

SAMARPAN

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www.spiritualindia.org



Editorial by Ashok Jain



By the time you will read this issue of Samarpan magazine, it would be time for Guru Poornima. I hope this edition reaches you before Guru Poornima and this magazine helps you strengthen your bond with Baba.

We all have come to the fold of Baba in various ways. It does not matter how we established connection with Baba, what is more important is that we continue to strengthen our bond with Baba. Baba is always taking care of us and is ever ready to guide in explicit or implicit ways and if we keep ourselves open enough, we will certainly receive His guidance and grace. Like an ever shining sun, Baba's grace is there for all of us and it is up to us to tune ourselves thus enabling us to receive His grace.

Like in school, a teacher relates to all their students equally, some students pay attention and do their homework and are eager to receive knowledge and others choose to let go of that opportunity or do not realize the importance of it. Though the teacher teaches in one way at school, Sai Baba many a times give us customized tutorials. He is like a private tutor to all of us while being a common teacher. Faith is a difficult journey and it is not easy to be not swayed by human failings and yielding to doubts and our inherent inertia.

Life is motion or movement, life has to be flowing and not become stagnant by the burdens of our past. Movement and progress can happen when anchored with faith, patience in all that is good and great. Faith and patience are the virtues taught by Baba and when practiced in every walk of life, they yield amazing results. Om Sai Ram.

Samarpan Team

Lorraine

Sabina

Vidya

Kirtida

Poornima

Divya

Nikhil

Anisha

Ravi

& Ashok

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Contact us:

*You may send your articles at
mag@spiritualindia.org*



Spiritual Experiences



Baba stopped me from running after the bus

By: Uma Vasudha

After reading Samarpan e-magazine online, I wanted to share one of many miracles with Baba experienced by me. I come from a middle class family and I always wanted to do a job and help my father and relieve his burden of supporting our family economically.

By Baba's grace I got recruited in a campus interview and got a job in a company located in Hyderabad and fortunately this place is not far from my home town. Slowly, I settled into my job and days passed.

One fine day, I was leaving for my home in the evening and it started to rain and very soon it became a heavy downpour. I was stuck in my office and could not return home. After waiting for almost one and half hours, I decided to approach a nearby bus-stop.

I started walking briskly to the nearest bus stop. I took the shortest route possible and after a couple of minutes walking, I saw a bus approaching. I was about to run and catch the bus when an old man asked me not to go ahead but to stop then and there itself. I returned to a different spot to catch the bus. When I finally reached home and turned on the television, I viewed the news about a manhole being left open in the area from where I was trying to catch the bus, someone had in fact ran behind the bus and was drowned in the manhole. I was dumbfounded and thanked Baba profusely. I am sure the old man was no other than Baba who saved my life.



Baba sends me a reminder

By: Kavita

(this experience was shared in www.spiritualindia.org forum)

I wish to share one of my experiences with you all. During the 5th year of my married life in 1993, my in-laws were facing some serious problems in Hyderabad and my husband (we are in Chennai) made a casual remark that they used to perform Satyanarayana Pooja in his parents place every year as was customary and since long it was not being done. Then I suggested to him that we can restart that custom since he is the eldest son and that the same would protect the entire family. Since then, we have started performing Satyanarayana Pooja in our house at Madras every year and no one knows about this background of the Pooja in our house.

In 2002, I prayed that we would perform the Pooja twice that year since some problems cropped up. But, due to a lot of financial problems we could not perform the Pooja even once. Infact, it slipped off my mind and we continued to have lot many problems, which we never had earlier in the house.

On one day in May 2003 after the Vaisakha Pournima, my servant (whom we employed in feb'02) by name Saraswati told me that she had a dream the previous night and that the 'tata'(grand father) in the photo in my hall came wearing a long shirt alone and with a 'kombu' (stick) in the hand and moving the 'kombu' said "inform your employer to perform Satyanarayana Pooja on three consecutive Poornimas (full moon days) . I will protect the family". She got confused and asked him "which employer?" Then the TATA replied ' the telugu family' and the dream ended.



I was shocked to hear this and then confirmed that it was a reminder of my duty sent to me thru her. Then I gave a brief about Baba to her and from Jun'03 to Aug'03 i.e., Jyeshtha, Ashadha and Sravana Poornimas we have performed the Poojas fasting till the evening. Unexpectedly, my inlaws too joined us on the third pooja occasion on their way to Tirupati. Thereafter our problems started to get resolved one after another. .

My servant's luck is unimaginable that she got Baba's Darshan even before she knew anything about Baba.

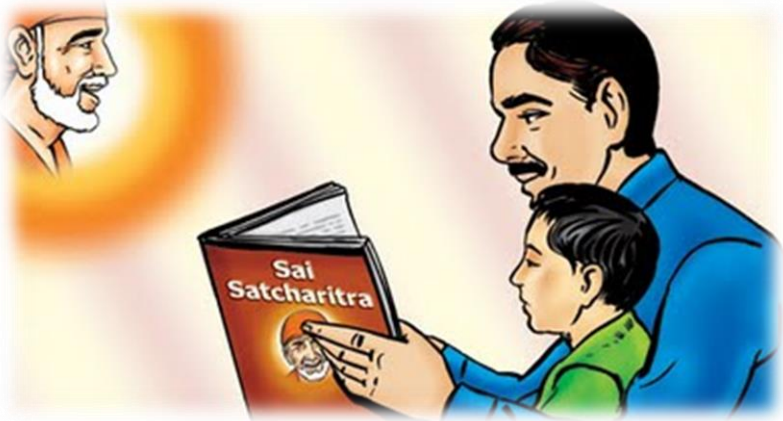


Casual Reading Brought Unexpected Results

By: Madhavii

(this experience was shared in www.spiritualindia.org forum)

I want to share you my experiences with Sai maa. I was not a devotee to any God from my childhood. My mother and father were devotees of Lord Venkateswara. In december 2012 I met a professor's family who were Baba's devotees. He gave me the Sai Sacharitra and asked me to read it three times for a better result. Upto that time I didn't even know who Saibaba was. I just read Sai Sacharitra like a novel. It was the last day to complete the book for the third time. A Miracle happened. I sat for a government exam in the month of August and forgot about that. Results came on the day of completion, I was selected in the first list itself as a Civil Assistant Surgeon Government Doctor gazetted rank post. I understood this was Baba's leela. Then onwards I started thinking about Baba. Went to Shiridi with my family. This was my first experience with Sai maa.



Second Experience:

Now let me share with the readers few more experiences that happened in my life. Now that I was settled with a good job with blessings of Baba, I seriously thought of marriage. I continuously used to ask Baba regarding my marriage. A number of proposals came but don't know why nothing clicked. In the meanwhile I progressed in my career and I became Incharge of a dispensary. Soon after this new position, I started to face a lot of struggles to maintain that position and to keep staff under my control, considering I was very young and fairly less experienced to handle such responsibility.. Stress developed. I took Baba very lightly. I suffered with severe depression though I was a doctor, I was unable to sleep properly and concentrate on my work. Suffered for a month and literally felt as if I was in a hell at that time. One night I dreamt of Baba, where I saw Him driving a vehicle saying dont worry I will change the wheel of your destiny. The next morning I went to ~~same~~ a professor's house who gave me Sai Sacharita book, and told him my problems.





He then simply explained me one of the ekadasha sutras of Baba " Leave your troubles to me I will take care of your burden". Hearing this I gave away all my troubles to Sai. I used to chant " Sai Ram " all the time. Soon thereafter in matter of ten days my problems were resolved. Every thing became normal and the situation was once again back in my control now. My emotional bond with Baba improved.. I got to know that marriage proposals which got declined were not because of me but because of some misunderstandings. I was very happy and this time too went to Shiridi with family again.

Remember friends we don't need to fast, make rounds of the temple or spend money on rituals. All we need is to remember Baba with full Faith and Devotion. A simple chant of "Sai Ram " pleases Baba and He will definitely look after us. I am a live example of Baba's love.

If at all in life you face any difficult situation read Sai Satcharitra with Shraddha and Sabhuri. Baba will surely help.



Experience of a fellow traveler

By: Kavita

(this experience was shared in www.spiritualindia.org forum)

In 1984, once I accompanied my mother from Hyderabad to Nizamabad for a weekend where my sister was working. We got in to the ladies coach of Manmad express at Sec'bad station and found one young lady with her two sons sitting opposite to us. On enquiry, we came to know that she was going to Shirdi. Throughout our journey for nearly 4 hours she narrated, with wet eyes, to us a lot of leelas of Baba and also her own experiences. We were very much moved by her experiences. Especially the one which I still remember is this:

She and her husband were both railway employees in Sec'bad. She was in the office while he was on the. Once when he was boarding a train, it started to move suddenly and he fell off partly on the track and got stuck partly between the track and the platform. Luckily her office was much nearby and she rushed to the spot immediately. Her husband was taken to the Railway hospital which was also not so far. The chance of survival would have been remote had it been in any other case. Anyone can guess what can happen to someone who is caught under a moving train. But Baba's devotees experience a different thing altogether. Her husband survived



this severe accident but with major fractures and injuries and was bedridden for long. Thereafter he gradually recovered. After coming to consciousness her husband told her that he saw Baba hugging him tight before he became unconscious at the time of accident. Since then the lady whom we met started visiting Shirdi once a year along with the kids to thank Baba who had saved her Husband – the head of her family. This incident made a strong imprint on my mind and heart about Baba.



One of my experiences

By: Ashok Jain

Baba's blessings on each one of us is in a unique and different way. I take this opportunity to share one of mine with you all. It was last day of February, 2009 and stock markets all over the world were going down and economic outlook of the world was very poor and pensive. I was working in a startup and we ran out of cash and there was no investor to fund our company. Having worked hard for almost one and a half years, we feared for the worst when one fine day we all employees received email from CEO telling us about bankruptcy filing of company and shutting down India design center. We were a bunch of about 8 people and we were asked not to come from next day since termination of our employment was effective thenceforth.

The situation was gloomy and it was my first experience of facing such a situation. I just focused on preparing for job interviews. I uploaded my resume in a couple of websites & started preparing myself for interviews. In order to not sit at home and thereby change my routine, we asked our admin to let us come to office regularly for some time. The admin agreed and I used to go every day to the office so that psychologically I was trying to fool my brain to believe that everything was all the same. I was doing technical reading and more reading at the office.

My wife was expecting and it was hard to feel excited while thinking about finding a job as soon as possible. My friends were asking me to not become frustrated if I do not get a job for several months. However, I just decided to stay calm and immerse myself into studies and spirituality. My wife decided to do 9 Thursday fasts and within a week, I had a telephonic interview and short listings in two companies. My days used to go reading and listening to Bhajans all the time.

Within 3/4 weeks I had two job offers, one in Hyderabad and other in Chennai. Since I was based out of Bangalore, I was buying time with the companies to join them. I had told both my prospective employers all about my previous company and why I was looking for a job. It was March end and with two job offers in hand, I was still searching for a job in Bangalore. I got a call from a company in Bangalore and I searched their details and thought them to be a service company and I was not excited to join them. Since I had always worked in companies which had their own product lines, I was not keen to join a Service Company. Later I got a call from a consultant who had forwarded my resume to them and he discussed with me about the company and told that I was to go visit the company premise and go through their interview process. I did that and when I found that the response was positive and I had done well, I just told the team director that if I was selected they should tell me within a week since I had job offers from other companies and my joining date was approaching fast. They speeded the process and next day I had interviews from their US office and following day they offered me the Job. I got offer on Friday and joined them on Monday. If I had not joined this company I would have left for the job in Hyderabad since I had my travel plans over the weekend.



My previous company's India operations gave us some day's salary for month of March from its coffers including leave encashment and this meant that I had decent money for month of March. I got employed on 20th April in next company and they gave me joining bonus which took care of 20 days of unemployment in month of April. And all this happened when there were layoffs happening everywhere in the world.

I have no words to express my gratitude to Baba. The company which I joined is one of the top class companies and most innovative company in optical networking and by Baba's grace I have had phenomenal progress in this company so far. In December 2009, I had my daughter coming into our lives and she has brought so much of joy and happiness into our lives and she loves Baba too.



Baba is great and He takes care of each and every one of us.

Spiritual Articles



Ownership of Life

By: Preetinder Singh

We never feel annoyed with our own actions and deeds, however wrong they may be. But we feel disturbed and upset with the actions of others, which, we feel, affect us adversely. Why this discrimination? Because we think we don't do anything wrong, whereas we have all the right to judge others and label their actions as right or wrong, particularly the ones related to our existence.

There may be remorse for some actions gone erroneous. But never recrimination of oneself. Which, is only reserved for the other. It is also difficult, often, to take ownership of our own actions. We would rather hide behind someone and blame another, for our own doing.

But comprehensively, is not our life totally ours? With all the ups and downs, the chaos, the turmoil, the joys, the sorrows, the anxieties, the fears, the ecstasies and the mental injuries and scars. It is one comprehensive package given to us with the script. Including all the characters and associations to complete the story. Our own, very own life.

Let us take ownership of this life. Whatever happens, is our own experience. What we do, and what others do unto us, good or bad, is part of our life. Taking ownership means, owning the script in totality. Even the pain and suffering inflicted by others through all the ugly ways - lying, cheating, fraud, swindling, and the more grievous injuries.



They form part of what we have come to accept, and own, our life, in all its hues and colours. Then why should the actions of others affect us different from our own. The good guys, and the bad guys, are our own, making our life complete.

Looked at in totality, as one life, you realise it is all yours, without any 'mine' and 'not mine'. If you are unaffected by your own actions, the actions of others must also not affect you.

We have realised an enormous truth. Our life is undivided. Each participant contributes to make it whole. No need, therefore, to feel upset by the difficult experiences.



SAI BABA- Conservation of Nature & Environment Care

By: Rajiv Kaicker

Shirdi Sai Baba was a great proponent of Nature Conservation and Care for the Environment and undertook various measures in this regard since He knew that Mankind owes a responsibility towards Nature and its protection.

1. Sri Sai Baba advised his first (and only) disciple Sri Upasani Maharaj to plant lots of useful trees that give eatable fruits, vegetables, shade and many other benefits to all living beings. Sri Upasani Maharaj planted lots of trees as Baba advised in several places.
2. Baba's care for earth and nature is well seen from His Lendi Baag (Lendi Garden) that he originally created from barren land and planted all the flowering plants and watered them by Himself using two unbaked earthen pots in the morning daily. He spent time with Himself in Lendi Baag compulsorily daily. This is a lesson to all to spend some time in the lap of nature daily to calm the body and mind and maintain and restore health by reducing tension and daily stress. This will also help us appreciate God's creation better.
3. He set an example to all by possessing the least number of man-made items for living in as simple a manner as possible and He took the least resources from nature. He used just Udi (sacred ashes) from the dhuni (fire altar) as the universal cure for all types of medical problems. His divine blessing, devotees' unshaken faith in Him were the real medicines that cured these diseases. Baba was giving us the message that Faith in Him, faith in the power of natural methods of curing/healing should not be ignored.
4. Baba often strongly stressed that He was present in all living creatures by clearly demonstrating it many a time. He was also stressed on the importance of feeding all living creatures. Daily several animals were fed from the food that He obtained from begging in 5 homes daily. By this He showed us all that the entire creation is permeated by God and should be cared for properly - just as we care for humans.
5. Sai Baba advised that animals were created by God for a specific purpose (to keep the food-chain moving). He also told His devotees not to needlessly torture/hurt any living creature - even poisonous creatures like scorpions and snakes. He stressed that nothing happens without God's will and that we cannot take away creatures' lives casually which were created by God per His Grand plan. He also shared stories on Karma by revealing the previous births of a couple of goats in a market, a snake attacking a frog near a river and explained their births.
6. He saved Shirdi from a Cholera epidemic by scattering wheat flour all along the borders of the village. This was essentially a biological disease prevention/pest-control method that caused the least damage to



nature. Baba always preferred the natural cure methods first as current knowledge also confirms that these have lesser side-effects than chemical-based methods.



7 Sai Baba advised His devotees to have God-realization as their goal always by reducing money acquisition or collecting luxury items and to practice contentment with whatever God has bestowed on us. By this, He showed that living a simple life close to nature will help us to reach the goal of life easier and faster.

8. Shirdi village folk were advised by Sai Baba to take turns and participate in regularly cleaning up common public places including temples, streets, burial ground, etc. to maintain a healthy and hygienic atmosphere in Shirdi village. He took special efforts himself in cleaning up all temples in the village.

Our Lord Sai Baba taught us to be in communion with Nature and create an atmosphere of harmony between Mankind and the Natural World.



Sai in the form of Satcharita

By: Shantha

Shirdi Sai Satcharita is the most blessed gift straight from Sai.
Sai Himself gave permission to 'Hemadpant' to write His Life.

When Govind Raghunath Dabholkar alias 'Hemadpant' requested Mr. Madhavrao Deshpande alias Shama, to speak to Sai for permission to write Sai Satcharita, Sai was moved and blessed Hemadpant by giving him HIS Udi (sacred ashes) and placing HIS boon-bestowing hand on Hemadpant's head said: - "Let him make a collection of stories and experiences, keep notes and memos; I will help him. He is only an outward instrument. I should write Myself My autobiography and satisfy the wishes of My devotees. He should get rid of his ego, place (or surrender) it at My feet. He who acts like this in life, him I help the most. What of My life-stories? I serve him in his house in all possible ways. When his ego is completely annihilated and there is left no trace of it, I Myself shall enter into him and shall Myself write My own life. **Hearing my stories and teachings will create faith in devotees' hearts and they will easily get self - realization and Bliss;** let there be no insistence on establishing one's own view, no attempt to refute other's opinions, no discussions of pros and cons of any subject."

All those who truly want to be with Sai Baba will certainly agree that Sai Satcharita connects us to Sai. Everything is ordained by Sai. Some read Sai Satcharita for curiosity, some read to challenge beliefs, some read to gain knowledge. How we get to know Sai is His ordain. Sai knows that HIS Bhaktas will benefit by reading HIS Satcharita. Even those who scoff at Sai initially, turn out to be the truest and devoted Bhaktas of Sai. Sai's method to bring each one close to HIM is unique.

While reading Sai Satcharita, let us seek Sai to guide us to understand what we read, hear what HE says. There are many instructions Sai gives us in Sai Satcharita, let us read those instructions over and over, store them in our heart.

Abiding by what Sai says is also a Guru Dakshina. In Sai Satcharita one can come across Sai asking for dakshina in various denominations. Let us see what they mean.

It is not enough if we offer just coins to Sai:

- **One Rupee:** Our oneness with SAI, complete surrender to SAI.
- **Two Rupees:** These two coins are "Faith" and "Patience".
- **Three Rupees:** Sai is the Harmony of three Gunas. One should see Sai as Trimurthi (Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwar). We should get rid of and become free from the three main Desires, viz. (1) for progeny, (2) for wealth, (3) for fame.



- **Four Rupees:** Sai stresses on number 4 in a lot of instances in HIS Satcharita. These are the four objects of Life; Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. Sai always refers to him as the Fourth, i.e., Moksha (Liberation) and Moksha can only be had with the help of our Guru (SAI).
Another illustration of Four: There are four paths to reach God. (Karma, Jnana, Yoga and Bhakti). Fourth path i.e., Bhakti is thorny and full of pits and ditches, and thus difficult to traverse, but if we, relying on our Sadguru, avoid the pits and thorns and walk straight, Guru will take us to the destination (God). So says, Sai Baba.
- **Five Rupees:** When Sai asks for Five Rupees, it is to teach us Non Attachment. For getting Brahma Jnaana one has to give five things, i.e. surrender five things viz. (1) Five Pranas (vital forces), (2) Five senses (five of action and five of perception), (3) mind, (4) intellect and (5) ego. This path of Brahma-Jnana or self-realization is 'as hard as to tread on the edge of a razor'.
- **Six rupees:** Sai want us to give up six inner enemies (desire, anger, greed, lust, pride and jealousy), and surrender them to SAI.
- **Seven Rupees:** Sadguru is better than 7 objects of worship. Sai will take us across 7 seas if we say "SAI, SAI" always with Love. Sai knows what we do even beyond 7 seas. Sai will cross 7 seas to save us. Sai will draw us to HIM even across 7 seas. Sai encourages reading HIS Satcharita in 7 days, Sai loves Nama-Saptah (singing the glory of God s name continuously day and night for 7 days).
- **Eight Rupees:** We should offer to Sai eight lotuses in the form of our eight Sattwik emotions (equilibrium, gentleness, purity, harmony, peace, kindness, clarity, love).
- **Nine Rupees:** Even after collecting dakshina for years, SAI had only nine coins left. Nine denotes the nine types of Bhakti and nine characteristics for us to cultivate.
- **Eleven Rupees:** Sai has given eleven assurances to us. We should always hold fast to Sai's holy feet to be worthy of those 11 promises.
- **Fifteen Rupees:** Sai asked Narke for Rs.15/- and when he said he did not have it, Sai told him to give dakshina from his reading Yoga-Vashistha. Sai wants us to derive lessons from the book and lodge them in our heart where Sai resides.
- **Complete Surrender:** To quote an instance, Mr.Ganpatrao Bodas, the famous actor, says in his Marathi autobiography, that on Baba pressing him often and often for Dakshina, he emptied his money-bag before Sai. The result of this was, as Mr. Bodas says, that in later life he never lacked money, as it came to him abundantly.

Now let us decide what Dakshina we want to give Sai. When we embark upon Sai path, there is a natural growth of Sai's divine grace and peace upon us.

Reading Sai Satcharitha should be our continuous and constant effort. Each time we read, a newer meaning strikes us, a newer message is heard. Let us dive deeper and deeper into the ocean of Sai Satcharitha and find what Sai has in store for us. Let us Love Sai, Think Sai, Praise Sai, Obey Sai, be with Sai. Say Sai, Sai, Sai, Sai, Sai, Om Sai.



My master: Sri Guru Raghavendra swami

By: Divya (Source: Internet)

“Pujyaya Raghavendraya Sathya Dharma Rathyacha
Bajatham Kalpa Vrukshaya Namatham Kamadenuve”.

Sri Raghavendra Swami (1595-1671 CE) born Venkanna Bhatta, was a renowned Hindu Saint, Philosopher and proponent of Dvaita philosophy proposed by Sri Madhvacharya. He served as the head of the matha in Kumbakonam from 1621 to 1671. His Brindavan in Mantrayalam in the present day Andhra Pradesh is an important place of pilgrims. He is the avatar of Prahalada, who is famous as one of the best bhaktas of lord Narayana.

Biography:

Sri Raghavendra swami was born as Venkatanatha in the town of Bhuvanagiri in Tamil Nadu to Kannada Brahmin parents, Thimanna Bhatta and Gopikamba in 1595. He was also known as Venkanna Bhatta or Venkatacharya in honor of Venateshwara. After his initial education under his brother-in-law Lakshminarashimachar in Madurai, Venkatanatha was admitted to the Sri mutt in Kumbakonam after he returned from Madurai Venkatanatha married saraswathi bai, their son Lakshminarayanacharya.

In the Sri Mutt, Venkatanatha studied under Sudheendra theertha. He quickly emerged as a talented scholar and consistently won debates over scholars older than him. He was also known as a teacher of Sanskrit and the ancient Vedic. Sri Venkatanatha is known to be a skilled musician and an expert in playing the instrument Veena.



Sri Venkatanatha took sannyasa and adopted the name Raghavendra Theertha and in 1621 Raghavendra Theertha succeeded his guru Sudhrendra Theertha as the head of the sri mutt and served from 1621 to 1671. He travelled all over south India expounding madhavacharya's Dvaita philosophy and is attributed with a number of miracles.



Miracles:

Once while he was touring Kumbakonam along with his wife, Sri Venkatanatha and his family were invited to attend a function. Unfortunately, the hosts did not treat him well and wanted him to earn his food by running a chore. So they asked him to make some sandalwood paste for all the invitees. Sri Venkatanatha per his habit was **chanting** stotras and mantra while preparing sandalwood for Tilaka. When the guests applied this paste, it induced a burning sensation all over their bodies surprised by this; the hosts sought a clarification from Venkatanatha. He replies that the burning sensation was due to the “Agri suktam “that was chanting while preparing sandalwood and this eternal powder of vedic mantras revealed itself, this happens only when chanted with absolute dedication and devotion the power is enhanced since it was chanted by someone as virtuous and devoted to bhagavan Hari as himself upon realizing his devotion and power, the host apologized profusely to Sri Venkatanatha and sought his forgiveness. Sri Venkatanatha then prepared the paste again but chanted the vedic mantra to Varuna (vedic rain god) this time it has been recovered that when the guest applied this paste they were quash sense of being drenched in rain water, reaffirming Sri venkatanatha’s power of devotion.



Works and compositions:

He wrote a commentary Sudha Parimala (on the Srimannyaya Sudha an exposition of Dvaita philosophy)

- Dasha Prakarana
- Sutra Prasthaana –works on the brahma-sutra
- Gita Prasthanna

And also guru Raghavendra Swamy wrote many spiritual compositions and devotional songs that was dedicate to Lord Krishna (Indu enage Govinda songs wrote by him for Krishna it is very famous song his penname is Dhira Venu Gopala). In 1671 after assuming his disciples in a speech that he will be in spirit (in Tejoroopa) with them for the next seven hundred years, Guru Raghavendra Swamy attaned Samadhi at Mantralayam (Andra Pradesh).



Book Review

Title: **“You bring us joy Mere Khwaja”** by Ms Lorraine Walshe-Ryan

Language: **English**

Reviewed by: **Saibanisa Gopala Rao Ravada**

Jai Sairam. This is a brief review of the book: You bring us joy Mere Khwaja” The author Ms Lorraine has tried to portray her personal experiences with Baba in different forms. She tried to synthesize her life time experiences and indicated that all religions convey more or less the same message for humanity. According to me this is a good attempt in harmonizing values system prevailing among various religions. The readers would find it interesting to go through the year wise narration of being with Baba by the author. The narration clearly brings out her attachment with Baba and reflects spiritual aspects. She started the book with a Tribute to her mother which I feel is most appropriate and indicates the emotional attachment of Ms Lorraine to her mother. I loved her statement “Shirdi Sai Baba is Mere Jaan- Mere Khwaja”. She also added that “My life is my Shirdi- My Shirdi is my Life” These two sentences are enough to tell the readers how much faith she has in Sai Baba. The spiritual strength she attained being with Baba was also narrated at different places in the book.



I was wondering why she gave the title “You bring us joy Mere Khwaja” for this book. The author was listening on 6.1.2010 to a qawali “Khwaja mere Khwaja” and on 25.1.2010 she strongly felt about her rebirth and attachment with Sufism and being blessed by Baba wherever she went. (Page No 215). She mentioned in her special thanks about me as “My Dear Bodyguard Saibanisa in Hyderabad”. The human side of the author could be gauged by the above statement. I feel this book would bring the much needed solace in times of crisis and happiness as Baba is there for those who believe in Him irrespective of their religions. This book is a must for every Sai Devotee. Bow to Shri Sai- Peace to All - Saibanisa

Note from Editor:

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All For a Single Piece of Loin-Cloth

Source: Tales and Parables of Sri Ramakrishna

A SADHU under the instruction of his Guru built for himself a small shed, thatched with leaves at a distance from the haunts of men. He began his devotional exercises in this hut. Now, every morning after ablution he would hang his wet cloth and the kaupina (loin-cloth) on a tree close to the hut, to dry them. One day on his return from the neighboring village, which he would visit to beg for his daily food, he found that the rats had cut holes in his kaupina. So the next day he was obliged to go to the village for a fresh one. A few days later, the sadhu spread his loin-cloth on the roof of his hut to dry it and then went to the village to beg as usual. On his return he found that the rats had torn it into shreds. He felt much annoyed and thought within himself "Where shall I go again to beg for a rag? Whom shall I ask for one?" All the same he saw the villagers the next day and re-presented to them the mischief done by the rats. Having heard all he had to say, the villagers said, "Who will keep you supplied with cloth every day? Just do one thing—keep a cat; it will keep away the rats." The sadhu forthwith secured a kitten in the village and carried it to his hut.

From that day the rats ceased to trouble him and there was no end to his joy. The sadhu now began to tend the useful little creature with great care and feed it on the milk begged from the village. After some days, a villager said to him: "Sadhuji, you require milk every day; we can supply your want for a few days at most by begging; who will supply you with milk all the year round? Just do one thing—keep a cow. You can satisfy your own creature comforts by drinking its milk and you can also give some to your cat." In a few days the sadhu procured a milch cow and had no occasion to beg for milk any more. By and by, the sadhu found it necessary to beg for straw for his cow. He had to visit the neighboring villages for the purpose, but the villagers said, "There are lots of uncultivated lands close to your hut; just cultivate the land and you shall not have to beg for straw for your cow." Guided by their advice, the sadhu took to tilling the land. Gradually he had to engage



some laborers and later on found it



necessary to build barns to store the crop in. Thus he became, in course of time, a sort of landlord.

And, at last he had to take a wife to look after his big household. He now passed his days just like a busy householder. After some time, his Guru came to see him. Finding himself surrounded by goods and cattle, the Guru felt puzzled and enquired of a servant, "An ascetic used to live here in a hut; can you tell me where he has removed himself?" The servant did not know what to say in reply. So the Guru ventured to enter into the house, where he met his disciple. The Guru said to him, "My son, what is all this?" The disciple, in great shame fell at the feet of his Guru and said, "My Lord, all for a single piece of loin-cloth!"



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