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Managing Editor: **J.M.Sasane**
Editor: **B.R.Wackchure**
Exicutive Editor: **Vidhyadhar Thathe**

English Section

* Shri Sainath Suprabhatam: Naresh Dharvadkar	21
* Shri Saibaba Mangalashtakam: Naresh Dharvadkar	23
* Former Practice of Shri Sai Sadguru Poornima Celebration: Shamshad Ali Baig	24
* In Sai's Proximity-Madhavrao Deshpanden alias Shama: Mrs.Mugdha Divadhar	30
* Shirdi News	31



[Homepage](#)



SHRI SAINATH SUPRABHATAM

Shri Sainath Samartha Namah



Settled in Shiladhi
Belittle a|| the woes and
worries *Prarabdhi*
Subtle *Shri Sai Nath Samartha Adhi*
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||1||
Favoured *Shri Vitthal Darshan*
Saviour of devotees' *Accuman*
For ever obliging joyous one
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||2||
Appear as Pandurang Vitthal
Decipher devotees *Shraddha* vital
Prosper gift to one and a|| entitle
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||3||
Dwarka in Kaliyuga Shirdi
Dwarkamai the blissful *Mahdi*
Dwarpalak of Lord's abode, the Shirdi
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||4||
Shri Noble One, simply Human One
Shri Truthful stepping in heaven
Shri Graceful *Sat Chit Anand Bhagavan*
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||5||
Granted vision to Gauuli *Bua* of *Shri* Pandurang
Contented is Sai in Shirdi with *sant-sang*
Enchanted "*A||ah Malik*" *Rang Anang*
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||6||
Shri Sai always in meditation
Shri Sai encouraging *Nama Smaran* adoration
Shri Sai sanctioned knowledge
to Dasganu in attention
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||7||
Shri Sai at Your Feet
Shri the life journey is complete
Shri Prayag, Kashi pilgrimage adequate
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||8||
The humble devotee Hemadpant rea||y
The pious one to write a|| of Sai truly
The Noble Sai nodding "Yes" eventua||y
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||9||
Shri Sai, the One with grace of
future thought
Shri Sai, the Affectionate to relieve
begins from materialistic knot
Shri Sai guiding humanity, Paramount
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||10||
In solitude, in deep meditation a||
In reaching latitudes and longitudes,
devotees a||
In compassion attitude rescuing a|| and a||
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||11||
In simple alphabets and words
In reality, the worth explained towards
In essence Ishopanishad conveyed
to Dasganu inwards
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||12||
Sai Geeta is pious, pure and real
Sai's message of Bhagwad Geeta, reel
Sai preaches, practices a|| in life real
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||13||
Sai so Peaceful under the Neem tree
Sai gifting the solemn truth of Vedas
Upanishads in spiritual spree

Sai the Omnipotent spe||-bound, one, two, three
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||14||
 The timely hint to Gopal Ambadekar
 not to give up life
 The prime advent of Swami Samartha to clarify the strife
 The 'A||ah Malik Fakir' pervasive to grant vision of reality of life
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||15||
 The fun and mischievousness so simple
Shri Sai sending Ramadasi
 to bring medicine ample
Shri Sai taking the Vishnusahsranaam
 to give to Shama in principle
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||16||
 Sai saying "Vishnunaam is relief and bliss"
 Sai depicting "The A||ah coming to him without a miss"
 Sai as Ekanath *Maharaj* enforced
 Vishnusahasranaam on Shama
 with smiling hiss
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||17||
 The significance of grinding wheat
 The innate task of devotees' worries, miseries \\
 wading away so complete
 The handful of *Jnana* working the mi||
 Surpassing *Rajas, Tamas, Satvik* propitiate
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||18||
 The agony of Kabir, feeling crushed
 With wheel of worldly existance
 The irony knot to get afraid off ordained
 Hold fast to handle with persistence
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||19||
 The journey not to wander just
 The harmony of love potion must
 The Guide, the Mentor Sai Sai Sai Nath
 The One taking you to the centre *Sabbath*
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||20||
 The *Sadhana* is not complete
 The lesson of *Aradhana* started to compete
 The mission sought very clear
 The *Sambhavana* human to bear
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||21||
 The simple 'Sai' leads you to Him
 The ample *Bhakti* you shower on Him
 The principle fundamental attitude
 The spiritual conquest in a|| latitudes
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||22||
 Sai's message is Lord's assistance
 Sai's privilege to Shama
 pleading for sustainance
 Sai's permission to Hemadpant for instance
 Sai's sanction for truthful substance
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||23||
 The Shama, requesting Baba to say "Yes"
 The Hemadpant to write Life of Baba Potent
 The Shama and Hemad seeking
 blessing from Omnipresent
 The smiling Baba agreeing finally
 nodded "Yes"
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||24||
 Baba moved by Shama's and
 Hemad's plea such
 Baba gave *Udi* and placed
 His hand on Hemad's head
 Baba directing Hemad to Jott down
 notes and co||lections such
 Baba for a|| the stories of this *Fakir* we|| ahead
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||25||
 Baba declared, Hemadpant is
 an instrument to write
 Baba saying, "I myself wi|| write"
 Baba directing the devotee Hemadpant
 Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||26||
 Baba said, Hemadpant, get rid off
 ego and pride
 Baba asserting, be humble, truthful to abide
 Baba ordaining one to fu||y surrender first
 Baba assuring, be contented with
 what I give you just

Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||27||
Baba guiding no one to refine opinion
Baba deciding no harping upon individual
Baba cautioning no
on their views and opinions
Baba signaling to follow realization eventual
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||28||
The *Darshan*, the touch of Sai's Feet
The submission to the divine complete
The merits of previous births propitiate
The final sanction of Baba adequate
Salutations to You Sai Nath *Samartha* ||29||

– Naresh Dharwadkar

nareshdharwad@yahoo.com



<Main>



SHRI SAI BABA MANGALASHTAKAM
(BLISSFUL ADORATION IN EIGHT VERSES)

- Shri Sai Guruve Namo Namah*
Shri Sai Param Pavitra
Teerthaya Namah
Shri Sai Guru Varadaan
Moorti Namah
Shri Sai Kuryat Mangalam.....1
Shri Sai You the great Perceptor
Shri Sai You the noble Teacher
Shri Sai You the blissful Initiator
Shri Sai showers omnious blessings
Shri Sai Guru Karunakaraya Namah
Shri Sai Guru Sadbhavanaya Namah
Shri Sai Guru Bhavana Pradaya Namah
Shri Sai Kuryat Mangalam.....2
Shri Sai the real Affectionate One
Shri Sai the Guru pious Solemn
Shri Sai the Embodiment of graceful
thoughts full column
Shri Sai sanctions divine blessings
Shri Sai Dharma Maarg Darshitaya Namah
Shri Sai Dharma Rakshana Karitaya Namah
Shri Sai Dharma Nirmal Chintanaya Namah
Shri Sai Kuryat Mangalam.....3
Shri Sai shows the righteous path
Shri Sai endows the devotion worth
Shri Sai vows to protect devotees so forth
Shri Sai grants omnious felicitation
Shri Sai Karma Yogi Prateek Namah
Shri Sai Karma Maarg Suchitaya Namah
Shri Sai Karma Dharma
Palan Karitaya Namah
Shri Sai Kuryat Mangalam.....4
Shri Sai the Symbol of Karma Yoga
Shri Sai the Guide of Karma Maarga
Shri Sai the Nucleus of
Karma and Dharma Pratyaga
Shri Sai empowers strength to march on
Shri Sai Bhakti Kalyanaya Namah
Shri Sai Bhakta Gana Sampreetaya Namah
Shri Sai Bhakta Vatsalyaya Namah
Shri Sai Kuryat Mangalam.....5
Shri Sai the Fountain of
fulfilment of devotees
Shri Sai the Perpetual Certains of priorities
Shri Sai the Spiritual Contentment of
spiritual surities
Shri Sai favours graceful sanction
Shri Sai Satya Maarg Preritaya Namah
Shri Sai Sat Chit Swaroopaya Namah
Shri Sai Sat Chit Ananda Praphullaya Namah
Shri Sai Kuryat Mangalam.....6
Shri Sai the Promoter of path of Truth
Shri Sai the Incarnation of Divine Worth
Shri Sai the Grace and
Grandeur of qualities so forth
Shri Sai grants blesses and protects
Shri Sai Guru Teerthaya Namah
Shri Sai Guru Teertha Prasaad Namah
Shri Sai Guru Teertha Ganga Yamuna Samudaya Namah
Shri Sai Kuryat Mangalam.....7
Shri Sai the real Perceptor (Preacher)
Shri Sai the eventual Director of
devotees in fervour
Shri Sai the Paramount of affection and compassion grandeur
Shri Sai takes care of all
Shri Sai Samay Samitraya Namah
Shri Sai Samay Baddha
Bhakta Sphoorti Daya Namah
Shri Sai Samay Samiksha
Anugrahaya Namah
Shri Sai Kuryat Mangalam.....8
Shri Sai the great Dictator of time
Shri Sai the Guru complete of prime
Shri Sai the adequate Teacher of concern, compassion, sublime
Shri Sai the lone Teacher, Preacher and the Avataar



<Main>



Former Practice of *Shri Sai Sadguru Poornima Celebration*

Sadguru Shri Sai Baba Himself never initiated anyone as His disciple; but elucidated the importance of *Guru*. The words uttered by Him became guidance for His devotees. He spoke of the importance of *Guru*. Baba, when He came to Shirdi, would sit under a Neem tree meditating for hours. Baba would say, “This is my *Guru*’s *Sthan* and, therefore, very dear to me. If one cleans this place and lights frankincense here every Thursday and Friday, one will experience peace and happiness.” Every time, while passing this *Sthan* Baba would show reverence.

In 1909, Baba’s devotee Tatyasaheb Nulkar visited Shirdi with his mother and mother-in-law. The day being *Guru Poornima*, Tatyasaheb offered *Pooja* to Baba as his *Guru*. After he left, Baba called for Tatyapa Patil Kote. On receiving the message, Tatyapa who was working in the fields, rushed to Baba. Baba said, “Why should he alone do my *Pooja* ? Why can’t you do it too ?”

The devotees wanted to worship Baba; but fearing He would flare up, never dared to. But now, seeing Baba’s approval, Tatyapa Kote Patil, Madhavrao Deshpande and other devotees present were overjoyed. Dada Kelkar who happened to be a *Brahmin* and senior devotee was given the honor of performing Baba’s *Pooja*. He ritualistically performed the *Pooja* in the *Masjid* with sandalwood paste, incense, rice, garland, flowers and a pair of *Dhotis*. This became a milestone and Sai devotees started celebrating *Guru Poornima*, which continues to date.

In the early days Baba would not allow anyone to apply sandalwood paste to His forehead. Only Mhalsapati would be permitted to apply it to His throat. The rest of the devotees would apply it to Baba’s Feet. But once, four - year old Bapu, Nanasaheb Chandorkar’s son out of ignorance applied sandalwood paste to Baba’s forehead for the first time.

It is interesting to note that Baba always respected devotees, who were attached to their *Guru*. Once, Tatyasaheb Nulkar’s friend, Dr. Pandit came to Shirdi. He went for Baba’s *Darshan*. With sandalwood paste he drew a *Tripundra* on Baba’s forehead. Everyone present were shocked and thought Baba will be angry. Dada Bhat who was also present was astonished that Baba did not lose His temper. So, the same evening when he couldn’t contain his curiosity any more he asked Baba. Baba said, “Dr. Pandit drew the *Tripundra* believing that I am his *Guru*; so, how could I stop him ?”

Thus, Baba’s teachings, ‘*Shraddha* and *Saburi*’, ‘*Allah Malik*’, ‘*Sabka Malik Ek*’, if practiced, will easily take a man to material and spiritual heights. These teachings unite all mankind and take them beyond the distinction of caste, creed and colour, fostering oneness.

Penned by

Ms. Shamshad Ali Baig

email : shamshadbaig@rediffmail.com

Ref. : Shri Sai Sat Charita and other Sai literature



Hemadpant describes the importance of *Guru* in the 17th Chapter of Shri Sai Sat Charita.....

Regularly listen to the best of the scriptures; follow the advice of the *Guru* with faith; be always alert and lead a regulated life.

Those, who follow this principle automatically, follow the path leading to their salvation. Innumerable beings are thus liberated very naturally.

He, who constantly thinks, day and night, as to when he will be free of the bonds of this world, will be able to cut off this bond.

Securing as much solitude as one can, and bearing in mind that the worldly existence is ephemeral, one should always be engaged in studying and understanding the meaning of the *Atman*.

With mind full of devotion and faith, a disciple should completely and humbly surrender. Till such time, the *Guru* will not give the treasure of knowledge to him.

Serve the *Guru* with your whole being. Think of salvation and bondage, ponder upon the question of true knowledge and ignorance and leave the success only to the *Guru*.

Nobody else but a *Guru* can tell about the *Atman* and the Supreme Self. *Guru* also does not give even a particle of knowledge unless one surrenders completely.

If anyone else excepting the *Guru* imparts knowledge, it will not be able to liberate you from the world; neither will it at all be possible of leading to the fruits of *Moksha*, nor will it ever have the full impact on your mind.

Therefore, knowledge is not possible to be obtained without a *Guru*. All the learned men are aware of this, that the capable feet of the *Guru* can solve the mystery of the *Brahman* and the *Atman*.

Without any hesitation give up your ego and pride, and prostrate yourself, bowing your head down at the feet of the *Guru*.

'I am your humblest servant. I have always regarded your feet as my only solace.' Utter these words. Gather courage and have faith in him.

Then, you should see his miracle. The ocean of mercy, in the form of the *Guru*, will be moved and will take you in his bed, swaying you lightly on the waves of kindness.

He will keep his hand of re-assurance on your head; will ward off bad omens; burn up heaps of all sins and anoint the forehead with '*Udi*'.

Hemadpant, in the 18th chapter of *Shri Sai Sat Charita*, says....

Blessed, blessed is the company of the *Sadguru* ! Who can describe his powers ! When the memories of his words are recalled, one by one, I am inspired greatly !

If you pray to God with love, and serve the *Guru* and perform his *Pooja*, you will receive that knowledge, which only the *Guru* has. All other means are useless.

This path of the world is full of confusion and dim. The words of the *Guru* shine like rays from a lamp to make it smooth and perceivable.

Guru is actually God himself. He is Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwar. *Guru*, in reality, is God Almighty. *Guru* is the Supreme *Brahman*.

Guru is the mother and *Guru* is the father. *Guru* is the protector, when God's wrath is incurred. But, when *Guru* is angry, nobody can protect you. Remember this always.

Guru is the guide for worldly behaviour, the rituals and pilgrimages to holy places. He is the guide, to what is right and wrong, and to practise non-attachment. He is the exponent of the Vedas and the Upanishads.

Hemadpant narrates a story of Radhabai, telling the importance of *Guru* and her trust in Baba and firm determination, at the end of 18th chapter and in the beginning of 19th chapter of *Shri Sai Sat Charita*....

There was a wife of a Deshmukh, who thought of spending some time in the company of saints.

Hearing of Sai Baba's fame, the lady came to Shirdi, along with a group of people from Sangamner with a longing for Baba's *Darshan*.

She was the mother of Khashaba Deshmukh. Her name was Radhabai. With great faith in Sai, she bowed down at His Feet and took *Darshan*.

She had *Darshan* with the right formalities. All her fatigue of a long journey disappeared and then she remembered her mission.

She ardently desired to make Sai *Samartha* her *Guru*, so that He would give her the right *Upadesh*, by which she would attain her goal of life.

The lady was quite aged and had immense faith in Baba. She was firmly resolved on getting some *Upadesh* from Him.

"I will not go anywhere else till Baba graces me personally and gives me a *Mantra* whispered in my ear.

The *Mantra* should come directly from the lips of Sai; because if I take it from anyone else, it will be impure. Lord Sai is the holiest and foremost amongst saints. Let Him choose to bless me."

Having thus determined at heart, the lady gave up eating and drinking and became inflexible about it.

She was old, as it was. She had not eaten even a morsel, nor drunk any water. Yet she had extreme faith in *Upadesh*.

For three days and nights continuously, the old woman fasted and had decided to continue it till the day Baba gave her the *Upadesh*.

"What is the use of visiting Shirdi without receiving a *Mantra Upadesh* ?" She remained unmoving from the place, where she was staying and was prepared to die there.

She did not have food or water for three days and thus did penance. The lady was exhausted and became very sad.

Madhavrao was worried and thought that the situation was not proper. What should be done about the future; as the old lady was not afraid of death.

Then he went to the *Masjid* and sat besides Baba. He asked respectfully, about the day-to-day matters regarding general well-being.

"Shama, what are you planning to-day ? Is everything alright ? That Narayan Teli (not a real person; but a personification of something that troubled Baba) has gone far out of bounds and is giving me a lot of trouble."

Thinking about the condition of the old lady, Shama was already dejected. What exactly should he do ? Gathering courage, he asked Baba....

"Lord, what is this confusion and mystery ? Your moves are not understood by others. You make people come to this village and now You are asking my plans.

That old Deshmukh woman is aged and has gone without food or water for three days and is solely depending on You.

That old woman is very obstinate and has great faith in You. You are not ready to even look at her. Why are You making her miserable ?

As it is, she is like a dry stick. She is unrelenting, of a very irascible nature and strong-willed. Obviously, without food, she is going to lose her life.

It will be said that the old woman came with the desire to take *Darshan* and wished to have *Upadesh*. But, Sai Baba had no pity on her. He let her die.

Baba, let not such a reputation spread. Tell her, what is good for her. Why don't You grace her and wipe out the probable blot ?

She has no strength left in her. Her life is hanging by a thread. The old woman will die and You will receive the blame.

The old woman's penance is hard. We are very much worried. Unfortunately, if the old woman dies, it will be a disaster.

The old woman is bent on doing injury to herself in a fit of passion. If You do not favour her, I don't see any chance of her survival. Tell her something from Your own lips."

To ward off the sufferings of the world, Baba, the Cloud in the form of the Supreme Spirit, showered that water in the form of contentment to quench the thirst of the devotees, who were like the *Chataks* (birds).

Baba said, "Mother, tell me the truth. Why do you torment yourself ? I am a mere *Fakir*, who begs for alms. Look at me kindly.

Really speaking, I am like a son and you the mother. Now, pay attention to me. I will tell you about an amazing thing, which will make you very happy.

I had a *Guru*, who was a great *Aulia*, an ocean of kindness. I served him, as much as I could; but he would not whisper any *Mantras* to me.

I too had a great longing to receive a *Mantra* from his lips, whatever efforts I may have to put in. I resolved never to leave him.

In the beginning he had my head shaved and asked for only two pice, which I gave immediately. I ardently prayed for him to give me those magical words of a *Mantra*.

My *Guru* was a person, who had fulfilled all desires. Why did he need two pice ? and how could I call him desireless who asked money from a disciple ?

Never have such doubts. He did not wish for the coins of the realm. That was not his idea at all. What use did he have for bullion ?

Faith and Patience – these were the two (pice) – and nothing else. I gave them immediately, by which, my *Guru* was pleased with me, who was like my mother.

Courage is itself patience, Oh woman ! Never let it leave you ! In times of difficulties, it will stand you in good stead.

The valour of a human being lies in being patient. It wards off the sins, worries and miseries. The difficulties are cleared, in some way or the other; and fear and panic vanish.

Patience gains success ultimately. Difficulties run off helter-skelter. The thorn of evil thoughts have no scope.

Patience is a mine of virtues. She is the queen of pious thinking. Faith and she are true sisters and they dearly love each other.

A human being without patience becomes miserable. He may be a scholar or a virtuous person, but life without it is futile.

Though a *Guru* is very powerful, he expects only wisdom from his disciple, firm faith, lots of courage and patience at the feet of the *Guru*.

Just as a stone and a gem, if both are rubbed against a grindstone, both shine; but a stone is a stone and a gem after all, a lustrous and precious stone.

Both undergo the same process of polishing. But, can a stone shine like a gem ? A gem may become a luminous diamond; but the stone will remain the same, only it will become a little smoother.

I lived at his feet for twelve years. The *Guru* brought me up from childhood. There was never a dearth of food and clothing and he nurtured immeasurable love for me.

He was the embodiment of love and devotion and had genuine affection for a disciple. A *Guru* like mine would rarely be found. I cannot describe the rapturous joy.

How could I describe that love ! When I looked at him, he seemed as if he was in deep meditation and we both were filled with bliss. I could never look anywhere else.

I would go on looking affectionately at the face of the *Guru*, day and night. I knew no hunger or thirst. My mind would get restless without the *Guru*.

He was the only object of my meditation. I would have no other goal than him. He was daily the sole aim. The ways of the *Guru* are mysterious.

This was the only expectation of my *Guru*. He did not desire anything more than this. He never disregarded me and always protected me from difficulties.

Sometimes I would stay close to his feet and sometimes away from him. But, I was never deprived of the closeness of his company. He looked after me with love and care.

Just as a female tortoise nurses her little ones by her look, my *Guru* did the same and looked after me.

Oh mother, sitting in this *Masjid*, whatever I tell you please accept as the truth. The *Guru* never whispered a secret *Mantra* in my ear. How can I whisper into yours ?

The loving glance of the mother tortoise is enough to make the young ones happy. Oh mother, why do you unnecessarily trouble yourself ? I do not know anything about *Upadesh*.

The mother tortoise lives on one bank of the river and the children are on the other bank. Their rearing is done by the exchange of glances. Wherefor the trouble of a *Mantra* ?

Then, go and eat some food. Do not unnecessarily endanger your life. Just pay attention to me and you will achieve the spiritual life.

You should regard me as the whole and sole. I will also regard you in the same way. My *Guru* did not teach me anything else at all.

There is no need for any other means or money. It is also not necessary to be an expert in the six *Shastras*. Only complete faith is enough; because a *Guru* is he, who wards off evil and brings about good luck.

Therefore, the *Guru* is considered great. *Guru* is the image of Brahma, Vishnu and Shankar. He, who knows him in reality, is the blessed one in all the three worlds.”

When the old woman was explained in this way, that story convinced her. She agreed to give up her fasting and thus honoured Sai Baba’s wishes, by putting her head at His Feet.

Sai does not belong to you or to me. He resides in all beings. Just as the sun belongs to the whole world, He too belongs to all.

Who is immortal here ? Blessed is he who has attained the supreme goal of life. Others only breathe to remain alive.

- Compiled from *Shri Sai Satcharita*



MADHAVRAO DESHPANDE ALIAS 'SHAMA'



(Contd. from May-June 2006)

Sant Dnyaneshwar says -“One can light a second lamp with the help of the first lamp. The lamps may appear to be independent of each other, but the flames of both lamps are merged into one flame. One may look at sea and its tides as separate entities, but when looked at the water consisting them, they are one. Likewise, in *Sakhya Bhakti* God and His devotee are unified.”

We experience the above saying of *Sant* Dnyaneshwar - on one hand - in Lord Krishna and Arjun and on the other hand in Sai Baba and Madhavrao.

In his alliance with Lord Krishna, Arjun came so close to the Lord that he himself became the form of the Lord and they became *Advait*. Similarly, Baba gave the title 'Shama' to Madhavrao and thus, proved that the both were united.

Every devotee wanted Baba to be with them; but Baba always told them, “Take my Shama with you”, “Let my Shama be near you and I am near you” or “Don't worry when my Shama is with you”. Baba said so to devotees, who came to Him with many requests - to accompany them on travels, visit their homes for meals, be with them in their times of difficulties..... so on.

Bapusaheb Butti had heard Baba saying similar things about Shama and had also experienced this on several occasions. At the time, when Bapusaheb felt that his death was near him, Madhavrao was nearby. Butti saw Baba in Madhavrao and placed head on Madhavrao's feet and asked for blessings.

There were occasions, when Madhavrao and other devotees posed same question to Baba; but the answers that they received were different. To the confused devotee seeking clarification, Baba said, “The answer that I gave to Shama was proper”.

Baba gave benefit of many meetings with saintly persons and visits to pilgrimages to Madhavrao. He also gave Shama the *Vishva-roop Darshan* and said that everything for Shama is unique.

The God gives experience of *Advait* to His devotees and still appears in *Dvait Roop*. Because, only in *Dvait Roop* it is possible to enjoy the love of the God, and secondly, to whom can the Lord express his innermost feelings otherwise ?

Day and night, whether in a sleeping or awake, Madhavrao was gripped by the devotion of Baba. His senses were pre-occupied with dedication to the Lord. We find proof of this in the Khaparde Diary.

- Translated from original Marathi into English by [Sudhir](#)





Inauguration of Shri Sainath Super Speciality Hospital

Shri Sai Baba Super Speciality Hospital of Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust (Shirdi) was inaugurated on May 15, 2006 at 10 a.m. by *Shri* Vilasrao Deshmukh, Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He also distributed tricycles donated by the Sansthan to the handicapped people. Also, on the occasion, Pimpelwadi road was renamed as 'Manojkumar Goswami Road'.

The function was graced by *Shri* Jayant Patil (Finance Minister – Maharashtra State), *Shri* Balasaheb Thorat (Agriculture Minister – Maharashtra State), *Shri* Harshvardhan Patil (Minister for Employment Guarantee Scheme – Maharashtra State) and Filmstar *Shri* Manojkumar Goswami.

The august gathering included Sansthan's Chairman *Shri* Jayant Sasane (M.L.A.), Vice Chairman *Shri* Shankararao Kolhe, Chairman of District Bank and Trustee *Shri* Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil (M.L.A.), Trustees Dr. Eknath Gondkar, *Shri* Kailas Kote Patil, *Shri* Suresh Wable, *Shri* Pandurang Abhang, *Shri* Ashok Khambekar, *Shri* Shailesh Kute, *Shri* Prakash Kale, Dr. Pyarelal Tiwari, Capt. Suresh Vasudeva, *Smt.* Urmila Jadhav and Executive Officer *Shri* Bhausaheb Wakchaure.

Speaking on the occasion, *Shri* Sasane said, "The decision to build the Super Speciality Hospital was taken keeping in mind the need of the rural people for super speciality treatment. The cost incurred on the hospital is about Rs. 40 crores. Some of the areas of specialization are - cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, dialysis, advanced orthopedic techniques, cataract surgery, phacoemulsifier operations for eye surgery, physiotherapy, neuro surgery, cancer surgery, CT scan, sonography with color doppler, stress test, autoanalyser etc. with the aid of state of the art machines."

The CT scan machine installed here is one of only three such advanced machines, installed in hospitals in India. The hospital has 16-bedded intensive care unit, a special ward for new born infants and children; five modern operation theaters; 10 bed casualty ward; round the clock resident doctors and technicians. The hospital also has an ultra modern cardiac ambulance, in which the treatment can begin at the patient's doorstep. All facilities are being provided at subsidized rates. One bypass surgery has already been successfully conducted in the hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister *Shri* Vilasrao Deshmukh said, "There should be a concrete plan to uplift the city for appropriate utilization of the donations, received by the Sai Baba Sansthan Trust. The Government will also do its best to support the progress of the city."

Finance Minister *Shri* Jayant Patil said, "Efforts are on by the Government to set up super speciality hospitals in cities like Amravati, Aurangabad, Nasik etc. A Water Supply Project was carried out for the entire Anantpur district in Andhra Pradesh by the Shri Satya Sai Seva Organisation, Puttaparty. The Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi should also take on such massive projects, thereby reaching out to more and more people."

- Penned by [Jehangir Jamadar](#)



Baba's teachings inspire all community mass wedding ceremony

Under the auspices of Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust (Shirdi), Shree Sai Siddhi Charitable Trust (Shirdi), Sadguru Datta Dharmik and Parmarth Trust (Indur) and citizens of Shirdi, an all community mass wedding ceremony was conducted on May 23, 2006 at Shirdi.

In this grand function, 104 couples tied the knot in the presence of 35,000 persons including various religious heads, saints, priests and dignitaries. The wedding *mandap* including lunch arrangement covered nearly 10 acres of land.

The couples received blessings from saints *Bhaiyuji Maharaj* of Indur, *Mahamandaleshwar Maharaj* of Nasik, *Rameshgiri Maharaj* of *Sant* Janardanswami *Ashram*, *Bhaskargiri Maharaj*, Maulana from Ajmer, *Prakash Bodhle Maharaj*, Chief Justice of Mumbai High Court *Shri* Sambhaji Mhase and *Shri* Radhakrishnan, Sansthan's Chairman *Shri* Jayant Sasane (M.L.A.), Chairman of District Bank and Sansthan's Trustee *Shri* Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil (M.L.A.), Trustees *Shri* Suresh Wable, *Shri* Ashok Khambekar, *Shri* Pandurang Abhang, Trustee and Chairman of Shirdi City Council *Shri* Kailas Kote Patil, Executive Officer *Shri* Bhausaheb Wakchaure, Chairperson of Shrirampur City Council *Smt.* Rajashree Sasane, *Smt.* Snehlata Kolhe etc. who graced the occasion. Cine artists *Shri* Deepak Tijori, *Shri* Kapil Jhaveri and *Shri* Raza Murad were also present on the occasion.

Arrangements included stay, food, music, vehicles and fireworks show.

Living up to Baba's message "**SABKA MALIK EK**", without distinction of cast, creed or colour, 104 couples hailing from various faith and belief systems got married under one roof. This included nine intercaste couples, six Muslim couples and the rest from various Hindu faiths, hailing from 27 *Talukas* of 12 districts of Maharashtra, as well as each from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

The couples were presented with a set of 35 vessels, clothes and 2.5 gms. *mangalsutra* each, while those present were treated to a sumptuous meal by the Sansthan. The entire stretch of road from the *Mandap* to the Nagar Manmad highway was lit up for the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sansthan's Chairman *Shri* Jayant Sasane said, "This programme has been carried out as per the teachings of Sai Baba with a purpose to spread them far and wide."

Trustee *Shri* Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil said, "All community mass marriages are a need of the hour."

- Penned by
Shamshad Ali Baig



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