



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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Sai A Beacon
for Humanity

Sai a Beacon for Humanity

EXPERIENCES OF SAI BA.NI.SA WITH SHIRDI SAI - 20

I am sure that all devotees have read the 42nd , 43rd and 44th chapter of Sai Satcharitra where, in SAI attaining his heavenly abode was described and how people of Shiridi felt orphaned at that time. May be foolish but a thought crept in to my mind that I should be a party to witness a similar incident involving death of a great saintly person. Probably this was very unfair on my part to ask for such a thing to happen. Sai gave me an opportunity and I humbly place it before the readers.

My paternal uncle and aunt, the Somayyajulu couple has brought me up under their care, and custody, as they were issueless. My parents were away in Northern India by virtue of my father's job placement. My uncle was a Telugu pundit and was instrumental in educating many a poor. They were very charitable, offered food and shelter to the deserving boys in studies.

During his 78th year he suffered from an attack of fever on 23-01-1992. Myself and his adopted son admitted him in a local Nursing Home. On 25-01-1992 Doctors after assessment of all the pathological reports have come to the conclusion that his chances of survival are bleak. He stopped all oral intakes from 27-01-1992. Shri Sai also suffered from fever from 28-09-1918 and stopped taking food orally from 01-10-1918.

Shri. Somayyajulu's adopted son has completed construction of his new house and an auspicious date for Gruhapravesha was fixed for 29-01-1992. All arrangements were made way back. He was now worried whether the program would go as planned and whether his father would be present or not for the occasion after having spent 4.00 lakhs of Rupees. The situation was similar in context to Shri. Gopal mukund booty's in those days when he was doubtful whether Baba will ever live in Booty wada specifically constructed for him after having spent a lakh of rupees as promised.

.continued in page 3



Sri Guru Charitra



*Javaralithi
maulana
sevane aklista
manasaya*

Namaha

**Sai Bhakti
Radio**



By Shri S.N.Huddar

(As published in Sri Sai Leela English Monthly Magazine
from April 1975 onwards)

*Gurur Brahma, Gurur Vishnu, Gurur Devo Maheshwara
Guru Sakshat Parabrahmah Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah*

Chapter XXXV

Kach-Devayani

Now Kacha folded his hands and said to Shukracharya, 'I have studied at your house so far. The demons do not allow me to live here peacefully. Kindly therefore allow me to go home now.'

Devayani interrupted, 'I have made you alive thrice. I love you. You should marry me.'
Kacha : 'Being the daughter of my guru, you are my sister. You made me alive from time to time and so you are like my mother. If I marry you people will blame me.'

Hearing this, Devayani felt sorry and at the same time she was enraged. She cursed him, 'Your learning will be futile. You will forget all that you have learnt.'

Kacha said, 'You have cursed me in vain. You will marry a person other than a Brahmin. Your father has taught you Sanjeevini mantra against the rules of Shastras. Hence it will not work now.' Saying this Kacha went away.

Seeing that Kacha had returned, Indra and other gods were delighted, Shri Guru said, 'For a woman, service of her husband is the principal mantra. She should obey him and observe vrata, etc. with his consent only.'

Chandragad - Simantini

The young wife then requested Shri Guru to suggest some vrata.

Shri Guru: "I will tell you a vrata by which you 'Sowbhagya' will be perpetual and your husband will get prosperity. This vrata was told by Soot to Rishis in former days. In this vrata you have to worship Shri Shiva every Monday, observe fast on that day and keep control over your senses. This vrata can be observed by the married women (having husband). Kumaris (unmarried girls), widows, young and old persons of both sexes.

"Chaitravarma was a pious king in former times. He had a daughter named Simantini, who was beautiful and good-natured. One astrologer had said that all the stars in her horoscope were good, but she would be a widow at the age of 14. The king and others were extremely pained to hear this.

Will continue...



Excerpts from Sai Leela

LORD SHIVA~ *Saileela Jan-Feb 2004*

Trishula : Lord Shiva is sometimes shown with his trident (trishula) in his hand. The trishula is a three-pronged weapon which symbolises the destruction of the ego with its three-fold desires of the body, mind and intellect. Lord Shiva with his weapon indicates his victory over his ego and attainment of the state of perfection.

The trident becomes in the hand of Lord Shiva not an instrument of cruel injury but an instrument for bringing people back to righteousness when they stray from the path of dharma and need a persistent reminder and a steady prodding for making them change their course.

The tiger-skin apparel, the matted hair and the ashes are all symbols signifying supreme renunciation. He is the God of austerity. Supreme knowledge cannot; but be followed by austerity. The matted hair proclaims the length and intensity of his 'tapas'. The ashes that besmear the body recalls to us that this body of which we are proud and obsessed is ultimately bound to end up merely as ashes, which realisation is really the starting point in the march toward the final emancipation. Also the complete dehydration of all the vasanas at the mental level. The tiger-skin apparel stands for vairagya and absolute unconcern for the body and its supposed needs.

—will continue

Continued from page 1....

I was moved by this pathetic situation and prayed upon Baba to see that my uncle recovers and fulfills his son and every body's desire. I am happy to state that Baba has listened to my prayer and he graced the function having come home in an Ambulance and things appeared going on well. As saying goes "Man proposes and God disposes", things took a different turn and his position got deteriorated. On the night of 29-01-1992 itself he was again shifted to Gandhi Hospital. I reached Hospital in the morning of 30-01-1992 and the Doctors were now less hopeful. I approached my uncle who wanted me to open a page from Sai Satcharitra and read out its contents. At random I opened a page which happened to be from 27th chapter and it carried advisory message from Baba to Khaparde's wife, as follows - " Chant Raja Ram, Raja Ram - If you do this your life's object will be achieved, your mind will attain peace and will be immensely benefited ".

I read the message, and he started uttering continuously the Mantra and at noon he wanted me to read Madhyanna Haarati and I read it slowly to him in his ears. After completion he again commenced chanting of Rama mantra. Doctors declared that he is nearing his destiny and may live only for a few hours. At 13:20 he was not able to pronounce the mantra and I put "THULASI THEERTHA' once in to his mouth and trial for second attempt has gone in vain and it spilled out. Baba had a similar end in the lap of Nana Sahib Nimonkar at 14:30 Hrs. on 15-10-1918. Shri. Somayyajulu expired in Ekadasi thithi and Baba left for heavenly abode Dasisimi- Ekadasi transit. Shri Somayyajulu's mortal remains were brought to his son's newly constructed house. I bathed his physical body with Gangajal and on 30-01-1992 (Thursday) by evening hours his adopted son performed the last rites. In all these events I could see and feel Sai's maha samadhi.





*Jathagramath
gurorvasam
thasmath
purvasthalath
vrajathe
Namaha*



Please enjoy the talk
given by [Saibanisa ji](#)
in Telugu

Sri Vishnu SahasraNaamam

VISHNU SAHASRANAMA STOTRAM

anadir_bhur-bhuvo lakshmih su-viro rucira'ngadah |
janano jana-janmadir_bhimo bhima-parakramah ||101||

anadih - om anadaye namah

- a) He Who is not realized by many because of their ignorance etc.
- b) He Who has no beginning. .

bhur-bhuvah - om bhuvo-bhuve namah.

- a) He Who is the abode of those who really live (by realizing their relation to the Lord).
- b) He Who supports that which supports all (namely, the earth).
- c) He Who exists in Himself (with no other support).
- d) He Who is the Source of all knowledge.

lakshmih - om lakshmyai namah.
The Wealth.

suviro - om su-viraya namah.

rucira'ngadah - om rucira'ngadaya namah.

- a) He Who bestows His lovely form for His devotees to enjoy.
- b) He Who gives a beautiful body to those who are devoted (e.g., to the hunch-backed woman).
- c) He Who is adorned with beautiful shoulder ornaments (angadas).
- d) He Who has given elegant means for all creatures to move about.

jananah - om jananaya namah.
The Creator.

jana-janmadih - om jana-janmadaye namah.

- a) He Who is the root cause of all beings.
- b) He Who is the ultimate goal of all beings.

bhimah - om bhimaya namah.

He Who is frightful to those who do not follow dharma.

bhima-parakramya - om bhima-parakramaya namah.

AN ANTHOLOGY OF PRAYERS AND PRECEPTS

Compiled by **B.S. NARAYANAMURTHY**

SRI SAI BABA'S COMPASSION FOR MANKIND

O! Sri Sai Baba of Shirdi,
Thou art verily the 'Kamadhenu'
And 'Kalpavriksha' on this earth;
There is no boon that Thou hast
Not bestowed on Thy devotees

Progeny to the children,
Riches to the poor,
Employment to the idle,
Promotion in service to the downtrodden.
House to the houseless,

Health to the diseased,
Cheer to the distressed,
Hope to the forlorn.
Whatsoever the need of thy devotee
Thou hast hastened to fulfill it.

And make the devotee's heart overflow
With joy and unswerving faith In
Thy avowed assurance:
"WHY ARE YOU ANXIOUS ?
I TAKE ALL CARE OF YOU".





Children Section

GANESH CHATURTHI

GANESH CHATHURTHI BY Sri Swami Sivananda

SALUTATIONS to Lord Ganesha who is Brahman Himself, who is the Supreme Lord, who is the energy of Lord Shiva, who is the source of all bliss, and who is the bestower of all virtuous qualities and success in all undertakings.

Mushikavaahana modaka hastha,
Chaamara karna vilambitha sutra,
Vaamana rupa maheshwara putra,
Vighna vinaayaka paada namasthe

MEANING: "O Lord Vinayaka! the remover of all obstacles, the son of Lord Shiva, with a form which is very short, with mouse as Thy vehicle, with sweet pudding in hand, with wide ears and long hanging trunk, I prostrate at Thy lotus-like Feet!"

Ganesh Chaturthi is one of the most popular of Hindu festivals. This is the birthday of Lord Ganesha. It is the day most sacred to Lord Ganesha. It falls on the 4th day of the bright fortnight of Bhadrapada (August-September). It is observed throughout India, as well as by devoted Hindus in all parts of the world.

Clay figures of the Deity are made and after being worshipped for two days, or in some cases ten days, they are thrown into water.

Lord Ganesha is the elephant-headed God. He is worshipped first in any prayers. His Names are repeated first before any auspicious work is begun, before any kind of worship is begun.

He is the Lord of power and wisdom. He is the eldest son of Lord Shiva and the elder brother of Skanda or Kartikeya. He is the energy of Lord Shiva and so He is called the son of Shankar and Umadevi. By worshipping Lord Ganesha mothers hope to earn for their sons the sterling virtues of Ganesha.

The following story is narrated about His birth and how He came to have the head of an elephant:

Once upon a time, the Goddess Gauri (consort of Lord Shiva), while bathing, created Ganesha as a pure white being out of the mud of Her Body and placed Him at the entrance of the house. She told Him not to allow anyone to enter while she went inside for a bath. Lord Shiva Himself was returning home quite thirsty and was stopped by Ganesha at the gate. Shiva became angry and cut off Ganesha's head as He thought Ganesha was an outsider.

When Gauri came to know of this she was sorely grieved. To console her grief, Shiva ordered His servants to cut off and bring to Him the head of any creature that might be sleeping with its head facing north. The servants went on their mission and found only an elephant in that position. The sacrifice was thus made and the elephant's head was brought before Shiva. The Lord then joined the elephant's head onto the body of Ganesha.

Lord Shiva made His son worthy of worship at the beginning of all undertakings, marriages, expeditions, studies, etc. He ordained that the annual worship of Ganesha should take place on the 4th day of the bright half of Bhadrapada.

Without the Grace of Sri Ganesha and His help nothing whatsoever can be achieved. No action can be undertaken without His support, Grace or blessing.

In his first lesson in the alphabet a Maharashtrian child is initiated into the Mantra of Lord Ganesha, Om Sri Ganeshaya Namah. Only then is the alphabet taught.

The following are some of the common Names of Lord Ganesha: Dhoomraketu, Sumukha, Ekadhantha, Gajakarnaka, Lambodara, Vignaraja, Ganadhyaksha, Phalachandra, Gajanana, Vinayaka, Vakratunda, Siddhivinayaka, Surpakarna, Heramba, Skandapurvaja, Kapila and Vigneshwara. He is also known by many as Maha-Ganapathi.

His Mantra is Om Gung Ganapathaye Namah. Spiritual aspirants who worship Ganesha as their tutelary Deity repeat this Mantra or Om Sri Ganeshaya Namah.

The devotees of Ganesha also do Japa of the Ganesha Gayatri Mantra. This is as follows.

Tat purushaaya vidmahe
Vakratundaaya dheemahi
Tanno dhanti prachodayaat.

Lord Ganesha is an embodiment of wisdom and bliss. He is the Lord of Brahmacharins. He is foremost amongst the celibates.

He has as his vehicle a small mouse. He is the presiding Deity of the Muladhara Chakra, the psychic centre in the body in which the Kundalini Shakti resides.

He is the Lord who removes all obstacles on the path of the spiritual aspirant, and bestows upon him worldly as well as spiritual success. Hence He is called Vigna Vinayaka. His Bija Akshara (root syllable) is Gung, pronounced to rhyme with the English word "sung". He is the Lord of harmony and peace.

Lord Ganesha represents Om or the Pranava, which is the chief Mantra among the Hindus. Nothing can be done without uttering it. This explains the practice of invoking Ganesha before beginning any rite or undertaking any project. His two feet represent the power of knowledge and the power of action. The elephant head is significant in that it is the only figure in nature that has the form of the symbol for Om.

The significance of riding on a mouse is the complete conquest over egoism. The holding of the ankusha represents His rulership of the world. It is the emblem of divine Royalty.

Ganesha is the first God. Riding on a mouse, one of nature's smallest creatures and having the head of an elephant, the biggest of all animals, denotes that Ganesha is the creator of all creatures. Elephants are very wise animals; this indicates that Lord Ganesha is an embodiment of wisdom. It also denotes the process of evolution--the mouse gradually evolves into an elephant and finally becomes a man. This is why Ganesha has a human body, an elephant's head and a mouse as His vehicle. This is the symbolic philosophy of His form.

He is the Lord of Ganas or groups, for instance groups of elements, groups of senses, etc. He is the head of the followers of Shiva or the celestial servants of Lord Shiva.

The Vaishnavas also worship Lord Ganesha. They have given Him the name of Tumbikkai Alwar which means the divinity with the proboscis (the elephant's trunk).

Lord Ganesha's two powers are the Kundalini and the Vallabha or power of love.

He is very fond of sweet pudding or balls of rice flour with a sweet core. On one of His birthdays He was going around house to house accepting the offerings of sweet puddings. Having eaten a good number of these, He set out moving on His mouse at night. Suddenly the mouse stumbled--it had seen a snake and became frightened--with the result that Ganesha fell down. His stomach burst open and all the sweet puddings came out. But Ganesha stuffed them back into His stomach and, catching hold of the snake, tied it around His belly.

Seeing all this, the moon in the sky had a hearty laugh. This unseemly behaviour of the moon annoyed Him immensely and so he pulled out one of His tusks and hurled it against the moon, and cursed that no one should look at the moon on the Ganesh Chaturthi day. If anyone does, he will surely earn a bad name, censure or ill-repute. However, if by mistake someone does happen to look at the moon on this day, then the only way he can be freed from the curse is by repeating or listening to the story of how Lord Krishna cleared His character regarding the Syamantaka jewel. This story is quoted in the Srimad Bhagavatam. Lord Ganesha was pleased to ordain thus. Glory to Lord Ganesha! How kind and merciful He is unto His devotees!

Ganesha and His brother Lord Subramanya once had a dispute as to who was the elder of the two. The matter was referred to Lord Shiva for final decision. Shiva decided that whoever would make a tour of the whole world and come back first to the starting point had the right to be the elder. Subramanya flew off at once on his vehicle, the peacock, to make a circuit of the world. But the wise Ganesha went, in loving worshipfulness, around His divine parents and asked for the prize of His victory.

Lord Shiva said, "Beloved and wise Ganesha! But how can I give you the prize; you did not go around the world?"

Ganesha replied, "No, but I have gone around my parents. My parents represent the entire manifested universe!"

Thus the dispute was settled in favour of Lord Ganesha, who was thereafter acknowledged as the elder of the two brothers. Mother Parvati also gave Him a fruit as a prize for this victory.

In the Ganapathi Upanishad, Ganesha is identified with the Supreme Self. The legends that are connected with Lord Ganesha are recorded in the Ganesha Khanda of the Brahma Vivartha Purana.

On the Ganesh Chaturthi day, meditate on the stories connected with Lord Ganesha early in the morning, during the Brahmamuhurta period. Then, after taking a bath, go to the temple and do the prayers of Lord Ganesha. Offer Him some coconut and sweet pudding. Pray with faith and devotion that He may remove all the obstacles that you experience on the spiritual path. Worship Him at home, too. You can get the assistance of a pundit. Have an image of Lord Ganesha in your house. Feel His Presence in it.

Don't forget not to look at the moon on that day; remember that it behaved unbecomingly towards the Lord. This really means avoid the company of all those who have no faith in God, and who deride God, your Guru and religion, from this very day.

Take fresh spiritual resolves and pray to Lord Ganesha for inner spiritual strength to attain success in all your undertakings.

May the blessings of Sri Ganesha be upon you all! May He remove all the obstacles that stand in your spiritual path! May He bestow on you all material prosperity as well as liberation!





*Jathibhedhomat
hairbhedha ithi
bhedha
thiraskruthaya*

Namaha

Sri Sai Satcharita

Saibaba-The Invocation of the Divine

Many a saint had I met before; but here was the only one grinding at the quern. What pleasure could grinding afford him? Only he can understand his strange ways!

People watched him in astonishment, but no one dared to ask him what he was doing. As the news traveled through the village, men and women came running.

The women gasped for breath, as they ran. Four of them hastily rushed up the steps of the mosque and seizing hold of Baba's hand roughly, snatched the quern handle away from him.

Baba began quarrelling with them; but without heeding him they started grinding all at once. And as they did so, they sang Baba's praises and of his marvelous leelas.

Touched by their genuine affection, Baba's mock anger vanished, giving way to tenderness and love, as an indulgent, pleased smile stole over his face.

All the wheat was ground, measuring full eight pounds (four seers); the scuttle-basket was emptied. And then began thoughts and conjectures, racing wildly through the minds of the ladies.

'Baba prepares no wheat-bread for himself; to subsist on alms is his actual practice. What then, will he do with all this flour?' So they argued in their minds.

'Moreover, he has no wife, no children. Baba is all alone, without encumbrances of a home and a hearth, or of material belongings. What then, should he want all this flour for?

One of them said, 'Oh! Baba is compassion itself! All this sport is only for us. Just see! He will now give away all his flour to us.

Presently, he will make four shares in it, one for each of us!' They began building castles in the air.

But only Baba can understand his own ways; none other can divine his ultimate purpose. And yet their greed urged them on to loot Baba.

When all the wheat was over, the flour was spread out; the quern was put away to rest against the wall. The women filled the scuttle-basket with the flour, all in readiness to be taken to their respective homes.

Will Continue



Durga Suktam:

*Vishvaani No Durga-Haa Jaatavedah Sindhum Na Naavaa Durita-Ati-Parssi |
Agne Atrivan-Manasaa Grnnaano-[A]smaakam Bodhy[i]-Avitaa Tanuunaam ||4||*

Meaning:

(We offer our oblations to the Fire of Durga to cross over this very difficult ocean of worldly existence)

4.1: O Jataveda (one from whom the Vedas are born), You remove (grave) difficulties in all the Worlds; Please carry us like a Boat in this very difficult Ocean of the World (Samsara),

4.2: O Agni (Fire of Durga), our Minds are invoking You (ardently) like sage Atri (who continuously chants the mantras), and our beings are (now) filled with Your Consciousness (by continuously invoking You),

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BOW TO SHRI SAI ~ PEACE BE TO ALL

