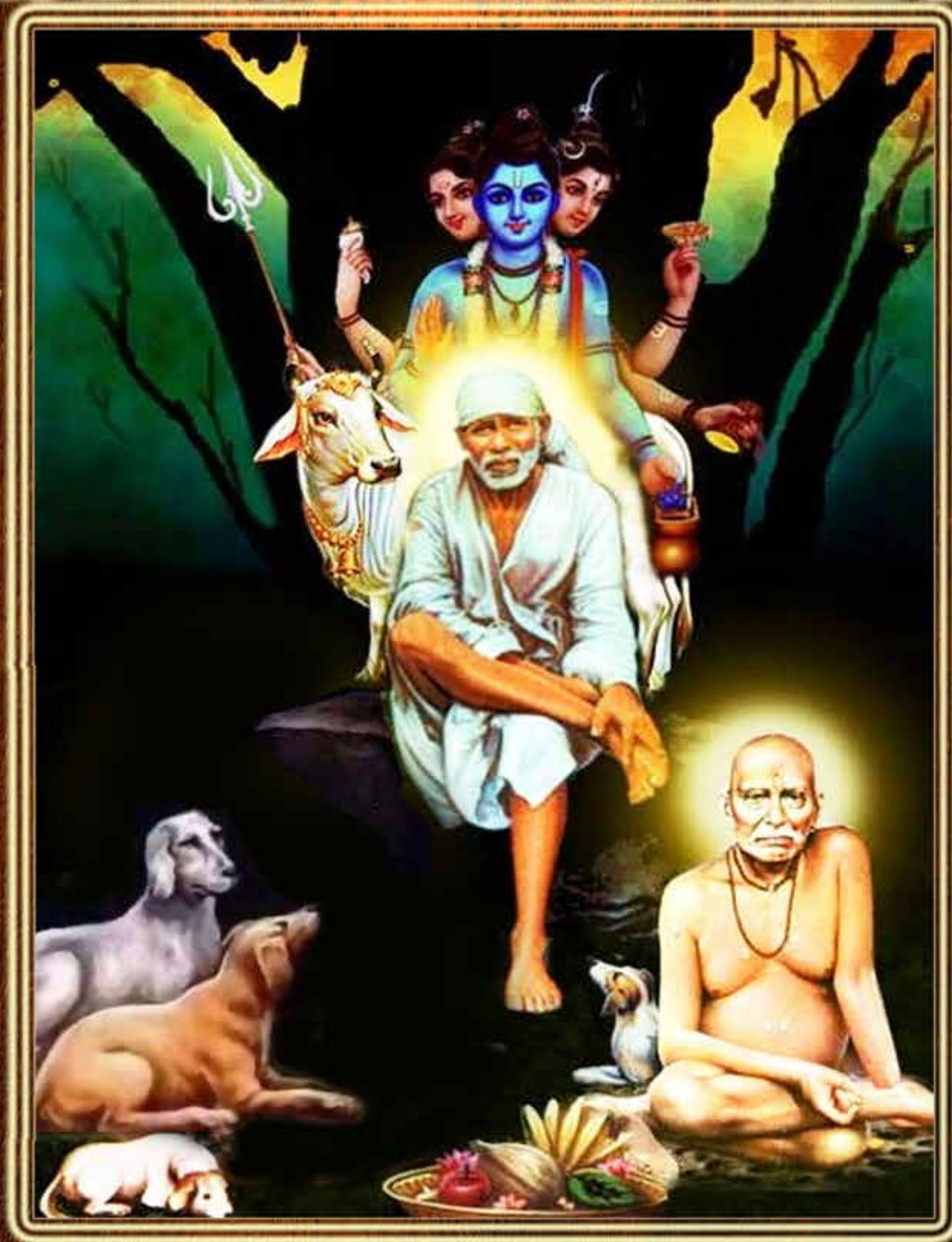


April 2022

www.spiritualindia.org

SAMARPAN



**Sri Sachidanand Samartha Sadhguru
Sai Nath Maharaj Ki Jai !**



EDITORIAL

Dear beloved devotee of my beloved Baba,

While the materialistic world keeps pulling me in different directions, and while I am totally distracted and diluted in the worldly things - I am somewhat relieved that Baba is taking care of Samarpan Magazine HIMSELF! Baba provides motivation in different ways and then arranges everything HIMSELF. So here we are, with another edition of Samarpan - sponsored by SAI!

From this edition onwards, each edition of Samarpan will be dedicated to a Spiritual Guru. This is our opportunity to learn and grow. We are dedicating this edition to Swami Samarth.

Swami Samarth, also known as Swami of Akkalkot, was an Indian spiritual master of the Dattatreya Tradition. He is a widely known spiritual figure in various Indian states including Maharashtra, India.

I urge all the devotees to read further about Swami Samarth and introduce Swami Samarth to your kids.

I recently sent out an email asking for volunteers. It was wonderful to see so many devotees coming together. Thank you for volunteering your time and efforts for this noble cause. We have received about 150+ responses. I apologize for not being able to respond to each one you personally. Even if you didn't get any response from Samarpan team, don't feel disheartened. I strongly believe that your request to volunteer Seva has already reached Baba.

I want to close with a simple message - our life has been getting complicated like never before thus presenting a challenge of keeping the connection healthy with Baba. Push yourself a little and Baba will open ways to connect. Remember, whatever you are seeking is also seeking you!

Sai Ram. On behalf of the entire team,
Ravi



TEAM SAMARPAN

Under Baba's blessings and guidance

Ravi Verma

Ravi is a techie by profession,
a student of Consciousness and lifetime seeker.

Dr. Neeta Pradhan Das

Neeta is a skill development enthusiast working dedicatedly
to carry out BABA's teachings of service to all with
Shraddha and Saburi.

Neetu Dua

Neetu is a medical professional who believes in living
Baba's teachings in everyday life.

Neha Vashi

Neha is a small devotee of Baba,
a Graphic Designer and a
person who wishes happiness
for all!





TEAM SAMARPAN

Under Baba's blessings and guidance

Purnima Dheeraj Guliani

Purnima is a working professional and a positivity blogger who aspires to imbibe and spread Baba's messages and positivity all around. To view other positivity blogs, please visit <https://successtories.news.blog/>

Dr. Shyam Sunder

Shyam Sunder is a staunch devotee of Baba Sai since childhood; a PHD holder and works for Govt. Baba inspired him at the age of 13 and since then he has been following HIS path.

Srivathsan P

Srivathsan, a Graphic Designer & a humble devotee of Baba who makes people feel colourfull & awesome through his designs.

Subha Pradha S

Subha, who trusts that her life is all a blessing of Saibaba, is an Architect by Profession and an artist by Passion.



TABLE OF CONTENTS



| Sl.no. | TITLE | Pg. no. |
|--------|--|---------|
| 1. | Sai Baba Divya Pooja miracle | 1 |
| 2. | Baba has always been kind to us | 3 |
| 3. | My Shirdi visit and Shabri Mata temple | 4 |
| 4. | Shirdi - our Pilgrimage | 6 |
| 5. | Swami Samarth miracle | 8 |
| 6. | Baba inspired and blessed me in my dream | 9 |
| 7. | Sai Satcharitra - a new perspective each time! | 11 |
| 8. | Swami Samarth drawing | 16 |
| 9. | BABA knows what's best for us | 17 |
| 10. | Baba heard our prayers | 19 |
| 11. | Hindi Poem | 20 |
| 12. | Baba saves from a misfortune | 21 |
| 13. | Blessings of Swami Samarth Maharaj | 23 |
| 14. | Sai's Abode Is In Your Heart! | 25 |
| 15. | My Short Experience | 27 |
| 16. | Baba's way of blessing us! | 29 |
| 17. | Is your memory shortlived too? | 31 |



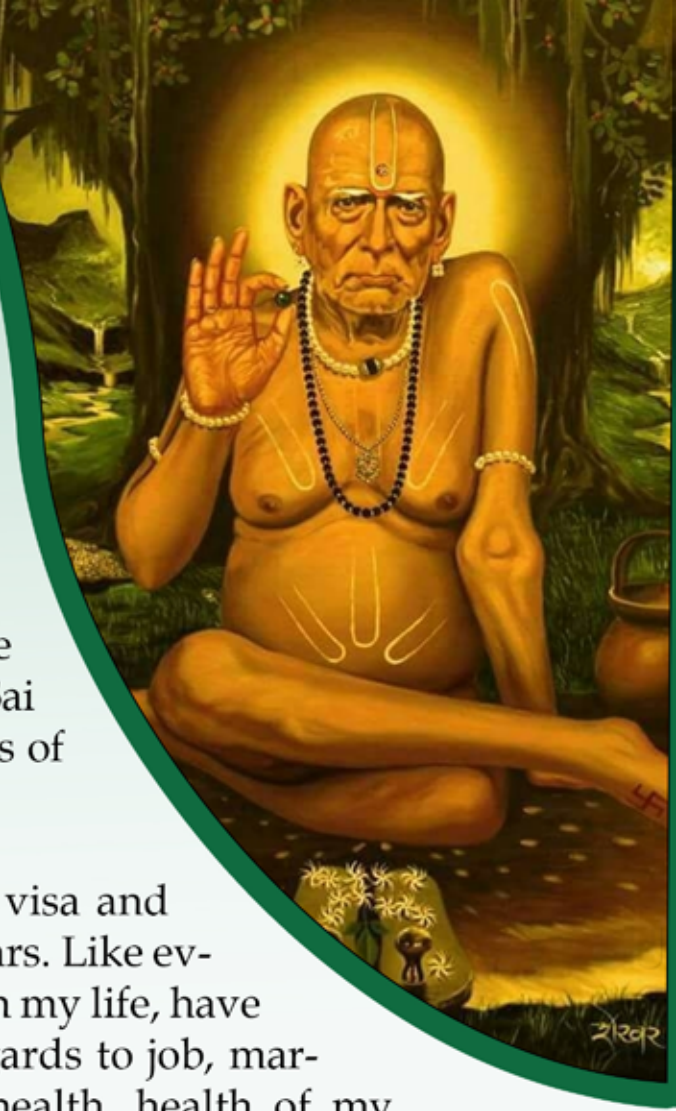
SAIBABA DIVYA POOJA MIRACLE

Dear Sai devotees,

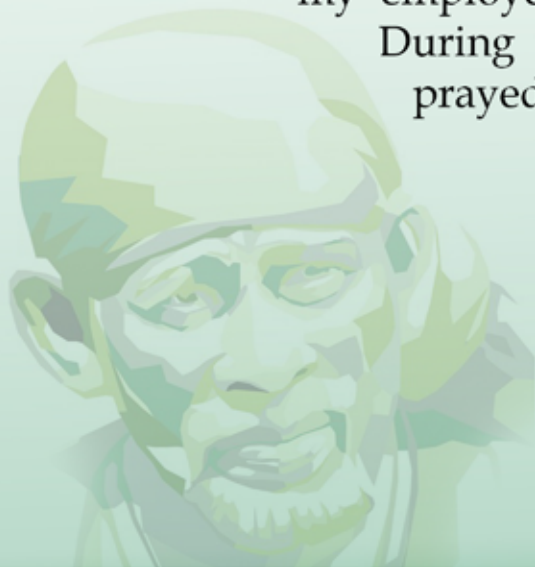
I have been a devotee of Sai Baba since my 4th Grade. My dad had gifted me a Sai Baba ring when I was child and I still possess it, though it has been more than 28 years now. I truly believe that Sai is always with me. There have been lots of experiences in my life.

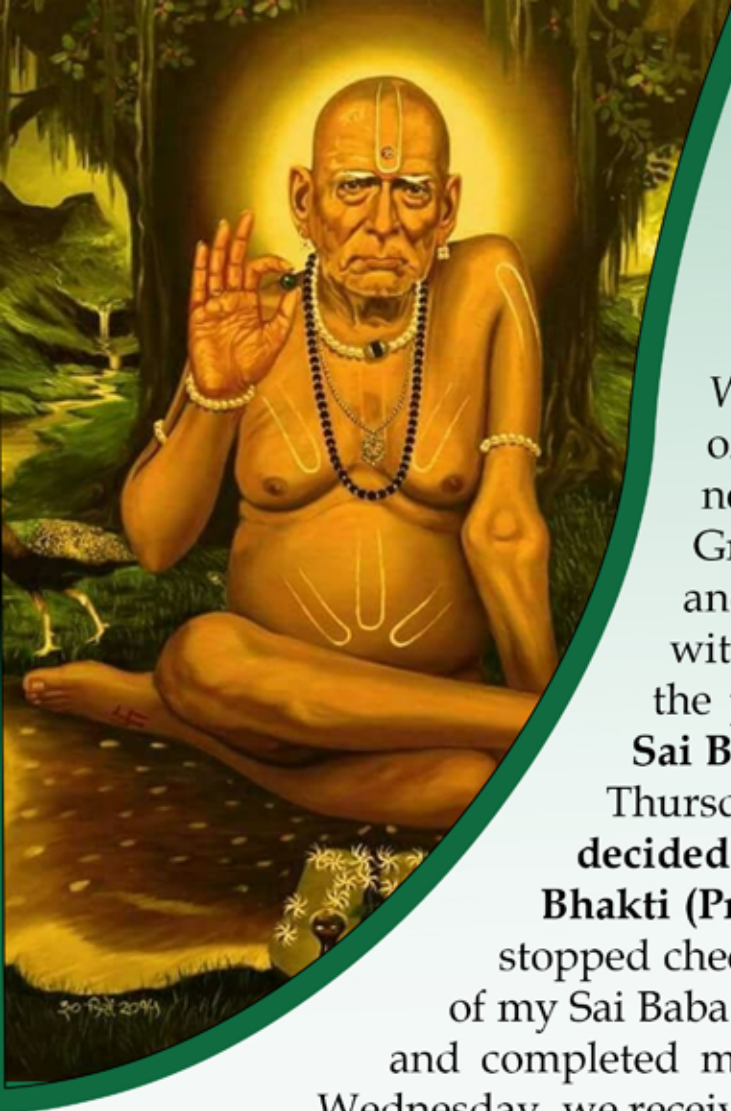
I came to the USA in 2009 on a H1 B visa and have been living here for the past 13 years. Like everyone else, I have also struggled a lot in my life, have faced various ups and downs with regards to job, marriage, in-laws, my new born baby's health, health of my father, etc. and especially the worry regarding our timely visa extensions and Green card application have been a constant concern for us. All this while, I have constantly prayed to Baba for help and He has been kind to bestow His grace and blessings on us always. Om Sai Ram!

I did 9 weeks of **Sai Baba Guruvara Vratam** as well. In May 2020, my assigned project got over because of Covid-19 and then there were no funds in my project. I started looking out for jobs, attended various interviews but all in vain. That time I was on H1 B visa that was due to expire in Dec 2020. With Baba's grace, my husband got a full time job and we applied for I-485 documents to my employer and also applied for m H1 B visa extension. During this phase, I was very anxious and constantly prayed to Baba for help.



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SAIBABA DIVYA POOJA MIRACLE

With blessings of Baba, after 13 months of wait, I got an offer letter and joined a new project. I was waiting for my Green Card approval for almost one and a half years by now and everyday without fail, I checked my case status in the portal for GC EAD. Recently, I did **Sai Baba Divya pooja for 5 weeks**. Every Thursday I visited Sai Baba temple. **I then decided to fully surrender to Baba with my Bhakti (Prayers) and Vishwasam (Belief)** and stopped checking on the portal. On the 5th week of my Sai Baba Divya Pooja, I prayed to Sai for help and completed my pooja without any anxiety. Next Wednesday, we received a letter from USCIS and on opening the letter, my eyes were filled with tears of joy and gratitude.

"Sai Baba listened to my prayers and sent Approval Notice for my Green Card EAD". I truly believe that this is the prasad of my full faith and devotion while doing Sai Baba Divya Pooja. Indeed a miracle of Baba.

I immediately rushed with the letter in my hand to my pooja mandir and atleast a 100 times, I said "Thank you Sai Baba". I then kept my approval notice on Sai Baba's feet and prayed for His grace and blessings for me and my family.

May Baba keep showering His blessings on each one of us always!

Jai Sai Ram!

Usha

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BABA HAS ALWAYS BEEN KIND TO US

I am a Sai devotee from Kolkata; a senior citizen aged 63 years. During my life, Baba has blessed me many times and has got me out of various difficult situations and problems and for that I am fully grateful to Him. He has even saved me once from death.

We don't have any children of our own. Somewhere in my heart, I feel that may be if we had come in contact with Baba few years earlier, He would have blessed us with a child too, but now we have accepted this as Baba's will and have no complaints.

In October 2021, my wife has been diagnosed with Blood Cancer. Her treatment is going well and by Baba's grace she is making good progress. Her blood test results have been encouraging and the Doctor has told us to visit now after 3 months, which was earlier, after every 15 days.

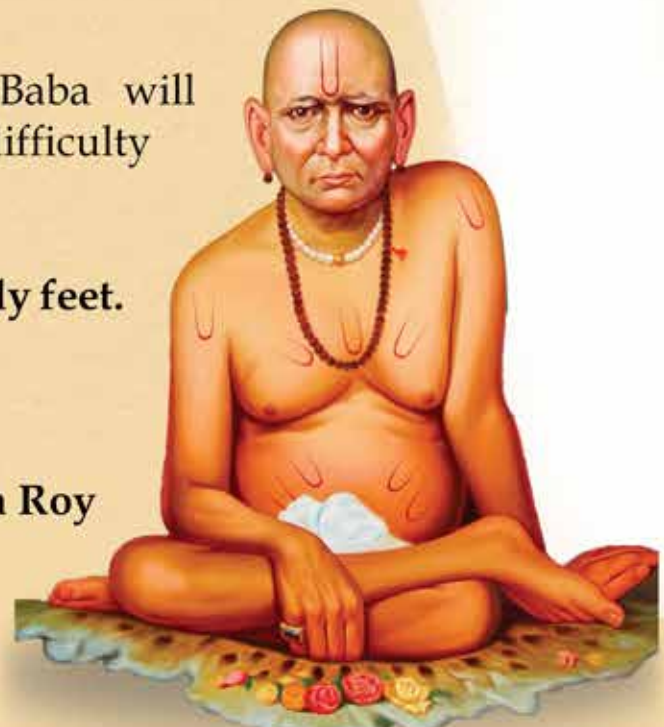
With Baba's grace, a friend of mine has been kind enough to provide us with all the medicines required for my wife. Needless to say I am short of funds and these medicines are really very expensive. Though this is a time of difficulty, but Baba has sent timely help to take care of all our needs. We are blessed to have Baba's blessings in our life.

I am sure that like always, Baba will definitely bring us out from this difficulty also.

Baba koti koti pranam at your holy feet.

Om Shree Sai Sankat Sarnam.

Debashish Roy



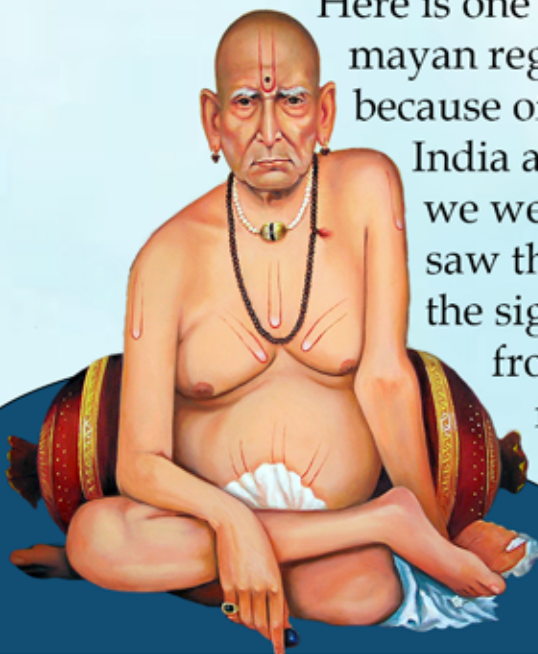
MY SHIRDI VISIT AND SHABRI MATA TEMPLE

Jai Shri Sai Ram!

I have had a special connect with Hanumanji and have seen Him in my dreams many times. I read Hanuman Chalisa regularly and **once I prayed to Hanumanji to give me a "Guru", whom I can depend on and who will ultimately unite me with Lord Ram.** One night I got a dream that my husband, my son, and I were standing in the balcony on the 2nd floor of my house and I see Sai Baba passing by. I call out to Him and ask Him to wait. I run downstairs and my son follows me. I bow down to Him to take His blessings and as I got up I saw Hanumanji standing next to Sai Baba and Hanumanji told me with His eyes that **Sai Baba is my Guru now.**

I truly believe that Saibaba is a real Guru who grants wishes of Bhaktas and takes His bhakta's misery or burden on His own shoulders. I never ask for money or worldly things when I pray to Baba. I only ask for His pure devotion. He has transformed me into a better person over these years and shown me how to live my life.

Here is one of the miracle I got from Sai Baba. I read Ramayan regularly and Shabri Mata is my favorite bhakta because of her pure devotion to Shri Ram. We were in India and had planned a short visit to Shirdi. When we went to Shirdi...on our way from the car window I saw the sign - **Pampa Sarowar** (not sure how I saw the sign as car was going on full speed; must be a sign from Ramji). All I knew that Shabri Mata lived near Pampa Sarovar somewhere in India. So I asked my husband's friend if this is the same place as mentioned in Ramayan and



MY SHIRDI VISIT AND SHABRI MATA TEMPLE

he replied in affirmative. I asked my husband if we can go there but I was told there is no way we can go as it's in jungle and the route is very difficult and we didn't have time. In my heart I was so upset and prayed to Sai Baba to let me go there and meet my bhagvan. Throughout the way to Shirdi I was upset but I had hope.

We finally arrived in Shirdi...it was very crowded and my both young kids were with us. It usually takes 2-3 or more hours just in the queue for darshan but with Baba's blessing we were in front of Saibaba when it was time for Aarti. We had beautiful darshan and tears were just rolling out of my eyes with affection towards Him. Even my husband's friend said that he comes here so many times but never had experienced this before (getting in front of Baba at Aarti time). I still wanted to go to Shabri dhaam next day. With Baba's grace my husband's friend said he will take me to Shabri Dhaam after he saw my affection and devotion. So, we got to Shabri dhaam almost around sunset time and my husband's friend said we have only 5 minutes for darshan as it was getting dark. We got to the temple and to everyone's pleasant surprise

it was Aarti time there as well. We did Aarti and drove back safely through the jungle during night and reached our destination. Baba indeed fulfills His bhaktas heartfelt and pure wishes.

Jai Sai Ram! Jai Shri Ram! Jai Hanuman!

Jaimini Patel





SHIRDI - OUR PILGRIMAGE



My family have been devotees of Baba since 1988 and we have made 14 pilgrimages to SHIRDI from South Africa so far. On each visit we have had beautiful experiences, especially standing in the front row for Kakad Aarti, on every single visit. We feel very blessed to bring back home Baba's prasadam, in the form of Udi, Silver coins, Sai Satcharitra, Shawls, and Coconut prasad from the Dwarakamai.

My parents first visited Shirdi in 1995 and had a divine experience when they were standing in the Darshan queue. My Dad collapsed and was resuscitated by some medical students, and upon recovery, he described his experience of seeing, "**This bright light shining from BABA'S palm**", which blinded him, thus causing him to collapse. This was their Divine experience. They continued their pilgrimage to Shirdi, thereafter, for many many years, till their health allowed.

My Mom and Dad always dedicated their entire Thursday(s) in Baba's worship and read all the available Sai literature. They have now passed on and are now one with Baba; my Mom went at the age of 81 years and my Dad went at the age of 100 years....they were divine souls indeed.





SHIRDI - OUR PILGRIMAGE

Our entire Pillay family including my husband Reuben, myself and my children Irren and Prenessa yearn to be in Shirdi every year ,and as Baba says **"My people do not come to me of their own accord, it is I who seek and bring them to me"**.....thus, we feel blessed on our annual pilgrimage from South Africa.

Every day is Baba's day in our lives. May Baba's grace be upon us and on everyone else always.

Jai Sai Ram!

Mrs. Shantha Pillay, South Africa



SWAMI SAMARTH MIRACLE

Sri Pada Rajam Saranam Prabhadye!

Sai Pada Rajam Saranam Prabhadye!

Shri Swami Samarth Pada Rajam Saranam Prabhadye!

It's a real great blessing to get this opportunity to share my experience about the miracle that I have personally experienced from **Akkalkot Niwasi Avadoota Swami Samarth**, the incarnation of Guru Dattatreya.

Back in 2019 I had to travel to USA regarding my business. I had a law suit going on with my previous employer and they were very keen that I shouldn't travel or come up in my life. I was really worried that I would not be able to make up the trip. With grace of Shri Sai Baba, I came to know about **Swami Samarth 3 days Vratha** through a Sai devotee. I took the Vratha very strongly as advised and prepared for my trip.

When I landed in New York, I was really panicking that the Border Security is going to give me a hard time. To my surprise, the office took my passport and stamped a 6 months stay without asking a single question.

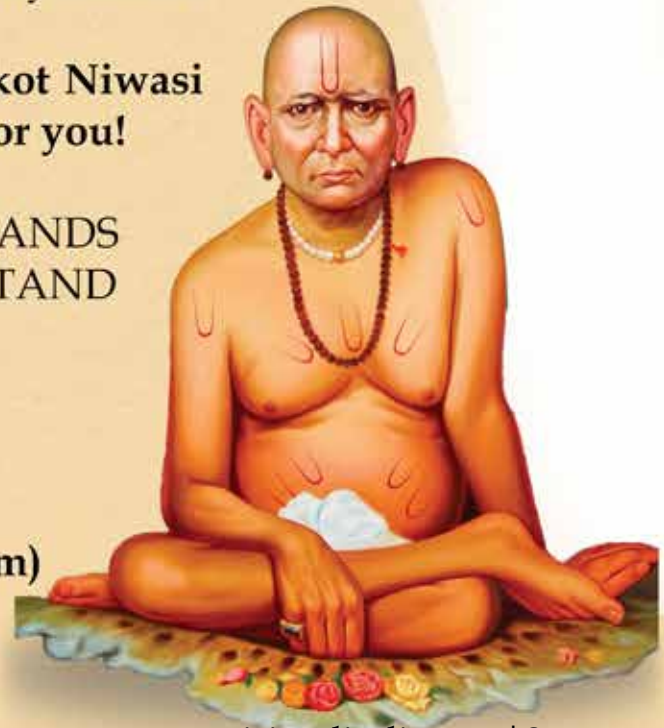
I am 100% sure that it was Swami Samarth Himself who stood as the officer and let me in without any trouble.

When we kneel down to Akkalkot Niwasi Swami Samarth - He stands up for you!

WHEN SWAMI SAMARTH STANDS UP FOR YOU, WHO CAN STAND AGAINST YOU?

Jai Swami Samarth, Jai Sai Ram!

Satheesh Kumar Manoharan (Sam)



BABA INSPIRED AND BLESSED ME IN MY DREAM

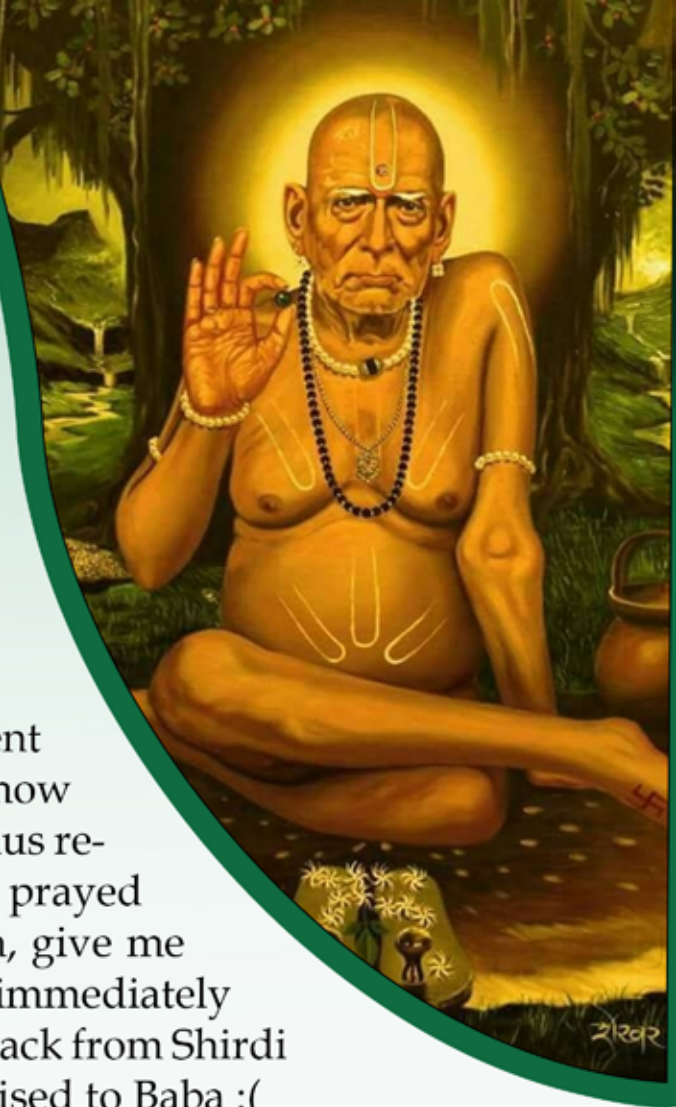
Dear Sai devotees,

I feel blessed to get this opportunity to share my Sai experience with all of you!

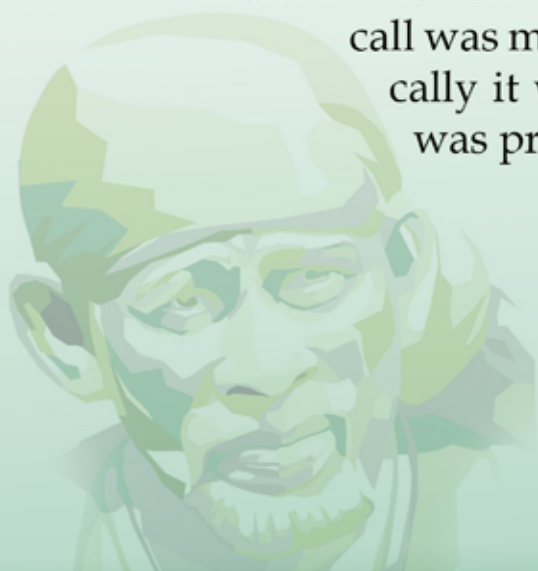
In 2019, I had visited Shirdi with the intent of donating my first salary but I somehow could not believe the trustee there and thus returned without making the donation. I prayed to Baba to guide me to the right person, give me that inner faith, may be a sign and I will immediately offer my donation, as promised. I came back from Shirdi without offering my first salary as promised to Baba :(

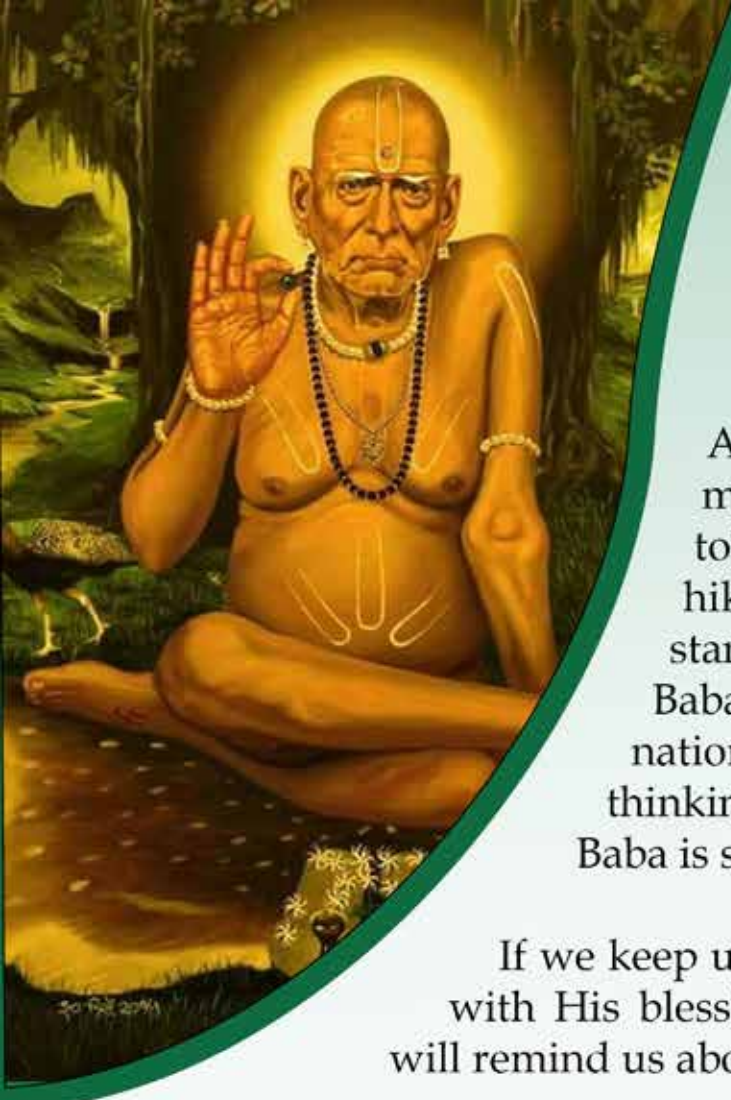
One night in 2020, I got a dream of Baba where Baba asked me to donate that amount and later He gave me sweet meals to eat. With Baba's grace, when I woke up I remembered each and every moment of that dream....it felt so real and divine. So, immediately I donated the promised amount online to Shirdi trust as we had COVID situation that time everywhere. I felt quite relieved after fulfilling my promise.

The pandemic led to a lot of job losses in 2021 and I was fearing to lose my job as well. My management started firing all the Indians team mates one by one due to various reasons. I almost lost everyone in my team. Last call was mine. The day had been scheduled for me and ironically it was a Thursday. I finished my puja as usual and was praying for my job to Baba.



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BABA INSPIRED AND BLESSED ME IN MY DREAM

After the puja, I attended a call with my manager and to my surprise, he told me that I was promoted with a hike in my salary. I was in tears and instantly remembered my dream where Baba had given me sweet meals after donation. Wow, I still get goose bumps thinking about the dream and the call....
Baba is so kind!

If we keep up our promise...Baba will shower us with His blessings. If we forget our promises, he will remind us about that and in-turn blesses us.

Jai Sairam!

Rajalakshmi Boggavarapu

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SAI SATCHARITRA – A NEW PERSPECTIVE EACH TIME!



“Sai Satcharitra” written by Hemadpant is a divine blessing. If you have read it even once, you know that Hemadpant under the order and guidance of Baba, captured the leelas and experiences that he witnessed himself or shared the experiences of other renowned devotees of Baba during his time in Shirdi. Indeed it is Baba Himself who got this jewel written. Baba knew very well that when He will leave His body form, His devotees will get very anxious! He thus got this Satcharitra written, so we humble devotees through this book could feel His presence always.

As humans, we need many lives to decipher everything that our God, our Baba wants to teach us. Personally, I have read “Sai Satcharitra” numerous times by now but my experience of each reading has been unique, it is like **peeling the Onion**. Every time another layer sheds and I come out with a different learning, a different perspective. Life is a journey where Baba is with us in the form of “Sai Satcharitra” as our lighthouse, guiding us through the thick and thin.

A glass that may look half full to some will seem half empty to others! It is nothing but everyone’s perspective that makes them see things differently. For the teaching and learnings shared in Satcharitra, each time it will take you one level deeper.



SAI SATCHARITRA - A NEW PERSPECTIVE EACH TIME!

To share an example: In reference to Chapter -2 of Sai Satcharitra, did you notice the beautiful explanation about the "Need for Guru" at the end of the chapter:

Hemadpant has left no note, no memo about what Baba said regarding this subject, but Kakasaheb Dixit has published his notes regarding this matter. Next day after Hemadpant's meeting with Sai Baba, Kakasaheb went to Baba and asked whether he should leave Shirdi. Baba Said, "Yes". Then someone asked - "Baba, where to go?" Baba said, "High up." Then the man said, "How is the way?" Baba said, "There are many ways leading there; there is one way also from here (Shirdi). The way is difficult. There are tigers and wolves in the jungles on the way." I (Kakasaheb) asked - "But Baba, what if we take a guide with us?" Baba answered, - "Then there is no difficulty. The guide will take you straight to your destination, avoiding wolves, tigers and ditches etc. on the way. If there be no guide, there is the danger of your being lost in the jungles or falling into ditches." *The guide will take you straight to your destination, avoiding wolves, tigers and ditches etc. on the way. If there be no guide, there is the danger of your being lost in the*





SAI SATCHARITRA – A NEW PERSPECTIVE EACH TIME!



jungles or falling into ditches." Mr. Dabholkar was present on this occasion and he thought that this was the answer Baba gave to the question whether Guru was a necessity (Vide Sai Leela Vol. I, No.5, Page 47); and he thereupon took the hint that no discussion of the problem, whether man is free or bound, is of any use in spiritual matters, but that on the contrary real Paramartha is possible only as the result of the teachings of the Guru, as is illustrated in this chapter of the original work in the instances of great Avatars like Rama and Krishna, who had to submit themselves to their Gurus, Vasishtha and Sandipani respectively, for getting self-realization and that the only virtues necessary for such progress are faith and patience. (Vide Sai Satcharita, Ch. II, 191-92).

The ways of Baba were so unique! Just by way of a simple dialogue, He helped Kakasaheb and Hemadpant present in person and many devotees like us to understand *why we need a Guru*. With Guru by our side, there is no difficulty in crossing this wild jungle called "life". Our Guru, i.e. our Baba will guide us and help us avoid hindrances and potholes on our way and will help us to lead the right path. Baba has been so kind to share so many teachings in Satcharitra that if we only follow the learnings from this one book, we are set to rise!



SAI SATCHARITRA - A NEW PERSPECTIVE EACH TIME!

Keep faith! When in trouble think about this! Imagine yourself at the airport, do you get down from your car and directly get into the plane. No, right! Usually, you stand in a few queues, do the security check, walk or ride a bus to the aircraft, etc. (even for a charter plane, you have to get down from the car and take a little walk to get to the aircraft). Consider the obstacles that you face in your life as the walk that you have to take to start your next ride. Have full faith in Baba and surrender completely to Him. The flights do get delayed sometimes right! Worry not, your flight will surely take off!

Coming to the point of getting different perspective each time while reading Satcharitra! Personally, when I started reading Sai Satcharitra, I learnt about the **Karma theory, importance of having a Guru in our life, being kind to everyone, treating everyone with respect and very importantly being contented** (specifically referring to Chapter 20 - Das Ganu's Problem Solved by Kaka's Maid-Servant). I can't touch every perspective here but to give you an example, on reading this chapter- 20 again and again, I have understood that **being in a state of contentment is dependent only and only on our mind. Irrespective of our external circumstances, we can train our mind to be**





SAI SATCHARITRA – A NEW PERSPECTIVE EACH TIME!



happy. Our happiness does not depend on materialistic things, it is just a state of mind and we have full control over it!

Imagining life without my Guru, my Baba, is not possible for me now and I feel so humbled and blessed under his umbrella. Baba has taught me to be kind to everyone irrespective of who they are and treat everyone with love and respect. The learning continues!

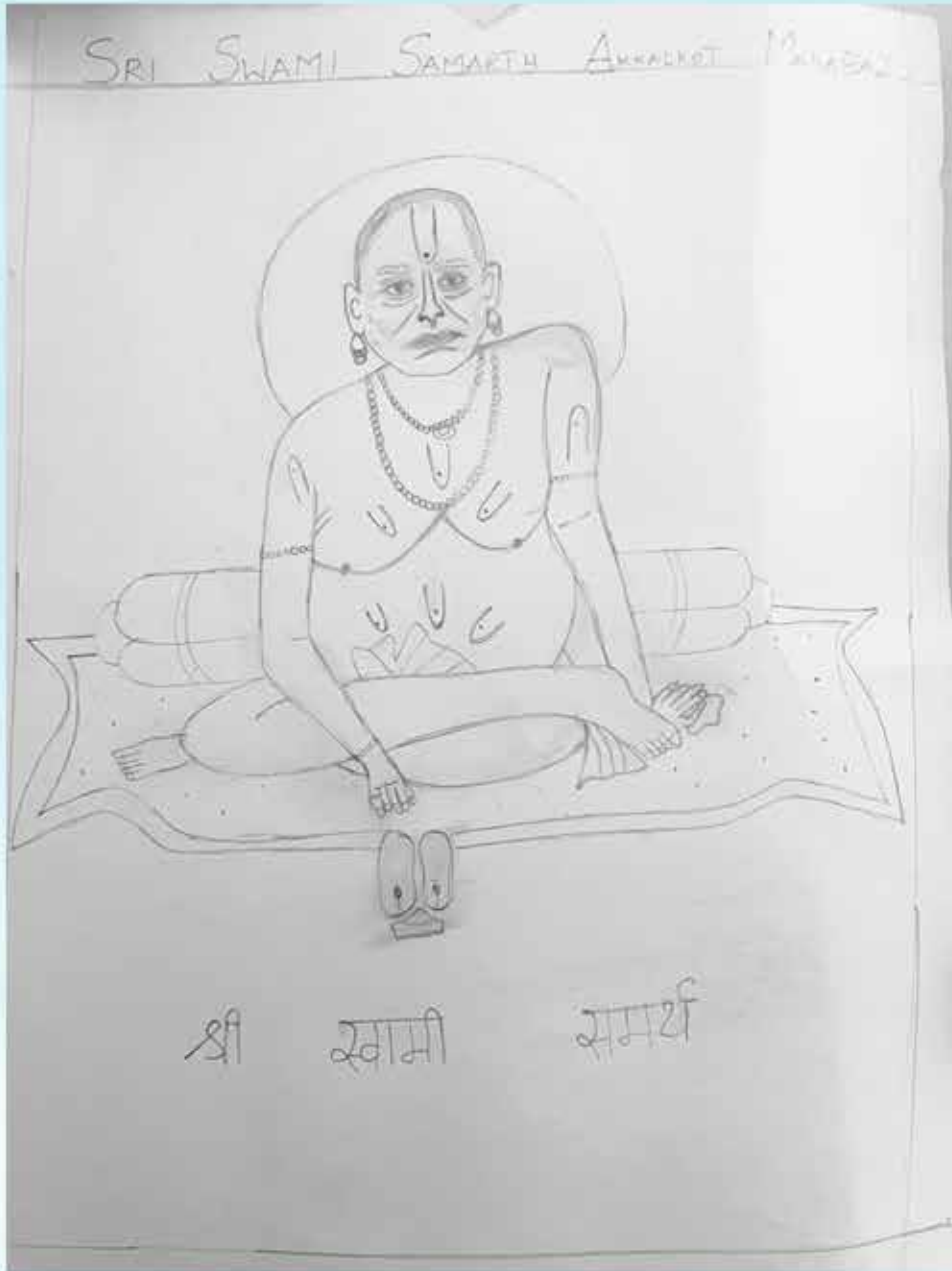
Things may seem unsettled for now but He knows what's best for each one of us! Trying to be happy and contented with the blessings Baba has showered on me.

Next time you start reading "Sai Satcharitra", keep a *log book next to you* and write your perspective, what are your learnings after every chapter and you will notice that the learning will keep going deeper with each reading. You will never get bored of reading the same text as each time Baba will guide you to think further into this pool of knowledge and each time you will rise out more learned, wise and humble!

Bow to Shree Sai - Peace be to all!

The writer is also a blogger. To read Positivity blogs, please visit <https://successstories.news.blog/>

SAMARPAN



Drawing by Srilakshmi Karumanchi



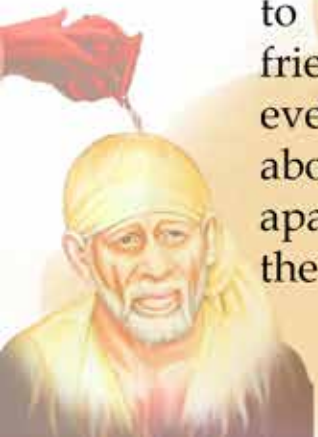
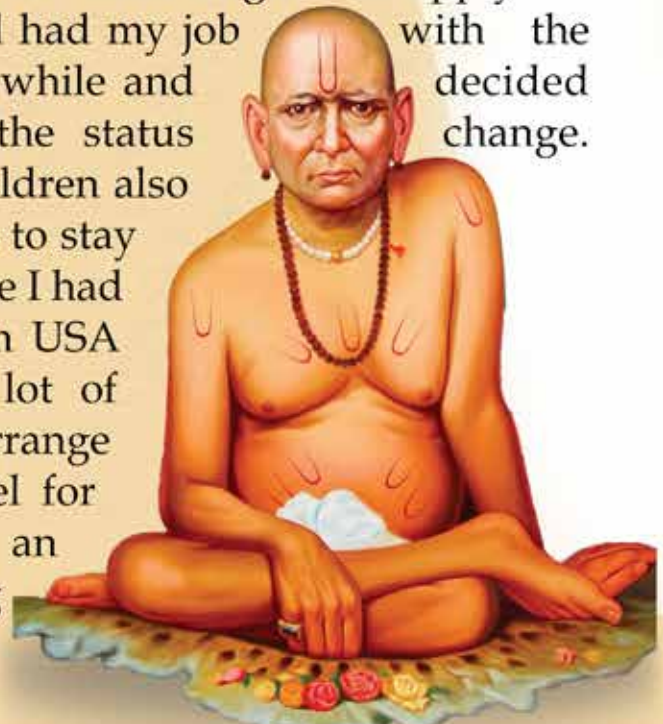
BABA KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR US

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We have been Baba's devotees for a few years now. We were living in the USA for the last 14 years and we were still on our visas. In 2019 due to some personal issues we decided to relocate to India. Even though our kids were not willing to move back we had to take this decision in order to support the family in India. I was able to sell the house immediately. I was still living in USA but my family had moved back and kids were in school. They were adjusting to the environment and school in India. Then the pandemic hit the world. I was stuck in USA for several months and my family was in India. I was getting frustrated and worried everyday staying away from my family.

Finally, I decided to ship all the stuff we had here to India and I also decided to move back. I took a 3 month long medical leave from my company and shipped the whole stuff and finally I was able to travel to India during the pandemic when the flights resumed.

I spent a couple of months in India. I didn't have any plan for a job nor any other plan on what to do for a living there. By Baba's grace our stuff also reached safely. One miracle that happened within a week was that my pending Green card application's priority date was advanced and we were eligible to apply for adjustment of status. Since, I still had my job with the US Company, we thought for a while and decided to come back and apply for the status change. As the school was online, my children also joined us. We didn't have a place to stay nor even a single utensil here since I had shipped literally everything from USA to India. Fortunately, we had lot of friends here who helped us to arrange everything. We stayed in a hotel for about a month and moved to an apartment later. This was during the peak pandemic period in



BABA KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR US

USA. Winter was starting and no vaccine in sight. By Baba's grace we got through all this. In between we had to travel back and forth to India. During all this time Baba kept all of us safe. Kids were doing online classes and was getting very difficult.

I was constantly praying to Baba to approve our Green cards so that my family could travel back to India since we were not sure if we will move back to USA again. By Baba's grace our Green cards got approved in November. We are still in a dilemma about where to settle down but we have left it to our Baba to show us the way and guide us. We are confident that the path shown by Baba will be for ours and our children's good.

Please help all the people in the world to recover from the pandemic so that everyone can lead a normal life back again.

Manjunath



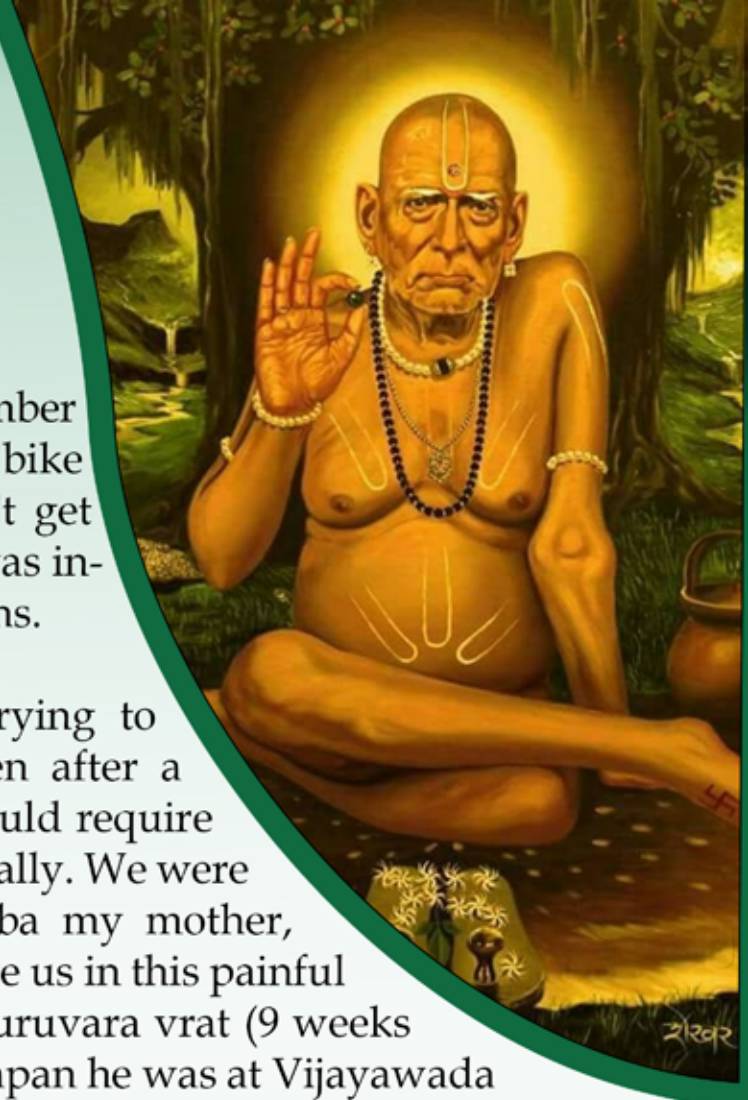
BABA HEARD OUR PRAYERS

My name is Premalatha. On 19 November 2019 my husband and me got into a bike accident. By Baba's blessing I didn't get hurt, however my husband's knee was injured. He could not walk for 2 months.

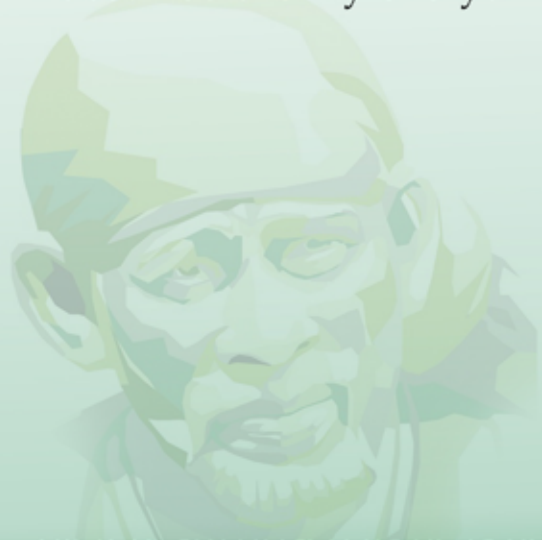
Completely bed ridden, he was trying to walk with the help of a stick even after a month. The doctors said that he would require an operation to be able to walk normally. We were scared. But I knew my Sri Sai baba my mother, father, guru and God would not leave us in this painful situation. I decided to do a Nava Guruvara vrat (9 weeks vrat). After 9 weeks on day of Udhyapan he was at Vijayawada for some work, trying to walk. People around him were not encouraging.

Once his work completed, he decided to come back home. At that time, it was no short of a miracle that he was able to walk quite effortlessly. He immediately called me and asked about pooja and Udhyapan. I was completely surprised as he is not a staunch believer of God as I was. My joy knew no limits and I happily said that the pooja was good. I thanked Baba as this was truly his grace. I however did not know that he was able to walk better now. From that time to now he was normally walking. I can't thank Baba enough for being by our side and hearing our prayers. Thank you so much Baba. You are my everything. Love you Baba. Bless US always.

Premalatha Sugali



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POEM

जय श्री गणेश | ॐ साईं राम

जब से मैंने जन्म है पाया, पग पर ठोकरो से उन्होंने बचाया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।
माता-पिता मिले वरदान, और मेरा यह जीवन उनसे सजाया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।
अच्छे बुरे सभी तरह के लोग मिले, कुकर्मियों से मुझे सचेत कराया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।
इतनी बार रोई टूटी बिखरी, अपना हाथ बढ़ाकर ढाँढस बंधाया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।
विवाह हुआ छोड़ा पिता का घर, पति रूप में तब परमेश्वर दिलाया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।
कई बार हालातों से दिल घबराया, ममता रूपी गोद में उठाया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।
डूबने को कई बार हुई जीवन की नैया, भवसागर पार लगाया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।
श्रुशियां दी परिवार सजाया उनकी कृपा से मातृत्व का सुख पाया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।
आत्मा बदलती रहे चोले हजार मन में बस रहे एक ही नाम समाया।
वह है एक शक्ति मेरे साईं राम।।

ॐ साईं राम

~ कामिनी शर्मा





BABA SAVES FROM A MISFORTUNE

Shri Ganesh | Om Sai Ram

God always bestows his blessings on his devotees. My family is totally devoted to our lord baba. We've been through lots of hurdles in life but we feel that baba has always stood by us at all times.

We've had many experiences of baba's divinity and I'm going to share one such experience with you all today. This incident happened when my baby was small and used to crawl on knees. One day, when he was fast asleep, I thought of taking a bath and to heat up the water, I had put the heating rod in the bucket. I kept it on a table and went upstairs to do some other household chores. After some time, I recalled that the water would have been hot enough by now and went down. What I saw there was completely petrifying. My baby who was fast asleep, had perhaps woken up sooner, climbed the table with the help of the sofa and was sitting beside the bucket with boiling water. I was scared stiff and couldn't think anything clearly. If I scream to get his attention, he might hold the bucket or rod due to fear. On top of it, the water had electric current as well. And then he was about to put his hands to catch hot water bubbles. I was scared to death. But, all of a





BABA SAVES FROM A MISFORTUNE

sudden, in a split second, it felt as if some divine force distracted him and made him look at me. And then, he opened his arms, a sign for me to pick him up. I just ran fast to hold him. I'm so grateful to baba that he made me reach the spot at the very right time.

Baba saved me such a big misfortune, which could have otherwise been a horrifying experience that we can't even imagine at all. I still get goosebumps whenever I recall that incident and tearfully thank baba with all my heart.

Om Sai Ram Ji

Kamini Sharma

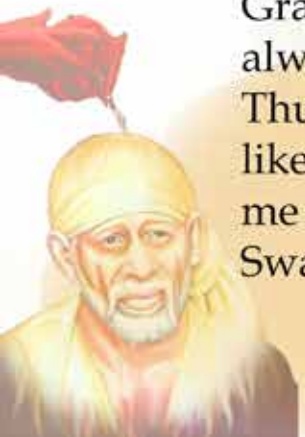
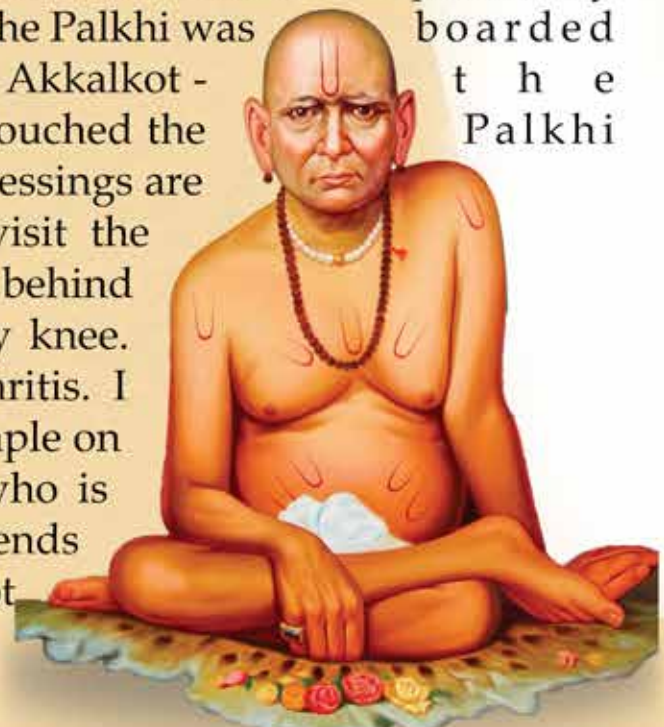


BLESSINGS OF SWAMI SAMARTH MAHARAJ

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Swami Samarth who is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Dattatreya is a spiritual master just like Shirdi Sai Baba. Both are manifestations of the same Divine Spirit and they are the only One Truth for the devotees. Swami Samarth Prakat Din is celebrated in April. Known as Maharaj of Akkalkot, Swami Samarth took Mahasamadhi on 30 April, 1878. His last words were "No one should weep, I shall always be present at all places and I shall respond to every call of my devotees". In future, I will be staying at Shirdi. It is said that devotees still experience his divine presence.

Being a South Indian, I was not knowing about this great Saint till I had a miraculous experience. In January, 2020, I had severe pain in both knees. My son and daughter-in-law took my husband and myself to Shirdi by car as it was our marriage anniversary. Being a Sai Baba devotee, it was the best gift for me from them. Throughout the trip, I had pain in knees. But, with Sai's blessings, I could get darshan in the temple. After reaching home, my pain had reduced. After a few days, I started visiting temples near my home. I always go walking to the temples. But on 25 January, 2020, while I was walking, I tripped on a small stone when I reached near the gate of the colony. Suddenly, my knee pain increased. I was about to return when I noticed a procession (Palkhi Yatra) of Swami Samarth on the road. I joined it as if in a trance, even when I had severe pain in my right knee. After a short distance, the Palkhi was boarded into a small truck, to be carried to Akkalkot - birthplace of Swamiji. I humbly touched the Palkhi and prayed. I felt that Swamiji's blessings are with me. And, I proceeded to visit the small temple of Swami Samarth behind my home, bearing the pain of my knee. Gradually, I recovered from arthritis. I always love to visit the Swami temple on Thursdays. One of my friends, who is like a brother to me, regularly sends me the pictures from Akkalkot Swami Samarth Temple.



BLESSINGS OF SWAMI SAMARTH MAHARAJ

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This year on 25 January, I wanted to see the Palkhi Yatra and I reached the temple at 8.30 a.m. But I was sad to note that the Palkhi Yatra left early in the morning as it was a small gathering this year due to COVID protocol. I saw the marigold flowers used for puja, spread on the temple floor. I took a flower as a blessing and came back. But on 28 January, when I visited the temple to pray for the safe journey of my daughter and son-in-law, I was blessed to see Swami's Palkhi which returned from Akkalkot.

I am sure that I've blessings from the great Swami Samarth. I feel reassured when I think of his quotes - "Bhiu Nakkos Mee Tujhya Pathishi Ahe" (भिऊ नकोस मी तुझ्या पाठीशी आहे) which means "Never be afraid, I am right behind you" and "Nishchint Jaa Mee Aahe" (निश्चिंत जा मी आहे) meaning "Don't worry, I am there for you". Whenever, I am at crossroads in my life, unable to decide whether to proceed or turn back, these quotes in Swami's Tarak Mantra give me reassurance and motivation. Swamiji gives me solace and consolation when I need it most during times of stress, loneliness, disappointments and, grief. I could feel his hand over my head blessing me, protecting me and encouraging me to move forward in my life to achieve more and more.

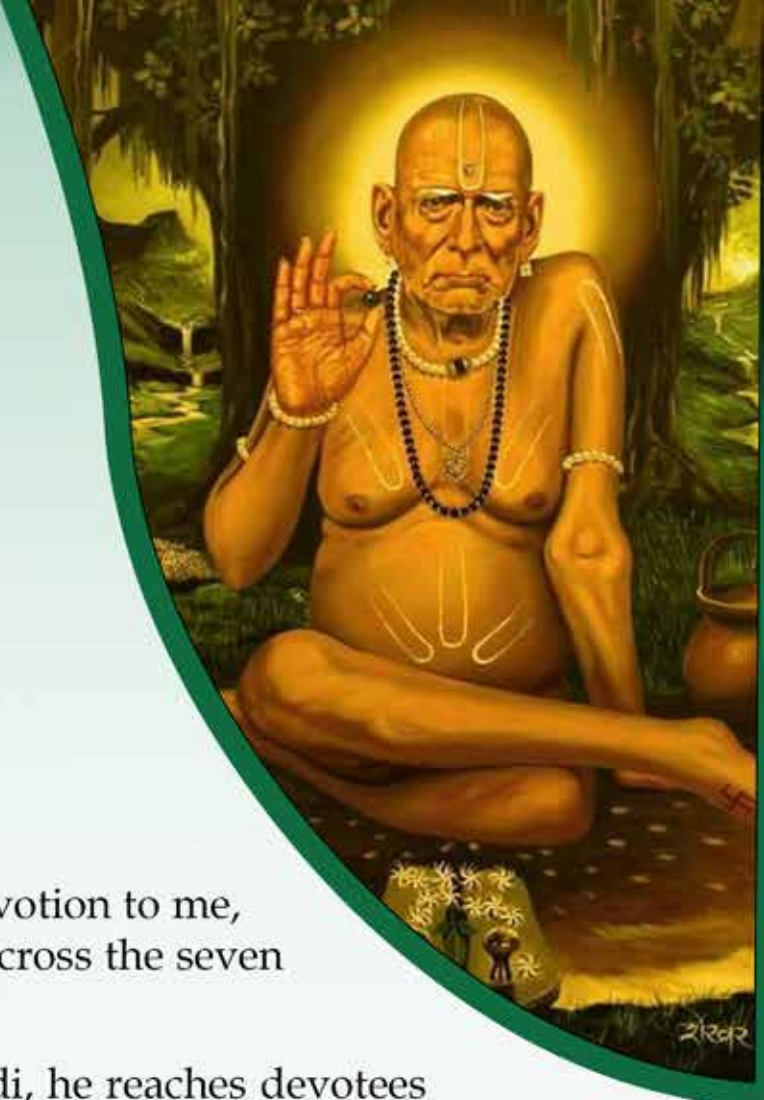
CHARAN SPARSH!

JAI JAI SWAMI SAMARTH!

Dr Major Nalini Janardhanan



SAI'S ABODE IS IN YOUR HEART!



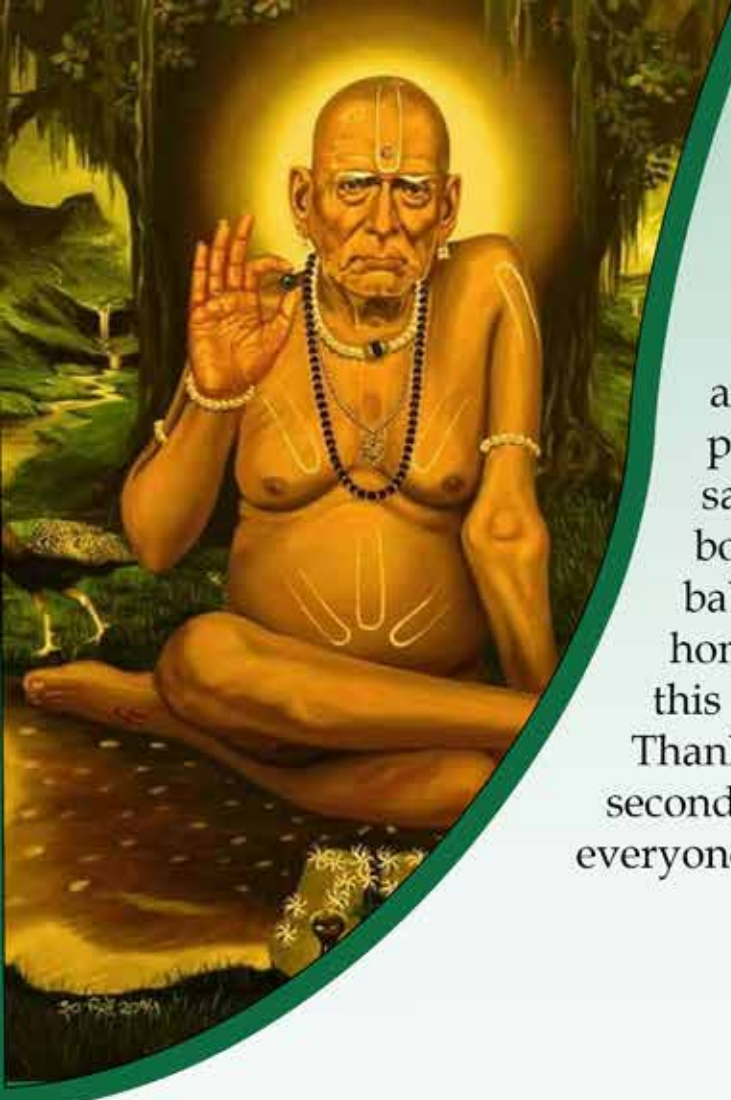
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“If you spread your palms with devotion to me, I am with you day and night and across the seven seas.

Even if Sai's home is the holy Shirdi, he reaches devotees all across the world, the moment a pure and seeking heart cries out for him with love and true devotion. Hence no matter where you go and however far across the world, Sai resides in you and travels with you.”

I want to share my recent experience occurred with my husband when he went to India along with my daughter. They had had to apply for e-visa. Shego for stamping for the first time as she got job and my husband accompanied her. As you all know the scenario of visa slots and with great effort after taking the help of third party to book slot my daughter got through them and she went for Interview and stamping and with the grace of Baba everything went on well with her and she came back to USA. Whereas we gave my husband's also to the third party and waiting on it. I operate my husband's email and when I saw he got a drop box scheduled on January 21st at 2:30pm in New Delhi and when I spoke to him





SAI'S ABODE IS IN YOUR HEART!

and my daughter, they asked the third party to find out when they booked, he said he was not getting any slots to book and he did not do! I was praying baba to get his slot and come back home (USA) at the earliest and I take this slot booking as his blessing only. Thanks, Sai, for helping our family every second and not only we, you are there for everyone who seeks your help thandri!

Vijaya Nallari, NC (USA)

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|| Sri Swami Samarth ||

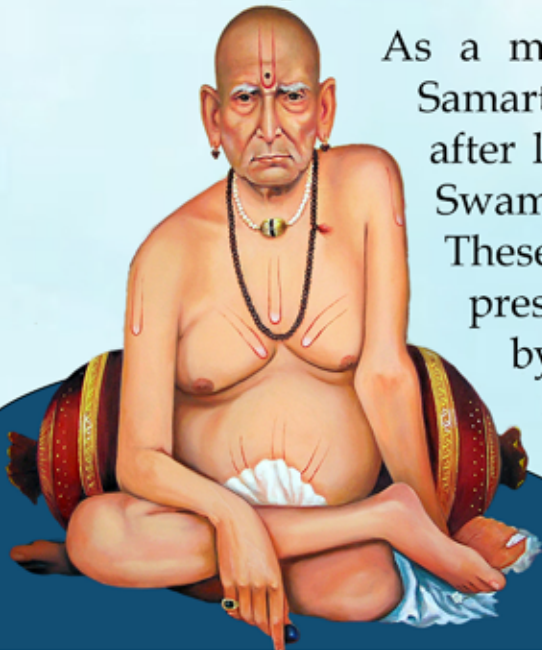
MY SHORT EXPERIENCE

I had heard about “Akkalkot Swami Samarth” but I was not curious to know more about this great saint. I didn’t delve into it at all. The only saint I knew about till then was Shirdi Sai who is an incarnation of Lord Dattatreya as also mentioned in Sai Satcharitra.

However, I wasn’t aware of Swami Samarth’s life and teachings at all. During those days, one of my friends used to post Swami’s picture every Thursday, to which I used to reply as a courtesy. As days started passing by, suddenly, I started getting lots of Swami’s pictures on Facebook & WhatsApp etc. with slogan “**Bhiu Nakos Me Tuzya Patishi Ahe**”. It was quite surprising and I wondered why I was being drawn towards him. It so happened, one day while travelling in a local train, I observed the person sitting next to me was completely hooked in watching a Marathi devotional series in MX Player. On a casual exchange of words, he mentioned the name of series- “**Jai Jai Swami Samarth**” that depicts the life/leela’s of Swami Samarth at Akkalkot. This incident triggered a desire in me to watch the whole series.

And, that proved to be a big milestone. Those episodes helped me know more of his life, teachings, leela’s and miracles he performed during his stay in Akkalkot.

As a matter of surprise, I happened to find “Swami Samarth’s mutt near my place, that I had never known after living in that locality for many years. My visit to Swami’s mutt happened only after these incidents. These events were certainly happened by divine’s presence and my life has been completely transformed by his divine presence. My main source of connection is this series that depicts his life so beautifully. It shows how he lived his life, his love for his devotees, his teachings and



MY SHORT EXPERIENCE

miracles he performed to save his devotees. And it also shows some of closely associated devotees. I'm completely drawn to these episodes and this medium proves to be my great connection with him.

Srinivasan S Iyer





BABA'S WAY OF BLESSING US!



This incident happened forty years ago. I was posted at a place on the border of Maharashtra. Shirdi was not very far from there. At that time, Shirdi and Sai Baba were not quite known outside Maharashtra. Being from the North, I was quite unaware of the great saint who once resided at Shirdi.

One day in the month of May, my colleague rang me up on a Sunday. He had organized a taxi for visiting Shirdi and the taxi had come to his house. For some reason he was not in a position to make the journey that day. He wanted to know if I would like to travel to Shirdi.

Summer in that part of India is fierce, the taxi was not air-conditioned and my children were very young. I also had aged parents living with us. Still, we decided to make the journey.

We travelled through the day with hot Sun beating down on us and reached Shirdi at about eight in the evening. I had no idea where we could stay. A man hailed us as we were approaching the Sai Baba temple. He wanted to know if we wanted accommodation for the night. He took us to the guest house and asked the man at the counter to make two rooms available to us.

We washed, had dinner in the guest house and then retired for the night. We wanted to get up in time for



BABA'S WAY OF BLESSING US!

Kakad Aarti. But we could not sleep. There was loud shehnai music coming through the window. It continued for the whole night.

We had excellent darshan and came out of the temple at about eight in the morning. As we were walking about the temple complex, a distinguished looking gentleman contacted us on the road and started talking to us. When he found out as to where we were from and the post that I was holding, he invited us into an office. He was the manager of the Sansthan. He wanted to know whether we liked our visit. I told him that everything was very well arranged but the playing of loudspeaker music near the guesthouse for the whole night was irksome. He looked at me askance. **He told us that there was no music that night and no such music is ever played there.** He then looked at me and smiled-it was **Baba's way of blessing us!**

DS Mathur



IS YOUR MEMORY SHORT LIVED TOO?



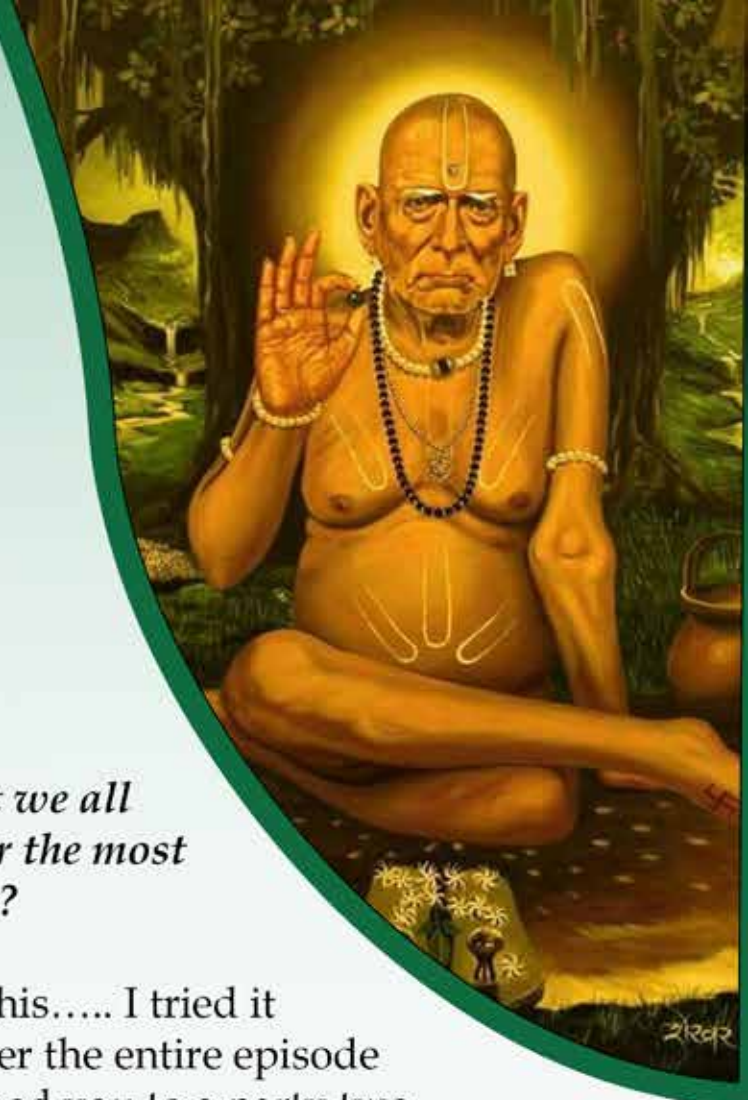
Would you agree if I tell you that we all have a very short lived memory for the most important things in life?

I know, I know, you want to deny this..... I tried it too! Yeah, I know that you remember the entire episode when your friends or relatives ditched you to a party two decades ago.... you remember all the details, like it happened yesterday.... amused, how I know it!!!!because, my friend, this holds true for each one of us!

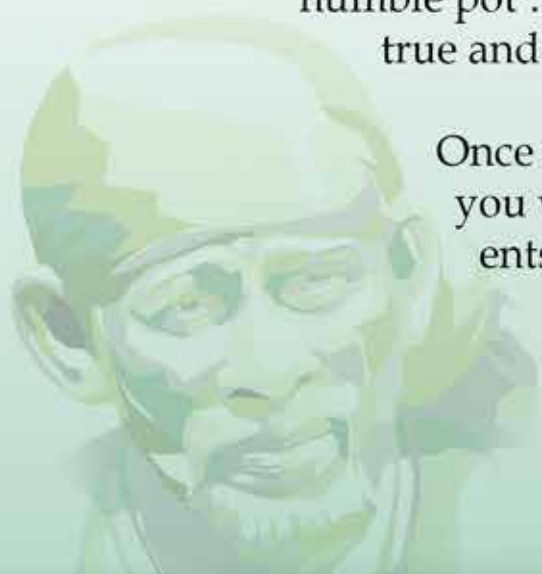
Wondering.... how do I then state that **our memory is short lived?**

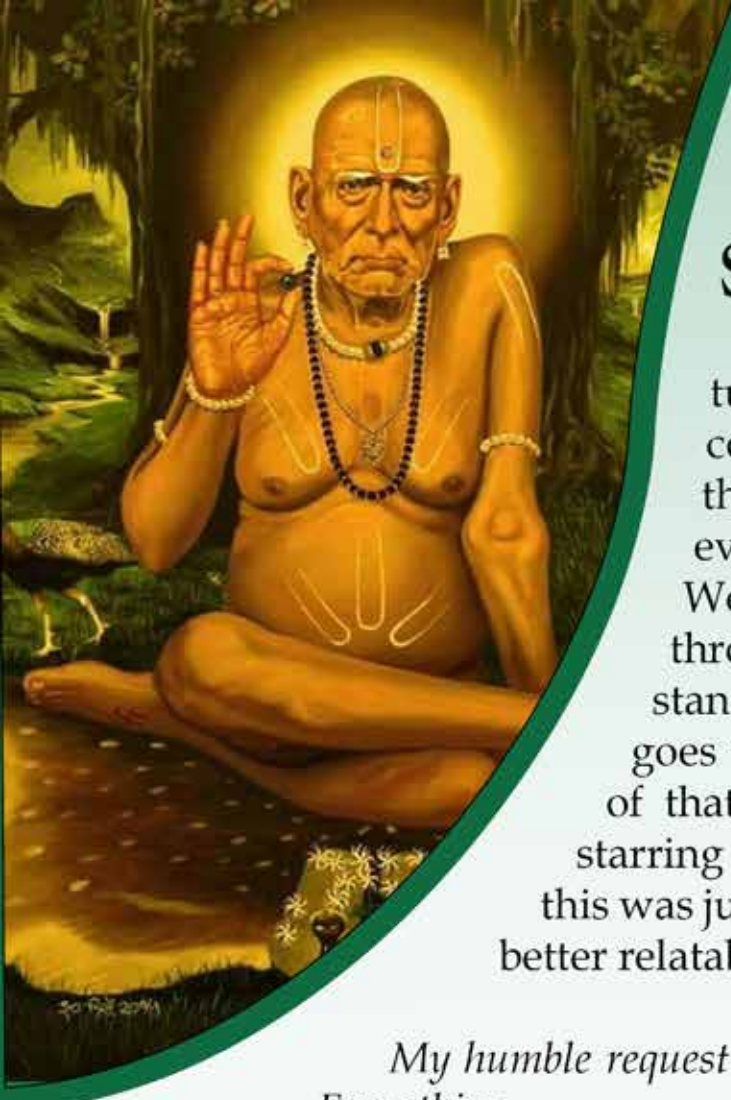
When we are going through tough times...especially health wise, we promise to ourselves and sometimes even to God, so many things.... a very small example - while managing our upset tummy (be it severe constipation or loose motion) , each one of us has done enough and more promises, sitting on that humble potI know it sounds shitty, but, my friend, that's true and you know it!

Once you have gone through a severe episode yourself, you will not be very complacent when your old parents or young children complaint about their upset



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IS YOUR MEMORY SHORT LIVED TOO?

tummy, the pain, the agony and the discomfort they may be going through.....which otherwise is not even considered a problem, isn't it! Well, only those who have gone through something similar can understand the depth of the situation and same goes with all health issues. (Reminds me of that brilliant Bollywood movie "Piku" starring legend Amitabh Bachchan). Well, this was just a day to day example I chose....for better relatability, kindly excuse

My humble request – please try to Sympathize if you can't Empathize.

The problem is not the health issue (upset tummy in the example above), there is a cure for most of those issues but **there is no cure for False Promises**, trust me.....

When we are in pain, we are closest to God and He listens to all our promises too along with our prayers.... so when *He cures us of our problems, the least we can do is fulfill our little promises that we made! Is this really that difficult?*

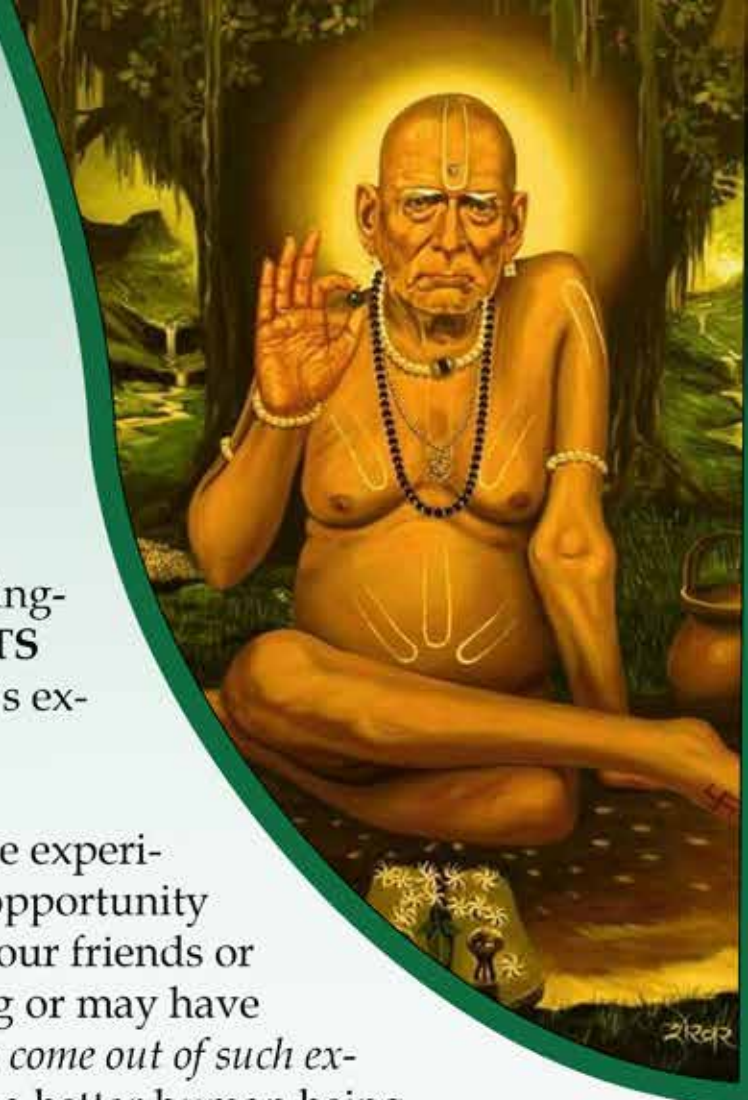
If we start fulfilling 50-60% of our promises, trust me, our future pains will decrease by 80-90%..... Wow, I am talking statistical numbers! Well, simple logic behind my saying this is....**when we are in pain, we can empathize**, i.e. understand the pain of those in similar situations and whatever we promise in these situations will be for our loved ones only.....*because we remember them the most when we are experiencing happiness, grief or pain....* Do you agree?

IS YOUR MEMORY SHORT LIVED TOO?

So what's the harm in fulfilling those promises that can help our loved ones and bring a smile on the faces ? In return what do you think we will get..... knowingly or even unknowingly? **THEIR HAPPINESS AND LOTS OF LOVE AND BLESSINGS** that's exactly what we long for, isn't it?

To conclude: Every emotion that we experience, especially pain...gives us an opportunity to empathize what our loved ones, our friends or our peers are currently experiencing or may have gone through in the past..... *learn to come out of such experiences as a winner...* by becoming a better human being and extending help, love and hope to those who may be experiencing a worse phase than you, my friend..... Like I quoted earlier "Your life is a dream of millions", my friend.... **LIVE LIFE KING SIZE OR QUEEN SIZE** but **LIVE IT WELL!** That's most important.

Purnima Dheeraj Guliani



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DISCLAIMER

Skraddha

Saburi



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Ravi

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