and went away. I was blown off. Nobody could have known that I was looking for a paper to pack the udi as I did not ask anyone. To me that man was Sai Baba himself and I thanked Baba for his omnipresence and went on to tell my husband the experience. Meanwhile an investor who was wanted to invest in my husband's plan agreed sooner than expected and made investment.

It was a very different experience from anything I had ever encountered. Since then I have been going to Sai Mandhir whenever I can. We have been troubled by so many problems that we feel that God is not looking. Whenever I feel that way Baba comes to me and shows that he is carrying me. In Sep 2010 I had another experience of Baba's omnipresence. My husband



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came across a Guru who had said that all our problems were there because of our ignorance of our family deity (Kuladeivam), This came as a shock to us as we had always known Karukurichi Sastha as our Kula Deivam and have been going to the temple at least once every year and have been making offerings. The Guru had asked us to bathe in the sea and visit him on a Friday morning. We did as we were told and the Guru said that our ancestors were from a village called Thenur (near Madurai) and had the Devi as our Kula Deivam and was also in charge of the temple. At one point because of some financial crisis they apparently had taken some jewels from the temple and had left the temple totally and after that and had disregarded the Devi. The Devi was angry and she needed to be appeased. He told us to bring a garland of fruits and offer rice and dhall and Rs 100 to the priest and pray that the jewels will be replaced once things work out for us. He did not give us any clear direction as to where the temple was but just said that we will find it when we reach there. He told us not to do more than that as the Devi had to accept us first.

On hearing this, my husband and I were totally confused. We did not know if it is right for us to go look for a new Kula Deivam when we had always regarded Dharma sastha as our Kula Deivam. I googled for a Devi temple in Thenur but came up with no results. Our friend in Madurai was not aware of any Devi temple there as well. We realized that Thenur itself was a very small village. My husband wanted to go to Thenur to see it out anyway as per the Guru's words. He booked us a flight to Madurai the next day (returning same night) and booked a car to pick us up from the Madurai airport. In my mind I was filled with a lot of questions and prayed to Sai Baba to show us a sign that we were on the right track.

It was Vinayaka Chaturthi day the next day and we left Chennai early in the morning after performing the Ganesh puja at home. We reached Madurai by 7.30am. We took the car and immediately started off for Thenur. When we entered the village, the driver got down and asked someone whether there is a Devi temple there. She said she did not know. Next we went further into the village and stopped at a Ganesh temple there. My husband asked me to go into the temple and ask someone there. So I got out of the car and went into the temple. A man was just coming out of the temple and I asked him about a Devi temple. He told me that there is a Devi temple just around the corner and gave me the directions. Then he asked if I was going there. I said I was and he asked me to go in the car and wait there and said that he was the priest of the temple and it was locked and he will bring the key from his house and open it for us.

I said OK but it was weird. The first person that I asked about the temple is the priest of the Devi temple himself (Note he is not the priest of the Ganesh temple). So we went according to the man's direction and found a temple. It was totally run down and badly maintained. We waited and the priest came with the key and opened up the temple. The temple deity Devi was

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Sundaravalli Amman and it used to be the temple where the popular Madurai Chittirai Festival starts from before King Nayakkar of Madurai moved the Festival to Madurai. That is why the Deity also has an alter in the Kallazagar temple in Madurai but somehow for ease and popularity the festival had been moved to the Madurai Meenakshi temple. Apparently before this move was done the king gave a lot of land, jewellery and property for this temple. Somehow that was squandered and now the temple only has one puja on Fridays and is locked for the rest of the time. All Brahmins from this village left around the same time and hence the temple pujas have been conducted by non Brahmins. We, being Brahmins, do not know whether this story had anything to do with our ancestors but we did as were told by the Guru and started off.

Then the Sai Baba leela happened. The priest said we came all the way and we should see the Sai Baba temple that was just built a year ago about 2km from there. He said he will come in the car and show us the way. He came with us and stopped at a place called Thiruvudagam where I saw the most beautiful Baba temple. It was a large temple with 2 halls. One had the pictures of the Sai Baba Leelas and then there was a footwash below a flight of stairs which leads people to the prayer hall where Sri Shiridi Baba sat with his smile. I had tears rolling out to see his kindness and his ability to reassure me. It was a very very beautiful temple. I would not have even dreamt of a temple that beautiful and clean and well maintained in the middle of such villages. We came back after that experience and I am now totally in the hands of Baba. All our problems have not been solved but one thing I know for sure is that he is with me and he will not let me down.

My husband, son and I are making a trip to Shiridi on March 15th. It is my way of recognizing and appreciating Sai Ram and more importantly believing that he is there carrying me. He has the way to bring people to him like the birds tied to a string. I am just one of such persons. I have come a long way on my belief since my first contact with Baba on May 13 2009. Dear Baba, thanks for being there for me and my family. I believe in you and please keep blessing us with your miracles so that we will only believe in you more. I really want what I experienced to be experienced by my husband and son as I feel sometimes that they are not fully in your hands. Only you can help them and only you can make them experience it. Open their eyes and bless us. There is nothing that can harm us when you are with us. Om Sai Ram.

## Meditation pointers from Jainism

By: Ashok Jain

Jain scriptures offer extensive guidance on meditation techniques to achieve full knowledge and awareness. It offers tremendous physical and mental benefits. Jain meditation techniques are designed to assist the practitioner to remain apart from clinging and hatred thereby liberating from karmic bondage through Right perception, Right knowledge and Right conduct. Meditation in Jainism aims at taking the soul to status of complete freedom from bondage.

Meditation assists greatly in managing and balancing one's passion. Great emphasis is placed on the control of internal thoughts, as they influence the behaviour, actions and goals. It prescribes twelve mindful reflections or contemplations to help in this process. They are called Bhavanas or Anuprekshas that assist one to remain on the right course of life, and not stray away. They are:

1. Impermanence - Everything in this world is subject to change and transformation. Spiritual values are therefore worth striving for as they alone offer the soul, its ultimate freedom and stability.
2. Protection - Under this reflection, one thinks about how helpless one is against old age, disease and death. The soul is its own saviour and to achieve total freedom one needs to follow the non-violent path of Arithants, Siddhas and practicing saints. Leaders with their powerful armies, scientists with their latest advances in technology cannot provide the protection from the eventual decay and death. The refuge to things other than the non-violent path are due to delusion, is unfortunate, and must be avoided.
3. Worldly Existence - The soul transmigrates from one life form to another and is full of pain and miseries. There are no permanent relationships as the soul moves from one body form to another and can only exit this illusion through liberation from the cycles of birth, growth, decay and death.
4. Solitude of the Soul - The soul has to bear the consequences of the positive and negative karmas alone. Such thoughts will stimulate to get rid of the existing karmas by one's own efforts and lead a peaceful life of co-existence.

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5. Separateness of Soul - Under this reflection, one thinks that the soul is separate from other objects or living beings. One should think even the current body is not owned by the soul. It is however an important vehicle to lead a useful life to progress the soul further. The soul therefore should not develop attachment or aversion to any worldly objects.

6. Impureness of the body - Under this section of thought, one is urged to think about constituent elements of one's body so as to compare and contrast it with the purity of soul. This kind of concentration assists in detaching emotionally from one's body.

7. Influx of Karma - Every time the soul enjoys or suffers through the five senses (touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing) with attachment, aversion or ignorance, it attracts new karma. Practising this reflection, reminds the soul to be more careful.

8. Stoppage of influx of Karma - In this reflection, one thinks about stopping evil thoughts and cultivates development of right knowledge that assists to control the wandering mind.

9. Karma shedding - Under this reflection, one thinks about practising external and internal austerities to shed the previously accumulated karma. This assists in development of right discipline as a matter of routine habit.

10. Universe - Universe consists of Souls, Matter, Medium of motion, Medium of Rest, Space and Time. To think of the nature and structure of universe helps one understand the complex dynamics of eternal modifications and work towards the goal of freeing the soul from the seemingly never ending changes.

11. Difficulties in developing triple gems of Jainism - It is very difficult for the transmigrating soul in this world to develop the Right View, Right Knowledge and Right Conduct. Just like one cannot aspire to become a doctor or lawyer or engineer without going through the development process starting from the very basic skill set developments in primary and secondary schooling, spiritual development also needs to go through several stages or steps. Depending on one's current spiritual progress and situation, the challenges faced will differ. Working through the difficulties and applying practical solutions will assist one to continuously make improvements, thereby moving the soul to its goal of ultimate liberation.

12. Difficulties in practising Jain Dharma - Jain Dharma is characterised by the following:

Forbearance and Forgiveness  
Humility

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Straightforwardness

Purity

Truth

Self-restraint, control of senses and mind

External Penance

Renunciation

Neither attachment nor aversion

Celibacy

In this reflection, the practitioner thinks about the difficulties to practice all of these in the practical world and work through the challenges depending on one's current capabilities and circumstances.

Jains are encouraged to reflect on these thoughts with the following four virtues or value systems clearly in force. They are:

1. Peace, love and friendship to all.
2. Appreciation, respect and delight for the achievements of others.
3. Compassion to souls who are suffering.
4. Equanimity and tolerance in dealing with other's thoughts, words and actions.

## Two Incidents From My Life

By: Jagan Parthasarathy

Sai Baba has helped me in every stage of life though i got to know and feel his miracles only recently for the last four years. Of the many miracles he has shown me there are two which are very touching and outstanding.

1) In February, 2003 i had a peculiar problem. Both my hands had become numb and had no signs of improvement. We went to every hospital in Kolkata and Chennai and no doctor was able to diagnose and recommend any treatment. The only thing they told was that i was absolutely fine with no problem. During one of my trips to Chennai Perambur Hospital i was told that water taken from my backbone would be tested to find if the problem was originating from backbone.

Water was taken from my backbone and i was discharged from hospital with three hours. The next day i was supposed to board the train (Chennai Howrah Mail) back to Kolkata. The day of the journey i was fine and since i was moving out of Chennai my cousin wanted to treat us with ice-cream as the climate was hot. I had the ice-cream and in two hours time i felt suffocation and i could not breathe. I ran myself to the terrace and had deep pranayanam and I became fine after sometime. Since we had a confirmed ticket and i was fine i made my way to the railway station.

My mom and dad had tickets in a.c. coach and mine was in sleeper coach. The train started from Chennai at 8:30p.m and after forty minutes i was not able to breathe again and do remember i was not able to do anything with my hand since it was numb with no tickling sensation. I opened the train door and started to stand with my numb hands catching the train rods thinking whatever has to happen would happen.

Somehow i slept that night in the train and the very next day i was not able to move my head at all. I felt as if the nerves connecting to the head were jammed and even if i moved a millimeter it looked as if someone was hammering me in the head. Dad was by my side all that day in the train; with no doctor in sight and no tablets in any station. By afternoon i was on the verge of death with unimaginable pain. At that time i first prayed to Sai Baba to relieve me from this suffering. Believe it or not a man in his 60's boarded my compartment and seeing my condition said I always carry with me one painkiller and one vitamin tablet in case of need and gladly gave it to my dad. I was just able to pop the tablets and the man disappeared. He was nowhere to be

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found. My dad searched for him and he could not see him anywhere. Somehow i reached Kolkata and was back to normalcy in a month's time but still the problem in my hands existed. I thank Sai Baba to this day and will do it forever and tears pop up whenever i recall this incident. I still have numbness in my hands but no one has any clue of why and for what my hands are numb. I have improved a lot and with the blessings of Sai baba i would come back to normalcy soon. I now work in Bangalore in an IT firm by His grace.

2) During my training days while working in Bangalore, we were asked to take the company bus to reach office and i was staying about 35 kilometer of distance from the office. Since transportation was free i used to carry little cash just enough to pay for my food. One day i was waiting for the company bus and the bus did not arrive. On enquiring with other people nearby, i found that it was Krishna Janmasthanmi on that day and the company bus may not arrive.

I was not sure what was to be done in that situation, when a cop approached me and asked me the way to Nandi Toyota Office in Hosur Road. Now, that office is very close to my work-place and i was surprised that he was asking me the directions for the destination which was about 30 kilometers away. He offered me the lift and within thirty minutes, i was at Hosur Road Nandi Toyota Office. I found a cab there with my friend inside and he called me to join him. I wanted to thank the policeman; however he was nowhere to be seen. After dropping me, he had disappeared mysteriously. I somehow feel that it was Baba who inspired that policeman to ask address from me and drop me to a place close to my office and it was certainly Baba that i also happened to join my friend in his cab right there.

I have no words to express my gratitude to Baba. Baba is always with us. I can feel his presence all the time. Thank you Baba, you mean everything to me. Om Sai Ram.

## Baba helped me pass exam

By Vijaya Nallari

As Baba promised that he will be talking from his Samadhi and also take care of his devotees by crossing seven seas and this is true in my life and I am disclosing how Baba helped me. In my profession I need to get certified in 3 years and I have to take 7 classes (college credits) and also main test which is very hard. I took that test 4 times and every time I fall short by 2 or 3 points. I finally decided to give up however my husband asked me to try one more time. Next test was on 15th January.

Let me share one thing with you. My father and also a guru had told me that this year would not be very good for me based on astrological readings. I am a regular reader of Sai Sacharita and remembered Baba's sayings. I went to Baba and asked Baba to take care of my future by changing my future. I knew that Baba could shield me from any effect of astrology. I decided to surrender all my worries of future in his Lotus Feet.

During examination, my mind went blank when I saw second question. I feared that I would fail again, however I remembered Baba, summoned enough courage and slowly and slowly answered the question as per my knowledge. All during this time I felt that Baba was guiding me and helping me with hints to solve the question. On the day of the result, I took off from work and asked my daughter to check my results online. She was getting ready for her school as it was getting late. Meanwhile I thought of making "sheera" as Prasad for Baba. I went up to take shower and after some time I heard my daughter shouting that I had passed the exam. I was so happy that Baba had proved once again that he is there for his devotees who call him with love, faith and patience.

Baba koti pranam to you and thank you so much for the miracle you have showered and we need you every moment thandri I and my family is at your lotus feet. Jai Sairam



## Baba's Love Transcends All Barriers

By: KR Krishnan

My family comprising wife and two daughters have been devotees of Shirdi Sai Baba for almost three decades. Needless to say that by the divine grace of our beloved Sai Baba, our life's journey has been smooth and comfortable on the whole. There were many incidents throughout our lives when we felt and experienced his guiding spirit behind all our actions. Here, in the following paragraphs, I wish to narrate a recent experience where his loving care was in complete evidence.

My second daughter, thanks to Shri Sai, has been blessed with the rare opportunity to study in one each of the world's best schools and colleges in Canada and U S A ever since class XI. She is now in the third year of her four year undergraduate course in U S A. Everything was going on smoothly for her till September 2010 when she was back home in India on vacation. It all started with the passing away of her pet dog Jim ( her loving brother as she always used to say) on 20 September 2010 just a few days before her return to college for the fall term. As soon as the term began she ran into a number of problems. First, many of her friends began to ignore her for no fault of hers making her feeling lonely for the first time in four years of study abroad. As a consequence her performance in academics took a dip and all her best efforts failed to bear fruit. At the same time she had to attend a number of interviews for summer job internship (an almost mandatory requirement to land a permanent job later). In spite of promising performances in many interviews, she was rejected every time .This went on for five months. She felt frustrated and started relying more on us, the parents for support and solution. Helpless ourselves, we started praying more intensely and even consulted an astrologer who said that she was passing through the ill effects Shani Dasa (influence of Saturn) and suggested offering more prayers on Thursdays. As any Sai devotee, the word Thursday rang a bell in our minds and we immediately put it into practice. Soon we had to proceed to U S A to be with our elder daughter and assist her in the delivery of her first child. While in her home, I came across the Sri Sat Satcharita book which I had purchased on my first visit to Shirdi in the eighties and presented to her to be kept as a protective shield. I vowed to read one chapter a day from the book. To our pleasant surprise things started improving in December onwards. The same friends who despised her earlier made an unexpected turn around and realized her worth as a dependable genuine person. She managed to complete the term without much damage to her final grade. Coming to think of it now it could have been definitely worse without the divine intervention.

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Along with this improvement she received a few more interview calls for her job and we became more hopeful of her landing a job. But as the new year dawned, her bad time resurfaced and delays and obstacles came in its wake. As happened before, job offers were not coming through even though interviews were gone through well with positive indications from the interviewers. We believed that these were obstacles typical of the influence of Shani dasa, as no other explanation was forthcoming. Nevertheless, we continued with our prayers and reading of Sai Satcharita with faith and patience as the bedrock. We reached a stage when she was left with just one last interview with nearly twenty of them already over without any success. My daughter was very upset with her confidence shattered. We feared that this would affect her final interview and did not know how to help her regain confidence. It was at this stage a miracle happened. On the morning of the day of interview, 11 February 2011 my wife received an email forward in her inbox from one of her contacts. The message advised us to recite a prayer with the following accompanying benefit:

“Something good will happen to you today, something that you have been waiting for to hear. A blessing is coming to you in the form of a new job, a house, marriage, healing or financially.....”.

To her surprise this particular message opened on its own even as she clicked only on the inbox. We immediately conveyed this to our daughter to give her the much needed confidence on the eve of the interview. The interview went off well as usual but this time with a difference. Before the end of the same day she got a call from the employer- a reputed bank in U S A- to inform that she has been selected for the job – a much awaited news as promised by Om Sri Sai through the email message in the morning. Our joy knew know bounds and the relief we experienced cannot be easily described. Moreover, the employers were so impressed with her during the interview that they on her own offered the best division for her to work and could not wait for her to even take the usual minimum time required to consider and accept the offer.

To conclude, it was a very testing time for all of us that lasted for almost five months. Along with the happy and very much blessed ending, Sai Baba also taught us very valuable lessons in “ Faith and Patience” the two pillars on which our devotion to him must rest . He proved to us that for the sake of his devotees his love and grace can even transcend the demerits of past birth (demerits of karma). In our case for some one who is seeking his blessings from so far away a place as America, I wish to reproduce with a grateful heart the following passage from Chapter 15 of Sri Sai Satcharita:

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If you spread your palms with devotion before Me, I am immediately with you, day and night. Though, I am here bodily, still I know what you do; beyond the seven seas. Go wherever you will, over the wide world, I am with you. 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."

## **GURUKRUPAYOG - “Only by the Grace of the Guru can a Disciple attain Final Liberation”**

By: Gaurav Kathuria

We have all heard of the different traditional paths to reach God - one can approach God by the Path of Devotion (Bhakti marg), Action (Karma marg) or Knowledge (Gnyan marg). On each of these paths there comes a point when one realizes that the journey towards God requires a spiritual guide, a Guru, to guide us on the path or it can result in wasting many valuable years in making an effort to grow spiritually without making any progress.

Besides, each of these paths has pitfalls and limitations as to how much the aspirant can grow. 'Gurukrupayog' is a combination of all three paths - Devotion, Action and Knowledge, undertaken with the guidance of a Guru. Even in the world when an action is done with all these three aspects of Bhakti, Karma and Gnyan, then the outcome is far superior compared to when only two aspects are present.

Take an example of a lady cooking rice. Let's say the lady of the house cooks (action) some rice for her family with a lot of love (devotion) but she has no knowledge how to cook it, then the rice may be over or under cooked. On the other hand, if she is a perfect cook (knowledge) and she makes the effort of cooking it (action) but serves it with anger (lack of love), then the family is not going to enjoy the meal. Action is also an important component as since the lady may have a lot of love and knowledge, but is too lazy to actually do it, then again the family will be deprived of a meal. Thus we have to encompass Bhakti, Karma and Gnyan in all facets of our life as well.

Need for the Guru's Grace - 'Only by the grace of the Guru can a disciple attain Final Liberation.' This summarizes the importance of the Guru's grace, which is instrumental in bringing about one's Liberation from the cycle of birth and deaths. However, in today's times of strife (Kaliyug) as seen by the unprecedented levels of immorality, corruption, crime, violence, erosion of family values and intolerance, the following points show how the Guru's grace gains even greater importance.

**Spiritual Practice in an Unfavorable Environment:**

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In accordance with the fact that attitudes lead to thoughts, which in turn govern our behavior, the external impurity in today's society is due to the inner (attitude level) impurity of people. This inner impurity is a result of a total decline in spiritual practice. Due to this, there is an increase in spiritual pollution (raja-tama). Just as it is difficult to focus on something in a noisy, polluted environment, it is difficult to focus on spiritual practice in a spiritually polluted environment. It is possible to practice spirituality smoothly and progress rapidly only by the grace of the Guru, Who is but a manifest form of the Lord Himself, hence, Omnipotent and Omniscient.

## **Ability to withstand Worldly Problems:**

Majority of problems in life are partly or purely due to spiritual factors such as destiny and hence, can be overcome only by doing spiritual practice. Further, major events like birth, grave illness, failure in marriage/career, death, etc., are destined. One acquires the ability to face mild destiny with moderate spiritual practice, moderate destiny with intense spiritual practice and severe destiny only with the grace of the Guru. Often, mere presence of a Guru in one's life can facilitate spiritual practice and progress, alleviating one's problems.

## **A Transformation in Society:**

The Guru's grace is essential not only for our personal, spiritual and worldly progress, but also to transform today's spiritually impure environment into a pure, progressive and Blissful society. Only one who knows how to swim can truly teach another to do so. Similarly, only one who has attained inner transformation can bring about transformation in others. Also, only a person with divine (Guru's) grace can have the crucial divine support to bring about a change of such magnitude, and can do so as per the best or Absolute plan or divine will. It is noteworthy that serving the unmanifest form of the Guru attracts far more grace of the Guru than worshipping and serving His physical form or being in His proximity. Let us pray and resolve to devotedly do spiritual practice and to serve the mission of spreading Spirituality (unmanifest form of the Guru).

## **Spiritual Practice for Doing Good for Society:**

"People speak of doing good to the world. Is the world such a small thing? And who are you, pray, to do good to the world? First realize God, see Him by means of spiritual discipline. If He imparts power, then you can do good to others, otherwise not." - Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa  
Implied Meaning: The above verse emphasizes the importance of realizing that the reins of this world are firmly in God's hands and that He sustains the world, whether we realize it or not. Thus, we need to shed any notion or the ego that "I am helping or doing good in this world". Since God alone has Absolute Knowledge of past, present and future, He alone knows what the absolute good of the world is. Hence, only when we are imparted with divine power and

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blessing, can we truly bring about any good in the world. Once our ego is overcome with spiritual practice, we realize God's grace and immense power, and become eligible to carry out His mission in this world, as per His will.

## **Inner (spiritual) Progress for Outer Reform:**

"Utopia must spring in the private bosom before it can flower in civic virtue, inner reforms leading naturally to outer ones. A man who has reformed himself will reform thousands." - Sri Paramhansa Yogananda

Implied Meaning: "Utopia must spring in the private bosom before it can flower in civic virtue" Utopia, an ideal place, conveys perfection, purity or attainment of Bliss. Only when we have become perfect, pure and Blissful within can we reflect it in the world around us. "Inner reforms leading naturally to outer ones", refers to the fact that actions or behavior stem from thoughts, which in turn stem from our attitudes. Thus, once we attain inner reform or purity, our thoughts and actions will automatically become pure, leading to reform in the world around us. "A man who has reformed himself will reform thousands" refers to the power of a resolve (sankalpa) of one, who has attained inner purification or Bliss. When inner impurities, personality defects, etc., are removed, unnecessary thoughts too, are removed. Thus conserving a lot of energy consumed by unnecessary thoughts. Then every thought in such a person contains a lot of power and comes to fruition. This is how, by sheer resolve, Holy people bring about great reforms.

Since lasting inner purification is possible only through spiritual practice, each one, desirous of changing the world for the better, should first do intense spiritual practice to bring about effective reform in the world.

## Sri Mahavir Jayanthi

By: Mythili K & Ashok Jain

In Jainism, Mahavir Janma Kalyanak is the most important religious holiday. It celebrates the birth of Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of this timeline. He was born on the 13th day of the rising moon of Chaitra, in either 599 BC or 615 BC. The father of Mahavira was King Siddhartha; he and Trishala were both pious and virtuous followers of Parshvanath, the 23rd thirthankara of Jainism. Trishala was the sister of King Chetaka of Vaishali, the capital of a federation where Jainism was popular. Trishala had fourteen prophetic dreams. These fourteen dreams indicate that the child will become either a great emperor or a great Tirthankara (prophet).

Since the wealth of his father's kingdom had increased during the pregnancy, the child was called Vardhamana. He was raised in princely opulence and showed his courage as a child by mounting a charging elephant by the trunk and on another occasion picking up a large snake and casting it aside. For his courage and self-control in enduring the rules of penance, Vardhamana was given the name Mahavira, which means great hero. Jaina comes from jina meaning victor or conqueror. He received education for an aristocrat in philosophy, literature, military and administrative sciences, and the arts.

Mahavira married a princess named Yasoda, and they had a daughter, Anojja. When Mahavira was 28 years old, both his parents died. He wanted to renounce the world; but to please his elder brother he agreed to live at home for two more years during which he practiced self-discipline, giving up all luxuries and giving charity to beggars every day of the last year.

At the age of thirty Mahavira renounced all his wealth, property, wife, family, relatives, and pleasures. Having already attained before marriage the first three levels of knowledge (knowledge from the senses and mind, knowledge from study, and knowledge from intuition), at this initiation it was said he attained the fourth level of knowledge that includes the psychological movements of all sentient beings after renunciation.

Neglecting his body, the venerable ascetic Mahavira meditated on his self, in blameless lodgings and wandering, in restraint, kindness, avoidance of sinful influence, chaste life, in patience, freedom from passion, contentment; practicing control, circumspectness, religious postures and acts; walking the path of nirvana and liberation, which is the fruit of good conduct. Living thus he with equanimity bore, endured, sustained, and suffered all calamities arising from

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divine powers, men, and animals, with undisturbed and un-afflicted mind, careful of body, speech, and mind.

In the eleventh year Mahavira was tested by a god named Samgamaka, who gave him terrible physical pain, accompanied him begging, and contaminated his food. Mahavira gave up begging and sat in meditation. For six months Samgamaka inflicted tortures on him, but unable to disturb him he finally fell at his feet and begged his forgiveness before returning to his own place.

Finally in the thirteenth year of this ascetic life while meditating after two and a half days of waterless fasting, Mahavira attained nirvana and the highest awareness called kevala or absolute knowledge.

According to Jainism, after a Tirthankar gains infinite knowledge, in his honour, the heavenly beings create a place called samavasarana, where all creatures are welcomed (including non-human creatures, humans, and angels) and delivers a speech. This speech is understood by everyone in their own languages. These types of speeches are known as deshnas. When Mahavir Bahgwanji spoke to give divine messages to all beings of the world. As he spoke, his voice came out in the form of beautiful musical tunes that were understood by all beings in their languages. For example, trees could hear it in their own language, just as all other small and large animals, as well as humans.

Mahavira organized his order into four groups of monks, nuns, male householders, and female householders. All those initiated had to take the five vows, which included the four vows of Parshva (nonviolence, truthfulness, non-stealing, and non-possession) plus chastity.

The essential metaphysical ideas of Jainism are nine cardinal principles. The universe is divided into that which is alive and conscious (jiva) and matter which is not (ajiva). Jivas (souls) are either caught by karma (action) in the world of reincarnation (samsara) or liberated (mukta) and perfected (siddha). Though their number is infinite, jivas are individuals and each potentially infinite in awareness, power, and bliss. Matter (ajiva) is made up of eternal atoms in time and space which can be moved and stopped.

The other seven principles explain the workings of karma and the soul's liberation from it. The soul (jiva) is attracted to sense-objects by the principle of ashrava which leads to the bondage (bandha) of the soul by karma, which covers up and limits the soul's natural abilities to know and perceive in its blissful state, resulting in delusions and a succession of births. The next two



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principles are virtue (punya) and vice (papa) by which all karma either works beneficially toward liberation or negatively toward bondage.

The seventh principle samvara is how the soul prevents ashrava (the influx of karma) by watchfulness and self-discipline of mind, speech, and body. This eventually leads to nirjara, the elimination of karma. Finally moksha or liberation is attained. In one's last life at death, nirvana (literally "being extinguished") describes the end of worldly existence for the soul, which then rises to the highest heaven.

Jainas believe that souls may have some lives as gods and goddesses in heavenly worlds or suffer in hell and become demon-like, there is no total God lifting up souls or punishing them in hell. Rather each individual jiva is responsible for itself and completely determines its own destiny.

Ahimsa (nonviolence) means not injuring any living thing in any way. The mind has to be watched to prevent thoughts and intentions that might lead to quarrels, faults, pain, or any kind of injury. As with nonviolence one must not speak any lies nor cause any lies to be spoken nor consent to any lies being spoken.

Non-stealing means that nothing must be taken that is not freely given. Thus the Nirgrantha monks beg only after deliberation and according to strict rules, consumes food and drink only after permission is granted, occupies only limited ground for short periods of time, continually renewing the grant to be there. Chastity is the renunciation of all sensual pleasures. A Nirgrantha monk does not eat and drink too much nor drink liquor nor eat highly seasoned food.

Finally all attachments must be renounced, even to the delight in agreeable sounds or being disturbed by disagreeable ones. Similarly with all the five senses, one may not be able to avoid all experiences, but one is not to be attached to the agreeable ones, for those who acquiesce and indulge in worldly pleasures are born again and again. By these disciplines the wise avoid wrath, pride, deceit, greed, love, hate, delusion, conception, birth, death, hell, animal existence, and pain.

Source: The Internet

## FAITH

By : K.S. Vishnu

OM SHRI SAINATHAYA NAMAHA !

KOTI KOTI PRANAAM SAI SAMARTHA THE REFUGE OF ALL DEVOTEES !

Shree Sai Maharaj knows the future miseries in our lives. Sai Samartha is the ocean of compassion and cloud of mercy and is aware of the terrible difficulties that are to befall in our lives and He also knows how to remove them by giving a timely warning sometimes. He wards them off effortlessly.

It happened a couple of times in my life – whenever I am about to get into some kind of troubles or problems of serious nature He appears in my dream. In this episode I am writing about one such dream I had in the third week of December 2010. I tried to understand the meaning and purpose of the dream but could not. Then I went around and asked an old Brahmin near my house, who is very pious and who does lot of prayers regularly, hoping he would unfold the inner meaning of my dream. He just said “you will know it in the following weeks”.

The dream went like this - It was late in the evening I was sitting in a house (somebody's house) which is lowly lit and I was facing the main door. All of a sudden Sai dressed as usual in white but soiled kafni entered the house holding a paper in His right hand and calling my name twice aloud and briskly walking into next room with a grim face. I simply ran towards Him and holding His hand requested Him to be with me always and never to leave me. At this point my dream ceased.

Ever since I had this dream I was patiently waiting for the calamities that would unfold in my life and although I had been living under constant scare and yet my mind and heart were longing for and counting on Sai's grace. As the time passed by my health started to deteriorate gradually without any specific cause or reason. It became so worse that I was unable to do my personal daily chores. The nature of my job is very hard and involves lot of travelling to far off places quite often. Around this time my wife was also not with me. So I had to take care of my food needs, washing and other household chores. This went on for about four weeks. Around this time my health took a sudden turn towards worse. On one fine early morning I had to wake up due to severe pain in the lower abdomen, at left pelvic bone and just near the naval. I started passing blood in my urine. I became very weak. Feeling vomiting sensation, not feeling

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like eating food, I was in a very bad state of health. But in spite of all this I never forgot to chant Sai's name constantly and remembering His picture in my mind. That was my original medicine followed by doctor's prescription. So I met a doctor and she asked for a series of tests. The tests revealed that I am passing blood in my urine but fell short of prescribing medicines there was no infection detected. Here in Australia doctors prescribe minimum level of medicines. I did not know what to do and I continued to have severe pain. Then at this point of time I sat down in the prayer place in my house and prayed to Sai. I vowed that if my health becomes alright I will write it in the April month SAMARPAN. Following this I changed the doctor and saw another doctor. He sent me for CT scan suspecting either a big stone in my left kidney or some growth somewhere in the region. The CT report came clean and urine culture was also negative. The doctors were clueless about what is causing the pain. Finally the doctor decided to put me on a specific antibiotic course for a week. With this treatment I have fully recovered from the problem.

Having suffered the problem for almost two and half months at the end of it I recollected the dream I had. Only then I could understand what Sai was intending to tell me or warn me of my impending health problems. But He did not leave me alone to my fate. He was with me all along and pulled me out of this calamity.

In this context I would like to quote what Sai said to the benefit of all devotees. I promise to give salvation to the devotee who surrenders himself to me completely, who worships Me with unparalleled faith and who meditates on me with deep love. Those men who utter My name continuously, always ponder over My stories, I will free them the jaws of time, all their sorrows and diseases will be destroyed, this is the only way of happiness and contentment, I will free them from all troubles and their ego and pride will disappear instantly, they will achieve supreme happiness and their bad deeds will burn into ash. I will be responsible to take care of food and clothing in their homes, whose sole goal is Me!!!"

Oh what a wonderful promise is this ! What an electric effect it has ! Hearing and reading such words of Baba melts our hearts with immense love for Baba, then what to say when we start singing His glory. He has given us the simplest method of devotion "Shraddha" and "Saburi" and the only rule is "Give with love and receive more in return".

I place my head at Sai's feet and seek His divine blessings.

## Damodara Leela

By: Revathy Ramkumar

The word Damodara means one who is tied around the Belly with rope. There is a very beautiful story in the Srimad Bhagavatham about Krishna's Damodara Leela. The 10th Skanda of Srimad Bhagavatham deals elaborately about Sri Krishna and all HIS Leela's.

Now let us look into the story of Lord Krishna's Damodara Leela.

Maa Yashoda one day is sitting and churning butter from buttermilk for her Divine Baby Kaanha as he is very fondly and lovingly called by his mother and all the gopis of vraj is fast asleep. Maa Yashoda wants to finish as much of work as she can while Kaanha is asleep so she can devote all her time for Him once he wakes up. While she is churning the butter, baby Kaanha comes sleepily to his mother and very lovingly hugs her. Yashoda maa overwhelmed by her Kaanha's love gathers her darling and puts him on her lap and feed him while she affectionately caresses his curly black hair. Kaanha his enjoying the affection of his dear mother when his mother suddenly puts him on the floor and runs to the kitchen to stop the boiling milk from overflowing. Maa Yashoda is concerned that Kaanha will need milk awhile later and so she has to keep it ready for Him. Kaanha in the meanwhile is upset that his mother left him to attend other jobs. So He decides to teach maa Yashoda a lesson. He breaks the pot of buttermilk which is being churned. All the buttermilk and butter flows on the floor and Kaanha realising now that his mother will be angry with him for the mess he has done decides to disappear from the scene. While running away to another room Kaanha leaves little footprints all over the place (running on the buttermilk). He goes into another room and there to his great joy he finds a big pot of butter hanging. Kaanha reaches out for the pot of butter, breaks it and feeds on the butter himself and also gives butter to the monkeys and other birds gathered there now.

Maa Yashoda seeing the buttermilk pot broken and everything on the floor is as expected angry with her Ladla and decides that today she will punish him. Taking a stick in her hand Yashoda maa runs calling out for Kaanha only to find him enjoying butter and also feeding the monkeys around. Seeing his mother Kaanha runs, followed by mother. After a tiring and hectic chase Kaanha decides to come in to his mother's hold. Yashoda maa scolds her Kaanha and tells him that today she will punish him by tying hm with a rope. She gets hold of a rope and tries to tie him with it but finds that the rope is two fnger space short. Maa Yashoda keeps on adding rope but always is two finger space short. Exhausted and wondering at what is happening Kaanha now decides that now he will give in to his mother and let her tie him and this time when

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Yashoda maa ties the rope she finds it right and ties her Kaanha and goes to attend to her work. This Leela is to release Nala and Kubara who were cursed by sage Narada. Kaanha goes crawling tied to the mortar and when he tries to go in between the two tall trees the trees fall down thus breaking the curse. Both Nala and Kubara who were cursed by Narada to remain as tree until Lord Krishna frees them.

This Leela of the Lord is called Damodara Leela. Through this Leela the message that is conveyed is that the Lord will come into our hold only for Love and nothing else. Lord Krishna his bhaktas love is what can draw HIM To them. Om Sai Ram. Jai Gurudev.

## **Baba helps me through thick and thin**

By: Vidya

I'm really not sure how I need to start writing about my experience. Since this is the first time please forgive if I have committed any errors. Moreover it's pretty long but I could not justify it if I shortened beyond this.

I stay in Dubai and I have been religiously following Baba since May 2009. Before this though I did have a picture of baba in my house along with the statues and pictures of other deities, I never really gave any specific importance to Baba.

I do not know or remember how I got abruptly pulled on to Babas path. It was abruptly through some sites which I browsed and some articles that I read, I started getting inclined and ever since I have been an ardent devotee.

I had been in Mumbai for 3 years of my graduation between the years from 1997 to 2000 and though I had visited many temples I never had the thought of visiting Shirdi. In the year 2002 I got married and my in-laws and relatives from my husband's side planned a visit to Shirdi. Unfortunately I and my husband could never make it to join them for the visit and we never thought about it or regretted it at that point of time.

Only last year after I got pulled towards baba, I realized how I missed opportunities or rather I was never called by Baba to visit his holy abode. From the last 8 years I and my husband have been facing a lot of issues and being in another country away from India it has been very difficult for us. Every single day we would get up with a dejected feeling that what bad could be in store for us today. We never looked forward for another day but have been only living and pulling on for the sake of our 7 year old daughter.

In the month of June 2009 one of the Sai devotees had informed that he would be travelling to Shirdi and would be taking prayer requests. That's the first time I wrote down whole heartedly and requested baba to please allow us to visit Shirdi. Unexpectedly and unplanned in the month of August 2009 though we did not have any plans or were not truly capable of travelling all of a sudden we decided to go to Mumbai. This was the first time we took our initiative to go to Shirdi. We started off with my in-laws and the journey was indeed blessed. We started at 5.00 am on a Saturday and reached Shirdi at about 10.00 am. We had not made any bookings

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and after quite a search we booked ourselves into a hotel near the Chawadi. Since it was a Saturday my husband insisted that he wants to have darshan at Shani Shingnapur the same day so instead of having darshan at Samadhi mandir, we just had a darshan at Chawadi and immediately left for Shani Shingnapur. After reaching we had a real blissful darshan and returned back to Shirdi.

Since I had already read about Shirdi and the places around I was very keen from morning that I should visit the Khandoba Mandir. I kept reminding the driver that I need to go this temple. He though being a regular visitor of Shirdi did not know about this mandir and wasn't very keen too, but as we approached the Samadhi Mandir from Shani Shingnapur I somehow became very adamant and enquired and got ourselves to this Mandir. My in-laws and the driver did not join us as they were not very keen and was tired too so they waited in the car. As soon as we entered the temple premises, the priest of the temple pointed out to us and waved us to some inside the mandir. There were many people waiting outside the mandir sitting down at the front courtyard of the temple. We were inquisitive as to why we were called in. When we entered, the pujari said that we would be doing the evening Arati ourselves along with three or four other couples. I was in ultimate tears and bliss. This was the first miracle in Shirdi. We exactly got into the Khandoba mandir at the time of Arati and were called from a whole big crowd to perform the Arati.

After the Arati there, we went out and my father in law was surprised when I told him the whole encounter. We then proceeded to our hotel because we wanted to freshen up and go towards the Samadhi mandir for darshan. All the while during the day I also kept telling my husband that I also wanted to see a couple of houses of devotees of Baba whom I became familiar with through Sai Satchartitra. He said that we were short of time and really did not expect we would be able to do so.

On reaching the hotel I told my husband that we should get a plastic mug for the bathroom as I was apprehensive to use the one which was provided. My in laws and driver went ahead to freshen and me my husband and daughter went walking towards to market near the Chawadi searching for a shop where we could buy a mug. Believe me, we kept walking and asking so many shops and each one pointed and showed us some other direction asking us to proceed that way and we could find it. We never really understood which way or path we were taking and ultimately one guy pointed out one more way and said there's a grocery shop ahead. When we reached the grocery shop and asked for a mug and some other provisions the guy in the shop asked if we had visited Shama's house. When we said no he pointed to the nearby house and I was pleasantly surprised that it was house of Shama. He told that we could go in, his daughter in law was the only person living there and if we go inside we could see a statue of

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Ganeshji which was given to Shama by Baba. My joy grew without bounds. This was the second miracle. Just searching for a mug from half an hour all through the streets Baba fulfilled my desire of visiting the house of one of his closest devotees. The shop keeper also said that Laxmi bai's house is nearby and I could ask for directions. We went there but it was late in the evening, and some of people nearby told that it would be better if we came in the morning. Unfortunately next day we weren't able to go because we were returning back to Mumbai.

Whatsoever, I was really happy that our first visit to Shirdi finally took place. My only unfulfilled wish being that I could not attend any of the Arati's at the Samadhi Mandir.

Returning back to Mumbai also we had many issues which would be long if I had to elaborate them. After staying in Mumbai for a month, we returned back and there awaited us a new lot of problems. From Sep 2009 To June 2010 , were the hardest days of our lives, there even came a point where I started thinking there's no way to escape rather than putting an end to our lives, but I only kept my thoughts out of this looking at our 7 year old daughter. All this while I did keep my faith strong on Baba even though it used to get deterred many a times. I somehow started realizing that God was always putting us through the toughest moment and right when we would be at the verge of breaking down, help used to come through some source or the other. During the month of May, I came across many articles on Shippur Sai Baba, in Kolkata and a person over there called Amitji, somehow I felt I should write to him and I opened out all our problems in a letter and mailed it over to him just asking him to pray for us. He just replied back and assured that everything would be alright. Somehow certain developments started taking place and after that some of our problems started getting streamlined very slowly but yes it did. I really believe that Shippur Sai Baba Mandir is also very powerful. I hope I get a chance to visit it at some point with my family.

All this while, I never confided in either of my parents of our problems. Meanwhile my sister's marriage got fixed for November 2010 and it was expected of me to attend the marriage. In no way could I have missed that, but the current ongoing situations were such that it was impossible for me to either travel out of Dubai or attend my sister's marriage. I only left it out to Baba to save me from this. As the dates started getting closer I started getting pressures from all my family members asking when I would be arriving but I really did not have any answer. That is when I one day got up and prayed to Baba telling him he knows what situation I am in and what obstacles I'm facing. Somehow a thought came to my mind that from that very moment I would stop eating my favorite food "Rice". I told Baba now I would eat my first morsel of rice in Shirdi after your Darshan. I found it very difficult to abstain myself from Rice as I am basically a rice eater, but was very keen on sticking to my vow.



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When I told this to my husband he said that you shouldn't put such conditions to Baba and that our condition does not permit us either to attend my sister's marriage nor visit Shirdi. I just told him one thing that I'm sure Baba will fulfill both my desires.

Believe me even three days before my sister's marriage I was still in Dubai with no tickets booked. I don't know what and how it happened though me and my husband ended up fighting, my husband in a spur of moment went to the agents and got me and my daughter's tickets booked exactly for the day before marriage. Though we had a lot of misunderstandings till we were at the airport, we cleared it before I left out and in a few hours' time I could not believe that I had landed in India. I did feel very bad that my husband could not join us though. He was still into some problem which would only get sorted the next week.

After the marriage I came back with my in-laws to Mumbai. That same day I got a call from my husband that some of the important issues are settled and he may travel the same day to Mumbai. My joy knew no bounds when he came in early next morning. We just had 4 days in hand before we needed to be back in Dubai and he had some very important work to be completed by then in Mumbai. By the grace of Siddhivinayak and Baba he was able to complete the same and on 2nd December, Thursday he made all arrangements to take me to Shirdi so that I could keep my vow. Miraculously this was also the last Thursday of my Nav Guruwar Vrat. We reached Shirdi at around 11.00 am and checked into a hotel, freshened up and rushed to be in queue for darshan at around 1.30 pm. As it was a Thursday I was expecting a huge crowd and lots of waiting time in queue. In a matter of 20 minutes we passed the long queue and were standing in front of Baba. I had a good darshan and came out and then broke my fast at Shirdi by eating my plate of rice after almost a month.

Since we were short of time we had to travel back the same day so we proceeded for darshan at Khandoba Mandir at 6.00 pm and attended the Arati there which again we as a couple got to perform ourselves along with three or four other couples. I saw the great grandson of Mhalsapati ji. He was with us while the Arati was being performed and after the arati he just took out a small packet of Udi and gave it to my daughter. I really felt blessed.

I know this whole trip to India and Shirdi would not have been possible without Baba. While leaving from my hotel, while I thanked them and reached near the exit, the manager just called out and said "May Baba Call you back soon to Shirdi." That really moved me. The next day 03rd Dec 2010, we reached home early morning at around 12.30 -1.00 am, it was my birthday and the most blessed one in such a long time.

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We returned back to Dubai by 05th Dec 2010. Things are getting better for us by the grace of Baba. There are still many more hurdles and issues but I'm sure Baba will take care of us. I look upon to him whenever I'm down. He is just one person whom I pour my heart out to and he patiently listens to it. He scolds me when I think wrong and comforts me with his answers when I'm down. I keep talking to Baba through the site [www.shirdi-sai-baba-com](http://www.shirdi-sai-baba-com).

## Sai Samarpana

By: Sambit K Das

I am a devotee of Sai baba, I do Sai Puja and used to read Sai Chalisha at my home. I am committed to a girl and our parents have also accepted our relationship. My would-be completed her studies and was searching for a job, many obstacles came in her way; she tried her best but could not succeed anywhere. Her first job was in marketing which was very difficult for her to manage in summer and rainy season as a girl.

Her second job as HR in a consultancy firm that did not give her due salary, so she left that job but the manager of consultancy had her original certificates and asked for 10,000 rupees as deposit for her to leave the job without serving notice period one month, which was again a trouble to her. Without salary she could not proceed with her daily life as well. But I used to be with her and help her when required. I used to search online for Sai photo, mantra, temples in various cities in India. One day I found this Sai Samarpan magazine and read all the articles.

So I kept a votive that if she will get a job I will write an article in Samarpan. My parent and sister came to Hyderabad and we planned to go to Shirdi. My dad is very honest and hardworking but he did not get promotion, so he was in depression. So we all started to Shirdi and did Sai darshan, but all of the five tickets which we had were unconfirmed. My mom suffers from Arthritis; I was very worried how she will do the return travel from Shirdi to Hyderabad at night. I asked Sai Baa for help and we arrived peacefully. we had darshan and everything was fine for us. When I went to station to check the status of the tickets, it was a miracle, all tickets were confirmed. At last at morning we reached Hyderabad safely, after 2 days my-would be also got a job in a MNC. After some days my dad got promotion. This is how Sai blessed us and listened to our problems. I am sure Sai baba always looks after their devotees who completely surrender to him. Koti Koti Prannam Sai baba. Sab Ka Mallik Ek.

## The Power Of Nama

By: Revathy Ramkumar

Nama smarana simply means calling out the name of the Lord. The story of Shabari reassures us the power of nama smarana. It is said that when we open our mouths to say the syllable Ra all the sins leave through our mouth and the syllables Ma following Ra make sure that none of the expelled sins re-enter to plague us.

All of us are familiar and have heard many many stories from the great epic Ramayana. All the stories come with a message and a moral which is to be applied and lived by us in our lives.

Let us now look into the story of Shabari the great Tapasvini. Shabari was a tribal woman who lived a wild life until one day she was filled with compassion when she saw goats and sheep were to be sacrificed for her marriage dinner. She ran away into the forests in search of a master. At the foothill of the Rishyamukha mountain she sees a rishi (Rishi Matanga) with his disciples. She decides to serve the rishi and gets up early each morning and as soon as the rishi and his disciples leave for morning bath Shabari cleans their ashram, collects flowers and does all that is necessary for the rishi. The rishi is initially wondering at who is doing this seva for them and asks his disciples to look for and bring the person responsible for keeping their ashram so clean to him. The disciples thus bring Shabari to the Rishi Matanga. The rishi asks her what she wants and why she is doing all this for them, to which Shabari replies saying she does not know what is good for her so he should give her whatever he thinks she deserves.

Initially Shabari is given the task of keeping the ashram clean and serving the rishi Matanga. Shabari is totally devoted to her master and continues with her task with utmost sincerity and affection. Rishi Matanga decides it is time for him to leave his body and so sends for Shabari and asks her what she wants. Shabari again replies saying he knows what is best for her. The Rishi gives her 'Rama' nama mantra to chant. Shabari knew nothing about nama japa and she curiously asked the Rishi when she should chant. Matanga rishi replies that she should chant at all times. She asked how she should chant and the rishi replies that she should chant with utmost faith that as she chants, Rama will appear. Matanga rishi also assures her that he will be always present in the ashram and also that his clothes which he has put to dry will remain wet until the time Sri Rama comes to the ashram. So saying Matanga rishi gives up his body.

Shabari, the tapasvini that she was, waited each and every day to have the darshan of Lord Rama. Each and every day she would be prepared and waiting with fruits and flowers to greet the Lord, never for a moment forgetting to chant Rama Nama given to her by her guru. Finally, after 12 long years of waiting Sri Rama along with Lakshmana came to her ashram. In all these twelve

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years her faith had never even for a moment dwindled. She greets them with folded hands and is so filled with happiness and joy that her wish is fulfilled. She tells Lord Rama that the sages whom she served here have reached Swarga by their Vimanas, and had told her that Sri Rama would reach here with Lakshmana, and at that time she would attain all the higher worlds, and that she must extend hospitality to them. She takes them around the ashram and shows her guru's clothes and the holy agni which is still there assuring her guru's presence at the ashram. Shabari extends her hospitality to lord Rama and Lakshmana by offering flowers and fruit with great care and devotion. Lord extends his hands and accepts the fruits offered.

Earlier, in the Vamana avatar, the lord extends his arms for a handful of earth and then conquers the entire universe. Later in the Krishna Avatar as well, the Lord extends his hands and takes butter from his devotees. Here, Rama took the fruits Sabari gave and gave her liberation! Such was the power of her nama smarana. She now tells Lord Rama that after seeing him she has attained the accomplishment of her penance, and now her birth is fruitful and heaven is certain.

Lord Rama blessed her that she could reach any world of her choice since she had worshipped him. Shabari glowing like brilliant fire offered herself to the fire and went to heaven. The story of Shabari conveys the Power Of Nama Smarana and also teaches us that Patience and Faith are very important. Not even for a moment did she Shabari lose faith in her guru's words or her Rama Nama Japa. Shradha Saburi as Baba always says. Om Sai Ram,

## **SAI Baba collected dakshina from me**

By: Raghunandan

My second Experience I would like to narrate is how Baba collected dakshina from me.

As many would have read in Sai Satcharita that Sai Baba would collect dakshina which is owed to him by his bhaktas in various forms. I would like to narrate my interesting experience how Baba collected dakshina from me. My family was looking for a bride for me, I had posted my profile in various matrimonial sites. Whenever I used to visit Baba's Mandir I used to pray that I get a good bride and I owed to him that I would pay Rs 100 Dakshina and Visit Shirdi along with wife within a year of Marriage. With Baba's Grace I found a suitable bride from my community from Goa and our marriage was fixed on 20th Nov 09. There is a rule in Goa that all marriages are mandatory to be registered and couple have to sign on the marriage register twice in the interval of 15days. So I and my fiance along with couple of witnesses visited Panaji Sub register's office on 11th Oct 2009 for our first signature. After we finished the formalities we stepped out of the Sub registers office. On the opposite side of the office we saw a Sadhu who looked like Sai Baba though in saffron colored robe. With a head gear and dress similar to Sai, he was standing there with Photo of Sai Baba in his hands. We sat in our car and were about to drive away when I asked my fiance if she had seen this sadhu earlier, as her office is just two streets away. She told me that she had never seen him before. Just then I thought that I should pay some dakshina to the Sadhu, so I asked my fiance to drive the car in that direction.

Even though we saw him few minutes back, to our surprise he was nowhere to be seen. I thought that Baba himself had come to bless us and we went without paying any dakshina. I felt sad for not paying any dakshina to the sadhu, I apologized to Baba and promised that next time I if saw him I will pay dakshina. And the same night I travelled back to Bangalore. On 28th Oct 10, I came back to Goa for second signature on the marriage register, we finished the formality and left the office. All the while I was looking around for the sadhu whom we had seen last time.

I and my fiance decided to have quiet lunch at a restaurant near Condolim beach (12Kms from Panaji), while we were having lunch the Sadhu, whom we had seen a fortnight back suddenly appeared outside and stood near window and was staring at us. Even though there were other customers, he was just looking at us. When we looked at him, he didn't utter any word, he was just pointing to Sai Baba's photo which he was carrying in his hands. We were numbed, we

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were speechless, since we were having lunch I called a waiter and sent the money through the waiter to give it to the Sadhu, he received the money, smiled and went away. He had not asked money from anybody else there. We were certain that Baba had come to collect the dakshina which I owed to him. We Finished our lunch quickly and looked for him, he was nowhere to be seen. Thank you Sai for giving overwhelming experience and your blessing to us. We are ever grateful and forever indebted to you. Om Sai Ram.

## Baba helps my career

By: Swetha Borra

I and My husband are working in California, USA. One day in September my husband had been asked to move to different state by his manager because of some reasons. For me it was not a good news as the job opportunities are very less in the new city (where we were going to move). So, I went to my manager and asked him to give me an opportunity to work from home, however he replied in negative. I was very disappointed and started worrying and praying to Baba. On the same day my manager called me back and said that it was ok to work from home but it would be allowed only for 2-3 months.

I was not much happy but felt better and we moved to the new city. After a month my husband's company had applied H1B for my husband and H4 for me. I was on L2 before and once again I started worrying about my career and I used to ask SaiBaba so many questions and I was praying him daily. Now I need H1B to work here and I have zero hopes on it because of the recession. I don't even know how to approach a consultant and how to get a job. I was so much worried but I felt better whenever I prayed to Baba.

In November my husband's H1B got filed and in December 2010 my manager called me and said that he is happy with my work and would like me to continue my job. But I said that I could not work from February onwards because of my visa and I have told him about my husband's H1B status. Surprisingly he said that he would like to file H1B for me and that too premium. So, it was already December 2010 and I was scared to look at the availability of Quota and to my surprise it was still available and my company had filed H1B petition and on Jan15 2011 I got the approval. My only father none other than Baba has helped me a lot. Now the scariest thing is filing withdraw application for H4 petition. If this is not filed by the time my husband gets his approval then I am back to H4. My h4 withdrawal application got filed on Jan 23rd and on feb7th my husband got his approval along with my H4 approval. I was worried about my eligibility to work and called my lawyer and she said I can work as withdrawal has already been filed and today my application got approved.

This is not a small thing that can happen without God's grace. All we need is the faithful love and patience towards Baba. I love you Sai Ma.



## **SAI made my Shirdi trip possible**

By: Raghunandan

I have been ardent devotee of Sri Sai since 2008. At that time, my personal life was going through a turbulent period and I was very restless and had no peace of mind. I started going to Sai Mandir every Thursday, and started reading a chapter of Sai Satcharita every day. I was desperate to Visit Samadhi Mandir, Shirdi and pleaded for Baba's mercy and his help to lift me out of my problems.

During second week of January 2009, I had asked few of my colleagues weather anyone of them wished to join me in trip to Shirdi. Since none of them were in a position to join me, I booked a train ticket from Bangalore to Kopargaon for 18th February 2009. The ticket was not confirmed and i was number 76 in waiting list.

Every day I would check for the status of my ticket online but waiting list number was still hovering around 74. During the first week of February a colleague whom I had informed earlier that I would be travelling to Shirdi came to me and enquired whether I had done my travel arrangements for Shirdi trip. I told him that I had booked a train ticket but waiting list number was still 74, he than suggested me to go to Pune by train and from there to take a bus to Shirdi. I immediately check Online for Railway tickets to Pune, and to my surprise there was only one ticket in second class Sleeper available. I immediately booked the same and i am sure it was Baba's intervention to make my trip possible through my friend.

I reached Shirdi on 19th of February and had wonderful Darshan few times in two days of my stay and was fortunate enough to witness Chavadi Procession on Thursday. Ever since I stepped into Samadhi Mandir and Dwarakamai, true to Baba's Promise my problems started to get solved one by one over a period of time. I regained my peace of mind, my restlessness disappeared and I became happy. Thanks Sai for showering his kindness on me.

## Keeping the candle of faith burning

By: Tanaz Irani

My son was applying for a job where there were many applicants but very few vacancies. This was during last year in July. I visited Baba's temple at Dehu Road and requested Baba to give me some kind of sign that my son would get the job against the application that he had applied for in July. I requested Baba to let the Panditji at the Temple give me something more than the Prasad if this were true. I thought to myself that I would offer no money, coconut etc so that I would be sure that the additional blessing that I was expecting would come on its own from Baba ( in form of the panditji ).

When my turn arrived the Panditiji picked up a coconut and a piece of cloth and gave it to me just like that although I had offered nothing to Baba. My son cleared his written exams for which thousands had appeared but few hundreds were selected. Unfortunately he was unable to clear his group discussion and I was very dejected and sad.

This year in February we received a call from the same company, they informed my son that he would have to come again for his group discussion and that he need not appear for his written as he had already cleared it the last time. This policy was never followed before and therefore came as a surprise. Baba kept his word and has seen it to it that my son gets the job against the application he had given in July last year. My son will be going for his group discussion sometime next week. I hope he clears it and gets a appointment letter.

Also please pray for my son as he is facing some problems regarding his paper work and needs to get that sorted out. Sai devotees, pray to Sai with full faith and patience, Sai needs only love and he will return it 10 folds. SAI BABA please bless me and my family.

## Sai Ram Sai Shyam

By: Punita Bhatia

Earlier also I was blessed by Shirdi Sai Baba to share my experiences with all Sai Bhakts through this e-magazine, Samarpan. Once again, Baba has blessed me to write and share my latest experience with all of you. I would like to share another fact of my life that wherever I have travelled with my family whether within or outside India, Baba has given darshan to me and my family at all the places in various forms and ways.

Recently after my son's eleventh standard's final exams got over, we ( me, my husband and our son) planned a trip to Udaipur for three days for relaxation and had started our train journey on 28th February, 2011. In the train, we met a young man and after introduction with each other, we all had a very good long but informal conversation throughout the journey. During the conversation, I was just scrolling my mobile and that youngman asked me -"Are you Shirdi Sai's devotee/ Bhakt? I said -Yes. Actually, he noticed the Baba's Picture on my mobile screen. He immediately sent a very beautiful picture of Shirdi Sai Baba through bluetooth to my mobile. I was so delighted to have such a beautiful picture of baba in my mobile. It is Sai Baba who himself wanted me to have that picture in my mobile that through a stranger to whom we met in train journey only and for the first time. This is nothing but Shirdi Baba's darshan and blessings in a different but unique way!

On reaching Udaipur, we got ready to go for darshan of Eklingji (Lord Shiva temple) and Nathdawara (Lord Krishana Temple) and other few places nearby. When we reached Nathdawara temple, we found huge crowd in the premises. There were two separate enterances for gents and ladies to enter inside the main temple and the door to enter the main temple was closed at that time. On the way to the temple, number of touts approached us to take us directly for darshan inside the temple without any waiting if we pay them some amount but my husband refused.

While we were standing outside the temple, one panditji came and looked at us and asked us whether we wanted quick darshan. I said - Yes, as we are in hurry. My husband told him that we will wait till the doors of the main temple opens. After that, my husband and son stood in the queue for the gents outside the temple and I alone moved towards the entrance meant for ladies and found huge rush on that side which probably would have taken an hour to clear. I got little panicky. I came out and started searching for my husband and son and found that gents queue had already started moving inside the temple. At this, I came again inside and started

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waiting for the door to open for ladies. Suddenly I heard a voice- "Kya aap ko jaldi hi!" I turned and found the same panditji to whom we met outside the temple. I was surprised and then, asked him how much he will charge. He said he does not want anything but he can help me to move inside the temple. I agreed to that and he took me inside the temple through different entrance which was near to the deity where I had to wait for sometime for darshan. I thanked the Panditji for help and requested him to wait for me outside the temple till my return after darshan. I was waiting for my turn to come but the way to main darshan was blocked by guards. I don't know from where that Panditji came again and requested the guard to let me go inside for darshan. Ultimately, I went inside the temple and was thrilled to get darshan of Lord Krishna in Nathdawara. After darshan, I came outside the temple and started looking for Panditji who had helped me twice that too without asking for any money but unfortunately I did not find him. Who was HE? May be Lord Krishna, may be Shirdi Sai Baba in the form of Panditji who had come to help me! Sri Sai Ram Sai Shyam, Sai Ram Sai Shyam! Sainath Tere Hazaron Haath! May Sai Bless All!

## Sai Baba Transformed my Life

By: Anand

I did my engineering and joined a software company in Chennai. When i was in college, i did not know much about Sai Baba. After finishing my college, i ran into many troubles. I never used to visit any temple, however I had kept a small Sai photo with me and used to light agarbathi (Dhoop sticks) daily. Days passed by, one day my roommates told me that we have to vacate the house we were living in due to some reasons. One day when I was going out of my new house, i noticed a small temple outside. When i went inside the temple, i was pleased to see that it was a Sai Baba temple. However, i would rarely go inside the temple; most of the times i would just look at the temple from outside and go to office.

After sometime i was in big trouble for some misunderstanding with my manager. Also day-by-day my bakthi towards Sai was increasing. I started to go inside the temple daily before leaving to office. Like many of us who had experienced the worst effects of recession during last year, I too had experienced it. Most of my colleagues were laid off due to the recession. At that time as i mentioned before , my manager started using the situation. He gave me very bad appraisal ratings, so that i could be kicked off any time.

Even though i didn't deserve that , i knew that it would happen. So i was feeling very low in that evening and when i passed Sai's temple, I really cried. Next day, i didn't go to office. I visited my friend's house nearby. There i saw a copy of Sai Satcharita Book lying on the table. So i enquired my friend about that , he told that he got it from Shirdi and used to read it, also while reading he won't drink, smoke and have non veg foods. So i thought that i would read that book from the approaching Thursday. So i searched all the book shops, but i didn't get another copy of it anywhere. So i was sad about it. I visited one of my cousin's house and there i saw some advertisement about the Sai Seva sangam and its phone number.

I really don't know, how i got that idea, but i know that Sai only made me to call them. So i called and enquired about book shops selling the book, to my surprise they told that they had one last copy with them and they will courier it to me for free of cost. I was totally amazed and realised the Baba's words "If someone takes one step towards me , i will take ten steps towards him". I waited till Wednesday morning and i didn't receive the book. So i prayed to Baba about this and went to office, when i came from office, i saw book lying on the table.

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I was overwhelmed with joy and started reading Satcharitra. Two days passed, next week on Monday i went to office. As usual before going to office, i prayed in Baba's temple and left, but there i felt something unusual. I felt that Baba is trying to say something to me and suddenly the priest came and gave me some flowers. I felt good and left to the office. But i was fully thinking about the injustice done to me in the office. There a big surprise awaited me. One of my other managers called me and asked about the appraisal ratings. I told him everything. He replied that , he had also noticed that and changed the rating before it went for approval. So everything would be fine. I was wonder-struck and speechless.

So after finishing the book, Sai called me to Shirdi also. I visited Shirdi twice after that. While reading that book i came across a chapter where Baba says "even though my Bhaktas are very far from me, i will bring them to my feet as a sparrow". From this i realised that it's because of Baba, i came from my old house to this new house (opposite to Sai mandir).

Days passed by, i was transferred to Delhi. Initially, I did not have any interest to move away from Sai mandir. So i cried to Baba to cancel the transfer. But it was not cancelled. Then i understood that baba had given the order and nobody can avoid it. To my surprise, there was a Sai mandir nearby my house in new place. I understood that Baba will never leave me alone in troubles. So i visited the temple often and after sometime i got a good job in an MNC for a very good package. Then I realized that whatever has happened to me was by Sai only . I always try to remember his words Shraddha and Saburi and imbibe them in my life.

Finally, i have experienced and am still experiencing lots of Sai's miracles in my everyday life. Even i think Sai is the one who made me write this. My humble request to all those who read this is to never lose faith in Sai. If you are facing troubles in your life or if you didn't get what you wanted, then know that Sai has better things in store for you. Jai SaiRam .

## **Baba arranges suitable match for my sister**

By: Kumar Vimlesh

I am going to share my story of Thursday fasting. I have fasted every Thursday since adolescence whenever I could. Baba has always been kind to me, and continues to bless me as well as test me throughout my life journey. Time and time again, Baba shows that he loves his children and the miracle of believing in him. I prayed to Baba from bottom of my heart for my sister and decided to observe 9 Thursday fasting for her marriage. I prayed to Baba that my one and only sister be blessed with a very good marriage proposal, someone that would care for her for life. My miracle occurred after doing 9 fasts on Thursday. On the last Thursday of my fasts, right after finishing my pooja I got call from home that they got a very good marriage proposal. Both families met and saw the great match and gave my sister sagun. Family is very humble and nice and cares for my sister, calling and visiting and sending gifts. As a brother, I couldn't imagine anything more for her then a settled house, loving family, and caring husband and she has gotten all of those. She is to be married soon, and as many tears of sorrow will come from my eyes, there will be many more tears of happiness. Thanks to Sai Baba for helping us find someone suitable match for my sister.

Prayer: Baba be with us all the time. We are your kids and always look for your mercy glance on us. Baba you are our everything; our day starts with your name and ends into your dream. Baba bless us that we should always remember you and chant your name day and night. Your chanting should be like live oxygen for us, as long as we breathe we should chant your holy name. Baba we make mistakes all the times, sometimes unintentionally and some time even knowingly but Baba we are learning and promise you that we are going to be good human beings in future. Sai Nath you just be with us. OM SAI RAM

## Baba helps find lost Pendant

By: Arun Mathur

I used to hear about Shirdi Sai Baba and stories of his miracles since my childhood. Although I used to visit Sai Baba temple at Lodhi Road at Delhi, I was not so much devoted to Sai baba until I got married.

I got married in 1997. One day before my marriage I told my parent that I wanted to buy some gift for my wife, which I wanted to give her after marriage. My mother and I went to a jewelry Shop and bought a gold pendent and gold chain. On one side of gold pendent there was a sign of "Aum" and a picture of Shri Sai Baba on another side of pendent.

After few months later, on a day when my wife was coming to home from market, a man snatched her gold chain and ran away. My wife and some other people tried to follow him but could not. During the evening my wife told me how she had lost the gold chain with pendent. We all are very sad that day. Somewhere in my heart, I was not convinced that we had lost the gold pendent with Sai Baba's image on it. After having dinner we went to sleep.

While trying to sleep, Baba helped me by flashing a thought in my mind that if chain had broken at the time of snatching then the gold pendent must have fallen there where the incident had occurred. I shared my thought with my wife. She told me that it is not possible that pendent can be still there because incident had occurred in the morning. Road on which this incident had occurred was a very busy road. She was sure that if it is there, but by the time of night someone must have picked it. I could not sleep the whole night. I felt that Baba was calling me saying that I am still there, come and take me to the home.

In the early morning, I visited that place in search of the pendent. It was really a miracle and I was amazed when I found that pendent was still lying there at the road side. I picked up that pendent and came home. Every one in the family was also amazed. My wife still has that pendent with her. After that incident my faith in Shri Sai Baba became so strong & my wife also became devoted to Shri Sai Baba. Since that day Shri Sai Baba has arrived into our lives and has become such an integral part of it that we cannot think of a single moment without His guidance and without Him.

In Jan, 2009 I visited Shirdi to have darshan of Shri Sai Baba. Since then I have felt that Shri Sai Baba himself is guiding me all the way in my life and He has shown me many miracles from time



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to time which have made my faith and belief ever stronger in Shri Sai Baba. I will share those incidents with readers of "Samarpan" in my next article. JAI SAI RAM!

## The Principle of Lord Shiva

By: Radhika

The principle of Shiva – shiva-tattva – is extremely complex. The principle of Brahma is not that complicated because Lord Brahma is almost always a jiva, a finite spirit soul. Sometimes, when there is no qualified jiva, Lord Visnu (Krishna's expansion) personally takes the post of Brahma, which is very rare. But Lord Shiva is not like that, he is not a jiva. After passing through the eight material coverings and after crossing the Viraja (the river that divides the material world and the spiritual world) and the planet of Lord Brahma (the highest material planet), one comes to the planet of Shiva. There he is known as Sadashiva, a manifestation of Lord Vishnu. Shiva-tattva can be understood by the analogy of yogurt and milk. Yogurt is nothing but a transformation of milk. Milk can become yogurt, but yogurt cannot become milk. This analogy is found in Sri Brahma-Samhita and clarified in Srila Jiva Gosvami's commentary: "Just as milk is transformed into yogurt by coming in contact with a transforming agent, Shri Govinda, Lord Shri Krishna, similarly accepts the form of Sambhu (Shiva) in order to accomplish a specific purpose. The example of yogurt is actually given in order to convey the idea of cause and effect, not the idea of transformation. Shri Krishna is a reality and cannot be transformed, so it is not possible for him to undergo any kind of distortion. A wish-fulfilling gem manifests many things according to one's desire, yet its constitutional nature remains untransformed."

### The Post and Person

There are the two perspectives from which we can understand the identity of Lord Shiva. We can see Shiva from the point of view of his post, and also his personality. As a personality separated from post, he appears as an associate of the Supreme Lord, such as Gopisvara, Hanuman and Bhima. As Gopisvara he resides eternally in Vrindavana. As Hanuman he always associates with and serves Lord Rama. As Bhima he always serves Lord Krishna and when Hanuman and Bhima combine together in this present age of Kali-yuga, they become Madhvacarya, our sampradaya-guru. From the point of view of Lord Shiva's function as the god of annihilation, and also that of Brahma as the secondary creator of the universe, Shiva and Brahma are actually posts. Lord Brahma and Lord Shiva are not ordinary human beings but their posts are like that of the president or prime minister of a nation, wherein the man representing the post has to perform a certain defined job.

Both as the post and the person, Shiva is superior to Brahma. Lord Shiva is an expansion of Lord Visnu, but sometimes a jiva may become Shiva's expansion known as Rudra. If a man performs the duties of varnasrama perfectly for one hundred births, he may become Brahma. In other

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words, he may attain the position or post of Brahma. In turn, when a person in the post of Brahma carries out his function expertly for one hundred births, he becomes qualified to perform the function of Shiva in his manifestation as Rudra. Shiva's post is therefore superior to that of Brahma, and there are evidences that Shiva is more powerful than Brahma.

## **The Duty of Destruction**

What is the function of Lord Shiva's post, and why is it superior to that of Lord Brahma? One reason is that Brahma cannot execute pralaya, the complete destruction of the universe – a very dangerous thing, whereas Shiva can do so. Siva's function as destroyer is similar to that of a farmer who plants and cultivates a large area of wheat. The farmer carefully waters and nourishes the crop, guarding it from animals, and after five or six months the wheat matures and ripens. Then, either by hand or a machine, the farmer harvests the plants and carefully removes the grains from their shafts. The rest of the plant-matter becomes refuse, subject to rotting and attracting disease, vermin, and snakes. Therefore, the farmer sets fire to it and burns it. Just as the farmer extracts the grains from the plants, Lord Siva extracts the eternal spirit souls from their material bodies and from the world. At the time of annihilation he creates an inferno, setting the entire universe on fire, but the spirit souls are not destroyed.

Lord Siva is not in the category of a jiva, but he is also not in the category of Lord Visnu. He is much more powerful than any living entity (jiva), even up to Lord Brahma. However, he is not equal to Lord Visnu. Because he is almost as good as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, he can see the three phases of time: past, present, and future. One of his eyes is like the sun and another is like the moon. He also has a third eye, located between his eyebrows. It is from this third eye that he generates fire and employs it at the time of the universal destruction. Seen from this perspective – the destroyer – Lord Siva cannot serve Sri Krishna directly, because he is engaged at his post. Those souls who are liberated after hundreds of thousands of lifetimes of devotional practice, having renounced all responsibilities and concerns of the world – including occupations like that of Brahma and Siva – and who constantly hear about, glorify, and remember Lord Krishna, take birth in this world as pure devotees like Prahlada Maharaja. The posts of both Brahma and Siva involve contact with the three gunas, or modes of material nature, namely goodness, passion, and ignorance. The role of Lord Brahma is creation and procreation in raja-guna, the mode of passion. Lord Siva's role of demolition and dissolution is in tama-guna, the mode of ignorance. It is for this reason that they are called guna-avatars, incarnations of the material qualities. Lord Siva is beyond the three modes of nature, but he adopts the mode of ignorance (tama-guna) to efficiently perform his function.

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## Granting Perfect Love

Lord Siva eternally resides in Lord Krishna's abode, Vrndavana, where he manifests many forms to render devotional services to Him. The form of Gopisvara Mahadeva was manifested by Lord Krishna's desire. When Krsna desired to perform His rasa dance, Srimati Radhika, the embodiment of His pleasure potency, manifested from His left side and Gopisvara Mahadeva manifested from His right side. The form of Siva who lives in Kasi or Kailasa in the material world is a partial manifestation of the original Sadasiva in Vrndavana. The many other commonly worshiped forms of Lord Siva are expansions of Sadasiva. They are not the original. Partial expansions such as Pippalesvara Mahadeva, Bhutesvara Mahadeva, Rangesvara Mahadeva and so on cannot award the benediction that can be attained by the mercy of Gopisvara – the highest perfection of love, namely vraja-prema. Srila Raghunatha dasa Gosvami has composed a prayer in his Vraja vilasastava:

*muda gopendrasyatmaja bhuja  
parisranga nidhaye  
sphurad gopirvrndair yam iha  
bhagavatam pranayibhih  
bhajadbhistair bhaktyas  
vamabhilasitam praptam acirad  
yamitire gopisvaram anudinam tam  
kila bhaje*

I daily worship Gopisvara Mahadeva, who is situated on the bank of Yamuna. That very Gopisvara was worshipped with deep devotion by the gopis, and he quickly fulfilled their desire to attain a supremely precious jewel in the form of the embrace of the son of Nanda Maharaja [Krishna]. Srila Sanatana Gosvami, the great Vaisnava saint who resided in Vrndavana near the Sri Madana- Mohana temple, would go daily to see Sri Gopisvara Mahadeva at his temple. Once, in his older years, Sanatana Gosvami had a dream wherein Gopisvara Mahadeva appeared and instructed him: "Now that you are old, please do not go through so much trouble to see me." Sanatana Gosvami replied, "I will continue to come. I cannot change this habit." Gopisvara Mahadeva said, "Then I will come and stay very near to your residence, manifesting in Bankhandi." The very next day, Sri Gopisvara Mahadeva appeared in Bankhandi, halfway between his original temple and Srila Sanatana Gosvami's residence. Seeing this, Sanatana Gosvami became overwhelmed with transcendental ecstasy, and from that day on he visited Bankhandi Mahadeva every day. Wherever he was, Srila Sanatana Gosvami could not live without his beloved Lord Siva – Gopisvara Mahadeva and Bankhandi Mahadeva in Vrndavana, and Kamesvara Mahadeva in Kamyavana forest. In Govardhana he would stay near his very dear friend, Cakresvara Mahadeva, who acquired the name when he served Govardhana Hill

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and the Vrajavasis by holding up his trident like a cakra, protecting them from the torrential deluge sent by King Indra. Prior to this, Lord Siva had asked Sri Krishna for the boon to witness His childhood pastimes. Krishna ordered him to situate himself in Nandagaon in the form of a hill. Siva followed this order and became Nandisvara Hill, and he thus became known as Nandisvara Mahadeva.

## **By Siva's Benediction**

A brahmana in Kasi Varanasi once prayed to Lord Siva, "I want to give my daughter in marriage, but I have no money. Please give me money." Lord Siva told him, "Go to Vrndavana and meet with Srila Sanatana Gosvami. You can ask him to give you some wealth for your daughter's marriage." The brahmana went to Vrndavana, by foot, and there he asked the villagers there for the whereabouts of a person named Sanatana Gosvami. As they all knew Sanatana Gosvami, they pointed out his residence. Srila Sanatana Gosvami was practicing bhajana near the Yamuna River at Kaliya-hrada, the former abode of the very poisonous snake named Kaliya. Kaliyahrada was close to the Yamuna, and therefore its surrounding area was full of sand. Srila Sanatana Gosvami wore only a loincloth. He used to go begging door-to-door for a small amount of prasada (Krishna's food remnants), and would take as his meal only one dry chapatti (flat bread), with no salt. The brahmana arrived at his cottage and told him, "I went to Sankara Mahadeva, Lord Siva, and he told me to meet you. He said you will give me some wealth for my daughter's marriage." Sanatana Gosvami replied, "I have no possessions. You can see that I have nothing but a loincloth." Then he thought, "Oh, Siva cannot tell a lie. He is my bosom friend." Thinking of Lord Siva and contemplating further, he remembered a touchstone he had once discarded and then forgotten. Now he told the brahmana, "Go to the Yamuna and remove some of the sand, and there you will find a touchstone. It is somewhere in the sand, though I don't remember where." The brahmana found the touchstone, touched it to iron, and the iron turned into gold. He was very, very happy that Lord Siva had told him to come to Vrndavana, and thought with gratitude, "My prayer has been answered by him." On the way home, however, his greed for money increased and he began thinking, "Why did Sanatana Gosvami keep the touchstone in the sand? It had no use there. He must have still more valuable jewels." He thus returned, and Sanatana Gosvami asked him, "Why have you come back?" He replied, "I've come because I know that you have more valuable jewels than this." Sanatana Gosvami then said, "Go and throw the touchstone in the Yamuna. The brahmana did so with all his power, and then Sanatana Gosvami told him, "Come here. Come here." He gave him the mantra, "Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare" and said, "I do not have worldly jewels, but I have transcendental jewels. The jewel of Lord Krishna and Sri Radha will come to you in a very short time. So remain here. Your daughter's marriage will take place automatically. Stay here and chant Hare Krishna." That brahmana followed his instruction and became a very elevated saint.

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## **Ramesvara Mahadeva**

When Sri Ramacandra was making the bridge to Lanka, he established a Siva-linga (deity form of Siva) called Ramesvara. All the common people began glorifying Lord Siva, shouting, “Ramesvara ki jaya! You are Rama’s isvara: you are the lord of Rama.” The demigods were unsatisfied by this and announced through an aerial voice,

*“Ramas ca asau Isvarah:*

Rama is God, and Sankara is also God; they are the same.”

Hearing this, the Siva-linga broke. Lord Siva emerged from the linga and told them all, “Both explanations are incorrect, the established truths regarding my identity.

Ramayah yasya isvarah sa ramesvarah - Rama is my beloved Lord and that is why I am called Ramesvara.”

The great saint Tulsidasa has written in his Sri Rama-carita-manasa that we should accept Sri Siva-Parvati as our Guru, and they will give us love for the lotus feet of Rama. We honor Lord Siva as a great Vaisnava and as Guru. We do not worship him separately. We observe Siva-ratri, Lord Siva’s appearance day, and we glorify him in connection to his relationship with Sri Krsna. Srila Sanatana Gosvami has written in his Hari-bhakti-vilasa that all vaisnavas should observe Siva-caturdasi (Siva-ratri). Lord Siva, in whom all good qualities reside, should certainly be honoured by the observance of this day. We offer obeisances to Lord Siva with prayers like this:

*vrndavanavani-pate! jaya soma soma-maule  
sanaka-sanandana-sanatana-naradaya  
gopisvara! vraja-vilasi-yuganghri-padme  
prema prayaccha nirupadhi namo namas te*

O Gatekeeper of Vrndavana! O Soma, all glories to you! O you whose forehead is decorated with the moon, and who is worshipable by the sages headed by Sanaka, Sanandana, Sanatana and Narada! O Gopisvara! Desiring that you bestow upon me prema for the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha-Madhava, who perform joyous pastimes in Vraja-dhama, I offer obeisances unto you time and time again.

Hari Hara eka atma – the oneness of Hari and Hara

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Hari (Lord Visnu) and Hara (Lord Siva) are called ekatma (one soul). Why are they called eka atma? 'eka atma priyat iti hetu ekatmanam' because there is so much so much love and intimacy between Siva and Krishna "priyat iti hetu" so they are called eka atmanam. Lord Ramachandra has Himself declared many times in Sri Rama charita manas "None is as so dear to Me as Shiva. He who is opposed to Shiva and is called My worshipper can never dream of attaining Me; he who is opposed to Shankara and yet aspires after faith in Me is doomed to perdition, stupid and dull witted as he is. .... He who worships Lord Shiva in a disinterested spirit and with a guileless heart will be blessed by Shiva with devotion to Me." (At Ramesvaram – Lanka kanda) Tulasidasji, after narrating the story of how Lord Shiva gave up Sati devi for impersonating Sita Devi says "Those who love not Shiva's lotus feet can never dream of pleasing Rama. A guileless love for Shiva's feet is the surest sign of Rama's devotee. Who is as faithful to Rama as Shiva, who put away a sinless wife like Sati and proved his devotion to Rama by his pledge of unswerving fidelity.

Whom does Rama hold as dear as Shiva."

To show the closeness of Lord Visnu and Lord Siva, there is a deity in Sri Navadvipa dhama where the deity is half black and half white. The black side represents Lord Visnu and the white side represents Lord Shiva. On the side of Lord Visnu is Laksmiji and on the site of Lord Siva is Parvatiji. (The photo of this deity is shown above.) Wherever the Lord is, Shivaji will be there in one form or another rendering service to Lord Visnu. In Rama lila, Shivaji came as Hanumanji. In Lord Krsna's pastimes, he appeared as Bhima. Similarly in all Bhagavan's Dhamas (holy places), Shivaji is there as ksetrapala, the protector of all of Bhagavan's holy abodes. Without the mercy of Lord Shiva, one cannot enter the pastimes of the Lord. 'vaisnavana yatha sambhuh' Among all vaisnavas, Lord Shiva is the topmost. There are four vaisnava sampradayas (disciplic succession). One of these sampradayas was started by Lord Shiva. The other sampradayas were started by Lord Brahma, Laksmiji and the four kumaras (Sanaka, Sanatana, Sanandana and Sanatkumar).

*janmantara sahasresu samaradhya  
vrsa dhvajam  
vaisnavatvam labhed dhiman  
sarva papa ksaye sati*

By worshipping Lord Shiva for many thousands of births a person becomes wise and free from all sins. Then he becomes a vaisnava. (Adi Varaha Purana)

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*tat krsna varna volasat su  
kalam samiksya  
tasmin vilagna manasa su  
sukham vihaya  
unmatta vad vrajati dhavati  
nilakantho  
bibhrat kaparda visa bhasma kapala sarpan*

Gazing at Krishna's dark handsomeness, Shiva became attached to Him. Giving up all normal happiness, Shiva now walks and runs about like a madman, wearing matted hair, drinking poison, covered with ashes, and decorated with snakes and skulls. [Garga Samhita 2.18.23]

*srimad gopisvaram vande sankaram karuna mayam  
sarva klesa haram devam vrndaranya rati pradam*

I offer my respectful obeisances to Sri Gopishvar, who is Lord Shiva Himself. He removes all troubles and grants spiritual love in Vrindavan—Sri Bhakti ratnakara 5.3741



## I received my parcel on Sai's day

By: Radhika Ramnath

It is my great pleasure to share my experience with all of us. I have experienced so many miracles in my life. Saibaba is always with me in each and every moment in my life. I always chant his name. He is really a great saint and I have no words to explain about miracles that I experienced in my life. It's really a great feelings and each devotee will have the same feelings too. I have one sister and she is settled in UK along with her family. Last month she had sent me a parcel on the event of pongal festival. But I didn't receive that parcel till yesterday. It's hardly a month and she lost her faith that it has been lost somewhere on the way.

When I called up today (10-2-2011), I told her confidently that I will surely receive your parcel, you don't worry. Baba is there, baba will take care. Today evening I received that parcel. I am really amazed and I have no words to explain my happiness.

I received the parcel today at 5.45pm. It's nearly a month since being dispatched by my sister. When she had booked that parcel, the postman had told her that it would reach within a week. But I got my parcel today which is Sai's day. Really I have no words to explain the feelings. Sai baba is always with us. He lives in each and everyone's heart. My sister is very happy to hear that news and even my mother is also happy. Both my parents and sister are devotees of sairam. Om sai ram

*"LOGA SAMASTHA SUKINO BVANTHU"*

*"OM SHANTHI SHANTHI SHANTHI"*

## Baba gave me Darshan

By: Natarajan V

The following is one incident which I would like to share with all Sai devotees wherein our Sadguru Sairam gave me his Darshan. I feel I am really fortunate and blessed to have His darshan.

I am in the habit of going for morning walks everyday and I listen to the songs of Baba and Bhajans while I would be walking. I would be so overwhelmed with joy that sometimes I would forget that I am walking and would start crying.

One day in June 2010, while I was praying to Baba to help me resolve my problems and listening to His songs, I happened to hear a song which said, "If you come to Shirdi, its your victory". At the same time, I happened to see the Pandal of a temple, where Sai gave me darshan. I was immensely thrilled to have seen the image of Baba out of nowhere. Baba is eternal and great! Immediately I decided to visit Shirdi with my wife and son.

I have taken a picture of this image of Baba, which gave me immense happiness and stored it in my mobile. Jai Sai Ram

## **Baba's teachings-way to eternity**

By: Rajesh

I live in Southern part of India and some time back, I knew nothing about Sai Baba and his timeless existence. About just a month back I read Shri Sai Satcharitra written by Shri Hemadpant. The day I started reading the epic, my mind wholly surrendered to baba and I was unable to think anything except his graceful face. My heart and mind continuously imagined about the days when baba was on earth, about his Shirdi, his teachings and then in me developed an urge to visit Shirdi as soon as possible. Though at one point I thought that it might be a kind of restlessness to visit Shirdi immediately because of reading God's life so closely and I shall be back to my normal self in few days. But day after day I was filled with too many thoughts of baba and my eyes were filled with tears of his love and grace. I was all the time engrossed with joy of baba's love and his pleasant face. I was longing to feel the fragrance of the soil of the place where he lived in.

He is a real Sat Guru who can really free one from the circles of birth and death. I wonder that how just by knowing about his life can bring in so much change in people. And how much lucky those people would have been who were there with Baba at that time. I believe that baba and his teachings are the real source of eternity.

## **Baba gave me Darshan**

By : Natarajan V

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I have taken a picture of this image of Baba, which gave me immense happiness and stored it in my mobile. Jai Sai Ram

## **Baba gave life to my sister's child**

By: Bandana Ojha

There was a time when my younger sister was awfully depressed as she was unable to conceive even after she was married for two and a half years. We prayed for her and after a minor surgery she was able to conceive and the doctors suggested her complete bed rest. She was a Central Government Employee and risking her job she took leaves from office.

Finally after nine months she was blessed with a healthy boy child with normal delivery. Our family's joy knew no bounds; however, suddenly the next day the child became unconscious and was admitted in ICU. We all were shocked and my elder sister who is also a doctor was informed by the doctor that the child is a victim of brain hemorrhage since birth. He said he must have hurt himself with a scissor at the time of delivery. There were less chances of his survival and they did his brain scan. There seemed no hope for the baby's survival. I prayed to Sai Baba and holding his holy feet I cried like anything. Somewhere inside my heart I felt Baba's assurance that things were going to be fine and I bestowed my faith on him. I sensed him saying "I am with your family, and child will be alright". Suddenly, my sister called up saying that brain scan has been done and there is nothing to be worried about. I dashed to Baba's photo and saw him smiling.

I pray to baba for his blessings for all his devotees and I truly believe if you hold baba's holy feet, he will never let you down.

## Sai - I need you always

By: Sunita Gupta

I want to thank Sai Baba for being in my life and helping me and my family in all the aspects. I love him more than anything and am sure he is always there to take care of our needs. He took care of us in the past and I have faith that he will look after us in future too.

Sai Baba has made impossible things possible for me. He granted my wishes and its because of his grace that I and my sister are happily married today. Its his mercy that I am expecting and soon going to give birth to a child. There are certain wishes which I have asked him and he is for sure going to grant them too. I pray to him for a good job for my brother and that he should get married to a nice girl in life. I pray for my sisters that they may live in bliss with their husbands and children.

I have utmost faith in baba, he has done lot of miracles in my life and I request him to be with us always and show us his way where we should walk. I thank him from core of my heart and ask for strength to live life in his way. I look for a place in his lotus feet.

Bolo jai sai ram.

## **Baba's teachings-way to eternity**

By: Rajesh

I live in Southern part of India and some time back, I knew nothing about Sai Baba and his timeless existence. About just a month back I read Shri Sai Satcharitra written by Shri Hemadpant. The day I started reading the epic, my mind wholly surrendered to baba and I was unable to think anything except his graceful face. My heart and mind continuously imagined about the days when baba was on earth, about his Shirdi, his teachings and then in me developed an urge to visit Shirdi as soon as possible. Though at one point I thought that it might be a kind of restlessness to visit Shirdi immediately because of reading God's life so closely and I shall be back to my normal self in few days. But day after day I was filled with too many thoughts of baba and my eyes were filled with tears of his love and grace. I was all the time engrossed with joy of baba's love and his pleasant face. I was longing to feel the fragrance of the soil of the place where he lived in.

He is a real Sat Guru who can really free one from the circles of birth and death. I wonder that how just by knowing about his life can bring in so much change in people. And how much lucky those people would have been who were there with Baba at that time. I believe that baba and his teachings are the real source of eternity.

## **Baba helps me always**

By: Anjna Bhan

Sai baba has done so many miracles in my life which are countless . I can't express greatness of sai baba in my words . I was having very tough life before six years. My husband was having some problem with the job and we were facing problems in my family. My daughter was 6 months old and our life was very tough. One day I prayed in front of Sai Baba idol and wept. In the same night sai baba gave me darshan in my dream and my faith in Him became more firm.

As time passed my prayers and devotions towards Baba grew. I always prayed to sai baba and we both got jobs and things began to streamline. Whenever I had any problem I shared my burden with Baba and he made the problem lighter thereby releasing me from my tension. I love Baba very much. He has opened many doors for me. I can never express my gratitude towards him. Om Sai Ram.



## **Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!**

By: SANJAY KUMAR SINGH

Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
That endow with devotion to sing HIS glories pristine,  
That make me chant HIS name aloud,  
That awake me to listen to unending voice and sound.

Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
That give an impetus to be selfless and kind,  
That drive to keep HIM only in mind,  
That unshackle me from shackles of worldly grind.

Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
That admonish the lessons of renunciation,  
That fill with the knowledge of HIS creation,  
That remind us the ultimate truth of life's cessation.

Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
The only source of grace to cross the ocean,  
The only destination to reach and attain,  
All else has no essence, as it were, in vain.

Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
That rid of all misfortunes and distresses alike,  
The put off the fire of lust and envy,  
That breaks the backbone of ego and pride.

Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
That make a dumb, eloquent speaker,  
That turns a lame, adventurous mountaineer,  
That metamorphose a beggar into a sovereign ruler.

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Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
That burn the ignorant desires within,  
That invigorate the fire to be pure and serene,  
That light up the path for selfless indulgence.

Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
That save us from drowning in worldliness abound,  
That smash the dreary illusions to ground,  
That dry up the ocean of insentience spread all around.

Prostrations to thy lotus feet divine! O Master!  
That takes us to self hidden within,  
That make us identify self with HIM.  
That wipe away the difference of me and HIM

## प्यार बांटते साई

By: Sudhir Rai

ॐ साई राम जी

आज गुरुवार है ,साई बाबा का वार है ,  
सची दिल से जो कोई धावे उसका बेडा पार है  
शंकर का अवतार है ,भक्तो का मददगार है  
करता हर चमत्कार है , सची दिल का साई को भी बड़ा इंतज़ार है  
ॐ साई ॐ साई सब को अपने उभरा है ,  
मुझ को भी तो साई मेरे तेरा ही सहारा है

साई साई तुम राट्टी रहो  
जब तक तन में प्राण है  
साई ने ही दिया यह जीवन दान है  
शिर्डी के गुरु का नाम जब होठो पे आयेगा ,  
तन से और मन से तेरा बोझ ले जायेगा

साई साई से तेरा जीवन बन जाएगा ,  
सचे दिल से जैसे ही तू साई को बुलाएगा,  
इधर उधर ना जा मेरे भाई ,साई दौड़ा आएगा

अपने बचो की रक्षा का साई को भी ध्यान है,  
श्रदा और सबूरी से साई को पाना आसन है ,  
हे मेरे भाई , हे मेरे भाई ,साई को परणाम है ,  
साई ही तो साई ही तो सर्वशक्तिमान है

## साईं की जोगन

By: Dimple Arora

1) "साईं नाम को रटते रटते,मैं भी जोगन बन गई,  
साईं नाम की महिमा सुनकर, मैं तो उनकी हो गई  
साईं मेरे मुझे चरण लगा ले, भाग्य सवर जाए मेरे,  
साईं नाम को रटते रटते,करम निखर जाए मेरे,  
साईं दीवानी कहलाऊ मैं, कही भी मैं जो जाऊ,  
बाबा मेरे निशदिन मैं तो, तेरी ही महिमा गाऊ,  
जब से तेरा साथ मिला है, मैं तो सोना बन गई  
साईं पारस को छू कर, मैं तो आप ही पारस बन गई"

2) मेरा साईं है सबसे प्यारा --- साईं राम साईं राम,  
मेरे जीवन को वो आधार --- साईं राम साईं राम,  
मेरा साईं है सबसे प्यारा----- साईं राम साईं राम,  
मेरे बाबा मेरे सतगुरु, मेरी जान है मेरे सतगुरु,  
साईं राम,साईं राम,साईं राम,  
मुझे दुनिया ने ठुकराया,मेरे साईं ने अपनाया,  
मेरा बेडा पार लगाया,मेरा बेड़ा पार लगाया,  
साईं राम,साईं राम,साईं राम,  
साईं जी मेरे पारस,साईं जी मेरे पारस,  
मुझे लोहे से सोना बनाया,बुझती जोत को फिर से जगाया,  
साईं राम,साईं राम,  
मेरा सब कुछ तुझको अर्पण,मेरा सब कुछ तुझको अर्पण,  
करा द्वार पर तेरे समर्पण,करा द्वार पर तेरे समर्पण,  
साईं राम,साईं,राम,साईं राम,  
मैं मरते मरते जी लू,तेरे नाम का अमृत पी लू,

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मैं दीपक हू तू ज्योति - मैं दीपक हू तू ज्योति, तुझ बिन मैं भी न होती  
साईं राम,साईं राम,साईं राम,  
साईं जी रखना लाज हमारी,तू मेरा और मैं तुम्हारी,  
बाबा आईं में द्वार पे तेरे - बाबा आईं में द्वार पे तेरे,  
मैं तेरी और तू मेरा - ये है जनम जनम का फेरा,  
मेरे दिल पर तेरा डेरा -२ साईं जी तोडना न डोर हमारी,  
साईं राम,साईं राम,साईं राम,  
तेरे दर मैं पे नाचती आऊ,सदा तेरे ही गुन मैं गाऊ,  
तेरी मेरी है प्रीत निराली-तेरी मेरी है प्रीत निराली,  
साईं जी रखना लाज हमारी - साईं जी रखना लाज हमारी,  
जपो साईं राम साईं राम साईं राम साईं राम

## एक ही नाम तुम्हारा

By: Arti Sehgal

आँखों से दिखता है  
साँसों से सुनता है  
एक ही नाम तुम्हारा  
ॐ साईनाथ ॐ साईनाथ ( २ )

हलचल सी होती है  
रोम रोम खिलता है  
सुनकर एक ही नाम तुम्हारा  
ॐ साईनाथ ॐ साईनाथ ( २ )

आँसू भी बहते हैं  
मन भी शान्त रहता है  
सुनकर एक ही नाम तुम्हारा  
ॐ साईनाथ ॐ साईनाथ ( २ )

दिल भी खुश होता है  
बार - बार हँसता है  
सुनकर एक ही नाम तुम्हारा  
ॐ साईनाथ ॐ साईनाथ ( २ )

चरणों में रहना है  
बार - बार सुनना है  
एक ही नाम तुम्हारा  
ॐ साईनाथ ॐ साईनाथ ( २ )

## मेरे साईं नाथ

By: Arun Saxena

कब करोगे पूरी मेरी आस  
क्यूँ दर-दर भटकूँ मैं साईं नाथ -2  
जब साथ हैं मेरे साईं नाथ  
मेरे साईं नाथ -४  
तुम नाथों के नाथ हो साईं नाथ  
मेरे साईं नाथ -४  
करो रहमों करम मेरे हाल पे  
तुम राम रहीम हो साईं नाथ -2  
तुम कृष्ण करीम हो साईं नाथ -२  
मेरे साईं नाथ -४

तुम तीनों लोकों के मालिक हो -२  
तुम दाता दीन दयालु हो -२  
तेरी शान अजब निराली है  
हम गाते भजन कब्बाली हैं-2  
मेरे साईं नाथ -४

मैं बन्दा नहीं किसी काम का -२  
पर आशिक हूँ साईं नाम का-2  
बन जाऊँ जो महबूब तेरा -२  
मुझे मिले भरोसा तेरे नाम का -2  
मेरे साईं नाथ -४

तेरा मुखड़ा सुंदर प्यारा है -२  
यह कैसा अजब नज़ारा है -२

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चन्दा सूरज का तेज़ है-2

मेरा साईं दुनिया में एक है -2

मेरे साईं नाथ -४

धन के लालच का मोह नहीं-2

मुझ को तो साईं प्यारा है -2

हम सब का सहारा साईं नाथ -2

हम सब का प्यारा साईं नाथ -2

मेरे साईं नाथ -४

कब करोगे पूरी मेरी आस

क्यूँ दर -दर भटकूँ मैं साईं नाथ

जब साथ हैं मेरे साईं नाथ

मेरे साईं नाथ -४



## साईं की चौपाई

धुन: - ओ ....हरी अनंत हरी कथा अनंता

By: Ravinder Goel

1. ओ..... तुमहि जगत के पालन हारा

तुम बिन कौन करे उजियारा

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

2. ओ .... जय साईं जय राखन हारा

तू ही जग का पालन हारा

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

3. ओ....तुमरी महिमा तुम ही जानौ

में मूर्ख किस बिधी बखानौ

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

4. ओ.... शिर्डी में अवतार रचाया

शिर्डी को तीरथ बनवाया

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

5. ओ...दत्तात्रेय अवतारे साईं

तुमहि ब्रह्मा ,विष्णु , कन्हार्इ

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

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ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

6. ओ.....दीन दयालू मेरे साईं

श्रद्धा सबुरी मंत्र पढ़ाई

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

7. ओ.....द्वारका माई जो भी जाये

खाली झोली तुरत भर लाये

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

8. ओ....सत्य वचन तुमरे थे साईं

तुमरी महिमा जग ने गाई

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

9. ओ.....बैजा माँ की ममता लीनी

समर्पित माँ को मुक्ति दीनी

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

10. ओ..... किरपा साईं की जो होई

यम से भी वह निर्भय होई

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

11. ओ.....नानावली से भक्त को तारा

माल्सापति जग से उबारा

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

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ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

12. ओ.... जाकी रही भावना जैसी

साईं मूरत देखी तैसी

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

13. ओ.....मेघा को शिव दरस दिखाए

कभी राम के रूप दरसाए

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

14. ओ.....पानी से जब दीप जलाये

सब भक्तों के मन हरषाए

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

15. ओ.... साईं के दर जो भी जाये

मुहं माँगा फल वो जन पाए

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

16. ओ.....कोठी को दी निर्मल काया

निर्धन को तुमने दी माया

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

17. ओ....बाँझन को धन पुत्र दिलाया

जीवन का उद्धार कराया

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ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

18. ओ....अन्धन को भी नैन दिए हैं  
पाप सभी निर्मूल किये हैं  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

19. ओ... विष्णु चरण तुमरे है साईं  
चरणों से गंगा प्रगटाई  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

20. ओ....भक्त को जीवन दान दिया  
लक्ष्मी को भक्ति ज्ञान दिया  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

21. ओ..... शामा को विष मुक्त कराया  
गत जन्मों का साथ निभाया  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

22. ओ..... चक्की में गेहूं पिसवाई  
महामारी से मुक्ति करायी  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

23. ओ.... संकट सब मिट जाते भाई

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जिस पर कृपा करे वो साईं

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

24. ओ....जैसी करनी वैसी भरनी

साईं जी की है यह कथनी

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

25. ओ....सब का मालिक एक है कहते

सब भक्तों का दुःख हर लेते

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

26. ओ....काशी राम भक्त को तारा

जीवन संकट उसका टारा

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

27. ओ.... साईं आसन बन हर्षाया

उस पत्थर का भाग्य जगाया

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

28. ओ....बना नीम वो जग से न्यारा

मीठा बन कर हुआ दुलारा

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

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29. ओ.... जय कृपालु शिव भोले साईं  
पंढर पुर के विठ्ठल साईं  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम  
ॐ साईं राम -साईं राम -साईं राम

## अल्ला तेरो नाम् , इश्वर् तेरो नाम्

By: Sima Bhavsar

साई तेरो नाम्, इश्वर् तेरो नाम्, सबको आशिर्वाद दो भगवान्, साई तेरो नाम्  
तुम तो हो दया कि मुरत्, तुम तो हो करुना कि मुरत्  
मुझ् पर् भी दया करो भगवान्, साई तेरो नाम्  
तुम् को है सारे जग् कि खबर्, तुम् जानो क्या हो पल् मे, मे तो जानु बस तेरी महीमा  
साई तेरो नाम्, इश्वर् तेरो नाम्, सबको आशिर्वाद दो भगवान्, साई तेरो नाम्  
इस धरती पर खुन ना बिखरे, तुम चाहो तो फुल ही फुल बिखरे  
कर दो पल् मे सबका कल्यान् भगवान्, साई तेरो नाम्  
हम् नादान करे नादानी, पर तेरी बनी रहे मेहरबानी  
करते है प्राथना दिन ओर् रात्, अब तो सुनो मेरे भगवान्  
साई तेरो नाम्, इश्वर् तेरो नाम्, सबको आशिर्वाद दो भगवान्, साई तेरो नाम्  
आन्धी आये या आये तुफान्, छाया तेरी सदा बनी रहे मेरे साथ्  
अब् डर् है ना भय जब तुम साथ हो भगवान्  
साई तेरो नाम्, इश्वर् तेरो नाम्, सबको आशिर्वाद दो भगवान्, साई तेरो नाम्

## साई तेरा नाम्

By: Sima Bhavsar

साई तेरा साथ है कितना प्यारा , कम लगता है जीवन सारा  
साई तेरे दरशनो को , हमे आना पडेगा शिर्डी मे दुबारा

ये शिर्डी है, इस् शिर्डी मे साई है साई है, साई है चारो ओर  
ये शिर्डी है

दिल् के जरोखे मे साई को बिथाके , यादो मे मेरी मे साई को लाके  
रखुगी साई को पास, रटुगी साई का नाम्

जिन्दगी साई के नाम है, साई के धाम् जाना पडेगा  
शिर्डी मे है अब तो मुकाम् , शिर्डी मे ही रहना पडेगा

रोते हुऐ आते है सब,हसते हुऐ जायेगे,जो भी आया साई के द्वारे,साई का हो जायेगा

शिर्डी मे आउगा, जाउगा साई रे, दर्शन् मे पाउगा, आउगा साई रे  
अपना तो बस् येही धाम् है , अब् तो रहना है साई तेरे द्वारे रे

कही दुर जब दिन ढल् जाये साई तेरी याद् सताये, चूपके से आये  
मेरे खयालो मे साई तुम्, ओर तेरा चहेरा मुस्काये,चहेरा मुस्काये

साई तेरी याद् को जगाये रखुगी ,तुम्हे अपने दिल् मे बसाये रखुगी, बसाये रखुगी  
जिसका कोइ नही उसका तो साई है यारो, मे नही कहती, जमाने ने कहा है यारो



## एक पत्र बाबा को

By: Arti.Sehgal

शिर्डी

दिनक : 21/ 01/2011

आदरणीय साईबाबा जी

कैसे है आप. आप की कृपा से हम कुशल मंगल है. आज दिल करा आपको पत्र लिखने का . बाबा आपका मेरे जीवन में आना मेरी खुशनसीबी है. आप मेरे जीवन का वो अनमोल रतन हो जिसे मैं अपनी आँखों में और दिल में छुपा कर रखना चाहती हूँ. आपकी महानता , प्यार और विश्वास मेरी आत्मा में बसते है. आप मेरा स्वाभिमान हो. आपकी करुणा , दया , आशीर्वाद , संतोष , सबर मेरे जीवन का धन है . आपने अपने चरण कमलो में जगा देकर मेरा जीवन तार - तार कर दिया.

आपकी द्विस्टी मेरे मन को छु जाती है. आपका ममता भरा आचल मेरे जीवन की तीखी धूप को ठंडी छाव देता है. श्रद्धा और सबुरी का पाठ मुझे सही राह दिखाता है. साईसत्चरित्र की लीलाए आपके होने का अहसास दिलाती है. कहते है भगवान को पाना आसान नहीं पर मेरा बाबा तो इतना कोमल और नरम है मेरी एक ही आवाज़ से दोड़े चले आते है. बाबा मुझे हमेशा अपनी छतरछाया में रखना. मुझे इस संसार रुपी जाल से बचाकर रखना. हमेशा अपने आशीर्वाद की चादर मुझ पर मेरे परिवार पर और समर्पण परिवार पर बनाके रखना .

आपके चरणों में मेरा कोटि कोटि प्रणाम .

बोलो सच्चीनानन्द सत्गुरु साईनाथ महाराज की जय !!!

आपकी भक्त

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