



The Glory of Shirdi Sai

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श्रद्धा

गुरुब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः ।
गुरुः शाक्षात् परब्रह्म तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः॥

सबुरी

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JAI SAI RAM



Remember Sri Sai Baba in the beginning, in the middle, and in the end for all ventures. Be humble, pure, simple, and innocent and Sri Sai Baba is yours. When we perform our actions we need to make sure we follow his directions.

Total surrender to Sri Sai Baba will give us peace of mind. Whenever we read His stories and teaching we have to let our satvik tendencies and emotions embrace us and this can be achieved chanting His name.

Always look at how far you have come rather than how far you have to go. Always count your blessings, not what you are missing. Life is always going to be a mystery to solve...but it is not a problem to solve. You just have to trust Shri Sai and the life will be wonderful for us to live.

Thought: When we go through difficult times we ask Him, "Why me?" But when we are blessed with positive achievement we never ask Him, "Why me"

Hence Sri Sai Baba of Shirdi is our protector, and do not fear, when He is always with us.

You can now read Saibanisa ji's articles on LORD SAINATH OF SHIRDI in TELUGU from teluguvarisaidarbar.blogspot.com

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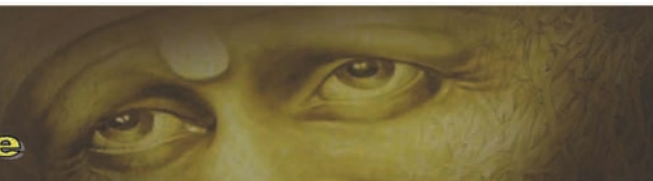


Param

Atmane

Namah

Sai News from the Time Machine



Always in the satcharitra, it is reminded that thinking of Shirdi Sai , his life, and his stories, his dwarakamai and imagine Him sitting besides His dhuni.....this thought will give us peace of mind and really makes you feel that Baba is there for you all through your life.

Shama asked Saibaba to belss Hamadpant for writing the book. Baba said "Let him surrender his ego and pride, I will myself write the stories , he is only a instrument. Thus we shirdi saibaba devotees were given the gift of learning from the beautiful miracles and teachings of shirdi saibaba. If you understand each and every incident depicted there it is enough power to guide our life towards Him.



Shirdi Diary

By GS Khaparde



29 December, 1911 Friday, Shirdi

I was a little late in getting up & then sat talking with Mr Natekar whom we call "Hamsa" & also Swami. I could not finish my prayer etc in time to go and see Sayin Maharaj as he went out. I saw him when he returned to Masjid. Hamsa was with me. Sayin Maharaj was in very good mood & began a story which was very very instructive but unfortunately Trimbakrao whom we call Maruti interrupted most foolishly and Sayin Maharaj changed the subject.

He said there was a young man very hungry and wanting in almost every respect. The young man after wandering about went to Sayin Saheb's father's house & was received very kindly & given every thing he required. The boy spent sometime there, felt fat, collected a few things, stole ornaments & making the whole into a bundle wished to return to where he had come from. He was really born in & belonged to Sayin Saheb's fathers' house but did not know it. The boy put the bundle into the corner of a street but was seen before he could actually start. So he had to delay. In the meantime thieves took away the ornaments from his bundle. He missed them when he was on the point of starting. So he kept at the house & collected more ornaments and actually started but people on the way arrested him on the suspicion of his having come by the things by theft. At this point the story got diverted, and ended abruptly.

Continued on Page 7



Pujyasri B.V.Narasimhaswamiji, who visited Shirdi in the year 1936, collected authentic information about Lord Sainath from persons lived with Sai and wrote many books on Lord Sainath. All his works are authentic . One such book is SRI SAINATHA MANANAM. This book was published as early as in the year 1942 and the fourth edition came in the year 1945.

He who at the close of his life, thinks of me alone and gives up his body, attains the supreme Goal.

Therefore at all times, remember me, whatever you may be doing. With your mind and intellect surrendered to me, you will undoubtedly reach me.

Let your mind rest in me. Let your devotion be to me. Let all your sacrificial acts be for me. Bow unto me. Treat me as your highest Goal. Directing yourself thus, you will reach me and me alone.

I shall protect you, your companions and dependants, in every direction. By your faith, you will see me ever invisibly present near you.

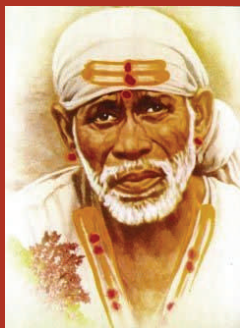
Those who give up this world and the world beyond, their very self and their dependents, their wealth, cattle, houses and everything else, and devote themselves to me as appearing everywhere, as their sole God,-- them I will save from death.

My sons ! all moving creatures and immovable things on earth, must be viewed by you (not in the world's way but) as myself and with the same regard that you would show to me, at every step. This is the way to worship and respect me.

I am the Lord Hari residing within the hearts and bodies of all creatures, their self (Atma). See all things in me. This is the way to please me..

Viewing the Lord Sai Bhagavan as residing in all creatures, honour them and give them good things.

The body is said to be a temple. The Jiva is the eternal God's image there. Throw aside Ajnana, as the nirmalya (i.e., the remnants of former Puja material covering up the image). Worship must be in the form *Soham* (ie. I and He).



Gyana
Swaroopine
Namaha

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19-08-1997:

Sai appeared as my late father and said:

1. Tides, high and low are very common in an ocean and so also in matters of life. One must pray God to live under all such possible conditions. Leading a compromised life under odd circumstances amount to inviting difficulties. Never be cowed down by difficulties instead try winning over them.

2. One must use the body to win God's grace. To take care of the body you should nurture it for which money earned in rightful manner is required. Consume soft diet and work for God's grace.

Care for the body only to the extent required



DEVOTEES EXPERIENCE AND ARTICLES

INTRODUCING SHRI SHIRDI SAI BABA

(Late) Dr. RS.R. Swami

THE ADVENT OF BABA INTO MY LIFE

- (Late) Dr. P.S.R. Swami

It was March, 1942 I had been sick for some months, practically bedridden without an income except for Rs.25/-p m. *earned by a nephew as an apprentice on this the family of seven, four adults and three children, had to be maintained. I was almost bereft of hope of recovery, a physical wreck in my thirties.*

One afternoon, a well-wisher of about my age named Syed Abdul Aziz, S.M.'s clerk at Waltair, S.E.Rly, who, however, held me in high esteem as his friend, philosopher and guide came to see me after a pretty long interval. He was aghast to find me in such a moribund condition. He wished to know what I was doing to regain my health. I simply said "Nothing, except that we all have taken vows individually in the family to different deities for the sake of my recovery." He was visibly surprised to hear me say so. What a stupid

thing to do, he seemed to feel. He, however, wondered how he could venture to advise one whose advice he had always sought. Yet, in that situation he felt it obligatory to do so. If he were to fall sick, he continued, every one in his family would individually and together pray to "one God" for redress.

Would it not be the right thing to do, he queried. At least now it was high time we did so.

To me, these indeed were words coming "from the depth of truth" relayed through a friendly medium. They had the illuminating effect of a gospel truth.

“Whene'er a noble deed is wrought
whenever is spoken a noble thought,
Our hearts in glad surprise
To higher levels rise”.

H. W. Long Fellow

Will continue...

Devotees Experience:

I came to know Sai Baba while I was living in India, about ten years ago. I made two trips to Shirdi at that time. I particularly like the quotation where Baba says, "I will draw my devotee to me as though he was a bird with a string attached to its leg." Now, I live in the States and with my husband started a business. Last year we expanded and went far into debt and everything that could go wrong did. The terrible stress and financial difficulties caused me to go into such a bad depression that I had to take medication. Things are getting better now but still very difficult. Recently, I started praying to Baba, again. I tried to be very specific and asked for a good delivery driver who would care about our business and do a good job. Good drivers are hard to get and I had to do all this work myself, usually, plus all the bookkeeping, sales, not to mention taking care of a household. In fact, about a month later, my daughter moved back home with her best friend who needed a job and is about the best driver we have ever had. I said to myself, this is probably just a coincidence. The way one does say such things to oneself the beginning of this month I was terribly short of cash and I prayed to just make it through the week. The money came through just when I needed it and I was very grateful. But later, I was so badly in the hole, I knew that the money from the receivables would not come in fast enough and I was going to be in real trouble. I felt so anxious, I did not want to get up in the morning. I felt like crying all the time. I go to a little Protestant church in our village here in the northern US. There are very few parishioners, sometimes only five or six on a Sunday. I like to attend because generations of my family have done so in the same church and I love to sing the old Christian hymns. After church I was sitting with some of my friends and telling them about my worries. This morning, one of them, an eighty-year-old lady, came to my house and presented me with a check for ten thousand dollars. This was totally unexpected, totally out of the blue, and was just about the exact amount I needed. I started to cry when I got it and I have started to cry thinking about it now. She said it was a gift and gave me a hug and said, "I love you, Rebecca." After this, I have a hard time thinking that all these answers to my prayers were just coincidence. I have to say, thank you Baba, thank you for helping me. I have felt, with all the suffering and injustice in the world, why should I succeed with my dumb little business. I should have more faith. When I do succeed, I dearly hope to be able to help other people in turn.

Rebecca, USA



Baba's Close Devotees

Santaram Balwant Nachne Dahanukar,

Thana, 13th September, 1936

Courtesy: <http://blessedones.saibaba.com/>



It was in the same year that my mother-in-law was anxious to get Baba's blessing, to obtain progeny for me. A few children were born before that but they died when quite young. So at her request, Madhav Rao Deshpande took my wife to Baba and wanted Baba to give her a coconut as a gift and throw it into her Padar (Mundani or end of her cloth). Then Baba's eyes brimmed with tears as he gave the coconut to my wife; and he bade me sit at his feet and massage his legs. As I was doing so, he made passes with his hand over my back. I felt very grateful for his kindness and I referred to the mad man's attempt to murder me and to Baba's photo being with me at the time as the explanation for my narrow escape. Baba merely remarked, "Allah Malik Hai. God is the Lord, i.e., He orders all things." Then Baba and I embraced each other.

Baba showed me once again how considerate he was towards all his devotees and how strongly he was against one devotee teasing or interfering with another. One day Baba said "My stomach is aching." Mavusi, the strong lady that I have already mentioned, brought a red hot brick and placed it on Baba's abdomen, i.e., above his Kupni, and retained it in that position for about ten minutes. I felt very much for Baba, as I was shampooing his feet at that time, and thought her service an instance of "cruel kindness". Then she removed the brick and began pressing Baba's sides with her hands with great violence. I could not endure the sight, and I told her to be gentle as Baba would suffer. Baba at once ordered me to get away. I did.

That night, about 8 PM, I went to the Masjid and asked Baba to give me some anugraha. "What Japa shall I make?" I asked. Baba replied, "Go to Devpur (a village 20 miles off Kopergaon) and begin worshipping the stones there which your ancestors worshipped." Later on, I returned to Dahanu and asked my father what Baba's words might import. Then my father gave me an account of our ancestral worship of images at Devpur.

Baba Prayag, my ancestor, had no issue till he was 60 years old. He learnt that issue



Jagatah

Pitre

Namaha

was often obtained by others by the grace of a saint then living, named Baba Bhagavat (who was a disciple of Eknath Maharaj) and that B.Bhagavat could be seen at Triambak on those rare occasions when he would go to see the Nivrutti Nath Shrine there. B.P. went there and obtained his grace and blessings for issue with a coconut. Thereafter, i.e., at the age of 61, B.P. got a son, whom he named Krishna Rao. Baba Bhagawat took that child, when it was but one year old to Devpur and gave it a handwritten copy of Jnaneswari. (This identical copy is now produced. Note: Just as it is produced, some music is heard passing in the street). Whenever this copy is taken out some auspicious signs are always found attending. From that time forward, every member of our family in his generation takes Upadesh from a member of that Guru's line. This fact it is that made Sai Baba give me the above answer. (At that time I did not know all these facts. But my father to whom I communicated the answer of Baba narrated these facts to me).

Will continue...

Shirdi Diary by GS Khapharde

Continued from Page 3

On my return from the mid-day Arti I requested “Hamsa ” to take his food with me & he kindly accepted my invitation. He is a very nice simple man & after meals he told us about his travels in the Himalayas, how he crested Manasa Sarowar, how he heard an Upanishad being sung there, how he followed foot prints, how he reached a cave, saw a Mahatma, and the latter spoke of the conviction of Tilak that day at Bombay, how the Mahatma introduced him to his brother (elder fellow student) how he finally met his Guru and became “Kritastha ”. Later on we went to Sayin Baba & saw him at the Masjid. He sent me a word this afternoon that I have to stay here another two months. He confirmed the message in the afternoon & then said that his “Udi ” had great spiritual properties. He told my wife that the Governor came with a lance, that Sayin Maharaj had a tusall with him & drove him out, & that he finally conciliated the Governor. The language is highly figurative & therefore difficult to interpret. In the evening we attended the Shejarti & then had the Bhajan of Bhishma & Ramayan of Dixit.





Children's Section

Learn and Participate

Stories for this Week: "PRAYER"



A voyaging ship was wrecked during a storm at sea and only two of the men on it were able to swim to a small, desert like island.

The two survivors, not knowing what else to do, agree that they had no other recourse but to pray to God. However, to find out whose prayer was more powerful, they agreed to divide the territory between them and stay on opposite sides of the island.

The first thing they prayed for was food. The next morning, the first man saw a fruit-bearing tree on his side of the land, and he was able to eat its fruit. The other man's parcel of land remained barren.

After a week, the first man was lonely and he decided to pray for a wife. The next day, another ship was wrecked, and the only survivor was a woman who swam to his side of the land. On the other side of the island, there was nothing.

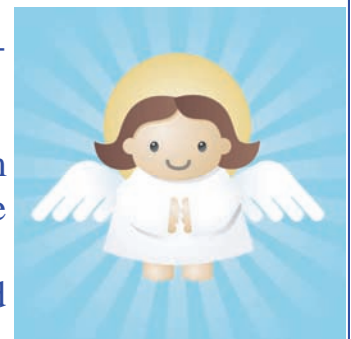
Soon the first man prayed for a house, clothes, more food. The next day, like magic, all of these were given to him. However, the second man still had nothing.

Finally, the first man prayed for a ship, so that he and his wife could leave the island. In the morning, he found a ship docked at his side of the island. The first man boarded the ship with his wife and decided to leave the second man on the island.

He considered the other man unworthy to receive God's blessings, since none of his prayers had been answered.

As the ship was about to leave, the first man heard a voice from heaven booming, "Why are you leaving your companion on the island?"

"My blessings are mine alone, since I was the one who prayed for them," the first man answered. "His prayers were all unan-



swered and so he does not deserve anything.”

“You are mistaken!” the voice rebuked him. “He had only one prayer, which I answered. If not for that, you would not have received any of my blessings.”

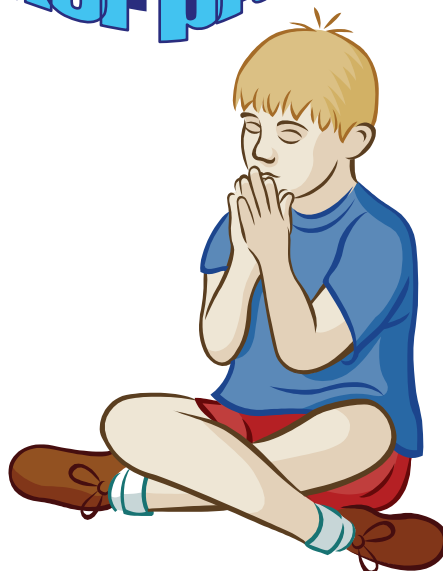
“Tell me,” the first man asked the voice, “What did he pray for that I should owe him anything?”

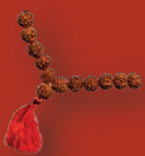
“He prayed that all your prayers be answered.”

For all we know, our blessings are not the fruits of our prayers alone, but those of another praying for us.



**our blessings are not
the fruits of our prayers
alone, but those of
another praying for us**





Bhakatanaam

Matru

Dhatru

Pita Mahaaya

Namaha

Spiritual Gems from Satcharitra

SHRI SAI
SATCHARITA
THE WONDERFUL LIFE AND TEACHINGS
OF
SHRI SAI BABA

Chapter 48 *Contributed by:*
swamy@saimail.com ..

Signs of Sad-guru

Continued from last issue....

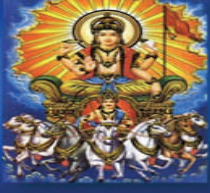
Hemadpant thinks that on account of the store or accumulation of merits in his past births, he had the good fortune of meeting and being blessed by such a Sad-guru as Shirdi Sai Baba. Even in full youth He hoarded nothing (except perhaps chillim). He had no family, no friend, no home, nor any support. Since He was eighteen, His control of mind was perfect and extra-ordinary. He lived then fearless in a secluded place and always abided in His Self. Seeing the pure attachment of His devotees He always acted in their interests and hence He was in a way dependent on them.

What experiences Shirdi Sai gave to His devotees while he was living in flesh, are even to-day, after His Mahasamadhi, obtained now by those who attach themselves to Him. What the devotees have to do is this - They have to trim their heart-lamp of faith and devotion, and burn in it wicks of love, and when this is done, the flame of knowledge (self-realization) will be lit up and shine brighter.

Mere knowledge without love is dry; nobody wants such knowledge. Without love there is no contentment; so we should have unbroken and unbounded love. How can we praise love? Everything is insignificant before it. Without love, our reading, hearing and the study are of no avail. In the wake of love follow devotion, dispassion, peace and liberation with all their treasures. We do not get love for anything unless we feel earnestly about it. So where there is real yearning and feeling, God manifests Himself. It includes love and is the means of liberation.

Will continue....

Bow to Shri Sai ~ Peace be to All



Aditya Hridayam

Source: <http://devotionalonly.com/aditya-hridayam-stotram/>

Continued from last issue...

आदित्यहृदयं पुण्यं सर्वशत्रुविनाशनम्।
जयावहं जपेन्नित्यम् अक्षय्यं परमं शिवम् ॥ ४ ॥

**Aditya Hridayam punyam Sarva shatru Vinaashanam |
Jayaavaham Japet Nityam Akshyayam paramam shivam ||**

Aditya hridayam punyam: The meditation of Sun in the heart highly beneficial; Sarva Shatruvinashanam: Destroyer of all enemies, Jayavaham = Ensures Victory at all times;

Japetnityam: To the one who to be meditated always; Akshayam paramam shivam: The indestructible and bestows permanent happiness.

It is Aditya hridayam which is holy, destroyer of all enemies, bestower of victory, eternal and supremely blessed, and must be recited always.

Will continue....

Events

सत्सङ्गत्वे निस्सङ्गत्वं निस्सङ्गत्वे निर्मोहत्वम् ।
निर्मोहत्वे निश्चलतत्त्वं निश्चलतत्त्वे जीवन्मुक्तिः ॥

For all SaiDarbarUSA activities in Greater Philadelphia, please visit www.saidarbarusa.org.

Sai Temple, Downingtown, PA. (<http://www.saitemplepa.com/>.) Temple is open on all days. Please contact Mr. Raj Singh at 610-656-1396 or Sai Temple at 610-269-1112 for more details about the temple activities.

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From the Editor's Desk

*You are not the body, nor is the body yours, nor are you
the doer of actions or the reaper of their consequences.
You are eternally pure consciousness, the witness, in need
of nothing - so live happily*

~Astavakra Gita

Dear Sai Devotees,

We encourage you to continue writing about your Sai-related activities and experiences in essay, article, or poetry form and email it to us at editor@saidarbarusa.org. We will put in our best efforts to include as many of your submissions as possible in the upcoming newsletters. As previously done, we will publish the author's email id with the respective entry. If you would like to stay anonymous, please explicitly state this request in your submission email.

JAI SAI RAM

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