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Teachings of Baba to reach across the world !



Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust (SSBST), Shirdi has commenced a training programme for *Poojaris* from Shri Sai temples across the

nation, where they are being inducted into the nuances of the rituals followed at Shirdi Sai Baba temple. This will result in the devotees feeling as if they are at Shirdi !

Shri Jayant Sasane, Chairman of SSBST also informed that SSBST has undertaken the pious work of ceremoniously taking Baba's *Padukas* to various places, thereby fulfilling the ardent desire of devotees who can't visit Shirdi. When the devotees come to take *Darshan* of the *Padukas* they will also be made available to several publications of SSBST.

There are plans to translate the publications of Sansthan in several languages for the benefit of devotees. Thus, Baba's teachings will reach the world to quench the spiritual thirst of the devotees, stated Shri Sasane.

Shri Sasane is also a renowned legislator from Shrirampur (Maharashtra), and is completing his five years term as the Chairman of SSBST. In an exclusive interview to 'Shri Sai Leela' magazine he recounted how Baba has guided him every step of the way.

When queried if he was satisfied with the work he did as the Chairman, he said, "The person who thinks of his work as duty, will never be satisfied; for me my duty is supreme and I have given myself totally to it. Moreover, as a Chairman of such a big organization in India, I cannot afford to become complacent. I will keep on serving this organization to the best of my ability in the times to come too."

There are plans for a permanent exhibition on the life and teachings of Baba, which a devotee could glimpse while waiting on the return journey from Shirdi, after he has already visited all the pious places like *Samadhi Mandir*, *Dwarkamai*, *Chavdi*, *Gurusthan*, etc. Answering on this issue, Shri Sasane said, "The project for a laser show on Sai Baba's life and teachings will commence at the end of the year. The approximate cost of the show will be Rs. 60 crores."

As the popularity of Baba is spreading, devotees are thronging to Shirdi in thousands, which at times creates chaos and discomfort; but while dealing with such concerns Shri Sasane said, “We have constantly upgraded the services like water and food provision, maintaining hygiene, etc. Five years ago we had *Darshan* lines to accommodate 20,000 devotees. We have again enhanced the capacity to accommodate 20,000 more devotees. But, as the number of devotees is on the rise, we are demolishing the old administrative building of the *Prasadalya* and creating Shiv Complex, where we could accommodate 50,000 devotees for *Darshan*. We are constantly working on improving services for the comfort of the devotees who visit Shirdi for Baba’s *Darshan*.”

“Another major development underway is to connect all the roads from all sides to reach Shirdi, thereby making it more accessible to devotees. In one and half years time, Shirdi will also be accessible through airplanes; thus ensuring that the devotees can comfortably reach Shirdi. I and all the trustees have constantly worked in tandem to provide the best of services to the community,” he added.

When queried, which is the most important teaching of Baba that he was touched by ? He said, “Baba’s teaching of ‘*Shraddha*’ and ‘*Saburi*’ has been the pillar of support in my personal, political and social life. This teaching gave me the strength to forebear whenever things didn’t go my way. My surrender to Baba and commitment to work has helped me enjoy success both in politics and in social life.”

When enquired about the experiences that he had during his tenure as the Chairman, he said, “I have come across several extraordinary experiences during the tenure. One of them being the golden throne for Baba, at one point of time there was controversy around it from a section of people; but when I look back today I realize that the desires of many devotees to see Baba on a golden throne has finally materialized. In Shri Sai Satcharita in Chapter 45, a devotee by the name Anandrao Pakhade has a vision, where he sees Baba sitting on a golden throne, which is studded with precious stones. Today, it seems as if that vision, which Baba had showed Anandrao, has manifested !”

Replying to why Baba’s *Padukas* are being taken to various places, Shri Sasane informed that this will benefit devotees who can’t travel to Shirdi, besides, working to unite communities. There is also a plan to organize Sai *Bhajans* at various places where Baba’s *Padukas* will go, thus, drenching the region with Sai bliss.

While answering to the query on the utilization of funds Shri Sasane said, “The funds come from Sai devotees and some of it is being utilized for providing medical and other services. Time and again, whenever a project is taken up to be executed by the Sansthan, a proper planning is done, so that the funds are optimally utilized.”

He informed that currently ‘Saileela’ magazine comes in Marathi and ‘Shri Sai Leela’ magazine comes in dual languages English- Hindi, and there are plans afoot to bring out the magazines in several Indian languages so as to reach Baba’s teachings to more people.

He added that the first managing trustees body was appointed by the government in 2004, as the time went by it became evident that in years to come the number of devotees thronging to Shirdi was on an ever-rise and this has resulted in the committee working to provide better and better services year after year. The devotees, the residents of Shirdi and the working force have co-operated the committee, which I expect will be so in the future.

– Penned by

Shamshaad Ali Baig

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The collyrium from one who has attained command over charms and spells shows the wealth that is buried under the earth to the one who is born with legs foremost (*Payalu*). Similarly, the dust from the *Guru*’s Feet gives the spiritual knowledge and scientific knowledge. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 37, Verse 80)

Blessed is the marvel of the stories of Sai ! Twice blessed are the effects of listening to them. One can experience one’s Real Self by meditation on them, which increases our devotion at Sai’s Feet. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 37, Verse 115)

Where those who are rich with knowledge are deceived, there the devotees can withstand *Maya*, because they are always surrendered at the Feet of the Lord, whereas the knowledgeable are proud of their knowledge. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 39, Verse 81)

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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. from the last issue)

O Sadguru Sai ! Now I bow down to eternally kiss Your **Padukas** (footwear) – both, the ‘**Used**’ and the ‘**Blessed**’ ones. ‘**Padukas**’ may be a pair of shoes or a pair of carved ‘footprints’.



O Baba ! By the ‘**Used Padukas**’, I mean those sacred leather slippers (footwear) on which Your Lotus Feet rested. Your Lotus Feet are supposed once to have trodden on the holy soil of Shirdi (http://www.saiananta.com/articles_given_1.html), and in the process, these ‘**Padukas**’ are all covered with the holy dust. O my Lord ! Let me kiss the Holy Sole of these ‘**Padukas**’ with my unholy lips once again to quench the thirst of my longing soul -

O Sadguru Sai !

I eternally kiss Your Used and Blessed Padukas...



O Baba ! ‘**Sai Museum**’ in Shirdi is a rich repository of all things associated with You. Kept under the maintenance of ‘**Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust**’, the Museum has some of Your most intimate and personal belongings, including the three pairs of the ‘**Padukas**’ worn by You. Devotees from across the world visit this Museum. Your ‘**Padukas**’ (leather footwear) are occasionally kept for *Darshan* in *Samadhi Mandir* at Shirdi. O Sai ! On one such occasion, it was gratifying to me to have the opportunity to kiss the sole of these slippers to the envy of all my fellow-devotees flocking around Your *Samadhi* at that moment of time. The kiss provided me with

the same thrill of rapture that Hemadpant had experienced after he drank the butter-milk offered to him by Your Divine Hands. (**Shri Sai Satcharita, Chapter 38**)

O Sadguru Sai !

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

O Sadguru Sai !

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



O Baba ! By the '**Blessed *Padukas***', I mean those sacred '***Padukas***' that are sanctified with the celestial touch either by Your Holy Hands or Your Big Toes, but not **actually used** by You to give rest to Your Lotus Feet.

In 1913, one of Your devotees Atmaram Haribhau Chaubal, went to Shirdi for Your *Darshan*. He had with him a pair of silver '***Padukas***' that he got specially minted in Mumbai. You took these '***Padukas***' in Your hands and remarked "How beautiful !". Then You inserted Your two Big Toes in these '***Padukas***'. At that moment of time You appeared to have been greatly ecstatic and said, "How nice they look ! Take them and keep them in your *Pooja* room and regularly worship them." Accordingly, Atmaram installed these '***Padukas***' on a low wooden stool in his *Pooja* room. He felt great poise within himself that he was worshipping the '***Padukas***' quite satisfactorily according to the promise given to You. In 1930, one day he got up early to have *Darshan* of the '***Padukas***'. To his great dismay, he found one of the '***Padukas***' was missing. He searched under the stool and everywhere in the *Pooja* room; but all in vain. It deeply disturbed him. However, he continued the worship of the other '***Paduka***'. Much to his shock, the other '***Paduka***' was also found missing a couple of months later. Now Atmaram went to Mumbai to have a replacement; but failed to arrange one. Although he returned home and tried his best to contend himself with just the worship of Your photo. Atmaram constantly remained uneasy for having lost the '***Padukas***', so fondly sanctified by the touch of the Big Toes of Your Lotus Feet. O Baba ! Thy ways are indeed inscrutable... One fine morning when Atmaram entered the *Pooja* room for the daily worship, he could not believe himself. Lo ! He found the missing '***Padukas***' neatly placed under the wooden stool, as if they were always there !

O Sadguru Sai !

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



O Baba ! May I humbly request You to recall that once Kakasaheb Dixit wanted to keep Your '**Padukas**' in his **Dev Ghar** ? He, therefore, got one pair of '**Padukas**' carved out of **Shisham** wood, and requested You to touch that pair and give it back to him after infusing Your blessings in it. O **Sadguru** ! You did as per Your devotee's wishes. Moreover, O Sai ! You also gave Kakasaheb Dixit a set of miniature silver '**Padukas**' kept in a small silver **Dabbi** (casket) which had the carving of Lord Hanuman's image on the cover top. As per Your instructions, Kaka used to always carry these '**Padukas**' in his pocket. These wooden and silver '**Padukas**' are still with the 'Kakasaheb Dixit Trust'.

O Baba ! Dwarkamai is a mosque where You spent about 60 years of Your life in Shirdi. In Dwarkamai alone, there are five sets of '**Padukas**', symbolizing and signifying Your presence. In front of the portrait is a pair of silver '**Padukas**'.

Just behind the cooking area, in the Masjid, is the place where You would stand, usually before going to Lendi, leaning against the mud wall. You would call out to villagers in a friendly way - "How are you ?" "How's the crop coming along ?" "How are your children doing ?" Following Your **Mahasamadhi**, a pair of '**Padukas**' was installed in this spot and a small shrine placed over them. In the wall above is a smaller set of '**Padukas**' where You are said to have leaned Your arm.

O Sai ! Near the **Dhuni**, where You used to sit, yet another set of '**Padukas**' is installed. The fifth pair of silver '**Padukas**' adorns the black stone kept at the right side of the entrance of the Dwarkamai.

O Sadguru Sai !

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

O Sadguru Sai !

I eternally kiss Your Used and Blessed Padukas...

O Baba ! You first manifested Yourself, for the sake of Your **Bhaktas**, under the Neem tree as a young lad of sixteen. In commemoration of Your first visit to Shirdi, devotees installed '**Padukas**' there. The '**Padukas**' were brought in a solemn ceremony, with musical instruments playing, on the full moon day in the month of **Shravan** in 1912. On that day, at 11 00 a. m., Shri G. K. Dixit (not to be confused with H. S. 'Kakasaheb' Dixit) carried the '**Padukas**' on his head from Khandoba temple to Dwarkamai before their installation. You blessed the '**Padukas**' with the words - "**These are the Lotus Feet of the Lord**". The Sai Mahima written by Upasani Baba was also carved there :-

"Sada Nimbavrikshasya mooladhivasat,

Sudhastavinam tiktamapya-priyam tam,

Tarum Kalpavrikshadhikam sadhayantam

Namameeshwaram Sadgurum Sai Natham”

“I bow to Lord Sainath, Who by His constant stay at the foot of the Neem tree – which although bitter and unpleasant, was yet oozing nectar – made it better than the wish-fulfilling tree. I bow to Lord Sainath, Who always takes delight in resting under the Neem tree and bestowing material and spiritual prosperity upon His devotees who lovingly attend on Him.”)

The above ‘*Padukas*’ were broken with a huge stone within a few months after their installation by one Martand, a whimsical *Brahmin*. O Baba ! Your devotees were greatly distressed. They, believing it augured ill, asked You, whether new ‘*Padukas*’ should be installed in place of the broken ones. O Sai ! You, however, took the matter casually and told them simply to repair the cracks with cement and undertake a poor-feeding. Accordingly, about two to three hundred people were fed as a part of the *Shanti* ceremony. In fact, the broken ‘*Padukas*’ were later replaced and the originals are said to be in the pedestal underneath.

O Sai, Please raise those original ‘*Padukas*’ above the pedestal and let me apply the cement of my *Bhakti* to heal the cracks !

O Sadguru Sai !

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

O Sadguru Sai !

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

O Sai ! These days Your ‘*Padukas*’ are being carried all across the country. In fact, the ‘*Padukas*’ are brought out of the state of Maharashtra 90 years after You gained ‘*Samadhi*’ in 1918. Devotees consider themselves fortunate enough to have the glimpse of the ‘*Padukas*’, which are one amongst the three pairs worn by You. Undoubtedly, Your ‘*Padukas*’ are the ones which support and sustain the welfare of the three worlds.

O Sadguru Sai !

I earnestly invite my fellow-devotees to join me when -

O Sadguru Sai !

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

O Sadguru Sai !

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

- Dr. Subodh Agarwal

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Mmm

FOLLOWING DEVOTEES ARE HONOURED WITH

SAIBHAKTIPRASARBHUSHAN

Shri Devnathrao Sadashivrao Charjan Karajgaon (Bahiram), Tal. Chandur Bazar,
Dist. Amaravati, Maharashtra State. 64 Annual Members

Shri Santosh Devnathrao Charjan Paratwada, Tal. Achalpur, Dist. Amaravati, Maharashtra
State.

64 Annual Members + 1 Life Member

Dr. Yogesh Devnathrao Charjan Paratwada, Tal. Achalpur, Dist. Amaravati,
Maharashtra State. 72 Annual Members

Therefore, to overcome *Maya*, take refuge at the *Sadguru's* Feet and whole heartedly surrender to him. The fear of the worldly existence disappears immediately. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 39, Verse 82)

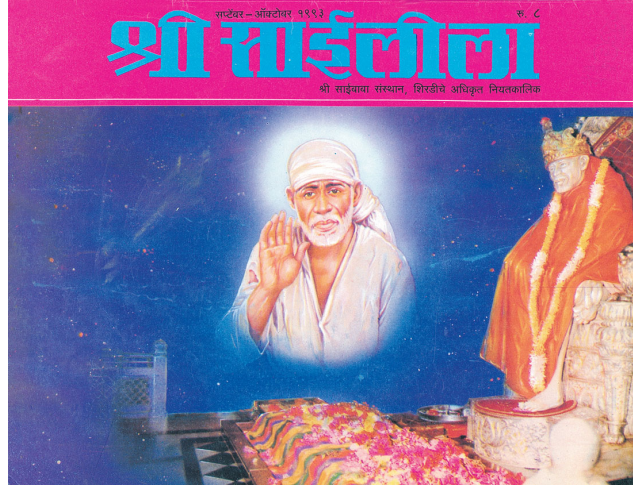
Always practise truth; listen to the stories about the saints; bow down at the Feet of the saints. Sins will be washed away. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 18, Verse 26)

Therefore, knowledge is not possible to be obtained without a *Guru*. All the learned men are aware of this that the capable Feet of the *Guru* can solve the mystery of the *Brahman* and the *Atman*. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 17, Verse 140)

Whatever be the condition, good or bad, the body must do its duties as destined. But, introvert your senses towards the *Guru's* Feet with all the love. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 41, Verse 13)

But he, who is devoutly attached to a saint's Feet and who has the purpose of *Darshan* in his mind, then the saint and even God fulfils his desire. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 30, Verse 45)

Back



Experiences of Sai Maharaj

Experiences recorded by late hon. Hari Sitaram Dixit :-

(3)

Once, when Sai Maharaj was having His food, a dog put his mouth in a mug of buttermilk. Fakir Baba, who happened to be nearby noticed this and asked a boy to throw the buttermilk away. As he was about to do so, Sai asked, "What is it?" When Fakir Baba narrated, what had happened, Sai said, "Bapu, the buttermilk is good. Take it home and make 'Kadhi'. We shall eat it." Of course, Fakir Baba followed His instructions and later Sai ate the *Kadhi*.

(4)

Bapuji Shastri Gulavi arrived for Baba's *Darshan* in February 1918. He had brought holy water from the Ganga, with which *Abhishek* for Baba was duly performed.

After the ritual, Shastriji asked for permission to go to Sajjangad for *Ramdas Navami*. Sai blessed him and said, "I am there as I am here." Shastriji went to Sajjangad. There, on *Ramdas Navami* day, at 5.00 am in the morning, Baba gave *Darshan* to Shastriji and even let him press His (Baba's) feet. Then He disappeared in thin air.

(5)

When Rao Bahadur Sathe's *Wada* was under construction, they thought a tree might be obtruding and asked Baba's permission to cut it. Baba said, "Why should we cut the tree?" Later, when a major portion of the building was complete, a part of the tree was obtruding and so Baba was asked again. He said, "If it is jutting out, cut off only that part which is coming in the way".

(6)

A devotee of Sai was burdened with debt. The money-lender had brought an injunction against him.

The devotee had no money at that time, but he had property. But, the money-lender was unwilling to wait.

At that time some devotees decided to carry out a *Naam Saptaha* in front of Sai's photo. The devotee agreed happily. The money-lender took this opportunity to send a bailiff to his

home with a warrant for possession. The *Naam Saptaha* was on. The devotee went to the money-lender and said, “Okay. Take whatever you want. It is Lord Sai’s will to empty the place for our celebration. Whatever happens is according to Sai Baba’s wishes.” The money-lender had a change of heart when he heard this and he cancelled the warrant and never enforced it again.

Shri Sai Leela, Year I, Paush Shaké 1845 / Vol. V Translated into English by

Jyoti Ranjan Raut

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Attaining the Feet of the *Guru* is greater than attaining salvation which is the highest goal of life. Drinking the *Tirth* of such a *Guru* will bring salvation imperceptibly. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 45, Verse 2)

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IS BABA LIVING AND HELPING NOW ?

Compiled by : **Jyoti Ranjan Raut**

How Sai Baba Blessed Me...

I passed the old SSC exam in 1974-75. As my parents wished me to work, I took up a job at a petrol pump in Dhule. Unfortunately, one day a driver deceived me and I lost my job.

Meanwhile, I received a calendar with Sai's picture on it in a shop. I liked it and took it home. Thus Sai Baba entered our house. I became a Sai devotee since that day and will remain one till my death.

After I lost my job, I was jobless for five to six years. I kept praying to Baba for a good job and promised to keep serving Him and chanting His name. Baba fulfilled my wish and I got a job in the Public Works Department as an assistant to the Civil Engineer in Shahapur in November 1981.

Today I am working as an assistant to the Civil Engineer in Dhule and have completed 27 years of service. By the Grace of Sai, I have one daughter who is married and two sons studying engineering. I have had a happy family life, thanks to Sai's Blessings.

– **P. B. Patil**

87, Sai Nivas, Ganesh Colony,
Sakri Road, Dhule.



How dogs bark at the Final call of every *Aarati* !...

Sai Baba's *Leelas* are infinite. He has not only helped in the upliftment of humans but also of animals and birds. We read this in the literature on Sai. When Sai was in the living body, many animals used to collect around Him. Baba fed them with love and compassion. The animals too listened to His orders. Hemadpant has mentioned in the Shri Sai Satcharita how Baba brought food and kept it in a pot in the *Masjid*. The cats, dogs and crows ate from it; but Baba never shooed them away. When Babasaheb Tarkhad wondered if Baba Himself came in the guise of various animals, Baba said, "Sometimes a dog, sometimes a pig, sometimes a cow or a cat, ant, fly or marine animal, I move in various forms." This is true even after Baba has taken *Samadhi*.

People of MIG Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Bandra (East), Mumbai, have been experiencing this wonder for years. More than a decade ago, first a female and then a male dog sought refuge in the premises of the Sai Temple opposite the MIG Club, and stayed for ever. People called them Rani and Raja. The temple committee fed them every day.

The story of Rani is touching. She never left the premises and always sat on the topmost step of the temple. She never tried to enter the temple, but took Baba's *Darshan* from her position. Before dying, her movements were unforgettable. It was a Thursday. She circumambulated the temple eleven times and for the first time she entered the temple and circumambulated the inner sanctum three times. She stepped out of the temple, descended the steps, went to a corner in front of the temple and breathed her last.

After some days another female dog came to stay in the premises. She too was named Rani in memory of the earlier one. Raja died in an accident. Subsequently two more dogs joined Rani.

In the temple, *Dhoop Aarati* takes place everyday and *Kakad Aarati* – Madhyanha *Aarati - Dhoop Aarati* are held during the Festivals. Every time “*Anant koti Brahmand Nayak Rajadhiraj Yogiraj Parabrahma Shri Sachchidanand Sadguru Sainath Maharaj ki Jai*” is chanted after the *Aarati* is over, the dogs arrive from wherever they are and start barking loudly !

Till today, they have never hurt anyone. They accept the *Prasad* given by the devotees after the *Aarati* with great joy.

– Maruti Laxman Kadam

Temple Attendant

Then, with excellent experience, observe how the *Guru* takes care of the welfare of his devotee, ceaselessly, with love for the *Guru* in your heart. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 41, Verse 14)

Controlling the mind utterly, root out the intellect. Try to become totally detached and continue to gaze at the Feet of the *Guru*. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 32, Verse 34)

Back

In Sai's Proximity

– Mrs. Mugdha Divadkar NANASAHEB CHANDORKAR

YATRA to HARISCHANDRAGAD

This an event which took place during the early days - when Nanasaheb was the secretary of the collector for Nagar district. He planned a trip to Harishchandragad along with his colleagues from his office. It was summer and they were going to find it difficult to climb the mountain. Amongst the colleagues, there was Khirvandikar – a very polite person, but also very forthright in what he said. He said, “Nanasaheb, please excuse my saying so ! But, these are the days of summer. The path to Harishchandragad is steep and difficult. On the way, not a drop of water will be available. Therefore, I suggest that the programme be postponed for the time being.”

But, Nanasaheb was not convinced by, what he was told and decided to go ahead with the plan. On the appointed day, they began climbing the mountain. The group somehow managed to complete half the journey. But, Nanasaheb was restless because of thirst. He said to Khirvandikar, “Do something, but give me some water to drink ! Without that, I would not be able to take even a single step ahead.” Saying this, he almost gave up and sat down on a boulder. Khirvandikar took a look around. But, there was no trace of water around. He also could not spot any human being, who could have guided them in finding water. Nanasaheb was very adamant – he did not wish to give up the remaining journey nor was he in position to take even one additional step to complete it.

Nanasaheb began reciting Baba's name. Suddenly, he spotted a *Bhilla* carrying a load of firewood on his head. Nanasaheb pleaded with him to give him some water. “Can I get some water from nearby ?” The *Bhilla* replied, “Oh, there is water below the rock on which you are sitting !” People from the group moved the rock and found that there was water steaming under it. The water was clean, cold and sweet and sufficient to satisfy everyone's thirst. Now they began searching for the *Bhilla* to thank him. But, he was nowhere to be seen and had quietly disappeared. Seeing this, Nanasaheb said, “See this miracle of my Baba. Did He not provide me water, where I was sitting ? I was not required to go anywhere for it.” Everyone was a witness to this miracle.

At exactly the same time, in Shirdi, Baba had grown uneasy. He started telling the devotees, who had gathered around Him “Nana is restless. My Nana is tired because of thirst. Someone must give him water.” The devotees were unable to understand the meaning of Baba's utterances. Some of them even thought that Nanasaheb's life was in danger. A few days later, Nanasaheb came to Shirdi as per his usual practice. Baba immediately enquired, “Nana, did you get water ?” Nanasaheb was moved with this and tears of joy started streaming through his eyes. Those present now, understood the meaning of Bab's earlier utterances.

EXPERIENCE of PADMALAYA

In East Khandesh, around 8-10 miles from Pachora, there is a beautiful place called ‘Padmalaya’ on a hillock near Erandole. It is one of the places of Maha Ganapati !

A *Brahmin Sat Purush* by the name Govindbua single handedly restored and reerected the Ganpati temple. A trader of cotton donated some money to Govindbua for the restoration. The amount was spent on the foundation of the temple building. Govindbua personally supervised all aspects of the restoration – right from supervising the work of labourers to making the *Kalas*. The *Kalas* weighs around 100 *Tolas*. But, personally visited Mumbai and got it made.

People said that there was no dearth of money for Bua and under his mattress there was always sufficient money. He always looked after the needs of his guests. But, for himself, only a glass of milk twice a days was sufficient. In this manner, Bua did a kind of *Tapascharya* and successfully restored the temple.

At that time, Nanasaheb had become a *Mamledar* of one of the talukas in Khandesh. He got an urge to visit the temple and take the Ganapati *Darshan*.

As planned, Nanasaheb and his group embarked on the journey to the temple. They had even hired a *Tanga* to collect them from the railway station. However, it so happened that the train got delayed, *Tangewala* waited for this group and ultimately went away.

There was no other alternative, but to walk to the temple. The road was in a bad condition and Nanasaheb was not used to walking a distance of 8-10 miles. There was another serious difficulty. If they resorted to walking, by the time they reach the temple, it would be past 10 pm and Bua would have proceeded to his *Mathee* after completing his *Pooja* etc. Thus, no food would be available when they reach the temple.

The party ultimately proceeded to the temple. They managed to walk for sometime, took some rest and then proceeded further. Nanasaheb was extremely tired. He started praying to Baba. He said, "Baba, I am exhausted. By the time we manage to reach the temple, no food would be available for us. I crave for at least a cup of tea!"

When the group reached the temple, it was really past 10 pm. Their surprise had no limits when they saw Govindbua. He was welcoming them and in his hand, there was a vessel containing hot tea. Govindbua said "Welcome Nanasaheb!" Nana enquired, "Bua, I am surprised to see you at this late hour in the temple." Govindbua replied, "I got a wireless message from Sai Baba. He said 'My Nana and others are coming. They have walked quite a distance and extremely tired. Make tea in a large vessel!' And here I am waiting for you with tea."

Sun Eclipse

On the day of Sun eclipse, Nanasaheb and his family members were in Shirdi. With Baba's permission, they went to Kopargaon to take bath in the holy river of Godavari. While taking bath, a person approached them and asked for donation (*Daan*). Nanasaheb gave him two coins.

At that time in Shirdi, Baba showed two similar coins to Nandram Marwadi and said, "See. These were given to me by Nana."

DARSHAN of BANNUMAI

Nanasaheb was basically pious by nature and in Baba's company, he became more so. Because of this he craved more and more for the *Darshan* of various *Sadhu - Sant*.

This is an incident, which took place when Nanasaheb was the secretary of the collector of Nagar.

There was a *Dnyani, Mahasadhvi, Mahavirakta* Muslim virgin lady, who resided in village Bodhegaon in Nagar district. Her ways of living were not like those of a normal person. She had made her abode outside the village amongst bushes of Cactus and other thorny growths, such as Babhul. Sometimes she came to the village to see her mother. As quickly as she used to appear in the village, she used to vanish with equal speed. She was not conscious whether she was wearing any clothes or not. Many times the villagers spotted her running helter skelter amongst wild trees and thorny bushes. She did not pay any attention to the wounds made by the thorns. Majority of the villagers considered her to be mad.

Nanasaheb heard stories about this lady and developed a strong urge to avail the *Darshan* of the *Mahasadhvi*. He conveyed his desire, explained the difficulties in fulfilling to Baba and asked

His permission. Baba said, “Nana, why do you crave for the *Darshan* of any other person now ? Don’t you have everything here itself ?”

But, Nanasaheb was adamant. Ultimately, Baba said, “Go ! You will have the *Darshan*.” Nanasaheb’s assistant Khirvandikar always accompanied him everywhere. Through him, Nanasaheb arranged to collect articles such as *Pat* (a wooden plank to be used for sitting), *Rangoli*, a *Saree*, *Haldi - Kumkum*, *Mangalsutra* and things required for taking bath. Both of them embarked on the journey to village Bodhegaon. First, on enquiring in the temple, they came to know that Bannumai stayed in the jungle. Nanasaheb started searching for her there. His pursuit went on for a long time and his body got pricked with thorns. Ultimately, he became disappointed and disheartened. He prayed to Baba and asked Him - “If I was not to get the *Darshan*, why did You deceive me that I will get it ? Now I have decided to be adamant. I will not move from here till I get the *Darshan*.” Saying so, he opened his eyes and there stood before him Bannumai without any clothes on !

(contd.)

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When the devotee is humbly surrendered at his Feet, the execution of his auspicious work is accomplished without his knowledge. Inconceivable are the deeds of the saints. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 40, Verse 104)

Those who are fed up with the worldly existence and have surrendered at the Feet of the Lord, the knots of their attachment are loosened and the hold of ignorance is removed. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 31, Verse 43)

For him who seeks the Feet of the *Guru*, there is not the slightest difficulty. The profound meaning reveals itself very naturally to him. (Shri Sai Sat Charita, Chapter 20, Verse 22)

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