

REMINISCENCE

Shri Ram! Jai Ram! Jai Jai Ram!

Why did Shri Sai Baba encourage people to commence Ram Navami, the Festival of Shri Ram's Birthday?
What did He expect from His devotees and the common people by celebrating this Festival?

Shri Ramchandra was a model human being – kind, just, brave, laudable man - a great *Avatar*. He was the epitome of what an ideal king, son, friend, husband should be and this is well illustrated in His life story - The Ramayan.

Ram *Nam* has been chanted since time immemorial and Ram has been the perfect Hero. The benefits of Ram *Nam* are unbelievable.

Shri Sai Baba's Vision

Of all the festivals started by Shri Sai Baba in Shirdi, Ram Navami is important; because it presents, what an idyllic life should be. People should emulate Ram's truthfulness, His sense of justice, His remaining true to His word, the way He bore all His troubles cheerfully like a brave-heart and came out of them unscathed.

The entire life of Shri Ramchandra from childhood to the end of His life is blemish free. His life story guides us as to how we should face our troubles and live our life with dignity.

It is the vision behind Shri Sai Baba beginning this festival.

The Great ideals of Shri Ramchandra

By writing the biography of the venerable Lord Ram – the epic Ramayan – the sage Valmiki has permanently shown the path of righteous living to the citizens of this country.

Let us now see, what lessons we can learn from this incomparably glorious epic.

The life of man is not simple. The circle of birth-life-death is not just a routine to be gone through somehow or the other. Life is a difficult Vrat. It is a hard Tapasya and to do this well is the fulfilment of life.

So, many pleasant hopes and aspirations keep coming to our mind. But, many a time we have to suppress them; because of our commitment to duty towards someone or other.

We sometimes have to give up a happy life for a difficult one full of troubles. Sometimes we have to put our own dear ones to hardships to fulfil our duty. This is the essence of the Ramayan.

Why is Shri Ram great? It is because, He set a great example of how He put aside His own happiness for the sake of duty. He even had to send His dear wife away, nay sacrifice her life for it.

The Greatness of Shri Ramchandra

Look at any aspect of Shri Ram's life - His devotion to his father and mother, love for His wife, affection for His brothers, friends or His subjects, you will find a beacon of light guiding you. Shri Ram has excelled on all counts.

Shri Ram never assumed that life was meant to be lived lavishly. He lived austerely and faced both happy and sad events in His life with equanimity. He never fell short of mark anywhere. Every event was dealt with poise, patience and brilliance.

His sense of justice prevailed in spite of His love for His wife or brother. Duty came before love, and He lived a life of fulfilment committed to His duty.

What a Ruler should be

Ramayan describes, what an ideal ruler should be. We imagine, a king to be living a rich and extravagant life. This is because, people have not forgotten the exploitation, they were subjected to, so that their rulers could live extravagantly. Today, the kings have lost their kingdoms after the independence of India, but people can only remember the lavish lifestyle of the erstwhile kings.

When Gandhiji spoke of Ram-Rajya, he wanted the people to live a perfect life, like in the days of Ram's rule.

What is it that Ram did which makes Him an iconic king?

It was His behaviour that showed the people that they would not be exploited to provide for His luxuries. The king would protect and care for the welfare of his subjects. His subjects came first and his family later. His family could face hardships for the sake of his subjects.

All his wealth and resources were for the benefit of his people and to make them happy and content was his Dharma, believed Shri Ram. Thus Ram-Rajya has become an eternal ideal.

He did not make the people toil for the benefit of the throne; but thought that a just king ought to understand the miseries of His subjects and try to alleviate them. This made them worship their king like God. This was the Ram-Rajya which Gandhiji envisioned for the people of India.

Today, it is just a distant dream. Nowhere is there a semblance of any Ram-Rajya. If indeed it does materialise, people will be singing to the glory of the rulers!

With the aim to make people aware, what a Ram-Rajya could be and to goad them to live a pious, clean, non-corrupt life, Sai Baba introduced the Ram Navami Utsav - The Festival to celebrate the Birthday of Shri Ram.

P. B. Kulkarni

Shri Sai Leela, Year 38, April 1960, Issue 1

Translated from Marathi into English
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Shirdi Sai Baba

The Confluence of Shaivism and Vaishnavism

Rameshwaram is a town in Ramanathapuram district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is located on Pamban Island separated from mainland India by the Pamban channel and is about 50 kilometres from Mannar Island, Sri Lanka. Pamban Island, also known as Rameshwaram Island, is connected to mainland India by the Pamban Bridge.

Lord Ram is believed to have worshipped Lord Shiva at Rameshwaram, and hence, Rameshwaram is considered to be one of the holiest places in India and a bridge between Lord Shiva and Lord Ram, between Shaivites and Vaishnavites. In fact, Lord Shiva and Lord Ram are one and the same and both (Harihara) are part of same Omkar.



Sai Baba is Ram Incarnation for devotees who believed Him to be Lord Ram. Sai Baba is Shiva Incarnation for devotees who believed Him to be Lord Shiva. Lord Ram and Lord Shiva amalgamated into one single boundless, eternal and immutable icon, namely, Shirdi Sai Baba. Shirdi Sai Baba too marks the confluence of Shaivism and Vaishnavism, and is thus revered by both Shaivites and Vaishnavites alike.

One staunch Sai devotee who had permanently stationed himself at Shirdi was Megha. He was a passionate devotee of Lord Shiva, and Baba knew about it. Baba had, therefore, once gifted him the *Lingam* of Lord Shiva, so that he could perform his daily worship of his Lord.



Of course, Megha used to consider Baba as his Lord Shankar; and Baba had, therefore, allowed him to draw the *Trishul* (trident) on His forehead as was desired by Megha. On one *Makar Sankranti* day, Megha developed a fervent desire of giving a bath to Baba with Gangajal i.e. water of Godavari River.

He, therefore, started convincing Baba to allow him to do so many days in advance, as he knew that Baba would not accede to such a request so easily. Finally, after a lot of persuasion, Baba agreed to grant Megha the desire of his heart. Megha was very happy.

On the eve of *Makar Sankranti* day, Megha left Shirdi with a *kalashi* (metal vessel) to arrange Gangajal from Godavari River.



him. Judging Megha's persistence, Baba finally agreed on one condition.

Baba explained to him that the Ganga emanates from Lord Shiva's head and hence, He will bend forward and then Megha should pour the water over His head only. Megha feigned agreement to this rider.

Baba bent His head slightly forward and signaled Megha to get his desire fulfilled. Megha started pouring water over Baba's head very slowly, but suddenly emptied the vessel with the remaining water on all over Baba's body saying "Har Har Gange!". He was very jubilant and started dancing with ecstasy, and chanted, "All glories to my Shiva Sai."

Megha soon realized that although he had poured water all over Baba's body, only His head was wet and rest of His body was as dry as ever. Megha couldn't believe his eyes. Baba, to make Megha realize that He was his Living Lord Shiva, told him, "Megha! You know the Ganga flows out of Lord Shiva's head and does not touch rest of His body." [Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 28](#)

In fact, Shirdi Sai Baba was the human incarnation of Lord Shiva of Kailash - the same Shiva in the human form of Sai Baba.

For the good of the world, Lord Shiva stopped the poison in his throat and suffered for the sake of others. Likewise, Baba averted the death of His two devotees - Ramachandra Dada Patil and Tatyia Kote Patil and offered His body instead. [Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 42](#)

G. S. Khaparde was a leading advocate of Amraoti. Having associated in the freedom movement, he travelled far and wide in the country. And, in the midst of his wanderings, he came to Shirdi. On the day of his arrival at Shirdi, Baba told him, "This is your house. You can stay here fearlessly. When I am here as your protector, you can stay here fearlessly. When I am here as your protector, you need not fear anything."

It would, in fact, be quite interesting to recall that, once, Mrs. Khaparde was staying at Shirdi with her younger son. One day the son got high fever, which further developed into Bubonic plague. The mother became quite upset and felt most nervous. She thought of leaving Shirdi for Amraoti, and went near Baba to seek His permission. Baba spoke softly to her, saying that the sky was beset with clouds; but they would melt and pass off and everything would be smooth and clear. So saying, He lifted up His *kafni* up to the waist and showed to all present, four fully developed bubos, as big as eggs, and added, "See, how I have to suffer for my devotees; their difficulties are mine." ([Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 7](#)) Seeing this unique and extraordinary act (*Leela*), the people were convinced that Sai Baba was the Lord Shiva "Who accepted to drink the poison" and Himself suffered for the sake of His devotees.

The sacred Godavari River, which has its source a few kilometers away from nearby Nasik, flows not far from Shirdi. He was back in Shirdi before noon with the Gangajal. After the noon *Aarati* Megha requested Baba to come for the bathing ceremony. Baba again insisted that Megha should pour the sacred Gangajal over the *Lingam* of Lord Shiva in the Shiva Temple in Shirdi. Megha clarified that he was bathing the *Lingam* daily in the Shiva Temple. However, he considers Baba as his living Lord Shiva, and *Makar Sankranti* day being the most auspicious day for all Shiva *bhaktas* (devotees) Baba should not disappoint

Not only that, but Baba showed Himself as Ram to several of His devotees, which proves the fact that Baba was Lord Ram.

One Ramachandra Atmaram Tarkhad alias Babasaheb Tarkhad from Bandra (Mumbai) was a follower of Prarthana Samaj (an off-shoot of *Brahma Samaj* founded by Raja Ramamohan Roy in Bengal those days) and did not believe in idol-worship, going on pilgrimages and visiting saints and sages. But, later the same Babasaheb Tarkhad not only became a staunch devotee of Shirdi Sai Baba, but after Sai Baba attaining *Mahasamadhi*, took an active part in establishing Shri Sai Baba Sansthan on a firm footing. He was the first treasurer of the Sansthan. He further went on to publish the Shri Sai Leela magazine and had written the preface for the very first issue of the magazine. This transformation in his life and views was due to his devotional wife and youngest son Jyotindra.

Once, Mrs. Tarkhad and her son Jyotindra visited Shirdi to have Sai Baba's *Darshan*, and had many experiences which are not found in Shri Sai Satcharita. Jyotindra Tarkhad has given a good account of his live experiences with Sai Baba, which his son Virendra Tarkhad scribed in his seminal book, "Live Experiences of the Tarkhad Family with Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi." One such experience is given below, which proves the fact that Baba is Lord Ram :-

There was a weird devotee of Sai Baba by the name of Nanavali. Sometimes he used to tie the pieces of cloth to his trousers at the back forming a long tail and then he used to jump like a monkey. He frequently used to do monkey tricks to amuse the children of Shirdi. According to Jyotindra Tarkhad, Nanavali was the one who was the dearest of all devotees to Lord Sai. Sai Baba and Nanavali were like a pair of Lord Ram and His ardent devotee Lord Hanuman. Nanavali once asked Baba to allow him to sit on His *aasan* (seat), and Baba readily agreed. Everybody was amazed to watch that Nanavali had the cheek to ask Baba to vacate His *aasan* (seat). Nanavali sat for a while on the seat and then got up saying, "Oh my Lord! No other person other than You is competent to occupy this seat, and Your lotus feet are my only refuge, and I place my faith in You." Then Baba sat on His *aasan* and Nanavali fell at His feet and went away.

Of course, the reason why Jyotindra Tarkhad used to suppose Baba and Nanavali as an equivalent pair of Lord Ram and Hanuman was different :-

Once, Nanavali said to Jyotindra Tarkhad, "Come on with me, and I'll show you some fun." He then took Jyotindra to *Chavadi* which was just a little distance away from Dwarkamai. At that time, Baba was sitting there in *Chavadi*. In no time Nanavali reduced his size and made himself so small that he could fit in one of the *handis* (glass bowls which are tied with small ropes and hung onto the ceiling of the *Chavadi*) and then literally jumped up and went and sat up in a *handi*. Like a monkey he was sitting in the *handi* and teasing Jyotindra Tarkhad. Tarkhad was astonished to see that act. It was unbelievable. It was nothing short of a miracle. How could Nanavali with that mass of his body jump so high and make himself small enough to sit in that *handi*! It was simply amazing and incredible. Jyotindra Tarkhad then realized that Sai Baba and Nanavali were the *Avatars* (Incarnations) of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman respectively in Shirdi.

In yet another instance, a Madrasi Bhajan Mandali (troupe), while on their way to the holy city of Benares, came to Shirdi to have *Darshan* of Sai Baba. The troupe sang very good *bhajan* lyrics; but, at the same time, all members of the troupe - except the chief lady - were avaricious and wanted to extract money from Baba. The chief lady had a great regard and affection for Baba. Hence, Baba decided to give *Darshan* to her as her *Ishta Daivat* (Favourite Deity) Lord Ram. As the noon *aarati* was going on, she saw her Beloved Deity Lord Ram in place of Sai Baba. She felt immensely happy and tears flowed from her eyes. While all the others saw only Sai Nath there, the lady alone had *sakshatkar* (realization of God) of Lord Ram because of her true devotion. **Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 29**

The story given below too supports the view that Lord Sai is Lord Ram :-

A doctor once came to Shirdi along with his friend - the Mamlatdar. The doctor disclosed his resolve and his determination to the Mamlatdar. He announced that he would not bow to anybody else other than his *Ishta Daivat* (Favourite Deity) Lord Ram. The Mamlatdar and the doctor went inside the Dwarkamai-*Masjid* to have

Baba's *Darshan*. The doctor stood at a distance from the *aarati* proceedings. Then, he just suddenly changed his mind and fell at the feet of Sai Baba. The Mamlatdar was astonished and asked the doctor, the cause of changing his decision. The doctor replied that he ran and bowed to Him as Sai Baba appeared to him as Lord Ram. **Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 12**

The above instances endorse that Sai Baba is Ram Incarnation for devotees who believed Him to be Lord Ram. Sai Baba is Shiva Incarnation for devotees who believed Him to be Lord Shiva. In Sai Baba, Lord Ram and Lord Shiva amalgamated into one single boundless, eternal and immutable image, and marked the confluence of **Shaivism** and **Vaishnavism**.

- Dr. Subodh Agarwal

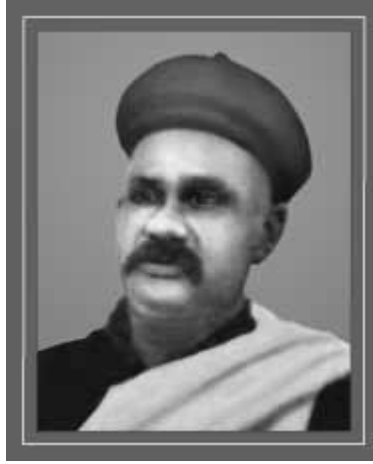
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In Sai's Proximity



RAOBAHADUR SATHE

Guidance from Baba

Sathe writes :-

“Baba’s spiritual guidance taught me that I should not be egoistic. I should not have false pride and should not try to throw my weight around. I should not entertain any evil thoughts to enter my mind.”

Following Baba’s guidance, Sathe financially helped many religious, spiritual and social causes. He even gave Rs. 75 (a very large sum in those days) to help Dasganu in printing his book ‘Sant Kathamrut’.

Audumbar tree

In 1916, at Kothrud near Pune, Sathe’s some servants from *Mang* community had put up tents. They had tied the ropes to a tree which turned out to be an Audumbar tree. The tree is considered to be auspicious and a place of Lord Datta. Sathe was not aware of these details.

In a few days thereafter, untoward and inauspicious events began taking place. Sathe looked into the matter and came to know, what had inadvertently happened. Sathe conveyed the facts to Baba. He appeared in Sathe’s dream and said, ‘Get the Audumbar tree sanctified and install the *Padukas* (replica of feet) of Lord Datta under it with full fanfare and religious ceremony.’ Sathe followed Baba’s directions and even employed a *Brahmin* to perform regular *Pooja* there.

Sathe's odd ways

Once, while residing in Shirdi, Sathe had a difference of opinion with his father-in-law Dada Kelkar. After this, Sathe wanted to celebrate religious ceremony of *Dhanurmas*. He invited everyone for meals, but intentionally avoided Kelkar. Sathe then went to the *Masjid* to invite Baba. Baba shouted at him, "Bring my stick!" But, after sometime, He cooled down and said, "All right. I will come."

Baba has not beaten

me even once!

On another occasion, Baba looked at Sathe and remarked, "*Saheb* is a simple and rustic man."

Baba would come running to beat and even shower bad words on some of devotees with whom he was angry. But, He had not beaten Sathe. Hence, Sathe would proudly say, "I am the only one who has not been thrashed by Baba!"

Madhavrao Deshpande was curious to know the reason. Baba replied, "Why I should beat him? He is getting it from his father-in-law!"

After retirement

As time passed, Sathe retired from his Govt. service. His finances began dwindling and one day, in a fit of his whims, he sold his wife's one gold ornament. In Shirdi, Baba asked Dada Kelkar, "Why did the fool of a '*Saheb*' sell my daughter's ornament?"

Baba's Pooja by Sathe

In the earlier years, *Gurupournima* was not being celebrated in Shirdi. In the year 1908, the fortune of performing the first-ever *Gurupournima Pooja* in Shirdi went to Tatyasaheb Nulkar. Baba had just returned after collecting *bhiksha* in the morning. Nulkar approached Him with preparations of *Pooja* and said, "Today is the auspicious day of *Gurupournima*." Baba gladly allowed him to perform the *Pooja*.

Later on, Baba sent a message to Kelkar to perform the same *Pooja*. As Sathe was also present with other devotees, Baba allowed them also to perform the *Pooja*.

Sathe thought that as he has performed *Gurupournima Pooja*, he can also perform *Mahashivratri Pooja*. He wanted to perform the *Pooja* treating Baba as *Shivswaroop*. But, Baba refused the permission. Yet, Sathe and Megha decided to act wise. They decided that they will perform *Pooja* at least of the steps of the *Masjid*! When everyone was fast asleep, the pair went to *Masjid* in the middle of the night. However, Tatyasaheb Patil was

awake and he silently made gestures and told them to leave. Nevertheless, the duo went ahead and anointed the step with *gandh*, offered leaves of Bel tree (considered to be Lord Shiva's favourite) and flowers. Just then, Baba awoke.

He began showering choicest abuses on them for attempting to perform the *Pooja* without seeking Baba's permission and also for attempting to do it secretly. The entire village woke up with the commotion and began cursing Sathe and Megha for their foolhardy behaviour.

“Of course,

I am your *Baap* (father)!”

Sathe considered Baba and only Baba to be his *Sadguru*. In his long life, he had many opportunities to meet several *Sadhu-Sants*. But, he did not seek their *Upadesh*. Whenever he felt like it, he would first ask Baba's permission through Dada Kelkar. But, barring one occasion, Baba denied His consent.

That one time was Baba permitting Sathe to take guidance from Kaka Maharaj Puranik, a famous *Satpurush* from Maharashtra's Konkan region.

He would not leave me!

In 1911, Kaka Maharaj visited Pune and stayed with a devotee named Deole. Most of the people who came to avail *Darshan*, cajoled Kaka Maharaj to visit their homes. Sathe was one of them. As he was not getting any affirmative answer, Sathe decided to give up and went to his office. During the course of the day, Sathe got a message from Kaka Maharaj that he is conceding the request and visiting Sathe's house. Sathe was overjoyed. He sent his horse cart to fetch Kaka Maharaj.

After welcoming Kaka Maharaj and bestowing honours upon him, Sathe could not help, but ask, “Maharaj, in the morning you were not inclined to accept my invitation and now you are here! How did this happen?”

Kaka Maharaj gave an amazing reply. He looked at the photo of Sai Baba adorning the wall of Sathe's home and said, “What could I do? He did not allow me any respite till I visited you!”

Other instances and experiences

One of Sathe's daughters was married to Joshi. He and his family were devotees of Baba. Sathe has noted down experiences of Joshi.

Once, Shri Joshi took Baba's *Darshan* and before departing, requested Baba to give him some *Udi*. Baba said, “You will get it later on.” When Joshi took his seat in the train, his co-passenger passed on some part of the *Udi*, he had received directly from Baba.

Another incident relates to visit of Hari - brother of Joshi. When he and his people visited, Baba was in a furious mood and hence, they did not go near Him. After some time, Baba cooled down and enquired, "So you have killed the old man and come here?" He was referring to passing away of Kaka Maharaj Puranik.

Similar incident relates to passing away of Gajanan Maharaj. Generally, Baba used to go to Lendi Baug around 8.30 or 9 am. But, on that particular day, He slept near a wall in the *Masjid* up to 10 am. When someone tried to call Him and wake Him up, He remarked, "My Gajanan has gone!"

Great fortune

It was Sathe's great fortune that Baba honoured him by asking him to construct the *wada* near the Neem tree (now known as *Gurusthan*).

Once, Baba told him, "Here is the *Samadhi* of my *Guru*. His name ...". And, He muttered something. Sathe says, "The name ended with either Shah or Saa or something similar. May be it was Venku-saa?"

Baba had disclosed a very intimate matter to Sathe. What more fortune can one ask for?

'Shri Sainath Prabha' and

'Shree Sainath Katha Karandak'

While chitchatting, Baba used to utter several things. These outwardly appeared to be absurd or without any reference to context. But, what Baba said was never futile.

Sathe says :-

"I heard several things from Baba. I added a few things from my own imagination to them and compiled a book titled 'Shri Sainath Katha Karandak'. I wrote the book without obtaining Baba's permission. The things He said were very little. Sometimes, He would abruptly stop what He was saying in the middle of it."

Sathe was the founder as well as administrator of 'Daxina Bhiksha Sanstha'. This trust published a magazine by the name 'Shri Sainath Prabha.' As the name indicates, it contained – amongst other matters – such utterances of Baba. Later on, a collection of these was published as a book by the name 'Shri Sainath Katha Karandak'.

Some of these stories had been published in very old issues of 'Shri Saileela' with the permission of Raobahadur Sathe. The language gives us an idea of the way Baba talked.

While writing the stories, Sathe has used the pen-name '*Chopdar* (a kind of doorman or guard) of Shri Samarth'. The style of language is same or similar to the one Baba used. In the foreword, Sathe says, "There

are many who have not had the fortune to listen to Baba. They will get some idea of how and what he talked.”

It is very difficult to get copies of this book.

A story indicating

how Baba talked

Many of us are not lucky enough to hear Him in person. They are worth reading in original Marathi. But, for the benefit of non-Marathi devotees, one such story is reproduced below to give a glimpse of those grand old days.

Author : *Chopdar* of Samarth

(Holder of holy staff - a pen name adopted by Raobahadur Sathe)

Early morning, after finishing morning chores and collecting *bhiksha* from one or two houses as usual, Shri Samarth Sainath Maharaj has His breakfast. After finishing it, He sat at the centre of the *Masjid*. A selected group of devotees are sitting around Him and serving Him. And then Samarth begins narrating certain stories. Outwardly, these appear to be incoherent. The author was fortunate enough to hear some of such stories and he can recollect a few of those.

Out of these, some have been selecting for including in this ‘Karandak’ (ornamental cup/urn). While selecting them, the criterion was firstly that they should be coherently recollected. Secondly, they should give some message/lesson and should also be interesting to the reader.

I hope this ‘Katha Karandak’ helps the readers in their welfare. The author humbly places these at the Feet of Shri Samarth.

Samarth said : In village Paithan, I was with a *Brahmin*. He was very good. He favoured me. I also used to work with him. In the afternoon, I would eat a quarter of a *bhakar* (bread) and lie down quietly. Now a days, you do not see such *Brahmins* or anyone else. Everyone has become selfish.

One devotee asked : Is the *Brahmin* alive now?

Baba replied : This happened 200 years ago. Will he be still there in Paithan? He must be somewhere. *Allah-Miya* will know.

Devotee asked : You are telling us, what happened 200 years back. Then why don’t You tell us, where the *Brahmin* is today, what was his name?

Baba relied : This is miracle of *Allah-Miya*! What can we do?

Devotee commented : But, at that time, You were there. You know it and remember it even today.

Baba said : *Are*, I was there even thousands of years before that. Where do you know this? When I was in Prayag, there was a lot of fun. Really, a lot of fun. Where do you know it?

Devotee said : Baba, if You do not tell us, how will we know it? Please tell us.

Baba added : In Prayag, I was sitting under a tree and smoking a *chillum*. Then a *Brahmin* came there. He was holding a huge *veena* (a musical instrument) in his hand and singing a *bhajan*. He bowed before me and said, 'Baba! Nearby, a *Brahmin* named Mukund is reciting a *jap* (chanting of name of God). Go and tell him that his recitation will bear him fruits. Therefore, he should perform *udyapan* (closing ceremony) tomorrow. And the, live peacefully.'

I told him, 'Who wants this botheration? I don't want it. Why don't you tell him?' But, that *veena* bearing *Brahmin* would not listen to me. He insisted, 'Maharaj, only you must do this and do it for me. Your present attire and your arrival here is for that purpose only. I have guessed it correctly. But, you are only pretending to disagree with me. Otherwise, I have understood the real purpose of your coming here in these clothes.'

Then I told him, 'All right. You go now. I will set everything right.' After hearing this, he bowed before me and went away singing his *bhajan*. His *bhajan* was very sweet. And he was faithful.

Then I did as he had told me. I went to Mukund's *mathi* (room). It was about a distance of say Shirdi to Nimgaon. (Nimgaon is about 1 mile to the north of Shirdi). The moment I entered the *mathi*, Mukund Bua stood up and said, 'Watch it. Do not enter. I am observing an *anushthan* (vow). Go out immediately.' I said, 'What is this nuisance? That *Brahmin* tells me one thing and this one is saying something different. What should I do? *Allah* is the Lord. He knows all.' The moment I said this, Mukund bent down before me and held my legs. He bowed and began murmuring something to himself. Because of *Allah-Miya's* blessings, I came to know, what he had in mind. Then I mentally conveyed to him, what I wanted (*Allah's* order) and I escaped from there. Within a minute, Mukund's disciple came running and said 'Sai Maharaj, What did you say to our Mukund Maharaj? The moment you went, he lit the holy fire and jumped into it. He has turned into ashes. What shall we do now?'

I said, 'It is how it should be. Whatever had to happen has happened. *Allah* will set everything right.' Hearing this, the disciple began talking incoherently. He said, 'Now, all of us followers will do accordingly. We will also jump in the holy fire. You will be responsible for this. Be careful.'

I said, 'All right. *Allah* is the Lord.'

Hearing this, the fellow went back and I started directly towards Umarnkot. After walking for one or two days, I came across an area covered with sand. There I saw a very handsome gentleman sitting and besides him was a lady – lying down and shouting, ‘Water, Water.’ There were one or two servants around, but they were not doing anything. The handsome man asked, ‘Do you have water? Even if you have a gulp full, it is enough. My queen is very thirsty. And more over, she is pregnant and is unable to take even a step forward.’

In my tumbler, I had some water. I poured it in the lady’s mouth. She became alert at once. She sat down and the moment she saw me, she placed her head on my feet. I put my hand on her head and ordered them to go towards Umarnkot. Her husband was observing this entire scene. He bent on his knees and raised his hand to the sky. He said, ‘Baba! What will be our fate now? What shall we do now? Where shall we go now? Who will give us refuge?’

Tears started streaming from his eyes. Then I placed my hand on his head and said, ‘Do not cry! *Allah* will look after your welfare. You all go to Umarnkot now. There you will get a good place to stay. After reaching there, the lady will deliver a child there and he will be a boy. The boy will become a world-known emperor. You will not encounter any problems on the way. Now get up and go.’

After telling them this, I resumed my travel. After a few days of going here and there, I reached Umarnkot. On making enquiries about these people, I came to know that the lady has delivered a boy. Then I went to see the child. I met the parents, gave my blessings and well wishes and left the place. The name of the boy was Zalaluddin Mohammed. Later on he became famous by the name ‘Akbar’ and throned as the emperor of Hindustan. This is the doing of *Allah-Miya*.

**‘Daxina Bhiksha Sanstha’
(Alms Organization) and
‘Shri Sainath Prabha’ Magazine**

In 1915, Sathe was posted in Pune. Baba called him to Shirdi and asked him to start ‘Daxina Bhiksha Sanstha’. Sathe became its founder chairman.

The organization used to publish a periodical named ‘Shri Sainath Prabha’. Shri Sundararao Narayan was its editor. In it’s back issues, one can get glimpses of happenings in Shirdi Sansthan from 1915 to 1918.

All the materials and properties required by the Sanstha were in the custody of Shri Radhakrishna-aai. However, within a year from the establishment of the Sanstha, she passed away. Thereafter, disputes arose about who should handle the financial matters of the organization.

Besides this, there were several other factors giving rise to a general feeling of resentment towards Sathe - like Sathe's total hold over the Sanstha, his high post in the Govt, his building a *wada* and staying in it in Shirdi, his orthodox, arrogant and hard nature. Further, Baba had bestowed a special honour on Sathe by insisting that only Sathe should carry the *Chhatra-Chamar* at the time of the procession going to *Chavadi*.

All these gave rise to Sathe becoming an object of increasing jealousy for many and this in turn gave rise to internal squabbles in the Sanstha.

The matter took turn for the worst when certain residents of Shirdi decided to take help of local ruffians and evict Sathe from Shirdi. Once, Dada Kelkar came running to Sathe and informed him that Nanavali (more about him in a separate article) is waiting at the entrance of the *Masjid* with a sharp weapon in his hand and he intends to murder you.

Ultimately, after this and other similar incidents, Sathe decided to leave Shirdi. He writes :-

“Without saying good bye to anyone, I left Shirdi forever. May be it was Baba's wish that I should not stay in Shirdi any more? Or may be shifting my residence to Pune was for my betterment? But, I have no doubt in my mind that when I was in Shirdi, Baba's blessings were with me and now when I am elsewhere, they are still with me!”

(Contd.)

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Translated from original Marathi into English by

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Shirdi News

*** Public Relations Publicity Section ***

Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi

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Shree Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi serves the ailing with Mobile Dispensary

We have in Shri Sai Satcharita read how Baba cured people, how He gave *Udi* to many and healed them of physical and mental afflictions. Taking inspiration from Baba, Shri Sai Sansthan started a Shri Sainath Hospital in 1964 to serve the ailing. Keeping in view the number of patients multiplying, Sai Baba Super Speciality Hospital was started in 2006.

There are many villagers in and around Shirdi, who do not get proper medical attention for lack of money or information, so a 3-members management committee of Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi decided to provide medical care absolutely free of cost to them at their doorstep.



So on January 14, on the auspicious occasion of *Makar Sankranti*, the head of this committee and the Chief District Judge (Ahmednagar), Sri Jayant Kulkarni inaugurated this mobile dispensary.



The people are appreciative of this unique service. On a trial basis, when the first day the mobile van was taken out, a total 306 people benefitted, the breakup is as follows - Nandurki Khurd 72, Ves 98, Bhadrapur 70, Ranjangaon Deshmukh 26 and Kakdi 40. In 20 days 3417 people took advantage of the mobile medical services.

People in the area have expressed their heartfelt gratitude for this medical service.

The medical dispensary has a medical officer, medical workers and necessary medical equipments to serve the sick.

Initially, the service was available only on Tuesday and Friday, but now is available on four days (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) of the week. Other than the number of days, even the area of medical reach is increasing.

Regarding this, Shri Sai Baba Super Specialty Hospitals, Medical Director Sri Kaushik Makwana, Shri Sainath Hospital's Medical Director Dr. Sanjay Pathare, Superintendent Sri Subhash Chitre are working dedicatedly to make the services available far and beyond.

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“God’s Name can break down mountains of sin. The Lord’s Name breaks the shackles of the body. God’s Name pulls out crores of ill desires from their roots... The Lord’s Name chanted with full intent is very effective; but even an unintentional pronouncement can be beneficial. Its power is manifested even when it is uttered unawares. For the purification of the Inner Self there is not another simpler means than chanting the Lord’s Name. The Lord’s Name sustains spirituality. It is not necessary to have a bath to say the Lord’s Name. Taking the Lord’s Name is not regulated by the rules of the *shastras*. The Lord’s Name destroys all sins. The Lord’s Name is always pure. The continuous chanting of My Name itself will ferry you across the ocean of existence. No other means are necessary to achieve salvation. Whoever frequently repeats My Name his sins will be burnt. I consider him more virtuous than the virtuous, who constantly hums My Name.” This was Baba’s inner motive and He acted accordingly.

Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 27



Maharashtra's ex-Chief Minister Sri Ashok Chauhan and his wife taking *Darshan* of Shri Sai Baba; with them are ex-Minister of Maharashtra Sri Annasaheb Mhaske, Sansthan's ex-Chairman Sri Jayant Sasane, ex-Trustee Sri Ashok Khambekar, *Mandir* Chief Sri Ramrao Shelke...



Taking Shri Sai Baba's *Darshan* is film actor
Sri Makarand Anaspure...

TVS Group of Industries' first TVS Phoenix 125, a 2-wheeler worth Rs. 53,000 was offered at Shri Sai Baba's Feet. Handing over the key of this 2-wheeler are TVS Group's Manager Sri Abhishek Dhool, Sai Sansthan's Chief Accounts Officer Sri Hemant Jadhavar, PRO Sri Mohan Yadav, Vehicle



s Dept. 's Sri Atul Wagh and Navnath Kote, TVS Industries' Distributor's Sri Anil Oberoi and Sri Bharat Dandwate.

Prior to this they have offered at Baba's Feet - TVS Centra, TVS Star City and TVS Flame.





On the occasion of Republic Day on January 26, 2013, on behalf of Shree Sai Baba Sansthan, the member of 3-members Management Committee and Executive Officer, Sri Kishore More hoisted the flag.

Mahindra and Mahindra Groups presented Pentero 110 cc first 2-wheeler at Baba's Feet.

Repetition of the Name 'Sai will burn away all the sins of *Kaliyuga*. Once having prostrated, past sins born of speech and hearing will be destroyed.

Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 3