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பாபாவின் எல்லையிலாம் பேரருள்

எண்ணிக்கையில் கோடிகளுக்குள்ளும் நிற்காத அளவிற்குத் தினந்தினம் பெருகும் பக்தர்களின் பெருவெள்ளத்தைத் தன் திருவருட் கடலால் ஆட்கொள்கிறார் சீரடி ஸ்ரீ சாயி பாபா.

பாபாவின் பேரருள் மகிமை சொற்களுள் அடங்காதது. அவர் அடியேனையும் ஆட்கொண்ட விதத்தை 'சாயிலீலா' மூலமாகப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதில் பெருமகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறேன்.

இன்றிலிருந்து பதினாறு ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பாக கல்வி நிமித்தமாக மும்பை வந்த நான், சாது ஒருவரின் சிலைகள் அமைக்கப் பட்ட சிறுசிறு கோயில்களை ஆங்காங்கே மும்பை நகரத்தின் பல்வேறு பகுதிகளில் கண்டிருக்கிறேன். ஆனால் அவரைப் பற்றி தெரிந்து கொள்ளவோ, வணங்கவோ எவ்வித ஆர்வமும் காட்டியது கிடையாது. இந்நிலையில் சீரடிக்கு அருகிலுள்ள கோப்பர்காவ் ஊரில் அமைந்துள்ள சஞ்சீவனி பொறியியல் கல்லூரியில் இளநிலைக் கல்விக்கு சேர்ந்தேன்.

கல்லூரியில் சேர்ந்த முதல் நாளான 11-10-1993 அன்றே எனக்குப் பாபாவின் அனுபவம் கிட்டியது வியப்பிற்குரியது. நானும் சென்னை மாணவன் வினோத்தும் மாணவர் விடுதியில் ஒரே அறையில் சேர்ந்தோம். அவனுடன் அவனது தந்தையார் திரு. ஸ்ரீதரன் அவர்களும் வந்திருந்தார்.

அன்று மாலையில், சில பொருட்கள் வாங்கிவருவதற்காக மூவரும் கோப்பர்காவ் நகருக்குள் சென்றோம். ஆனால் நாங்கள் எதுவுமே வாங்கவில்லை. எதிர்பாராதவிதமாக, வினோத்தின் தந்தையார், நாம் இங்கிருந்தே சீரடி சென்று சாயிபாபாவின் தரிசனம் செய்து வந்துவிடலாம் என்றார். எனக்கு ஒன்றுமே புரியவில்லை; முழுமையான மனமுமில்லை; ஆனாலும் மறுக்கவில்லை; அவர்களுடன் நானும் சீரடி சென்றேன்.

சீரடியில், கோயிலுக்குள் சென்று பாபாவின் தரிசனம் பெற்ற பிறகுதான் எந்த கோயிலுக்கு வந்திருக்கிறோம் என்பதே எனக்குப் புரிந்தது. எல்லோரும் வணங்கினார்கள். நானும் சேர்ந்து

வணங்கினேன். எந்தவித ஈடுபாடும் ஏற்பட்டதாக எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை.

ஆனால் சீரடி சென்று திரும்பிய பிறகு அவ்வப்போது சமயம் கிடைக்கும் போதெல்லாம் சீரடி சென்றுவர வேண்டும் எனத் தோன்றியது. நண்பர் வினோத் மட்டுமல்லாமல் அருண்முருகன், இராகவ் போன்றவர்களுடன் அடிக்கடி சென்று சீரடி சென்று வந்தேன். பாபாவின் மீது நம்பிக்கை துளிர்விடத் தொடங்கியது.

அப்பொழுதெல்லாம் எளிதாக உடனடியாக தரிசனம் கிடைத்துவிடும்.

என்னுடைய படிப்பு செலவை முழுவதும் ஏற்றுச் செய்தவர் என்னுடைய அண்ணன் எம். இராமச்சந்திரன் அவர்கள். படிப்பில் இரண்டாம் ஆண்டு தேர்வில் ஒரு பாடத்தில் தேர்ச்சி அடையவில்லை எனத் தேர்வு முடிவு வந்தது. அதை, என் அண்ணனிடம் சொல்லமுடியாதபடி மன வருத்தத்தில் இருந்தேன். தேர்வுத் தாளினை மறுமதிப்பீடு செய்ய பணம் கட்டிவிட்டுச் சீரடிக்கு புறப்பட்டேன்.

எப்போதும் ஏதேனும் பிரசாதத்துடன் கோயிலுக்குள் செல்லும் நான், அன்று எதுவும் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு செல்லவில்லை. என்னுடைய தவறிய பாடம் மீண்டும் மறுமதிப்பீட்டில் தேர்ச்சியாக வேண்டும் என்று கண்களை மூடி தியானித்துவிட்டு கண்களைத் திறந்தபோது பாபாவின் அருகில் பீடத்தில் நின்ற அர்ச்சகர் பாபாவிற்கு சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்ட பிரசாதத்திலிருந்து சிறிது எடுத்து எனக்குத் தர முற்பட்டார்.

நானோ, "நான் ஏதும் பாபாவிற்கு வாங்கி வரவில்லை என்று சொல்லி பிரசாதத்தை வாங்க மறுத்து கைகளை விரித்தேன். அர்ச்சகர் விடவில்லை. என்னுடைய கையைப் பிடித்து பிரசாதத்தைத் திணித்தார். அதைப் பெற்றுக் கொண்டேன். அத்தருணமே மறுமதிப்பீட்டில் நான் நிச்சயம் தேர்ச்சி அடைவேன் என்ற நம்பிக்கை வந்ததது. அவ்வாறே நிகழ்ந்தது.



All other deities are an illusion. Guru is the only God. When we place our faith at his Feet, he can change our destiny. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 10, Verse 4)

பாபாவின் மீது நம்பிக்கை வலுத்தது.

எனது பள்ளிப் பருவத்திலேயே நான் கவிதைகள் எழுதுவதுண்டு. கவிதைத் துறையில் எதையாவது சாதிக்க வேண்டும் என்ற லட்சியமும் எனக்குள் உண்டு. ஒருமுறை சீரடி சென்றபோது “**ஸ்ரீ சாயி சத்சரிதம்**” தமிழ்ப் பதிப்பு ஒன்றையும் வாங்கிக் கொண்டேன். அதைக் கவிதையில் எழுத வேண்டும் என்று எனக்குள் மட்டுமல்லாமல் என் நண்பர்களிடமும் சீரடியில் வைத்தே அதை சொல்லியிருக்கிறேன்; பாபாவின் செவிகளிலும் நிச்சயமாக அவை கேட்டிருக்கும்.

இந்நிலையில் கல்லூரி வாழ்க்கை நிறைவு பெற மும்பையில் பணியில் சேர்ந்தேன். இல்லற வாழ்க்கையும், இலக்கிய வாழ்க்கையும் துவங்கின. மும்பை கவியரங்கங்களிலும், இலக்கிய மேடைகளிலும் பிரபலமானேன்.

ஒருநாள், இலக்கிய வட்டத்தில் எனக்கு அறிமுகமான சகோதரர் வேலையா அவர்கள் எங்களுடைய வீட்டிற்கு வந்து, சாயிபாபாவின் “சகுணோபாசனா”வை (மராட்டி மொழி ஆரத்தி பாடல்கள்) என்னிடம் கொடுத்து, சீரடிக்கு வரும் தமிழர்கள், ஆரத்தி வழிபாட்டின்போது படும் சிரமத்தையும் சொல்லி, இதைத் தமிழாக்கம் செய்யுங்கள், சீரடி சாயி சன்ஸ்தான் மூலம் வெளியிடத் தயாராக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்றும் கூறினார். எனக்குள் ஒரு பிரவாகம் பெருகி அடங்கியதை என்னால் உணர முடிந்தது. என்னுடைய சீரடி அனுபவங்களை நான் சொல்ல அதைச் சற்றும் எதிர்பாராத அவர் வியப்பில் ஆழ்ந்தார். நாங்கள் பல ஆண்டுகள் பழகி இருப்பினும் அவர் பாபாவின் பக்தர் என்பது எனக்கும் நான் பாபாவின் பக்தர் என்பது அவருக்கும் அன்றுதான் தெரிந்தது.

“என்னை பாபா சரியான இடத்தில்தான் கொண்டு வந்து சேர்த்திருக்கிறார்!” என்று, அவர் அன்று கூறிய வார்த்தைகள் இன்றும் என் நினைவில் பசுமையாக உள்ளன. ஆரத்தி நூலின் மொழியாக்கப் பணி துவங்கியது. மொழி மற்றும் சிரமம் ஏதுமின்றி என் பணியை நிறைவு செய்தேன். வேலையா அவர்கள் அந்நூலினை, கணினியில் மின்னிலக்க அச்சுக்கோர்ப்பு செய்தார். ஒருநாள், காலை 10 மணியிலிருந்து இரவு 9 மணிவரையில், கணினியின் முன் அமர்ந்து நானும் அவரும் பிழைத்திருத்தங்கள் செய்துகொண்டே வந்தோம். அடிக்கடி மறவாமல் திருத்தத்திருத்த பக்கங்களை கணினியில் பதிவு செய்து கொண்டே வந்தார்.

இரவு நேர உணவு இடைவேளைக்குப் பிறகு மீண்டும் கணினியை திறந்து, திருத்திய பக்கங்களை பார்த்தபோது, காலையில் இருந்தே திருத்திய பிழை திருத்தங்கள் ஏதும் பதிவாகவில்லை. ஒருநாள்

முழுவதும் செய்த பணி பலனின்றிப் போனதே என்று எனக்குள் அளவிலா வருத்தம். அப்பொழுது சகோதரர் வேலையா அவர்கள், “தளரக் கூடாது. இதுவும் பாபாவின் சித்தமே. எங்கோ தவறுகள் திருத்தப் படாமல் இருந்திருக்கலாம், ஆரத்தி பாடல்கள் நன்றாக வரவேண்டும் என்பதனால் பாபா நிகழ்த்திய லீலை” என்று கூற மீண்டும் பணியை துவக்கினோம். முன்பு எங்களின் கவனக்குறைவால் விடுபட்டிருந்த தவறுகளும் திருத்தம் பெற்றன. மூன்று மணி நேரத்தில் நல்லபடியாக முடிவடைந்து மறுநாள் அச்சுக்கும் அனுப்பி வைத்தோம்.

மராட்டி ஆரத்தி பாடல்களின் தமிழாக்கப் பணியில் நான் கருவியாக இருந்து பேனாவை மட்டும்தான் பிடித்தேன். எனக்குள் இருந்து சிந்தித்ததும், எழுதியதும் சாயிநாதரே. என்னை தன் கோயிலுக்கு அழைத்து, வயப்படுத்தி ஆட்கொண்டு, சகுணோபாசனாவை கொணர்ந்து கொடுத்து, தமிழாக்கம் செய்து பாபா ஆற்றிய லீலைகளை என்னென்பது!

“**எறும்புகளைப் போல வரிசையில் நிரைநிரையாக வந்து என்னுடைய பக்தர்கள் வணங்க வருவார்கள்**” என்று சத்குரு ஸ்ரீ சாயிநாதர் தன் திருவாயால் மலர்ந்தருளிய சொற்களை இத்தருணத்தில் நினைத்துப் பார்க்கிறேன். அதற்கிணங்க ஸ்ரீ சத்குரு சாயிநாதரின் திருவருளுக்குப் பாத்திரமான கோடிக்கணக்கான பக்தர்களில் அடியேனும் ஒருவன் எனினும், **எல்லோருடனும் வரிசையில் நின்று** பாபாவின் விருப்பத்திற்கு ஏற்ப தரிசனம் பெற்று வருகிறேன்.

தொடர்ந்து, பாபாவின் அருளால் “காமராஜர் காவியம்” என்ற மாபெரும் புதுக்கவிதை இலக்கியத்தை யான் இயற்ற அருட்துணையாக இருந்தவரும் சாயிநாதரே. மேன்மேலும் சாயி சேவைக்காகத் தொடரும் அடியேனின் இலக்கியப் பணிகளுக்கு அருள் பாலிப்பவரும் சாயிநாதரே.

ஸ்ரீ சாயிநாதரின் வற்றாத தனிப் பெருங் கருணையை எண்ணி அவரது திருவடித் தாமரைகளைத் தலையால் தொட்டு வணங்குகிறேன்.

பாபாவின் குழந்தை,
- செந்தூர். நாகராஜன்

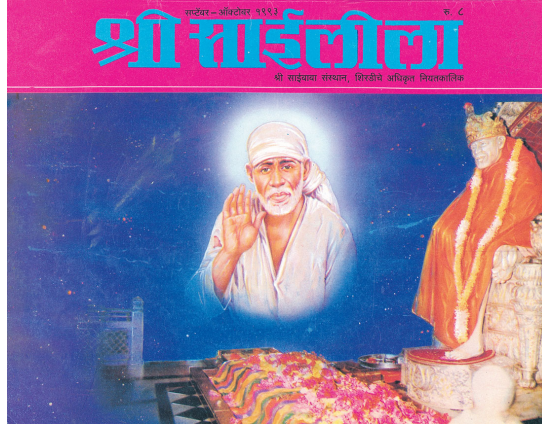
டி-19, சிவ கிருபா, என.எஸ்.எஸ். சாலை,
டோம்பிவிலி (மேற்கு), தானே மாவட்டம்,
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Those who do listen to the stories of Sai with love, they will be effortlessly benefitted. Their devotion at Sai's Feet will increase and they will obtain happiness and prosperity.
(Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 14, Verse 28)

Experiences of Sai Maharaj



Experiences recorded by late hon. Hari Sitaram Dixit :-

(1)

Sai Maharaj called on his devotees in various forms and then later gave them evidence of his visit.

Once, Nanasaheb Chandorkar brought *Naivedya (Prasad)* for Sai Baba. He had included 'Puran Polis' in it as he thought Baba relished them. When Nanasaheb arrived, Baba had just finished his lunch and so when he was requested to eat, Baba said, "I just ate. You keep the platter here and go home to have your meal."

Nanasaheb left as per Baba's orders, but he told Madhavrao Deshpande to keep an eye and see if Baba took any morsel from the platter. "Tell me as soon as he takes anything, so that I can commence my meal."

After some time Sai Maharaj asked Madhavrao, whether Nana eaten his meal. Madhavrao said, "When you eat something from this platter, Nana will eat." Sai Maharaj laughed and said, "Oh! I have already eaten while he was filling this plate; in the guise of a fly. Tell him to eat!"

When Nanasaheb heard this he happily sat for his meal.

Another time Sai Baba said to Nanasaheb, "If any one comes to your doorstep asking for something, give as much as suits your pocket. Even if you have nothing to give, the least you can do is speak kindly."

Some days later, Nanasaheb went to his village. 3-4 days later an old woman came begging at his doorstep. The servant refused to give alms. But the woman was persistent. Nanasaheb admonished her for this impudence and sent her away.

When Nanasaheb paid a visit to Sai Baba again, he said, "I had come to your door asking for some thing, but you forgot my words. I came in the guise of an old woman, but all I got was bad words." Nanasaheb felt ashamed.

Once, a female dog went to Mhalsapati's house. She was repulsive, filthy and drooling. When Mhalsapati gave her a whack, she ran away howling. Afterwards, when Mhalsapati went for Sai's *Darshan*, Sai said, "I went with great expectations to 'Bhagat's' house (people referred to Mhalsapati as 'Bhagat') but all I received, were blows."

All such *Leelas* of Sai are to enlighten the devotees.

"We should not shoo away any body. Whether it is a dog, cat or human, they come to us because of some connection. We should not despise them or look down on them."

Sai Maharaj not only gave advice in words but also emphasised its importance in many ways.

Once, two hours after such a session, while we were all having lunch in the *Wada*, a dog came near our doorstep. We shooed it away and it went to the neighbour's doorstep. There it was beaten with a stick and it ran away wailing. It was then that we remembered, what Sai had said and thought the dog would have gone away and spared the beating, if only we had given it a piece of our *Bhakri* (bread).

That evening, Das Ganu, in his *Kirtan* narrated the story of *Sant* Namdev. Once, when Lord Vitthal, in the guise of a dog snatched a piece of *Bhakri* from *Sant* Namdev's house, Namdev ran after the dog with a *vati* (small bowl) of ghee, saying, "Do not eat the *Bhakri* dry, Oh Lord ! Take this ghee !"

Later, on the same day, when Madhavrao Adkar was reading the ‘*Bhakta Leelamrut*’, the same piece happened to be read. Thus Baba emphasised and strengthened the guidance he had given in the morning.

Sai Baba went to many of His devotees in various guises.

(2)

When I first set eyes upon Sai Baba, I felt my dear friend Govind Raghunath Dabholkar too should have *Darshan* and so I wrote to him from Shirdi, inviting him for a visit. When I later met him, he said,

“I will surely go for a *Darshan*. But, I do not understand the need of a *Guru*. I feel, we have to do everything ourselves.”

Dabholkar decided to go to Shirdi; but on the very day he was to leave, his friend’s only son died in Lonavala and he cancelled the trip. His friend’s son had died despite his *Guru*’s presence. This left him wondering, whether a *Guru* was of any use, when whatever was to happen could not be averted.

Later, he met another friend there who convinced him to make the pilgrimage to Shirdi and they left. They were to get down at Dadar, thinking they could board the train to Manmad from there. But, at Bandra station, a Muslim gentleman told them that the mail train did not halt at Dadar and they should get on it from Bori Bunder. They followed his advice and reached Shirdi the next morning.

While there was still time to go for Sai’s *Darshan*, Dabholkar got into a discussion with another gentleman about the ‘Use of a *Guru*.’ Later, we all went for *Darshan*. As soon as we were seated, Sai Maharaj, while looking at Dabholkar, asked me, “What was this Hemadpant saying ?” I said, “Baba, You know everything.”

The next day, when I asked him permission to leave, He granted it. I asked, “Where should I go ?”

“There.” “How is the road ?” I asked. “There are many roads. They go from various places. One road goes from here. It is difficult. There are tigers and bears on the way.” “But, if we have a guide ?”

Baba said, “If we have a guide, there is no problem. The tigers and bears will move aside. Or else there is danger of falling into a deep ravine.”

Of course, this conversation made a deep impact on Dabholkar and he thought, he had an answer to his query about the use of a *Guru*.

Later, he had many such experiences of Sai Maharaj and he became a true devotee.

Shri Sai Leela, Year I, Paush Shaké 1845 / Vol. V Translated into English by
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Just as those babies’ love and affection makes the mother give more milk, our devotion at the Feet of Sai will melt His heart. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 15, Verse 17)

Without any hesitation give up our ego and pride, and prostrate ourself, bowing our head down at the Feet of the *Guru*. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 17, Verse 141)

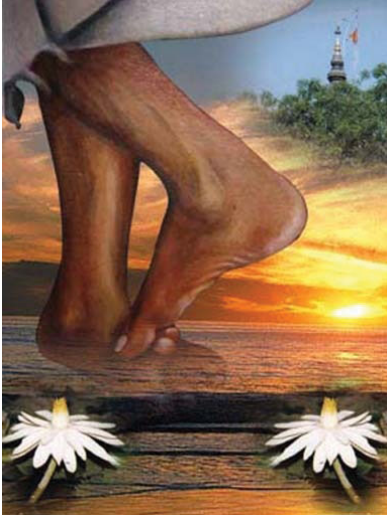
Back

O Sadguru Sai !

I eternally lick the Big Toes of Your Lotus Feet...

O Sadguru Sai !

I eternally kiss Your Used and Blessed *Padukas*...



According to mythology king Sagar, after slaying the demons on earth, staged an *Ashwamedh Yajnya* to proclaim his supremacy. The king's 60,000 sons born of queen Sumati and one son Asamanjas of queen Kesani were to accompany the horse. Lord Indra fearing loss of his supremacy stole the horse and tied it to the *Ashram* of ancient sage Kapil who was then deep into meditation. On their search for horse, the 60,000 sons stormed the *Ashram* of Kapil and just before the attack on him the sage opened his eyes and reduced all the 60,000 sons of king Sagar, except Asamanjas, to ashes. King Sagar's grandson Anshuman was successful in recovering the horse from Kapil and was told that those 60,000 burnt will attain heavenly adobe if Ganga is brought down from heaven and their ashes were cleansed by its water. Then the great task of bringing Ganga to earth started. Anshuman failed and so did his son Dilip; but his grandson Bhagirath succeeded.

O my *Sadguru Sai* ! Immediately north of Kailash, near the mountains of Mainak, there is a beautiful mountain named Manimaya whose peaks are of gold. Beside this mountain is a beautiful lake named '**Bindusar**'.

O Sai ! According to the holy ancient Hindu scripture '*Matsya Puran*', king Bhagirath, on the shore of this beautiful vast lake named '**Bindusar**', performed penance for 1000 years, hoping to bring the purifying waters of the heavenly Ganga to earth, to cleanse the souls of his ancestors.

Tradition connects '**Bindusar**' with *Rishi* Kardam who practiced penance (*Tapasya*) here for many years. According to the '*Vishnu Puran*', Lord Vishnu's tears fell from His eyes seeing Kardam *Muni*'s *Tapasya* (penance), and a beautiful vast lake named '**Bindusar**' was formed here. Kardam *Muni*'s son Kapil took birth and composed '*Sankhya Shastra*' here. Its name is said to have been derived from the tradition that Brahma came here to attend the marriage of Kardam *Rishi* on the back of a *Hans* (goose). The sacred Saraswati is said to have flowed by the place and Pandavas came here and offered *Pinds* to their forefathers. **The intense meditation of Bhagirath made the heavenly Ganga to issue forth from the big toe of Lord Vishnu's left foot.**





O Sadguru Sai !

I lick the Big Toe of Lord Vishnu's left foot...

O Baba ! Aren't they the Big Toes of Thy Left and Right Feet that I'm eternally licking...? Absolutely ! Absolutely ! O Sai ! You are Lord Vishnu Yourself as waters of the holy rivers Ganga and Yamuna had once issued forth from both of Your Divine Toes to the awe and amazement of all the residents of Shirdi. The following narration portrays the truth without leaving room for even an iota of doubt :-

O Sai ! There is hardly a person amongst Your devotees, who has not heard the name and fame of Das Ganu. He has certainly done his part to spread Your glory through his *Bhajans* and *Kirtans*. Once, Das Ganu felt that he should go to Prayag *Teertha* and have a holy bath. As his desire was intense, he immediately rushed to the Dwarkamai *Masjid* to seek Your permission to go on pilgrimage. O Baba ! You told Ganu in soft and meaningful words, "O Ganu ! Our Prayag *Teertha* is in Shirdi itself. You need not go anywhere else. Have absolute faith in me." O Baba ! Your words were enough for Das Ganu, and he humbly placed his head on Your Feet, and wonder of wonders ! Ganga - Yamuna *Udak* (water of the holy rivers Ganga and Yamuna) started flowing from both of Your Big Toes ! Seeing this miracle, Das Ganu's joy knew no bounds. He started reciting that famous sweet **Sai Stotram** (song composition).....

O Sadgururaya, boundless is Your power and marvellous Your deeds. You are the kind One Who is the ship which takes the animate and inanimate beings across the worldly ocean.

You transformed Yourself into Veni-Madhav (Vishnu) and made Your Feet into Prayag here. You showed the currents of Ganga and Yamuna flowing from Your Toes.

You are Brahma (born of the lotus), Vishnu (Lord of Kamala) and Shiva, the embodiment of the Trinity. And, on this earth, You manifest as Sai, the *Samartha*.

In the early morning, like Brahma You utter words of wisdom; And, sometimes, You exhibit Your violent nature and frightening appearance of Rudra, resorting to the quality of *Tamo Guna*.

Sometimes like Shri Krishna, You indulge in child-like pranks; And become the swan in the lake of the devotee's heart.

If we call You a Muslim, then You have love for '*Gandha*' (sandalwood paste); If we call You a Hindu You always happily reside in the *Masjid*.

If we call You rich, You are seen going about begging alms; If we call You a fakir, then with Your favours (Your generosity) You have put Kuber to shame.

If we call Your house a *Masjid* then fire is seen burning there; The *Dhuni* (pit kindled with wood fire) always burns to distribute 'Udi' to the people.

From morning the devotees in their simplicity come and worship You; And when the sun is at its zenith at noon, Your '*Aarati*' is performed.

Devotees stand all around You like attendants of Gods and holding whisks and swishes in their hand fan You.

Horns, Clocks, *Shenai*, Gongs, Bells resound; And attendants in uniforms (mace bearers) wearing belts proclaim Your glory at the gates.

At the time of the *Aarati* You look like Vishnu; And at dusk, as You sit before the *Dhuni*, You appear as Shiva (the Destroyer of cupid).

Such *Leelas* of the Trinity, manifested in You, are experienced by us daily, O Baba Sai !

Even when such is the case, my mind wanders idly. Now this is my request to You, Baba, make it steady.

The vilest of the viles, and a great sinner, I take refuge at Your Feet. Please ward off the three-fold afflictions of Das Ganu.

O Sadguru Sai !

I lick the Big Toes of Your Lotus Feet...

O Sai ! At the end of the Dwapar Yuga, when Lord Shri Krishna renounced the world and went to *Goloka*, at that time Kali Yuga, the source of all chaos took birth in the minds of the ignorant. When king Yudhishtir realized the advent of the Kali Yuga that is chaos, greed, violence, debauchery and lies, he expressed a desire to go to the forest and do penance. Accordingly, he abdicated the throne and coronated his grandson Parikshit as the king.

When Kali Yuga met king Parikshit, he was shivering with fear and said humbly, "O king ! Brahma created 4 eras that are Satya, Treta, Dwapar and Kali Yuga. Satya Yuga enjoyed his reign for 17,28,000 years and went away. Treta Yuga enjoyed his reign for 12,96,000 years and Dwapar Yuga enjoyed his reign for 8,64,000 years and passed away. Now, the time for me has come to reign which is 4,32,000 years and you tell me to get out from your empire. You rule over the entire world. Where should I go after all ? O king ! What is once proposed by the Gods cannot be erased or eliminated."

Kali Yuga told Parikshit that - "You point your fingers on my flaws and demerits; but do not see my merits and positive aspects. I am embellished with sublime merits. That is the reason I request you.

During the Satya Yuga if any one inadvertently committed a wrong deed the entire kingdom had to bear the punishment. During Treta, if any one committed a wrong deed, the people of that town had to bear the punishment. During Dwapar Yuga, if anyone happened to commit a wrong deed, the entire family had to bear the punishment; but in Kali Yuga, he shall only bear the punishment who has committed the wrong deed. I am not concerned about anyone else.

Unlike the other eras where one had to inevitably bear the punishment for wrong and bad thoughts, in my era, this shall cease to happen; but one shall be bestowed with good fruits who thinks good." Even after listening to this, King Parikshit did not relent. Kali Yuga said that he was endowed with yet another sublime merits. He said, "One could fulfil all ones wishes and desires in the Satya Yuga only after practicing penance for 10,000 years. Similarly in the Treta Yuga and the Dwapar Yuga, one had to collect a lot of money and perform *Yadnyas* and had to engage in charity, penance, vows and worship for one 100 years respectively to accomplish ones desires. **Unlike the others, in this era, if one even sings the praises of God's mercy just by praying to Him with total faith and patience (*Shradha* and *Saburi*) and prostrates at the Holy Feet of the Lord and begs for His ever flowing Blessings and Love forever, one gets ones all desires and wishes fulfilled within no time. One is liberated from all his sins and shall consequently attain salvation."**

O Baba ! In this age of Kali Yuga, You are the Lord, and my heart is attached to Your Lotus Feet that are supposed once to have trodden on the holy soil of Shirdi. As Dnyaneshwar elevated Alandi, and what Eknath did to Paithan, so did You raise Shirdi. Here, Your righteousness shines forth in bright and glorious beams. Blessed are the grass, leaves and stones of Shirdi, for they could easily and eternally kiss Thy Holy Feet, and take their dust on their head. Undoubtedly, Shirdi has become to devotees yet another Pandharpur, Jagannath, Dwarka, Banaras (Kashi), Maha Kaleshwar and Mahabaleshwar Gokarn. **(Shri Sai Satcharita, Chapter 4)**

O Baba ! You prescribed to Your devotees to desist all ego and always recite ‘Sai’, ‘Sai’. “If one did that”, You assured, “one would be free, removing all shackles.” **(Shri Sai Satcharita, Chapter 10)**

O Sadguru Sai !

I lick the Big Toes of Your Lotus Feet...

O Baba ! You once gave the following dream vision **(Shri Sai Satcharita, Chapter 45)** to one of Your devotees Anandrao Pakhade :-

Anandrao Pakhade was standing waist-deep in a very deep blue sea, when, all of a sudden he just saw You seated on a gold throne studded with diamonds. Your Feet were in the water. The vision was like a real one, very unlike a dream. Shama, who was also present there at that moment, asked Anandrao to fall at Your Lotus Feet and beg for Your causeless mercy to make him always fixed in Your service. Pakhade wondered, whether it might be possible since Your Feet were in the water. O Sai ! On Shama’s request, You raised Your Feet out of the water. Then Anandrao Pakhade put his head on Your Feet, and thus were You pleased to bless him - “You do your duty, don’t be afraid in the least, steady your mind and have faith in my words.”

O Baba ! The actual meaning of this dream vision is that due to an unstable mind, we are unable to see our *Guru’s* Feet.

O Sadguru !

Bless me with the vision like You blessed Anandrao Pakhade.

Let me decorate my *Hridaya Sinhasan* with gold and diamonds of all *Sattvik Vrittis*.

Let me take out my head from this *Bhava (Sansar) Sagar* and put it at Your Lotus Feet.

Let me change the direction of my life towards the *Saty Path*.

Let me direct all my senses towards eyes wherein You reside, O my Sai !

I have placed Your *Padukas* in my heart. O Baba !

Let Your spirit whisper Your eternal message in my mortal ear thus :

“These are the Lotus Feet of the Lord”.

O Sadguru Sai !

I eternally lick the Big Toes of Your Lotus Feet...

O Sadguru Sai !

I eternally kiss Your Used and Blessed *Padukas*...

(Contd. in the next issue)

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To attain the grace and love from the *Guru*, bow down in the dust of his lotus Feet. Bear in mind his advice and experience it at every step. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 37, Verse 78)

Oh, what a Baba's greatness ! As Dasganu put his heat at Baba's Feet, water trickled out from both His toes as if it was the water of Ganga and Yamuna, oozing out. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 4, Verse 104)

Leaving the Sacred Feet, it is not necessary to go on pilgrimage to Ganga - Godavari. Listen to the sweet life and praises of Saint Sai with devotion. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 4, Verse 109)

Those devotees, who surrendered to His Feet, each had the unique *Darshan* in different forms of deities or *Gurus* and their faith was confirmed. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 11, Verse 157)

People come from far and near, humble themselves in the dust of Sai's Feet, act according to *Maharaj's* commands and get their wishes fulfilled by serving Him. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 18, Verse 35)

Oh, Sai, how pleasing is Your familiar posture, when You are on Your seat ! Many devotees come to take Your *Darshan*, bow down their heads at Your Feet, gathering in their own happiness, lovingly. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 22, Verse 11)

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In Sai's Proximity

Mrs. Mugdha Divadkar

NANASAHEB CHANDORKAR

Nanasaheb's younger son says in this regard :-

"Between the years 1900 and 1902, Baba – like a *Shastri* or *Pundit* - explained the entire Bhagvad Gita and its various *Shlokas* in very simple language to my father. Up to this time, Baba used to speak in simple and easy to understand language. However, later on He started speaking in profound words."

SARVATRA SANCHAR and SARVA-SAKSHITVA

Baba used to discuss several things freely with Nana. Nanasaheb also used to place his queries and problems before Baba without inhibitions.

Once, Nana enquired, "In the holy books, it is said that every day one should perform *Dev-pooja*, then offer *Kak-bali* (food for the crows) and then do *Anna-dan* to an *Atithi* (guest) with honor. I try to adhere to this routine every day; but on occasions, I keep waiting for an *Atithi* ; but he rarely arrives. Are the holy books in prescribing the above manner ?"

Baba clarified saying - "Are Nana, it is not necessary that an *Atithi* must be a *Brahmin* and human being. He could be a *Brahmin* or may belong to any other caste. Moreover, he may be a human being or an animal. Anyone who is in need of food is *Atithi*. Hundreds of thousands of *Atithis* may have come to you, but you may have ignored them in your quest for *Brahmin Atithi*. Erase this narrow meaning of the word. Every day, along with *Kak-bali*, place a heap of rice outside your home. Anyone who is hungry will eat it. If you feed a tired and hungry soul, you are following the path of *Paramartha*."

Nanasaheb was utterly moved by this simple explanation given by Baba. He was wonder-struck at the vast knowledge of his *Sadguru*.

Nana resolved to follow Baba's advice to the word. However, Baba was closely watching him and stood Nana to a test.

Once, Nanasaheb reached Shirdi at noon around 12-12.30. He had come alone this time. None of his family members were with him. The moment he entered the *Masjid*, Baba enquired about his well-being and then told him, "Nana, today I feel like having *Puran Poli*." Nana replied, "Baba, it is too late in the day to prepare *Puran Poli*. I don't have any woman-folk from my family to whom I could have asked to prepare the dish. And, where will I find any male or female cook in this town ?" Baba retorted, "I don't mind the time that may be needed to prepare it; but you see that I get *Puran Poli*." Nana repeatedly pleaded with Baba to relent. He even assured that he will bring *Puran Poli* for the next day's *Naivedya*. But, Baba was not willing to change His mind. He continued His stand – "I feel like having *Puran Poli* now only."

Now Nanasaheb was helpless. He said, "I am going now to search for the cook. If I get one, then I will buy the material. I think, it will take about three hours to prepare the dish. That makes it around 4'o clock in the afternoon. How will You have the dish at such an odd time ?" Baba replied, "Whatever the time, I will have it."

Nanasaheb managed to find the cook and also to get the dish prepared. He placed it in a plate and took it to Baba. He requested Baba to consume it. To his surprise, Baba said, "Good ! I have had my share of *Puran Poli*. Now, take the plate back and have it yourself !" Nana said, "Baba, for your sake, I took all the trouble and got the dish prepared. You have not even touched the plate and are asking me to eat it instead ? What was the point in making me undertake all the pains ? I will not touch even a morsel unless and until You eat at least a small portion." Baba again repeated the same sentence - "I have had *Puran Poli*. Now you have it !" Nana was not convinced. He left the plate near Baba and went in a huff to *Chavdi*.

Which mother's heart will not be moved, if her child has not eaten anything in a fit of anger ? Sai-mauli asked Nana to come back. He again repeated, "I have eaten the *Poli*. Now, don't be stubborn and like a good child, have your food." Not convinced, Nana once again returned to *Chavdi*. Finally, Baba called him back and said, "Nana, did you not learn anything in the last 18 years that you have spent with me ? Am I only this mortal body that you see ? I come in the guise of anything - a fly, an ant or any other form - and eat what I want." Thereafter, Baba made a sign and said, "If you see this sign, understand that I have had my food."

Nana was now convinced. He happily went back and had the *Prasad* given by his *Guru-mauli*. Such were the ties of affection between the *Guru* and his disciple. Because of the strong bond, the *Guru* had revealed the secret sign to his follower.

(Contd.)

– Translated from original Marathi into English by Sudhir



YOU ARE THE ...

You are the sun of my heart of hearts
You are the moon of my heart of hearts
You the supreme of all the divine sorts
You are the one, yes, I constantly recite
Om Sai Shri Sai Jai Jai Sai !
Life, with vexing troubles when confront
You are there as omnipotent in the heart
You tame and break the evil shackles apart

Out of illusions, I grasp Your Lotus Feet.
Om Sai Shri Sai Jai Jai Sai !
Lo, *Samarth Sadguru* Sai, the compassionate
Your every ideal showers love as the ultimate
Let the fickle mind heed to His call passionate
And get rid of ego to reach His Celestial Fort.
Om Sai Shri Sai Jai Jai Sai !
Wipe the wishes with good *Karma, Dhyan, Bhakti*
Reach the corridors of Sai for a perpetual *Mukti*
Nothing remains except ash is the essence of *Dhuni*
O ignorant, know the truth. Seek the shelter of *Sai*
Om Sai Shri Sai Jai Jai Sai !

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FOLLOWING DEVOTEES ARE HONOURED WITH SAIBHAKTIPRASARBHUSHAN

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Let everything happen as per destiny; but may a loving devotion at Sai's Feet be eternal and may He dwell always in our heart and eyes. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 36, Verse 117)

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