

### **Sai Shankar**

Megha was already a Shankar devotee. When he got attached to Sai's feet, he looked on Sainath as Shankar! He was his Umanath.

Megha continuously chanted "Sai-Shankar" day and night, and his inner-self was merged in this form. His mind was pure and free of sin.

He became dedicated devotee of Sai. He felt that Sai was Shankar himself. His chant of "Shankar-Shankar" reverberated. He did not believe in any other deity.

Worship of Sai was worship of God to him. Sai was his Girija Raman. With this idea firmly rooted in his mind, Megha remained always happy.

Shankar likes 'bel' leaves; but there were no 'bel' trees in Shirdi. Therefore, Megha walked for koss-and-a-half to fulfill his desire of offering these leaves.

For him a koss or two was nothing. He was ready even to cross a mountain for 'bel', for he would have fulfilled his desire to do puja as he wanted it to be done.

He would bring the 'bel' from long distances, get together all the Puja paraphernalia completely, and then worship all the village deities, one by one. He would offer to all according to the proper rituals.

After that he would come immediately to the Masjid, loving bow to Baba's seat, wash his feet etc. and then drink the water as 'tirth'.

Further stories about Megha will be delightful to listen. They will show Sai's all pervasiveness and reverence for the village deities.

On one Makar-sankranti day, he felt like anointing Baba's whole body with sandalwood paste and then giving him a bath with Godavari water.

He pestered Baba for permission, so Baba Said : "Go and do as you desire." So, immediately Megha took a copper vessel and set out for the water.

Early in the, morning, before sunrise, Megha took the empty copper vessel and without an umbrella or chappals, set out to get water from the Godavari.

The entire distance, for coming and going, was about eight koss. It did not even occur to him to think of the exertion and strenuous efforts he would have to make.

Megha was not at all worried about this. He set out on getting the permission. When there is a strong determination there is a great joy in performing the task.

When he thought of giving a bath to Sai with the Godavari water, he was not bothered about the strenuous efforts or the exhaustion. His firm faith was his support.

So be it. He brought the water and poured it into a wide-mouthed copper pot. He began to persuade Baba to get up for the bath, but he did not agree.

"The noon arati is over and the people have gone to their homes. All the preparation for the bath have been made and it is afternoon", said Megha.

Seeing Megha's great insistence, then Sai in sport and as if in a mock fight, took Megha's hand in his hands and said: "I do not wish to bathe in the Godavari waters? What is it to me?"

But Megha was not prepared to listen at all, since he believed that Baba was his Shankar. He only knew that Shankar is pleased with Ganges water.

He said : "Baba, today is the, festival of Makar-sankranti. When Shankar is given bath with the waters of the Ganges, he is propitiated."

Then, considering his love and his adamant resolution, Baba said: "Fulfill your wish," as Megha was pure of heart.

After saying that he got up and sat down on the low stool made ready for the bath. He bent forward his head and said : "Pour just a little water. Out of all the limbs the head is the most important. Pour a little water on it. It is as good as having a full bath. At least listen to that much."

Agreeing to do so, Megha picked up the pot. He was so overwhelmed with love while pouring it on the head that he emptied it completely while shouting "Har Ganga", and poured it on the whole body.

Megha was greatly joyful. "My Shankar has bathed with his clothes on" he said, as he put down the empty pot. When he looked he was greatly surprised.

Though he had poured the water on the whole body, only the head was wet. All the other limbs were absolutely dry. There was not even a drop of water on the clothes.

Megha's pride was crushed. Those who were around were surprised! Shri Sai thus gratifies the fond

fancies of his devotees!

There is another story of Megha, which will please the listeners very much. Seeing Sai's love for his devotees, the listeners will be pleased.

A big picture of Baba, which Nana (Chandorkar) had newly given, was placed in the wada by Megha and he worshipped it regularly.

The real image at the Masjid and the exact replica in the wada, were worshipped with Aarti, at both the places, day and night. When about twelve months had passed in doing this divine service, when Megha was awake early one morning, he saw a vision.

Megha was lying in bed and though he had his eyes close he was fully awake and he saw Baba distinctly. Baba, too, was aware that he was awake. He threw consecrated rice on the bed and said : "Megha, draw a trident", and then disappeared there and then .

Listening to these words of Baba, Megha opened his eyes with great enthusiasm. He was very surprised to find that Baba had disappeared.

Then Megha looked all around. There were grains of rice scattered everywhere on the bed. The doors of the wada were closed, as earlier. Hence he was confused. He went to the Masjid immediately. While taking Baba's Darshan, Megha told him the story of the trident and asked permission to draw it.

Megha related the vision with all details. Baba said: "How can it be a vision? Did you not hear my words? I told you to draw the trident.

Are you trying to test my words by calling it a vision? My words are always very profound and not a syllable is empty."

"I too felt this at first that you had woken me. But not a single door was open. That's why I felt differently", replied Megha.

Listen to Baba's answer : "I do not need a door to enter. I have no form or dimension. I am always everywhere. For the one who places his burdens on me and has become one with me, I manipulate all his actions like the actions of a marionette."

So be it. The subsequent marvelous narration about the purpose of the trident should he heard with great attention. The connection will become evident.

On one hand, Megha returned and began to draw the trident on the wall, near the picture in the wada. He outlined the trident in red colour. The next day, a Ramdasi devotee from Pune came to the Masjid. He did obeisance to Baba with love and presented him with a 'Lingam'.

Just then Megha too arrived there, and an eight-fold obeisance to Baba. Baba said : "Here Shankar has come! Now, you look after him.

Upon getting the 'Lingam' in this manner, immediately after the vision of the trident, Megha kept on gazing at the 'Lingam' overcome with emotion.

Kaka Saheb Dixit too had another marvelous experience of the 'Lingam'. Listen with reverence to everything. Your faith in Baba will become firmer.

While Megha set off from the Masjid with the 'Lingam', Dixit was engrossed in chanting the Lord's name, after his bath in the wada.

Wiping his body with a clean, washed cloth, a towel covering his head, he stood on a stone concentrating on Sai. He was chanting the Lord's name, as per his usual practice with his head covered. He then had a vision of the 'Lingam'.

Dixit thought : 'Why did I today get the darshan of the 'Lingam' when I was chanting the Lord's name?' There was Megha, in front of him, looking very gratified.

Megha said : "Look, Kaka! Look at the 'Lingam' that Baba has given". Kaka was surprised and pleased to see this particular 'Lingam'.

It was of the same shape, size and markings like the one that had appeared in his meditation, just a little earlier Dixit was delighted.

Be it so. Later, after the drawing, of the trident was complete, Sai got Megha to establish the 'Lingam' near the picture.

Since Megha liked to worship Shankar, by presenting him with the Shankar 'Lingam', Sai strengthened his devotion. Such are the marvelous narrations about Sai !

**Experience His All- Pervasiveness!**

Wherever you are, and Whatever you may doing, always bear it in mind that I shall continue to be informed of the minutest details of your deeds.

In this manner, as I am described, I dwell in the mind of all I am in the hearts of all, all pervading I am the load of all.

I fill entire creation, within and without, to the point of overflowing. This universe is directed by God and I am the one who holds the reins.

I am the Mother of all being, I am the equilibrium of the three gunas, I promote the activities of the senses. I am the Creator, the Preserver and the Destroyer.

One who concentrates on Me, for him nothing is difficult. But the moment he forgets Me, Maya will attack him.

Whatever is perceived in My image only, whether it be a worm, an ant, a poor wretch or a king. "This immeasurable universe consisting of mobile and immobile thing-these are Baba's own image.

He who constantly remember me after completely surrendering to Me, I own him a debt which I will repay by uplifting him.

I constantly care for him who only longs for me and for him no one is equal to me. I act according to his wishes.

You may ask who is in the heart and how? What are his attributes? And what is his identity by which he can be recognized?

**- Chapter 44 Shri Sai Satcharita**

Sai fills the movable and immovable, Sai is within us outside us too. Sai is in your and my heart. He stays there permanently

Sai is immanent in the whole creation and He likes nothing else than love.

**- Chapter 44 Shri Sai Satcharita**

Though we cannot see him with our naked eyes He is everywhere. Though He in hiding in a subtle form, He keeps us engrossed in him.

Worshipping him with heart and soul, remembering him with love and devotion all the devotees will experience His all pervasiveness.

**- Chapter 44 Shri Sai Satcharita**

Sai Shanker | Experience His Pervasiveness | Is Baba Living and Helping Now | Shri Sai Sat Charita | Longing for the Lotus Feet | Baba You Are Great | I am not alone Baba is With Me

### **Is Baba Living And Helping Now?**

DEVOTEES EXPERIENCES AFTER BABA'S MAHASAMADHI ON 15th OCTOBER 1918 from book entitled "AMBROSIA IN SHIRDI" written by Shri Ramalingam Swami, inspired by Param Pujya Sri Sivanesan Swamiji of Shirdi

#### **How Baba proved that there were no Shishyas, Relatives, Incarnations or Successors to inherit His legacy?**

Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi took His Mahasamadhi on 15th October, 1918. Upto 1922, no proper arrangements to look after the Mahasamadhi were made. Ultimately, Shri Kakasaheb Dixit, seeing the sad state of affairs as conducted by the village set up an office with a Managing Committee under the Public Trust Act, with the approval of the District Court Ahmednagar.

At that time, Shri Abdul Baba performed the daily 'Abhishek' to the Samadhi. So, the 'Mahanaivedya' (food offering) was handed over him. Also, he was allowed to live in the room on the left side, adjacent to the Samadhi. He was the only local leading devotee of Sai Baba. He had collected about four to five thousand rupees of 'Dakshina' amount given by Baba's devotees. Enjoying these privileges, he thought, he was the legal heir to Baba. Some of his well wishers fuelled the idea that the Trust formed was an the injustice against him. Thus he filed a suit against the Trust, in the District Court of Ahmadnagar.

By the Grace of Baba, the District Court passed order against Abdul Baba, saying that there were no heirs or successors to Shri Sai Baba and he had no right to the maintenance of the Samadhi or in the working of the newly formed Trust. The Mahanaivedya given to him was stopped, and he was asked to vacate the room.

Baba had said that he would have the Divine Powers for a thousand years to look after the welfare of His devotees. It was thus proved by Baba Himself that there were no Shishyas, relatives, incarnations or successors to Him.

Surrender to Shri Sai Completely!

Stupendous delectation and deliverance will be there!

#### **The Fate of Shri Mukhtaram, a staunch devotee of Baba, when he wanted to occupy Baba's Gadi**

Shri Mukhtaram was a staunch devotee of Shri Sai Baba. Sai Baba had given him a Kafni. He lived in Dixit Wada and kept a Dhuni. a few days after Baba's Mahasamadhi, he forcibly occupied Baba's Gadi in Dwarkamai, against the wishes of the villagers.

As soon as he sat there, he began to vomit blood and was taken to his residence in Dixit Wada. The devotees thought of taking him to the Kopergaon hospital; but before it could be decided as to who should accompany him, he died in Dixit Wada itself. His Samadhi is in Lendi Baug.

This incident clearly shows that Baba was not willing to allow anybody to occupy His Gadi.

- Joyti Ranjan  
Worli, Mumbai

Sai Shanker | Experience His Pervasiveness | Is Baba Living and Helping Now | Shri Sai Sat Charita |  
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**Shri Sai Sat Charita**

**(Ovi to ovi translation of Hemadpant's Marathi Pothi)**

Chapter XLI

I bow down to Sree Ganesh

I bow down Sree Saraswati

I bow down to the Guru

I bow down to the Family Deity

I bow down to Sree Sita-Ramachandra

I bow down to Sree Sadguru Sainath

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### Longing for the Lotus Feet

Longings for the Lotus Feet, from birth to birth,  
With various bodies one could clad,  
As minerals, not happy at all !  
Then evolved as plants, most useful creation,  
Serving man and animal with all its parts,  
But still the heart is heavy; no Happiness !  
Again evolved as animals, species other than man,  
Served the man, the highest architects of the Artist,  
No, no happiness, longing for something else !  
Evolution goes on ..... one rolls and rolls with different bodies,  
The spiritual sapling grows to a tree,  
And Ultimately attains human birth  
With all the inner craving , Attains all, properties, fame and material prosperities,  
But still he means "In sooth, I know not, why I am so sad!" The sadness is the longing for the Lotus Feet  
!  
Spiritual tree in him matures, He craves for merging, like a river for the sea !  
It runs through hills and dales, very hard and hostile, Only to merge in the sea !  
Man's longings since time immemorial through infinite bodies,  
To touch and merge in the Lotus Feet !  
Then only he enjoys the real Bliss !  
Never to return from that state,  
The poet describes this as the mind-bee,  
Sucking the nectar of the Lotus !  
And lo! how they are graced with the Lotus Feet !  
Bali was pushed to the Netherlands,  
But with the touch of the Lotus Feet, he became immortal.  
The same touch turned a stone to Ahalya,  
The Boatman drank the nector to his hearts content,  
By washing the Lotus Feet !  
These Feet removed the poisons from Kalia, residing in Kalindi, Made Kubja a beautiful maiden.  
Draupadi surrendered to these Feet, Miracles occurred to save her !  
Devotees flow to Shirdi by His Grace !

From far off lands with pains and perrils,  
Only longing is to touch the Feet !

Every pain comes out to be pleasure,  
When get the Darshan and Sparshan,  
Lo! What ecstasy one enjoys after the touch !

Tears roll down to wash this Feet !

Oh my Beloved Lord !  
Grant me this state to be ever attached to thy Lotus Feet !

Grace me to rest there and there will be no other longings,  
No other bodies, no mind, no desires,  
All merged in Bliss, the total Bliss.

- Prof.(Miss) Bhalani Rout  
Cuttack, Orissa

**Baba You are Great**

WITH HIS BLESSINGS AND UTMOST CARE  
SPREADS THE MESSAGE OF LOVE  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU RESTORED CHAND PATIL WITH HIS LOST MARE  
YOU SAVED THE CHILD FROM THE BLACKSMITH PYRE  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
MHALASA UNKNOWINGLY CALLED YOU "AAO SAI"  
YOU CALLED HINDU MUSLIM "BHAI BHAI"  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU MADE ABDUL THE PECKING 'CROW'  
TO RELIEVE PILLAY FROM HIS PAIN AND SORROW  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU LIT THE LAMPS WITHOUT OIL  
ERADICATING DISEASES FROM THE SHIRDI SOIL  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
AT NOON YOU WERE ON BEGGING ROUNDS  
WHERE FRAGRANCE OF GOD SURROUNDS  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU KNOW THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE  
NO ONE CAN ESCAPE FROM YOUR ETERNAL GAZE  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU COOKED THE FOOD WITHOUT SCARE  
PUTTING BARE HANDS IN THE COOKING WARE  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
SINCERE FAITH AND PATIENCE YOU EXPECT  
SIMPLE DEVOTE OFFERINGS YOU ACCEPT  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU TREAT THE RICH, POOR, GOOD, BAD ALIKE  
DIFFERENCES IN CAST, CREED, RACE YOU DISLIKE  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU HAVE NARRATED EPICS AND TALES OF YORE  
GETTING RID OF THE SORROWS TO THE CORE  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU ARE THE WISH FULFILLING TREE  
FOREVER YOUR DARSHAN IS FREE  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!  
YOU HAVE MADE SHIRDI YOUR DWELLING PLACE  
ANYONE WHO VISITS WILL HAVE YOUR GRACE  
BABA YOU ARE GREAT!

- H. K. Venkat Narayan  
Hyderabad, A.P.

### **I am not alone-Baba is with Me**

I am pleased to share my following glorious experience with innumerable Sai devotees.

It was during November, 1997. My wife and myself went to our daughter's home in the United States. I am a diabetic patient and I also had an attack of severe bronchitis before we left India. The doctors here had prescribed medication to be taken during our stay in the US.

We reached US on schedule and continued to stay with our daughter comfortably. As per our routine, we used to worship our beloved deity Sri Sainath by chanting the usual prayers everyday. We had planned our sojourn for three months. On the thirtieth day after our arrival in US, I suddenly had severe cramps in the chest. I could not bear the pain or breath. I lied down wherever I was. We were alone in the house with the infant kids of our daughter, as our daughter and son-in-law had left for their work. I was alone in the drawing room when I had these cramps. I somehow beckoned my wife who was in the kitchen. She was shocked when she saw my plight and immediately phoned my daughter at the office. It was snowing at the time and there was eighteen inches of snow on the road and approach to our home. Temperature outside was below zero. On hearing about my condition at home one of her senior colleague helped her drive through the snow and they rushed to the house within fifteen minutes.

When my daughter saw my distressed state, she did not waste time pondering. She called the emergency service and explained to them of our predicament. Within ten minutes, the emergency squad arrived at our place fully equipped. There were two doctors too in the squad. They checked my condition, took ECG on the spot and decided that it was a stroke and that I have to be immediately admitted to a hospital having facility to perform a heart surgery. There were two hospitals nearby who could perform the surgery. As it was heavily snowing, most of the roads were blocked. I was physically immobile but I was in senses. I pleaded that "I need not be taken to any hospital and I will be all right soon and that I can get necessary medical aid in India." The emergency squad insisted that I should be taken to the hospital and specialist doctors will decide the future course. They asked for our preference of hospital, and my son-in-law suggested a name known to him, where there was a specialist Indian doctor attached to them. They then put me on the stretcher and we waded through snow on the way to the hospital.

Within 30 minutes we reached the place. On arrival, the staff took me to the emergency cell. I distinctly remember that, lying on the stretcher on way to emergency room, I was continuously chanting and remembering Lord Sainath's name. Silently chanting his name I may have lapsed into an unconscious state. Within an hour I understand that they conducted various tests including catheterization. The tests suggested that there were four blocks in the arteries. A conference was held among various doctors and surgeons and it was decided that an open heart bypass surgery has to be conducted without delay.

Hospital authorities summoned the anesthetist and within two hours of arriving at the hospital the surgery was commenced. I was not aware of anything that was being performed on my physical body. I was gleefully wandering somewhere in the most pleasant gardens and lawns in a serene atmosphere. I was aware that 'I' was not alone and Lord Sainath was with me'.

It nearly took five hours for the surgeon and his assistants, to complete the task of cutting the veins from my calves and thighs and plant them firmly in place in the arteries. The operation was successful. Probably it took another six hours for me to regain my consciousness. My wife, it seems was continuously praying Baba for the success of the surgery and for my speedy recovery. Her prayers were answered. She was there to give me an assuring smile although in tears of joy.

I came to senses all right! But I was trying to find me! I was neither there nor here! It took me some time. May be a minute or two, I am not sure! Suddenly I realized that I was with Baba, and I was walking down from the inside of his heart back to my bed. I was in a state of confusion! I did not for a moment understand why I had to leave Baba and that beautiful garden and walk down to this miserable place. I started looking for him. I could not find! Then after some time, I concluded that he had walked along with me and may have entered my heart! Yes, He is still there! Always there! I am not sure when I will have another opportunity roaming those gardens with Him! Why should I worry? Let Him decide.

One thing that has entered my heart now after the surgery is not the new veins 'but that' I am not alone and Baba is always with me! He loves, provides and protects.

"I am not alone, Baba is with me" is not an exclusive privilege of mine. It is a fact decreed for every devotee. We have to be aware of His presence. He is with us hearing and looking at everything we say and do. He is witnessing our every speech and actions. The moment the awareness of his continuous presence is felt, we get transformed. The thoughts which are the cause of our speech and actions will naturally get oriented to speak and do things which have His approval. Our ego the 'I' will get a knock and a slap. Our speech will get changed to be very courteous and polite. We start appreciating others. We will start saying "Oh! You have done a great job". This is because we also feel the Lord's presence in the person, whom we are addressing. We shall start saying, "I admit I was wrong". I know how difficult it is to admit our inadequacies. But with the awareness of his presence in us it is easy. The 'I' becomes a non-entity. When the 'I' gives room for 'We' the life turns out to be a happy passing phase.

One more thing we normally say "I did this, I said this, I did that, I said that" etc. We should make it a habit to say "Let us do this, let us do that" etc. Let us include Him also in whatever we say or do. I am a non-entity without Him. It is He who does everything and we are only His instruments.

The eight words "I am not alone, Baba is with me" is a mantra that we have to repeat daily and at all times and feel His presence with us!

**- K. S. Shenoy  
Kothrud, Pune.**

**Hyderabad, A.P.**

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