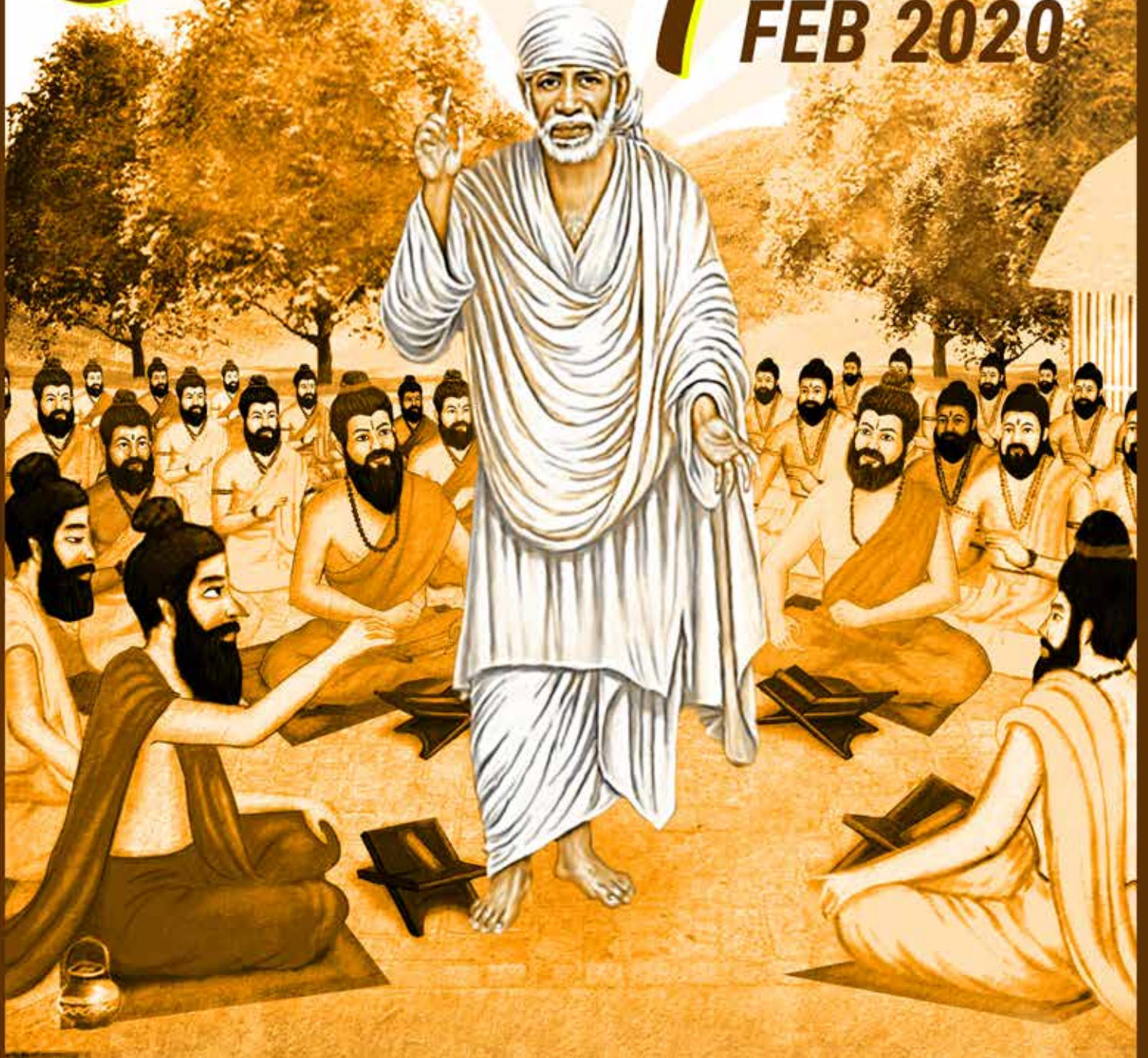


Samarpan

12th Edition

FEB 2020





TEAM SAMARPAN

Under Baba's blessing and guidance

Dr. Neeta Pradhan Das Purnima Dheeraj Guliani Neha Vashi
Subhapradha S Dr. Shyam Sundar Srivathsan P Ravi Verma

EDITORIAL

Dear Sai Devotee,

With Baba's divine grace we bring you another edition of Sai Samarpan. Months of planning and discussions across continents on the most appropriate themes and designs has brought us this labour of love. In spite of the team being spread in different corners of the globe, the planning has been seamless and as easy as a good wish come true. Devotees from far and near have contributed and shared their sincere experiences. All this could not have been possible without Sai's blessings. Baba has yet again showered his blessings on all of us and ensured we remain united in Sai Bhakti through Sai Samarpan. The team would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one profusely for their unstinting support and constant encouragement. The persons who suffering from chikungunya will not able to walk or sit, but my fever gone within 2 days by the grace of Saibaba, and I will always be thankful to Baba, without his blessings I am nothing. Thank you Sai Baba whatever I am it is only with your blessings.

Sai lives in all of us in his own chosen and special way. Whichever stage of our lives, we are in, He is the anchor and guide without whom our life's rudder is directionless. He is the Guru we have yearned for,

EDITORIAL

who steers us towards our life's purpose. He ensures we live up to his teachings by allowing us to have some of the most fulfilling experiences, which, are no short of miracles and even a non-believer would listen or imbibe in rapt attention.

I am overwhelmed and humbled that Baba has permitted me to share some of the most cherished moments of my life - my experience with Baba, with his devotees. Our experiences with Baba are personal and priceless and the Sai family we have brought together will subscribe to the fact that sharing the experiences of our Sadguru makes us richer and gives the faith and patience to lead our lives as per Baba's teachings.

This edition of your Sai Samarpan enlightens each devotee about the many Gurus who have walked on earth and most of our experiences along with mine speak about the significance of our Sadguru Sai.

We hope you will enjoy this edition and soak yourselves in our Sai's kind grace. Please feel free to share your experiences and feedback at mag@spiritualindia.org

Dr Neeta Pradhan Das on behalf of the entire team at Samarpan



Sai Baba of Shirdi

Sai Baba of Shirdi holds a unique place in the rich tradition of saints in India. Much is unknown about his origins and life, but he is revered by all religion devotees as an embodiment of self-realization and perfection.

The early life of Sai Baba is still cloaked in mystery as there isn't any reliable record of Baba's birth and parentage. Most definitive information about Shirdi Sai Baba tends to be derived from a book called *Shri Sai Satcharitra* written by a disciple called Hemadpant in 1922 in Marathi. The book itself is a compilation based on accounts by his various disciples and Hemadpant's personal observations observing Sai Baba from 1910 onwards.

When he was about 16 years of age, Sai Baba arrived at Shirdi, where he practiced a lifestyle noted by discipline, penance, and austerity. At Shirdi, Baba stayed on the outskirts in Babul forest and used to meditate under a neem tree for long hours. Some villagers considered him mad, but others revered the saintly figure and gave him food for sustenance.

After some time he left the village and it is unknown where he stayed at that time or what happened to him. Sai Baba returned to Shirdi in 1858. He appeared at the Khandoba Mandir in Shirdi. The temple priest, Mahalsapati, upon seeing him for the very first time, welcomed him by saying 'Aao, Sai!' ('Come Sai'). From then on, He was known by the name (Sai Baba). Around this time he adopted his famous style of dressing, consisting of a knee-length one-piece Kafni robe and a cloth cap.



Sai Baba of Shirdi

Baba lived under a neem tree and often wandered for long periods in the jungle around Shirdi. He was eventually persuaded to take up residence in an old and dilapidated mosque and lived a solitary life there.

In the mosque, he maintained a sacred fire which is referred to as a dhuni, from which he gave sacred ash ('Udi') to his guests before they left. Dhuni still exist and believed to have healing and apotropaic powers. He performed the function of a local hakim and treated the sick by application of ashes.

In August 1918, Shirdi Sai Baba told some of his devotees that he would soon be "leaving his mortal body". On 15 October 1918, he breathed his last. The day coincided with Vijayadashami. His remains were interred at "Buti Wada" in Shirdi, after which it became a place of worship known today as Shree Samadhi Mandir or Shirdi Sai Baba Temple.

Sai Baba encouraged his devotees to pray, chant God's name, and read holy scriptures. He advised his devotees and followers to lead a moral life, help others, love every living being without any discrimination, and develop two important features of character: faith (Shraddha) and patience (Saburi).

*"I have pulled you here,
I have not pulled you here to return,
I pull only those who are mine."*



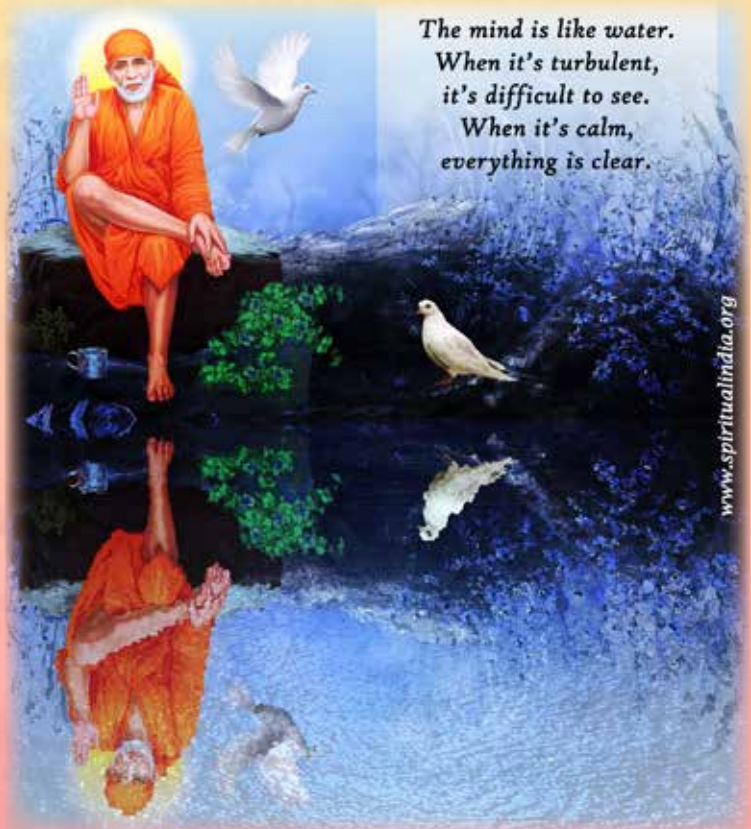
Sai Baba of Shirdi

Furthermore, his eleven promises stated below are considered as golden words by his devotees.

1. Whosoever puts their feet on Shirdi soil, their sufferings will come to an end.
2. The wretched and miserable will rise to joy and happiness as soon as they climb the steps of the mosque.
3. I shall be ever active and vigorous even after leaving this earthly body.
4. My tomb shall bless and speak to the needs of my devotees.
5. I shall be active and vigorous even from my tomb.
6. My mortal remains will speak from my tomb.
7. I am ever living to help and guide all who come to me, who surrender to me and who seek refuge in me.
8. If you look to me, I look to you.
9. If you cast your burden on me, I shall surely bear it.
10. If you seek my advice and help, it shall be given to you at once.
11. There shall be no want in the house of my devotee.

Jai Sairam,

I wanted to share another experience of my Guru Saibaba. I was always very good in my studies from childhood. I used to get first grade in all my classes till 12th Standard. But in engineering stream, scoring a pass mark was a great thing for me. I was so disappointed with the way my marks gradually decreased from semester to semester.



Once I strongly told to my Mother and Father, that I will discontinue my engineering studies, as I failed in few subjects and couldn't overcome that humiliation. This was because I never failed in any test or exam till then.

May be Baba wanted to let go my ego about my first grade marks and wanted me to experience the taste of failure as well.

Then my parents supported me so much and told me to try and try till I succeeded, but never give up in the middle because of one failure.

I then remembered the proverb saying, "Failure is the stepping stone for success".

My father who is an ardent devotee of Saibaba, and he visits Saibaba temple every Thursday. On one fine Thursday he asked a priest of the temple about my studies, where he got a reply that he should perform Nine Thursdays Vrat, and my father asked me to observe the fast and eat only one meal on all nine Thursday's as per priest instruction.

As per the instruction given, I obeyed it and I used to go to college observing fast on every Thursday and come back home by 8pm and then do Baba Puja, by offering a coconut and bananas, and have one meal Dinner. As my Vrat was going on, a miracle has happened after completion of 6th Thursday, I got my results declared and I have passed in FIRST Class and cleared all my arrears subjects in one go, As I did not have much knowledge on that subjects, but with faith, belief, Shradda and Saburi on Baba landed me in Success till date.

Even now I do not believe in my book knowledge or what am studying for my results. It's all I know is to have a believe in Baba and its my great strength behind everything guide on what to read and what to write and what I achieve.

Baba, please shower blessings and presence on me and all the other devotees who reads this miraculous experience.

Om Sai, Sri Sai, Jai Jai Sai.

~RAJALAKSHMI BOGGAVARAPU

Krupanandha Variyar Swami

Kirupanandha Variyar (1906 - 1993) was a Shaivite spiritual teacher from Tamilnadu. He was an ardent Murugan devotee who helped rebuild and complete the works on many of the temples across the state. He is well renowned for his discourses on various shaivite legends.

Coming into prominence at the time when atheist movement was running hot in the state of Tamil Nadu, he did great service to sustain and re-establish hinduism and theism in the state.



He has also scripted a movie, Siva Kavi. He used all possible mediums to spread Hinduism not restricting himself considering one as inferior and another as superior.

In his famous Detroit discourse on Muruga's kindness, he proposed that women's name should also be added as an initial to the child's name. He is considered the bullwark of Kaumara and synonymous with the worship of Lord Murugan.

He always insisted on discipline being as important to devotion saying one without the other would be fruitless. He is considered to be 64th nayanmar by the people of the state.



Shraddha SIGNIFICANCE OF CHANTING Saburi

Om Sai Ram,

SAI BABA has helped me many times. Whenever in confusion, fear or sad I only chant, OM SAI RAM and he makes his presence felt and clears all my difficulties. Once I was down with high fever (chikungunya), and I took all sort of medication but was not getting better. I then remembered my sister's words, that, whenever you are in difficulty or trouble just pray to Saibaba, He will come and help you. When I was running high temperature I cried "SAI BABA, please help me out because if I sleep, who will take care of my child of 6.5 year old and she is very attached to me ." Just then, to my surprise I saw a face near the fan which resembled Baba's face. Next day my body temperature was normal, and there was no fever at all. I was perfectly alright with some pain in the legs .

~GIRIJA SJ



Raghavendra Swamy

Raghavendra Swamy is a respected 16th century Hindu saint who advocated Madhivism (worship of Vishnu as the supreme God) and Sri Madhvacharya's Dvaita philosophy. He ascended Brindavana at Mantralayam in present day Andhra Pradesh in 1671.

Sri Raghavendra Swami was born as Sri Venkata Natha (Venkata at Bhuvanagiri, near present-day Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu). Sri Venkatanatha proved to be a very brilliant scholar and a proficient Veena player from young age.

After his father's demise, Venkatanatha was brought up by his brother in Madurai where he completed his studies. After his return from Madurai in 1614, Sri Venkatanatha married Smt. Saraswathi Bai in the same year and had a son Sri Lakshminarayanacharya. After his marriage, Sri Venkatanatha and his family went to Kumbakonam where he studied the Dwaita vedantha, grammar and literary works under his guru, Sri Sudheendra Theertha.



*“Poojyaya Ragavendraya
Sathya dharmathaya Cha*

*Bhajatham Kalpavrukshaya
Namatham Kamadhenuve”*

He never demanded any money for his services and endured a life of poverty along with his wife and son. But he was so devoted in his quest for a higher spiritual plane that these obstacles never deterred his faith in the Lord.

Raghavendra Swamy

Thus while his life was spent in the worship of God and service of humanity, his spiritual guru, Sri Sudheendra Theertharu, was looking for a successor to his math. He had a dream where the Lord indicated that Sri Venkatanatha would be the right person to succeed him as the pontiff.

Sri Venkatanatha initially refused due to his responsibility towards his young wife and son but was soon blessed by the Goddess of Learning, where she in a dream indicated that he was to seek salvation as a Sanyasi. Sri Venkatanatha treated this as an omen and changed his mind. The sanyasa ordination took place in 1621 on the Phalguni Sukla Dwitiya at Tanjore.



Sri Guru Raghavendra is considered by his devotees to be a reincarnation of Prahalada, the devotee who was saved by Vishnu in his Avatar as Narasimha and on Dwitiya Day of Sravana Krishna Paksha in 1671, Raghavendra Swami gave a soul-stirring speech to hundreds of devotees who had gathered to watch the event.

After this speech, Sri Raghavendra entered the Brindavana specially constructed for him with stone brought from Madavara village, near Manchale. He had advised his disciples to start arranging slabs around him once the japamala rolling by fingers in his hand become still.

Sri Raghavendra Swami attained Jeeva Samadhi on Dwitiya Day of Sravana Krishna Paksha in 1671.

This date is celebrated each year as Sri Raghavendra Swamy Aradhana at Brindavana all over the world.

Raghavendra Swamy



Some quotes from that speech are as follows -

"Without right living, right thinking will never come."

"Social work done for the good of worthy people should also be considered as the Lord's worship."

"Always keep away from people who merely perform miracles without following the shastras and yet call themselves God or guru"

"Right knowledge (jnana) is greater than any miracle."

"Have devotion to the Lord."

MY GURU, MY GUIDING LIGHT

Sai Baba came into my life in 2004, when I made my first visit to Shirdi. The visit to Shirdi and the readings of the Sai Satcharita gave me the guidance and inner strength whenever I needed it. He was the guiding light at times of adversity and helped me to carry across in most difficult times. Sometimes I was angry at Him when I had a huge loss but He pulled me back in again like a true Mother. He stands by me and answers all my prayers when they are most sincere. Without a guide like Baba, I would not survive the challenges that life throws at me. I sincerely pray and beg Sai to be a part of my life, every step of the way, as my Guru, Mother and Guide so that I can lead a righteous life.

Baba, I promised You that I will submit my article in Samarpan if my daughter get a job, with Your grace and blessings, she got a job now. Please bless her, to heal her, guide her and to do the right thing.

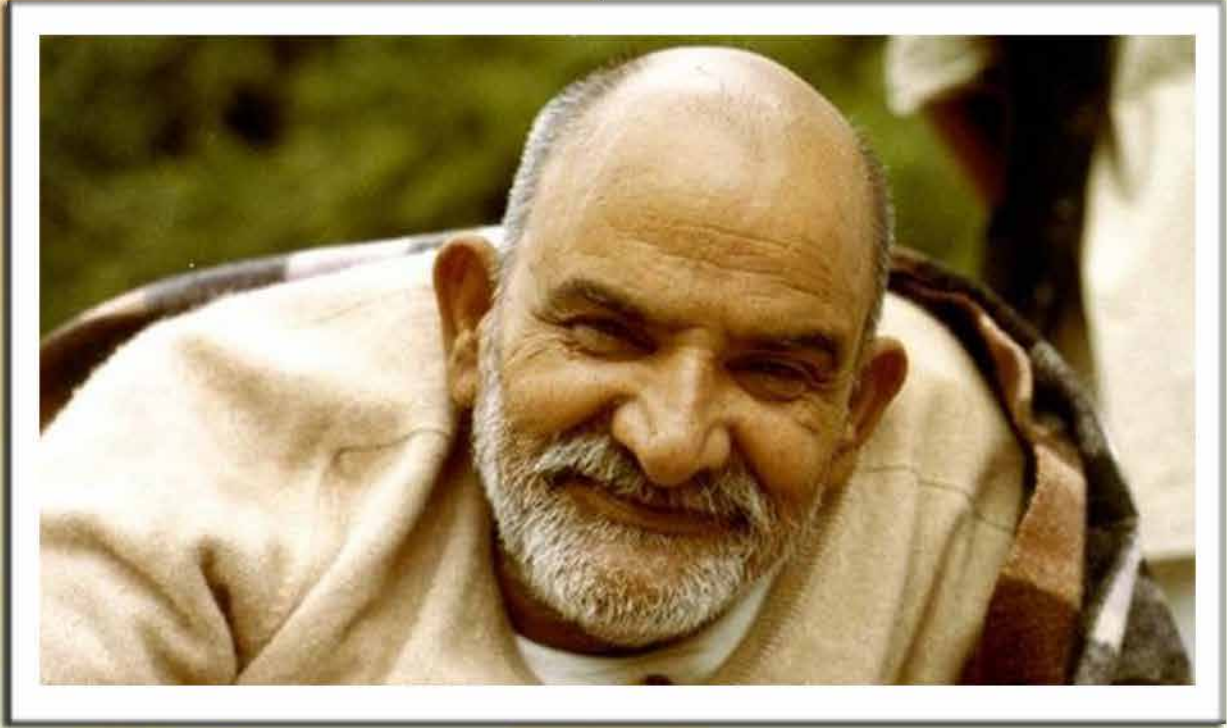


May Baba be the lighthouse and the beacon of guide and hope in each and everybody life. Baba, forgive our sins and bless us all. Koti pranams to you Sainatha!

Jai Sairam!

~GEETA

Neem Karoli Baba



Neem Karoli Baba (c. 1900 – 11 September 1973) - known to his followers as Maharaj-ji - was a Hindu guru, mystic and devotee of the lord Hanuman.

He was born around 1900, in village Akbarpur, Uttar Pradesh, India, in a Brahmin family of Durga Prasad Sharma. He was named Lakshman Das Sharma. Neem Karoli left his home in 1958 and he wandered extensively throughout Northern India. During this time he was known under many names including Lakshman Das, Handi Wallah Baba, and Tikonia Walla Baba. When he did tapasya and sadhana at Vavania Morbi in Gujarat, he was known as Tallaiya Baba. In Vrindavan, local inhabitants addressed him by the name of Chamatkari Baba ("miracle baba"). During his life two main ashrams were built, first at Vrindavan and later at Kainchi, where he spent the summer months. In time, over 100 temples were constructed in his name.

He was a lifelong adept of bhakti yoga, and encouraged service to others (seva) as the highest form of unconditional devotion to God.

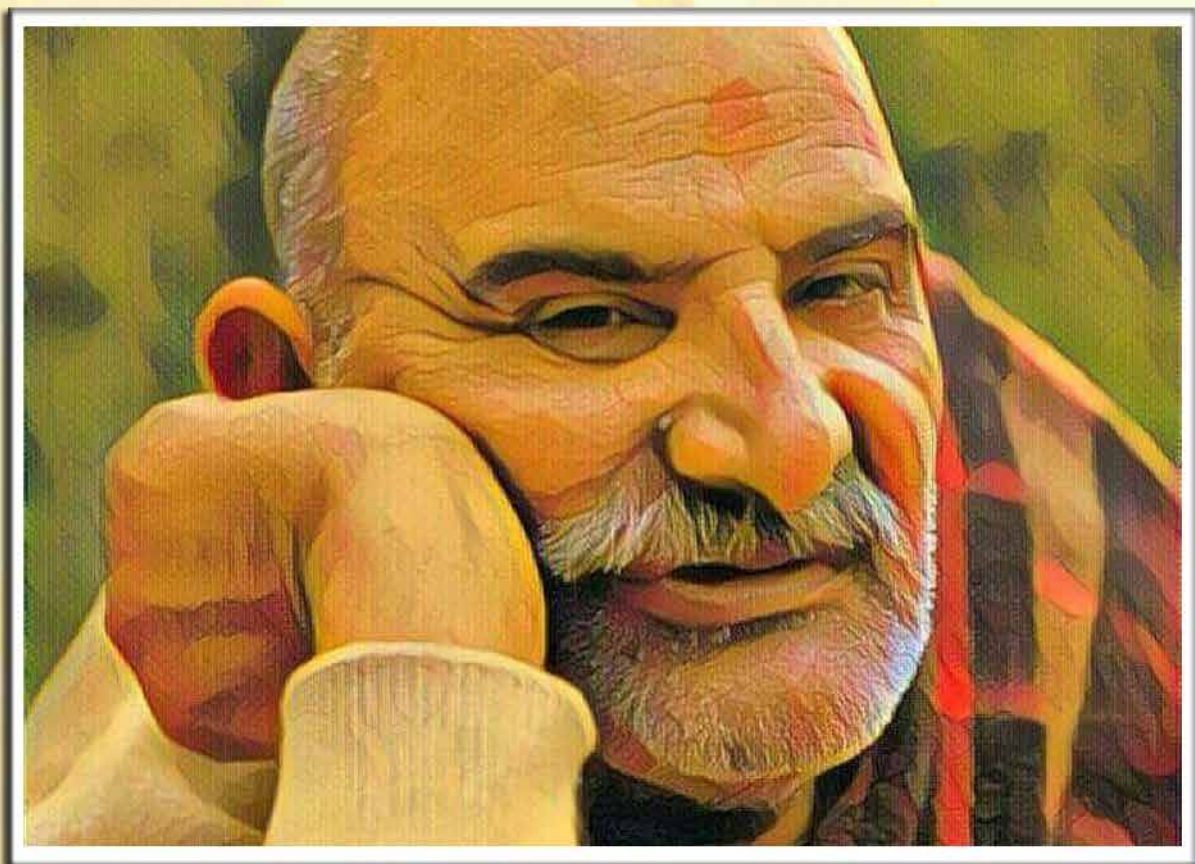
In the book *Miracle of Love*, compiled by Ram Dass, a devotee named Anjani shares the following account:

Neem Karoli Baba

There can be no biography of him. Facts are few, stories many. His non-Indian devotees of recent years knew him as Neem Karoli Baba, but mostly as “Maharajji” – a nickname so commonplace in India that one can often hear a tea vendor addressed thus. Just as he said, he was "nobody".

He gave no discourses; the briefest, simplest stories were his teachings. Usually he sat or lay on a wooden bench wrapped in a plaid blanket while a few devotees sat around him. Visitors came and went; they were given food, a few words, a nod, a pat on the head or back, and they were sent away. There was gossip and laughter for he loved to joke.

Orders for running the ashram were given, usually in a piercing yell across the compound. Sometimes he sat in silence, absorbed in another world to which we could not follow, but bliss and peace poured down on us. Who he was was no more than the experience of him, the nectar of his presence, the totality of his absence, enveloping us now like his plaid blanket.



“It’s better to see God in everything than to try to figure it out”

BABA'S OMNIPRESENCE

I have been passing tough time. My Father Shree Suresh Bharadwaj, who was a teacher without any extra income and who keep on donating almost all share of ancestral property of more than 4 hectare land diligently and silently to all needy relatives without any propaganda. He



will speak very less and strong believer of Sai baba. When time was passing on he had heart problem, when approached hospital doctors they use to

recommend testing procedures without knowing it, that monetary we are nil. And even the daily routine procedures making us rough patch.

He use to go silently to clean the temple area of Sai baba statue located at back area of Shani temple although he was ill and our monetary conditions are worst, I was just passing the pain that if something happened at this stage we won't be able to perform and pass this phase easily. One evening when he had severe pain, I along with my brother Sameer took father to RML hospital. We made him sit along with tree available in front of emergency gate of the hospital as all the beds were full and Doctors are not bothering to attend the patient.

My father fainted due to heart attack, when he was sitting by the gate, we did not get even stretcher. I was almost shouting for help when two students came and told me to lift father body both of them by holding

his hand separately, I hold legs and we took father into Hospital. When Doctor saw him they immediately arranged for intensive care, and he was admitted in the hospital, that night. I was thinking how baba helped and saved his life on that phase, I thought that was because of Baba, and muttering if he exist he will be present. Within few seconds some lady came she was attending her patient with plastic bags carrying food stuff and I was looking at polythene bags having print of Shree SAI Baba picture.

I almost cried and we passed through the phase of my father. He lived for few years and their after, when he expired. We were having relatively comfort zone and baba took him when he was looking Baba picture made in ceramic tiles in his room easily. Baba really present when we was needed, SAI is really concern of even small devotee like us and I pray to baba to give us more devotion towards him.

~SHALABH BHARADWAJ

Paramahansa Yogananda



Paramahansa Yogananda (January 5, 1893 – March 7, 1952) was an Indian monk, yogi and guru who lived his last 32 years in America. He introduced millions to the teachings of meditation and Kriya Yoga through his organization Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF) / Yogoda Satsanga Society (YSS) of India.

A chief disciple of the Bengali yoga guru Swami Sri Yukteswar Giri, he was sent by his lineage to spread the teachings of yoga to the West, to prove the unity between Eastern

and Western religions and to preach a balance between Western material growth and Indian spirituality. His long-standing influence in the American yoga movement, and especially the yoga culture of Los Angeles, led him to be considered by yoga experts as the "Father of Yoga in the West".

He taught Kriya Yoga and other meditation practices to help people achieve that understanding, which he called Self-realization. Self-realization is the knowing – in body, mind, and soul – that we are one with the omnipresence of God; that we do not have to pray that it come to us, that we are not merely near it at all times, but that God's omnipresence is our omnipresence; and that we are just as much a part of Him now as we ever will be. All we have to do is improve our knowing.

Paramahansa's Aims and Ideals for Self-Realization are

- To disseminate among the nations a knowledge of definite scientific techniques for attaining direct personal experience of God.

Paramahansa Yogananda

- To reveal the complete harmony and basic oneness of original Christianity as taught by Jesus Christ and original Yoga as taught by Bhagavan Krishna; and to show that these principles of truth are the common scientific foundation of all true religions.
- To point out the one divine highway to which all paths of true religious beliefs eventually lead: the highway of daily, scientific, devotional meditation on God.
- To liberate man from his threefold suffering: physical disease, mental inharmonies, and spiritual ignorance.
- To encourage “plain living and high thinking”; and to spread a spirit of brotherhood among all peoples by teaching the eternal basis of their unity: kinship with God.
- To demonstrate the superiority of mind over body, of soul over mind.
- To overcome evil by good, sorrow by joy, cruelty by kindness, ignorance by wisdom.
- To unite science and religion through realisation of the unity of their underlying principles.
- To advocate cultural and spiritual understanding between East and West, and the exchange of their finest distinctive features.
- To serve mankind as one’s larger Self.



Swami with his guru Sri Yuktheswar

“The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of Success”

FAITH IN SAI BABA

Sairam,

Namaskarams! I am Mrs.G Virucha from Srirangam, Trichy. All our family members are very tightly holding the lotus feet of Baba and are doing our karmas with prayers. I already shared how Baba blessed twin kids - Sai Rishwanth and Sai Kirish to my daughter. Among too many experiences, I wish to share one here. My younger daughter, M A Rakcha completed her school studies and for college studies, she got admission in some three colleges under the sports quota. She wished to go

along with her other friends to the college in Madurai. However, as usual we wanted to follow the choice of Baba only. So, we put three chits mentioning the names of three college Baba idol in our Rakcha to pick Baba's choice



put in front of pooja and asked one to follow. was Chennai

College, and my daughter was bit hesititant and said that she wanted to check Baba's decision at the SAIBABA Temple (where, we used to go for worship in that temple every Thursday and if we miss on Thursday we will go on Sunday). One Thursday we went to the Baba's temple and my daughter gave the chits to the Poojari and asked him to put it on the feet of Baba and gave one to her. Baba's decision never changed and she

joined in that Chennai College.

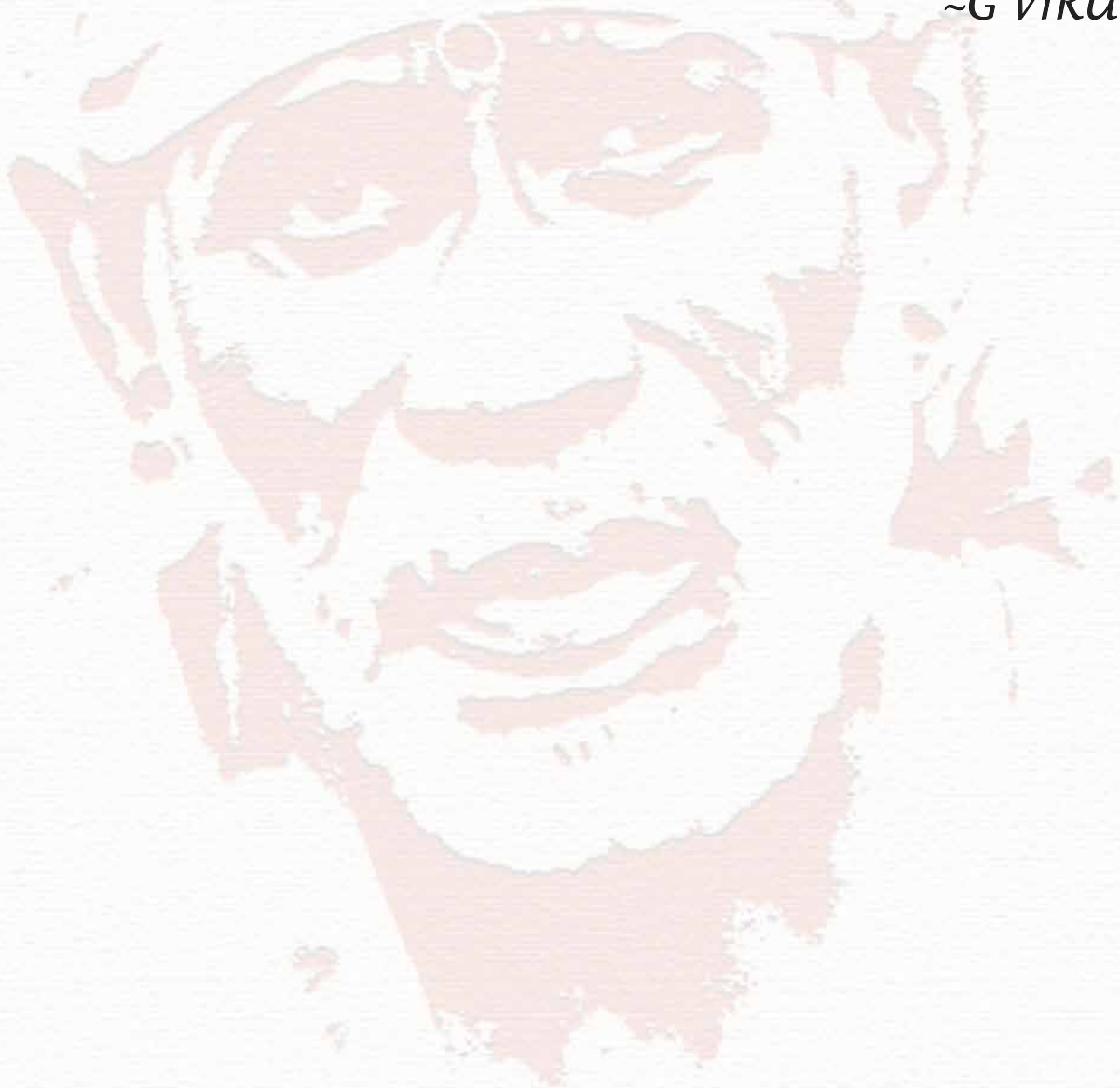
From the beginning itself she didn't get free time and the pressure on her from seniors was tremendous. Not being able to handle the pressure she called one day at midnight and requested me to call her home. I and my mother rushed to the college and met the Physical Director to organize for the TC. But the PD consoled her and told us he would take care and provide new room to stay with new students and also warned those who troubled her a lot. In between that time I spoke to my other friend who too was a Sai devotee and asked for his advice on the issue. He said all were her karma and she had to go through it and left everything to Baba. But one thing I had to tell, from the beginning of her joining till that issue whenever (ALMOST 6-7 TIMES) she wanted to come back, we used to put two chits mentioning - to continue the college and to come out, Baba kept to his very first word, to continue. Finally she wanted to quit games and focus on studies but as she was admitted under sports quota, she could not do that. So we wanted to take her from quota and put in regular but the fees was lakh plus which I could not afford and we were in great confusion.

While playing she had an injury on her knee and doctor advised for rest from sports, however she continued her education as she wished, as the injury was heavy and generally those who got ACL tear have to undergo reconstruction on the knee. When I took her back home I took her to Mylapore Baba Temple and prayed. The poojari who asked about the issue in the knee (she could not move on a regular walk while entering the queue) told NO WORRY, WITHOUT OPERATION IT WOULD BE RESOLVED....WE TRUST ITS PURELY SAI RAM'S WORDS ONLY....After

a few scans Doctor told that the injury was healing.

My daughter has successfully completed her graduation with First Class with Distinction. Now pursuing ACS...Thank you Sai Ram! OM SAI RAM....we are RICH WITH BABA'S BLESSINGS...HE IS PROVIDING GOOD FOOD, SHELTER, DRESS EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES....HE IS OUR AMMA, APPA AND GURU ...EVERYTHING...JAI SAI RAM!

~G VIRUCHA



Mere Sai

Anandamayi Ma



Anandamayi Ma

(30 April 1896 – 27 August 1982)

was an Indian Saint, described by Sivananda Saraswati (Divine Life Society) as the most perfect flower the Indian soil has produced.

This name was given to her by her devotees in the 1920s to describe her perpetual state of divine joy.

Anandamayi was born Nirmala Sundari Devi on 30 April 1896 to the orthodox Vaishnavite Brahmin couple in the village of Kheora, Tipperah District.

In 1908 at the age of twelve years, she was married to Ramani Mohan Chakrabarti of Bikrampur whom she later renamed Bholanath.

On the full moon night of August 1922, at midnight, twenty-six-year-old Nirmala enacted her own spiritual initiation. She explained that the ceremony and its rites were being revealed to her spontaneously as the master (guru) I revealed the mantra; as the disciple. I accepted it and to recite it."

In 1926, she reinstated a formerly abandoned ancient Kali temple in the Siddheshwari area. During the time in Shahbag, more and more people began to be drawn to what they saw to be a living embodiment of the divine. She was a contemporary of the well known Hindu saints like Udiya Baba, Sri Aurobindo, Ramana Maharshi, Swami Ramdas, and Paramahansa Yogananda.

She welcomed and conversed with devotees of different paths and religions from Shaivaite, Vaishnavite, Tantric, or from Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism. Everyone was welcome and she was equally at ease while giving guidance to all practitioners of different faiths. Even now, the Muslim population of Kheora still refer to her as "our own Ma".

"Acquire a firm will and an utmost patience"

Anandamayi Ma



Her style of teaching included jokes, songs and instructions on everyday life along with long discourses, silent meditation and recommended reading of scriptures.

Her main teachings and ideologies are quoted below:

- As you love your own body, so regard everyone as equal to your own body. When the Supreme Experience supervenes, everyone's service is revealed as one's own service. Call it a bird, an insect, an animal or a man, call it by any name you please, one serves one's own Self in every one of them.
- The supreme calling of every human being is to aspire to self realization. All other obligations are secondary" and "only actions that kindle man's divine nature are worthy of the name of actions".
- Everyone is right from his own standpoint.
- She did not advocate the same spiritual methods for all:
"How can one impose limitations on the infinite by declaring this is the only path—and, why should there be so many different religions and sects? Because through every one of them He gives Himself to Himself, so that each person may advance according to his inborn nature.

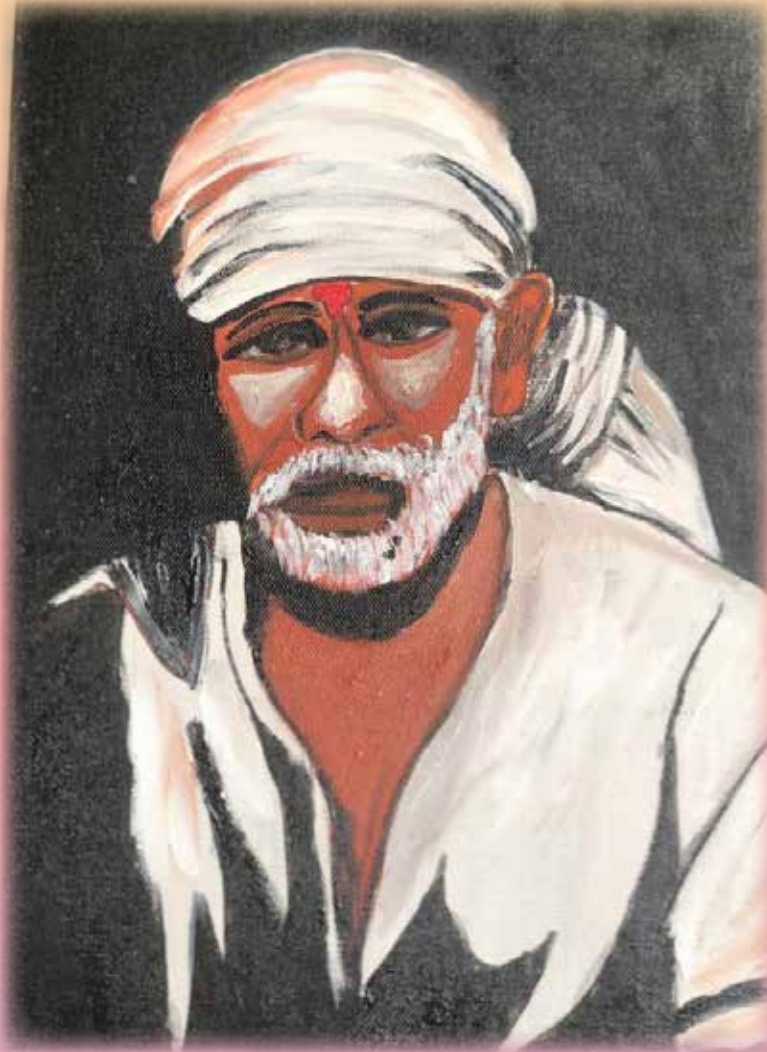
BABA'S MIRACLE



I am a retired CEO of a large company. In 1978, my father suddenly passed away in his sleep. My mother could not be near him as she was sleeping in a different room, and this affected her already frail body inflicted with Diabetes. Nearly after a month her sugar would not come under control. We admitted her in one of the best Diabetes hospitals and possibly the best Doctors in the Field were attending to her. But to their surprise she was reacting to the Insulin, and her sugar went up instead of coming down perplexing them and she went into a diabetic coma.

I was her last son and was feeling helpless. I did not know about Sai Baba at that time and was praying to all the Gods to save my mother. Suddenly I heard a Bhajan being sung next door. My elder brother and I went there to listen to the Bhajans being sung about Sai. I joined them and prayed to Save my mother as I had lost my Father also recently without knowing his gracious Powers.

As soon as we returned to the Hospital the Chief Doctor told us that they will try one more treatment which is normally not done. They will inject her with an enormous dose of Insulin to break the resistance, but this may also take her life and they wanted our acceptance. I felt a gentle voice telling me to go ahead as he will take care of everything. That was



Made By Akshara Patnaik

SAI whom I saw in the Bhajan next door. We said yes and they injected her with a large dose of insulin and she came out of Coma and she was saved by Sai.

I never forget the soft voice who asked me to go ahead. From that day onwards my Brother and me have become Devotees of Sai and have visited Shirdi many times, and every time a miracle happens which shapes our destiny....OM SAI RAM

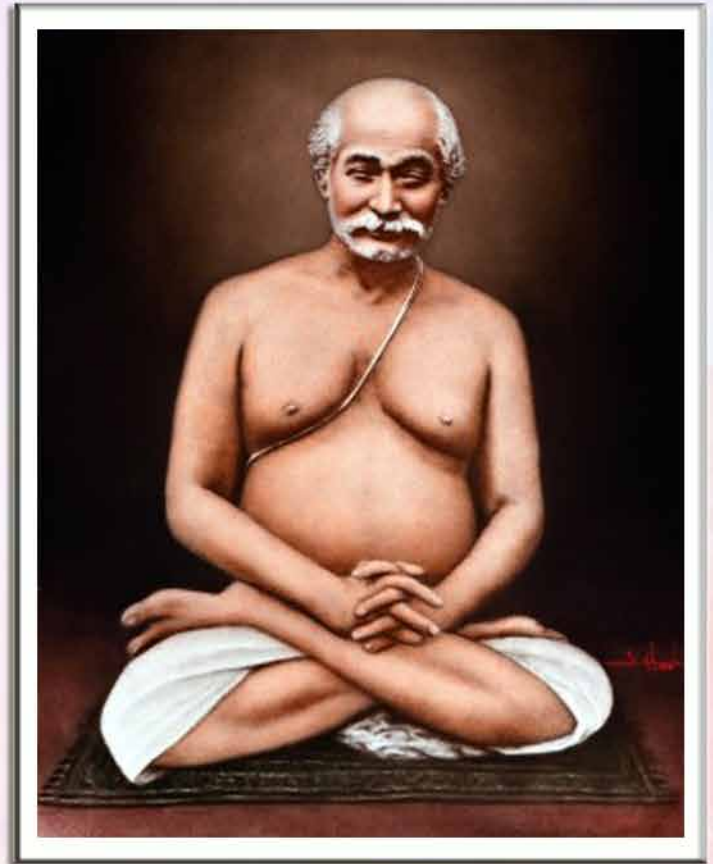
~RAMESH KUMAR

Lahiri Mahasaya

"All time is wasted that is not spent in seeking God"

Shyama Charan Lahiri (1828 –1895), best known as Lahiri Mahasaya, was an Indian yogi, guru and a disciple of Mahavatar Babaji. He was also popularly known as Yogiraj and Kashi Baba. He revived the yogic science of Kriya Yoga when he learned it from Mahavatar Babaji in 1861.

Lahiri Mahasaya was also the guru of Swami Sri Yukteswar Giri. Mahasaya is a Sanskrit, spiritual title translated as 'large-minded'.



He was unusual among Indian holy people in that he was a householder — marrying, raising a family, and working as an accountant for the Military Engineering Department of the British Indian government. Lahiri lived with his family in Varanasi rather than in a temple or monastery. He achieved a substantial reputation among 19th century Hindu religionists.

He became known in the West through Paramahansa Yogananda, a disciple of Sri Yukteswar Giri, and through Yogananda's 1946 book *Autobiography of a Yogi*. Yogananda wrote that Lahiri was chosen by Mahavatar Babaji to reintroduce the lost practice of Kriya Yoga to the world; as such, Yogananda considered him a Yogavatar, or "Incarnation of Yoga."

Trailanga Swami, the famous saint of Varanasi, had praised Lahiri Mahasaya in the following words, "Lahiri Mahasaya is like a divine kitten, remaining wherever the Cosmic Mother has placed him. While dutifully playing the part of a worldly man, he has received that perfect Self-realization which I have sought by renouncing everything – even my loincloth!"



POWER OF SADGURU SAI BABA

By mid-2015, my sufferings had already gone so bad that I had begun thinking about ending my life. I never thought I could ever come out of the mess I had created out of my life. One fine day I said “Ok that’s it, I have enough in this life. If I need to be punished further, let it happen in the next one so I made my plans and decided to wait for the night to fall. I had just visited Shirdi a few months back and had bought a copy of Shree Sai Satcharitra. But with all these miseries and pains surrounding me I had hardly managed to find any time or interest to read. I had read a few pages here and there but never with enough attention. But the kindness of Sadguru is such that despite of all our stupid ignorance he still blesses us and shows way.

That evening I can’t remember why but I thought of reading Shree Sai Satcharitra and randomly opened a chapter and started reading it. It turned out to be chapter no. 26, It was a story of a Sai devotee named Mr. Ambedkar from Pune or was it really? No. What I was reading was my own story. The story was about how Mr. Ambedkar decides to commit suicide to end his sufferings and how he is being lead to a book of Shree Akkalkot Swami Maharaj and how he casually opens a chapter and

reads a story about a devotee of Shree Akkalkot Swami Maharaj who tries to commit suicide and is saved by Shree Swami. The story ended with the preachings, “You must enjoy the fruit - good or bad - of your past actions; if the enjoyment to be incomplete, suicide won’t help you. You have to take another birth and suffer again; so instead of killing yourself, why not suffer for some time and finish up your store of the fruit of your past deeds and be done with it once and for all?”, tears started rolling down my eyes, I couldn’t believe what had just happened. Suddenly all my sufferings didn’t matter anymore, All that mattered to me at that moment was that I had just discovered that, ‘he cared’, my Baba cared me so much, nobody like me. It can’t be explained in words how I felt at that moment.

The person who was supposed to be gone 4 years ago is still here writing this article. Have my sufferings ended? No, they haven’t. I am still suffering. Aren’t we all? But in my case I don’t care about it anymore, I face them boldly. Face all the cruelties of life and still manage to be a happy soul. I have learnt that this is the way of life. You have to accept as it comes, till it’s there and live it as gracefully as you can.

This is the power of Sadguru in life. ‘Is Guru essential in life?’ I would say there is no life without a Guru, unless you are blessed by a Guru, what you live is a sham not a life, this is all I have to say.

~SAI AKSHARA PATNAIK

Swami Muktananda

Muktananda (1908– 1982), born Krishna Rai, was the founder of Siddha Yoga. He was a disciple and the successor of Bhagavan Nityananda.

He wrote a number of books on the subjects of Kundalini Shakti, Vedanta, and Kashmir Shaivism, including a spiritual autobiography entitled *The Play of Consciousness*.

In honorific style, he is often referred to as Swami Muktananda. Muktananda was born in 1908 near Mangalore in Karnataka State, India, to a well-off family.



At age 15 he encountered Bhagavan Nityananda, a wandering avadhoot who profoundly changed his life. After this encounter, Krishna left home and began his search for the experience of God. He studied under Siddharudha Swami at Hubli, where he learned Sanskrit, Vedanta, all branches of yoga, and took the initiation of sannyasa in the Sarasvati order of the Dashanami Sampradaya, taking the name of Swami Muktananda. After Siddharudha's death, Muktananda then left to study with a disciple of Siddharudha called Muppinarya Swami at his Sri Airani Holematt in Ranebennur Haveri District after studying there Swami Muktananda began wandering India on foot, studying with many different saints and gurus.

Central to his teachings were to "See God in each other," and "Honor your Self. Worship your Self. Meditate on your Self. God dwells within you as you." Muktananda often gave a shorter version of this teaching: "God dwells within you as you."

"Of a religion does not teach love, respect and regard for others, then it cannot be the religion of humanity"

PARENTS AS GURU

Sai ram,

This is a very interesting topic. I feel most of us especially young people in mid 30's have this question in mind as to 'how to find a guru'? Or when will I find a guru.

I feel when in this dilemma, it's best to turn inward or look for none other than parents (father and mother) as they are the first and the best guru one can find.

If one is lucky enough and blessed spiritually eventually guru will enter one's life but till then considering parents as the guru is very beneficial and even endorsed by the divine.

Guru is one who shows light and eases the hardships which one is bound to suffer due to Karmas. This can be either by bhakti, jaap, mantra chanting etc.

Though this is a different thought of what you may be looking for, but I thought to share in my words.

Om Sai Ram!



~POOJA SHARMA

Shri Gajanan Maharaj



Gajanan Maharaj from Shegaon (Buldhana District), Maharashtra was an Indian guru of Dattatreya tradition (sampradaya). He is regarded as an incarnation of Lord Dattatreya and Lord Ganesha. It is unknown when he was born but his first known appearance in Shegaon, perhaps as a youngster in his 20s, dates to February 1878.

Many people believed that Shree Gajanan is none other than Shree Swami Samarth himself since both had many similarities in their body form and way of living. Irrespective of this fact being true or not, they both definitely lived a pure Paramatma life and are the true gift of the almighty.

Thousands of the devotees flock to Shegaon for his darshan and blessings. How he functions and transforms people from their vile, wicked ways into great devotees is really unknown. None in his earthly days ever saw him chanting any special mantra holding japamala etc.

In the 19th chapter of "Shri Gajanan Vijay", he has clearly expounded the details of three paths, Karma, Bhakti and Yoga to reach God and declared that he was following the path of Yoga.

He took Samadhi on 8 September 1910, and the date is marked as Samadhi-din by his disciples. The date of his first appearance is also marked as an auspicious day.

"Cultivate the attitude of Total Surrender. All your sins wither away"

माता-पिता हमारे पहले शिक्षक



माँ बच्चे को पहला जन्म देती है। हम माँ के माध्यम से दुनिया में आते हैं। लेकिन दूसरा जन्म गुरु के माध्यम से होता है। गुरु आपको ज्ञान और कौशल प्रदान करता है।

हम सभी शिक्षक, मार्गदर्शक, गुरुकी भूमिका निभाते हैं, लेकिन जब आध्यात्मिक ज्ञान इतना अधिक होता है, तो उसे सत्गुरु कहा जाता है। एक आचार्य (शिक्षक) ज्ञान देता है और

गुरु जागरूकता की ऊंचाई देता है और आपको जीवित बनाता है। आचार्य जानकारी देते हैं; गुरु बुद्धि देता है, एक जागृत बुद्धि। गुरु एकतत्त्व है - एकतत्त्व, एक गुण जो आपके अंदर है। यह एक शरीर या एक रूप तक सीमित नहीं है। आपके लिए गुरु बहुत बड़ा है। आपके इन कारया विद्रोह के बावजूद आपके जीवन में गुरु आता है। गुरु बनाने के लिए संघर्ष मत करो, आराम करो, जागो और देखो। आभारी महसूस करें। अपना सारा कचरा गुरु को दे दो और मुक्त हो जाओ। गुरु कचरे से सोना बनाता है। यह परिवर्तन करना आसान है क्योंकि हर कोई उस एक चीज से बना है।

माता-पिता हमारे जीवन में पहले शिक्षक है। वेह हमें सब कुछ प्रदान करते है और पृथ्वी पर दिखाई देनेवाले देवता और देवदूत है। वे हमें सिखाते हैं कि जीवन क्या है और हमारी समस्याओं को हल करने में हमारी मदद करते है।

वेह आमतौर पर अपने बच्चों के रूप में बिना शर्त सब कुछ के लिए साइन अप करते है। हम अपने माता-पिता से जीने के रूप में बहुत सारी समानताएं और विशेषताएं उठाते है। जब सिखाने की बात आती है, तो माता-पिता दोनों बहुत सी बातें सिखाते है। वे वेलोग है जिन्होंने हमें चलना सिखाया और हमे हर चीज सर्वश्रेष्ठ

देने का आश्वासन दिया। वे हमसे पूरे प्यार से प्यार करते हैं, और हम जोभी करते हैं, उस में हमारा साथ देते हैं। वे हमें हर काम में प्रोत्साहित करते हैं और हमें सिखाते हैं कि जीवन क्या है। ऐसे लोग हैं जो पूरी दुनिया के खिलाफ होने पर भी हमारे लिए खड़े रहे।

माता-पिता बहुत सी बातें सिखाते हैं और हमारे जीवन की पहली प्रेरणा हैं। आमतौर पर एक पहला नायक जो एक बच्चा जानता है कि उसका पिता है, क्योंकि बच्चा अपने पिता द्वारा संरक्षित है। माता-पिता हमारी देखभाल करते हुए रात की नींद हराम कर रहे हैं और यह हमें सिखाता है कि देखभाल क्या है? उन्होंने हमारी खुशी को उनसे परे रखा है और यह हमें सिखाता है कि सच्चा प्यार क्या है? हमारी खुशी के लिए वहाँ कई तरह के दागों से गुज़रना पड़ता है। वे कुछ भी करने के लिए तैयार होंगे और वह सब कुछ जो हमें खुश करेगा।

वे हमें मूल्य, नैतिकता सिखाते हैं और हमारे चारों ओर हर किसी को प्यार करते हैं। माता-पिता कड़ी मेहनत करते हुए हैं ताकि हमें सब कुछ अच्छा मिले। बदले में कुछ भी नहीं होने की उम्मीद करते हुए हमारी देखभाल करें; यह हमें उन लोगों के लिए खड़ा होना सिखाता है जो बदले में हम से कुछ नहीं कर सकते। वे कभी भी हमसे किसी प्रकार के आभार या धन्यवाद की उम्मीद नहीं करते हैं। वे, वे लोग हैं जो जीवन में हमारी सबसे बड़ी ताकत और कमजोरी जानते हैं। कोई नहीं जानता कि वास्तव में भगवान मौजूद हैं या नहीं? लेकिन पृथ्वी पर जीवित देवता और देवी हैं जिन्हें हम देख सकते हैं।

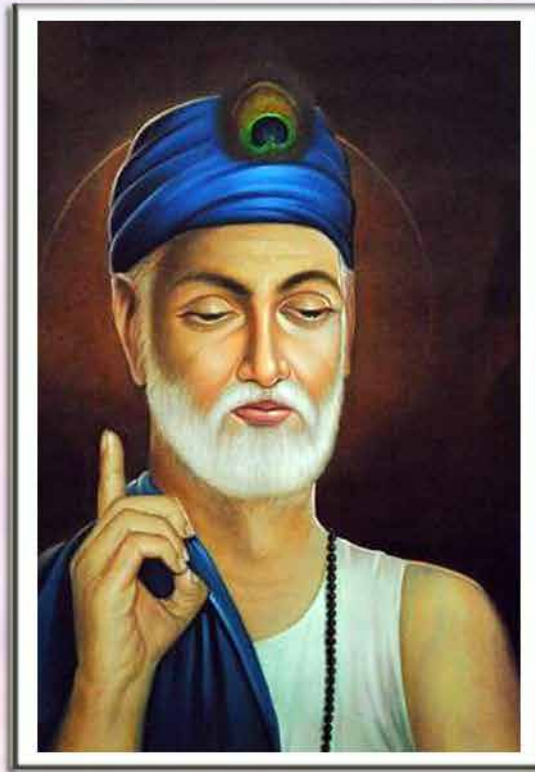
माता-पिता हमारे जीवन के पहले शिक्षक हैं और हम सभी उनसे बहुत सी चीजें सीखते हैं। वे बच्चों के पहले प्यार हैं और वे हमेशा सभी समस्याओं से सुरक्षित रखते हैं। हम सभी अपने माता-पिता से अलग-अलग चीजें सीखते हैं और हर किसी का सीखना दूसरों से अलग होता है। वे हमारे तरीके को स्वीकार करते हैं और हमारी खुशी के लिए सब कुछ करने को तैयार रहेंगे।

Sant Kabir Das

Kabir Das was a 15th-century Indian mystic poet and saint, whose writings influenced Hinduism's Bhakti movement and his verses are found in Sikhism's scripture Guru Granth Sahib.

His early life was in a Muslim family, but he was strongly influenced by his teacher, the Hindu bhakti leader Ramananda.

*"All know that
the drop merges
into the ocean,
but few know
that the ocean
merges into
the drop."*



*"The Lord is in me,
the Lord is in you,
as life is in every
seed, put false
pride away and
seek the Lord
within.."*

Kabir is known for being critical of both Hinduism and Islam questioning their meaningless rites of initiation and due to this he was threatened by both Hindus and Muslims for his views during his lifetime.

His writings include Bijak, Sakhi Granth, Kabir Granthawali and anurag Sagar. The hallmark of Kabir's work consists of his two line couplets, known as Kabir Ke Dohe.

Kabir suggested that True God is with the person who is on the path of righteousness, considering all creatures on earth as his own self, and who is passively detached from the affairs of the world. To know God, suggested Kabir, meditate with the mantra Rāma, Rāma.

Kabir's legacy survives and continues through the Kabir panth ("Path of Kabir"), a religious community that recognises him as its founder and is one of the Sant Mat sects. Its members are known as Kabir panthis.

SIGNIFICANCE OF GURU IN OUR LIFE – MEDICAL MIRACLE

OM SAI RAM

Namaste to all the Sai devotees. I am sharing my experience for the first time.

Sai baba always said “Trust the Guru and always follow the Guru’s teachings”.

This is the complete truth as I believe that Shirdi Sai Baba is the greatest Guru of my life. The life which I am living today is a blessing from Sai Maa.

Let me narrate my wonderful experience which I say is a medical miracle. In our Sacred Guru Satcharitra , Baba says that a mother can protect her baby inside her womb; after its birth till the rest of the life and is protected by the grace of Guru Sai baba. In my case Baba has done more than this during my pregnancy.

My pregnancy was fine till my 8th month when I realized that I was gaining weight but my child in the womb was not. My baby in the womb was only 2.5 kilos and was not gaining weight. Extremely

SIGNIFICANCE OF GURU IN OUR LIFE – MEDICAL MIRACLE

worried, I consulted my gynaecologist who advised me to get more ultrasounds done. However, everything seemed normal in the scans and according to them there was no apparent reason to get stressed.

In spite of all the assurances, somewhere deep inside I felt that something was not quite right. In my 8 ½ month I asked for an appointment with my doctor again. After examining, the doctor once again assured me that everything was fine and that I needed to wait for a few more days to get into labour. When my doctor was talking to me, I suddenly got a strong feeling which said a firm “NO”. I felt something or someone telling me not to wait any longer. Being a Sai bhakt I believed that this was Baba’s message.

My in-laws and my family members were ready to take me home and come back after a few days but my mind kept telling me to stay back in the hospital. I then went to the doctor again and requested her to perform a C-Section immediately. It was purely Sai’s grace that she agreed to perform the operation at the earliest.

She prepared me for the operation that day itself and when she started the operation, she discovered two (2) knots in the umbilical cord. Both the doctors were surprised that none of this could be seen in

SIGNIFICANCE OF GURU IN OUR LIFE – MEDICAL MIRACLE



in the scans. They said that if the operation had not been on that day it would have been difficult to save both the baby's and my life.

The doctors agreed that only God could have saved me from this life threatening situation. I was very sure in my mind and heart that it was “My BABA” who had taken care of both my baby and myself.

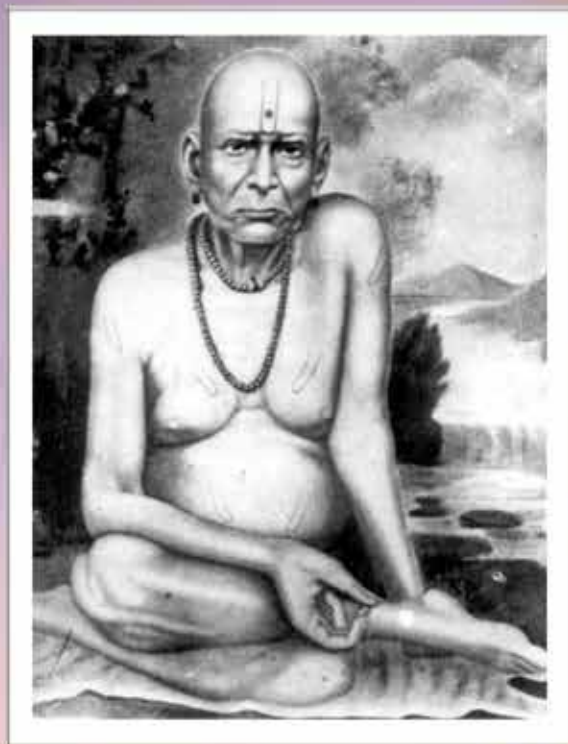
I wanted to share this experience as this is proof that a guru like Sai protects us from the womb to birth and thereafter. All we need is faith and patience in Him.

A special prayer to our dear Sai baba to be with us always.

Om Sai Shri Sai Jaya Jaya Sai.

- shruthikunal77

Sri Akkalkot Swami Samarth



Shri Swami Samarth (also called Sri Akkalkot Swami Samarth) is considered as extension of the Fifteenth century incarnation of Lord Dattatreya, namely Shrimad Narasimha Saraswati.

Shrimad Narasimha Saraswati performed rigorous tapasya (penance) on the Shree Shail mountain in the Kardali forests for nearly 150 years. After this he took an extensive pilgrimage, covering many places, now known as Jawa, Sumatra, Indonesia, China etc., relieved many people from their miseries, and guided them on the spiritual path.

Finally, he came to the ranges of Himalayas where he enlightened many devotees. Later he sat under a Deodar tree for another tapasya (penance). This Tapasya (penance) in the Himalayas lasted for nearly 250 years, but a woodcutter unknowingly axed the anthill enveloping the body of Shrimad Narasimha Saraswati. This awakened Shrimad Narasimha Saraswati from the prolonged samadhi. After emerging from samadhi Shrimad Narasimha Saraswati traveled all over the country. (The divine personality of Shrimad Narasimha Saraswati is now known as Shri Akkalkot Swami Samarth)

Sri Swami Samarth was an epitome of wisdom and knowledge and is considered an Avadhoot: Maha-Yogi possessing great spiritual powers. He was always muttering mystic 'Mantras' or words that very few could understand. He expressed oneness with all creations. The splendor of Shri Swami Samarth and his glorious mission became more fully manifest, after his arrival in town of Akkalkot in Maharashtra.

*"Go on doing action without expecting any rewards.
This will lead you to realization."*

Sri Akkalkot Swami Samarth



Sri Swami stayed in Akkalkot, for 22 years till his Mahasamadhi, showing the common man the path to the God. Swami Samarth is known to have performed several miracles for his devotees.

On April 30, 1878 after nearly 600 years of the incarnation, the great sage adopted Mahasamadhi (the last conscious communion with God) under his favorite Banyan tree.

His spiritual powers are experienced by devotees even now. Flow of pilgrims continues to Akkalkot every year. Those who go there for darshan of the samadhi, still feel the subtle powers of akkalkot swami samarth. They feel a definite response to their prayers. Some are healed of their sufferings and others find their desire fulfilled. Even though Shri Swami Samarth is no longer in his bodily manifestation, He continues to guide his devotees.

For the devotees of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba, it would be inspiring to learn about the life and deeds of 'Swami Samarth'. A comparative picturisation of the lives of these two great Saints, i.e. Swami Samarth and Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi would establish a surprising amount of commonness in their lives and deeds which includes their methods of teaching, the universality of their approach and the miracles they performed. Even a critical approach by a non-conformist would ultimately lead to the assertion that the over-all role of these two spiritual masters during the second half of the nineteenth century was similar, if not same. One, who is capable of making finer spiritual analysis, would be faced with a bewildering reality.

"I have not gone, I'm still present"

Shri Akkalkot Swami Samarth



The reality is that Swami Samarth and Shri Shirdi Sai Baba were the manifestations of the same Divine Spirit in two gross bodies. Many published writings on both these Saints by different writers authenticate about the interaction between these two Sadgurus both in the gross, and the subtle planes. Just before Mahasamadhi, Swami Samrath advised one of his disciples to worship Shri Sai at Shirdi saying that he (the Swami Samarth) would stay at Shirdi in future.

The early life of Swami Samarth like that of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba is shrouded with mystery. For that matter, even Shri Shirdi Sai Baba's advent and early life has not been established. Yet it does not really matter for those who have faith in Him and continue to experience his benevolence in different ways.

Shri Swami Samartha's messages to His disciples -

Do not even see the face of a lazy person. Sweat and toil to earn your livelihood.

Do not use drugs. They derail your thinking process.

The one who follows 'Dharma' (Path of righteousness) always triumphs.

Always overcome any differences and lead a good life.

Always think in all directions and good for others. Learn to forgive.

Everything is going to end. People should understand this and work relentlessly.

OM SAI RAM



SAI

A divine design,
Got enrolled in your fold,
Your earnest sign,
Faith and patience I hold.

A calm father,
Friend, philosopher and guide,
Baba you're a mother,
Nourishing us in life's ride.

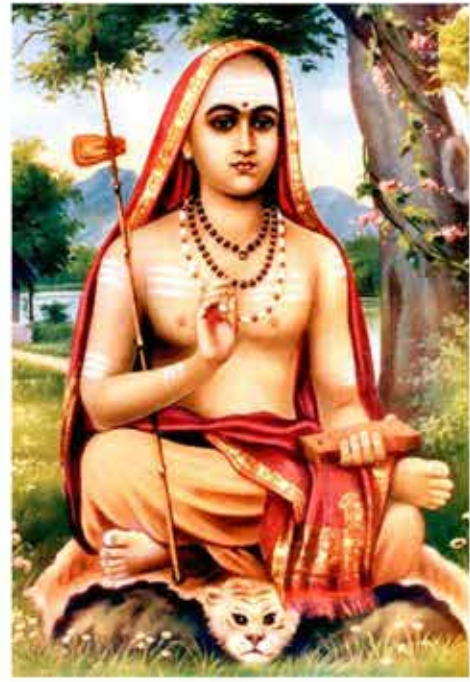
I cant imagine,
How will I fare?
Without your sign,
Talking in prayer.

Embrace me to end,
Give space in your feet,
Break but not bend.
Chant Sai Sai on repeat.

Grant me your neem leaf,
To live ignoring regret and grief

~SHOBHANA KUMAR
www.spiritualindia.org

Adi Shankarar



Adi Shankaracharya was an early 8th century Indian philosopher and theologian who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. He is credited with unifying and establishing the main currents of thought in Hinduism.

His works in Sanskrit discuss the unity of the Ātman and Nirguna Brahman "brahman without attributes". He wrote copious commentaries on the Vedic canon (Brahma Sutras, Principal Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita) in support of his thesis. His works elaborate on ideas found in the Upanishads. Shankara's publications criticised the ritually-oriented Mīmāṃsā school of Hinduism. He also explained the key difference between Hinduism and Buddhism, stating that Hinduism asserts "Ātman (Soul, Self) exists", while Buddhism asserts that there is "no Soul, no Self".

He is reputed to have founded four mathas ("monasteries"), which helped in the historical development, revival and spread of Advaita Vedanta of which he is known as the greatest revivalist.

Adi Shankara is believed to be the organiser of the Dashanami monastic order and unified the Shanmata tradition of worship.

"Do not look at anybody in terms of friend or foe, brother or cousin; do not fritter away your mental energies in thoughts of friendship or enmity. Seeking the Self everywhere, be amiable and equal minded towards all, treating all alike."

SAI – OUR TRUE SADGURU



Shraddha and Saburi are bijakshara¹ for salvation. Shraddha means truth in the heart and Saburi means patience. Truth and Patience are integral things in kaliyuga.

As per Sai Sat Charitra our first Guru is Mother and Father. Service to one's parents will lead to Guru (e.g., Lord Ganesha). Guru will teach us how to traverse the path and reach the truth through patience. But the foundation stone is service to parents.

By the blessings of one's parents, the pathway to reach Guru is established. Advaita, Vedanta, Brahman which has manifested in names and forms drives the universe. Vedanta also states that knowing or not knowing self will not lead to salvation. Moksha the ultimate goal of human evolution is also eternal.

In Sai Sat Charitra Sai baba gives detailed explanation on the need of GURU who dispels ignorance and shows us right path.

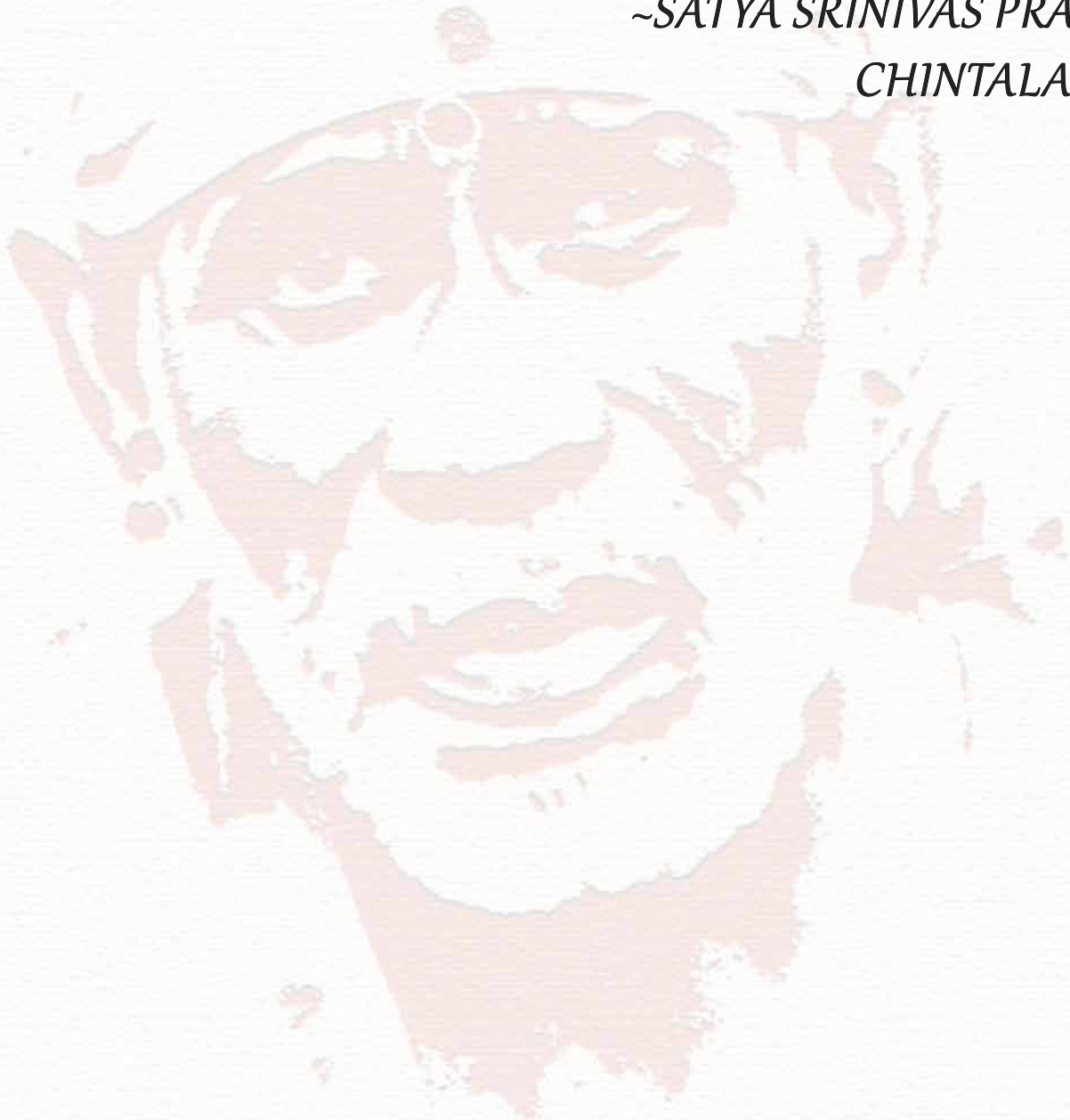
According to Aadi Guru Sankaracharya the basic tenants addressed in Prasnotara Malika is so easy to read but difficult to follow. According to Neem Karoli baba, Guru will reach out to sishya if he had done enough service to his parents and is pure in heart.

Brahman which is inner consciousness is SAI which drives every individual based on their karmas. Each person will get what they deserve.

Unless a man sheds his /her ego and his/her actions are merged with the almighty he cannot experience equanimity. Sai is the inner ruler for all beings, No person can reach the pinnacle of his spiritual growth and drive for the well-being of society.

1. *BIJAKSHARA – SEED ALPHABET -AUM*

*~SATYA SRINIVAS PRASAD
CHINTALAPATI*



Mere Sai



Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was a 15th century Vedic spiritual leader, who is considered an avatar of Lord Krishna by his followers.

Chaitanya founded Gaudiya Vaishnavism, which is a religious movement that promotes Vaishnavism or worship of Lord Vishnu as the Supreme Soul. Gaudiya Vaishnavism teaches the acceptance of Bhakti yoga as a method to realize the ultimate truth. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is credited with popularizing the 'Maha Mantra' or 'Hare Krishna Mantra.'

He is also known for composing in Sanskrit a prayer of eight verses, known as 'Siksastakam.' Said to have been born with features similar to that of Lord Krishna, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was a child prodigy, and became a scholar at a very young age. He even opened a school and had thousands of followers very early in his life. Though not much about his sudden and mysterious disappearance or demise is known, a few scholars and researchers believe that he might have died of epilepsy. However, this conclusion is still debatable as there are other accounts that suggest various other theories, including a theory of murder and magical disappearance.

His birthday is celebrated as Gaura-purnima. Chaitanya is sometimes referred to by the names Gauranga or Gaura due to his fair complexion, and Nimai due to his being born underneath a Neem tree.

"Lord Krishna is the only blessing to be received"

BABA SAVED MY LIFE WITH A MIRACLE

I would like to share a beautiful moment of my life which took place on 30 November 2019 . A wonderful moment how HIS HIGHNESS SAIBABA SAVED MY LIFE.

I stay on the first floor. Around 8 a.m. like everyday, I went down to fetch the milk sachets. By then the person who cleans the car everyday had done his job and left. He never clears the water after cleaning the vehicle and on that day, I slipped and fell down and hurt my forehead and my left knee. I immediately thought this was a small punishment for some mistake I would have committed and got up and moved on and thanked Baba as I could get back to my feet immediately.

Around 11.15 a.m. I went to meet one of my teachers who was bedridden. Miss Philomena, my 78 years old teacher had taught me in my 2nd standard. Her nephew (Mr. Robert) was to meet me and we were to discuss about moving her to a hospital for treatment. He could not come around that time. He sent me a message that he will be there around 1.30 p.m. So, I decided to have a cup of Horlicks and then again go over to her place.

I returned home at 12.30 p.m. I put a vessel on gas stove with water for boiling. In the mean time, I came to the outside room to get cold water from the dispenser. I drew a glass of water and was looking at a picture of Baba and talking to myself “Baba there is a purpose for which you have come to my place”, thank you, and I gulped the water. All of a sudden I heard a loud sound. I thought probably that it was the transformer that had blasted outside the house. I coolly moved to the kitchen. To my

horror, the blast was in my house. All the four burners were burning and the flames reached the ceiling. I was terrified for a moment but, I acted fast. I crawled into the kitchen and managed to switch off the burner. I then crawled back to the room outside. I got up, geared myself and again went inside the kitchen and put out the fire. To my horror, the tube connecting the gas stove and the burner had blasted. I moved it slowly. I then wanted to remove the burner from the cylinder, so I touched the end of the tube, it was hot and my fingers got burnt.

I thanked Baba for giving me the strength to act fast and it was HE who guided me. If I hadn't felt like having a glass of water, definitely I would have been burnt and the gas cylinder would have blasted immediately. But with Baba's grace I wasn't there.

I lodged a complaint and by the evening it was in working condition. The Gas Mechanic who saw the site was shocked and said that "if you would had not closed the burner immediately, the cylinder would have burst in the next few seconds." The Mechanic was spell bound as to how I acted so fast and saved myself. He appreciated me.

I kept looking at this 2007 calendar photo of Baba which had been given to me by an aunt of mine on 30th June, 2019, when I had gone to her house to invite her for my son's wedding. She had preserved it for 12 long years and given it to me saying, "You are a SAI DEVOTEE, please keep this in your house". Right from that day I have been saying that Baba has come to my place with a purpose and today I got the answer that he has come to my house to SAVE ME from calamities. (2007 Picture of Saibaba attached).

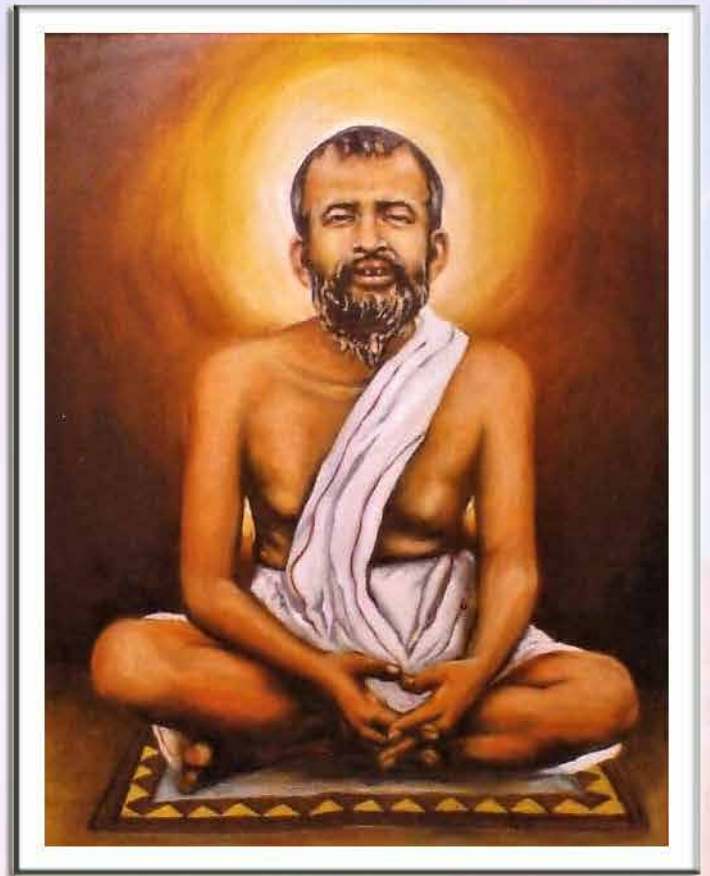


I once again Thank Baba for guiding me and showing me the right path.

~JANAKEE SUBRAMANIAN

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa

Sri Ramakrishna was born on 18 February 1836 in the village of Kamarpukur about sixty miles northwest of Kolkata. His parents were poor but very pious and virtuous. As a child, Ramakrishna (his childhood name was Gadadhar) was dearly loved by the villagers. From early days, he had strong disinclination towards formal education and worldly affairs.



He was oftentimes found to be absorbed in spiritual moods. At the age of six, he experienced the first ecstasy while watching a flight of white cranes moving against the background of black clouds. This tendency to enter into ecstasy intensified with age. His father's death when he was seven years old served only to deepen his introspection and increase his detachment from the world.

When Sri Ramakrishna was sixteen, his brother Ramkumar took him to Kolkata to assist him in his priestly profession. In 1855 the Kali Temple at Dakshineswar built by Rani Rasmani was consecrated and Ramkumar became the chief priest in that temple. When he died a few months later, Ramakrishna was appointed the priest. Ramakrishna developed intense devotion to Mother Kali and spent hours in loving adoration of her image, forgetting the rituals of priestly duties. His intense longing culminated into the vision of Mother Kali as boundless effulgence engulfing everything around him.

Sri Ramakrishna's God-intoxicated state alarmed his relatives and they got him married to Sarada, a girl from the neighbouring village of Jayrambati. Although they were married, they lived immaculately pure lives, and their marital relationship was purely spiritual.

"It is easy to talk on religion, but difficult to practice it."

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa

*"As you pray to
God for devotion,*



*so also pray that
you may not find
fault with
anyone."*

As bees swarm around a fully blossomed flower, devotees now started coming to Sri Ramakrishna. He divided them into two categories.

The first one consisted of householders. He taught them how to realize God while living in the world and discharging their family duties. The other more important category was a band of educated youths, mostly from the middle class families of Bengal, whom he trained to become monks and to be the torchbearers of his message to mankind. The foremost among them was Narendranath, who years later, as Swami Vivekananda, carried the universal message of Vedanta to different parts of the world, revitalized Hinduism, and awakened the soul of India.

Ramakrishna's main teachings included God realization as the supreme goal of life, renunciation of Kama-Kanchana, Harmony of Religions and Jiva is Shiva.

Key concepts in Ramakrishna's teachings included the oneness of existence and the unity and truth of all religions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF A GURU IN OUR LIVES

गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विशणु गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः
गुरु साक्षात् परब्रह्मा तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः

Guru is the Creator (Brahma), Guru is the Preserver (Vishnu), Guru Deva is Destroyer (Maheshwara). Guru is the absolute (singular) Lord himself, Salutations to that Sri Guru.

Guru's updes is taken as pramana. Present day Guru Mantra is 11 sayings of Shirdi Sai. In order to understand these teachings we require two Gurus. Spiritual or Eternal and Action Guru.

My spiritual Guru is Shirdi Sai Baba and Action Guru is Acharya Chanakya. Look outside / look inside is concept for understanding Shirdi Sai Teachings.

Present day man is bombarded by information. He is unable to judge what is right or wrong .He is anxious, nervous and had to do multitasking in personal and official front. With a crammed schedule he feels wretched and miserable. He doesn't know the cause of suffering. He badly needs a place of Guru to visit and get solace and direction.

Based on our destiny and fate one is directed to Shirdi by grace of Sai. Chanakya selected Chandragupta as student for unifying India. This completes the first two sayings of Shirdi Sai Baba.

The basic requirement of a student or devotee is to surrender body, mind

and soul. It means that one should listen to his guru words in totality. Put the burden means that one should remember his guru before undertaking any job and leave the results to Guru.

Look at Guru for guidance and execute the plans suggested by Guru. This completes the next three teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba.

In Sai Satcharitra, Sai advises devotees that mere book reading will not show the path of understanding of the ultimate. Acharya Chanakya was master of 20 subjects. The job of Chandragupta was to listen and execute the plans of guru as stated by complete surrender of body, mind and soul.



When a devotee or student seeks advice of Guru, the Guru in all humility will guide. The advice will bring transformation in his mind and create enthusiasm to execute the task with active and vigorous spirit. By constantly meditating on tomb he shall deplete his negativity .This will restore faith and confidence. The process of evolution will lead the student or devotee to understand the purpose of life, search

for Brahman with active & vigor will ensure salvation. Journey of life will be guided by spirit of Guru who is eternal. Chanakya and Chandragupta as Guru and Shishya are references as they are remembered even after 2500 years also.

This completes next five sayings of Shirdi Sai.

Based on the temperament and mindset of student or devotees Guru fulfills the needs of students or devotees. The miseries & sufferings of devotees and students are removed by grace of Guru. So there would be no want in the house of devotees.

After visiting Shirdi number of times, wisdom will dawn on devotees and students that Shirdi is in his body itself. Complete surrender with mind, body and soul is need of hour. This completes the last saying of Shirdi Sai Baba.

~SATYA SRINIVAS PRASAD CHINTALAPATI

Yogi Giri Bala



Born in 1868 this great woman yogi has not taken food or drink since 1880.

The Yogi Paramhansa Yogananda is pictured with her, in 1936, at her home in the isolated Bengal village of Biur. Her non-eating state has been rigorously investigated by the Maharaja of Burdwan. She employs a certain yoga technique to recharge her body with cosmic energy.

The story of Giri Bala was told to Yogananda when he met with her when she was 68.

At that time she had not eaten nor taken fluids for over 56 years. Still living the life of a humble and simple villager, she had in her early years as rumour spread, been taken to the palace of the leader of her province. There she was kept under strict observation and eventually 'released' with the sanction that yes she did exist purely on Light.

With Yogananda she shared how as a child she enjoyed a voracious appetite for which she was often chided and teased. At age nine she was betrothed and was soon ensconced in her husband's family abode. One day Giri suffered so greatly at her mother-in-law's tongue and teasing at her gluttony that she exclaimed "I shall soon prove to you that I shall never touch food again as long as I live". Teased further she then fled the village.

In great despair she cried from her very soul for God to send a Guru who could teach her to live by God's Light alone. At this time her Guru materialized in front of her and she was initiated into the art of a specific Kria Yoga technique to free the body of the need for physical sustenance. Since that day she has neither eaten nor taken. Yogananda shared that "she is setting this example to prove that man is spirit in truth, and also to prove that man can live by the Eternal Light of God."

*"The Sadhu is my Sanyasini Guru. I also have a domestic Guru.
My fasting is not due to medicines, but to the power of the mind.
My practice consists of chanting a mantra and practicing a certain breath control .
I had this power from my previous birth.
I haven't taught anybody—have no willingness to do so.
I have no disease, nor experience of any."*

BABA'S INDICATION

Om Sai Ram...

Baba is always with me. In 2018, I suffered a setback due to an incident and I felt that Baba gave me indications before the incident took place in my life. He indicated through a picture which I noticed had got affected by fungus due to the moisture from the wall which had started during the rainy season. I neglected changing the picture and kept postponing taking any action.

In November 2018, I met with that incident, which hurt me a lot and I faced embarrassment. One day when I was changing the picture which was damaged, I opened the frame and found the picture of Sai baba was safe and nothing had happened to it, only the front face of the glass of had got affected by the fungus. I took this as a warning from Baba the there was some negativity looming but I could not understand.

I suffered a lot due to this incident and my life totally changed. I however, took this as my fault as I ignored the indication, which baba gave me.

- Archana Khullar



Mirabai (1498–1546/1547) was a 16th-century Hindu mystic poet and devotee of Krishna. She is a celebrated Bhakti saint, particularly in the North Indian Hindu tradition.

Mira was born into a Rajput royal family of Kudki district of Pali, Rajasthan, India. She is mentioned in Bhaktamal, confirming that she was widely known and a cherished figure in the Bhakti movement culture by about 1600 CE. Most legends about Meera mention her fearless disregard for social and family conventions, her devotion to Lord Krishna, her treating Krishna as her husband, and she being persecuted by her in-laws for her religious devotion.

She has been the subject of numerous folk tales and hagiographic legends, which are inconsistent or widely different in details. millions of devotional poems in passionate praise of Lord Krishna are attributed to Meera in the Indian tradition, but just a few hundred are believed to be authentic by scholars, and the earliest written records suggest that except for two poems, most were written down only in the 18th century. Many poems attributed to Meera were likely composed later by others who admired Meera.

These poems are commonly known as bhajans, and are popular across India. Hindu temples, such as in Chittorgarh fort, are dedicated to Mira Bai's memory. Legends about Meera's life, of contested authenticity, have been the subject of movies, comic strips and other popular literature in modern times.

“I went to the root of things, and found nothing but Him alone.”

BABA'S TEACHINGS – THE TRUE PATH



Om Sairam

I am 40-year- old woman. I am happily married and have two kids.
These sentences are half true and another half is not true.

BABA'S TEACHINGS – THE TRUE PATH

Baba first came into my life when I was 11 years old. My friend got Baba, actually Baba had chosen my friend to enter into my life. She showed me a book with Baba's life and teachings. I don't remember if I read the book completely or not. Afterwards, that incident my father got me a silver ring with Baba's photo. I remember the jeweller suggesting I buy a ring of Goddess Lakshmi.

I then got busy and I entered a professional college with Baba's blessings. Post completing my studies I got married and had my first child. The pregnancy was a complicated one but with Baba's blessing my baby was healthy.

My second pregnancy too was a difficult. I had even thought of terminating the pregnancy. I once again think it was only Baba's grace that saved me.

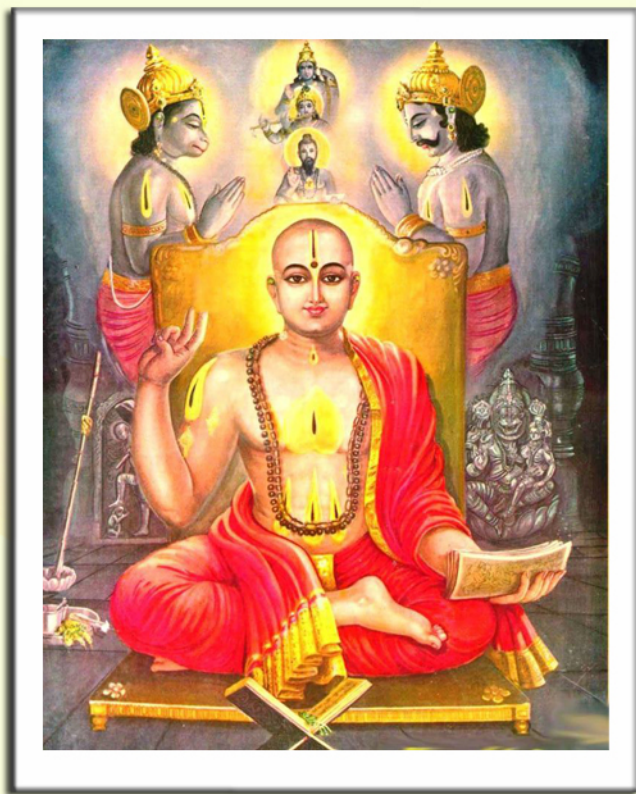
I am most thankful to Baba as he is the only one who has stayed by me when everybody else left me alone. Even when I was stubborn and greedy Baba didn't leave me person. He always guided me to follow his teachings, which I now know is the only true path.

Sairam

- Kiran Mayee

Saint Madhvacharya

Madhvacharya (CE 1238–1317), also known as Purna Prajna and Ananda Tirtha, was the third person in the order of incarnation of Shri Vayudeva (after Hanuman and Bheema), who is the second son of Lord Narayana and Lakshmi Devi, was a Sanatani philosopher and the chief proponent of the Dvaita (dualism) school of Vedanta,. Madhva called his philosophy Tatvavada meaning "arguments from a realist viewpoint".



Madhvacharya was born on the west coast of Karnataka state in 13th-century India. As a teenager, he became a Sanyasi (monk) joining Brahma-sampradaya guru Achyutapreksha, of the Ekadandi order.

Madhva studied the classics of Hindu philosophy, particularly the Principal Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita and the Brahma Sutras (Prasthanatrayi). He commented on these, and is credited with thirty seven works in Sanskrit. His writing style was of extreme brevity and condensed expression.

He was a critic of Adi Shankara's Advaita Vedanta and Ramanuja's Vishishtadvaita Vedanta teachings. He toured India several times, visiting places such as Bengal, Varanasi, Dwarka, Goa and Kanyakumari, engaging in philosophical debates and visiting Hindu centres of learning. Madhva established the Krishna Mutt at Udupi with a murti secured from Dwarka Gujarat in CE 1285.

Madhvācārya's teachings are built on the premise that there is a fundamental difference between Atman (individual soul, self) and the Brahman (ultimate reality, God Vishnu), these are two different unchanging realities, with individual soul dependent on Brahman, never identical.

His school's theistic dualism teachings disagreed with the monist teachings of the other two most influential schools of Vedanta based on Advaita's nondualism and Vishishtadvaita's qualified nondualism. Liberation, asserted Madhva, is achievable only through the grace of God.

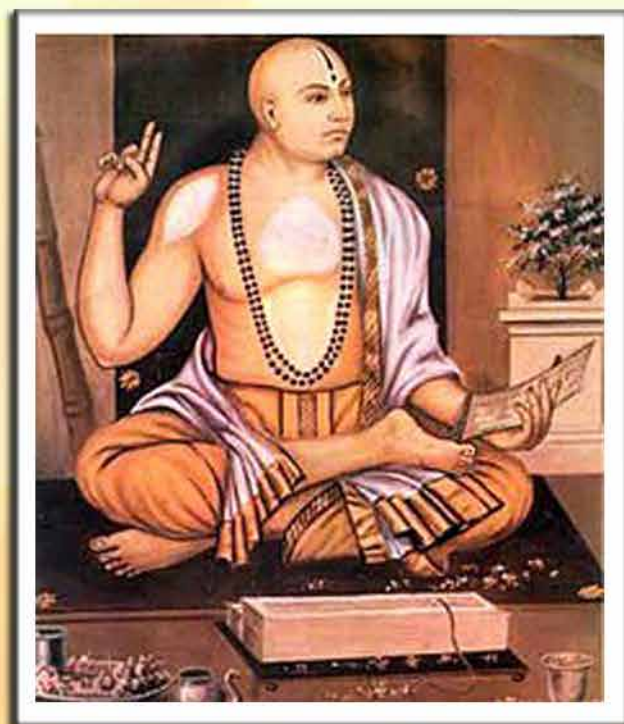
"Salvation lies in the soul experiencing its intrinsic joy"

Saint Madhvacharya

The Dvaita school founded by Madhva influenced Vaishnavism, the Bhakti movement in medieval India, and has been one of the three influential Vedānta philosophies, along with Advaita Vedanta and Vishishtadvaita Vedanta. Madhva's historical influence in Hinduism, state Kulandran and Kraemer, has been salutary, but not extensive.

We present here a gist of the divine teachings of Sri Madhvacharya.

1. The soul is bound in this samsara and experiences sorrow because of its ignorance
2. Escape from all sorrows is achievable only by the grace of Vishnu. Therefore one should STRIVE to earn the grace of Vishnu.
3. The benevolence of Bhagavan Vishnu which is the primary cause for liberation can only be achieved by Bhakti. Vishnu will be pleased only by Bhakti and not by any other means.
4. (True/ Para) Bhakti will not develop until Bhagavan Vishnu is seen.
5. The blessing of Bhagavan Vishnu which is the only means to His vision is not possible WITHOUT MEDITATING upon His blemish-less, suitable form for a long duration, with utmost respect and continuity.
6. Meditation is not possible until one undertakes a self-study of the textual instructions received [from a qualified guru]; otherwise one would not be free from doubt and wrong knowledge.
7. Therefore self-study after receiving spiritual instructions from a qualified guru is to be taken up as it is the means to liberation through meditation and god's grace.



SURRENDER TO SADGURU SAI BABA



There is a complete identity between the Guru and truth. There is no truth apart from the Guru. With complete faith, devotion and surrender to the Guru path of truth and self-realisation. It is said that the divine Guru, by the application of the collegium of knowledge, opens the eyes of one blinded by the disease of ignorance.

In India, in particular, the

Guru has almost become the accepted axiom of spiritual progress, and as such, the relationship he bears to those those whom he guides is unique. The quest for liberation is impossible to accomplish till the Guru's grace paves the way for the mortals to follow. Of course, this grace is not denied if our quest is sincere.

The beautiful bond which is established between the Guru and his devotees is the harbinger of Supreme Bliss since it fosters a direct union with God. A firm and unflinching faith in the Guru, accord

SURRENDER TO SADGURU SAI BABA

ing to Sai Baba, is the highest Sadhana. Sadguru Sainath believed that each individual soul is eternally and essentially perfect and all bondage is super-imposed. His way, therefore, was of trust in the compassionate Guru whose silent shower of spiritual grace would remove the dark veils of ignorance to usher genuine seekers into the realms of spiritual awareness. Once this vista is thrown open to man, he witnesses a supreme harmony that reveals to him everything in its right perspective; the dimension of Divinity permeating everything is revealed to him.

While the disciple dedicates his body, heart and soul to the Guru, the latter's grace is just as spontaneous. The Guru takes up the entire being of the disciple to prepare him in the way he thinks best for a life of contentment and perfection. Baba himself once exemplified this idea by comparing the disciple to a lump of plastic clay from which the master potter fashions fascinating pieces of pottery. In Chapter 2 of Sai Satcharitra, Hemadpant was contemplating on the necessity of a Guru. Sai Baba answered by saying that the way to reach is our destination is extremely tough, full of obstacles and pitfalls. However, by taking a guide with us, there are no difficulties and the journey is smooth.

According to Sadguru Sai, one has to make the Guru the sole object

SURRENDER TO SADGURU SAI BABA

of one's thoughts and aims to attain the supreme goal of life, "Trust in the Guru fully -- Guru is verily God" -- was, therefore, Baba's paramount teaching to transforming us into true seekers of truth and wisdom. Baba described how he once roamed about in a forest seeking for truth with three young men. They discussed amongst themselves the right way of reaching their goal. But Baba was content even at that stage to feel that surrender of the body and soul to the Guru was the best way. He meditated on nothing but the Guru, and had no goal or objects other than the Guru! Wonderful indeed the way of his Guru! Sai wanted nothing but the Guru and he wanted nothing but this intense love from the former.

There was a living tender beauty in Baba's personality which made all those who met him feel the urge to surrender to him. Sai Baba was in the deepest sense of the phrase a Guru incarnate. He naturally attracted people, and they were willing and anxious to surrender to him. "Why should anyone fear, when I am near", he said, "Cast all your burdens on me and I will bear them". According to him, not by running away from life and its problems but by facing them with courage and fortitude does man reach the true understanding of his Creator?

Just as we can light more than thousand candles from a single

SURRENDER TO SADGURU SAI BABA

lamp, so too only the one who earned wisdom viz., the Guru can enlighten others to remove their ignorance. Lamps are many but light is one which shines as wisdom in a million hearts, the Universal Luminosity, which is God. Sai Baba, whom thousands of devotees worship, is our Sadguru --- the manifested Divine who in his infinite compassion assumed a human form to enlighten.

- Rajiv Kaicker



Nana Sahib Guru Nanak Dev

Guru Nanak is the founder of Sikhism and the first of the Sikh Gurus.

He was born in Punjab India and gave spiritual teachings based on the universal divinity of creation. He taught his followers to concentrate on spiritual practices which would enable them to transform their egotism into selflessness.

He was said to be a precocious child with particular insights into religious teachings and philosophy. He would spend time alone in meditation and was fascinated by religious rituals. His family were Hindu, but he studied both Hinduism and Islam extensively and Nanak would often debate with religious pundits about the nature of God and true religious practice.



His inner spiritual experiences encouraged him to focus more on his spiritual life and spiritual ideals. Nanak taught that God was beyond religious dogma and external definition. He said he would follow neither the Muslim or Hindu religion, but just God's path. He taught 'there is no Muslim, no Hindu'. This was of social significance because of the political and social conflict between Islam and Hinduism at the time.

The basis of his religious teachings was the belief in a universal God, who was beyond form, but who was manifest to varying degrees in all of creation. During his lifetime, Guru Nanak attracted followers from the Hindu, Muslim, and other religious traditions.

*"Let no man in the world live in delusion.
without a Guru none can cross over to the other shore."*

Nana Sahib Guru Nanak Dev



He taught his followers three basic religious principles.

- Selflessness – sharing with others, and giving to those who are less fortunate. But, also a selflessness of attitude – avoiding the pitfalls of egoism, pride and jealousy.
- Earning an honest living – living without deceit, exploitation or fraud.
- Naam Japna – Meditating on God’s name and repeating a mantra. Through the repetition of God’s name, Nanak taught that a follower could free himself from selfish tendencies and cultivate happiness. However, Nanak taught it was not just enough to repeat a mantra mechanically, but with selflessness and real zeal.

After this awakening/realisation. Nanak made many prolonged journeys around the Indian sub-continent. This included visits to Sri Lanka, Tibet, all of India, and also to Baghdad and Mecca.

He travelled with his Muslim companion Bhai Mardana – travelling in all four directions from his home village; it is estimated he travelled 28,000 km in five major world tours (Udasi’s) during his main mission of 1500 to 1524. During his trips, he performed numerous miracles reflecting his closeness with God.

“From it’s brilliancy everything is illuminated”

Nana Sahib Guru Nanak Dev

His last tour took place around the Punjab between 1523-1524. After this final Udasi, he travelled less, living on the banks of the Ravi River. It was in the Punjab where Sikhism would take the strongest root.

In 1539, he appointed Bhai Lehna as his successor, renaming him Guru Angad – meaning ‘part of you’. This began the tradition of Guru lineage.



A day after appointing his successor, Nanak died on 22 September 1539 in Kartarpur, aged 70. One Indian tradition states that after Nanak's passing, there was controversy with Hindu and Muslim followers wishing to bury Guru Nanak in different forms. But, when the cloth was removed from Nanak's body, hundreds of flowers were discovered; in this way, both groups were able to take flowers and remember Nanak in their own way.

*“One cannot comprehend him through reason,
even if one reasoned for ages”*

SAI'S KIND GRACE

OM SAI RAM

With Baba's blessing's I have tried to write my experience of Shirdi Sai Baba in our life.

It was in 2007 December that my mother was bed ridden. There was no problem as she was being taken care well by a nurse, and the same year I wanted to visit Shirdi to take Baba's darshan and whenever I was planning some thing or the other was coming up and I was not able to travel. I kept praying to baba asking him to call me. I then met a person who visited Shirdi every month. I told him that I have not got permission but please pray for me and my family. After 5 days he came back and told me that baba wants you back home for some major reason, however right now, you can plan your trip.

We were staying in a rented house and we had an understanding and cooperative Muslim landlord. Just the day before leaving for Shirdi, a thought crossed my mind that my mother is critical and these few days could be her last few days. My landlord assured me that he would be around to take care of my mother. We left with much hesitation but we took it as Baba's order as nothing can happen without Baba's wish.

SAI'S KIND GRACE

We reached Shirdi and my instinct told me to inform my daughter (12th Standard) and son (7th standard) and servant about my place of stay in Shirdi, the next day after all the darshan we were sitting in the open auditorium from where we could see Baba's mukuht. Suddenly my wife shook me and turned my attention to lady at the end of the hall. She told me "see the lady down below she looks like your Mother", I looked closely and noticed the lady was wearing a nightie and walking away with her family. I immediately sensed something was not right and rushed to the place we were staying.

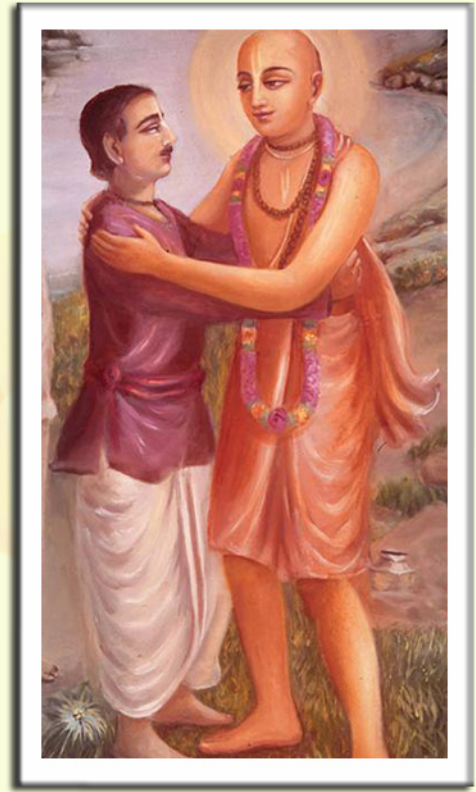
As we reached the Hotel room the reception person was calling out my name and once I reached him he said there was a call for me. My daughter had called to tell us that my mother had left us. At the first instance, I was worried as both my daughter and son both minors were the only ones in the house. But, my second thought was that when Baba is with us we do not need to worry and fear. I called my owner, and realized it was the Bakrid festival. His house was full of relatives in his house but still he left everything and came to my house and cleared the first room made arrangements and shifted the body and by then my relatives had come and taken care of the situation.

I know Baba has taken care of my mother and she is with him

- Pradeep Kumar

Swami Ramananda

"We only need to remove darkness of the selfish thinking to allow our our innate joy to shine forth."



Ramananda was a 14th-century Vaishnava devotional poet saint, in the Ganges river region of northern India. The Hindu tradition recognizes him as the founder of the Ramanandi Sampradaya, the largest monastic Hindu renunciant community in modern times.

Born in a Brahman family, Ramananda for the most part of his life lived in the holy city of Varanasi. His year of birth or death are uncertain, but historical evidence suggests he was one of the earliest saints and a pioneering figure of the Bhakti movement as it rapidly grew in north India, sometime between the 14th and mid 15th century during its Islamic rule period. Tradition asserts that Ramananda developed his philosophy and devotional themes inspired by the south Indian Vedanta philosopher Ramanuja, however evidence also suggests that Ramananda was influenced by Nathpanthi ascetics of the Yoga school of Hindu philosophy.

An early social reformer, Ramananda accepted disciples without discriminating anyone by gender, class, caste or religion (he accepted Muslims). Traditional scholarship holds that his disciples included later Bhakti movement poet-saints such as Kabir, Ravidas, Bhagat Pipa and others, however some postmodern scholars have questioned some of this spiritual lineage while others have supported this lineage with historical evidence. His verse is mentioned in the Sikh scripture Adi Granth.

Ramananda was known for composing his works and discussing spiritual themes in vernacular Hindi, stating that this makes knowledge accessible to the masses.

"Don't ask a sadhu his caste, ask him about knowledge instead."

BABA CALLED US TO SHIRDI

Om Sai Ram! I am from Bangalore, married and have 2 kids.

This experience I am sharing happened almost 10 years ago. I was a young lad, not married.

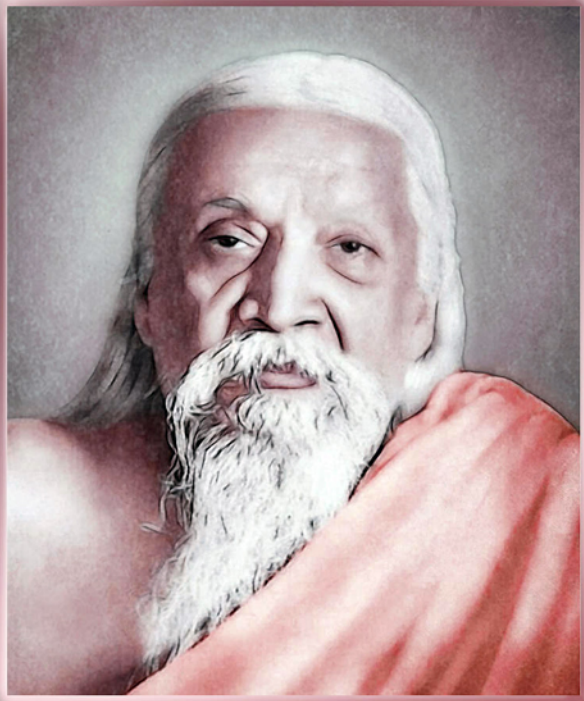
One morning only I and my father were at home and we were getting ready for my cousin's marriage ceremonies. Suddenly, a man came at the gate of our house and he asked my father permission to come inside. The moment he entered, he started talking in Hindi. He told my father that **"You people are trying to visit Shirdi. You must visit there!"** He also gave us some address and said that **"If you come there, come and meet me and also keep going there. You all should come along with all family members."**

Swami ji said, "get Udi in small paper with one pinch and folded it gave it to my father." When my father opened the paper, surprisingly it was full. We really don't know who He was and still in confusion. After that we have visited 2 times Shirdi.

We all bow to the lotus feet of Shri Yogi Raj Sai Baba.

- Sathish Kumar

SSS



Sri Aurobindo (born Aurobindo Ghose; 15 August 1872 – 5 December 1950) was an Indian philosopher, yogi, guru, poet, and nationalist. He joined the Indian movement for independence from British rule, for a while was one of its influential leaders and then became a spiritual reformer, introducing his visions on human progress and spiritual evolution.

Aurobindo studied for the Indian Civil Service at King's College, Cambridge, England. After returning to India he took up various civil service works under the maharaja of the princely state of Baroda and became increasingly involved in nationalist politics and the nascent revolutionary movement in Bengal. He was arrested in the aftermath of a number of bomb outrages linked to his organisation, but was released when no evidence could be provided, following the murder of a prosecution witness, Narendranath Goswami during the trial.

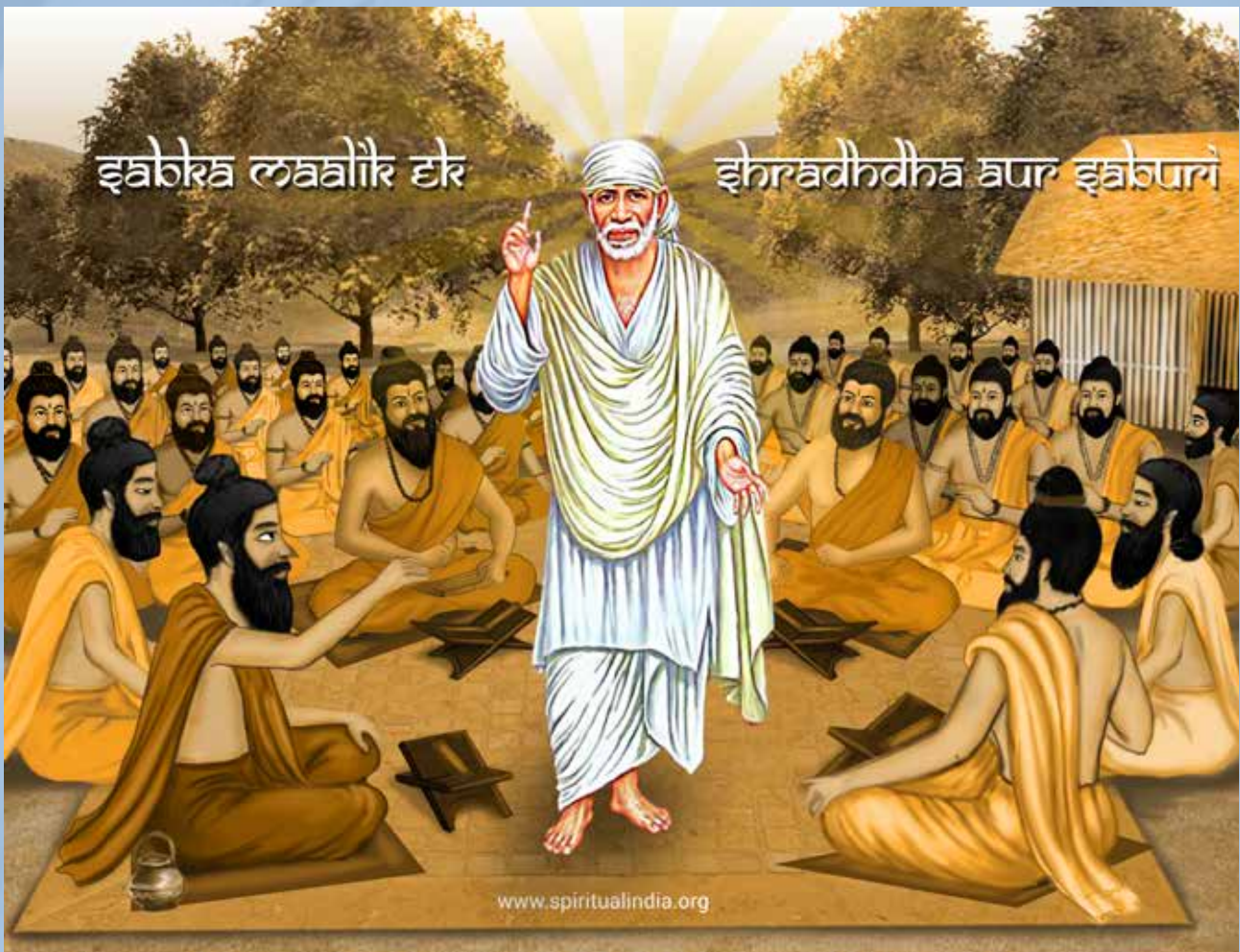
During his stay in the jail, he had mystical and spiritual experiences, after which he moved to Pondicherry, leaving politics for spiritual work. At Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo developed a spiritual practice he called Integral Yoga.

The central theme of his vision was the evolution of human life into a life divine. He believed in a spiritual realisation that not only liberated but transformed human nature, enabling a divine life on earth. In 1926, with the help of his spiritual collaborator, Mirra, he founded the Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

The teaching of Sri Aurobindo starts from that of the ancient sages of India that behind the appearances of the universe there is the Reality of a Being and Consciousness, a Self of all things, one and eternal. All beings are united in that One Self and Spirit but divided by a certain separativity of consciousness, an ignorance of their true Self and Reality in the mind, life and body. It is possible by a certain psychological discipline to remove this veil of separative consciousness and become aware of the true Self, the Divinity within us and all.

"My God is Love and sweetly suffers all"

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GURU?



Well, before analyzing the importance of a Guru, I think we need to know “Who is a Guru?”

Some of us consider a person as our Idol, that person could be a Spiritual Guru, a Film Actor, our School Teacher, our Father/Mother or personally for me, it is our very own Sai Baba.

Guru is someone who helps us in self-realization and purify our inner being to attain inner peace.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GURU?

Have you ever thought:

Why we consider that one person as our Idol?

Why should we look upto them?

Why should we strive to implement their ideology into our lives?

The reason could be anything; probably we like the **way they talk, their belief system, the way they achieved success**, the reasons could be many.

Please remember that when we start believing in someone's ideologies, we start incorporating their ideas into our lives. We feel what they did is right and try to imbibe the same qualities within us.

Based on the philosophies & teachings of **Sai Baba**, whenever I am in a dilemma, I remember verses from Baba's holy book "**Sai Satcharitra**" and introspect on my next steps. In my case since Baba's principles are my guiding light, I consider him as my **Guru**.

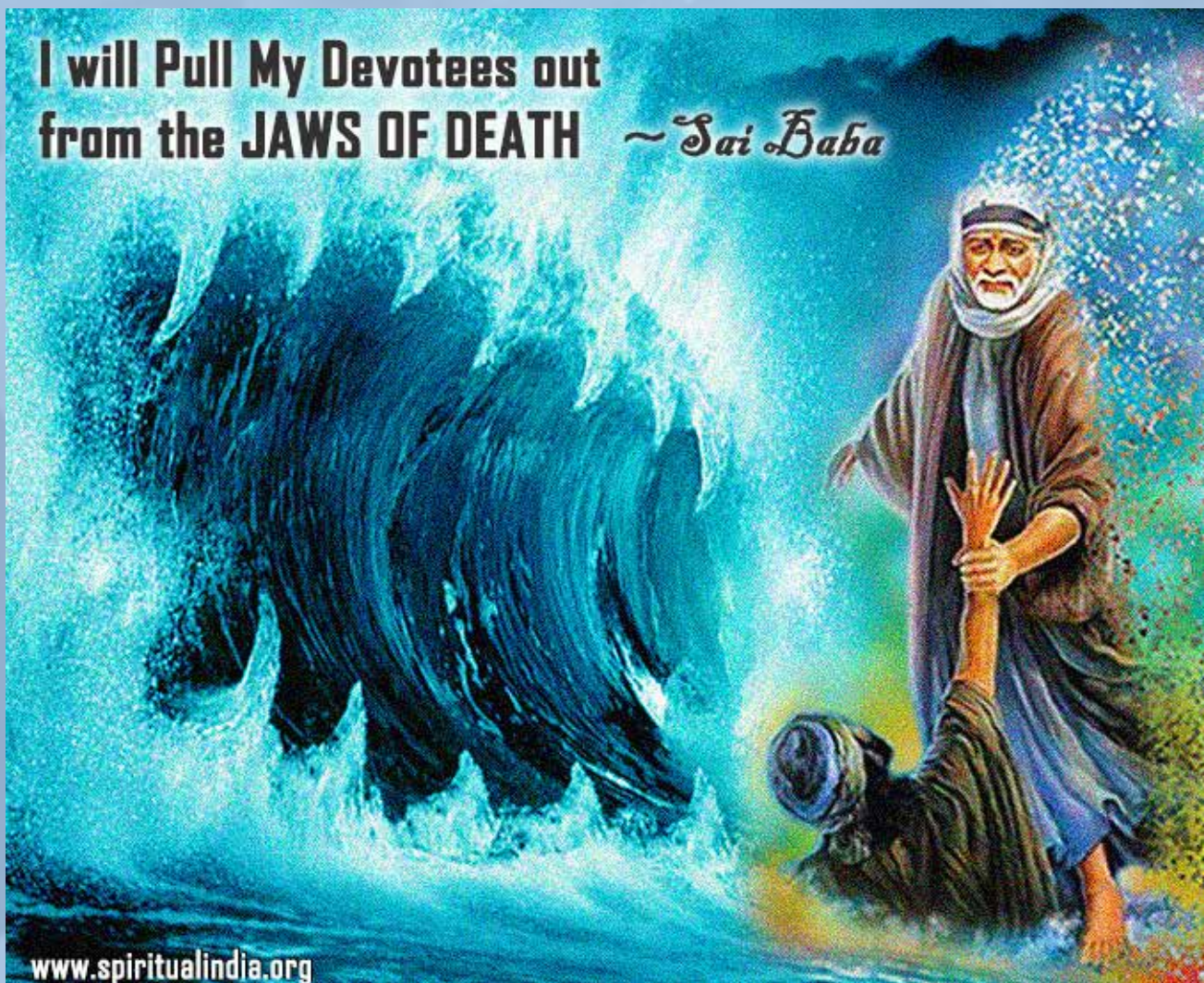
Not just the spiritual aspects, I have learnt many things from Him such as the way we need to converse with people, the importance of helping the needy, importance of feeding the hungry and many more...

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GURU?

So the help of another person/Guru who has Himself got self-realization is absolutely necessary, for He can take the disciple step by step on the ladder of spiritual progress.

We might feel that we have knowledge to deal with any trails in life but sometimes when the trails are too many, you definitely need the help of a Guru to choose the right path, that's when the experiential knowledge of the Guru comes into the picture.... Do you agree?

- Deepa



Gautama Buddha

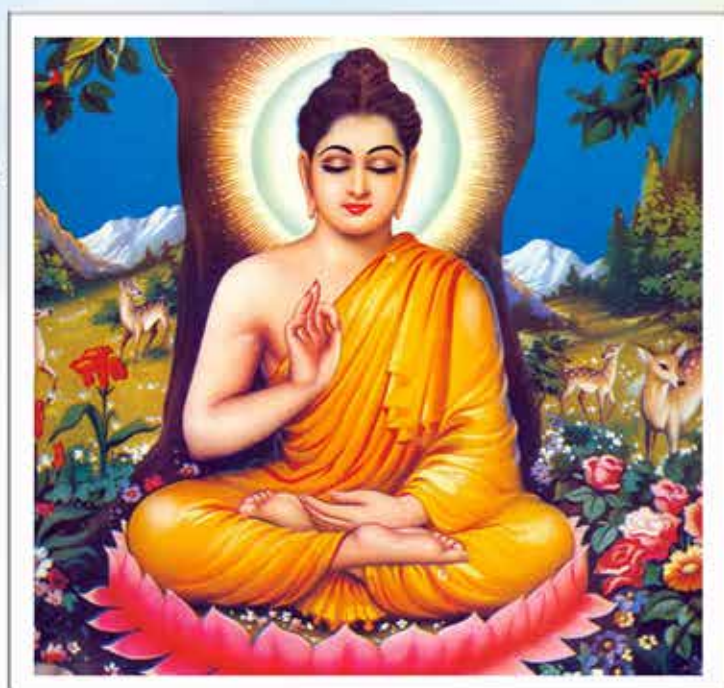
Sri Gautama Buddha was a prince born in Lumbini, Nepal and was the founder of Buddhism. He lived from about 563 BC to about 483 BC. His father was a king named Shuddhodana, and his mother was a queen named Maya. Maya died when Siddhartha was about 7 days old. Being predicted by a seer that Siddhartha would become a religious

if left outside, his father protected him from knowing about anything other than kingdom. When Siddhartha turned 16 years old, he married a woman named Yashodhara, and they had a son named Rahula.

Although Siddhartha had everything he could want, he was still not happy. He wanted to learn about life outside his palace. Legend says that he got out of the castle against his father's orders. He saw the "Four Great Sights": an old man, a sick man, a dead man, and a holy man with no home.

When Siddhartha turned 20, he became a leader of the Shakya clan. After eight years the Shakya and Koliya clans had a dispute. It was decided to fight a war against the Koliyans to teach them lesson. Siddhartha opposed the proposal and suggested for a peace talk but the clan disapproved his decision and he was forced to exit the country and family if he does not allow to wage a war.

Thus Siddhartha left his family, his land and everything else at the age of 29. He left everything to be a monk and a religious leader for the people.



*"Health is the greatest gift,
contentment the greatest wealth,
faithfulness the best relationship"*

Gautama Buddha

Many holy men at this time were ascetics. They hurt their bodies for religious reasons. They abstain from certain pleasures so they can get rid of desire. Siddhartha tried these practices and eventually became better than his teachers. He still found no answer, so he left his teachers and friends to discover another way. He decided to eat only six grains of rice a day. He tried holding his breath. His body became very thin, like skin and bones, and he nearly died. Still, he had no answer.

Siddhartha began to think again about this path. He thought there might be a better way than hurting himself. He found a fig tree (now called the Bodhi tree) and decided to meditate beneath it. He promised himself that he would not leave this spot until he had found enlightenment. He meditated under the tree for 49 days. His mind is said to have become pure, and then after a total of six years practicing he became enlightened. He was now the Buddha.

When the Buddha became enlightened, he found the answer to suffering, and he knew how to defeat suffering

*“Teach this triple truth to all:
A generous heart, kind speech, and a
life of service and compassion are the things
which renew humanity.”*



Gautama Buddha



. This answer was called the Four Noble Truths.They are :

- Dukkha (suffering, incapable of satisfying, painful) is an innate characteristic of existence with each rebirth;
- Samudaya (origin, cause) of this dukkha is the "craving, desire or attachment";
- Nirodha (cessation, ending) of this dukkha can be attained by eliminating all "craving, desire, and attachment";
- magga (path, Noble Eightfold Path) is the means to end this dukkha.

He taught about the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path which are Right View, Right resolve, Right speech, Right action, Right livelihood, Right effort, Right mindfulness and Right concentration.

The people listened to him. When he taught, he did not pretend to be a god. He said he was just a man who had found the meaning of life (enlightenment), and that any person can also find the meaning of life. For the rest of his life, he walked all over Southern Nepal and parts of India to teach people what he believed. He started a Sangha, which is a group of Buddhist monks and nuns. Many people became enlightened because of him. At the age of 80, Gautama Buddha died.

The Buddha taught that people should not look to gods to save them or bring them enlightenment. The gods may have power over world events and they might help people, or they might not. But Buddha believed that it is up to each person to become enlightened.

“MOTHER” A PILLAR OF SUPPORT AT ALL TIMES

Surrender to our Guru, invites his blessing in all adversaries!

The mother has to have a wholesome personality to be a strong pillar of support to her children. To be such a **Mother**, she not only needs good education, but also the blessings of a “**Guru**”.

Surrendering to the Guru and doing our duty with sincere efforts invites his blessings, He helps us to finish the most difficult task or solve a problem spontaneously without much effort. I had several experiences wherein just a sincere prayer to Baba would instantly solve the problem.

My mother passed away at the age of 74 and I, her last and ninth child was around forty years then. After her death, I learnt to cope with all difficulties by surrendering to Baba and this was a lesson from my Mother – who was an embodiment of Love and Devotion.

Women play many roles and of all, the Mother’s role is very important as she is the first Guru to her child. Mother is a pillar of support at all times and at all stages of life of a child. In early years to the toddler, mother needs to feed and give emotional support. The school going age is a stage when the child enters the society where it is an opportunity to make friends, to interact with the teachers and other

“MOTHER” A PILLAR OF SUPPORT AT ALL TIMES

people in the near surroundings. A small incident like a fight with a friend, scolding from teacher is a challenge and the Mother pacifies the child in the most positive way. Adolescence is another difficult age, wherein they are neither a child nor an adult, thus, the family members' and the society's expectations are to be met and when they are upset, they resort to their Mother's support. Later, after education, as an adult, they have to face the challenges of adjustments and responsibilities either in the work front or in their married life. The Mother is a moral and emotional support to her children, thus, it goes on until the Mother is alive and even beyond.

Two years back, I had wished my daughter-in-law on Teacher's Day, and to my astonishment, she replied “No, you are our teacher. You stood by us in all our tough times really Athamma (mother in law).”

Thus, every day and every stage, the challenges are to be faced and we as elders need to understand and guide them at the right time. This is possible only when we are true to our Guru.

In 2007, I went to Ghana in West Africa to work with a network of People with disabilities – physically challenged, visually and

“MOTHER” A PILLAR OF SUPPORT AT ALL TIMES

hearing impaired, I was very happy working amongst the people with disabilities. The people there, in general were very cooperative and helpful. Later, an Indian British lady volunteer and her partner, a British national joined in the physically challenged organization and she seemed to have some issues with me. When we organized meetings for the Network she would not send the members from that organization to participate. Also her unnecessary interference had halted many of the Network activities. I took the Sai Satcharita and opened a page, lo, what a surprise to see the words of Baba *“If you spread your palms with devotion before me, I am immediately with you, day and night. Though, I am here physically still I know what you do beyond the seven seas. Go where ever you wish, over the wild world, I am with 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.”*

These words of Baba brought me back to life and I worked fearlessly for two years to build up the Network and organizations. I taught the organizations the system of keeping accounts and credit discipline, writing proposals and also mobilize some money from a Indian Construction Company. I also got 12 of them operated free of cost, for Cataract and Glaucoma through the Sathya Sai

“MOTHER” A PILLAR OF SUPPORT AT ALL TIMES

Organization in Ghana and the Indian Association. Medical care is very expensive and the poor Ghanians cannot afford and thereby lose their eye sight.

At the age of 63, I decided to do my PhD, the topic related to Adolescents of Arunthathiyar Population (supposed to be the lowest cast even among Dalits as they are involved in sanitary work and other menial jobs). The intention was to support this community through the research findings, who are in poverty for generations. I attended the written test and the interview and due to my age there was some hesitation among the examiners, it was almost a week and I felt rather sad. Suddenly on a Thursday, the Department Head called me to inform that they had announced on the same day and it was almost a week now and that I should immediately join. Unfortunately, I had no savings since all my four decades of work was in NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations) on a small salary, but how I would meet the expenses for my stay, food, research, fees for the whole five years is a miracle, the expenditure came to six lakhs.

From the time I joined, I would only pray to Baba, tell Him the work I had to carry out and the amount needed, immediately as an

“MOTHER” A PILLAR OF SUPPORT AT ALL TIMES

answer to my prayer, my brothers or children would call me to ask if I need the money or I even would get some consultancy assignment in NGO's. Not only financial aspect, it was also to do with the supervisor who troubled me a lot to change the topic, as the University will not accept the topic related to Dalits. I almost went into depression, there were sleepless nights, I stood strongly on my decision and held Baba's feet.

Finally some of my old friends in the University who were in senior posts stood with me, spoke to Vice Chancellor and changed the guide in the fifth year. On the last day of my five years (3rd Aug 2018) I submitted the thesis, on 15th April 2019, I got my degree due to Baba's grace. He will continue to bless me to fulfil my wishes of consolidating the research findings into a book and submit to the Government, to consider the plight of this community and frame a policy for their betterment.

Om Sai Ram.

- Dr. S. Jahnavi Devi

Swami Vivekananda

Swami Vivekananda was an inspiring personality and was famous in whole world. He was born on 12 January, 1863, Kolkata. He was a spiritual leader and social reformer. His lectures, writings, letters, poems, ideas motivated not only youth of India but also whole world. He is the founder of Ramakrishna Mission and Belur Math in Calcutta, which are still working towards helping the needy. He was the man of wisdom and a very simple human being.

Vivekananda childhood name was Narendranath Dutta, belonged to an affluent Bengali family in Calcutta. At the age of eight in 1871 Vivekananda was enrolled at Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's Institution and later at the Presidency College in Calcutta. Till the time he had completed his graduation from the college he had acquired a vast knowledge of various subjects.

He had grown up in a religious family but studied of several religious books and knowledge led him to question the existence of God and some time he believed in Agnoticism. But he could not completely deny the fact about the supremacy of God. He finally met Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa at Dakshineswar Kali Temple and Vivekananda asked a



question, "Have you seen God?" which he had asked so many spiritual leaders but was not satisfied. But when he asked from Ramakrishna, he gave such a simple answer that "Yes, I have. I see God as clearly as I see you, only in a much deeper sense". After this Vivekananda started visiting Dakshineswar and got several answers of the questions that were in his mind and became a true disciple of him.

On 16 August, 1886, Shri Ramakrishna gave up his mortal body and after the demise, fifteen of his disciples including Narendranath began to live together at Ramakrishna Math.

"Arise, Awake, Stop not till your goal is reached.."



Swami Vivekananda

In 1887, all the disciples took vows of monkhood and Narendranath emerged as Vivekananda that is "the bliss of discerning wisdom.". Vivekananda's teachings were mostly based on the Ramakrishna's spiritual teachings of Divine manifestations and his personal internalisation of the Advaita Vedanta Philosophy.

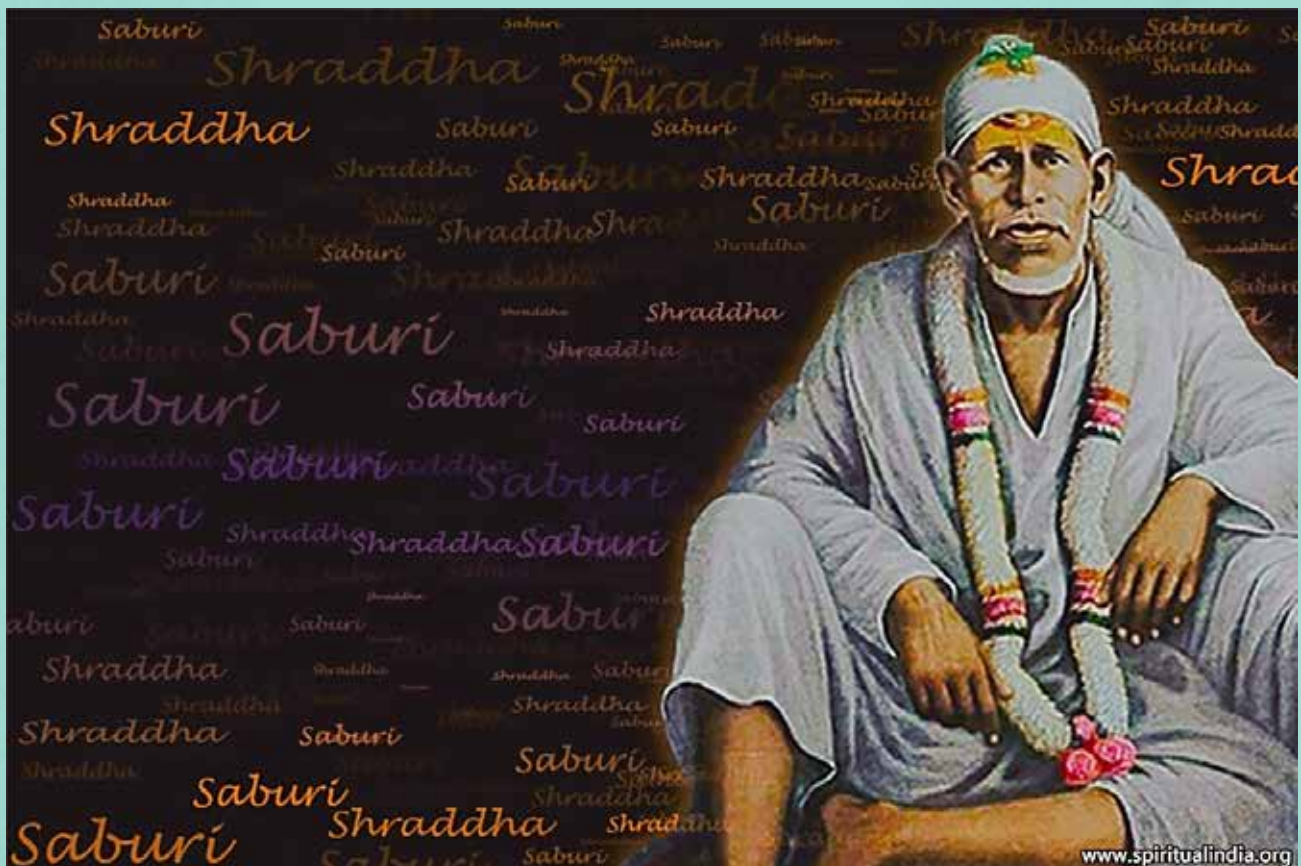
According to him, the ultimately goal of life is to achieve the freedom of soul and that encompasses the entirety of one's religion.

He predicted that he will not live till the age of 40. Therefore, on 4 July, 1902, he died while doing meditation. He is said to have attained 'Mahasamadhi' and was cremated on the Banks of river Ganga.

No doubt Swami Vivekananda's teachings not only motivated the youth but also the whole world. He laid the true foundations of India's unity as a nation. He taught how to live together with so much of diversities. He was successful in constructing a virtual bridge between the culture of East and the West. He played a key role in isolating India's culture from rest of the World.

*"We are what our thoughts have made us;
so take care about what you think.
Words are secondary.
Thoughts live; they travel far."*

NEW PROMISE FOR THE NEW YEAR



With the advent of the New Year, most of us introspect about the lessons learnt from the past and the path to be traversed for becoming a better human being through constant physical, mental and spiritual growth. We analyze our shortcomings and visualize our means to overcome them and contribute our best for the upliftment of the self and the society in which we live. In the words of the famous poet *T.S. Eliot* *“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language. And next year’s words await another voice.”*

A new and an important promise to be made for the New Year is to cleanse our inner vision until we experience unity in diversity . In other words, we see the same Divinity in all creatures around us.

NEW PROMISE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Our Sadguru Sai Baba has emphatically stated that He was the Inner Ruler of All beings and was seated in their hearts. This can only be experienced once we turn our vision inwards.

By purification of our inner vision, we shall always look for the good in people and treat love, kindness, compassion and appreciation and never speak badly of anyone. Therefore, we shall never speak from a place of hate, jealousy, anger, or insecurity. And we shall always remember to evaluate our words before we let them out of our lips.

In the process of the inner cultivation of our hearts, we shall let go of **all** that is holding us back from emerging into our truest self. We must let go of past pain through forgiveness. Further, limiting beliefs shall be eradicated by opening our minds to learning. We shall have no fear by going forth and doing what frightens us. There shall be no toxicity in relationships and no sadness by adding conscious dashes of happiness in our lives. For when our hearts are pure, the world automatically becomes more positive and happy.

Sai Baba of Shirdi had imparted an important lesson through the real message of Ishavasya Upnishad in Sai Satcharitra where Das Ganu interacts with the maid servant of Kaka Saheb Dixit. In this particular case, the impoverished condition of the poor girl, and

NEW PROMISE FOR THE NEW YEAR

the new sari, Das Ganu got a practical demonstration of the lesson of the Upanishad—the lesson of contentment with one's own lot in the belief that **whatever happens is ordained by God, and is ultimately good for us.**

Once we cleanse our inner vision, we realize that all our feelings of pain and pleasure depend on the attitude of our mind. On thinking deeply over this incident we perceive that a man ought to enjoy whatever God has bestowed on him in the firm conviction that, He besets everything from all sides, and that whatever is bestowed on him by God must be for his own good.

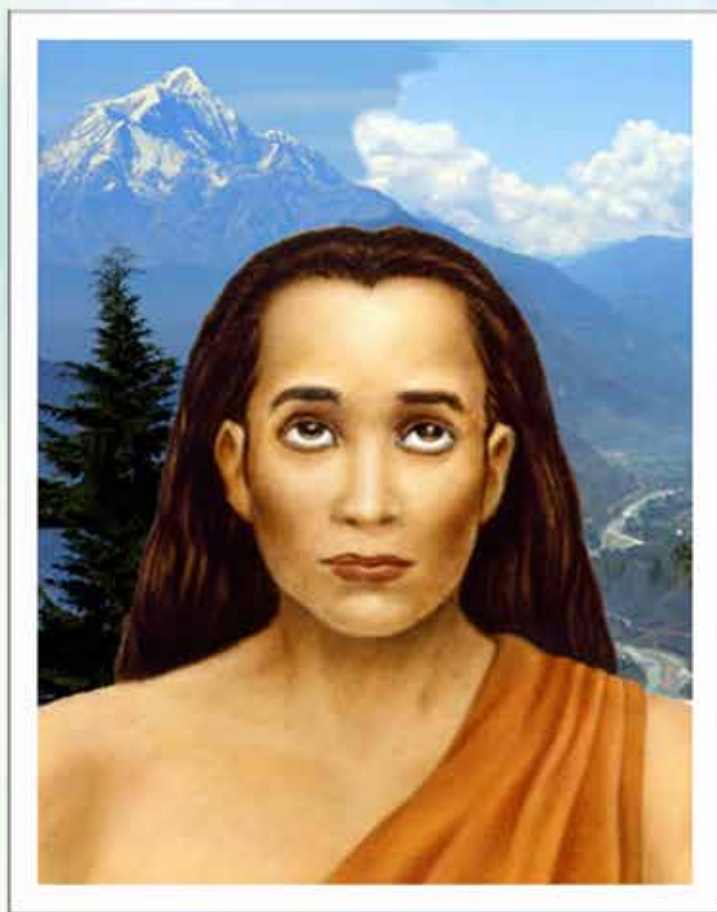
We must not only make a promise to be inward bound in the New Year but also to fulfil it. Peace, love and tranquility shall prevail in the world.

Spiritual evolvment shall take place and we shall be on the road to achieving the ultimate goal of human birth. Sai Ram!

- Pradeep Kumar

Mahavatar Babaji is one of the immortal Himalayan Yogis and the Paramguru of the Atma Kriya lineage and the founder of Atma Kriya Yoga. Babaji is beyond time and space, ever-present on this plane. He is none other than Sri Krishna Himself and is said to be in constant communion with Jesus Christ.

Mahavatar Babaji



One of his fundamental teachings is: if I realized the Divine, so can we. He is in a state of constant prayer, sending waves of peace and love to humanity and rendering assistance to other Gurus.

Babaji's Kriya Yoga teachings and techniques have been passed on for many centuries, each tailored for the world at that particular time..

Babaji is well aware of the trend of modern times, especially of the influence and complexities of Western civilization, and realizes

the necessity of spreading the self-liberations of yoga equally in the West and in the East.

Babaji's mission in India has been to assist prophets in carrying out their special dispensations. He thus qualifies for the scriptural classification of Mahavatar (Great Avatar). He has stated that he gave yoga initiation to Shankara, ancient founder of the Swami Order, and to Kabir, famous medieval saint and a nineteenth-century disciple Lahiri Mahasaya, revivalist of the lost Kriya art.

"Man is an expression of God and God is the reality of Man."



Mahavatar Babaji

“I only came here to give.

*If you come to doubt,
I'll give you every reason to
doubt.*

*If you come suspicious,
I'll give you every reason to
be suspicious.*

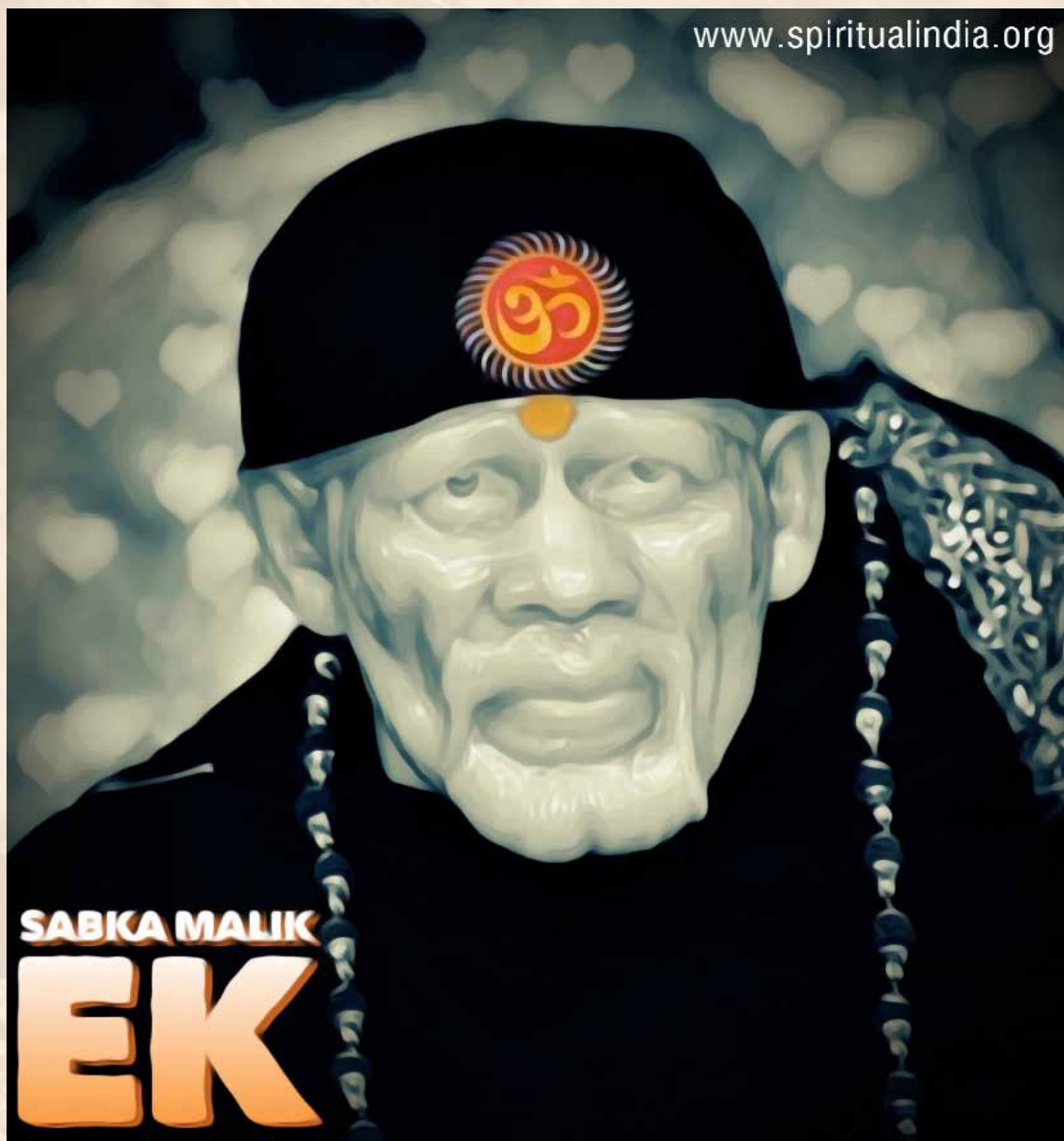
*But if you come seeking Love,
I'll show you more love than
you've ever known.”*

Mahavatar Babaji manifested on earth 5,000 years ago and is said that he still resides in the Himalayas. He conquered death by the means of yoga, and this way freed Himself from the bonds of this material world. However, out of compassion, Mahavatar Babaji decided to stay here to help people on their spiritual journeys. Although Babaji has chosen not to be a public person, yet His spiritual influence is unparalleled. Instead, he prefers that His disciples be known to the world.

Babaji was the guru of Lahiri Mahasaya, through whom the science of Kriya Yoga — a technique for spiritual liberation — once more began to spread throughout the world.

“The Kriya Yoga which I am giving to the world through you in this nineteenth century,” Babaji told Lahiri Mahasaya, “is a revival of the same science which Krishna gave, millenniums ago, to Arjuna, and which was later known to Patanjali, and to Christ, St. John, St. Paul, and other disciples.”

JOURNEY AS A TEACHER TO THE USA



By Sai's grace, I am what I am today!

As stated in Sai's Satcharitra, "I would cross seven seas to help my devotees, and you will hear my bones speaking and

JOURNEY AS A TEACHER TO THE USA

discussing your welfare,” for this I am the right example.

In 2005, I got an opportunity by Baba's grace to teach Mathematics in the USA on J1 Visa. From day one, when I started praying to Baba till present, he was holding me back as a father, brother, mother, and friend in every situation. I want to share one of the incidents in which Sai pulled me up from the most significant problem that made me and my family grow.

After working for few days, my Consultant said that I was required to pass the PRAXIS exam (Teachers Certification Exam in the USA) within a year to continue the next Academic year and only then I would be able to call my family to stay with me.

By the grace of Baba, I proved myself as a good teacher by giving 90% result in State Standard and also received good feedback from the Principal. But I took the PRAXIS test twice, and I was unable to pass it, and it was a very stressful moment, because as per the protocol, I need to take that test within a year and gradually the year was ending. I was left with only one last chance to pass the test.

After I arrived in a depressed state to the Test Center, a sudden

JOURNEY AS A TEACHER TO THE USA

illusion came, which gave me a vision to “Check Sai’s question and Answer book and in that check answer #2.”

I took one of my friend’s help who is also a teacher and Sai’s devotee. She read me the answer for question # 2 that said, “You will pass the examination. You will succeed by getting help from the Southern Direction.”

I was astonished, and I cried with happiness after hearing the answer to the question, after four weeks, the result came, and my Sai kept his words. I could call my family, and I completed three years of contract on a J1 visa.

In the meantime, my husband encouraged me to apply for H1B and by grace of Baba I got NOC from Delhi, and I started attending job fairs. Some schools liked my profile, but they were not aware of the H1B filing procedure. My NOC was about to expire in 2 days. I was so upset, and I gave up, but one of my college friends who stays in the USA said: “Baba brought you till here, and He will not leave your hand in the middle! Just have Faith and leave it to Sai.”

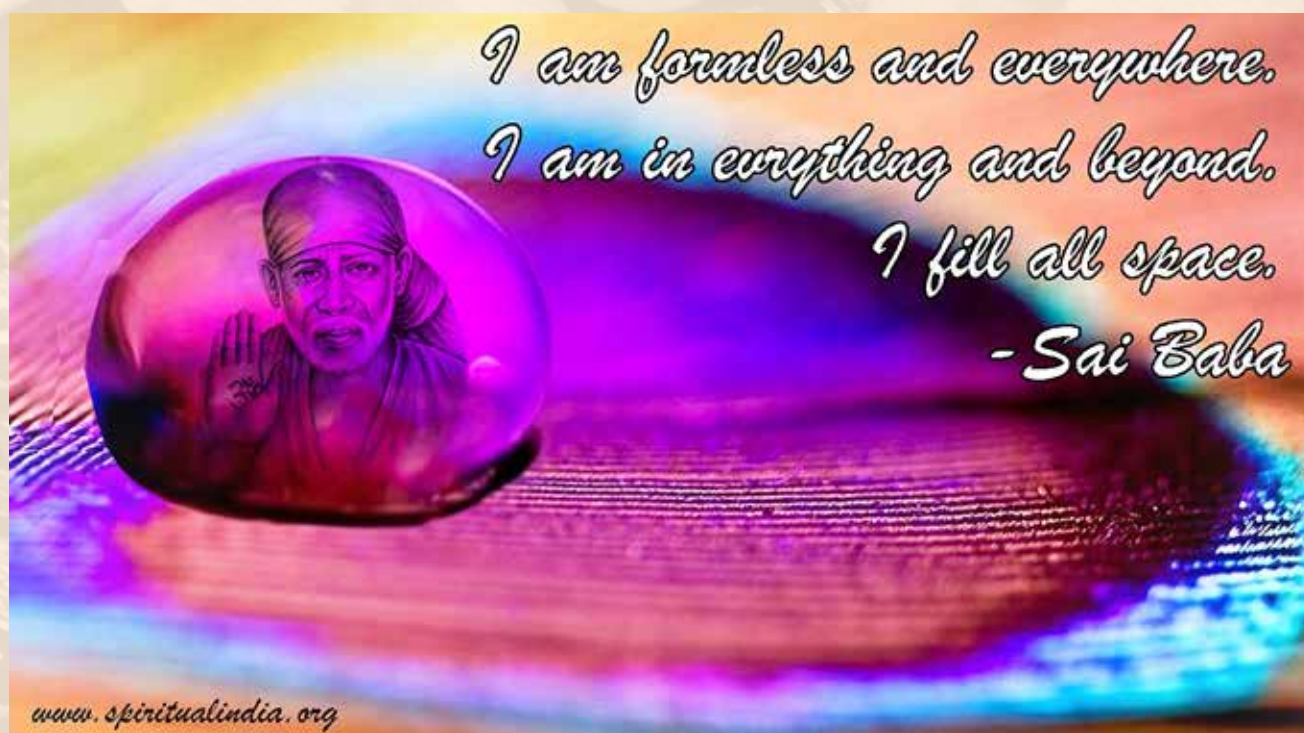
The situation and stress reduced my faith towards Baba, but as

JOURNEY AS A TEACHER TO THE USA

said in Sai Satcharita, Baba will not leave your side once we are under His protection. Once again, He showed his miracle; I got a call from the small county and they offered to sponsor me, and the HR understood my situation and though being a Saturday, HR team ensured all the paperwork was sent to the Attorney. Everything was done in half a day. I am so thankful to my Sai, who is with me every single moment, and who helped me through all the process, who appeared in different forms of people.

Believe in Shri Sai Samarth, He might come in various forms as a Guardian Angel to protect us from our problems.

- Vijaya Nallari



Ramalinga Adigal Vallalar

Arutprakasa Vallalār Chidambaram Ramalingam (5 Oct 1823 – 30 Jan 1874) was one of most famous Tamil Saints and also one of the greatest Tamil poets of the 19th century and belongs to a line of Tamil saints known as "gnana siddhars" (gnana means higher wisdom).

The Samarasa Suddha Sanmarga Sathiya Sangam was spread and passed on by him not only in theory but mainly in practice by his own way of living which by itself is an inspiration for his followers. Through the notion of Suddha Sanmarga Sangam, the saint endeavored to eliminate the caste system.



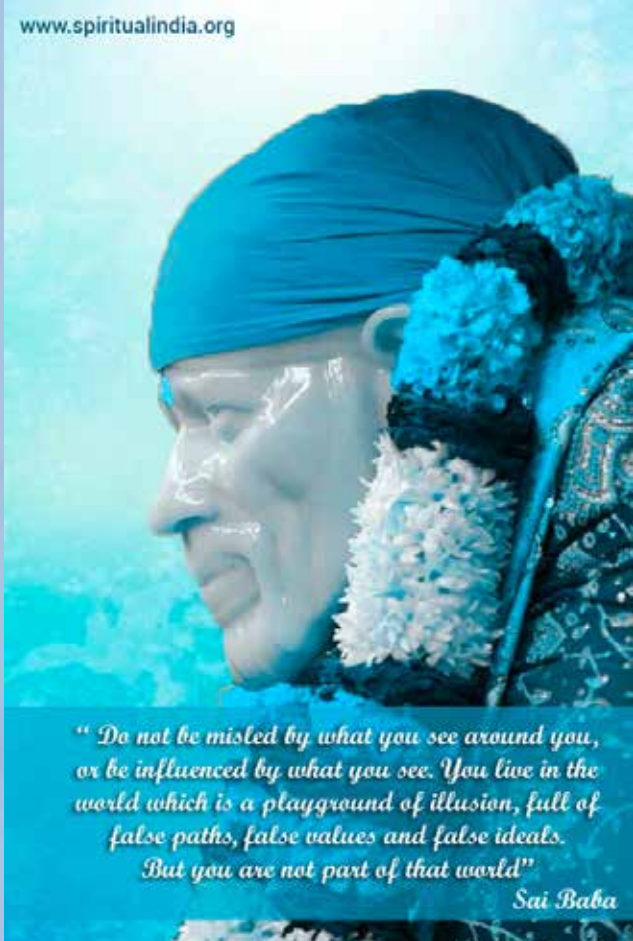
According to Suddha Sanmarga, the prime aspects of human life should be love connected with charity and divine practice leading to achievement of pure knowledge. Ramalinga advocated the concept of worshipping the flame of a lighted lamp as a symbol of the eternal Power.

On October 22, 1873, Rāmalingam raised the flag of Brotherhood on his one-room residence Siddhi Valāgam in Mettukuppam. He gave his final and most popular lecture, about spiritual progress and, "nature of the powers that lie beyond us and move us," and recommended meditation using the lighted lamp from his room, which he then kept outside.

On January 30, 1874, Rāmalingam entered the room, locked himself inside and told his followers not to open it. After opening, he said, he will not be found there. (He will be "United with Nature & ruling the actions of 'all of the alls'," as told in his poem called 'Gnana Sariyai'). His seclusion spurred many rumors, and the Government finally forced the doors open in May. The room was empty, with no clues.

In 1906, records about his disappearance were published in the South Arcot District's 'The Madras District Gazetteer'.

WEARING MASK AND GLOVES, BABA CURED ME IN MY DREAM



Sai Ram! I am from Chennai and have been an ardent devotee of Sairam since I was 3 years old.

I am extremely happy to share my miraculous experience with our beloved Sairam.

Around 4 years back, I was feeling very uncomfortable with immense pain in my chest and

I felt that someone was poking me with sharp knives. The pain was constant and I was not able to concentrate on anything (neither my work at office nor anything at home). I saw a few doctors who asked me to get a scan and they prescribed a few medicines to use, but the result was zero.

In May 2015, we had booked our flight tickets for Shirdi. When I went to see my doctor in the month of April 2015, I told her that "I have full faith that I will get well once I reach Shirdi". She laughed and said "You will" as she is also devotee of Sairam.

WEARING MASK AND GLOVES, BABA CURED ME IN MY DREAM

On our way to Shirdi, I was feeling very uncomfortable and I thought that I may not be able to reach there and something was going to happen to me; I was experiencing severe pain. With the grace of Baba, we reached Shirdi and had good Darshan. I prayed to him “Baba, please do something and relieve me from this pain”.

Then we came back to the hotel and I slept. During my sleep, I remember something happening to me and I saw Baba wearing gloves and mask. Next morning when I woke up I saw blood dried on my bed sheet and the colour of the blood was so thick that I was scared to see it and cried “Oh Baba what is happening with me!”

I shared this entire episode with my mother immediately, who told me that “it is yet another miracle of Baba and He has finally cured me” I showered and got ready to have the darshan of Baba and then I realized that “Indeed, He had cured me”. I did not have any kind of discomfort or pain. I thanked Baba for His blessings and returned happily to Chennai.

Lots and lots of miracles happened and are still happening in my life. I am so grateful to Baba for giving me this opportunity to share my experience with you all...Om Sai Ram

- Vasavi Ramesh

Sri Ramanujacharya

Ramanuja or Ramanujacharya (1017–1137 CE;) was an Indian theologian, philosopher, and one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism. His philosophical foundations for devotionalism were influential to the Bhakti movement.

Ramanuja's guru was Yadava Prakāśa, a scholar who was a part of the more ancient Advaita Vedānta monastic tradition. Sri Vaishnava tradition holds that Ramanuja disagreed with his guru and the non-dualistic Advaita Vedānta, and instead followed in the footsteps of Tamil Alvārs tradition, the scholars Nāthamuni and Yamunāchārya.

Ramanuja is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta, and his disciples were likely authors of texts such as the Shatyayaniya Upanishad. Ramanuja himself wrote influential texts, such as bhāṣya on the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita, all in Sanskrit.

His Vishishtadvaita (qualified monism) philosophy has competed with the Dvaita (theistic dualism) philosophy of Madhvāchārya, and Advaita (monism) philosophy of Ādi Shankara, together the three most influential Vedantic philosophies of the 2nd millennium. Ramanuja presented the epistemic and soteriological importance of bhakti, or the devotion to a personal God (Vishnu in Ramanuja's case) as a means to spiritual liberation.

His theories assert that there exists a plurality and distinction between Ātman (soul) and Brahman (metaphysical, ultimate reality), while he also affirmed that there is unity of all souls and that the individual soul has the potential to realize identity with the Brahman.



Devotion and absolute self surrender are the happiest and best means to reach God.

ABODE OF TRANQUILITY AND SPIRITUALITY

The village of **Shirdi** was a remote unknown place,
By its destiny, fortune and divine grace,
The advent of “**Mother Sai**” it witnessed,
By the touch of His Lotus Feet, its soil was blessed!

Sai inculcated in us the virtues of “**Shraddha**” and “**Saburi**”,
And to accept all situations without **Fear** and **Fury**,
He taught us the lesson of **Unity**, of **Humanity**,
And get rid of **Greed**, **Anger**, **Hatred** and **Vanity**!

His sojourn on Earth led to a Silent Revolution,
Our minds and souls experienced a **Spiritual Evolution**,
Sai showed that all creatures had the same **Spark of Divinity**,
And taught us to face **Happiness** or **Sorrow** with **Equanimity**!

After becoming formless, **Sai** still pervades this divine paradise,
The number of pilgrims to Shirdi continues to rise,
Without any distinction, all devotees witness equality,
Shirdi has become an abode of **Tranquility** and **Spirituality**!

Jai Shri Sai!

- Rajiv Kaicker

Sri Dayananda Sarasvati



Dayanand Saraswati (12 February 1824 – 30 October 1883) was an Indian philosopher, social leader and founder of the Arya Samaj, a reform movement of the Vedic dharma. He was the first to give the call for Swaraj as "India for Indians" in 1876, a call later taken up by Lokmanya Tilak. Denouncing the idolatry and ritualistic worship prevalent in British India at the time, he worked towards reviving Vedic ideologies. Subsequently, the philosopher and President of India, S. Radhakrishnan called him one of the "makers of Modern India", as did Sri Aurobindo.

He was a sanyasi (ascetic) from boyhood, and a scholar. He believed in the infallible authority of the Vedas. Dayananda advocated the doctrine of Karma and Reincarnation. He emphasized the Vedic ideals of brahmacharya, including celibacy and devotion to God.

He was an accomplished yogi, he was said to have gained various yogic Siddhis and used to remain in trance state of meditation for hours continuously.

*As the god has given sun, water, earth, fire, air, moon to all,
In the same way he had given true knowledge
Vedas for all mankind.*

Sri Dayananda Sarasvati

He rejected Aryan Invasion theory as lies propagated by foreginers Swami Dayananda was a renowned scholar of sanskrit language and preached that vedic sanskrit is very different from classical sanskrit and need special knowledge of Panini's Ashtadhyayi and patanjali's Mahabhashya.

Among Dayananda's contributions are his promoting of the equal rights for women, such as the right to education and reading of Indian scriptures, and his commentary on the Vedas from Vedic Sanskrit in Sanskrit as well as in Hindi.

Some of the powerful and inspiring quotes of Sri Dayananda Saravati are given below:



“Always first see bad in your self than in others, you will find many who are always busy in saying others bad and not looking themselves.”

“We have to make people soft who are hard , to attract those who are far, if they do bad for us then even considering our aim we should always love them.”

“All right persons should work hard to destroy all these man made religions from there roots, then only whole man kind will progress.”

BABA'S MERCY HEALED ME OF PAIN

Jai Shri Sai, Here is my spiritual experience!

Roughly an year ago, I had a kind of numbness in my left hand and I could not even hold a glass of water in that hand. I am a regular worshiper of Sai Baba and during my prayers, I asked Baba to do mercy on me and improve on my left hand condition.

Though, Mala or Japa is recommended to be done with Right hand, but I started one Mala (Tulsi Bead Mala) using my Left hand that was in almost numb and during the Jaap, I continuously prayed to Baba to do mercy on me and on my left hand.

Delightfully, on second day there was much improvement in the numbness and by third day, the numbness was all gone and my left hand was fine and normal. This is nothing short of a miracle that happened solely due to my prayers and love for my Sai Baba.

I am so grateful to Baba for this blessing. Let us all have faith and love towards our Sai Baba who always gives blessings to His children (with His right hand)!

Jai Shri Sai!

- Ramesh Mehta

Mahavir Swami

Mahavira, also known as Vardhamana, was the twenty-fourth tirthankara in Jainism who revived and reorganized the religion.

Jain tradition holds that Mahavira was born in the early 6th century BCE into a royal Kshatriya Jain family in present-day Bihar, India. He abandoned all worldly possessions at the age of about 30 and left home in pursuit of spiritual awakening, becoming an ascetic.



Mahavira practiced intense meditation and severe austerities for 12 years, after which he is believed to have attained Kevala Jnana (omniscience). He preached for 30 years and is believed by Jains to have attained moksha (salvation) in the 6th century BC, although the year varies by sect.

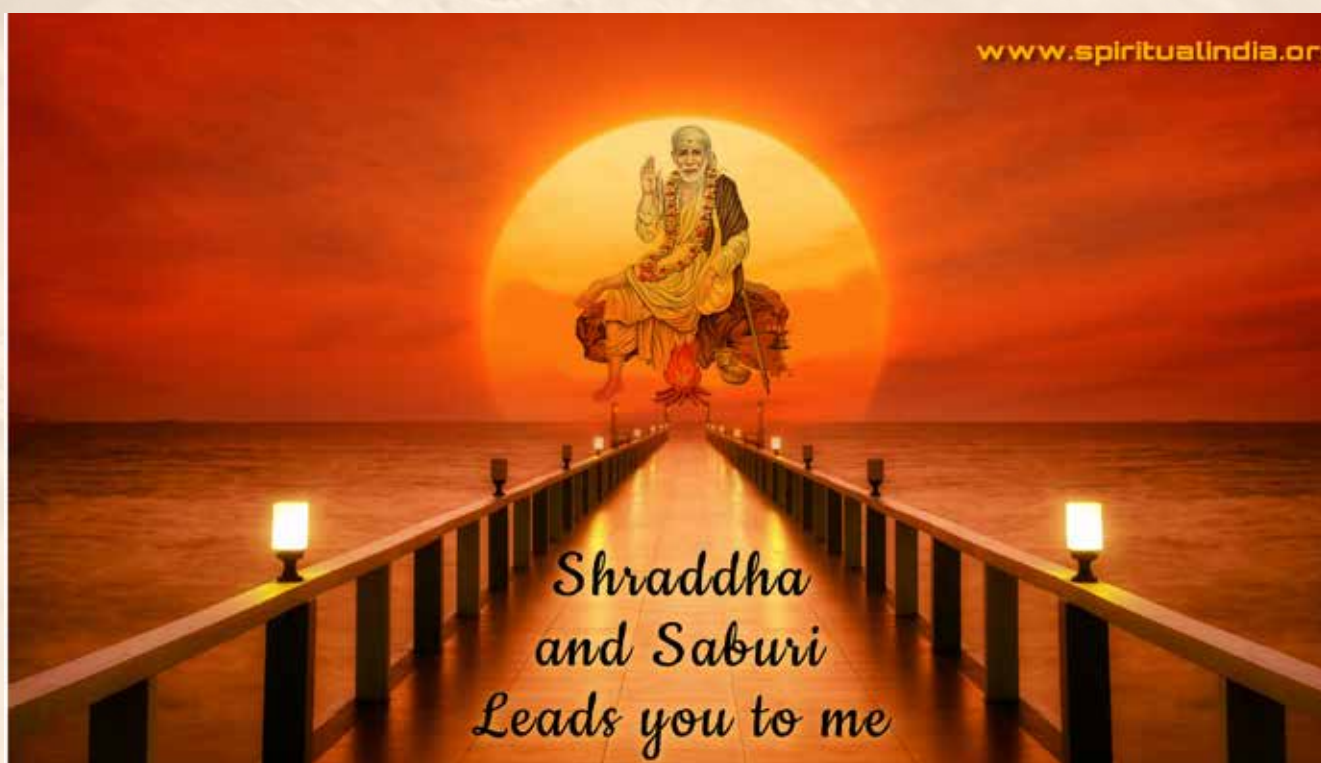
Mahavira taught that observance of the vows of ahimsa (non-violence), satya (truth), asteya (non-stealing), brahmacharya (chastity), and aparigraha (non-attachment) are necessary for spiritual liberation.

He taught the principles of Anekantavada (many-sided reality): syadvada and nayavada. Mahavira's teachings were compiled by Indrabhuti Gautama (his chief disciple) as the Jain Agamas. The texts, transmitted orally by Jain monks, are believed to have been largely lost by about the 1st century CE (when the remaining were first written down in the Svetambara tradition). The surviving versions of the

Mahavira is usually depicted in a sitting or standing meditative posture, with the symbol of a lion beneath him. His earliest iconography is from archaeological sites in the North Indian city of Mathura, and is dated from the 1st century BCE to the 2nd century CE. His birth is celebrated as Mahavir Janma Kalyanak and his nirvana (salvation) is observed by Jains as Diwali.

“Do not injure, abuse, oppress, enslave, insult, torment, torture, or kill any creature or living being.”

TEACHINGS OF “SHRADHA” & “SABURI” – COMPLETE FAITH AND PATIENCE



Every Sai devotee knows that our God, our Baba taught the lessons of “Shradha” and “Saburi”. These two important mantras of life are also embedded in the Samadhi Mandir where our Baba resides.

Baba was all pervasive and He knew past, present and future. He also knew that with changing times, human life will keep becoming more entangled and complicated. The value of His teachings are becoming more and more valid and relevant with each passing generation.

TEACHINGS OF “SHRADHA” & “SABURI” – COMPLETE FAITH AND PATIENCE

If we try and compare our lives with our parents and further with our grandparents and even further ahead, we can clearly see the graph of complexities in life rising with each passing generation. The money and the resources were few with the earlier generations but there was peace, contentment, love and most importantly time, gratitude and compassion for others.

Baba's Satcharitra is full of teachings and almost every chapter relates directly or indirectly to the mantra of “Shradha” and “Saburi”. Baba's ways of teaching were unique, as He taught a few with love love few with anger, few He didn't allow to enter in the Masjid and few he even abused or called thief (Chapter 41- Mr. B V. Deo- Stealing the Rags and Reading of Jnaneshwari). Sometimes He even used humour to send across a message (Chapter 24 – Chanak Leela & Anna Chinchanikar vs. Mavsibai) and created circumstances for a complicated mystery to be solved through a maid servant (Chapter 20 - Das Ganu's Problem Solved by Kaka's Maid-Servant).

Take time to read at least one chapter a day or if you don't have time, read at least one passage a day. When in a dilemma, pray to

TEACHINGS OF “SHRADHA” & “SABURI” – COMPLETE FAITH AND PATIENCE

Baba sitting peacefully, put across your problem to Baba in your heart and open a random passage in Satcharitra to read, you will get an indicative answer, provided you asked with full devotion. Please don't test it for the sake of testing without devotion as then, it won't work!

Starting tomorrow, whatever happens – good or bad, with complete faith “Shradha” accept it as Baba's will and embrace it with a smile. Don't complain and keep looking out for doing good deeds, it could be as simple as complimenting your cook for the food he or she prepared or offering a cup of tea to the gardener who has come to take care of your plants or helping an old lady fill up a form, etc. Try this and you see the positive energy that will flow around. You will be able to create a positive aura not only for yourself but also people around will start getting attracted towards you. If you are a parent, try imbibing the habit of reading Sai Satcharitra in your children as well. Discuss Baba's teachings with them and talk to them about the importance of good deeds and positivity. Hope you will agree that the younger generations are dealing with more complexities than us also!

TEACHINGS OF “SHRADHA” & “SABURI” – COMPLETE FAITH AND PATIENCE

Through Satcharitra, Baba has clearly taught us that in life we have to pay for our Karma, both good as well as bad. So, when you accepted and enjoyed the good times and didn't ask Baba, “**Why me?**”, then embrace the bad times as well with patience “Saburi” and don't keep asking Baba “**Why me?**” now as well. ***This too shall pass!*** Baba is our saviour and He will help us sail through everything.

Deep in our hearts we know that Baba has been with us through thick and thin. We all have experienced His presence and miracles in our own way. He may have sent some unexpected payment when you needed it the most, could have got you help from where you least expected, may have got you a booking, a promotion or an order that you longed for, etc. etc.

From “Shradha”, complete faith that we have in our Baba, our Guru, we know that He will send help when the time is right, so have patience “Saburi”, as Baba knows what is best for us! Jai Sai Ram!

Bow to Shree Sai – Peace be to all!

- Purnima Dheeraj Guliani

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Pamban Swamigal

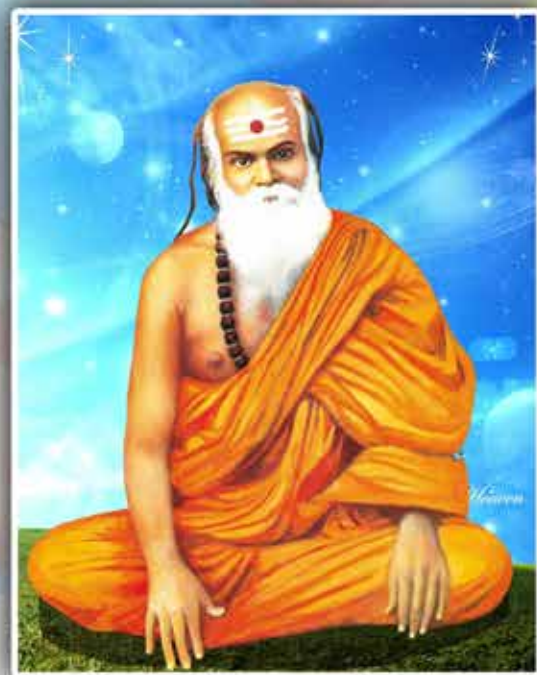
Pamban Gurudasa Swamigal popularly known as Pamban Swamigal, was a Saivite saint and poet. He was an ardent devotee Lord Murugan (Kartikeya) and composed and wrote poems in his praise.

Pamban Swamigal was born sometime between 1848 and 1850 to a Saivite family in the town of Rameswaram, Tamilnadu, India, He was named Appāvu but later became known as Pamban Swamigal as he had lived and left his family at Pamban Island.

In 1891 Pamban Swami wrote Shanmuga Kavacham, a powerful hymn of 30 verses composed for the benefit of Lord Murugan's devotees to protect them from illness of body and mind as well as from foes, wild beasts, poisonous creatures, demons, devils and biting insects. Several instances prove that this Shanmuga Kavacham verses effective in this respect. If you recite it with heart and soul to Lord Murugan, the results will be swift and miraculous.

Also in 1891 Pamban Swami composed Panchamrita Varnam. It is believed that Lord Murugan Himself has said to an old lady in Tiruchendur that "I will be present physically wherever the song is sung on a pleasant note." If anyone does puja inside the heart by reciting this poem, it is equal to doing abhisekam and puja.

In December 1923 Pamban Swami had an accident and doctors who attended upon said the leg would have to be amputated. On hearing the news only Chinaswami Jothidar had extraordinary faith in Pamban Swami's poem Shanmuga Kavacham and started to recite it. Chinnaswamy Jothidar had a vision of the Vel entering Pamban Swami's broken ankle. Miraculously the leg was cured in the hospital. Even British doctors were astonished and described it as divine grace.



On 30 May 1929 at 7:15 am Pamban Swami called his followers and advised them to believe in Lord Murugan. Then he took a deep breath, held it inside his stomach and entered samādhi state

OUR SADGURU SAI – OUR ETERNAL GUIDE MY JOURNEY WITH MY GURU

EARLY YEARS

My journey with Baba started the day I was brought into this world. We are a pious and God loving hindu family, which, meant my parents' puja room introduced us to every possible God at an early age. We celebrated all the festivals with fervour and performed all the rituals that went with them. As much as I enjoyed the preparations and the festivities, I felt all this was all like a theatre play, a certain degree of hollowness stayed within me, in spite of the celebrations. I kept telling myself that "This is not the real thing, there has to be more to my spiritual journey."

Every time I went to the puja room, I prayed to all the Gods and tried to concentrate but it was only Baba's gracious glance that seemed to attract me. Gradually, I began to realise that speaking to Baba gave me a sense of peace and filled the emptiness within. I began to get drawn to him. My father was a true Sai Bhakt. In our free time or while on long drives he would relate to us stories of Baba and his teachings. As my thoughts matured, I realised the one thing that appealed to me most was Baba's propagation of "Sabka Malik Ek"

OUR SADGURU SAI – OUR ETERNAL GUIDE MY JOURNEY WITH MY GURU

or “One God” and universal law of non-discrimination. The idea that people of all religions, caste and creed could feel protected as one big family in Sai bhakti seemed rational and the complete truth of humanity. All of us Sai Bhakts, both old and new would have also felt the same at some point of time in our lives. However, what I really want to speak to this precious family of Sai Bhakts is my journey with Baba.

BABA AS A PARENT

Baba has guided every second of my life so far. I was in a boarding school since the age of eight and at that time He was with me as a parent. Every time, I missed home or needed someone to confide in, I felt Baba’s caring hand on me, holding me like a loving father and mother.

There was an incident that took place while I was in boarding school. I was trying to win an argument and in my anger I put my hand through a window pane and the glass broke and pieces went through my thumb. I got a nasty cut and started bleeding profusely. My friends wanted to take me to the hospital but there was a

OUR SADGURU SAI – OUR ETERNAL GUIDE MY JOURNEY WITH MY GURU

voice inside me which said that Baba's udi would be enough. I told my friends, I will put udi on the wound first and then get my wound dressed. Believe it or not, as I put udi on my forehead and the wound, the bleeding stopped and the doctor had to administer only a few normal stitches. Other than the belief in the udi, one very important lesson I learnt was to contain my anger and never let our senses be taken over by our EGO and Edge God Out. I must have been in my teens then, however, the lesson of that incident has stayed with me till date and with Baba's grace I will be able to live with humility.

BABA AS A FRIEND

I realised that my relation with Baba changed as I moved on in life. During my college days, I noticed Baba was talking to me as a friend. I was once again in a hostel and while in college I was introduced to whole new world of rigorous study hours, new friends and Mumbai's fast life. All I needed was a good friend to tide me through. I realised that my relationship with Baba was evolving and Baba was talking to me more frequently and guiding me not as an elder but as a friend. I was discussing my problems with him

OUR SADGURU SAI – OUR ETERNAL GUIDE MY JOURNEY WITH MY GURU

, arguing with him and at times behaving badly and sulking with him. In this phase of my life Baba taught me the true meaning of “Shradhha and Saburi”. College life away from home can be daunting and it is only Baba who helped me find my ground with some amazing people who looked out for me. Baba helped me keep my sanity by being by my side and constantly giving me the courage to hold on to his teachings. In every conversation, Baba gave me just one message, that, of him being with his devotees and telling me to keep faith and patience

OUR SADGURU

Cut to the 2000s and Sai gave me a friend in the form of my husband. Baba had guided me to understand the meaning of friendship and how to be a good friend. I tried my best to behave in the manner that Baba had taught me through my growing up years. Married life has its own share of joys and tribulations. I was getting used to a new chapter in my life and adjusting to the new culture and norms, my husband too was busy adjusting to his new roles personally and professionally. Ours being an inter-cultural marriage, there were times, I didn't understand why certain things

OUR SADGURU SAI – OUR ETERNAL GUIDE MY JOURNEY WITH MY GURU

were said or done. There were times, I would feel completely lost in a crowd or find my confidence levels at an all-time low. I didn't want to speak to any of my relatives as I myself was not sure whether I was thinking wrong or it was what the culture and tradition demanded. I then realised that I was in need of a hand to guide me.

My in-laws are staunch followers of Lords Krishna, the only thing I had asked of them after I got married was to keep Baba's statue that I had with me for the last 20 years. Respecting my devotion, they were gracious enough to let my Baba have a place in the house. I had noticed a frame of Baba's in the house and during the times I was troubled, I would ask Baba, "What have you brought me here for? What is my purpose?" Time passed and my conversations with Baba got even more intense and frequent. One day it dawned on me that I was no longer arguing with Baba, my relation with Baba had evolved into one of Guru and Shishya. I was asking him for guidance to lead my life in the manner he had taught me all along. The adage "The teacher arrives when the student is ready" crossed my mind. I presume Baba had enabled me to gain maturity to be able to take his guidance.

OUR SADGURU SAI – OUR ETERNAL GUIDE MY JOURNEY WITH MY GURU

One experience very close to my heart is as recent as January 2020. I was at Shirdi and having an intense conversation with him next to his Samadhi. I have always had a question for Baba, that is, about my darling father's suffering before he passed over and also about taking away our darling Papa away from us so soon. I needed a closure and I asked him once again and this time He gave me an answer, He said "Your father needed to be with me but he didn't want to leave. I had to make it hard for him. But, don't worry as he is with me and has found his place." Post that conversation, I feel a huge burden has been taken off my chest, just to know that Papa is with Baba. I take this as Baba guiding me and telling me "My Samadhi will speak to you. It will communicate with whosoever takes refuge in it."

I felt it necessary to narrate my experiences as, I think, it gives us hope and confidence to know that at every stage of our lives Baba is guiding us. This is the first time, I am penning my experiences or writing on our Sadguru. It has taken me a year to even write these few words. I have written articles on mundane happenings but have not had the courage to write my experiences with Baba.

OUR SADGURU SAI – OUR ETERNAL GUIDE MY JOURNEY WITH MY GURU

At this moment in time, as I write this piece, I am humbled that Baba has guided me to share and let everyone know that He is in our hearts at all times and Baba is looking over us and saying, “Why Fear when I am here”.

In SAI we all reside.

- Dr Neeta Pradhan Das



Brahmananda Saraswati Swami

Swami Brahmananda Saraswati (20 Dec 1868 – 20 May 1953) was the Shankaracharya of the Jyotir Math monastery in India.

Born into a Brahmin family, he left home at the age of 9 in search of a spiritual master. At age 14 he became a disciple of Svāmī Krsnananda Sarasvatī. At the age of 34, he was initiated into the order of Sannyas and became the Sankaracharya of Jyotir Math in 1941 at age 70.

His disciples included Swami Shantanand Saraswati, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Swami Swarupananda Sarasvatī and Swami Karpatri.



According to the partisans of Shantanand Saraswati, Brahmananda made a will five months before his death in 1953, naming Shantanand as his successor.

The swami is said to have been one of those "rare siddhas (accomplished ones) who had the knowledge of Sri Vidya," and who was "modeled" after the great philosopher Adi Shankara. Gurudeva developed a modified practice of meditation, suitable to the householder engaged in the affairs of everyday life. This method was spread globally by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi .

"As a painter paints pictures on a wall, the intellect goes on creating the world in the heart always. Yoga is the state where you are missing nothing."



SIGNIFICANCE OF A GURU IN OUR LIVES

Dear Devotees,

I have been reading your magazine since long time but this is the first time I am writing about the blessings of Baba I have experienced in my life. The significance of a guru in one's life can only be experienced and not be explained. My story starts from the year 2007 when I visited to Baba's temple located in New Delhi' Lodhi road first time. I just visited Baba temple as usual having respect for any temple I do generally have and nothing more. After some days I started getting experiences which really scared me. I was seeing our Baba Sai in visions and he also showed me the significant was going to happen in near future. When the vision was coming true I get scared because I was not experienced such things in my life earlier. Then I prayed to God to stop them as I was scared, but since then I always experienced his grace on me and he helped in my life.

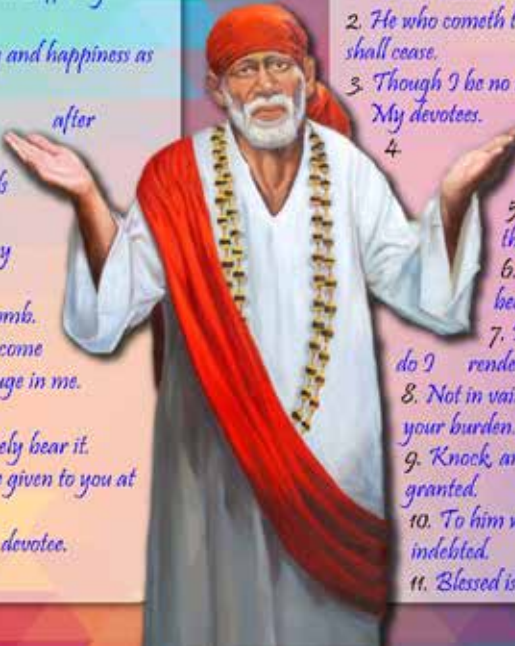
In 2012, when I visited Shirdi, picked a few books from a stall which belonged to the same spiritual writer, who wrote about the autobiography of a yogi. I read AOY which was so much inspired me that I joined the organization of Sri Paramhansa Yogananda. I can't even describe how he saved and shaped my life from my own foolishness and vicious people. I have been experiencing very bitter difficulties in my life as I could not dared to come out of a very abusive marriage life but he and the Gurus of Yoganada lineage helped me

miraculously for coming out of it and always stood with me by helping and guiding. If they were not helped and guided me It would have a end to my life.

Guru is not there only to make your life comfortable and to wipe out the troubles from your life but he will be there always to support and guide you throughout the troubles, trials and helpless situations. So you come out as a learned, stronger and better person. Gurus help us to wipe off our karmas backlog and experience the divinity as soon as possible. Guru takes us through the spiritual path, always remember even when your world is crashing down there is always an invisible hand holding your hand to guide you throughout. You only need to have faith and love.

Jai Baba!

~PARUL BHARDWAJ



MY SAYINGS

1. Whosoever puts their feet on Shirdi soil, their sufferings will come to an end.
2. The wretched and miserable will rise to joy and happiness as soon as they climb the steps of the mosque.
3. I shall be ever active and vigorous even after leaving this earthly body.
4. My tomb shall bless and speak to the needs of my devotees.
5. I shall be active and vigorous even from my tomb.
6. My mortal remains will speak from my tomb.
7. I am ever living to help and guide all who come to me, who surrender to me and who seek refuge in me.
8. If you look to me, I look to you.
9. If you cast your burden on me, I shall surely bear it.
10. If you seek my advice and help, it shall be given to you at once.
11. There shall be no want in the house of my devotee.

MY ASSURANCES

1. No harm shall befall him who sets his foot on the soil of Shirdi.
2. He who cometh to My Samadhi, his sorrow and suffering shall cease.
3. Though I be no more in flesh and blood, I shall ever protect My devotees.
4. Trust in Me and your prayer shall be answered.
5. Know that My Spirit is immortal. Know this for yourself.
6. Show unto Me he who sought refuge and been turned away.
7. In whatever faith men worship Me, even so do I render to them.
8. Not in vain is My Promise that I shall ever lighten your burden.
9. Knock, and the door shall open. Ask and ye shall be granted.
10. To him who surrenders unto Me totally I shall be ever indebted.
11. Blessed is he who has become one with Me.

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Swami Vallabhacharya



Vallabhacharya (1479–1531 CE), also known as Vallabha, was an Indian Telugu philosopher who founded the Krishna-centered Pushti sect of Vaishnavism in the Braj region of India, and the philosophy of Shuddha advaita (Pure Nondualism).

Vallabha was born in an Indian Telugu family that had been living in Varanasi, who escaped to the Champaran of Chhattisgarh state while expecting Vallabha, during the turbulent times of Hindu-Muslim conflicts in the late 15th century.

Vallabha studied the Vedas and the Upanishads as a child, then travelled throughout the Indian subcontinent over 20 years.

He became one of the important leaders of the devotional Bhakti movement.

He is the prominent Acharya and Guru within the Pushti sub-tradition. Vallabha rejected asceticism and monastic, suggested that through loving devotion to God Krishna, any householder could achieve salvation.

He authored many texts and several commentaries on the Bhagavata Purana. Vallabha's writings and kirtan compositions focus on Lord Krishna as a child, youth and his victory over demons and evils, all with allegory and symbolism.

His legacy is best preserved in the Braj region, and particularly at Nathdwara in Mewar of India – an important Krishna pilgrimage center.



"His existence of the soul is as true as God's Existence"

SIGNIFICANCE OF A GURU IN OUR LIVES

A young boy with no vision towards LIFE, nobody around to SUPPORT, no HOPE about FUTURE in 1999 is writing this article now (in 2020), as a responsible Academician in this society with a gold medal at degree, three post-graduation degrees and a Ph.D, with thousands of loving students is an illustration of “SIGNIFICANCE OF A GURU IN OUR LIVES”.

Where should, When should and How should I start praising the LEELA of my GURU - SAMARDHA SADGURU SAINATH. Tears rolling down from eyes while typing every letter of this article are the best means of celebrating HIM in ME. His PRESENCE is the ESSENCE of this LIFE. This LIFE is the mercy of SRI SAI's LOTUS FEET, this is only I could able to recollect while writing this article. With the prayers, seeking his divine help in writing and reading every act of HIM. Let us enjoy the presence of GURU in all our LIVES.

Ancient Indian Culture has given utmost significance for the presence of GURU in one's life with GURUKUL system. Our Vedas and Puranas repeatedly and sufficiently quoted the instances showing the glimpse of guru's grace on disciples. “SAI” as Samardha Sadguru has shown the love and mercy in abundance to this world. Interesting fact with SAI in special. SAI is more than GURU for many, a father, a mother and a SAKHA (friend). To quote in particular, SAI in my life is S-SWAASA (Breathe), A-AASA (Hope) and I-ISHA (God).

SIGNIFICANCE OF A GURU IN OUR LIVES

Guru's presence gives confidence to our acts, calmness to our thoughts and takes away calamities of our lives. An incident to quote from my life, an astrologer by looking at my horoscope shared with me that my education will not continue after marriage, but the fact is I have completed my research in electronics and another post-graduation in psychology after marriage, which is undoubtedly the divine grace of SAI. Our daughters SAISIRI, SAIBHUVANA, SAILALITHA, and purchase of our Home -"SRISAIDWARAKA" unexpectedly are the wonderful inclusions in our LIFE and the instances showing the presence of my GURU, my LIFE is my SAI. When Guru is there in your LIFE, you don't need anything more but in absence of GURU in LIFE everything is nothing.

The journey with time makes us to learn and teaches us patience in tough times and awareness at all times and confidence in challenging situations. Imagine the same journey in the presence of his holy grace, imagine the same journey in the polarization of our thoughts towards HIM, imagine the same journey with the only intent of looking towards HIM always, the LIFE turns SIMPLE and SERENE.

Experiences we count while progressing age at the expense of our mistakes at the onset of our Success. Guru makes these experiences as the bunch of flowers we use in his Prayer and leaves memorable moments of DIVINE LOVE towards his Disciples. This is what SAI TATVA; this is what we have learnt while living under the

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Umbrella of his uncountable blessings. This is where we remember and recognize we are fortunate SAI BHAKTAs living humbly and silently singing his presence all over our lives. This is the MARK of MARGADARSI – the GURU, the final full stop for every thought of us.

Guru Datta, Guru Sai, Guru Iham and Guru Param.

-Dr. S. Kishore



Swami Basavanna



Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher, poet, statesman, Lingayat saint in the Shiva-focussed Bhakti movement, and social reformer during the reign of the Kalyani Chalukya/ Kalachuri dynasty.

Basavanna was active during the rule of both dynasties but reached his peak of influence during the rule of King Bijjala II in Karnataka, India. Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas.

Basavanna rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals but introduced Ishtalinga necklace, with an image of the Shiva Linga, to every person regardless of his or her birth, to be a constant reminder of one's bhakti (devotion) to Shiva.

As the chief minister of his kingdom, he introduced new public institutions such as the Anubhava Mantapa which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in open.

The traditional legends and hagiographic texts state Basava to be the founder of the Lingayats. However, modern scholarship relying on historical evidence such as the Kalachuri inscriptions state that Basava was the poet philosopher who revived, refined and energized an already existing tradition.

Basavanna literary works include the Vachana Sahitya in Kannada Language. He is also known as Bhaktibhandari (the treasurer of devotion), Basavanna or Basaveswara.



SIGNIFICANCE OF A GURU IN OUR LIVES

Guru in Hinduism means a personal spiritual teacher or guide. The syllable 'Gu' means darkness or ignorance and the syllable 'Ru' stands for repeller of darkness. So a Guru is the light of awareness which removes the darkness of ignorance and reveals the ultimate truth of the Supreme Self. Guru is also a guide who ensures that the disciple is sailing towards the right direction.

“Guru bin gyannaupje, guru bin mile na moksha
Guru bin likhenasatya ko, guru bin mite na dosh”

Meaning:

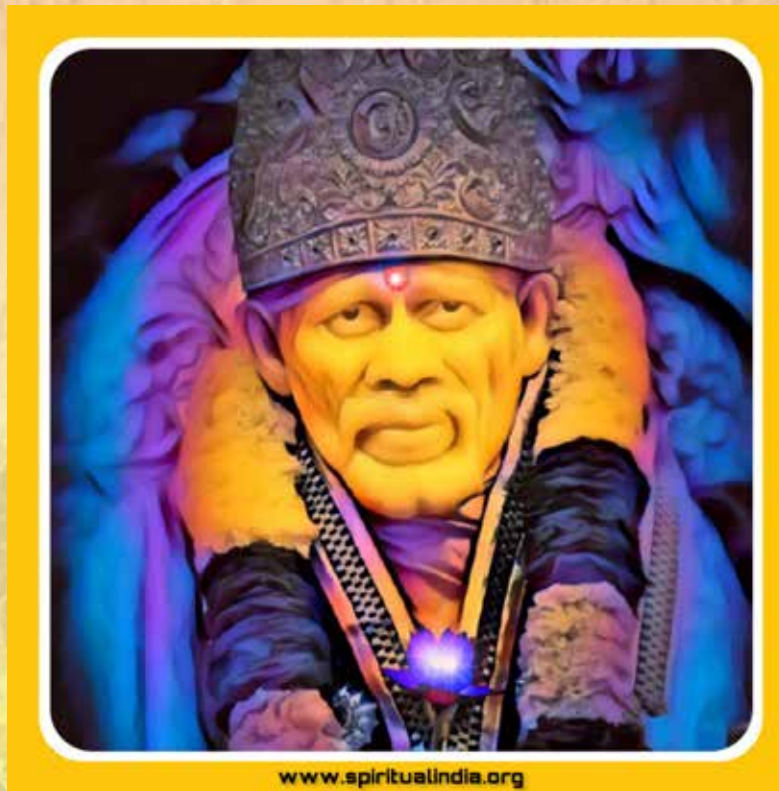
“Without Guru, no one obtains spiritual knowledge or achieves salvation. Without Guru, no one can see truth or have his doubts removed.”

I am a humble devotee of Shirdi Sai Baba. Now let me share one of my experiences.

When I was staying temporarily in Koramangala area of Bengaluru, I used to visit various temples nearby like temples of Ganpathi, Raghavendra Swamy, Hanuman, Yellamma Devi, Nagdevata etc. I wanted to visit a Sai temple but could not find any at walkable distance. Then I thought that I will request my husband to take me to a Sai temple by car someday.

It was on 23rd November 2018 that I had this strange experience. After visiting temples, I was walking back home then I realized that I went

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ahead of the lane towards my house but I did not turn back and I kept on walking as if in a trance. Then finally my steps stopped when I reached a building with a signboard "Sai Sparshan" on which there were photos of both Shirdi Sai Baba and Sathya Sai Baba and I was really surprised to reach there. I could hear devotional songs

and Aarti songs of Sai Baba. Puja and 'Havan' were also going on there outside the building. I came back home after attending the puja for some time. The next day morning I visited the building again and I was glad to see that it was a small temple of Sai Baba, where idols of Ganpati, Sathya Sai Baba and Shirdi Sai Baba. When I entered inside the temple there was nobody, just God and myself! So I prayed to my heart's content and thanked God for sending me there. Then an old man came and gave me 'laddu' as 'prasadam' saying that yesterday (23rd November) was the birthday celebration of Shri Sathya Sai Baba who was believed to be the incarnation of Shirdi Sai Baba!

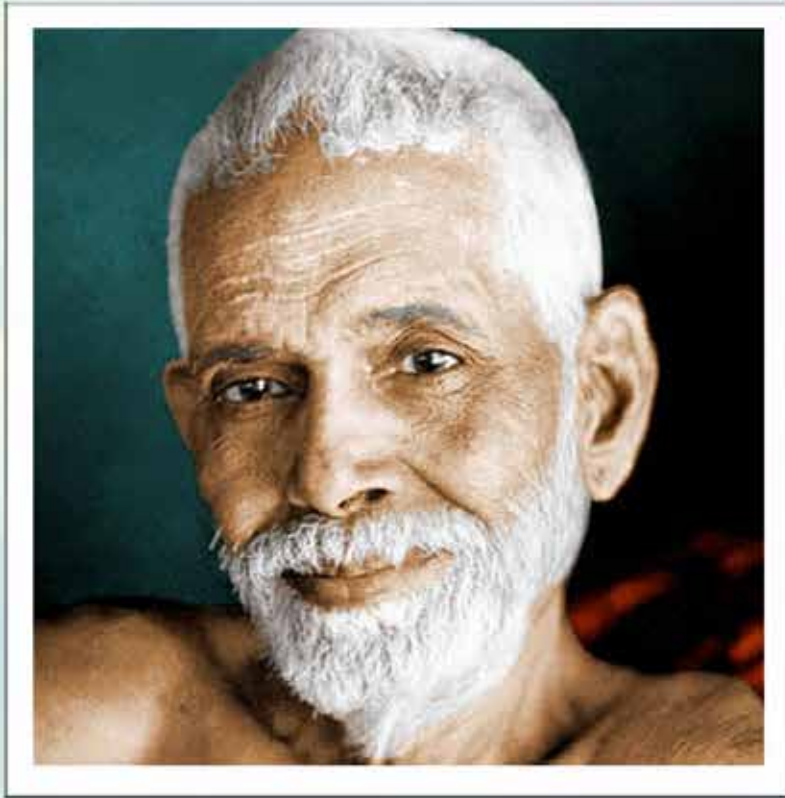
Then I realized that I was guided by my Guru Sai Baba to reach there

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on that auspicious day. This strange experience changed my life and I trust in Sai Baba and strongly believe that Sai Baba is always there with me. Whenever I had to face obstacles or painful experiences or trials in life, I believe that Baba will take care of me. When I write about Sai Baba, or when I sing Sai bhajans on stages or temples, I could see the affectionate smile on my Baba's face! And when I am blessed with awards and recognitions, I could feel the blessings of Baba's hand over my head! Sai Baba is like a father for a humble devotee like me and Sai Baba is definitely the Guru in my life who guides, teaches and inspires me to achieve more and more!

OM SAI RAM!

~DR. (MAJOR) NALINI JANARDHANAN



Ramana Maharishi

*"Your own Self realization is
the greatest service you can
render the world."*

Ramana Maharshi was born in 1879 near to Madura in South India. For the first 16 years of his life he was a normal child, with a keen interest in his studies and sports. However at a certain point he became struck with an unusual, yet overwhelming fear of death. Lying in his own room he became acutely aware of the inevitability of death and the mortality of his own body. However this paralysing fear proved to be only transient. With another penetrating insight he became aware that I am not the Body The real I was beyond matter. He was not a body but spirit.

It was just that up until that point he had ignored this I or inner self. With this glimpse of a higher, immortal consciousness the Maharshi lost all interest in his worldly life, he was plunged into a period of intense meditation on the nature of Who am I Absorbed in contemplations of a higher consciousness Ramana no longer felt any reason to stay in his home town.

Instead he was magnetically drawn to the holy mountain of Arunachala, whose name alone, held a mantric appeal to Ramana Maharshi. Arunachala was to become the home for Ramana Maharshi for the rest of his life and the mountain was to be inexorably linked to his own sadhana and self.

Ramana Maharshihad no formal training in Yoga, he was entirely self taught, receiving only guidance from his own inner pilot, but so unique and powerful were his teachings that learned men well versed in scripture became disciples of Ramana Maharshi.

Ramana Maharishi

Sri Ramana Maharshi taught a simple path of self enquiry along the ideas of Who am I? He could be dismissive of complex metaphysical questions and teasing of those who wanted to solve the problems of the world.

*"No one succeeds without effort...
Those who succeed owe their success
to perseverance"*

Ramana recommended renunciation of enjoyment of physical and mental pleasures as a means of entering into a state where the oneness of the self and cosmos could be perceived. He also felt that a person who is not attached to the results of his actions can live in the world like an actor that plays his or her part but is immune to emotional disturbance, because he realizes he is only play-acting on the stage of life.



Attracted by his stillness, quietness and teachings, thousands sought his guidance on issues ranging from the nature of God to daily life.

Ramana developed cancer and when his devotees voiced concern about losing him, he responded with the statement "I am not going anywhere, where shall I go? I shall be there where I am always." This is the statement of an enlightened sage - a person where the conflict between life and death is felt no more.

He died in April, 1950, sitting in lotus position. The final word that passed from his lips was the sacred syllable OM.



Acknowledgement

*For the Websites
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respective other official sites),
Blogs and Links
from where we sourced valuable
Information
about our Spiritual Masters*

*“You have our heartfelt Thanks
and undying gratitude”*

-Team Samarpan

Gurubhyo Namaha