



# SAMARPAN

OCTOBER 2016



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## *Editors Note*

By: Ashok Jain

Sai Ram dear readers. By the time this edition reaches you, it will be the Deepavali time. You all must have been enjoying the festive season. Festivals are welcome break for all of us from our routine lives. Though each and every festival originated with a purpose and reason; what is left over time is mostly the celebration part of it. Celebration would be more meaningful if we also look for the meaning for which these festivals stand for.

In one of my trips abroad, I met a person who often comes and visits Ramana Maharishi Ashram in Tamilnadu. Since he is into meditation; I asked him how he got exposure to these ideas. He told that at his young age of nineteen; one of his friends talked about rebirth and he was completely blown away by that idea. And he told that the very moment one believes in rebirth; the notion that one is this body completely disappears. And outlook towards life completely changes. And he told that in India everybody believes in reincarnation or rebirth. He must be above fifty years and he has meditated more and more over course of time.

After the meeting, I started thinking if we, the Indians who easily believe in rebirth and are familiar with it change our outlook towards life in general since we know this fact. It is hard to say if we truly value the amazing nuggets of truth and wisdom handed over to us. In spite of the amazing truths available to us, we live under influence of our own ignorance and maya. Mahavira told that the knot of attachment is very fast and difficult to be resolved. It is difficult to see us beyond our everyday lives where we have to strive to earn our livelihood, fulfil our responsibilities towards family, society & country. One of the most fundamental impact of knowing that there is a future life is to straighten our acts so that we do not have to suffer because of our karmas which do not materialize in this life; however would materialize in some or other life.

I was reading a book wherein a realized Muslim scholar was going by train and had some luggage which needed to be booked as separate luggage. Since he was a well-known figure, the railway officer offered to take his luggage for free. The Muslim scholar said that he has to go far and so he would rather pay for the luggage. The railway officer said that he will make sure that even in next train his luggage would go free. The scholar said that he has to go even farther. The officer said that he will make sure that the luggage reaches his destination or home. The scholar said that he has to go even farther. The railway officer said that he did not understand what he meant. The scholar told that he would have to answer God for his deeds one day and that's what he meant when he said that he has to go far.

You, I & in fact each one of us has to go far. Let us make sure that we have lesser questions to answer and lesser defending to do at the last leg of our journey. This life is nothing in comparison to millions of years of lifetimes which we have spent and will also spend. So, can we strive to make our next leg of journey more comfortable or to cut the tedious journey times or to cut short all the journeys in fact. May Baba bless you all and may you stay happy and content in your lives.



## लेख – टि. आर. माधवन

श्री साईनाताय नमः ॥

गुरुवो में गुरुदेव तु अलग है

उपदेश तेरा भक्तों ने माना है ।

तेरे नाम कि सूमरण से बडा आनंद पाये है

तेरे सुन्दर रूप कि दर्शन पाकर बडा सूख मिले है ।

गुरु पुर्णिमा भक्तों को बडा दिन है

गुरु पुजन से कृपा पाते है ।

पुर्ण चंद्रमा मुख साई मे दिखे है

ये जीवन उसके कमल चरणों मे अर्पित है ॥

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श्री नानक रहीम ईसा पूरशेत्तम धर्म मुर्थे,

श्री गुरु शूभप्रदा विचक्क्षण विश्व मुर्थे,

शतकोठी भक्तनेस समान कांते,

श्री साईनाथ महा गुरुदेव सूप्रभातम ॥

सत्य धर्म परिपालक सत्य सीला,

प्रत्यक्ष दैव कलीयुग गुरुदेवा,

उत्फुल्ल पदम शिर्डी दीनबनदो,

श्री साईनाथ महा गुरुदेव सूप्रभातम ॥

पुर्णत पुर्ण सुंदर पूष्पा,

पतीजना पंडित श्री गुरुवे,  
विभासना मुख विभुति देवलोल,  
श्री साईनाथ महा गुरुदेव सूप्रभातम ॥  
भुत्वादि भवभावित्र अप्रमेया,  
मानूप्ता मान मानित मानिक मानूषा,  
अग्यान मोह तिमिराबहा पालनेत्रा,  
श्री साईनाथ महा गुरुदेव सूप्रभातम ॥  
हे सौम्य शांत शिर्डी महाराजे,  
विद्ययानिदि गूणानिदि जगत नामी,  
सौभाग्य धन मंगल दायी नवनथे,  
श्री साईनाथ महा गुरुदेव सूप्रभातम ॥

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ओम स्वरूप सुन्दराय विधमहे सूलोचनाय दिमहि  
तन्नो श्री साईनाथाय प्रचोदयात ।  
ओम भक्त हुदालयाय विधमहे मितूनजयाय दीमहि  
तन्नो श्री साईनाथाय प्रचोदयात ।

ओम सत्यधर्म पारायणाय विधमहे सत्यानगत्य दीमहि  
तन्नो श्री साईनाथाय प्रचोदयात ।

ओम परमसूखदाय विधमहे परमेश्वराय दीमहि  
तन्नो श्री साईनाथाय प्रचोदयात ।

ओम आपतभान्दवाय विधमहे वासूदेवाय दीमहि  
तन्नो श्री साईनाथाय प्रचोदयात ।

ओम सर्वमंगल कराय विधमहे सर्वाभिष्ट प्रदाय दीमहि  
तन्नो श्री साईनाथाय प्रचोदयात ॥

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शांत स्वरूपंम शिर्डी निवासम

श्री साईनाथम नमामी ऋण मुक्तये ।

कमल पाद चरणम, भक्तानाम वरदायकम

श्री साईनाथम नमामी ऋण मुक्तये ।

शिर्डी महाराज दयालु हृदयम महा कृपानिदिम

श्री साईनाथम नमामी ऋण मुक्तये ।

जो स्मरणात नाम जप नित्यम

भक्तन देखे दिव्य दर्शनम

श्री साईनाथम नमामी ऋण मुक्तये ।

शिर्डी क्षेत्र महता

सब पीडा दुर करे गुरुदेवम

श्री साईनाथम नमामी ऋण मुक्तये ।

सब का मालिक एक कहा दिगंबरम

दिलावो पाप से विमोचनम

श्री साईनाथम नमामी ऋण मुक्तये ।

कँयुग शांति दुतम भक्तानाम अभय प्रदम

श्री साईनाथम नमामी ऋण मुक्तये ।

द्वारखमै लोक प्रियम भक्तन कोटि अभिवन्तितम

श्री साईनाथम नमामी ऋण मुक्तये ॥

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लोक प्रसीद्धम महा पूरुषम कुपानिदिम,  
भक्त हिरुदयानंदम श्री साईनाथम प्रणमामयहम ।  
जयदू मंगलम थे मंडूजूलम,  
ममहिरुतिस्तिम श्री साईनाथम प्रणमामयहम ।  
शिडिंपथे कामितार्थम दर्चयार्तपूदम,  
मया कांगिशथम श्री साईनाथम प्रणमामयहम ।  
शान्ति महा पुर्यात्तिम मंगले लालशम,  
दयायतम श्री साईनाथम प्रणमामयहम ।  
मन हित्रिशयाति दिव्य नामदे वासिवरत्तथाम,

थे नयनो संतथम श्री साईनाथम प्रणमामयहम ।  
त्रात पदार्चने मम कर्युगम,  
भावत पुर्ण करुणाया मा जीवितम  
श्री साईनाथम प्रणमामयहम ॥

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श्री शिडिं निवासी शुभ मंगलाचरन,  
हमरे साई गुरुदेव मंगलाचरन ॥  
सकलजन प्रिय महा पुरुष मंगलाचरन,  
हमरे जन्म संकट हरण चरण कमल मंगलाचरन ॥  
कूपानिदि सत्य मार्गदर्शक शुभ मंगलाचरन,  
हमरे रक्षक महा गुरुदेव शुभ मंगलाचरन ॥





# *Sai's auspicious Udi - Sai's blessings*

By: Shantha, From: Sai Satcharita

The ardent devotees and believers of Shirdi Sai would know the value of Udi (sacred ash).

Sai has lit sacred fire "Dhuni" in Dwarkamai; the ash from this sacred fire is called Udi.

Reference is made at various instances in Sai Satcharita about Udi. Udi is one of the most blessed gifts from our Sai. What did Baba teach or hint by this Udi?

Baba taught by His Udi that all the visible phenomena in the universe are as transient as the ash.

Our bodies composed of the five elements, will fall down, after all their enjoyments are over, and be reduced to ashes. In order to remind the devotees of the fact that their bodies will be reduced to ashes, Baba distributed Udi to them.


Baba also taught by the Udi that the Brahman is the only reality and the universe is ephemeral and that no one in this world, be he a son, father or wife, is really ours.

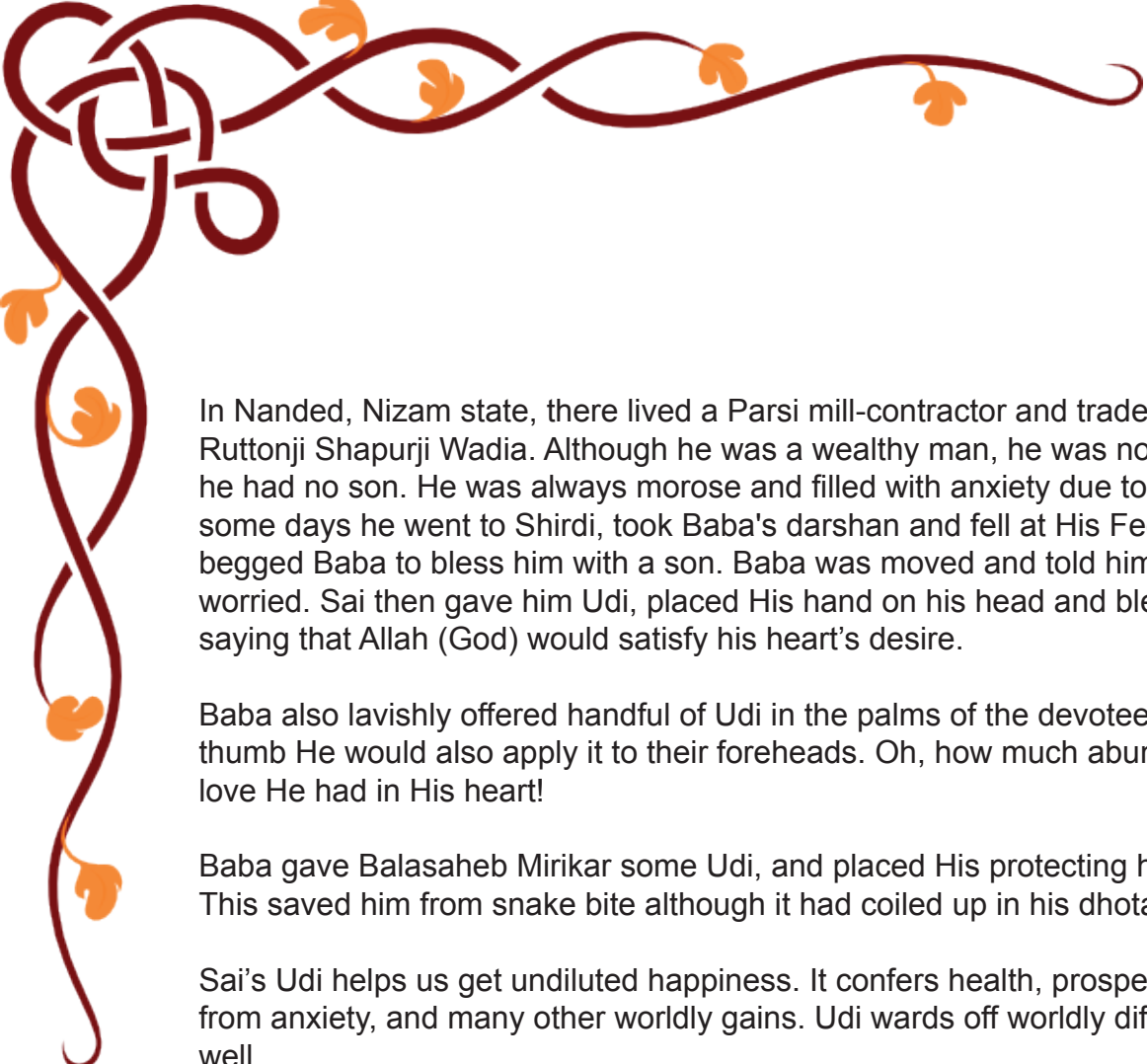
When Hemadpant wanted to write the biography of Sai (Satcharita), Sai was moved and blessed him by giving him His Udi and placing His boon-bestowing hand on his head.

What a joy it is when we feel Sai appear before us and apply Udi on our fore-head and place His hand of blessing on our head. When Mr. Nanasaheb Chandorkar got an order of transfer to Pandharpur, he went to Shirdi with his family and requested Baba to accompany them to Pandharpur and stay with them there. He gladly got Baba's permission, Udi (sacred ashes) and Blessings. Keeping Sai's Udi with us at all times is like keeping company of Sai.

Beautiful and handsome Sai, used to stand on the edge of the Masjid and distribute Udi to each and every Bhakta, with a view to his welfare.

A gentleman from Harda by name Dattopant suffered from stomach-ache for fourteen years. None of the remedies gave him any relief. When he got Baba's Udi with blessings, he felt relieved and there was no further trouble about the malady. The disease of many Sai has cured by His Udi.





In Nanded, Nizam state, there lived a Parsi mill-contractor and trader, by name Ruttonji Shapurji Wadia. Although he was a wealthy man, he was not happy as he had no son. He was always morose and filled with anxiety due to this. After some days he went to Shirdi, took Baba's darshan and fell at His Feet. He begged Baba to bless him with a son. Baba was moved and told him not to be worried. Sai then gave him Udi, placed His hand on his head and blessed him saying that Allah (God) would satisfy his heart's desire.

Baba also lavishly offered handful of Udi in the palms of the devotees. With His thumb He would also apply it to their foreheads. Oh, how much abundance of love He had in His heart!

Baba gave Balasaheb Mirikar some Udi, and placed His protecting hand on him. This saved him from snake bite although it had coiled up in his dhotar.


Sai's Udi helps us get undiluted happiness. It confers health, prosperity, freedom from anxiety, and many other worldly gains. Udi wards off worldly difficulties as well.

It was found then and even now, that Sai's Udi cures many physical and mental maladies. One ought to read CHAPTER 33 & 34, Greatness of Udi – Sai Satcharita, to know more marvels of Sai's Udi. In the famous Jamner miracle, Sai saved Mainatai just by sending her Udi although she was several miles away from Shirdi.

Udi is the only infallible remedy we know for all our troubles. Udi has cured many devotees' insomnia cases as well. Sai's Udi has saved many of His devotees from ignominy when they faced shortage of food during religious festivals and ceremonies.

It was Sai's routine to give Udi to His devotees after noon Aarti and send them home with His blessings.

By giving us Udi, Sai taught us discrimination and by taking Dakshina, He taught us non-attachment. Unless we have these two things, it is not possible for us to cross over the sea of the mundane existence. So Baba asked for and took Dakshina, and while the devotees took leave, He gave Udi as Prasad. Udi has helped us to gain both our ends - material as well as spiritual. Om Sai Ram.





# *Sai Baba - The Christ of Shirdi*

K. Bharath Kumar

Sai Baba of Shirdi and Jesus Christ were very identical in their lives and mission to enlighten humanity. A few similar events and identical teachings from their lives are described here.

**Healing Miracles:** in healing, Sai Baba was just like Jesus. He healed many people with communicable diseases like leprosy, tuberculosis, plague, etc., and handled untouchables without revulsions (Bhagoji Shinde, a leper was Sai Baba's close devotee and companion). Both Jesus and Sai brought back vision in a blind man who was blind from birth. Sai's 'Udhi' (vibhuti/holy ashes) from His altar cured and still cures diseases incurable by even conventional medicines.

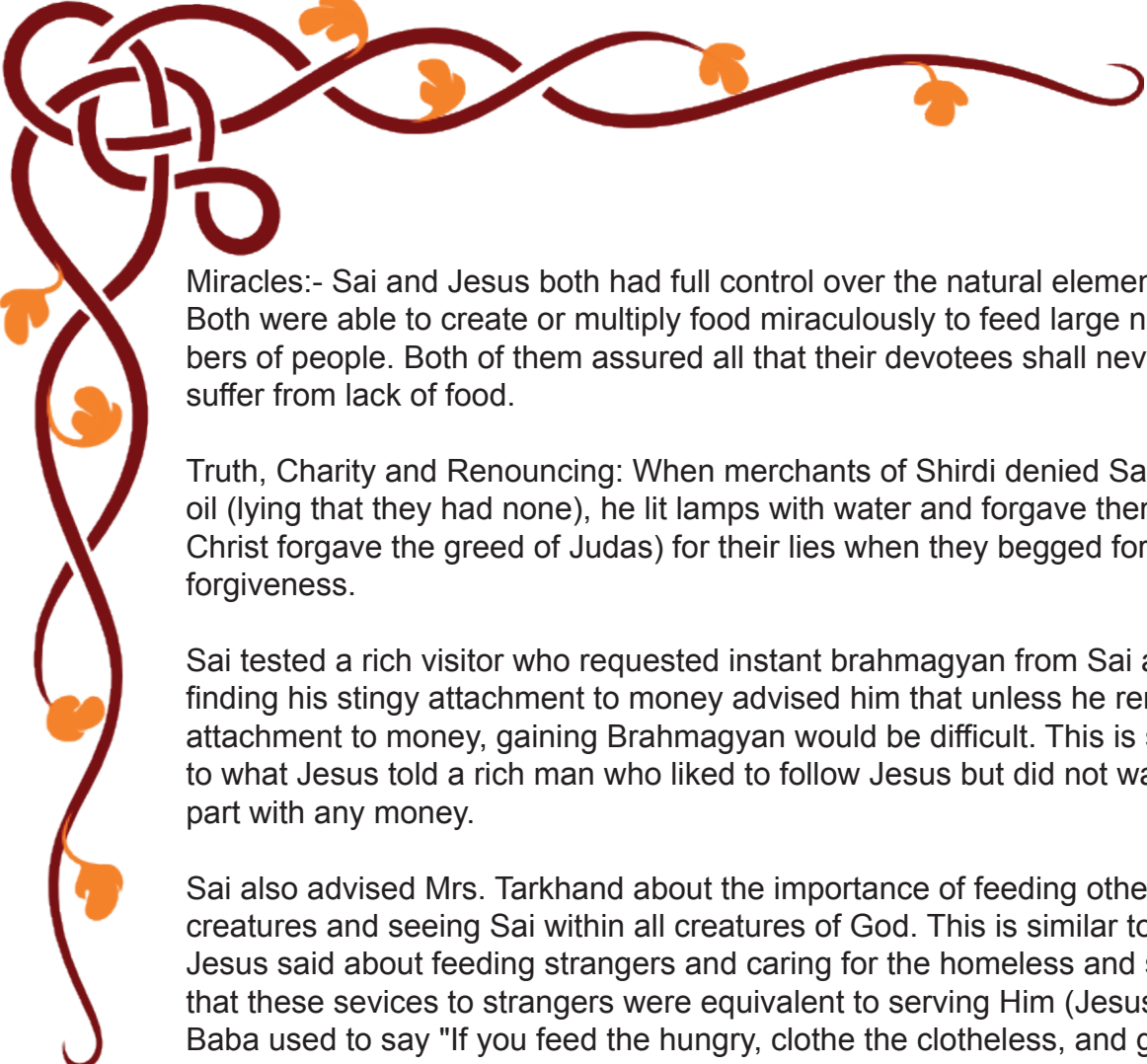
Once Sai suddenly put his hands into his ever-alive dhuni (fire altar) and made a gesture of extracting something from it. In the process he burnt his hands badly. When asked, he revealed that a child in a mother's lap elsewhere accidentally fell into the iron furnace. This was sensed by Sai at Dwarakamayi mosque and he saved the child immediately. Sai's scars remained throughout his life.

A child suffered from Bubonic plague. Its mother begged to Sai to cure her child. Sai showed her big boils on his own body and told her he was carrying the child's karma also and pacified her and promised her that her child will get better soon and it happened soon.

In the end, it is believed Sai gave up his own life instead of Tatya Patil's life which was in danger. Tatya Patil was beloved to Sai. Sai predicted this danger a year or so earlier. Tatya recovered from his fatal illness but Sai collapsed just like Jesus - (perhaps to repay Bhaija Bhai - Tatya's mother who took immense pains to feed Sai daily in his earlier years at Shirdi).

**Way of Love and Non-Violence:** Sai used to say He served with the army of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi to win India's freedom from the British by war. Later he left this way of using force and preferred the devotion and non-violent self-sacrifice as the route to win freedom. He advised Sri Lokamanya Tilak thus to leave aggressive fight and to fight for freedom silently and resolutely without weapons or force.

This was similar to Jesus Christ. Christ had protested against greedy moneylenders and was said to have taken a whip against them in a temple as they had turned God's temple of prayers into a market. Later he transitioned to complete non-violence as his way of salvation of humanity.



Miracles:- Sai and Jesus both had full control over the natural elements. Both were able to create or multiply food miraculously to feed large numbers of people. Both of them assured all that their devotees shall never suffer from lack of food.

Truth, Charity and Renouncing: When merchants of Shirdi denied Sai free oil (lying that they had none), he lit lamps with water and forgave them (like Christ forgave the greed of Judas) for their lies when they begged for his forgiveness.

Sai tested a rich visitor who requested instant brahmgyan from Sai and finding his stingy attachment to money advised him that unless he removes attachment to money, gaining Brahmgyan would be difficult. This is similar to what Jesus told a rich man who liked to follow Jesus but did not want to part with any money.


Sai also advised Mrs. Tarkhand about the importance of feeding other creatures and seeing Sai within all creatures of God. This is similar to what Jesus said about feeding strangers and caring for the homeless and saying that these services to strangers were equivalent to serving Him (Jesus). Sai Baba used to say "If you feed the hungry, clothe the clotheless, and give your veranda for the homeless, God (Sri Hari) will certainly be pleased".

**Forgiveness:** Both stressed on avoiding idle gossip and to avoid criticizing others. Sai's message of Faith and Patience, his infinite love and compassion to all are quite similar with Jesus Christ's message of love and compassion. Both preached the practise of forgiving enemies and wrong doers.

**Three-day Resurrection:**In 1886, Sai departed from His body informing Mahalsapati that he was going to visit God. He was then suffering from severe asthma as well. He was then declared dead by the Shirdi doctor and officials. Like Jesus resurrected on Easter Sunday, Sai's spirit re-animated within his mortal body three days later, to the wonder of the world.

**Hope-Giving Assurances:**Just like Jesus Christ assured His devotees that He would return after his mortal body passes over, Sai Baba's assurance that "He will be active and vigorous even from His Tomb" and that "He is ever-living to guide and protect His devotees" are seen even today a hundred years after His passing away in 1918.

"Have No Fear" is an assurance that is commonly present in Jesus's teachings to Mark 5:36, Luke 8:50 - "Do not Fear", and in several teachings in the Bible's Old Testament (4). Similarly, Sai Baba's well-known assurance of "Why Fear when I am Here" had given hope to millions and continues to give hope even now as well.








# *Sai Baba Blessed us with a Child*

## Sambit & Priyanka

### **"Om Shri Shiridi Sainathay Namah..."**

We are devotees of Shirdi Sai Baba... we have visited Shirdi couple of times. All the time we got nice darshan and fulfilled our dreams. We both work in private organization in Hyderabad, but after marriage, we were childless for 2yrs. we visited both Gynaecologist and Ayurveda doctor. All test has been done, report had minor abnormalities. We were sad and followed doctors advise and medication, still we were not able to get positive sign. My only sister who is also a devotee of baba reminded me to visit Shirdi and get Baba's blessing. Then immediately we both without any second thought planned for Shirdi, booked Aarti ticket in advance.

On the day of darshan, we got very beautiful darshan of baba and was there for 20minutes for the Aarti. At the evening we visited Shani temple and next day morning (Monday) we visited Traimbakeswar and did puja. Brahman told us to bend our head in front of Mahadev for blessings. After such a beautiful darshan, we returned back to Hyderabad, the same month we got positive sign of my wife's conceive and now we are blessed with baby boy. We kept his name as SaiVignesh." Sairam shower blessings on those devotees who completely surrender to his lotus feet





# *Teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

Rajiv Kaicker

## **Silence Develops Love**

Silence is the only language of the realised. Practise moderation in speech. That will help you in many ways. It will develop love, for most misunderstandings and factions arise out of carelessly spoken words. When the foot slips, the wound can be healed; but when the tongue slips, the wound it causes in the heart of another will fester for life.

The tongue is liable for four big errors: uttering falsehood, scandalising, finding fault with others, and excessive articulation. These have to be avoided if there is to be peace for the individual as well as for society. The bond of brotherhood will be tightened if people speak less and speak sweetly. That is why silence was prescribed as a vow for spiritual aspirants by the scriptures. You are all spiritual aspirants at various stages of the road, and so this discipline is valuable for you also.

## **Talk Sweetly without Anger**

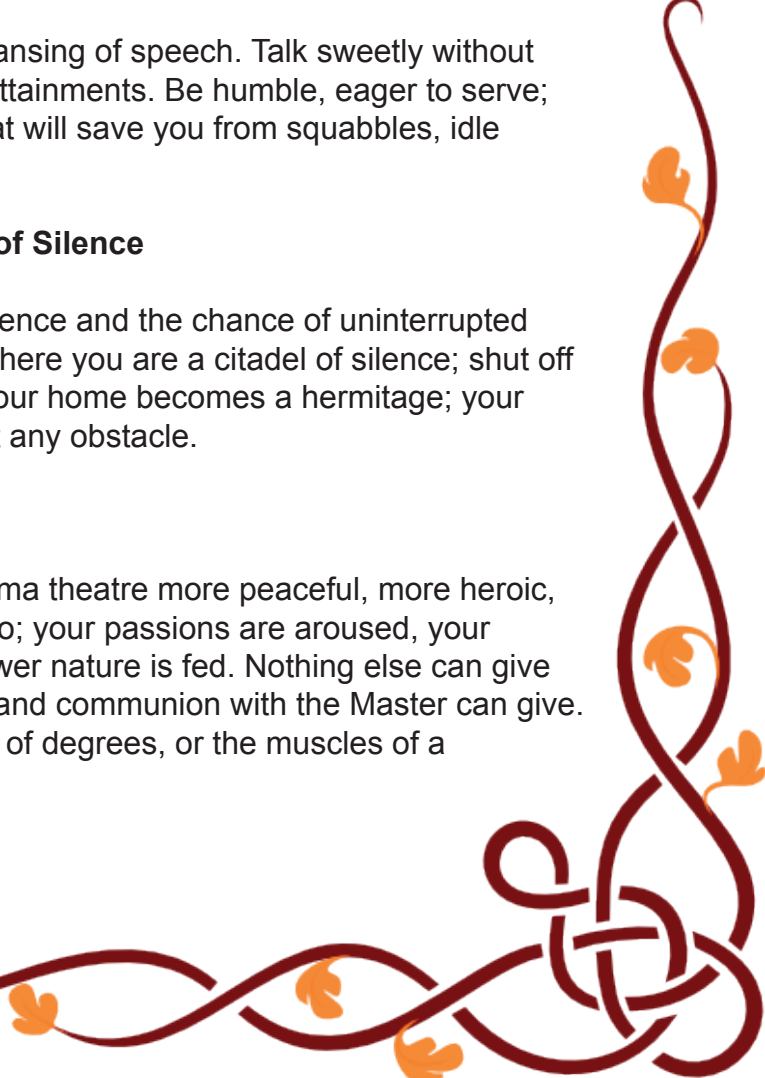
The first step in spiritual discipline is the cleansing of speech. Talk sweetly without anger. Do not boast of your scholarship or attainments. Be humble, eager to serve; conserve your speech. Practise silence. That will save you from squabbles, idle thoughts, and factions.

## **Make the Place Where You Are a Citadel of Silence**

You need not escape into a forest to gain silence and the chance of uninterrupted spiritual practice. You can make the place where you are a citadel of silence; shut off the senses, let them not run after objects. Your home becomes a hermitage; your spiritual practices will then move on, without any obstacle.

## **Communion with the Master**

Just consider – do you come out of the cinema theatre more peaceful, more heroic, purer, and nobler than when you went in? No; your passions are aroused, your animal impulses are catered to, and your lower nature is fed. Nothing else can give one the rich reward that silence and prayer and communion with the Master can give. Not even a decent bank account, or a string of degrees, or the muscles of a prize-fighter.





### **Kindness Has to Be Fostered in Silence**

One great temptation for weak minds nowadays is the opportunity for publicity. Even a gift of five rupees to some charitable organisation is announced in thick banner headlines! Conceit is thus encouraged, and man slides into paltry pomp. Kindness has to be fostered in the silence of the mind.

### **Silence Is the Best Practice to Guard Faith**

Silence is the best spiritual practice to guard faith; that is why I insist on silence here also, as a first step in your spiritual practice.

### **Repeat God's Name in the Silence of the Heart**

The magnet cannot draw to itself a bit of iron that is covered with rust and dust. You cannot yearn for God when your mind is laden with the rust of material desires and when the dust of sensual craving sits heavy on it. Clear the rust, know the glory of God, and repeat His name in the silence of the heart. Any one of the names that denote Him can be selected. Do not listen to people who canvass for one particular name and cavil at others.

### **Keep Silent if Speaking Truth Causes Grief or Pain**

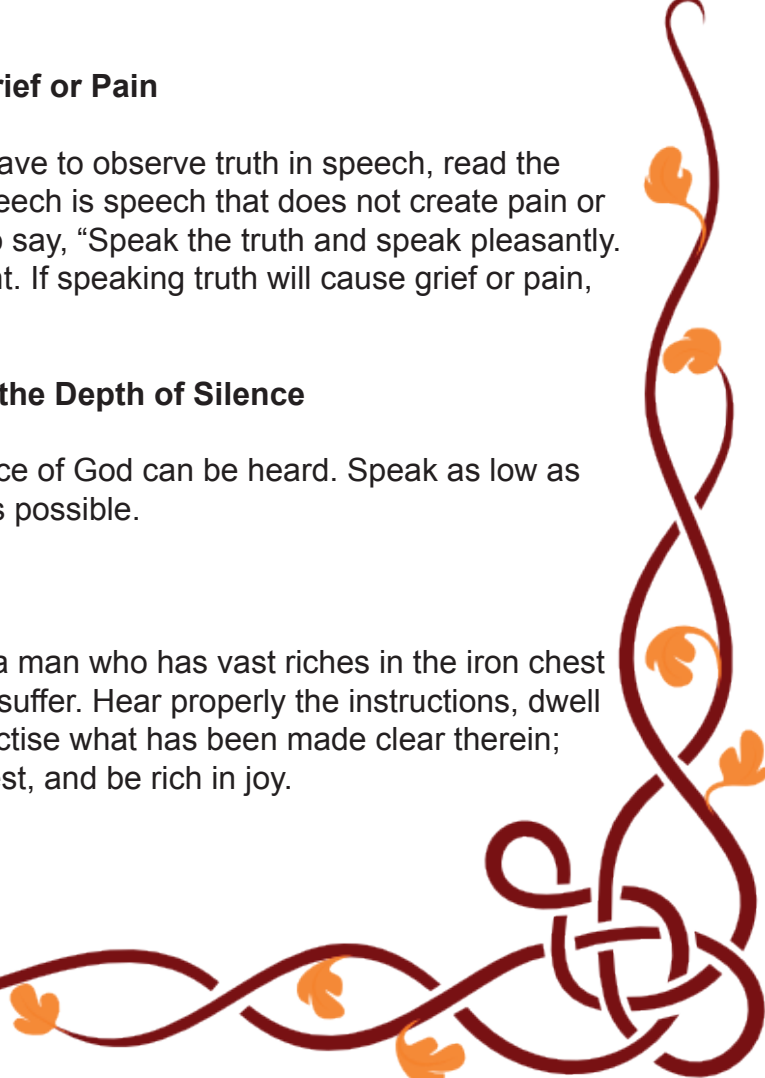
If you want to know the way in which you have to observe truth in speech, read the Bhagavad Gita. It tells you that the best speech is speech that does not create pain or anger or grief to others. The scriptures also say, "Speak the truth and speak pleasantly. Do not speak the truth which is not pleasant. If speaking truth will cause grief or pain, keep silent."

### **The Voice of God Can Be Heard Only in the Depth of Silence**

It is only in the depth of silence that the voice of God can be heard. Speak as low as possible, as little as possible, as sweetly as possible.

### **All Joy Is Within**

All the joy you crave for is in you. But, like a man who has vast riches in the iron chest but who has no idea where the key is, you suffer. Hear properly the instructions, dwell upon them in the silence of meditation, practise what has been made clear therein; then, you can secure the key, open the chest, and be rich in joy.





## *Osho Story on Shirdi Sai Baba*

Osho - If you come to meet God, you must meet him without any words. If you have some words, he may not fit and suit your idea. Because if a Hindu thinks he has one thousand hands, and if God comes only with two hands, a Hindu, he will reject: "You are not a God at all. Only with two hands? God has a thousand hands. Show me your other hands. Only then I can believe you."

It happened: One of the most beautiful persons of this past century was Sai Baba of Shirdi. He had a friend and a follower. No one knows whether he was a Mohammedan or a Hindu, but he lived in a mosque, so it was believed he was a Mohammedan. And a Hindu follower was there, who loved, respected, has much faith in Sai Baba. Every day he will come for his darshan, and without seeing him he will not go. Sometimes it will happen that for the whole day he will have to wait, but without seeing he will not go, and he will not take food unless he has seen Sai Baba.

Once it happened the whole day passed, there was much gathering and much crowd -- he couldn't enter. When everybody has gone, just in the night he touched the feet.

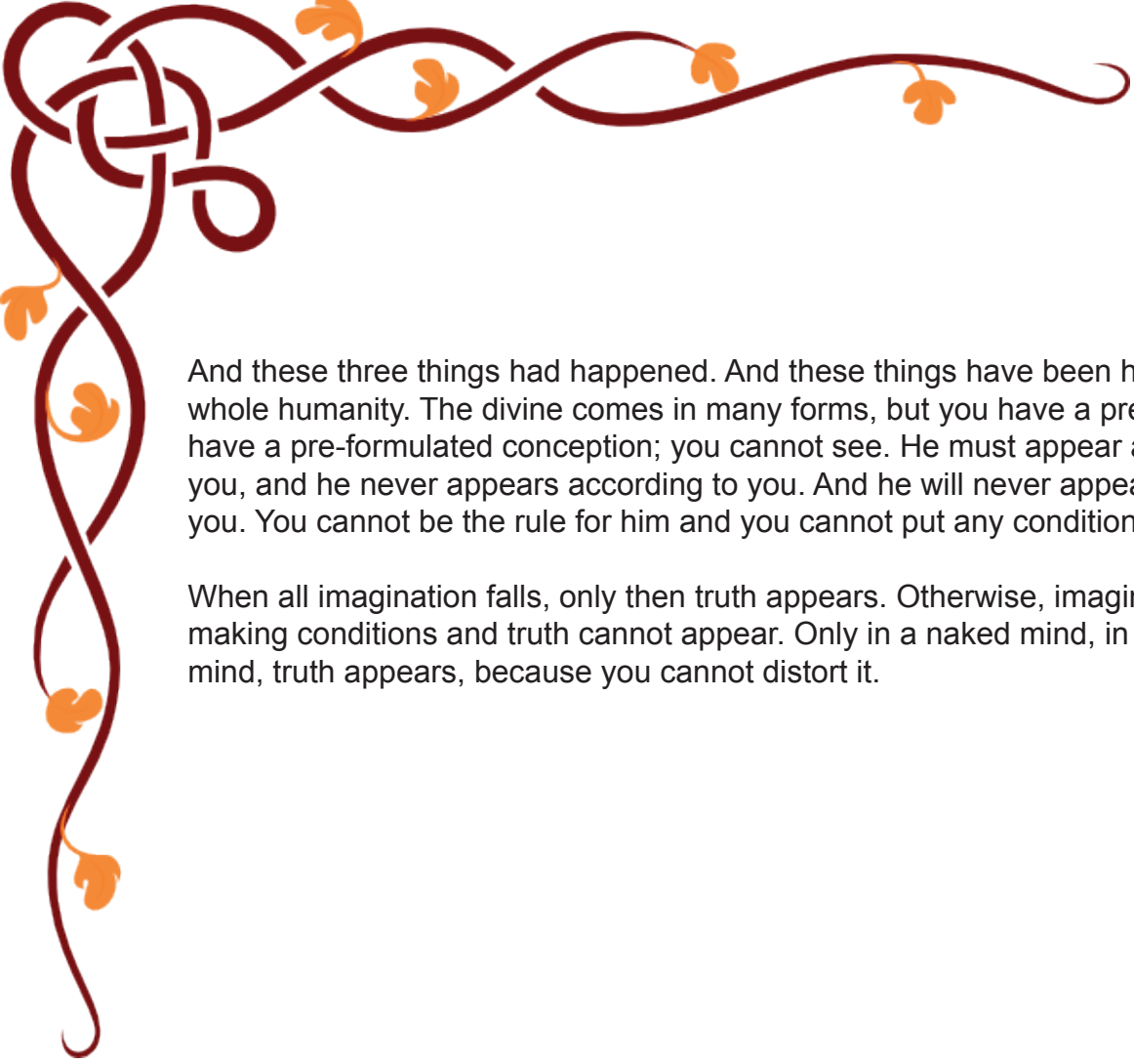
Sai Baba said to him, "Why you unnecessarily wait? There is no need to see me here, I can come there. And drop this from tomorrow. Now I will do. Before you take your food you will see me every day."

The disciple was very happy. So next day he was waiting and waiting; nothing happened. Many things happened really, but nothing happened according to his conception. By the evening he was very angry. He has not taken the food, and Sai Baba has not appeared so he went again. He said, "You promise and you don't fulfil?"

Sai Baba said, "But I appeared thrice, not even once. First time I came, I was a beggar and you said to me, 'Move away! Don't come here!' Second time I came I was an old woman, and you just won't look at me; you closed your eyes-because the disciple had the habit of not seeing women; he was practicing not seeing women, so he closed the eyes.


Sai Baba said, "I had come, but what do you expect? Should I enter your eyes, closed eyes? I was standing there, but you closed the eyes. The moment you saw me, you closed the eyes. Then third time I reached as a dog, and you won't allow me in. With a stick you were standing in the door."





And these three things had happened. And these things have been happening to whole humanity. The divine comes in many forms, but you have a prejudice; you have a pre-formulated conception; you cannot see. He must appear according to you, and he never appears according to you. And he will never appear according to you. You cannot be the rule for him and you cannot put any conditions.

When all imagination falls, only then truth appears. Otherwise, imagination goes on making conditions and truth cannot appear. Only in a naked mind, in a nude, empty mind, truth appears, because you cannot distort it.





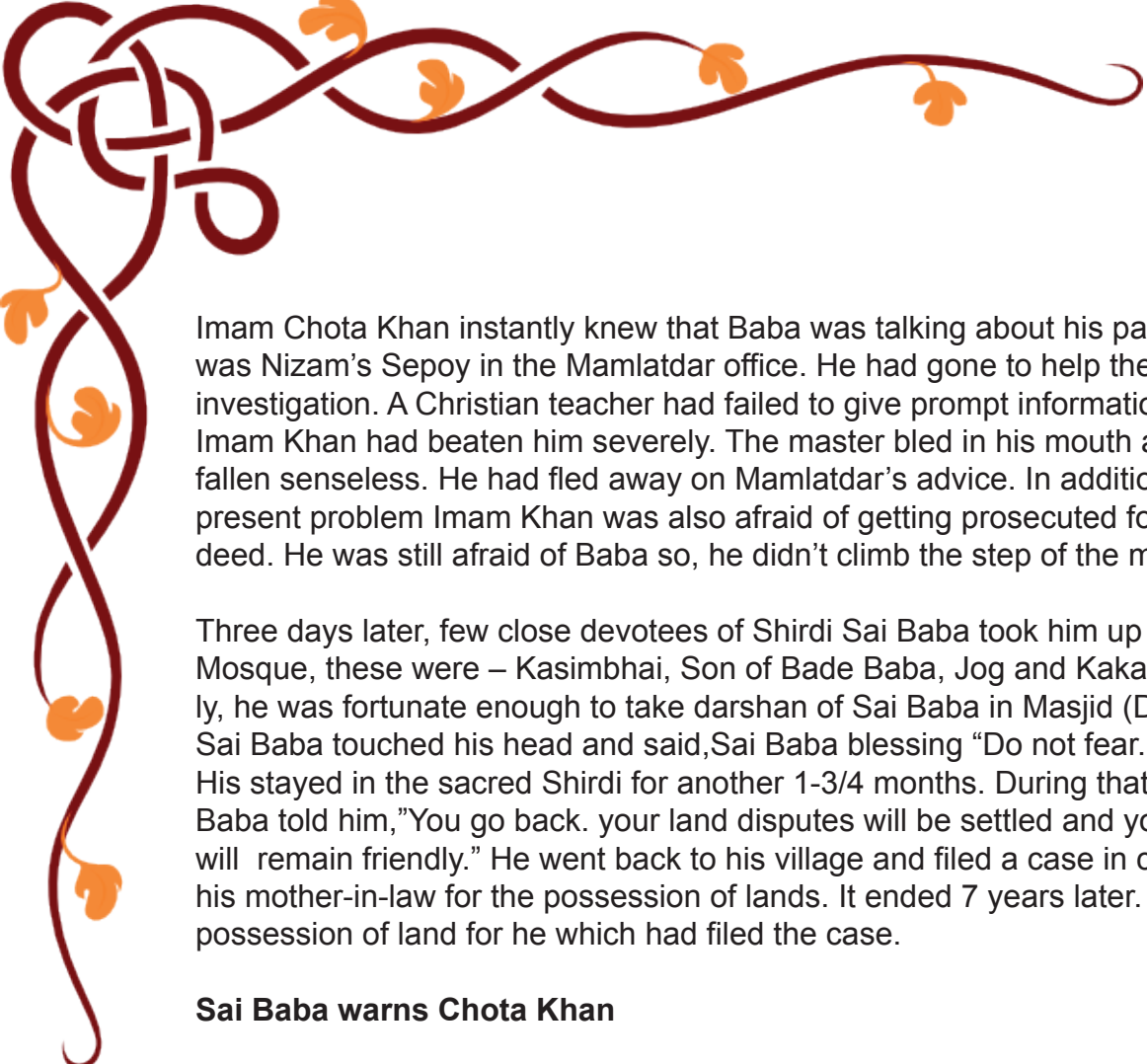
## *What Durvesh Shah; A Muslim Saint Said About Shirdi Sai Baba*

Imambhai Chotakhan heard the greatness of Shirdi Sai Baba at the age of 65 years. He lived in Vaijapur about 40 km. from Shirdi, in Aurangabad district. He was surrounded by problems. He consulted a Muslim Saint, Durvesh Shah, for a way out of his problems. And that time he was much disturbed by a legal proceeding in the court between him and his parental aunt. Durvesh Shah said, "Child, there is a person living in Shirdi. He is greater than all the great souls. He is all-powerful. If He showers His grace, then nothing is impossible. He is one with almighty God. Have His darshan and pray to Him. Your wishes will be fulfilled."

Therefore he visited Shirdi. He met Sai Baba near Gonkar's house. At that time Dixitwada was being built (1910) and the Sadhu Vijayanand Swami from South India was here. Sai Baba was standing and a lady was taking darshan in this lane. Imambhai had a doubt about Shirdi Sai Baba's spiritual greatness according to His religious background. He thought, "How could a Fakir accepting and propagating Hindu rituals like Aarti, Dhuni, worship, could be one of the greatest souls." So, Durvesh Shah had advised him to repeat the first chapter of Koran behind Sai Baba's back, and not to accept any gift from Him. Accordingly he stood behind Baba at some distance and started the repetition of the first chapter of Koran, with the word 'Bismila' in his mind.

As soon as he began, Sai Baba turned around and faced him. Angrily He said, "Who are you? Why have you come to ask me something as if you are my father?" and Baba showered abuses at him. He was terrified. Then, Sai Baba went to Mosque (Dwarkamai), uttering words which were impossible to understand. This story of Sai Baba continues from the last one we wrote. If you haven't read it please go and read by following this link. We will wait till you come back and it is a wonderful 2 minutes reading. Imambhai too followed Sai Baba and sat in the pavilion of Masjid (Dwakamai). He couldn't climb up the stairs of Musjid without the permission of Baba.

Two days later Kaka Dixit tried to help Imam Khan, so that he could be fortunate enough to sit in the sacred Masjid with Baba. Kaka Saheb Dixit tried to explain Sai Baba, "Baba, these are your children. why are you angry with them." – Referring to Imambhai. The all-knowing Baba replied, "You called him a child. He has beaten a teacher to death."



Imam Chota Khan instantly knew that Baba was talking about his past deed. He was Nizam's Sepoy in the Mamlatdar office. He had gone to help the police in an investigation. A Christian teacher had failed to give prompt information and so Imam Khan had beaten him severely. The master bled in his mouth and had fallen senseless. He had fled away on Mamlatdar's advice. In addition to his present problem Imam Khan was also afraid of getting prosecuted for his past deed. He was still afraid of Baba so, he didn't climb the step of the mosque.


Three days later, few close devotees of Shirdi Sai Baba took him up the steps of Mosque, these were – Kasimbhai, Son of Bade Baba, Jog and Kaka Dixit. Finally, he was fortunate enough to take darshan of Sai Baba in Masjid (Dwarkamai). Sai Baba touched his head and said, Sai Baba blessing "Do not fear. Allah Malik." His stayed in the sacred Shirdi for another 1-3/4 months. During that period Baba told him, "You go back. your land disputes will be settled and your relations will remain friendly." He went back to his village and filed a case in court against his mother-in-law for the possession of lands. It ended 7 years later. He got the possession of land for he which had filed the case.

### **Sai Baba warns Chota Khan**

On his later visit to Shirdi, Baba did not permit him to return. It was a well-known fact that the devotees who listened to Baba about their departure from Shirdi always were thankful to Baba because later on they realised it was for their own welfare. Those who were impatient and did not listen to Baba but their own logic found themselves facing some sort of difficulties. Here we will read how Chota Khan made similar mistake of not listening to the All-Knowing Baba but followed his own logic.

When he went for the permission to leave Shirdi, Sai Baba said, "People should not go. If they go there will be storms, balls of fire and immense difficulties." Imam Chota Khan did not grasp that the message was meant for him and left Shirdi in a hurry. He went on running and walking at a pace of about 5 miles an hour. He reached Vari about 17km, in 2 hours at 5.30 pm, it was about sunset time. From there he reached the bank of river Surala. The Patil of the village there, warned him not to proceed as the weather was cloudy and he will have to suffer.


He replied that his village was at short distance of 4 miles from there and so he will not stop. 3 miles he covered and he noticed a huge storm. A lightning struck on a huge Pipal tree in front of him. The tree was split into two and was ablaze with a fire. He was dazed by the fire and turned his back towards tree.





### **Imam Chota Khan witnesses a Miracle**

There was a wonderful and blessed vision awaiting him. He saw Sai Baba of Shirdi was standing there with two tawny dogs. He bowed to Baba and Baba disappeared after giving this assuring vision that He was with him during this testing times. He continued his journey. There was a river near his village. He started crossing the river without knowing the depth of it. All the time he found that the river was knee deep. After crossing the river when he looked back, he was amazed by what he saw. He saw that the river was in full flood, water overflowing the banks. The depth of water should have been around 20 ft. This was the miracle he saw. With the help and grace of caring Baba he reached his home safely. He remembered the statement of Baba about the storm and ball of fire.







## *The Cure and the Confirmation*

How Baba proved to Mr. Dixit that He is same Shirdi Sai come again.

Mr. M S Dixit had the unique privilege of seeing Shirdi Sai Baba when he visited Shirdi in 1909 as a young lad and later Sri Sathya Sai Baba in 1961 when he was past sixty. Here's how he realised that both the Sais are in fact the same, as related by Howard Murphet in his book, "Sai Baba: Man of Miracles": M S Dixit was born in 1897 to Sadashiv Dixit, an advocate who was at one time Diwan (Prime Minister) of the royal state of Kutch. Sadashiv's eldest brother, Hari S. Dixit, was a solicitor in Bombay and a member of the Legislative Council. Hari Dixit became a close devotee of Shirdi Baba.

In the company of his uncle Hari, M. S. Dixit told me, he made his earliest visits to Shirdi; first in the year 1909, and again in 1912. Before this second visit he had been suffering what he called "half-headaches".

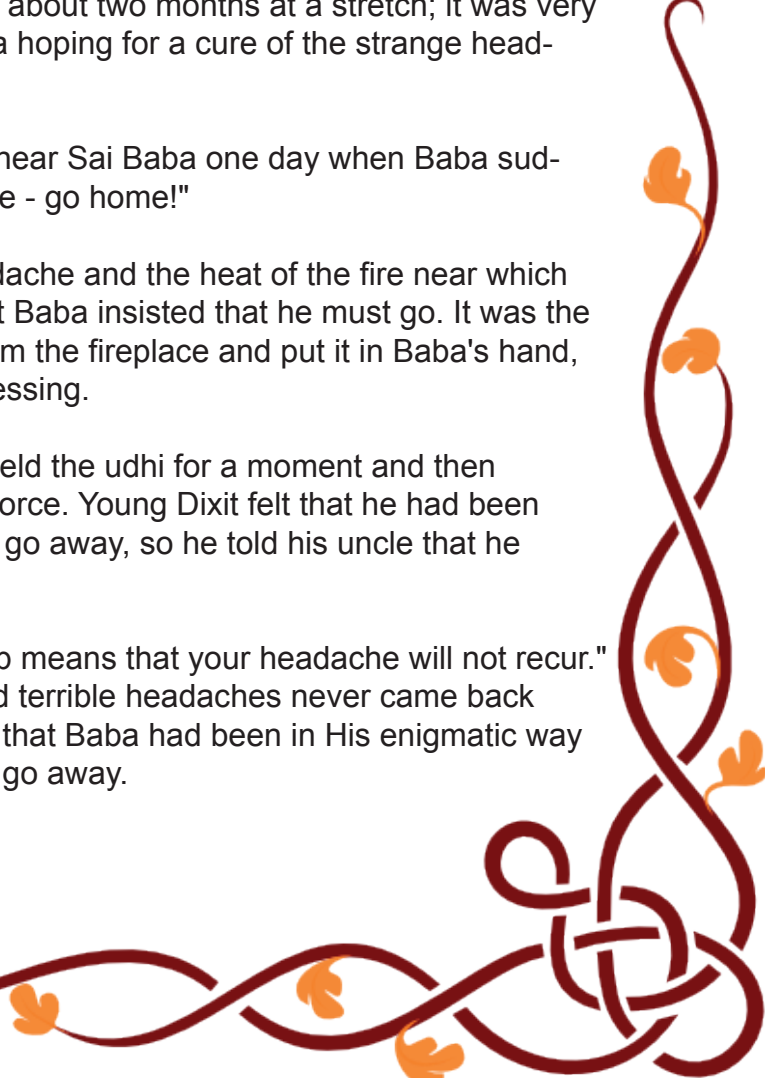
At sunrise half his head would start to ache agonizingly; then a little before sunset it would stop. This would go on each day for about two months at a stretch; it was very distressing. His uncle took him to Sai Baba hoping for a cure of the strange headaches.

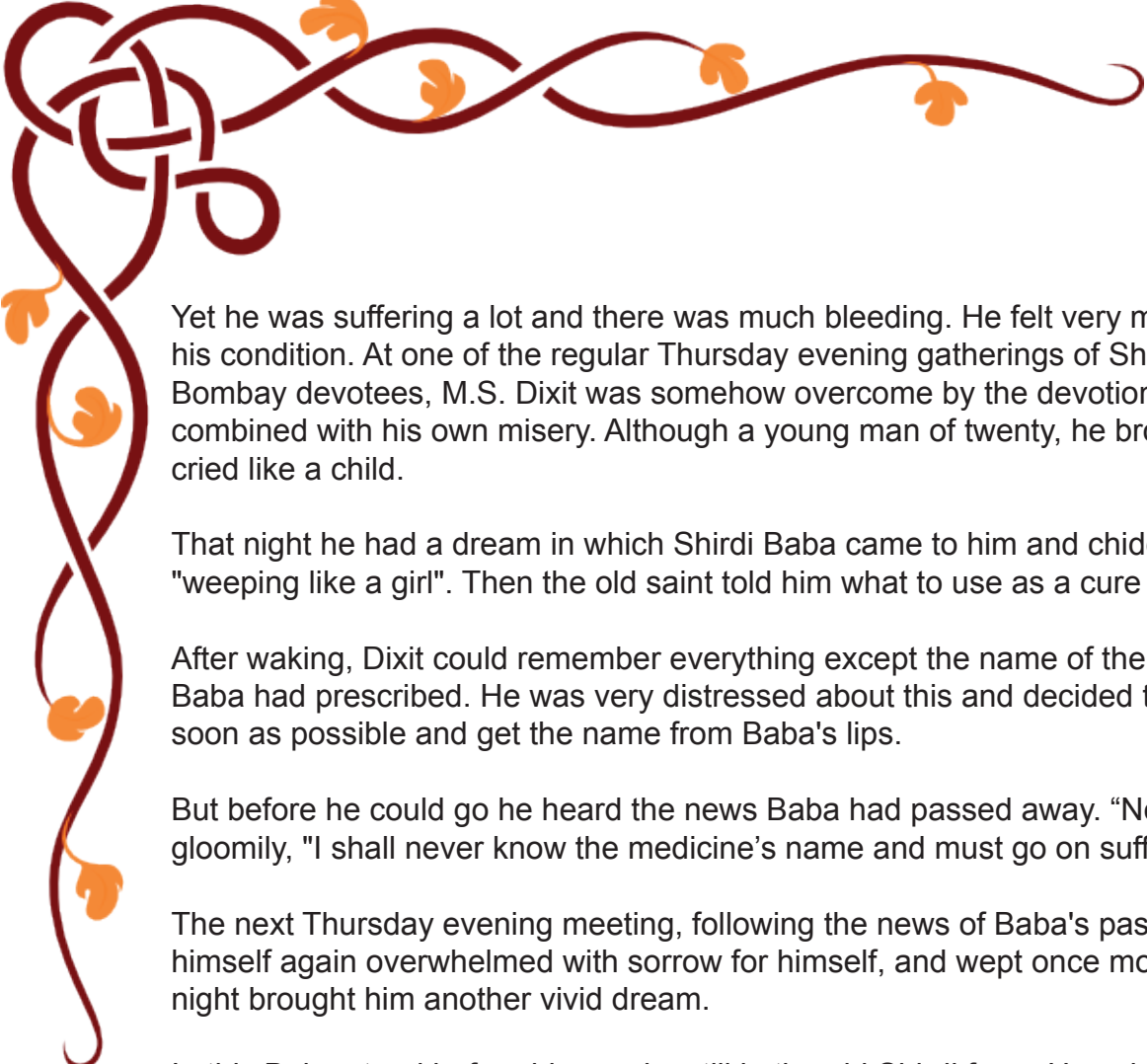
Mr. Dixit recalls vividly how he was sitting near Sai Baba one day when Baba suddenly said to him: "Why are you sitting here - go home!"

Young Dixit replied that he had a bad headache and the heat of the fire near which he was sitting brought him some relief. But Baba insisted that he must go. It was the custom when leaving to take some ash from the fireplace and put it in Baba's hand, so that He might with it give His parting blessing.

The fourteen-year-old boy did this. Baba held the udhi for a moment and then applied it to the lad's forehead with some force. Young Dixit felt that he had been slapped on the head as well as ordered to go away, so he told his uncle that he would not visit Baba anymore.

Hari Dixit replied: "Are you a fool? The slap means that your headache will not recur." This turned out to be true. The strange and terrible headaches never came back after that day, and young Dixit understood that Baba had been in His enigmatic way ordering, not the boy, but the headache to go away.





Yet he was suffering a lot and there was much bleeding. He felt very miserable about his condition. At one of the regular Thursday evening gatherings of Shirdi Baba's Bombay devotees, M.S. Dixit was somehow overcome by the devotional atmosphere combined with his own misery. Although a young man of twenty, he broke down and cried like a child.

That night he had a dream in which Shirdi Baba came to him and chided him for "weeping like a girl". Then the old saint told him what to use as a cure for his ailment.

After waking, Dixit could remember everything except the name of the medicine that Baba had prescribed. He was very distressed about this and decided to go to Shirdi as soon as possible and get the name from Baba's lips.

But before he could go he heard the news Baba had passed away. "Now" he thought gloomily, "I shall never know the medicine's name and must go on suffering."

The next Thursday evening meeting, following the news of Baba's passing, he found himself again overwhelmed with sorrow for himself, and wept once more. The same night brought him another vivid dream.

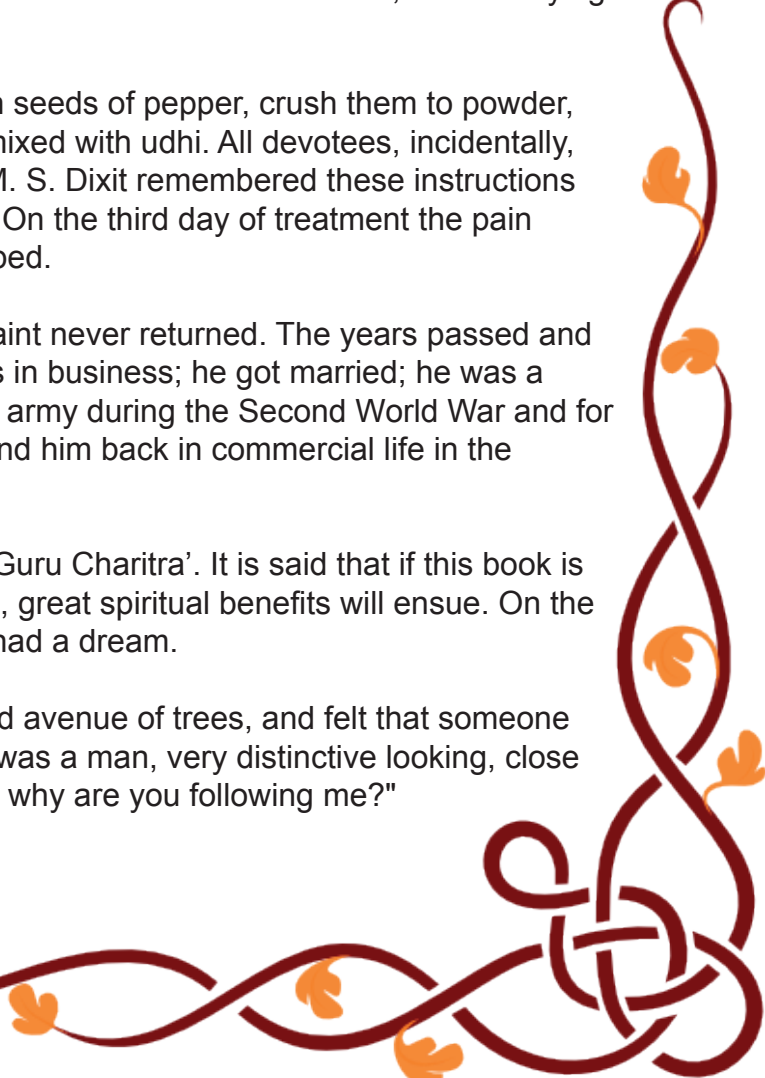
In this Baba stood before him again, still in the old Shirdi form. He said, "What! Crying like a girl again."

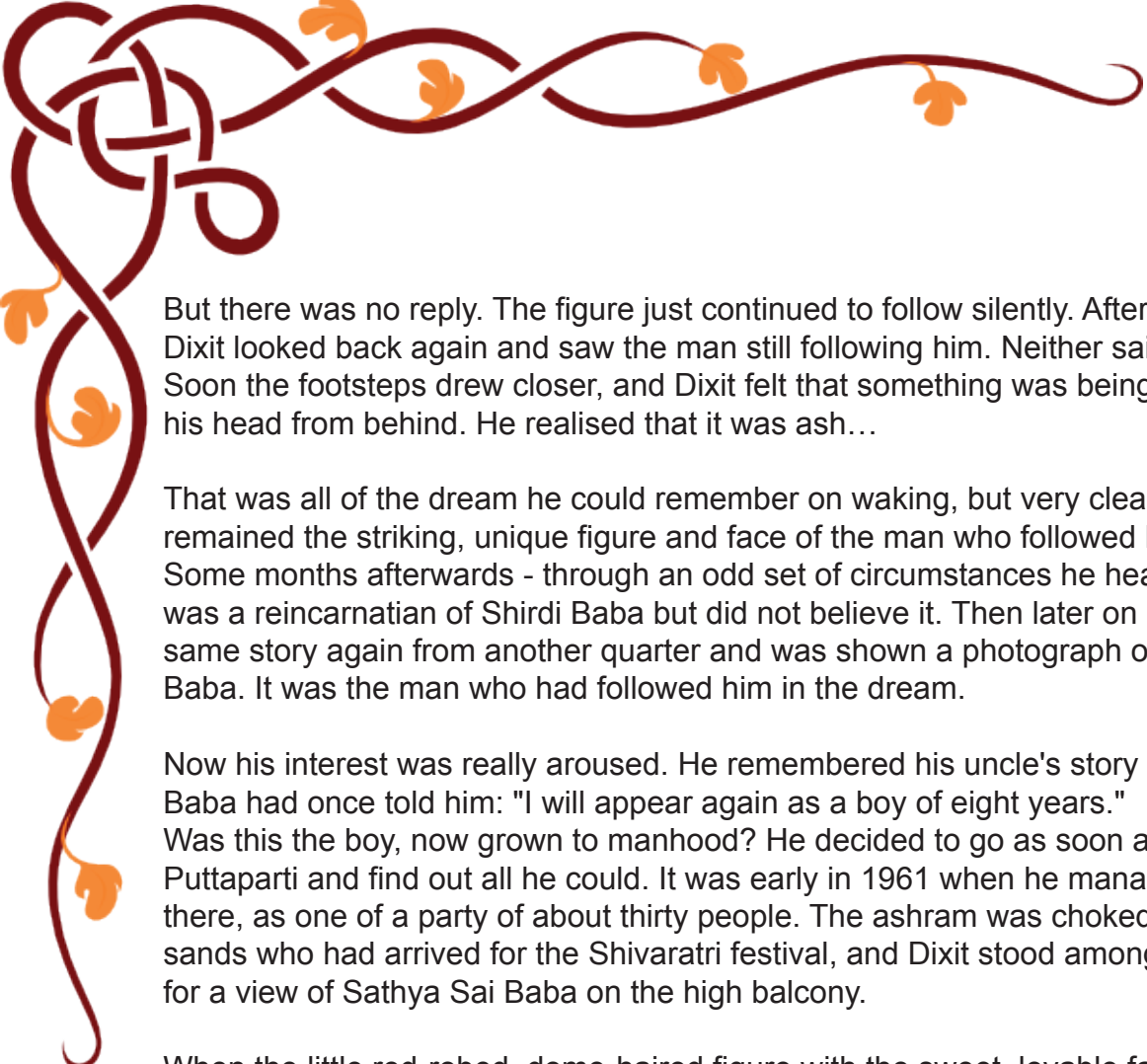
Then he told the young man to "take seven seeds of pepper, crush them to powder, and each day take a pinch of the powder mixed with udhi. All devotees, incidentally, kept some of Baba's udhi in their homes. M. S. Dixit remembered these instructions clearly next morning and carried them out. On the third day of treatment the pain stopped; on the seventh the bleeding stopped.

A complete cure took place and the complaint never returned. The years passed and the pages of Dixit's life turned over: he was in business; he got married; he was a major and Brigade Education Officer in the army during the Second World War and for some years afterwards. The year 1959 found him back in commercial life in the west-coast city of Mangalore.

During his leisure time he would read the 'Guru Charitra'. It is said that if this book is read through completely within seven days, great spiritual benefits will ensue. On the evening of the sixth day of the reading he had a dream.

In the dream, he was walking along a broad avenue of trees, and felt that someone was following him. He looked back. There was a man, very distinctive looking, close behind him. Dixit asked: "Who are you and why are you following me?"





But there was no reply. The figure just continued to follow silently. After a few minutes Dixit looked back again and saw the man still following him. Neither said anything. Soon the footsteps drew closer, and Dixit felt that something was being poured over his head from behind. He realised that it was ash...

That was all of the dream he could remember on waking, but very clear in his mind remained the striking, unique figure and face of the man who followed him. Some months afterwards - through an odd set of circumstances he heard that there was a reincarnation of Shirdi Baba but did not believe it. Then later on he heard the same story again from another quarter and was shown a photograph of Sathya Sai Baba. It was the man who had followed him in the dream.


Now his interest was really aroused. He remembered his uncle's story that Shirdi Baba had once told him: "I will appear again as a boy of eight years." Was this the boy, now grown to manhood? He decided to go as soon as possible to Puttaparti and find out all he could. It was early in 1961 when he managed to get there, as one of a party of about thirty people. The ashram was choked with the thousands who had arrived for the Shivaratri festival, and Dixit stood among them waiting for a view of Sathya Sai Baba on the high balcony.

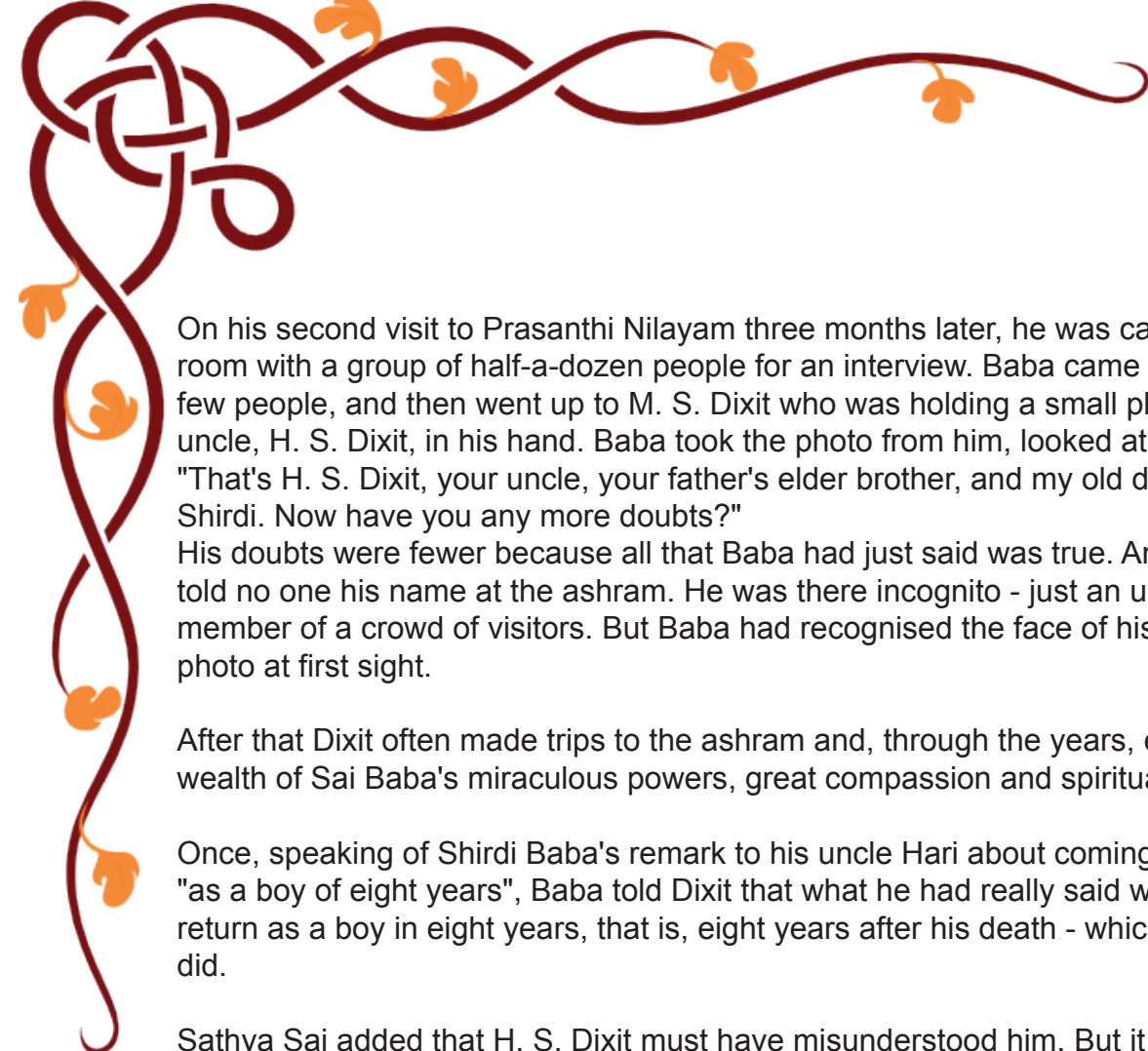
When the little red-robed, dome-haired figure with the sweet, lovable face appeared, Dixit knew for certain that it was the figure of his strange dream. Yet, he thought, how can this be the old saint of Shirdi? With His coloured silks, hair like a woman and the big crowds around Him, this man is more like a film star. Shirdi Baba was rugged, homespun, simple: how can this possibly be the same man?, he pondered. Suddenly he wanted to go home.

But he stayed to watch Sathya Sai pour huge quantities of sacred ash from a small bowl over the statue of Shirdi Sai, and the same evening take nine lingams from his mouth. Then during a public discourse next day Baba said: "Some who have come here think I am too much like a film star; they object to my bright-coloured robes and the style of my hair..."

With consternation, Dixit heard all of his own unspoken critical thoughts being repeated from the platform. Then Baba went on to explain the reasons - good reasons Dixit felt - for the striking attire, the unique hairstyle and the other features of this incarnation.

Well, Dixit decided, He is certainly something very special. There is no doubt about His paranormal powers, but.... He is so different from old Shirdi Baba. Can it really be the same soul?





On his second visit to Prasanthi Nilayam three months later, he was called into a room with a group of half-a-dozen people for an interview. Baba came in, spoke to a few people, and then went up to M. S. Dixit who was holding a small photo of his uncle, H. S. Dixit, in his hand. Baba took the photo from him, looked at it, and said: "That's H. S. Dixit, your uncle, your father's elder brother, and my old devotee at Shirdi. Now have you any more doubts?"

His doubts were fewer because all that Baba had just said was true. And Dixit had told no one his name at the ashram. He was there incognito - just an unknown member of a crowd of visitors. But Baba had recognised the face of his uncle in the photo at first sight.

After that Dixit often made trips to the ashram and, through the years, enjoyed the wealth of Sai Baba's miraculous powers, great compassion and spiritual teachings.


Once, speaking of Shirdi Baba's remark to his uncle Hari about coming back to earth "as a boy of eight years", Baba told Dixit that what he had really said was he would return as a boy in eight years, that is, eight years after his death - which he in fact did.

Sathya Sai added that H. S. Dixit must have misunderstood him. But it was, the many, many little things, more than these big ones that finally, convinced him that the two Sais were one, Dixit told me.

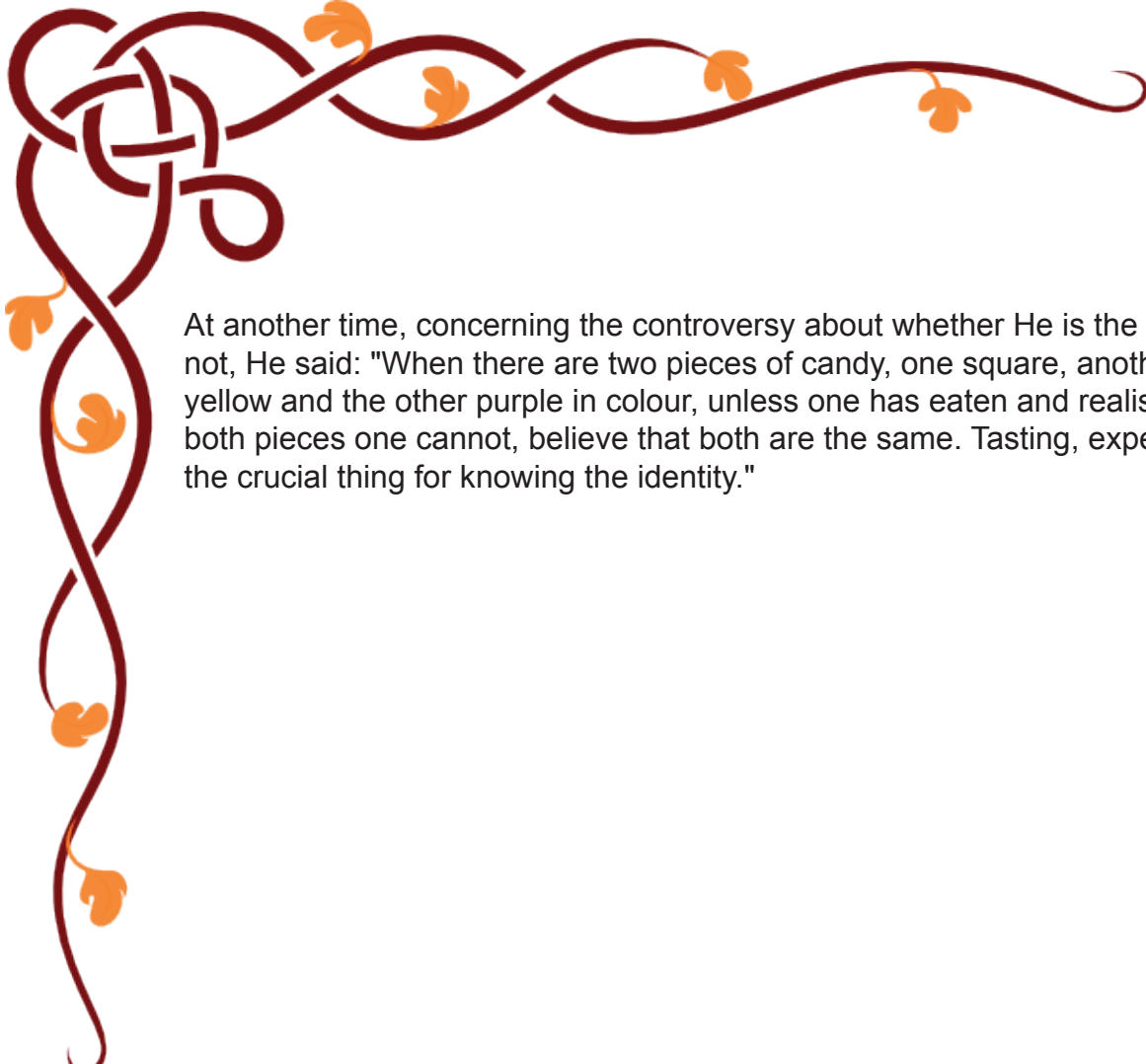
He went on to describe these important little things: the similarities in the siddhis (powers), the parallels in the teachings and manner of instruction, the subtle echoes from the past in gesture, phrase and attitude. "Sometimes I even see on his face the same old smile that I saw long ago on the face of Shirdi Baba," he said.

Of course, the differences which he felt so sharply at first are indeed there, he admits. But there, is, after all, a different body, a different setting, a different period in time - a different environment for the Sai mission. And therefore the mission, while in spirit the same, cannot be precisely the same in form and style, and it is to be expected that the outer personality through which the message comes to the world will also be different.

Sai Baba himself comments that He is not as hard or angry now as he was in the earlier manifestation. He is more tolerant and gentle. He explains the difference by means of a simile: "The mother is usually hard when the children enter the kitchen and disturb the cooking; but while serving the food she is all smiles and patience. I am now serving the dishes cooked then. Wherever you may be, if you are hungry and if your plate is ready, I shall serve you the dishes and feed, you to your heart's content."





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At another time, concerning the controversy about whether He is the same Baba or not, He said: "When there are two pieces of candy, one square, another circular, one yellow and the other purple in colour, unless one has eaten and realised the taste of both pieces one cannot, believe that both are the same. Tasting, experiencing - that's the crucial thing for knowing the identity."





## *Baba reveals His Omniscience to the Rani of Chincholi*

The Raja of Chincholi was a very ardent devotee of Shirdi Baba. Baba used to spend a few months every year at Shirdi, Akalkot and other holy places in the company of Siddhas and Sadhakas (holy men). After the passing away of the Raja, the Rani (queen) was pleasantly surprised to hear of the incarnation of the Lord as Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Puttaparthi and she visited the place.

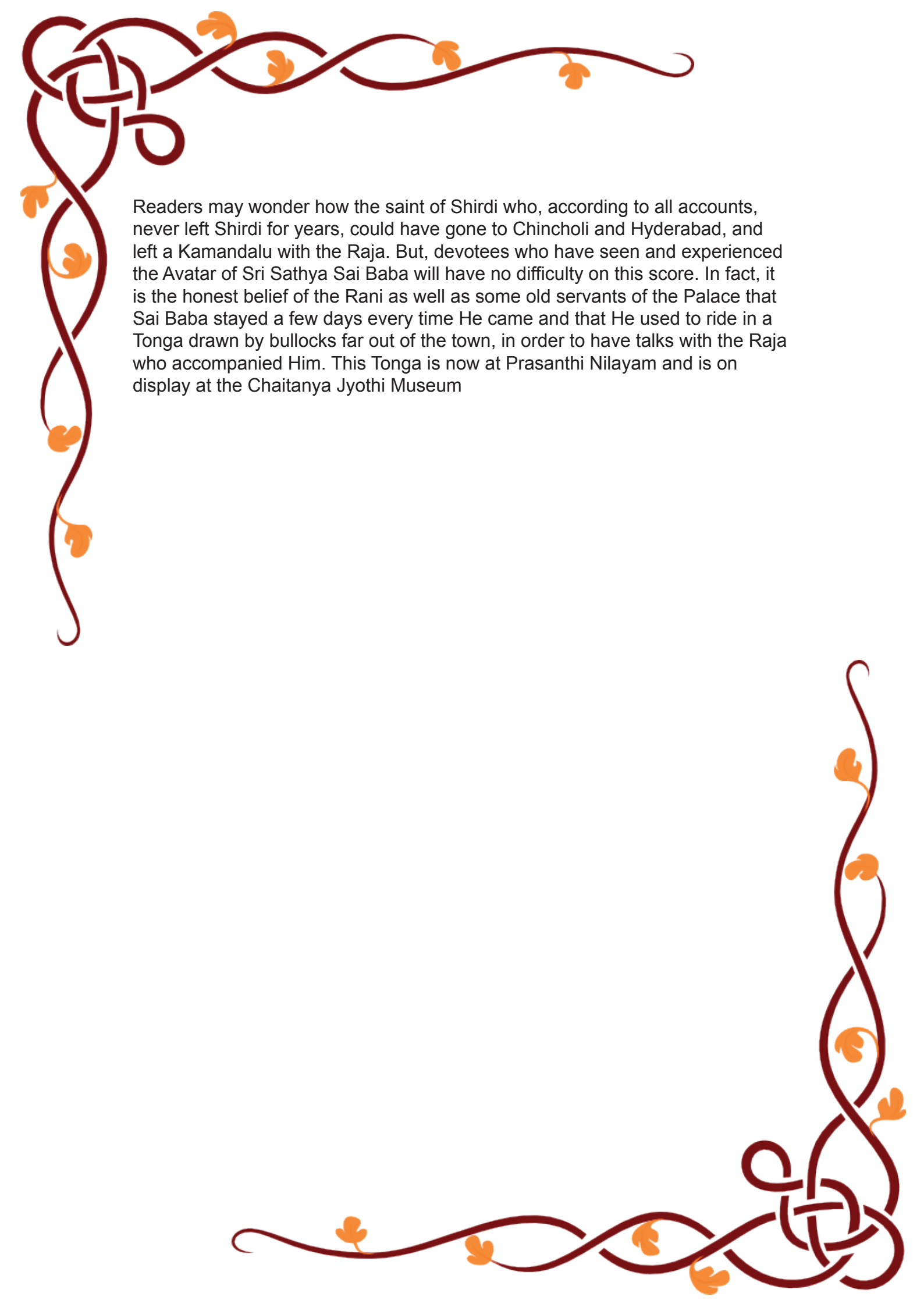
She prayed to Bhagawan who was just fifteen years of age at that time to accompany her to Chincholi and Hyderabad. What a surprise it was for her, when Baba on arriving at the palace, asked her about a Margosa tree that had stood when Shirdi Sai had visited them, a well that had been filled up, a line of shops that had been newly built. Baba told her that He had seen the places years ago while 'in His previous body!'

Sathya Sai Baba asked her about a small stone image of Anjaneya which had been given to the Raja while in the previous body; the Rani did not know that it existed; Baba himself discovered it for her! He also said that there must also be found a picture of Sai Baba and that too was later discovered in the house.

Three years ago, the Rani had been rummaging the huge store-room at Chincholi for old brass, bronze or copper which she could sell off and save space when she came upon a brass 'Kamandalu', a drinking vessel used by Sadhus, whose shape was quaint and artistic. The water has to be poured through a slit in the handle and the spout ends in a cow's-head figurine!

Someone suggested that it could be polished and displayed as a decorative article in the drawing room of her Hyderabad House. The mystery of the Kamandalu deepened next day when they found a cobra coiled round it! "Baba alone can solve the secret," she said to herself, while propitiating the cobra with the traditional Puja (worship). She arrived at Puttaparthi on the first day of Dasara, and as soon as she entered the premises, Baba sent word, asking her to come up, "with my drinking vessel"!

As soon as the Kamandalu was in His Hands He showed some devotees standing nearby the letters inscribed on the vessel in Devanagari characters, 'S AA' followed by a pair of short vertical lines, 'B AA' with the two lines again. 'SAA' indicating Sayi and 'BAA' for Baba!

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Readers may wonder how the saint of Shirdi who, according to all accounts, never left Shirdi for years, could have gone to Chincholi and Hyderabad, and left a Kamandalu with the Raja. But, devotees who have seen and experienced the Avatar of Sri Sathya Sai Baba will have no difficulty on this score. In fact, it is the honest belief of the Rani as well as some old servants of the Palace that Sai Baba stayed a few days every time He came and that He used to ride in a Tonga drawn by bullocks far out of the town, in order to have talks with the Raja who accompanied Him. This Tonga is now at Prasanthi Nilayam and is on display at the Chaitanya Jyothi Museum



## *The Assurance and the Fulfilment*

How Baba had prophesied His advent to Smt. Sharada Devi.

Smt. Sharada Devi (affectionately called as 'Pedda Bottu' by Baba) is one of those few privileged souls who had the unique chance of being in the proximity of both Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai. Here she narrates how Shirdi Baba had revealed to her about His future Advent and how later Sathya Sai blessed her profusely: One day I requested Baba (Shirdi Sai) to give me Mantra Upadesh (spiritual initiation). Baba replied, "You are young yet. I will give you Upadesh when you grow older".

I waited till I was 29 years old and prayed to Baba again. He shouted at me in anger: "You are always obsessed with Upadesh" and kicked me on the chest with his right foot.

With tears of dejection streaming down my face, I went out and lay beneath a tree. I must have slept after weeping for a long time. It must have been very late in the night when Baba came to wake me up. He asked me to follow him to Lendi Garden.

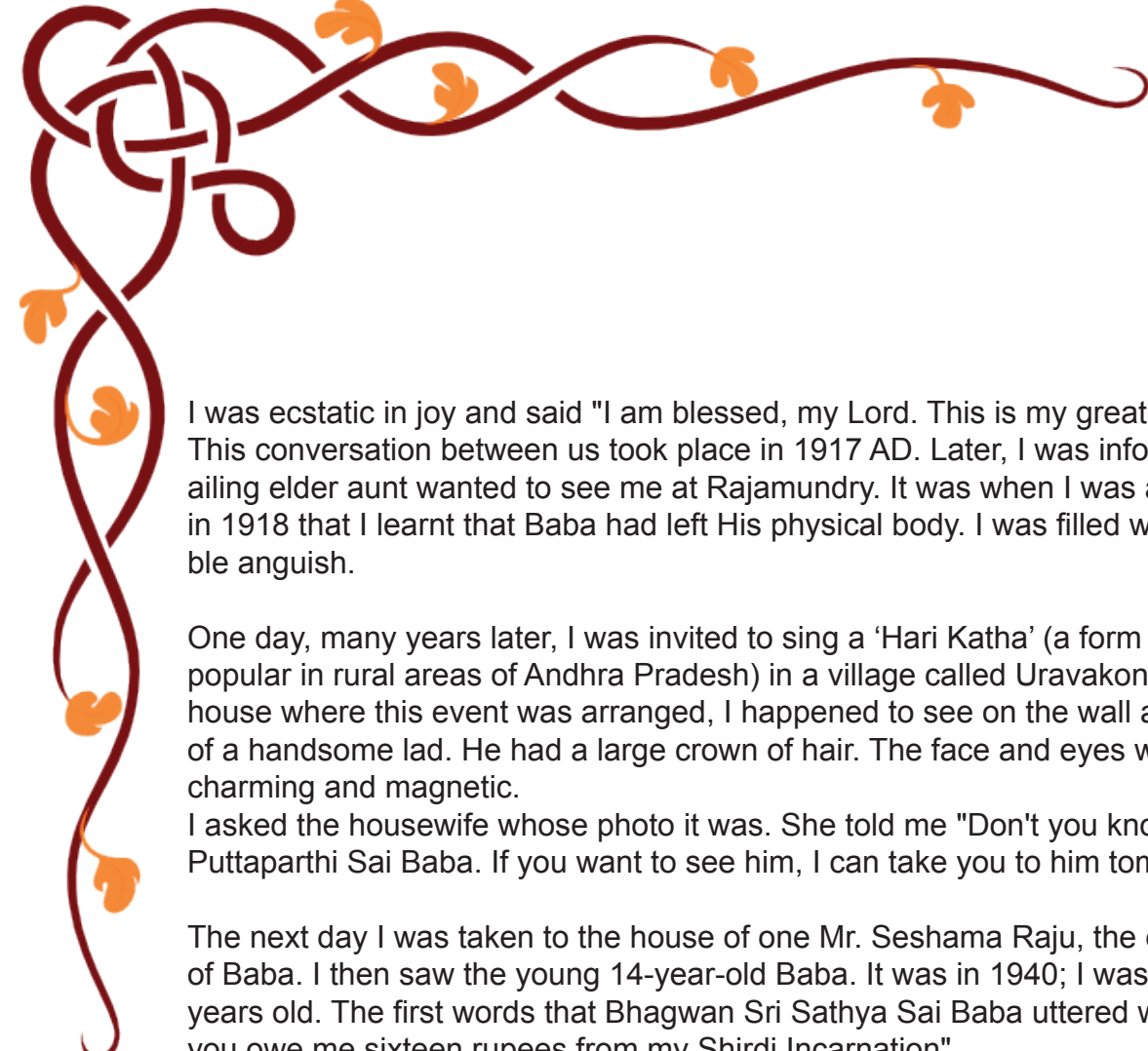
When we reached the Garden, He said "My child, I could not sleep in Dwaraka Mayi (the dilapidated Masjid, and Baba's dwelling) when you were lying out there without food since morning. I have brought you here, for, I want to tell you something, but first you must eat."

He stretched out His right hand with palm up and said "Allah Malik hai". (God is the master). Two chapatis (wheat pancakes) and a lemon sized-kova (soft solid sweet made of milk) materialised in His palm. He gave them to me to eat. Again He stretched out His hand and this time a very small mud pot full of water materialised. When I ate and drank, he asked me: "Gori, Is your anger gone?" (Baba used to affectionately call Sharada Devi, 'Gori')

I replied in all humility "There is no anger or frustration now. I was a fool not to realise that your kick was in fact a sign of your Grace."

Baba then told me "I will tell you something, but before that you should hold My feet and promise Me not to tell this to anyone".

With pounding heart and anticipating the much awaited Mantra-Upadesh I did as he told me, "Gori, I will appear in Andhra with the same name of Sai Baba but in another Avatar (divine manifestation). Then again you will come to me. I will keep you with me and will give you joy".



I was ecstatic in joy and said "I am blessed, my Lord. This is my greatest fortune." This conversation between us took place in 1917 AD. Later, I was informed that my ailing elder aunt wanted to see me at Rajamundry. It was when I was at Rajamundry in 1918 that I learnt that Baba had left His physical body. I was filled with inexplicable anguish.

One day, many years later, I was invited to sing a 'Hari Katha' (a form of ballad popular in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh) in a village called Uravakonda. In the house where this event was arranged, I happened to see on the wall a photograph of a handsome lad. He had a large crown of hair. The face and eyes were most charming and magnetic.

I asked the housewife whose photo it was. She told me "Don't you know? He is Puttaparthi Sai Baba. If you want to see him, I can take you to him tomorrow".

The next day I was taken to the house of one Mr. Seshama Raju, the elder brother of Baba. I then saw the young 14-year-old Baba. It was in 1940; I was then fifty-two years old. The first words that Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba uttered were: "Gori, you owe me sixteen rupees from my Shirdi Incarnation".

I replied that I had already paid up all my debts to Shirdi Baba. He said, "I know. I said it because you are not able to recognise Me. All right. After completing all your tasks at the Poor Home you are running, go over to Puttaparthi. I shall retain you with Me and shall bestow all the joy you want".

For the next seventeen years, I used to visit Puttaparthi frequently and spend a few months every time in the divine presence of Baba. In 1958, when I was 70, I closed down the Poor Home and went over to Puttaparthi to spend the rest of my life there.

