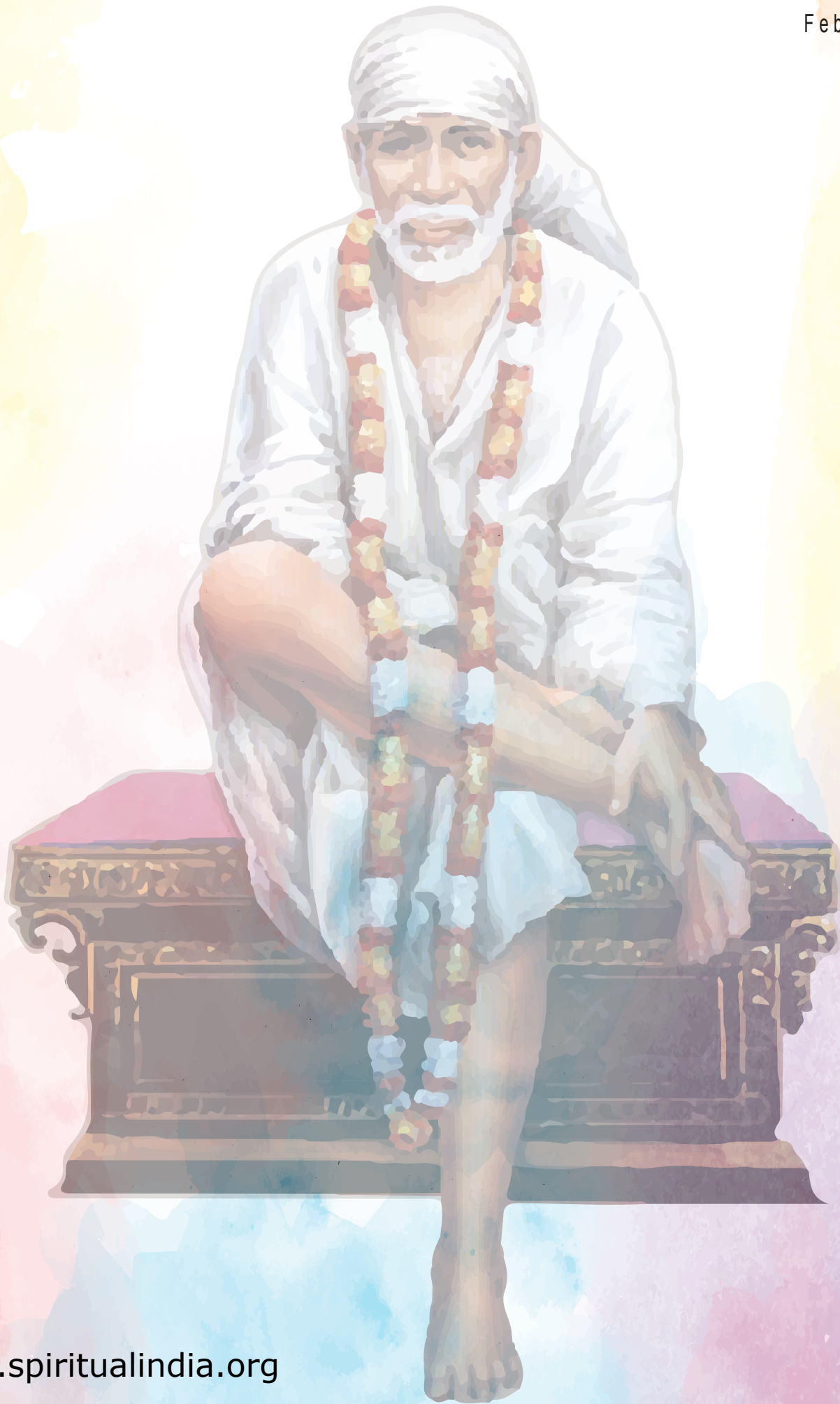


SAMARPAN

February 2019



From The Editors Desk



Dear readers of Samarpan, first of all thank you very much for your continued support to this magazine. While as a team we work to bring out every new edition in your hands; in reality it is you & Baba who are driving this magazine and we are mere instruments. It is your own magazine and this magazine exists only because of all its readers & contributors. Not to forget that we take extreme delight in being part of this devotional journey and also feel fortunate to be associated with Samarpan. Your experiences are extremely enriching for us, we feel lighter & spiritually rejuvenated by witnessing your level of devotion.

Editorial is the last piece of content which goes into magazine. Every time I set out to write this I always go through this phase of uncertainty where I am not sure if I am worthy enough to write editorial and if whatever I write makes enough sense. During those moments, I just try to surrender myself to Baba and ask him to help me write editorial and all the times, I have been able to write editorial in one sitting without rewriting.

The whole purpose of writing editorial has always been to establish connection with you all, very similar to saying namaskar or hello to a friend. We receive communication from you on how much you treasure every edition of Samarpan and even though we aim to include every experience of yours into magazine; at times we might miss them. Please never hesitate to remind us if your article was missed by us. We will publish it in the next edition.

By the time you receive this magazine; you might have celebrated Basant Panchami or Saraswati Puja. Goddess Saraswati grants us wisdom & knowledge. There is no substitute for knowledge & wisdom in this world. There is so much to know & so much to learn in this world that a life looks so small to achieve that. Knowledge which can free us from bondage & sufferings is the knowledge of the highest order and with blessing of Baba may we all get more and more of that knowledge.

May Baba continue to shower his blessings upon all of us. May we all be happier & healthier. Love, Light & Peace to all of you. Om Sai Ram.

Ashok Jain

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With Baba's Blessings....

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बाबा ने मुझे सड़क दुर्घटना से बचाया

मेरा बाबा पर विश्वास आज से नहीं, जब मैं छोटी थी तभी से है। बाबा को जो दिल से चाहता है, बाबा उसके साथ हमेशा रहते हैं। बाबा अपने भक्तों के बचाव के लिए, कहीं से भी आ सकते हैं। मेरी ज़िन्दगी में बाबा का बहुत बड़ा हाथ है। बाबा ने मुझे मुश्किलों से बचाया। इतना ही नहीं, मैंने अपनी आँखों से बाबा के कई चमत्कार देखे हैं। उनमें से एक बात मैं आपको बताने जा रही हूँ।

साल 2017 की बात है। सर्दियों का समय था और मैं अपने एक दोस्त के साथ मेट्रो में थी। मेरी उससे अचानक लड़ाई हुई और मैं वह से जाने लगी। अचानक ही सड़क में जब मैं पहुंची, की एक ऑटो जिसमें तीन सवारी थी वो तेज़ी से आया और पीछे का पहिया मेरे एक पैर पर चढ़ा दिया। मेरी चीख निकल गयी और बहुत दर्द हो रहा था। वहां सभी लोगों ने देखा और कहा की "हॉस्पिटल ले जाना होगा, हाडी टूट गयी है"। मेरा वही दोस्त भागा, भागा आया। मैं लंगड़ाते हुई उसके पास पहुंची। मैं सीढ़ीओं पर बैठी। हालांकि मुझे दर्द था, पर मेरे पैर पर एक खरोच तक न थी। मेरे लिए और सबके लिए यह हैरानी की बात थी।

मैंने जब शाम में दीपक जलाया था तो बाबा जी की मूर्ति, जो मेरे घर में है, उसमें बाबा के पैर में खरोचे थी। मैं समझ गयी की बाबा ने सब खुद पर ले लिया था। मेरा परिवार हैरान था! यह सच है की बाबा को जो दिल से चाहते हैं, बाबा उनकी सारी विपदा खुद पर लेते हैं।

आज भी मेरे पैर में किसी प्रकार का एक निशान तक नहीं है। मेरे बाबा जी ने मुझे बचाया, वर्ना उस दिन मैं अपाहिज हो सकती थी। मेरे पैर में रोड़ डल सकती थी और मेरा विवाह भी नहीं हुआ था। बाबा आपने मुझे बचाया। मेरे बाबा जी हर रूप में आते हैं। बोलो जय साई राम!!!

खुशबू

Hairbrush

Dear Baba,

Firstly, please accept my hugs & kisses. This is the first time that I am writing to you, seeking your blessings to express my humble gratitude to you. It was in January 2017 that my father had undergone a major surgery and we had almost lost hopes on his recovery. It was during that time that I had come to see you and seek your blessings. After my visit to your Mahasamadhi, I came for "Mukha Darshan" and it was at that time, that I felt as if you told me, "Ab Jaa". This gave me so much of confidence and strength that I came back and took care of my father. With your grace and blessings, he has recovered and is absolutely fine.

One another incident where you were beside me and preparing me for life's reality which I would like to share is when I lost my mother. It was just before her death that one lady came to me suddenly and told me that God prepares you for the worst. Although at that point in time I did not understand what she was saying, but when my mother was gone, I then realized the lady's words. Even during the toughest times, Baba was with me and stood by me. He liberated my mother of her suffering and took her to his feet. She passed away on a Thursday and I am sure Baba is taking good care of her.

Thank you, Baba, for being with me always - bless me.

Yours

Dr. Ashu Chauhan



Experience of Manifestations of Blessings by Sathya Sai Baba

M. N. Gopalkrishnan

I have been thinking for a while to share my and my family's experiences with Shri Sathya Sai Baba that we experienced starting year 2006. From this year onwards, we were blessed with the divine Darshan of Sai in many ways but did not know how to express. It was only in March 2009 when I met two young people, I was encouraged to write and share these experiences so that Sai devotees can drink the nectar that will flow from what I will share.

I did not know how to start; however, I prayed to Sai to be my guide and make me write what He wants me to share with His devotees. My experiences are narration of true incidents and Sai's manifestations that have taken place at my residence and witnessed by me, my family and other Sai devotees that have visited us.

I belong to a family that was that was very pious, God fearing, and we worshiped Sathya Sai Baba. From my early childhood, we use to sing Sai Bhajans and participated in Bhajan signing at several places. Since this ran in the family, my children were also brought up in the same environment and they too loved singing Bhajans. Being a staunch Sathya Sai Baba devotee, I got one opportunity to see him in person that was in year 1967 when Sai visited Dharmakshetra in Andheri Mumbai. Due to huge crowd presence, there that day I could only see Him from a distance. Neither my family nor I had ever visited Puttaparthi or Shirdi.

We were settled in Mumbai since 1965, and I joined the Sree Sathya Sai Seva Group in Borivli west. In year 1999, I retired from my job as the company I worked for closed down. Same year I happened to attend a Sai Bhajan at Shiv Mandir in Borivli West.

In year 2005, we moved to my new residence in I.C. Colony Borivli West. I continued attending Sai Bhajans but there was no indication of any darshan or any other divine experience thus far. However, on 26th February 2006 sometime in the afternoon, we were surprised to see small patches of Vibhuti on the photos of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and on Shirdi Sai Baba. The temple erected in the Pooja room has only Sathya Sai Baba's picture while Sri Shirdi Sai's photo was kept in the hall in a showcase.

Small patches of Vibhuti appearing on these picture that became very dense and more visible and prominent by 28th February 2006. In fact Vibhuti started appearing on pictures of other deities as well and the flow of the Vibhuti kept increasing and by 8th March and thereafter by 14th March 2006, the entire pictures got almost fully covered under this scared ash "Vibhuti".

Dear devotees, by 23rd March 2006, this Darshan in form of unceasing flow of Vibhuti was now accompanied with lumps of sugar candy. There were finger prints observed as if indicating that Sai Himself made all that happen and blessed us all with His divine darshan.

The flow of Vibhuti kept on Increasing day by day and further appeared on Panchamukha Ganapathy picture too. We also observed that some idols kept in the Pooja place were also immersed in a sweet tasting Vibhuti. This continued and by December not only the idols and pictures of various deities, but the Vibhuti started to flow from the palm of my wife during bhajan singing. Several devotees that attended the Bhajan also witnessed this. From May 2006, besides Vibhuti even Kumkum started to flow and in abundance.

Due to their accumulation in abundance, we started to pack these in small packets to distribute as Sai's Prasad, which acted like medicine.

Fruits such as apples offered as Prasad also were blessed with Vibhuti from January 2008 onwards and thereafter it became every morning phenomenon. Apples as prasadam from SAI continued for more than a year. Even now, Sai blesses apples suddenly from time to time. One such occasion was when my daughter and son-in-law came to our residence one day late evening. Before they got ready for leaving, my son-in-law suddenly asked if they could take some Sai Prasadam apples.

My wife and I were sad as for few days we were not blessed with any apples and hence we did not have any to give them and told the same regretfully. On hearing this, my daughter and Son in law were fine and went to the pooja place to bow down to Sai and offer their namaskar before leaving. Lo!! What we see? There was a surprise gift from SAI for them. Sai blessed them with apple prasadam. We all felt very happy and cried due to the immense love that SAI has always bestowed upon us. On another occasion, too similar thing happened when a group of devotees from Jairaj Nagar, Borivli, came for Sai darshan. They asked for scared Prasad of apples and we had to tell them regretfully that there were no apples blessed by Sai.

Later we all sat in the pooja room for meditation and once we finished and the group was about to leave and they all came from the Pooja room to the hall. There we witnessed that how Sai is all pervading and omni-present as He heard the prayer of the devotees that day and blessed us by giving apples as Prasad near the clock containing Shirdi Sai photo.

Thereafter Haldi Prasad first materialized on 19th February 2008 in our pooja room and this continued until 18th July 2008 when it stopped.

The daily blessing of Vibhuti, Kumkum, Haldi, apples, sugar candy etc continued and in such large quantities that as soon as we packed, more was ready to be packed again. During that period several packets of such Prasad was distributed to all devotees that visited our home for Sai darshan.

We used to offer Naivedyam to Sai and He ate some and left the remaining to be distributed as Prasad. We even saw His fingerprints and sometime Vibhuti on this Naivedyam as well.

Sai blessed us with a scared Shiv Ling on 6th December 2007. Since then we are started worshipping that Shiv Ling every day followed by Abhishekam with water. On 29th August 2008, Sai blessed us with an extremely beautiful Sri Lakshmi Narayan idol and many other similar Idols thereafter. This was just the start of inflow of Idols of various Gods and Goddesses that SAI blessed and materialized from time to time.

Most of the time, it was my wife who got the privilege of receiving such blessed Idols. Sai used to direct as to whom the Idols were meant to be passed on. The timing of appearance of Idols varied sometimes it would come in the night when were fast asleep and then my wife's hands which would shake in such a way making a sound similar to Bell ringing would be heard by me.

I immediately used to get up and take photos of the Idols and she would tell me immediately or later as to who the recipient of that idol was. I stored those photos of idols and would write the devotees name just to remind to whom we gave. Later we stopped taking pictures and we collected a huge pile and felt that we should not mention the recipient's name for the sake of secrecy and privacy. Like this we gave away several blessed idols and I think those were more than one thousand that we may have passed on to the devotees in accordance with the directions received from Sai.

Now I would like to share some other miracles that are happening even now. On 30th October 2008, Sai started lighting the lamp in our pooja room. On 13th December 2008 Sai first time prepared aarti by putting some rice in the bowl. Subsequently, from 25th December 2008 Sai started removing old flowers, keeping fresh ones and bilav leaves on the Shiv Ling, lighting the lamp, keeping arati ready by putting some rice etc. From 2nd March 2009 onwards Sai even kept water for Abhishek for the Shiv Ling. On Mondays Sai kept two vessels of water, as we required more quantity to pour for 108 times naam jaap and Abhishek chanting Om Namah Shivay Abhishekam. Sometimes Sai even removed used garlands from the pictures of other deities as well.

On 12th September 2008, a devotee named Raja visited us for darshan and Sai blessed him for the first time by applying Vibhuti on his forehead. There after whenever Raja visited us and sat in meditation, he was blessed with Vibhuti and the fingerprints of Sai's Vibhuti were visible on his forehead, cheeks and sometimes even on his back.

Narayan Seva:

This is another part of Sai seva done by Sai group. Sai started providing bulk quantities of sweets, kalakand and chocolates etc along with kumkum and Vibhuti. We started a mega Narayan seva on 13 November 2008 which was started by devotees that especially came from Dahisar to help us pack these as Prasad in plastic bags which were in turn were packed in cartons and distributed. This became a practice and now vast quantity of Sai Prasad is been distributed wherever Narayan Seva is conducted in Borivli, Dahisar, Kandivli, Charkop, Goregaon, Andheri, besides far off places like Talavli, Jahawar villages schools, Wada, Vrudhashram Vasai, as also for Cancer patients in Govt hospital in Sion and Sarvodaya Hospital Ghatkopar, besides Medical Camps run by Sai Seva organisation.

Sai Blesses devotee's requests & prayers:

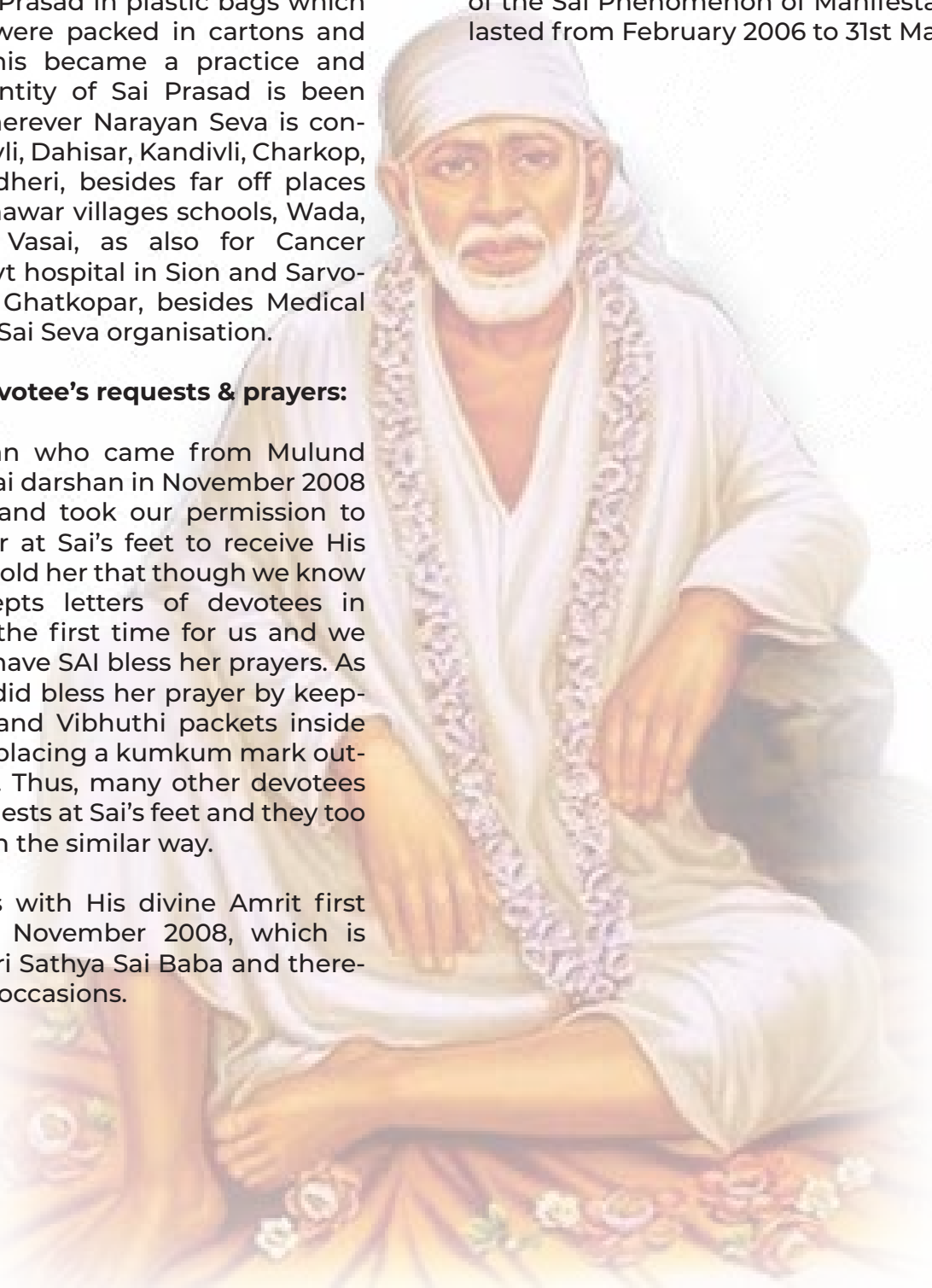
Once a woman who came from Mulund first time for Sai darshan in November 2008 requested us and took our permission to keep her letter at Sai's feet to receive His blessings. We told her that though we know that SAI accepts letters of devotees in Parthi, this is the first time for us and we would love to have SAI bless her prayers. As expected, Sai did bless her prayer by keeping kumkum and Vibhuthi packets inside her cover and placing a kumkum mark outside the cover. Thus, many other devotees kept their requests at Sai's feet and they too were blessed in the similar way.

Sai blessed us with His divine Amrit first time on 23rd November 2008, which is Birthday of Shri Sathya Sai Baba and thereafter on many occasions.

Sai Amrit and Threetham

On Maha Shiv Ratri day 23rd February 2009, Amrit and divine threetham was blessed by Sai. On this special day, Sai blessed us with large number of Shiva Lingas for distribution to devotees that came to our house to seek Lord Shiva's blessings. We did not write any names on the Shiva Lingas but we know that over 120 Shiv Lings were distributed. In fact, another program by a Chembur party was also scheduled to be held on 1st MARCH 2009 that consisted of Sai Bhajan and Abhang. For this event, also Sai blessed us with different type of Shiv Lingas to be given to these group members as well as to other devotees.

My above-narrated experiences cover the start of the Sai Phenomenon of Manifestations that lasted from February 2006 to 31st March 2009.



शिर्डी वाले थोड़ा सा कुपा करदे

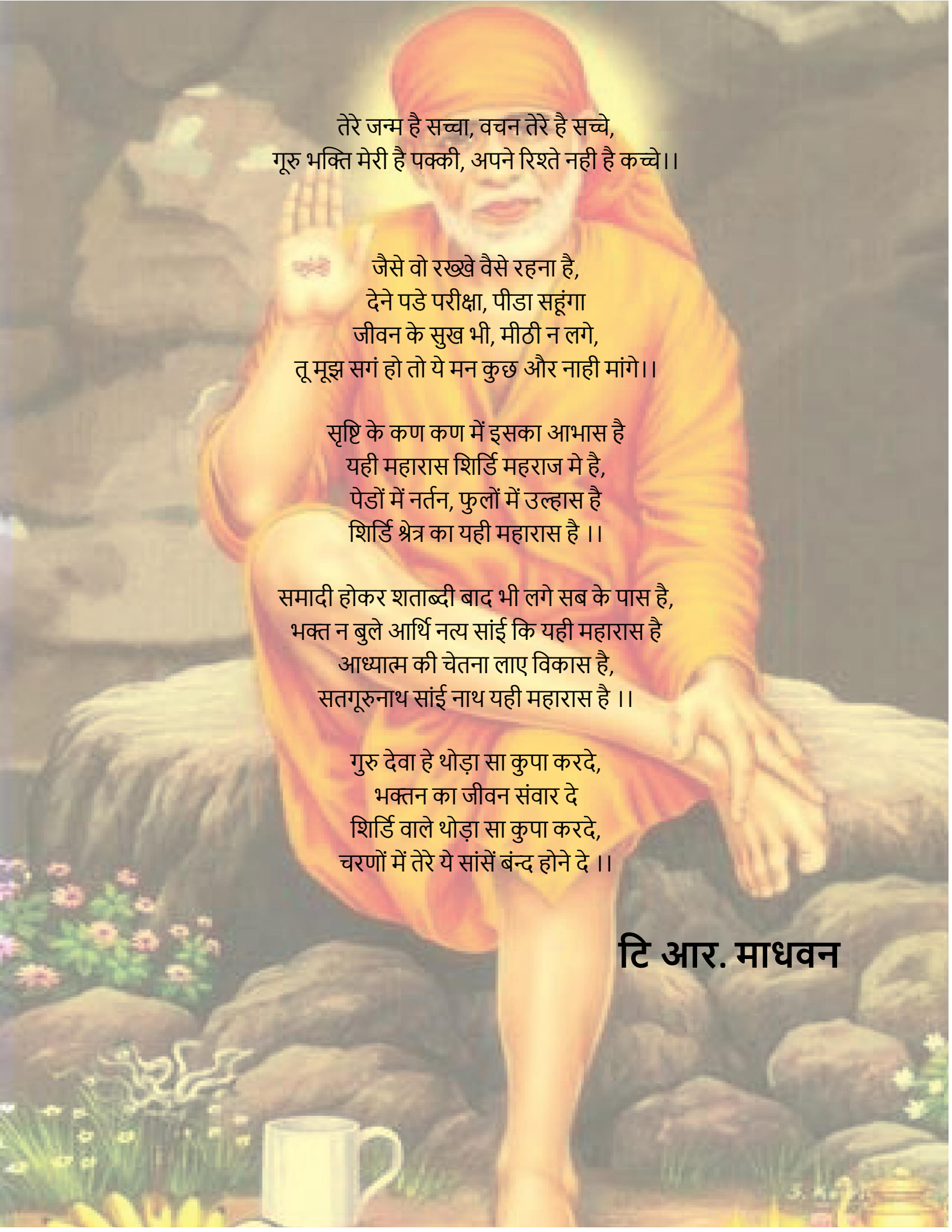
शिर्डी वाले थोड़ा सा कुपा करदे,
चरणों में तेरे ये सांसें बन्द होने दे
ओ साई, दूख कि खांठे हठा दे,
खूशियों कि चंद पल झोली में डाल दे।।

शिर्डी में आके साईया,
मन आनंदमय हुई रे सबुरीया
जब तक साधन, तन मन जीवन,
सब तुझे अर्पण, प्यारे साईया।।

सब का मालिक एक तुमने रंग ऐसा डाला,
बंधन में बंध गया बांधने वाला
श्रद्धा सबुरी का अर्थ समझाया,
मै तो हुं तेरा नाम जापने वाला।।

गुरुदेव समादी मन्दिर आनंदमय श्रेत्र है,
द्वारका मैय का फकीर, अपनापन का दास है
सत्वरित्र कमल है, जलती दूनी सुवास है,
इसके कमल नैन देख भूजे, मन की प्यास है ।।

तू न झूठा, न वचन तेरे है झूठे,
तेरे प्रवचन और लीलाएँ सब के मन को है लुटे



तेरे जन्म है सच्चा, वचन तेरे है सच्चे,
गुरु भक्ति मेरी है पक्की, अपने रिश्ते नहीं है कच्चे॥

जैसे वो रखे वैसे रहना है,
देने पडे परीक्षा, पीडा सहंगा
जीवन के सुख भी, मीठी न लगे,
तू मूझ सगं हो तो ये मन कुछ और नाही मांगे॥

सृष्टि के कण कण में इसका आभास है
यही महारास शिर्डी महाराज मे है,
पेडों में नर्तन, फुलों में उल्हास है
शिर्डी श्रेत्र का यही महारास है ॥

समादी होकर शताब्दी बाद भी लगे सब के पास है,
भक्त न बुले आर्थि नत्य साईं कि यही महारास है
आध्यात्म की चेतना लाए विकास है,
सतगुरुनाथ साईं नाथ यही महारास है ॥

गुरु देवा हे थोड़ा सा कुपा करदे,
भक्तन का जीवन संवार दे
शिर्डी वाले थोड़ा सा कुपा करदे,
चरणों में तेरे ये सांसें बन्द होने दे ॥

टि आर. माधवन

Divine Experiences With Baba

Debashish Roy

I have been a Sai devotee for a quite a long time. I live in Calcutta. By Baba's Grace I had been to Shirdi quite a few times.

I would like to share an experience of Baba. It was in the month of October that I had gone to Ram Thakur Ashram (my spiritual guru from whom I had taken my Diksha Mantra) at Kolkata to offer a dress, because of Durga Puja. We Bengalis wear and give new clothes on this occasion. I also give Sai Baba a dress on this occasion, since I pray to him as my Guru.

I got down from the auto rickshaw on the main road and took a rickshaw to reach the Ashram. As I was getting down from the rickshaw I looked to my right. The Ashram is situated on the right side. I wanted to buy some sweets for my Guru so after stepping down from the rickshaw I took a cursory glance to the right. A person sits at the gate of the Ashram to sell photographs of Ram ThakurJi.

I was so happy to see a photograph in which Ram Thakur and Sai Baba both were seen. I thought while returning I will see the photograph again, but I could not see the photograph. I am cent percent sure that Baba gave me darshan. I have read in Sai Satcharitra that Baba had given darshan to lady as Lord Ram. Lord Ram was Guru of that lady.

Would like to share one more experience with you all. I had been to Shirdi with my wife in the month of March, as I was to retire in the month of August. I wanted a leaf from the sacred margosa tree. So, during Dhoop Arti I was going around the margosa tree along with other devotees and was looking for a margosa leaf.

All of a sudden, I saw a person smiling and holding a margosa leaf close to his chest as I went near him, he gave me the leaf. I wanted to locate the person, but he went out of my sight quickly as if he had vanished. Who can be that person other than our esteemed Baba! Before going to Shirdi I had asked Baba a question and the book of answers gave me this answer: "you will visit Shirdi soon, you will be offered sweets, and you will meet a saintly person who will bless you."

We were at the Maha Samadhi Temple standing in front of Baba after offering our prayers. A security person called me and shouted at me and told me by showing the samadhi that this is Baba's samadhi and pointed at Baba's head and feet and told me to bend down, touch the samadhi and offer my prayer.

After doing he gave me some sweets. I do not have any words to express as I was just dumb struck. As we went out of the temple an elderly brahmin person wearing saffron clothes blessed me and my wife, by keeping his hands on my wife's and my head. When we offered the sweets which the security guard had given, he politely denied taking.

Baba koti koti pranam at your sacred Feet! Shower Your blessings to all your devotees. Please bless us with peace, prosperity, knowledge and give us strength to stand by the needy people.



A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

Karunakar Reddy

Om Sai Ram! I want to share a very recent experience on how GURU SAIBABA saved my life standing by me. I am a resident of Bangalore and currently working in Pondicherry.

While returning to Pondicherry after Dasahera vacation, the bus in which I was travelling met with a major accident in early morning hours at around 3 am near Tiruvannamalai.

Around 27 passengers were severely injured - but I escaped with a very small injury.

The miracle here is that I generally used to reserve seat number 3 every time I would travel.

This time also I tried for seat number 3 but surprisingly, even after many attempts I could not book that particular seat, although the seat was vacant. With great disappointment for the first time in my life I booked Seat No. 1. And believe me the miracle is that the lady who was sitting in seat number 3 was severely injured and I escaped with minor injuries.

It was my Lord Baba who had saved my life and I feel I am indebted to him in every breath that I take.

I seek your blessings Baba - Om Sai Ram.

BABA GOT MY BELOVED BACK

Madhukari



Dear All,

I just want to share my experience that I encountered with Sai. I have been a devotee of Sai for over 8 years now and have felt his love and care throughout.

This incident which I am sharing with you all now had reestablished Baba's love for his child in my heart. It was during last December, Christmas time that I was feeling extremely low. My beloved had travelled to the States and had slowly reduced all communication. I was heart-broken and had lost interest in life - no peace, no concentration on my job. I even stopped eating and thus became very weak. It had been 4 months since his departure and as Christmas approached, I was all the more heart-broken.

I prayed to Baba as a last resort and had begun a Saphthaham for a week. I had no hopes and left everything to Baba's feet; this was my point of total Surrender. The 25th of December had finally come and to my surprise my beloved who had not been calling me for 4 months had called and apologized for leaving me alone. I couldn't believe myself. I did not let the sudden change fool me, I waited. But to my utter disbelief, the calls continued and till date, we talk daily despite thousands of miles between us.

God works in mysterious ways. On the day of Christmas, no child's wish is left unfulfilled and no child is left heart-broken. Baba had made sure his child is not in gloom on Christmas. After all, God is one, whatever name he bears and whatever way he chooses. It is difficult to hold on to trust and faith in times of difficulty, but for those who surrender completely to Baba, he makes sure they are taken care. Trust Baba and leave your burden on him. He will keep you at Peace.

Jai Sai Ram

BABA HELPED MY FRIEND

Premalatha Porika



Om Sai Ram! I feel myself to be extremely lucky because Baba is always with me. I feel that HE is with me every moment of my life. I used to do 9 weeks of Sai vrath (fast). One day a friend of mine called me and shared the personal difficult situation she was in. She had lost her job and was crying bitterly and badly.

To comfort her, I immediately suggested her do Sai Baba's 9 weeks vrath. However, she was unwilling and said that it wasn't possible for her to do so. So, I advised her to do the fast for 5 weeks at least and to continue her efforts parallelly - like updating her CV and applying for jobs.

On my advice, she started Sai Baba's 5 weeks vrath. Just after a week I got her call exclaiming, "Prema! I've got a job and they've also offered me to go USA for six months!" I was extremely happy on hearing her words.

Sai Baba is great! I still feel emotional and get tears while sharing this miracle. Thank you Baba Sai! Thank you so much! Please always be with us. Love you so much Sai!

Baba Invites Me Into Temple

Mukesh

I am from Bengaluru & I have been devotee of Sai Baba from many years. I visit Baba Temple at Malleshwaram in Bengaluru and I have also visited Shirdi many a times. I would like to share one of my experiences with you all.

Few years back I used to visit Baba Temple every Thursday without fail. I followed this routine for many years. However, at some point of time I skipped going to temple because of my personal problems which made me sad & unhappy. I used to visit only now & then would skip going most of the times.

One Thursday as usual I started from office to go to Baba Temple, but after reaching temple, I looked into my wallet and came to know that I didn't even have two rupees to pay at shoe stand. I checked my wallet thoroughly. Without money I could not go inside without paying them. So personally, I felt sad that I reached near Baba Temple and was not able to go inside and see my Baba.

Later I thought of having darshan of Baba standing outside the temple and pray to Him. I did that and was about to return, when out of curiosity I opened my wallet again and to my surprise found that I had five rupees note in my wallet. I did not know from where did the money appear. I felt extremely happy & joyous at Baba's grace upon me.

I cannot explain the emotions I went through & have not been able to forget this incident since then. Love you Baba, Bless all of us.

Frankly speaking my problems have not disappeared, however, I have the faith that things will improve over time. I also promised Baba that if my financial condition improves, I would help as many needy people as possible. Om Sai Ram.

JOURNEY OF DEVOTION COMES FULL CIRCLE

Mrs. S. Jahnavi Devi

"Let my devotee be at any distance, a thousand miles away from me, he will be drawn to Shirdi, like a sparrow, with a thread tied to its feet", these were the words of Sai Baba, and I was myself most fortunate to have been one such sparrow. It was in the year 1976.

My elder son was born in Bengaluru. One day I happened to take him to a health center for immunization. Since there was a Sai Baba temple in the vicinity, although I never visited nor heard of Baba earlier, I took the baby to the temple and the pundit blessed him and I offered two rupees. Thereafter, I was engrossed in the family affairs and work. As per the direction of Baghawan Sathya Baba I joined a voluntary organization in the year 1985 to work in the rural areas of the most back ward districts of Tamil Nadu.

The years rolled fast, and my son completed his degree in Ayurveda and was working in Bangalore. I was so thrilled with my work in the villages. However, suddenly the thought of my son's marriage started worrying me. We had to find a bride. In 2004, I was invited by an organization to Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) to conduct training for a group of people with disabilities.

While I was getting ready to travel to this place, I found a small picture of Baba on the floor, I picked up the picture and placed it for offering daily prayers. That was the first time I started worshipping Baba. I started my journey and reached Anantapur. The training was conducted in a small village

The programme went on well; having come so far, I decided to visit my elder sister in Hyderabad. In the late evening while I was getting ready to start my journey to Hyderabad, the staff of the organization said there was a Sai Baba's temple and so I went with her to the temple. What a huge temple of Baba in that small village!! After the darshan, I boarded a bus to Hyderabad.

My niece had come from USA and she was a staunch devotee of Baba and invited me to accompany her to Shirdi. So, we went to Shirdi. After Baba's darshan, my niece suggested that I must buy a copy of Satcharita and that all my problems will meet their solution.

Back at home I sincerely started reading Satcharita. Meanwhile my niece's mother-in-law expired at Chennai. Since my niece was so helpful to me, I went to Chennai and attended the funeral and stayed back for a few days to support her. I did not give up reading the Satcharita. Somehow, I completed the 'saptah' and on the last day prepared prasadam at my aunt's place and distributed to everyone. Late in the afternoon, I received a phone call from my husband to inform that he received a horoscope from Chennai.

The girl's name was Sai Vijaya Priya. She had also completed M.D in Ayurveda and was employed in Tamil Nadu medical service as Asst. Medical officer. The wedding took place in November 2015 and thereafter Baba was everything to me, I clung to his feet so tight, and he was with me ever merciful. I also got few copies of Satcharita and gave to friends when they were in trouble and reading Baba's stories really helped them.

I wanted to do PhD to consolidate my 40 years of social service into research. So, I joined university in 2013, and completed the research in 2018 at the age of 67 years. The topic was - Adolescents of Arunthathiyar population - an explorative study. When I joined the university, I did not have any savings as I worked in small voluntary organizations. Baba meticulously took care of all my needs.

The money came unasked from my brothers and family members and that amounted to few lakhs of rupees. Arunthathiyars are the most discriminated caste in dalit community, and my wish is to support the children in their education and influence the government with policy interventions.

You only have to surrender. Like a mother taking care of the child, Baba will take care of all our needs. Thus, my journey of worship that started in the year 1976 missed the track and found it in 2004. The journey of sincere devotion to Baba in the form of service to the poor will continue until my last breath.

Sai.. Sai.. Sai!

Looking at YOU, I bow down my head
Folding hands, I present my heart's shreds
Praying to YOU, I seek strength
To cross this life's enormous length

Seeking YOU, I start my day
Thanking YOU, I see the last ray
Thinking YOU, I act night & day
Only YOUR teachings, paving my way

YOUR presence in my life is the thing
Which gives my timid heart such wings
Which help me soar above the tests
In my quest to be YOUR very best

YOUR love in my heart keeps it beating
Ruled by the desire for the divine meeting
YOUR enigmatic persona charms my mind
YOUR calming smile, helps me unwind

I love YOU from each heartbeat in me
I desire YOU with every breath to be
I want YOU in every sight that I see
Only YOUR face is what gives me glee

Embrace me now, don't make me wait
Engulf me now, in thyself so great
Make me YOURS, completely my Lord
Let me hear only YOUR melodious chord

Love you my Baba, my Guru, my life
With you along, I don't care for strife
I am YOUR child and want to merge in YOU
In YOUR mighty rose, like a drop of dew!

Sonal Trivedi

THE FUNDAMENTAL TEACHINGS OF SHIRDI SAI BABA

Rajiv Kaicker

Shirdi Sai Baba was an epitome of Unity of God, Divine Love and Brotherhood of Man. He was against all barriers of caste, creed and religion and against all persecution based on caste or religious orthodoxy. In His personal spiritual practice, Sai Baba observed both the Hindu and Muslim worship procedures that were most prevalent then. He advised his devotees and followers to keep performing their worldly duties, without being attached to them, and to keep being content, regardless of the life situation they had to face.

Sai Baba stressed upon his devotees to lead a life based on ethics and morality, help others and love everyone without discrimination. He also advocated Nishtha (perseverance), Shraddha (dedication) and Saburi (patience). He encouraged charity and placed great importance on the act of giving and sharing. It was his view that everyone should keep aside a sum for charity and give it away to the poor and the needy.

The main teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba were Shraddha and Saburi. While Shraddha implied faith with love and reverence, Saburi meant patience and forbearance. He always looked for these qualities in His devotees. According to Him, steadfast faith and love for God was the gateway to eternity. Saburi was an inherent quality of a seeker to be steady in his pursuit of realising the ultimate goal of life and face all situations with equanimity.

A test may come in the form of frustration, distress, agony, illness, mishaps, prolonged wait or a loss. In such moments, we should seek support from the Master and hold on to him. If patience means anything it should last until the end, and faith will ferry us through every turmoil of life.

Inner purity was of prime importance to Sai Baba. According to Him, impurities in the heart and mind created a barrier to progress on the path of spirituality. He maintained that there should be harmony of thought, word and deed. Baba never preached in this regard, but He radiated such influence that absorbed the impure tendencies and prepared the aspirant to keep himself chaste, pure, simple and upright, to be fit to receive His Grace.



Compassion was inherent in Sai Baba. His emphasis was to show compassion to anyone who came to your door, be it a human being or an animal since the same divinity is the indweller of all beings. He demonstrated through several instances that the same consciousness is present in all creatures of the universe.

Shirdi Sai Baba used Udi (sacred ash) for the physical and spiritual wellbeing of His devotees. However, the profound teaching through the medium of Udi was the transient aspect of the phenomenal world. In other words, Vivek provided the insight to discriminate between the real and the unreal.

Similarly, through the medium of Dakshina, He highlighted the sense of non-attachment to the objects of the mundane world. Therefore, Dakshina personified Vairagya.

Sai Baba was the living example of Service to the Guru through Complete Surrender of the body, mind and soul. He made the 'Guru' (the Master), a profound base of the path of devotion.

He used the analogy of mother tortoise to illustrate this point. The mother - tortoise may be on the other side of the river, whereas her children are on the far side. Yet, her loving looks are enough to protect the children.

The significant feature stressed by Sai Baba in his own example and words is the great importance of developing this devotion to one's Guru. It is seeing God in the Guru.



This was a self-projected ideal of a 'Guru' that motivated innumerable seekers who came in contact with Sai Baba.

The advent of Sai Baba of Shirdi on the earth was to reiterate steadfast love for God to lead humankind to the realm of eternity.

As the divine mother, He gave his immense love and as the divine father, He gave direction to our search for truth.

His mission was to make people conscious of their divine nature. The people who follow His teachings and preaching are drenched with eternal bliss and are indeed blessed souls.

My Experiences with Sai

Lekhya



My mother introduced me to Baba when I was studying in grade six. I did not know much at that age, but I prayed to Him to help me win a prize in an essay writing competition. He gave me the prize.

After long time He again dragged me towards him. In the year 2010, we went to Shirdi. My visit to Shirdi was also a miracle. My father who never took us to any tour got a dream of Baba calling him to Shirdi. The arrangements to travel happened in a short time and we visited Sai Baba on 21st December. The return ticket that we booked was on hold as the train seats were full. Again, it was Baba's miracle that they added an additional compartment and our seats got confirmed. The day I went to Shirdi, I started believing in Baba from the core of my heart.

I also performed Sai Nav Guruvar Vrat asking Baba for successful career for me and my husband. In fifth week of my Pooja, I got a new job with His blessings. However, the next week Thursday my husband lost job and I was very shattered. I asked Baba why you did this and cried a lot. In one month, he was placed in a good company nearby. It is all with Sai's grace and blessings where I stand right now in my life.

I request all to pray Sai and perform Sai Guruvar puja and always meditate on him with pure heart and Souls. He will surely help us to cross even seven seas. Think He who sacrificed his life for a devotee cannot fulfill our wishes? Surely, He will. All we need is Shraddha and Saburi. Love you Sai deva Saieswara Sarveswara.

Best Birthday Gift

Keerthana Ram



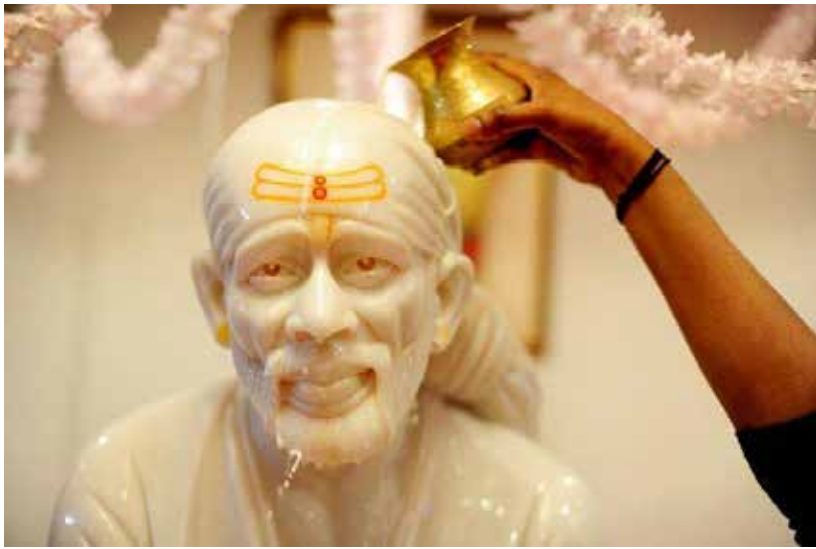
Baba is always with me. Whenever I ask for anything, he will surely respond me in any other forms. I am a devotee of baba for a year. I came to know about Sai Baba through my sister. She used to keep vrat for her marriage.

At that time, she got engaged and the marriage is about to happen in two months. But we had found out that the guy whom she got engaged was not a very suitable match for her. We stopped the marriage. Luckily, we were saved from the miseries of future. This is all by baba's grace.

Another experience is about my sister who got a government job by making it successfully through written tests. After about two years, a match proposal came from a nice family. We were very happy. And in due time she got happily married and by the grace of Baba, she is expecting a child now. Baba has always ensured that she has received a happy and peaceful life.

I asked baba to give me his blessings on my birthday. On morning, I went to Sai Baba temple and was expecting that Baba would bless me with some event or experience during the day. I kept waiting throughout the day, however, nothing really happened. I went outing and returned to my hostel in evening. My warden called me, and she came to know that it was my birthday. She kept her hand on my head and blessed me and gave me Sai Baba idol. I was awestruck. I had no words to explain that moment. I didn't expect such a gift for my birthday. That was the best gift ever.

I am a final year student now. Tomorrow is my result baba. Please help me get good score. I believe in you Baba. And also help me get a suitable placement in a good company. You also know another wish of mine and I have full faith that you will fulfill it at appropriate time. Dear devotees keep faith in baba. He will surely help you.



This was a way back in March 1995 when I sent my family to Hyderabad from Mumbai and I was staying alone in Mumbai. While I was with family in Mumbai for about four years, we could never go to Shirdi for some reason or other including demanding professional commitment. My wife is an ardent devotee of Sri Sai Baba. At the time of leaving Mumbai she felt sad that in spite of living in Mumbai for so many years from where Shirdi is not too far away, we could never have Darshan of Sri Sai Baba in Shirdi.

About a month later, my colleague Mr. Parthasarathi asked me whether I could accompany him for Shirdi Visit. Immediately I said yes, and we started planning for the journey. Eventually, we went and had a wonderful darshan of Sri Sai Baba and we were fortunate to have witnessed Kaakad Aarti too. With lots of happiness and peace in mind, we set upon our return journey. Before returning from Shirdi, we proceeded to Prasad Counter at 10.30 AM. At the time of buying Prasad, I felt sad to have not brought my family when they were in Mumbai.

I thought of buying Prasad for them and send by post and bought some packets of Prasad. After reaching Mumbai I was feeling bad about having Prasad myself instead of sharing with family.

After settling at home, while recollecting the journey and Darshan of Sri Sai Baba my wife Veena Sravanthi called over phone from Hyderabad and said, "While you went to Shirdi to have darshan of Baba, I also got Shirdi Prasad today at Hyderabad. Around 10.30 AM in morning an old man came and knocked the door.

He handed over one packet of Shirdi Prasad and blessed our family." I was shocked and amazed. It was exactly the same time when I was in Shirdi Prasad counter & was thinking about my family. It is nothing but divine grace of Baba that he made sure my family had the prasad in spite of being thousands of miles away from Shirdi. Inscrutable are his ways, immense is his power & limitless are his blessings to all devotees. Thank you, Baba, for your continued blessings on our family.

Baba Delivers Prasad in Hyderabad

Jagannath Nanduri



YOU ARE ALWAYS UNDER MY WATCHFUL EYES

Mrs. Janakee Subramanian

I am a staunch devotee of Sai Baba. Recently I read Sai Satcharitra for seven weeks. When I finished the reading on the forty ninth day which fell on 29th November 2018; in my heart I was praying that Sai Baba should visit my house and bless my family and myself.

Believe it or not, the next day one of my neighbors came home with Udi, Prasad and 2019 calendar of Baba and handed them to me. This clearly shows that he is watching us, and he came all the way and blessed my family.

I became so emotional and thanked Baba for always blessing me and helping me to sail through safely and successfully. Faith and Trust should be there to achieve anything in life and this is taught to us by our beloved Sai Baba.

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