

Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi



Estd. Year 1923

Year 7 Issue No. 4

Managing Editor : **Jayant Murlidhar Sasane**

Editor : **Kishore Ramrao More**

English Section

Professor G. G. Narke says about Sai's Thought on <i>Guru</i>	19
The Initiation of <i>Guru Pournima Pooja</i> in Shirdi	20
Experiences of Sai Maharaj	21
<u>In Sai's Proximity</u> - D. M. Mulki, Abdul Baba ... Mrs. Mugdha Divadkar	27

SHREE SAI BABA SANSTHAN TRUST (SHIRDI)

Management Committee

Shri Jayantrao Murlidhar Sasane

Chairman

Shri Shankarrao Genuji Kolhe

Vice-chairman

Shri Radhakrishna Eknath Vikhe Patil	(Member)
Shri Pandurang Gamaji Abhang	(Member)
Shri Suresh Gorakshanath Wabale	(Member)
Smt. Urmila Pradeep Jadhav	(Member)
Shri Shailesh Shrihari Kute	(Member)
Shri Sami Khatib	(Member)
Smt. Rimple Lohia	(Member)
Dr. Eknath Bhagchand Gondkar	(Member)
Shri Ramakant Ganesh Karnik	(Member)
Capt. Suresh Vasudeva	(Member)
Shri Ashok Bhimashankar Khambekar	(Member)
Shri Krishnachandra Shyamsunder Pandeya	(Member)
Dr. Pyarelal Tiwari	(Member)

Smt. Sumitra Kailas Kote

(Member)

Shri Kishore Ramrao More (Executive Officer)

● Front cover page designed by **V. Karthik** ● **Computerised Typesetting** : Computer Section, Mumbai Office, Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust (Shirdi) ● **Office** : 'Sai Niketan', 804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Mumbai - 400 014. Tel. : 2416 6556 Fax : (022) 2415 0798 E-mail : saidadar@bom3.vsnl.net.in ● **Shirdi Office** : At Post Shirdi - 423 109, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar. Tel. : (02423) 258500 Fax : (02423) 258770 E-mail : saibaba_anr@sancharnet.in ● **Annual Subscription : Rs. 50/-** ● **Subscription for Life : Rs. 1000/-** ● **Annual Subscription for Foreign Subscribers : Rs. 1000/-** (All the Subscriptions are Inclusive of Postage) ● **General Issue : Rs. 8/-** ● **Shri Sai Punyatithi Special Issue : Rs. 15/-** ● Published by Kishore More, on behalf of Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust (Shirdi) at Sai Niketan, 804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Mumbai - 400 014 and printed by him at Oscar Offset Pvt. Ltd., D-28/11, M.I.D.C., T.T.C. Industrial Area, Turbhe, Navi Mumbai - 400 706. The Editor does not accept responsibility for the views expressed in the articles published. All objections, disputes, differences, claims and proceedings are subject to Mumbai jurisdiction.

Back

*Professor G. G. Narke says about
Sai's Thought on Guru*

“Of His *Guru*, hardly anything is known. I have heard Him say " _mPm Jwé ~«mh² _U Amho' i.e., 'My *Guru* is a *Brahmin*.' Baba held real *Brahmins* in high esteem. He has said - '*Brahmins* earn much '*Pica*', (i.e., *Punya*, *Apurva* or merit) by their ways'. A disciple is very different from a devotee. The *Guru* is connected by a close and intimate tie with and has every responsibility for the disciple. He has no such close tie with a devotee and is not bound to bear all his sins and sorrows. Sai Baba had no disciple. The disciple must serve his master to carry out all his wishes strictly and to the latter. As Sai said - 'I would tremble to come into the presence of my *Guru*.' There was no one prepared to serve Him in that way at Shirdi. It seems He asked, 'Who dares to call himself my disciple ? Who can serve me adequately and satisfactorily ?' But, of devotees, Sai Baba had a large number. These He looked after, encouraged and protected and gave by example and occasional gestures, directions etc., some instruction. Sai Baba's method of teaching or rather improving the devotee who came to Him was not oral instruction. His moral tales and a few directions, occasionally given were, no doubt, teaching through the ear. But, these were exceptional and their effect was very little compared with His main traditional method. According to Sai Baba's traditions, the disciple or devotee that comes to the feet of the *Guru* in complete self-surrender has to be no doubt pure, chaste and virtuous. But, he need not necessarily to go on with any active practice of *Japa* or meditation. On the other hand, *Japa*, meditation or any other intellectual process which carries with it the consciousness and assertion, 'I am doing this' is a handicap. All sense of the devotees' or disciples' *Ahankara*, ego or little self has to be wiped out, swept out of the memory and mind - as it is an obstruction to the *Guru's* task. The *Guru does not teach*. **He radiates influence.** That influence is poured in and absorbed with full benefit by the soul which has completely surrendered itself, blotting out the self, but is obstructed by the exercise of intelligence by reliance on self exertion and by every species of self-consciousness and self-assertion.”

– Courtesy : '*Devotees' Experiences of Shri Sai Baba*'

By H. H. Narasimha Swamiji



There are many such *Gurus* who get hold of people to make disciples of them, whispering forcibly into their ears, some *Mantra* and cheating them for the sake of money. They teach '*Dharma*' to the disciples, while themselves following the path of '*Adharma*', all the while. How can they take the disciple safely across the worldly life and help him to avoid the birth-death cycle ?

But, here was this unique personality of Sai, in Whose mind there was no thought, no desire for publicising His righteousness or to win the public acclaim for it. Such was this personality (of Sai); that in Him there was no place for ego. On the other hand, there was always inclination to love His devotees deeply.

- Ovi 61-64, Chapter 10, Shri Sai Satcharita

Back

The Initiation of *Guru Pournima Pooja* in Shirdi

It was in 1908 that Sai Maharaj first allowed Tatyasaheb Noolkar to do *Pooja* to the pillar in the *Masjid* on *Guru Pournima* day. It was His way of indirectly suggesting the commencement of *Pooja* on *Guru Pournima*. Tatyasa was jubilant that he could at least do *Pooja* to the pillar in the *Masjid*. When Madhavrao arrived, Maharaj said, “Why he alone should do the *Pooja* ? Why don’t you too do it ?”

Since Madhavrao was devoted to Sai, he retorted, “I won’t do *Pooja* to a pillar. If You let me, I will do Your *Pooja*.”

Sai reluctantly consented. Tatyasa Kote Patil and Dadasaheb Kelkar were Sai’s beloved devotees. Dadasaheb was knowledgeable about the formal procedure of *Guru Pournima Pooja*. Tatyasa Patil had gone to his farm. He was called back. The devotees gathered all the items required. ‘*Dhotis*’ were bought and offered to Sai after everyone did the *Pooja*. Sai, of course, had no need for them; but He did all this for the love of His devotees and to commence a tradition of *Guru Pournima* by making obeisance to the *Guru*.

Slowly this small ceremony became an annual celebration. After Sai’s *Samadhi*, Shri Gopalrao Buti took charge of this annual celebration.

- Kakasaheb Dixit

Shri Sai Leela, Year I, Vol. VII

There was a flaw in the last *Guru Pournima Pooja* I did; but did not realise it then. A *Pooja* is not complete without a ‘*Vida*’ of betel leaves and areca nut. I gave the *Dakshina*; but forgot the *Vida*. Maharaj called me late in the evening and told me to bring 2-4 *Vidas*, which I did. Maharaj immediately put one in His mouth without even cracking the areca nut. Thus He fulfilled my *Pooja*.

- Kakasaheb Dixit

Shri Sai Leela, Year I, Vol. VIII

Translated into English by

Jyoti Ranjan Raut

qqq

Himself the Supreme *Brahman*, even Shri Krishna caught the feet of *Guru Sandipani* and has said, “when the *Sadguru* is remembered, I (i.e. Narayan) am pleased.”

“A thousand times would I like that the *Sadguru*’s praises be sung rather than mine.” Such is the excellence and profound significance of a *Sadguru*.

Back



Experiences of Sai Maharaj

Excerpts from a letter by respected Shri Ganesh Govind Narke to Shri Hari Sitaram Dixit dated 4/3/1918

It was *Nath Shashthi* (death anniversary of *Sant Eknath Maharaj*) day before yesterday. That day after sending some devotees to a narration of *Sant Eknath's* life by an old lady, Baba told us some stories after mealtime, in which He mentioned *Sant Kabir* and *Sant Namdev*.

Later at dinnertime Baba suddenly flew into a rage and quarrelled with Tatya. He took a '*Narsimha Avatar*' before touching any food. He told Dada, "Throw him out or else I am going down". He went to the '*Chaurang*' (short four-legged stool used for *Pooja*) and even picked up two big stones to hit Tatya. Tatya descended; but he was adamant about not letting Baba go to the *Chavadi* without partaking any fruits.

The bell clanged at 8.45 p.m. and devotees started collecting and singing *Bhajans*; but Tatya continued to sulk. The clock ticked past 9.30, then 10.30, and the place became crowded with men and women. The palanquin was ready, the horse was at the gate and the singing of *Bhajans* reached a crescendo. Baba silently got up from His seat and approached the *Chaurang*. He then calmly sat near the pillar, but did not utter a word. "Baba is going to delay the departure to Paithan" assumed the people and started singing and dancing in a frenzy as though they were in Paithan itself. At 11 p.m., Dada asked for permission to go home. Baba said, "Where are you going ? Sit down !". In the end Tatya gave up; but Baba said, "I am not going." He told Dada, "Okay, you may leave, it is very late." He hurled abuses to those singing *Bhajans* to stop. He told Mhalsapati, "Lets go to the *Takya* !" Mhalsapati sent all the *Bhajan* singers away as per Baba's wish. He told Tatya to go. Everyone went home. Bapusaheb left. While we were still in the *Masjid* (myself, Khadke etc.), Sai took His seat and again got very angry and hurled abuses. Amongst the many names mentioned, yours was one.

Finally around mid-night, Baba said, "Lets go !" The bell was rung in a hurry. Tatya and Bapusaheb came and we all reached the *Chavadi* joyfully. People called it a *Sai Leela* of *Nath Shashthi*.

The next morning everybody was talking of nothing, but the happenings of the night. Tatya came up to the wall and said, "Baba, if You had told us properly that we had to go after mid-night, everybody would have happily sung *Bhajans* until then. We would not have gone against You." "What a sport !" "It's you and Bapusaheb who are great sportsmen." When people were returning from *Lendi Baug*, Baba asked, "Why were we late yesterday?"

So be it. Everything is fine here.

Once, Shri Moreswar Pradhan's son became ill. A Telangi Shastri, who was a Lord Datta's devotee, lived there. He did not like Shri Pradhan worshipping Sai Baba. He told him, "Leave Baba and surrender to Lord Datta and your son will be fine." Pradhan said, "Sai Baba is Lord Datta." Shastri Buva said, "If your son starts drinking milk within five minutes, I shall believe Sai is Lord Datta and if from tomorrow your son starts recovering his normal health, I will go for Baba's *Darshan* and offer Rs.125/- as *Dakshina*. The boy drank milk within five minutes and started gaining health from the very next day. When he recovered

completely, Shastri Buva visited Shirdi, took Sai's *Darshan* and offered the promised *Dakshina*. Late in the evening Baba again asked him for Rs. 5/- as *Dakshina*. When Madhavrao asked, why He again asked for *Dakshina*, when he had already received Rs.125/- in the morning, Baba said, "He gave them to Lord Datta. When did he give me?"

When Sai was in the mood, He used to narrate stories to devotees around Him. Here are some :-

1. There was a son of a gardener - farm labourer (*Mali-Kunbi*). He came to the palace and grew up there. After twelve years, he started weeping for his parents. But, the Badshah consoled him, "There are many palaces here. You can stay in one of them." The boy started weeping again. So, the Badshah gave his daughter in marriage to him. She did not conceive, so he married a *Mali-Kunbi's* daughter; but he started lamenting once again. The Badshah tried to pacify him; but he left the palace. The Badshah then gave him some wealth since he was a great man. His name lives on.

The moral of the story is the Badshah loved him so much that he gave him a palace, and his own daughter. But, the strong desire to return to his parents (to succumb to worldly desires) was so great that he could not stay. The great Badshah gave him wealth but had he stayed he would have got the kingdom.

2. There were four brothers; two of them went to a village. They belonged to the *Mali-Kunbi* community.

There was a young girl in the village. She belonged to Kabir. They signalled her to come and she went. They took her to their village. I was a small boy. I too went with them. People in their village made inquiries and threatened them; so the two of them took the girl to the mountains. I went after them. Later the girl delivered two babies.

After some days her parents found her. The people said, "Take your daughter and kill these two !" The parents said, "Our daughter now has children. Let her stay !"

3. There was a grocer. He filled three vessels with ghee. My old man was nearby. He said, "If you put these in front of me, I alone shall eat all the ghee." At that time the grocer's brother beckoned him for lunch. The grocer locked the vessels in the shop. He told my old man, "When I come back; I shall give you roasted gram (*Chana*)." I was near the old man.

There were two other kids. They kicked the dilapidated wall on the back side and it caved in. They finished the ghee from two of the vessels. At my old man's instance I finished the third. When the grocer returned I told him about the ghee. He found that some gold and other things too were missing and took us to the police station. The real culprit was found and we were let off. We all suffered from dysentery, and passed ghee in our stools. My old man cured me. Later the grocer fed me for two years.

- Ganesh Govind Narke

Shri Sai Leela, Shravan, *Shaké* 1845, Year I, Vol. VI

Translated into English by

Jyoti Ranjan Raut

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

IS BABA LIVING AND HELPING NOW ?

Compiled by Jyoti Ranjan Raut

Vishwanath Bhaurao Mate (1446, Sadashiv Peth, Khajina Vihar Road, Pune.) :-

SAINATH - MY SAVIOUR IN TIMES OF CALAMITY...

Once, while watching a serial based on Sai's life on T.V., my wife said, "So many people get experiences of Sai. Why don't we get any?"

The experience we got after that is something we shall never forget, and never again will we say - "Sai is not behind us".

In 1982, I suddenly had a heart ailment. Investigations revealed a small hole in my heart, present since birth. The doctor decided to see if pills would help instead of an operation. I took the pills for a few days, but then stopped them

without my family's knowledge, as I got fed up of taking them.

In June 2004, the problem recurred. I consulted a doctor who said, my blood pressure was very high and I should be admitted to the hospital immediately. Angiography revealed a block in an artery carrying blood to the heart. Angioplasty was advised, but I could not do it then due to some problems.

One night, more than a month later, in August, I suffered from a severe stomach ache. I prayed to Sai and put some *Udi* into my mouth. I slept peacefully. At dawn, I dreamt of a person wearing a *Lungi* and a *Kurta* prostrating in front of somebody. When I asked him who it was, the person got up, looked at me, and smiled. I then recognised Baba. He blessed me and vanished without a word.

Around noon that day (6th August 2004), suddenly my condition took a turn for the worse and I became unconscious. With God's grace, my son was at home and a neighbour too had come for a chat. My son got frightened and nobody could think of what to do. He called the hospital Heart Brigade. My body started turning cold and heavy. My wife prayed desperately to the Gods. Our neighbour Dr. Gujarathi was called. He checked my B.P. which was very high. Seeing my serious condition he immediately started procedures which are followed after a heart attack. He put a tablet under my tongue and started thumping my chest, but to no avail. My heart stopped beating for a few seconds. As a last option, the doctor gave an injection straight into my heart. I became slightly conscious, but due to the heaviness in my chest, the injection could not be removed. At that time the ambulance arrived and I was put on oxygen. The doctor could then somehow remove the injection.

When I was taken to the hospital, I saw Baba's face. My B.P. returned to normal. All test reports came normal. Everyone in my family was surprised, since I had suffered so much at home. But, it was all Baba's grace.

Dr. Gujarathi feared that the needle of the injection which he gave me might still be embedded in my heart. He conveyed this to the doctors at the hospital, but X-rays revealed no sign of a needle anywhere. Angioplasty was recommended, but the hole in my heart and my weakness due to this trauma worried my family. Other doctors were consulted, but their opinions differed. This put my family in a dilemma. In the end my family decided to trust Baba with my fate and carry out the Angioplasty.

17th August 2004 was the D-Day. My wife and daughter prayed to Baba. I was taken to the operation theatre around 11 a.m.. The doctor began the operation, but stopped after half an hour. He rushed out speaking on his mobile. He told my son about detecting a needle in my heart. Another doctor who was called as an emergency said it would be dangerous to leave the needle in my heart. A By-pass surgery was recommended. My family was again in a quandary. But, the doctor reassured my son saying - "Trust God, and I am sure your father will recover completely".

Thursday 19th August was decided for the By-pass surgery. Rs. 1,50,000/- was needed prior to it, but my kind relatives pooled in and collected the money without my son's knowledge. Baba's grace, definitely.

"Whoever sings of my life with feelings, eulogises my powers, virtues and excellences,

I will protect him totally, by engulfing him with my presence."

- Ovi 12, Chapter 3, Shri Sai Satcharit

I was told that the operation was small and would cure all my ailments. The days prior to the operation I was constantly assured by Baba and Swami Samarth that they were with me. **"I am behind you !"** These words of Swami Samarth flashed before me. Baba's *Udi* was applied and so I was absolutely tension-free.

Before the operation the doctor suggested an alternative machine which would reduce the time of the operation and also the trouble caused to me, but it would take two days to arrive from Hyderabad. But, we in our family had already made up our minds that Thursday would be the day of the operation and so my son decided to go ahead on the same day.

Everybody prayed for me as the operation commenced. When at last it was over and the doctor assured my son of its success, everybody heaved a sigh of relief. My youngest daughter immediately visited Sai's temple and promised to bring me for his *Darshan* as soon as I was discharged.

I was released on 26th August 2004. Before going home, I visited the Sai Baba *Mandir* at Swar Gate. My son visited our family deity Lord Khandoba at Jejuri and also Sai Baba at Shirdi. He also applied for medical assistance from the Sansthan which gave Rs. 20,000/-. Sister Nivedita Bank also gave Rs.20,000/-.

Thus, Baba not only helped me spiritually, but also monetarily. Three months later when I recovered my health, we visited Sai Baba *Mandir* at Swar Gate and lit 108 oil lamps (*Deeyas*). We also offered a *Vastram* to Sai.

May the Benign, Generous Sai bestow His Blessings on all.

qqq

Santosh S. Gaydhane (Shriram Nagar, Bhandara Road, Tumsar, District Bhandara) :-

AS YOU BELIEVE, SO YOU RECEIVE...

In March 2007, four of us friends, after taking *Darshan* of Shri Gajanan Maharaj at Shegaon, decided to visit Shirdi. We reached Kopargaon around 11.30 pm, but as it was not worthwhile for the auto driver to take us to Shirdi at such a late hour, he dropped us at Kopargaon Bus Station, saying that we could take the late night bus. Upon inquiry after waiting for more than an hour, we were told that the bus may be delayed indefinitely due to some road work.

Since my friends were going to Shirdi for the first time, they were anxious to reach soon. I was telling them to be patient, while mentally praying to Baba all the time. Just then two buses arrived one after the other. My friends were extremely thrilled and we reached Shirdi around 1.30 a.m.. We took Baba's *Darshan* to our hearts content and stayed in Shirdi for two days.

Sai always answers His devotees' appeals. We too experienced His benevolence and our faith in Him intensified.

qqq

A lady devotee of Shri Sai Baba :-

A MIRACLE IN MEDICAL SCIENCE...

My daughter suffers from *Asthma*. In 2006, she suffered from Tuberculosis, which was cured after taking treatment for a year.

Later she went outstation for a job, but the pollution there caused her to fall ill. Investigations revealed severe Pneumonia. Unfortunately it was in the same place attacked by T.B., and hence the cells in that area were dead. Her lungs were ineffective. They were filled with sputum. The doctor said, if there had been any more delay, her life would have been at risk. Hearing this, our hearts skipped a beat and we prayed and begged Sai Maharaj to save her. Though she was admitted into the hospital and treated immediately, we could not bear to see her suffer.

Every day I visited the Sai temple and took a flower underneath Sai's feet and kept it under her pillow. Mentally I continued chanting Sai's name. We also applied *Udi* to her everyday. One night my husband and I prayed to Sai - "Once she is well, we will come to Shirdi for your *Darshan*". I took a vow of reading the Shri Sai Satcharit for a week (Shri Sai Satcharit *Saptaha*). Slowly after two days her condition improved. The fever subsided and she felt better. She was allowed to go home.

Though her health got better, she had not completely recovered. A part of her lung was permanently damaged. This disheartened her very much. So, we kept reassuring her to have complete faith and trust in Baba Who would save her from this calamity.

Fifteen days later we visited Shirdi. We took *Darshan* and prayed. My daughter vowed - "Cure me completely from this ailment Baba, and I will come for Your *Darshan* on the first Thursday of every month for nine months." Whilst taking *Darshan*, the priest said, "Take some water from the pot near the *Dhuni* in Dwarkamai (Baba used to drink from the same pot earlier) and drink a little every day. You will feel better."

We visited the *Masjid*. Not many people were around. Suddenly a man came and told my daughter, "Take home some water from that pot and drink some everyday. You will feel better." And then he disappeared, nobody knew where. We filled a bottle of water from that pot and returned to Mumbai after taking Baba's *Darshan*. My daughter drank that water for 7-8 days remembering Sai every time. Even today she applies *Udi* and drinks it in water. Medicines and exercises prescribed by the doctor continued. There was not much improvement in her condition in spite of all this. She became mentally depressed and lost all hope. One day she prayed to Baba - "Baba ! I submit myself to You. Whether You want to heal me or not is Your discretion. I shall accept Your verdict happily." Later, in December 2007, Baba came in her dreams and said, "You will slowly recover in six months." From that day there was a change in her outlook. She became more cheerful. She continued praying to Baba and chanting His name.

Medical investigations revealed that the part infected by Pneumonia was permanently damaged and the bronchus in that region was compressed and deformed. An operation was suggested. Otherwise, she would get infected in that area once again. We were saddened, but our faith in Sai was unabated. We continued praying and administering *Udi* with water. And we experienced a miracle. Six months later, an X-ray was taken and to everyone's surprise it was absolutely normal. The compressed and deformed bronchus had opened completely. The damaged part of the lung was completely functional. Everything was absolutely normal.

Everyone was wonderstruck. The doctor, also a Sai devotee, could not believe his eyes. He said, "This is a miracle in medical science ! It is a great blessing from Sai !"

Baba cured my daughter in exactly six months as promised and saved my daughter from a major calamity, thereby proving the truth of His assurance.

"Bear it in mind that I would even give my life to keep my words.

But, the words spoken by me will never be untrue."

- Ovi 91, Chapter 40, Shri Sai Satcharit

Bhagwat Gangadhar Sonwane (Ambhurnikar) (At and Post Songad Fort, Near Junagaon Ram Mandir, District Tapi, Gujarat) :-

HOW 'SHRADDHA' (FAITH) AND 'SABOORI' (PATIENCE) HELPED US...

We live in Songad, District Tapi, Gujarat. We have been visiting Shirdi on every *Guru Pournima* for the last ten years. On 1st July 2004 we left for Shirdi by bus at night, as 2nd July was *Guru Pournima*. The bus was overcrowded.

My wife and daughter were accom-panying me. Since my daughter was recently married and her new home was in Nasik, we decided to take her there after visiting Shirdi. Since we were travelling by night, she had put all her jewellery and precious sarees in a bag. The total worth of goods was Rs. 75,000/-. Since we did not get a place to sit, our bags were kept near my feet. Later my wife and daughter got seats, but I remained standing and the bags remained with me. Around 3.30 a.m., at Manmad I finally got a seat and I immediately fell asleep.

An hour later, at Yevla, 4-5 passengers got down. They had 3 bags with them which were also kept on the floor near mine. By mistake they took my daughter's bag. I was unaware of this as I was fast asleep. Sometime later, Baba came in my dream and said, "Son, you are sleeping and your daughter's bag has been off loaded." I woke up with a start and looked for the bag. But, it was dark as there were no lights in the bus and I could not see anything. A few kilometres later, at Kopargaon, the lights came on. The bag was not there. Since I suffer from blood pressure, I broke out into a sweat. I was speechless. Everybody said, we would never get our bag again; but I had full faith in Sai and so we got down at Kopargaon and took a bus to Yevla. I constantly chant "Om Shri Sainathaya Namah" and shutting my eyes, continued doing so while in the bus to Yevla. A little while later Baba said, "Son, do not be afraid. You will find that bag"... and vanished.

It was dawn-break when we reached Yevla. I made inquiries about the 4-5 passengers who had alighted at Yevla around 4.30 a.m. with the auto-drivers. One of them called the night auto-driver who could perhaps help us. He told us that he had taken them to a farm at Ambe-Vadgaon village, about 8-10 k.m. away. We requested him to take us there. When we reached the farm, hearing the sound of the auto, the people came out of the house and before we even asked, said, they had brought a bag by mistake. When we told them of the costly contents of the bag, they told my daughter to check thoroughly. Everything was intact. They apologised profusely for the trouble they had caused us and also served tea.

Later we reached Shirdi. We got our bag with the grace of Baba, whose words '**Shraddha**' and '**Saburi**' (Faith and Patience) rang true.

Shri Hari will protect those who have Faith and Patience.

- Ovi 83, Chapter 26, Shri Sai Satcharit

We had been in deep trouble, but with Sai's grace we were saved. As thanksgiving, I later went to Shirdi for Baba's *Darshan* every full moon day (*Poornima*) for the next 11 months and all my visits were completed without any trouble with the grace of Baba.

In Sai's Proximity

– Mrs. Mugdha Divadkar

DR. D. M. MULKI

He was a well-known M.B.B.S. doctor. Though originally belonging to Mumbai, due to his employment in the Govt. Medical Services, he got transferred from place to place and thus spent major years of his career outside Mumbai.

His elder brother stayed in Mumbai. In 1915, the elder brother's elder son passed B.A. in first class. Hence, the family was very happy. However, its joy was short lived as the 18 year old boy embraced Christianity. In those days, conversion to another religion was considered to be a great defiance of society. The family, which was dreaming a bright future for its 18 year old son, got suddenly thrown in a deep gorge. The person who got jolted most was the doctor's elder brother ! His mental status collapsed totally. He was close to Kakasaheb Dixit. He took him to Shirdi. With Baba's blessings, he soon recovered mentally.

His elder son had changed religion while his younger son contacted a dangerous disease known in Marathi as *Hadyavran*. Lot of medicines were given. Even expert doctors operated on the affected leg. Medicines were brought even from other countries. However, the pains were not going away. The family even resorted to visiting various deities and taking different vows. However, everything was turning out to be futile.

Around that time, Shri Sai Baba's name was gaining popularity in Mumbai. "He is an *Aulia*. Even with His mere *Darshan*, devotees get cured of their ailments. With His *Udi*, even the most difficult diseases vanish" was the talk going around. Therefore, as a last effort, the father and mother took their both sons to Shirdi.

The couple prostrated before Baba and narrated their woes about the disease. They made a fervent appeal, "Baba, we are unable to see the sufferings of our son. After trying out different remedies, we are at our wit's end. Hearing Your fame, we have come as a last resort to You. Please place Your hand on his head, bless him and give him the gift of his life."

Hearing these words, Baba said, "Those who come to the refuge of this *Masjid*, their bad times will always vanish. Anyone who steps into this Dwarkamai, the ship of his life will always reach the other coast. Keep this in mind and forget all worries now !"

Baba made the boy sit in front of Him. He blessed him with His eyes and moved His hand – smeared with *Udi* – over his back. He placed some *Udi* in the boy's mouth. The moment the *Amrit* entered his mouth, the boy's pains subsided. The family continued their stay in Shirdi over the next four days. They left Shirdi with their minds full of joy. Curing a difficult disease like *Hadyavran* was no small miracle !

In 1916, Dr. Mulki's services got transferred to Govt. owned Halfkin Institute at Parel, Mumbai. On arriving in Mumbai, he visited his elder brother's family. The talk naturally turned towards the disease and its miraculous cure. The family narrated the miracle in detail and praised Shri Sai Baba whole heartedly. Here the doctor came to know about Sai Baba for the first time. He had not even seen His photograph till that time.

In the October of the same year, the doctor started suffering from fever. The temperature continuously hovered around 105 to 106 degrees. The medical fraternity was trying its best. Due to their knowledge in these matters, the doctors were not willing to resort to blind faith like *Guru* and miracles. However, now it was the *Guru* who had a keen desire to meet Dr. Mulki.

One Thursday, *Bhajans* were being sung at the brother's house. That day doctor was running 104 degrees temperature. He was dozing. In his dream he saw an old *Fakir* Who had tied a cloth around His head. He said, "Don't worry. If you come at once for my *Darshan*, your fever will go away." Doctor got scared with this strange dream and awoke. His sister-in-law came running. After doctor narrated his dream, from a cupboard she took out a photo wrapped in a silk cloth. Doctor confirmed that the same *Fakir* had appeared in his dream. He decided to immediately go to Shirdi and his fever vanished. But, after getting well, he gave priority to his office work. He postponed his trip to Shirdi and immediately resumed his duties at the office. After getting engrossed in work, as the days passed, he even forgot about the dream.

In 1917, Baba once again reminded him about the dream. He was trying to get himself transferred outside Mumbai. Ultimately he was posted to Malegaon, which is closer to Shirdi. The Mumbai – Malegaon route passes through Manmad. If the doctor had so desired, he could have got down at Manmad and visited Shirdi via Kopargaon. However, once again he gave priority to resuming his official duties at Malegaon over his pending pilgrimage visit to Shirdi.

The doctor was not giving priority to visiting Shirdi; but Sai Baba remembered him well. He performed one more miracle.

The doctor was attending to a pregnant lady who was delivering a baby. While delivering the new born child, some liquid got sprayed into his eye. There was a strong burning sensation and the eye got swollen. The civil surgeon feared that he may lose his eye. For the first time in his life, the doctor made an impassioned prayer to Sai Baba. His prayers were answered and within a week his eye recovered.

Now he made a firm resolve to go to Shirdi. He asked his wife (who was staying in Mumbai with his elder brother's family) to come to Malegaon and join him in the pilgrimage. He planned that the couple will avail Baba's *Darshan* at Shirdi and then go to Mumbai.

They were waiting in Manmad for the train to take them to Kopargaon. It so happened that there was still some time for the departure of the train. The doctor therefore took a stroll on the platform. He started chit-chatting with a ticket collector and casually mentioned to him of his plans to visit Shirdi. The T.C. started talking adversely about Sai Baba and even cast aspersions about Sai Baba's moral character. Dr. Mulki got carried away by his talk, dropped his plans of visiting Shirdi and took a decision to return to Mumbai.

Dr. Mulki later on wrote :-

"We listened to the T.C. and at once decided to return to Mumbai. Even now I feel ashamed of my this unforgivable misdeed."

However, the *Sadguru* always forgives the misdeeds of His children. Because of His greatness, our lives become worth living.

After the couple returned to Mumbai, his sister-in-law once again persuaded him to visit Shirdi. They resolved to overcome all obstacles and ultimately arrived in Shirdi. They took *Darshan* of Shri Sai Baba. Baba exactly narrated to the couple the incident that had taken place a month back at Manmad station. The couple was amazed and moved to tears.

They stayed in Shirdi for four days. Before embarking on their return journey to Mumbai, they sought permission of Baba. He said, "Now, start reciting Dnyaneshwari ! When you return to Mumbai, you will find on your table the telegram stating that you have been transferred to Vijapur." And, when the doctor arrived in Mumbai, he found that the telegram had really arrived. After 15 days, he resumed duties at Vijapur. From there he went as an honorary doctor to serve the army which was at war. From there, he came to Gadag and settled down there.

He was so blessed by Baba that, even without knowing Marathi, every year he began reading Dnyaneshwari for a week.



ABDUL BABA

The name of Abdul Baba is prominent amongst the Muslims who were ardent devotees of *Sadguru* Shri Sai Maharaj.

The full name of Abdul Baba was Abdul Bin Sultan. He was born in the year 1871 in Nanded, a city on the banks of river Tapi.

Since the time of his birth, his religious nature was nurtured by those around him. Therefore, since his childhood, he was engrossed in thinking about God and started doing *Seva* of a *Fakir* named Amiruddin. But, he had no idea that his real *Guru* was to be someone else. Once, Sai Baba appeared in the dream of Amiruddin and placed two mangoes in his hands. He said, "Give both these mangoes to Abdulla and send him to me in Shirdi."

This shows that it was the Almighty who was keen to meet His disciple. It is possible that Sai Baba was attracted towards Abdul Baba because of his unique nature - the *Atmanand* that he had earned at a very young age by being in the company of *Satpurush* and also his good deeds from the previous births.

It was around 1989-90 that Abdul Baba first arrived in Shirdi. His age was around 19-20 years. The moment Abdul Baba set his foot in the *Masjid*, Sai Baba was overjoyed and spontaneously uttered, "*Mera Kauwa Aaya* (My crow has come) !" This appears to have some relation with the story of Dr. Pillay which appears in *Adhyay* 34 of *Shri Sai Satcharita*. The doctor's leg had contacted a disease called *Naaru*. Sai Baba had told the doctor that "Now the crow will come and nibble with his beak." And so it happened - Abdul Baba accidentally stepped on the wound, it burst open and the contaminated blood flowed out. The doctor was confused and asked Baba, "Will a crow again pierce the wound with his beak ?" Baba replied, "No ! He came just now and touched your wound with his leg."

Abdul Baba had a earnest desire that, every moment of his life, he should be able to use his mortal body in service of *Sadguru* Shri Sai Nath. To achieve this goal of his life, he was willing to do any sort of work. *Dasya Bhakti* was seeped in every pore of his body. It was the only aim of his life. While Shri Sai Baba was in the mortal form, there was a tremendous strain of work on Abdul Baba. But, he did all the chores with pleasure - washing Baba's clothes at the village brook, cleaning the path on which Baba traveled, cleaning the *Masjid* and *Chavdi*, fill oil in the lamps and light them, bring water for Baba's bath as well as for Him to drink etc. At times, Abdul Baba even cleaned the toilets. Therefore, with great affection, Baba sometimes referred to him as *Halalkhor (Bhangi)/ Mariambi*.

Abdul Baba looked after the maintenance of *Nandadeep* at the Lendi *Baug*. Baba followed a practice of sitting behind the lamp. Abdul Baba always accompanied Baba there. He then filled water in to *Ghagari*. Baba watered the garden with these. Only Abdul Baba alone accompanied Him at such times.

Really, Abdul Baba looked after Shri Sai Nath as a mother would look after her child. He was always alert in ensuring that nothing should be found wanting in his service to Baba.

In fact, following the traditions prevailing at that time, Abdul Baba's parents had got him married in his very tender age. They hoped that at least the marriage will force Abdul Baba to walk on the path followed by common men.

Generally, any human being easily falls prey to the various pleasures of life. Sexual pleasure is one such trap. Ultimately, it is these enjoyments which are detrimental to the interests of the person. Here is the toughest test that a devotee has to pass through. A true believer directs all his senses and desires towards the feet of the Almighty.

To some extent, Abdul Baba was no exception. After his marriage, his parents succeeded initially in their intention of turning him towards the worldly pleasures and ways. Abdul Baba and his wife gave birth to a boy. However, his mind was never tied down to his *Sansar*. Gradually he renounced the worldly ways, left his mother, wife and son and settled down permanently in Shirdi. From time to time, his family members visited Shirdi and tried to persuade Abdul Baba to return back to his home. They even prayed to Baba for the purpose, but to no avail. Abdul Baba did not heed to anyone's request and did not return to his house till the end.

"Think who you are"

Abdul Baba's was steadily progressing on the path of *Vairagya* due to the *Sahavas* of his *Sadguru* and the *Adhyayan* carried under His guidance. In those days, he resided in a stable near the *Masjid*. At nights, he slept with Baba in the *Chavdi*. During the day time, besides carrying out his daily chores, he sat in the *Masjid* and recited the holy Quran. Many times, Baba directed him to recite specific parts of Quran while sometimes, - as Baba knew Arabic language - Baba taught or reeled out the part by heart.

Throughout the night, Abdul Baba slept very lightly - as he wanted to be alert and promptly attend to Baba's needs. Therefore, during the day time, sometimes he was unable to control his sleep and dozed while reciting Quran. Baba used to say - "Abdulla, control your sleep ! Eat a little less ! Think over the part you are reading ! Think who you are !"

Abdul Baba narrated a very touching incident in this regard. "One night, I was extremely tired and was unable to control my sleep. I held my head in both hands and tried to get over my sleep. Seeing this, Baba said, 'Are you trying to see the moon ?' That night ultimately I almost collapsed on Baba Who was sleeping

on a mattress. Baba affectionately patted me on my leg. I woke up. Next night, to wash my face I took some water in my palms and I really saw the moon in that water. Whatever Baba had said earlier had come out to be true."

In the beginning, Baba did not provide food to Abdul Baba (who therefore sought *Bhiksha* like Baba). Later on, Baba started giving food from the *Bhiksha* that He had collected. Thus, Baba looked after the daily expenses of Abdul Baba till the end.

After spending the first few years in Shirdi, Abdul Baba's *Guru* Amiruddin called him back. Not only that, he even came himself to Shirdi to fetch him back. However, Abdul Baba politely stated, "I will not be able to leave Shirdi without getting permission from Baba." As he did not get the consent, he continued to reside in Shirdi permanently !

When Abdul Baba's son reached age of marriage, no one was willing to offer his daughter to the son. They thought that Abdul Baba had renounced family life after bearing a son - the son may follow suit. However, Baba blessed - "Don't fear. You will get a good daughter-in-law and everything will happen on its own." And so it happened.

Once, Abdul Baba's mother visited her village with her grandson and happened to meet a gentleman. He insisted that she should take his daughter as her grandson's wife. Some folks pointed out to him - "The father has become a *Fakir*." He retorted, "It will not matter even if I become a *Fakir*. But, I have resolved to give my daughter in marriage to this boy." And the marriage was performed immediately.

Baba uttered several sentences indicating His blessings to Abdul Baba - such as - "I have put you across the sea." "I have turned your dust (*Mitti*) into gold." "I have built a building for you."

Abdul Baba had great faith in each and every word uttered by Baba. Therefore, he noted down (in *Devnagari* or *Modi*) several sentences spontaneously uttered by Baba from time to time, with Baba's prior permission. Later on, if someone posed a question or was in difficulties, Abdul Baba referred to one of the pages of his Sai Quran. He always got the answer that he was seeking.

This is an event after Baba's *Mahasamadhi*. A well had been dug in Baba's *Mandir*; but its water was muddy. Some one posed this question to Abdul Baba. As per his usual practice, he opened a page of his diary and said, "Dig further two feet deep and you will find sweet water." And so it happened.

One more such experience. Barrister Annasaheb Gadgil's son had gone abroad. The father enquired, "Whether my son will return back to India ?" Abdul Baba referred his diary and replied, "He will return." And really he returned with his wife and children within no time.

After the *Mahanirvan* of Shri Sai Baba, Abdul Baba continued to reside in the Sansthan area and like earlier days, continued to sweep the *Masjid*, place *Chaddar* and flowers on the *Samadhi* etc. He also kept up his practice of reciting Quran. He did not accept any money and took only clothes and food. Shri Hemadpant (author of Shri Sai Satcharit) bestowed upon him the title of *Param Viragi*.

On one hand he had looked after Sai Baba and had done His *Seva*. On the other hand, Abdul baba had placed his own life in the care of Sai Baba. He did not expect even a paisa from Sai Baba. What he expected was only *Sadguru Prasad* and he got it in ample measure.

In the year 1927, three walls of the house - in which he resided - collapsed suddenly and he got buried in the rubble upto his waist. However, his life was saved because of Baba's *Kripa Chhatra*.

In his last days, he was operated upon for some eye ailment. At that time, he stayed in the house of a famous Sai devotee Shri Boravake. Barring this time, he stayed in his hut which is located opposite the *Chavdi*. The hut still exists and Abdul Baba's ancestors stay there.

After the *Mahanirvan* of Shri Sai Baba, Abdul Baba lived for 36 years and passed away on 2nd April 1954.

During his lifetime he had attained *Sahaj Samadhi Avastha*. After demise, he continues to be in the *Sahas* of Sai Baba, as his *Samadhi* is at the entrance to Lendi *Baug*. The writer of this article had the great fortune of actually touching the feet of Abdul Baba and get his blessings.



O *Sadguru*, boundless is Your power, marvellous Your *Leelas* ! To ferry the dull and the ignorant across the ocean of life, You are for ever the ark. Veni Madhav You became and brought Prayag at Your Feet, only to make Ganga and Yamuna flow from Your toes. The Lotus-born (Brahma), the consort of Lakshmi (Vishnu), and Shiva-Har (Shankar), the quintessence of the *Trigunas*, You have Yourself become, O Sai Samarth, as You walked on this earth. Wisdom of Brahma pours out of words, sometimes; sometimes, You assume the terrible form of Shiva, to show '*Tamas*'. Like Shri Krishna, You indulge, sometimes, in childish pranks; And at times, You are the fabled swan on the lake of Your devotees' hearts. If a Muslim, sandalwood-paste was (like Hindus) dear to You, but if a Hindu, how happily You stayed always in the mosque ! To call You wealthy, - but You went Your rounds, begging for alms, and should You be a *Fakir*, Your munificence has put even Kuber to shame ! If the mosque be Your abode, there is always, fire burning in the *Dhuni*, to provide *Udi* to the people. From dawn gather the faithful to worship You, till the sun is at zenith, and the mid-day *Arati* is performed. All around the devotees stand, as the divine attendants on God, holding the *Chowrie-Chamar* to wave softly over Your head. Cornets resound, clarions make melody, the bells clang aloud, as the *Chopdar*, impressive with his belt, stands at the door proclaiming Your glory. On Your resplendent seat, You are as Lord Vishnu, during *Arati*, but You are Shankar (destroyer of cupid) as You sit before the *Dhuni*, in the evenings. Such *Leelas* of the Trinity, we experience - in You, day after day, O Baba Sai ! Even so, my mind wanders idly; to steady it, is all I pray to You, now. Vilest among the vile, a great sinner that I am; seeking refuge at Your Feet I come; avert the threefold afflictions of Das Ganu, O *Gururaya* !

- Das Ganu's *Pada* from chapter 4 of *Shri Sai Satcharita*

Translated into English by **Smt. Indira Kher** and published by **Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd.**

– Translated from original Marathi into
English by **Sudhir**

– □□□
Back