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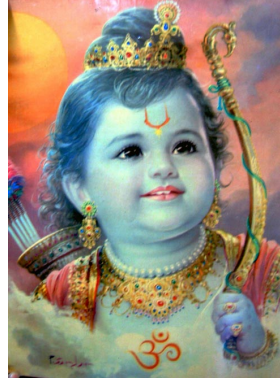
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DASGANU MAHARAJ'S DISCOURSE ON RAMANAVAMI

These are some excerpts from the spell-binding discourse written by Dasganu Maharaj and presented on the occasion of Ramanavami. It was published in 1927 in Shri Sai Leela, Vol. 2/3 and 4/5. We are printing a special part to enhance the happiness of our readers on the occasion of Ramanavami. - Editorial Section



The three queens of king Dasharath were pregnant after consumption of the *Prasad* of the *Yadnya*. At the appropriate time the king completed the '*Punsavan* etc. *Sanskar*' and asked the queens their cravings. First, he went to queen Kausalya's palace. Since the Lord Himself had come into her womb, she was Ram incarnate and was resting in her bed with her eyes closed. The king could not bear to look at her radiance. He called her name, shook her; but there was no response. Ultimately when she opened her eyes she could see nothing but Ram all over the place.

She not only forgot herself, but even the king. The king as extremely worried. He tried to rekindle her memories one by one. "Even though Ravan opposed our wedding..." No sooner had he uttered these words, queen Kausalya got up with a start and started asking for a bow, calling the *Vanaras* and exclaimed that "he would kill the demons".

King Dasharath got scared after witnessing her demeanour. He was sure his dear pregnant wife was possessed by the evil spirits. He rushed to meet *Guru Vasishth*.

Guru Vasishth wondered, what had gone wrong, when the Lord Himself was to take birth from Kausalya's womb. He accompanied the king to Kausalya's abode and when he saw her appearance he understood. He saw her in the guise of Lord Ram Himself. He put both his hands together and prayed.

The king could not fathom this mystery. He thought that the *Guru* too had been possessed by the evil spirits. He tried to ask the *Guru*; but the *Guru Vasishth* was absorbed in Ram. He started calling Sumant on the top of his voice. *Guru Vasishth* said, "Why are you so scared my dear king ? The Lord Himself is taking an *Avatar* in your lineage."

Thus he circumambulated around the queen alias Lord Ram and sensing that the divine time of birth was near, took the king and left the palace. Suddenly the whole palace was filled with a celestial radiance. Not able to stand its brilliance the royal servants swooned. The sky was filled with the aircraft of the Gods and they poured flowers. The Sun Savita Suryanarayan was now ablaze with all His noon glory.

The four-armed, '*Ayonij*' Lord Ram Himself stood before queen Kausalya. She was surprised. No aches, no labour pains; and yet the foetus in her womb had vanished and Lord Ram stood before her. She said, "O Lord ! If You take an *Avatar* in this way, who will believe You were born from my womb ?" As soon as the Lord heard this He took the guise

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of a little baby and queen Kausalya returned to this world of *Maya*. The radiance in the palace subsided.

The royal servants returned to their senses and they conveyed the good news of the birth of a son to the king. There was great joy everywhere. The drums started beating and sugar was distributed from the back of an elephant. Queen Kausalya put the little Ramchandra in a cradle and started singing a lullaby.

King Dasharatha set eyes on his son's face and carried out the necessary rituals after birth. He dispersed a lot of wealth to the Brahmins and celebrated the birth of his son.

ARYA

**Blessed be
the city of Ayodhya, Kausalya,
Bless him, bless him,
that Dasharath king,
The Lord has been born
as Ram, Dasganu,
With this verse, let me,
His prayers sing.**

JAI JAI RAGHUVVEER SAMARTH !

Translated by : **Jyoti Ranjan Raut**

☐☐☐
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On The Path of Sai...



O my *Sadguru* Sai ! Whenever you let me prostrate at Your lotus feet, I feel bewildered and start murmuring ecstatically to myself : “O Sai, Who Art Thou ? O Sai, Who Art Thou ?”

O Baba ! I repeatedly prostrate at Your Lotus Feet, and persistently take delight in uttering : “O Sai, Who Art Thou ?”

“**WHO I AM !... WHO I AM !**” is the echo that touches my ears in reply. This resonance comes from within. Yes, O my Lord ! My heart is Thy seat. Though, You look like a man, three cubits and a half in length, still You dwell in the hearts of all Your devotees.

O Sai ! My heart longs for to know all about its occupant. The **OCCUPANT**, indeed, is no other than my **SAI**, my own **SAI**. O Baba ! I'm eager to be a traveler **ON THE PATH OF SAI...** ‘The Path of Sai’ is an ocean and a few drops just aren't enough. O *Sadguru* ! It's only You Who can open the eyes of my understanding and enable me to see **Your Ways**. O Sai, please do generate interest in me for Your stories, and let me perceive self-realization with the same relish with which the **Chatak** (rain bird) drinks the water from the clouds and becomes happy.

O Baba ! With my humble **Pranam** at Your **Lotus Feet**, I am reminded of the story of one Haji Siddik Falke of Kalyan, who had come to Shirdi to obtain Your blessings (Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 11). But, O Sai ! You didn't allow him - for reasons - best known to You - to step into Your **Dwarkamai** for months on long. Indeed, inscrutable are Thy ways ! At last someone confided in the ears of the Haji that Lord Shiva is accessible through Nandi, and if he was really desirous to get an entry into the **Masjid**, then he must likewise approach Madhavrao Deshpande alias Shama, Your most intimate devotee, who had been with You for the “last 72 generations” (Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 26). The idea fascinated Falke, and he implored Shama to intercede for him. O Baba ! Truly, Shama's devotion to You was of the highest order and You sent Your grace to many a devotee through Shama on many occasions. And, in this case too, You started loving the Haji on Shama's recommendation. Thenceforth, You lifted ban on Falke's admission into **Dwarkamai**, and frequently invited him to meals.

O Baba ! Yet another event is equally significant in this regard and deserves a mention. Annasaheb (Govind Raghunath) Dabholkar alias Hemad Pant was a resident Magistrate of Bandra, a suburb of Bombay (now Mumbai), for many years. He was on close friendly terms with Kakasaheb Dixit and Nanasaheb Chandorkar. They pressed him to go to Shirdi and have Your **Darshan**. It was sometime in 1910 A.D. that he made a pilgrimage to Shirdi. One fine morning, when he went to the Masjid to prostrate at Your Lotus Feet, he was wonder-struck to see You grinding wheat. The view inspired him to write Your biography - ‘**Shri Sai Satcharita**’. But, he couldn't himself muster courage to ask You to give him permission for the proposed project; so he requested Shama to speak to You for him. Shama pleaded for his cause and said to You, “This Annasaheb wishes to write Your biography. Please don't say that You are a poor begging **Fakir**, and there is no necessity to write it; but if You agree and help him, he will write, or rather, Your Feet (grace) will accomplish the work. Without Your consent and blessing, nothing can be done successfully.” O Baba ! When You heard this request from Shama's mouth, You were moved and blessed Hemad Pant by giving him Your **Udi** (sacred ashes) and placing Your boon-bestowing hand on his head with these words :-

“Let him make a collection of stories and experiences, keep notes and memos. I will help him. He is only an outward instrument. I should write myself my autobiography and satisfy the wishes of my devotees. He should get rid of his ego, place (or surrender) it at my feet... When his ego is completely annihilated and there is left no trace of it, I myself shall enter into him and shall myself write my own life. Hearing my stories and teachings will create faith in devotees' hearts and they will easily get **self-realization** and **bliss**; let there be

no insistence on establishing one's own view, no attempt to refute other's opinions, no discussions of pros and cons of any subject." (Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 2)

O Baba ! To-day, I am in dire need of precious Shama, who will take me by the hand to the *Dwarkamai*. But, O my Omniscient Lord ! Where should I search for Your Shama, who left the world on Thursday, April 25, 1940, at the age of 80 ?

O Sai ! With rightly deserving apology to the great English poet William Wordsworth, I invoke **148-year old** Shama to return to me again :

"Shama ! Thou shouldst be living at this hour :

I hath need of thee...

O raise me up, return to me again;"

O Sai ! Lo and behold : Shama is here, and whispering into Your ear for me, "O Deva, I beseech You, let now Your ear be attentive to the prayer of this poor fellow."

O my Lord ! Now I hearken unto Thy voice thus :-

"WHO I AM !... WHO I AM ! 'I am the Inner Ruler of all and seated in their hearts. I envelope all the creatures, the movable and immovable world. I am the Controller - the Wire-puller of the show of this Universe. I am the Mother - origin of all beings - the Harmony of three *Gunas*, the Propeller of all senses, the Creator, Preserver and Destroyer. Nothing will harm him, who turns his attention towards me; but *Maya* will lash or whip him, who forgets me. All the insects, ants, the visible, movable and immovable world, is my body or form. Be wherever you like, do whatever you choose; remember this well that all what you do is known to me.' " (Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 3)

O Baba ! Your Lotus Feet be my Sole Refuge !

O Baba ! You expounded many a time on the meaning of "**Who I Am !**". Explaining it to Your devotees, You said,

"You need not go far or anywhere in search of me. Barring your name and form, there exists in you, as well as in all beings, a sense of Being or Consciousness of Existence. That is myself. Knowing this, you see me inside yourself, as well as in all beings. If you practice this, you will realize **all-pervasiveness** [emphasis mine], and thus attain oneness with me." (Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 44)".

O Baba ! Once, the renowned English poet Thomas Carlyle told his friends that he heard satirists commenting about Poet Laureate William Wordsworth that he had horse-like face. (www.oldandsold.com/articles33n/literature-4.shtml) O Sai ! The horse-face seems to me to be symbolic of something that we find not only in his personal appearance, but in his personality and his role.

O Sai ! Wasn't he putting on the same mask - while justifying God's all-pervasiveness to the entire world - which the Sun-God wore at the time of imparting knowledge of the Vedas to Maharishi Yagyavalkya ?

"And I have felt

A presence that disturbs me with the joy

Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime

Of something far more deeply interfused,

Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,

And the round ocean and the living air,

And the blue sky, and in the mind of man;

A motion and a spirit, that impels

All thinking things, all objects of all thought,

And rolls through all things."

['Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey']

O my Lord *Sadguru Sai* ! You often preached :-

“He who carps and cavils at others, pierces me in the heart and injures me; but he who suffers and endures, pleases me most.” O Baba ! You thus pervade all beings and creatures and beset them on all sides. You like nothing, but love to all beings. Such nectar, pure auspicious ambrosia always flows from Your lips. Therefore, those who take **The Path of Sai** become one with You.

O Sai ! You frequently enlightened Your devotees with these words :-

“He who loves me most, always sees me. The whole world is desolate to him without me; he tells no stories, but mine. He ceaselessly meditates upon me and always chants my name. I feel indebted to him, who surrenders himself completely to me and ever remembers me. I shall repay his debt by giving him salvation (self-realization). I am dependent on him, who thinks and hungers after me, and who does not eat anything without first offering it to me. He, who thus comes to me, becomes one with me, just as a river gets to the sea and becomes merged (one) with it. So, leaving out pride and egoism and with no trace of them, one should surrender oneself to me, who am seated in devotee’s heart.”

O Baba ! Mr. Ramachandra Atmaram alias Babasaheb Tarkhad was one of Your staunch devotees. Once, his wife came to Shirdi for a few days. One day, while lunch was being served, a hungry dog turned up whimpering pathetically. Mrs. Tarkhad got up at once and threw a piece of bread, which the dog gulped with great relish. In the afternoon, when she went to the *Masjid* and sat at some distance, You said to her, “Mother, you have fed me sumptuously up to my throat, my afflicted *Pranas* (life-forces) have been satisfied. Always act like this, and this will stand you in good stead. Sitting in this *Masjid* I shall never, never speak untruth. Take pity on me like this. First give bread to the hungry and then eat yourself. Note this well.”

Mrs. Tarkhad could not at first understand the meaning of what You said. So, she replied, “Baba, how could I feed You ? I am myself dependent on others and take my food from them on payment.” O Baba ! Then Your reply was :- “Eating that lovely bread I am heartily contented and I am still belching. The dog that you saw at lunch time and to whom you gave that piece of bread, is one with me, so also other creatures (cats, pigs, flies, cows etc.) are one with me. I am roaming in their forms. He, who sees me in all these creatures is my beloved. So, abandon the sense of duality and distinction and serve me, as you did today.”

Drinking these nectar-like words, Mrs. Tarkhad was moved, her eyes were filled with tears, her throat was choked and her joy knew no bounds. (Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 9)

Such is Thy Bounty, O Sai ! Such is Thy Path, O Baba !

O *Sadguru* ! You saw no difference between caste and caste and even beings and beings. You took meat and fish with *Fakirs*; but did not grumble when dogs touched the dishes with their mouths. (Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 7) Therefore, the most effective and speedy way, by which Your devotees can achieve their object, is to tread Your Path. What cannot be achieved by hearing religious lectures and study of holy literature is easily obtained by practicing the virtues of forgiveness, calmness, disinterestedness, charity, benevolence and control of mind and body, as divinely preached by You. Just as the sun alone gives light, which all the stars put together cannot do, so the You alone impart spiritual wisdom, which all the sacred books and sermons cannot infuse. Your movements and simple talks give us ‘silent’ advice. This enlightens minds of Your devotees and lifts them up spiritually. Though You acted as a *Fakir* (mendicant), You were always engrossed in the Self. You always loved all beings, in which You saw God or Divinity. Neither You were elated by joy and fortunes, nor were You depressed by sorrow and misfortunes. To You, a king and a pauper were the same. Whereas Your just one glance would turn a beggar into a king, You Yourself used to beg Your food from door to door in Shirdi.

O Sai ! No one has ever been able to fathom Thy nature or form . Even the Vedas are not able to describe it fully. Thy devotees know that Thy Feet are the only means of their happiness. They know no other method of attaining the supreme goal of life, except meditating on Thy Holy Feet.

O Baba ! You often rightly said that You were Omnipresent, occupying land, air, light and heaven, and that You were infinite. If any devotee meditated on You day and night with complete self-surrender, he experienced complete union (without any difference) with You. He, who wants to get rid of the cycle of births and deaths, should lead a righteous life, with his mind calm and composed. He should always engage himself in good actions, should do his duties and surrender himself, heart and soul to You. He need not then be afraid of anything. He, who trusts You entirely, hears and expounds Your *Leelas* and does not think of anything else, is sure to attain Self-realization. O Baba ! You asked many of Your devotees to remember Your name and to surrender to You; but to those, who wanted to know Who I am ?, You advised **Shravanam** (hearing) and **Mananam** (meditation). To some, You advised remembering God’s name, to others hearing Your *Leelas*, to

some worship of Your Lotus Feet, to others reading and hearing **Adhyatma Ramayan, Jnaneshwari** and other sacred scriptures. Some You made sit near Your Lotus Feet, some You sent to Khandoba's temple and some You advised the repetition of the thousands names of Lord Vishnu and some the hearing of **Chhandogya Upanishad** and **Geeta**. There were no limits, no restrictions to Your instructions - to some, in person and to others by visions in dreams. To one of Your devotees, who was addicted to drink, You appeared in his dream, sat on his chest, pressed it and left him, after he gave a promise not to touch liquor anymore. To some, You explained certain **Mantras** like '**Gurur Brahma**' in dreams. To one devotee, who was practicing **Hath-Yoga**, You sent word that he should leave off **Hath-Yoga** practices, sit quiet and wait (*Saburi*). O *Sadguru* ! It is impossible to describe all Your ways and methods.

O Baba ! Your Lotus Feet Be My Sole Refuge !

– Dr. Subodh Agarwal

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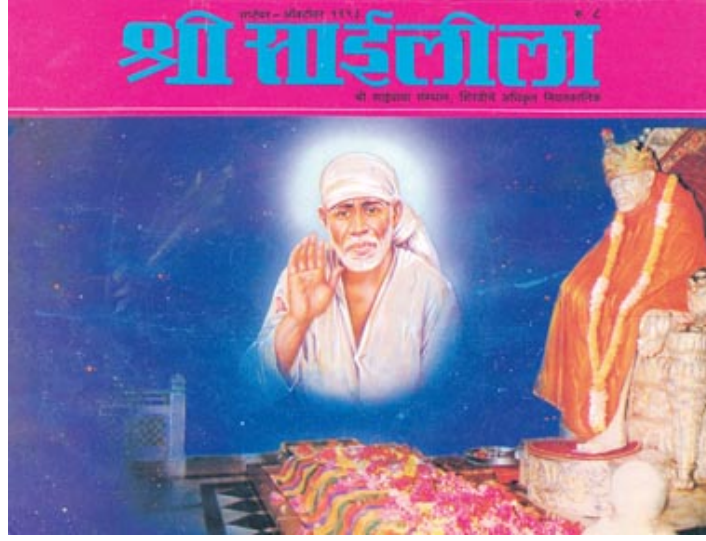
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Experiences of Sai Maharaj



Excerpts from letters by Shri Padmanabhendra Swami of Alandi written to Hon. Shri Hari Sitaram Dixit of Mumbai :-

‘After taking your leave on Thursday 29th Jan, I left Shirdi and reached Alandi. After celebrating the death anniversary of Guru Maharaj on 2nd Feb, I reached Mumbai on Tuesday. There I showed the swelling behind my ear to Dr. Underwood. He ruled out the need for an operation and injected some sort of a serum and said it would suffice. The effect of Sai’s radiance and speech is so great that the mind cannot comprehend.

I had only gone for Sai’s *Darshan* and was immensely satisfied by it. Though many people advised me to tell Sai about my ailment, my mind did not agree. Whatever is destined in our *Karma*, we should bear it with fortitude, says the *Shruti*. But, ultimately I asked Madhavrao Deshpande to tell Sai. As soon as Sai heard this, he lovingly said, ”*Allah Bhala Karega.*” No sooner did He utter these words, the pain in my forehead stopped.

Doctors from Nagpur and Alandi had advised surgery. But, the doctor in Mumbai gave a serum injection which subsided the swelling and the ailment disappeared. Remembering all the events I feel overwhelmed.

On my first visit to Shirdi, Sai asked for *Dakshina*. Upon this I said, “*Maharaj*, I am a *Sanyasi*. From where will I get money ?” After taking *Darshan*, I left. Later on Baba said to Deshpande, “I asked the *Swami* if he could offer me something; but he will not give me anything. Since he has come to me, it is I who will have to give him.” When Baba uttered these words, I was freed of the pains of my ailment. What can one say to praise this divine soul ? He is Lord Narayan in the guise of a human.

Shri Sai Leela, Year I, Ashvin Shaké 1845 /Vol. 8

Excerpts from a letter written by Hon. Krishnarao Narayan Parulkar to Hon. Shri Hari Sitaram Dixit from Harda on 17 February 1915.

Hon. Shri Saddubhaiyya received a letter from you followed by Sai Samarth’s photo brought by Shri Balakramji and Shri Muktaramji. The photo was duly installed in Saddubhaiyya’s house as advised by them and a ‘*Laghurudra Pooja*’ was performed. The festivities ended with Baba’s *Prasad*.

The very day of the *Shapana* my wife and my cousin Narayandada Jijgaonwale both received divine revelations as follows :-

Narayandada saw that he was standing in front of Baba in Shirdi, when Baba said, “I am going to Harda. You come with me.” They both came to the banks of the Godavari (Shirdi side); but the waters were flowing above the usual level. On the banks were two open sacks of wheat. Sai said to Narayandada, “How shall we go now ?” Suddenly there were about ten bulls loaded with baggage, and a *Pucca* road in the water. They walked along with the bulls from the post near my house to the one near Saddubhaiyya’s house and then disappeared.

In her revelation, my wife saw Madhavrao holding a *Thali* with a coconut, a blouse-piece and *Kumkum* in it and told her, Baba had sent it.

Shri Balakramji and Shri Muktarajji are here and there is great joy during the *Pooja* and *Aarati* twice a day. With your blessings Sai gave divine *Darshan* and *Prasad* to us. We are waiting for the day Sai Samarth will send you to Harda.

Shri Sai Leela, Year I, Paush Shaké 1845 / vol. 11 Translated into English by

Jyoti Ranjan Raut

8/A Kakad Estate, 106 Sea Face Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

qqq

IS BABA LIVING AND HELPING NOW ?

– Compiled by **Jyoti Ranjan Raut**

M. H. Gopal Rao (Sai Nivas, Cement Nagar, Po. Bardol, Dist. Bargarh, Orissa.) :-

GRACE OF BABA

In 2004, I was working in the Cement Factory situated in Bargarh Dist. Orissa. After taking voluntary retirement, I built a house 'SAI NIVAS' near the factory on private land. After construction, I felt an acute shortage of funds to manage my household. My son's wedding was fixed and I did not have the requisite amount to meet the expenses.

I tried for a personal loan in 2-3 banks; but failed for obvious reasons. All of us prayed to Sai to save us from this crisis. It was our good fortune that once while we were discussing this, a lady acquaintance dropped in and understood our problem. She asked us to go with her to the nearby Gramiya Bank and introduced us to the Bank manager, requesting him to help us with a loan. After fulfilling the necessary formalities the loan was sanctioned and our problem was solved. My L.I.C. policy matured at the same time and helped me to some extent. This is truly a miracle of Baba.

Soon after the wedding my son and daughter-in-law got good jobs in Pune. They visited Shirdi to take Baba's *Darshan* and blessings and are now leading a decent life by the grace of Baba.

There was no *Pucca* road near my house Sai Nivas and so all the inhabitants of the area were facing problems daily for many years. All of us tried to solve the problem too. Suddenly one day the *Sarpanch* came to our place and announced that a road would be constructed within a month and he kept his promise. Today we have a *Pucca* road. Thanks to the grace of Baba.

qqq

R. Ramakrishna Rao {Block 39 A (BSP), Ruabanda Sector, Bhilai - 490 006, Chhatisgarh.}

INDELIBLE MARKS OF A SAI DEVOTEE

a) A true **Sai devotee** never bothers about name, fame, money or power. He thinks Sai will take care of him and fulfil his needs. He is neither weak nor meek. He trusts Sai with his destiny. He may not be a highly literate or influential person; but his persona makes him different from others.

I used to visit various schools of my organisation for surprise checking of cash. Since I went without prior notice, I went as a lay man and sat in the staff room waiting for the principal. The neatly dressed peon of the school saluted me (though a stranger to him) and then cleaned the photos, furniture and all the articles on the staff tables including the phone. He changed the drinking water, replaced old flowers with new ones reared and nurtured by him in the school premises and then lit incense sticks before the image of his beloved Sai. He kept a glass tumbler filled with water and a plastic photo of Sai, which got magnified in the glass tumbler. He kept a rose in a glass tumbler and also one at the feet of Sai. The whole room was filled with the fragrance and created a serene atmosphere. Besides, he did not forget to place some issues of Shri Sai Leela and the daily newspaper before me. He held the lowest rank in the school hierarchy. On subsequent visits to that particular school, I purposely went early to observe him. I never saw him talking loudly or shouting at anybody. Upon enquiry, I gathered that the entire school staff including the principal respected him. Even the children called him 'Uncle'.

b) Every month I visit a particular hair dressing saloon. There are many others in the area; but this hair dresser is different. In his shop, smoking is not allowed. "Those who object are free to go elsewhere," he says. He also request his customers to remove their shoes before entering the shop, since he thinks of it as his temple of Sai. Devotional songs of Sai are played in a low tone.

I once asked him, whether he was not bothered about all his strict rules affecting his business. He said, when his daily ration is being sent by Sai, why should he worry ? Whatever is in store for him will definitely come, and whatever was not in

his destiny wouldn't.

On another visit he told me an old proverb, “*Maro so jave nahin, jave so maro nahin*” which meant “Whatever is mine will not go away, what goes away was never mine.” People who live on this simple precept will never face any tension or distress.

These are ordinary people, who are Sai devotees first and last. They feel, they are mere tools in Sai's hands. I have never seen them morose, murmuring, shouting or speaking loudly before others. They are not conspicuous, we have to spot them and identify them. Are these not sufficient indelible marks of a **Sai devotee** ?

qqq

N. S. Anantha Ramu (No. 135, Sri Sai Darshan, II Main AG's Colony, Ananda Nagar, Bangalore - 560 024.) :-

I have had the good fortune to translate the Sai Satcharita into Kannada and eleven editions have so far been printed by the Sai Sansthan Trust. Baba has blessed me completely in various ways and I shall narrate two such instances of Baba's manifestation. A few others shall follow...

a) In 1980, when I visited Shirdi I took a photograph of Baba's *Padukas* with *Shraddha* and *Saburi*, which was instantly blessed by Baba. In the accompanying photo one can see Baba has emerged in the middle of the *Padukas* clearly. This is certainly a miracle and what more proof is needed to say Baba is living and helping now ?

b) The second one is even more interesting and awesome. My wife had purchased some *Rangoli* and put it in a plastic basin on 31st August 2001. This was kept in the veranda beneath the photo of Baba, as it was heavy and she could not lift it. So it lay there all night. Suddenly around 4.30 in the morning, I got up and put on the light in the veranda. I saw some hand-impression on the *Rangoli*. I told my wife that Baba had imprinted his '*Abhaya-hasta*' and again tried to sleep; but in vain.

I got up and after washing my face and feet lit the lamp in the *Pooja* room reciting *Suprabhata*. I also lit some incense sticks and waved them before Baba. Suddenly I noticed Baba had written '*Om*' on the *Hasta*.

Is it not a wonder and proof of Baba's still living and helping from the *Mahasamadhi* ?

Thus I am indeed completely blessed by Baba.



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In Sai's Proximity

Mrs. Mugdha Divadkar

NARAYAN MOTIRAM JANI (RANADE)

Shri Jani was an ardent devotee of Shri Sai Baba. He belonged to *Audichya Brahmin* caste and resided at Nasik.

When Baba was *Dehachari*, Narayanrao was fortunate to avail His *Darshan* on two occasions. However, the third opportunity of *Darshan* eluded him even though 3 years passed after Baba's *Samadhi*.

Besides having the good fortune to have *Satsang* of Shri Sai Baba, Jani was also fortunate to have *Satsang* of holy persons like Shri Gadge Baba, Shri Valli Baba (*Patta Shishya* of Shri Madhavnath Maharaj of Indore). These people had even resided in his house. However, he became a staunch devotee of Sai Baba.

When he first came to avail Baba's *Darshan*, he was serving in the employment of Ramchandra Waman Modak. However, in the first meeting itself, Baba spontaneously uttered, "Don't be bound to somebody's orders. Start your own business !" And, accordingly, the future events took place. Jani gave up his job and started an eatery and hostel by the name 'ANANDASHRAM' at Nasik. With his efforts, it became a well-known establishment. Due to this chain of events, his faith in Baba increased and he became a steadfast follower of Baba.

With Baba's blessings, 'ANANDASHRAM' did well. Jani family had a large number of servants in their house and owned even a horse cart. They also rendered service by providing food and shelter through their eatery and hostel to people who visited Nasik.

However, Narayanrao died an untimely death. At that time, his children were young and could not run the eatery and hostel any longer. The family faced difficult times. In the same city of Nasik where it had served food and shelter to thousands of persons, the family had to go without food on many days. As the wealth disappeared, so did the friends and relatives.

Narayanrao's wife decided to leave Nasik and to move to saint Dhuni Dada's place near Khandwa. She collected her meager belongings and left Nasik. However, on the way, many of her belongings go stolen.

On reaching Khandwa, the poor lady availed *Darshan* of saint Dhuni Daba and narrated her sad story. He arranged for her bare necessities such as food and shelter and the lady managed her survival in the *Dharma-shala*.

Her paternal cousin was working in a mill at Chalisgaon. Coincidentally, he came for Dhuni Daba's *Darshan*. On seeing her brother, she tried to avoid coming face to face.

Her brother took *Darshan* and was just going to place *Dakshina* in front of Dhuni Daba, when he roared, "Don't give *Dakshina* to me. In that corner, a lady is sitting with her kids. Buy tickets for Nasik and give to her ! Send them back to Nasik. Because, they are fortunate to be blessed by Shri Sai Baba."

Thus, the shower of blessings was evident to the family even during their difficult times. Narayanrao's wife was at peace now. The financial circumstances had not changed; but her mental condition had improved. Now, she had gained the courage to face the perils of life. She had full conviction that her *Sadguru* was with her.

The days passed and one day Narayanrao's wife moved her family from Nasik to Pune. She located a place at Babu Genu Chowk in Pune. She found some work – at some places as a cook, at some places as a Nurse – and started earning some money.

(contd.)

– Translated from original Marathi into

English by [Sudhir](#)



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DECLARATION

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I, K. R. More, hereby declare that the particulars given above the true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

K. R. More
Executive Officer, Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust (Shirdi)
Printer & Publisher

Sai Samadhi Mandir has now three Attractive Appropriate Gates

Shri M.R. Soman, a staunch Sai devotee from Coimbatore, recently offered the three appropriate and gates with their altercative frames for Shri Sai Baba's Samadhi Mandir as a donation, total costing approximately Rs.14 lakhs. Shri Soman had expressed his desire to the managing committee of the Sansthan to offer the three gates, existing towards the north, South and at the place where the coconuts were broken previously. after discussion on the request in the meeting, the Board of Management granted the approval. Accordingly Shri Soman has offered the Main Gate (12.6feet x 6.5 feet) costing approximately Rs.6,25,000. Chariot Gate (10.9 feet x 7.3 feet) costing approximately Rs.4,75,000. Exit Gate {Coconut gate} (7.9 feet x 5feet) costing approximately Rs. 3,00,000. The fabricated Burma teak wood was used to make these gates. These three gates were fitted to the Mandir during the period from 12th November 2007 to 15th November 2007. The Chairmen of the Sansthan M.L.A Shri Jayant Sasane, the vice-chairman Shri Shankarrao Kolhe, the trustee M.L.A Shri Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, all Other trustees, the Then executive officer Shri Bhausahab Wakchaure and the present executive officer Shri Kishore More expressed the thanks to Shri M.R.Soman for the generous donation of the three gates.

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