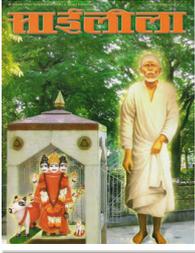


Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi



Datta Jayanti - Monday, 4th December, 2006 * Margashirsh Shudh 14, Shake 1928

Estd. Year 1923

Year 6 | Issue No. 6

Managing Editor : J. M. Sasane

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English Section

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Computerised Typesetting : Computer Section, Mumbai Office, Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust (Shirdi) | **Office** : 'Sai Niketan', 804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Mumbai - 400 014. Tel. : 2416 6556 Fax : (022) 2415 0798
E-mail : saidadar@bom3.vsnl.net.in | **Shirdi Office** : At Post Shirdi - 423 109, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar. Tel. : (02423) 258500 Fax : (02423) 258770 E-mail : saibaba_anr@sancharnet.in
| **Annual Subscription** : Rs. 50/- | **Subscription for Life** : Rs. 1000/- | **Annual Subscription for Foreign Subscribers** : Rs. 1000/- (All the Subscriptions are Inclusive of Postage) | **General Issue** : Rs. 8/- | **Shri Sai Punyatithi Special Issue** : Rs. 15/- | Published by B. R. Wakchaure, on behalf of Shree Sai Baba Sansthan Trust (Shirdi) at Sai Niketan, 804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Mumbai - 400 014 and printed by him at Perfect Print Product Pvt. Ltd., 139 Metallica Industries Premises, Govt. Industrial Estate, Kandivali (W), Mumbai - 400 067. The Editor does not accept responsibility for the views expressed in the articles published. All objections, disputes, differences, claims and proceedings are subject to Mumbai jurisdiction.

Homepage

Shri Dattatreya Suprabhatam

*Shri Jatadharam Pandurangam
Atal Chittam Dhyanam Shri Rangam
Kataksha Karunya Bhava Prade Sangam
Tatastha Magna Bhaje Nityam Karoti Mangalam
Shri Dattatreya Tav Suprabhatam... 1*

Decored with crowned knot of hair
on the head You Panduranga
Enchored subtle mind You *Shri* Ranga
Savioured in the proximity of *Santsanga*
Revered in deep meditation for
human *Mangalanga*
Salutations to You *Shri Dattatreya*

*Shri Karpoora Kanti Dehaya
Apoorva Tejas Roopaya
Japati Sada Nitya Niranjanaya
Krupalu Shirase Shobhitaya*

Shri Dattatreya

Tav Suprabhatam... 2

Embodied with camphor radiance
Applauded with chanting and
pray in continuance
Adored in adequate brilliance
Enshrined in magnificance
Salutations to You *Shri Dattatreya*

*Shri Veda Shastra Parijnanaya
Adi Brahma Madhye Vishnu
Nantar Sadashivaya
Subodhita Parabrahma Shri Dattatreya
Gadapaani Vanamala Sukandraya
Shri Dattatreya Tav Suprabhatam... 3*

The very symbol of *Vedic* knowledge
The fundamental base of wisdom privilege
The origin Brahma, the solemn Vishnu,
the Mahashiva lineage
The Creator, Protector and
the Destroyer coverage
Salutations to You *Shri Dattatreya*

*Shri Brahmajnana Mayi Sanketaya
Brahma, Vishnu,
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Aham, Ahankar, Garva Nirmoolanaya
Ahobali Mahabali Maharajaya
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The nucleus of Brahma *Jnana* ultimate sanction
The Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara triunion
The ego, the pride slainer in action
The powerful, to fulfil life's transaction
Salutations to You *Shri Dattatreya* –

*Shri Gurudev Gurushreshthaya
Chirchintana Shri Guru Bhajanaya
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Karatalasthe Trishool Dharitaya*

Shri Dattatreya Tav

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Guru, the breath, the *Prana* of beings of own
Guru, the guide, the coordinator,
the adviser criterion
Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu,

Gurudeva Maheshwar precision
Salutations to You *Shri Dattatreya*

Shri Gangadhar Jatadhar Trinetraya Ek Roopa
Anga Shri Ranga Adisheshaya Vishwa Roopa
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Sada Brahma Swaroopa
Anga Ek Saguna Trimooriti Agadha Swaroopa
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sheltering Ganga, the Shiva
Contented serene resting on *Adishesha*,
the Vishnu *Deva*
Consecrated the huge task of Universal,
creation, Brahma *Sadeva*

Salutations to You *Shri Dattatreya*

Shripaad, Shri Vallabha
Bhakta Hrudaye Nivaasaya
Aparampar Mahima Kirti Triloka Vyapakaya
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dominating in devotee's heart
Shri, the elate divinity to purport
Shri, the reality of concentration
of worship support
Shri, the true form of adoration sport
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Shri Paaduka Pratishthe
Nitya Sampreet
Vidya Saraswati Alankare Poojeet
Padarvinda Mastak Mandite Varadaan Kareet
Sadashiv Naam Shri Harihar Brahma Eka Roopeet

Shri Dattatreya

Tav Suprabhatam... 8

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The very meditation and *Pooja* of *Devi Saraswati* Goddess of learning as
The surrender, the submission at the divine feet
The grant the blessing of supreme complete
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Shri Guru Adi, Guru Anaadi
Guru Paramadevata Sada
Guruhu Parataram Kshema Pradayita
Pade Pade
Guru Brahma Guru Vishnu
Guru Deva Maheshwara Vade
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The *Guru*
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Anaathi Pratishthe Akkalkote Nivasita
Swami Samarthaya
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Pant Maharajaya
Punyamoorti Shegaonwe Sthayi
Gajanan Maharajaya
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the sublime at Gangapura

Dominant as the awakening Swami Samartha at Akkalkotpura
Prominent as the participant of devotees in every walk of life at Shirdi and Shegaonpura
Conversant of woes, Despair of mankind, a Relief to human You *Param Purush Aparā*
Potent Dattavadhoot Pant *Maharaj* at Venupura
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Tanamana Shobhe Shri Sai Bhava Chitta
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Atreya Varadaan Shri Vallabhaya
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Guild of dedication, submission to encore
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Threshold of *Aaradhana*, *Pooja*, gallore
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 Paramaanandam Brahmaananda Dethi
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Anurenu Trana Kashta Samaweta Ti
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Fourfold of contentment
 to acknowledge present and past
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 in combination main mast
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 appraisal forecast
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The Lord of mercy, bliss *Shri Datta*
The proud of *Bhaktas*, aspirants *Shri Datta*

The *Aum*, *Omkar*, *Saakar*, *Nirantar*

Shri Datta

Salutations to You *Shri Dattatreya*

Shri Dattatreya Shreshtha Deva Jana Ganasya
Shri Dattatreya Varishtha Tri Bhuvanasya
Shri Dattatreya Brahma, Vishnu, Maheshwara Trimurti Swaroop (Anupamasya)
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Shri Dattatreya, the Supreme of
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Shri Dattatreya, the divine triad subtle form of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara
Shri Dattatreya, the absolute, the ultimate of *Prakruti*, *Srushti Ap-arampara*
Salutations to You *Shri Dattatreya*



Back

Shamshad Ali Baig says -

“How I became a Sai Devotee !”

Sai Baba has said, “I pull my devotee, as one pulls a sparrow with string to its legs.” So Baba’s pull came in 1997, when a friend of mine, Vishwarath Nayar took me to Shri Bhagwati Sai Sansthan, Panvel. This was the first time, I was going to a Shirdi Sai Baba’s temple. I felt very calm and peaceful there. After that, whenever I was going through troubled times, I would go to the temple to seek His solace. Thus, I got addicted to the spiritual high I got there.

After a year, I had the opportunity to go to Shirdi. I still remember vividly... the moment my bus reached Nasik, I felt bliss descending over me. The experience was unbelievable. I didn’t know that this feeling is called ‘bliss’, it took several more such experiences and a bit of study on the spiritual lingo to realize that this divinely calm is called as ‘bliss’.

The first time I touched the stone on which Baba sat in Dwarkamai, a kind of current (it was an energy flow, which again is inexplicable) went through me. I cherished the experience; but after that, whenever I went to Shirdi and waited for that sensation to overtake, I never experienced it. May be, on my first visit, He wanted me to know that we have a connection.

There was a surge of Sai energy in my life. After closing my office, every evening I went to the Sai temple at Panvel and attended the *Shej Arati*. I started reading the English translation of Shri Sai Satcharita originally written in Marathi by Govind (Annasaheb) Raghunath Dabholkar alias Hemadpant regularly. Whenever I was faced with problems, I would open Shri Sai Sat Charita randomly and then, I would see that there was a message for me there.

In 2002, I started contem-plate that I should write a book, which one could carry easily, wherever one went and glance through it, whenever one had a few minutes free, say before meeting a client or waiting for the bus ! But, as usual, it was very important for me to seek His guidance. When this new ideas came, I again resorted to Shri Sai Sat Charita and opened it casually, the book opened on chapter 3, where Baba tells Annasaheb Dabholkar, “You have my full consent to write my life.” I immediately saw this is an indication to me to start penning the book. But, I was unsure, why Baba wanted me to pen a book on Him; because I felt that I was not a great devotee of His, nor was a great writer. So, I kept on wondering, why He wanted me to write on Him.

In November 2002, I started writing, after a few days I stopped writing as the more important survival issues caught my attention. Then again, in the beginning of 2003, I decided to get down to writing Baba’s book. But, as a true mortal, I again wanted to further clarify the issue, whether I should pen His book. So, once again, I randomly opened Shri Sai Sat Charita and lo ! It opened on chapter 6, and my eyes fell on “When I myself start to write anything, I cannot compose a few words or sentences; but when He of His own accord makes me write, I go on writing... and there is no end to it.” So, this was the second indication from Baba for me to write. Still after a few days, this too turned out to be an abortive attempt as I discontinued writing.

But, in the middle of 2003, when my life became even more chaotic, I started writing the book. I completely cut myself off from people and started penning the book. But, somehow, things were not gelling. So, again I left the project and got back to the active journalism.

In 2004, much of the work started shaping up; but it was only in early 2006, when I discussed the project with Jehangir Jamadar, a true Sai devotee, the book finally, started moving towards the production stage. Under Baba’s loving guidance Jehangir gave the layout and designs for ‘[sai katha sagar](#)’.

The lay-out is eye-catching with comfortable font size to aid easy reading. The cover has a *Peepal* leaf, on which there is a drawing of Baba. Jehangir felt that Baba was always with the poor and down trodden, similarly the artist, who draws on the leaf, also comes from a not-so-privileged class. So, it was important that the work of such an artist be highlighted.

The price of the book was already decided; but a Datta-Sai devotee suggested that since it was the first book of yours on Baba, the price of the book should be like *Guru Dakshina* figure. I was in a fix; but then Baba as usual came to my rescue. I wrote different prices on chits of paper and placed them on Baba’s feet, with utmost faith that He will guide me to the right figure. Thus, the price came to be Rs. 151/-.

In this publication travel, Baba tested me several times and showed His miracles. The lessons that He wanted to teach me through the writing of this book are myriad. He still is teaching me; but the best is that, when a determined person walks out in the world and says he wants to make a difference to the society, God’s grace follows him and the cosmos answers his heartfelt desire. This stands true for both positive and negative changes that one wants to make. But then, each person, according to his own *Karma* will choose to bring a change in the society.

On a more reflective note, I come back to the original question - “Exactly when and how I became a Sai devotee !” With my current understanding, I feel, we are always under the guidance of our *Sadguru*, birth after birth, whether we are aware of it or not. The *Sadguru* can be in the physical form or not, but invariably He guides His devotee.

A Glimpse in

Sai Katha Sagar, a compilation of Shirdi Sai Baba's *Leelas* by Shamshaad Ali Baig, offers one more fresh ground to savour the Grace of the venerable saint of Shirdi.

For the rapidly growing number of Sai devotees worldwide, every whiff of Sai Grace is rejuvenating with Divine indulgence.

Sai Katha Sagar, undoubtedly showers this Grace, and Shamshad's inimitable reader- friendly writing skill provokes repeated reading, though the compilation is from episodes, written and read several times before, particularly by Sai devotees.

The book deserves to be strongly recommended for everyone reeling under stress, striving for success or craving for higher pursuits in this world and beyond.

The subject-wise compilation of Shirdi Sai Baba's *Leelas* provides a fresh dose of inspirational potency for right thinking, leading to the path of spiritual fulfillment.

For example the chapter - 'Health well being and *Udi* miracles', recounts how Baba kept a *Dhuni* (fire) burning in the mosque and its ashes were distributed as *Udi*, which had miraculous curative powers.

The second chapter 'Baba's advent in Shirdi, His stay there and related stories', details His arrival in Shirdi. Baba was of medium built and His height was about five feet six inches. His complexion was golden yellow. Baba never brushed His teeth, only rinsed His mouth, He never drank tea or coffee; but did not dissuade others from drinking tea or coffee.

The third chapter - 'Hemadpant's meeting with Baba and inspiration for writing Shri Sai Satcharita' describes Govind Dabholkar's (Hemadpant's) views on *Guru* and how these views were transformed after he met Baba, leading to his desire to write the Satcharita. Hemadpant doubted his writing abilities; but with Baba's Grace was able to write 9,308 verses (*ovis*) describing Baba's life, *Leelas* and teachings.

'Travel tales' highlights, how Baba guided devotees during their travel. Those who followed Baba's advice sometimes even caught a train, which was unscheduled ! Those who didn't underwent sufferings, right from missing a meal (*Dasganu*) to meeting with an accident.

There were some who thought, they would never get leave to visit Shirdi as the schedule at their office was very hectic, but miraculously leaves got sanctioned. And after coming to Shirdi, those who overstayed, never ran into any trouble with their employers.

'Food tales' describes some more of Baba's *Leelas* like Baba's preparations in the *Handi* and turning the food with His hand.

Baba also taught important lessons through His *Leelas*. Once, Baba asked Kushabhau to eat onions on *Ekadashi*. Not wishing to displease Baba, he said, he would eat it, if Baba ate it first. Baba and Kushabhau ate some onions. Baba then jestingly told others that Kushabhau had eaten onions on *Ekadashi* day.

Kushabhau in self-defense said that even Baba has eaten them. Baba refuted this and said that He had eaten sweet potatoes and to prove His words, He vomited pieces of sweet potatoes !

Baba also taught that feeding living being is like feeding Him; even when you make offering to idols it reaches Him.

'Dakshina and related stories' highlights, how *Dakshina* encourages non- attachment, which is essential in spiritual upliftment. The *Dakshina*, that Baba demanded from certain devotees, was the debt, they were clearing of the *Mashidmayi* (mosque). There are some *Leelas*, where Baba gave important lessons through *Dakshina*.

Baba always asked for Rs. 2 from R. B. Purandare of Mumbai. Once, he enquired from Baba, why He asked only Rs. 2 from him. Baba said, "It is not money I want. It is *Shraddha* (faith) and *Saburi* (patience)."

Baba - one with divinity, through His *Leelas* brings in sharp focus the Real knowledge - God is the same in all.

Keshav Naik, a devotee of Akkalkot *Maharaj* (after Akkalkot *Maharaj's Mahasamadhi*) went to meet Sai Baba along with his son and two *Brahmins*. The *Brahmins* had negative thoughts about Baba. Baba gave them all margosa leaves. The *Brahmins* discovered that the leaves were bitter; but the Naiks found them sweet.

In 'Guru - Baba's view' Baba's narration on *Guru* is highlighted - 'My *Guru* became my mother, father, everything. All my senses were focused on my eyes and my sight only on Him. Thus he became my single focus of meditation. Then the knowledge dawned on me without any effort'; this is what *Guru's* Grace is !

'Reptilian tales' highlights, how Baba saved His devotees from reptiles. He also taught, "God lives in all. He controls everything, and until He wills, no one can come to any harm. Hence, love all creatures. Have patience and give up killing. God is Protector of all."

'Dreams and visions' is again very interesting; because here are *Kathas* of how Baba, through dreams, guided and helped devotees. Like His appearing in Uddhaves's son's vision and asking him to send money to his father (who had lost his money); Baba was able to help Uddhaves in completing his pilgrimage of Dwarka.

'Things consecrated by Baba and related stories' is like nectar, sweetening the readers' mouth. Mrs. Krishna Prabhakar, once by mistake, gave away a four - anna coin, consecrated by Baba to a vegetable vendor. The latter returned the coin in the evening, putting Mrs. Prabhakar's mind at ease.

'Laugh and learn' highlights that Baba did indulge in playing pranks on devotees. But, it was always to teach them some important lesson in life.

'Teachings' the next chapter clearly enumerates, how Baba's life was itself a teaching to His devotees. He sometimes narrated a story, whose significance would be caught by the devotee for whom it was meant.

Through His *Leelas* He made an avaricious seeker understand that *Brahma Gyan* was not meant for those still desiring material riches.

Baba had told Kakasaheb Dixit that a serpent would not bite till ordained by God, and he never killed snakes, scorpions, ants or even bugs. Once, He explained, "The bugs drank only an ounce of blood, and the loss is easily made up by the body. Is not God also in the bugs ?"

The rest of the book has *Leelas* in categories like - 'Baba blessed them with children', 'Extraordinary stories', '*Leelas* about Baba's photo', 'Past life tales', 'Ramnavami and Urus celebrated together' and 'Devotees experiences'.

- Vishwarath Nayar

sai katha sagar

Written by Shamshad Ali Baig

Published by Prasaar Communication

Suyash CHS., 1-B-5, Sector 10, Koparkhairane, Navi Mumbai - 400 709, Maharashtra.

No. of pages - 224 Price Rs. 151/-

Available at 'Sai Prem', Plot 13 A, Sector 10 A, Balaji Rd., Next to Balaji temple, Navi Mumbai - 400 703, Maharashtra.

Back

In Sai's Proximity

– Mrs. Mugdha Divadkar

APPA KULKARNI

in the same year, like Nanasaheb, Baba also brought Shri Narayan Krishna Pendse and his devout wife through Appa Kulkarni to His *Darbar*.

Pendse's wife was very pious. Everyone called her '*Maa*'. Hearing about Baba's reputation, she was keenly anxious to take His *Darshan*. But, Pendse himself never believed in such matters. He said to her, "There is no saint in Shirdi that you talk of. However, in a *Masjid* there, a mad and pretentious Muslim *Fakir* sits. The villagers are crazy after him. According to the information that I have received, this beggar from the *Masjid* goes from door to door, collects alms and survives."

However, his wife was restless. Considering her anxiety, Baba managed a coincidence. Pendse was required to go to Shirdi for some Govt. work. His wife accompanied him and when he proceeded for his work, she came to the *Masjid* and took Baba's *Darshan*. On returning home, she narrated the incident to Pendse and said, "He is really a saint. Do not criticize Him or blame Him. Take His *Darshan* and enjoy the bliss !"

Then Pendse came to the *Masjid*. When he came near to the steps, Baba roared, "I am warning you. Do not come forward. I am pretentious and mad Muslim. You are high caste *Brahmin*. Then why do you come to take my *Darshan* ?"

Pendse was stunned to hear his exact words coming out of Baba's mouth. He became restless to have Baba's *Darshan*. He caught hold of Appa Kulkarni and with his influence availed Baba's *Darshan*.

Once, Appa was sitting with Baba in the *Masjid* as per his usual practice. While chitchatting, Baba said to him, "You see Appa, thieves are going to visit our village today. They are not going to commit dacoity; but they are concentrating on the main wealth. They commit their act so fast and with such expertise that even if you are alert, you get cheated. Go and see, what precautions you can take. Because, today they are going to raid you !"

At that time, there were signs that an epidemic of cholera was likely to break-out. But, nobody could see it coming. Taking Baba's words literally, Appa started making preparations. He put guards to protect property.

It was night time and Appa started having vomits and loose motions. His hands and legs became cold turned stiff like wood. His pulse slowed down. Seeing that his end is near, his wife panicked. She was sure that soon she would become a widow.

She rushed to Baba and pleaded to save her husband. She asked for *Udi*. But, Baba consoled her that "One day every living being has to face death. But, the soul lives for ever. Take courage and face the reality."

Hearing these words, the lady took control of herself. She went home and after some time Appa went to his heavenly abode.

Next day, 2-3 more people took ill. The villagers rushed to Baba. He said, "Totally seven persons will die and then the disease will leave this village." Accordingly, seven persons passed away and the epidemic disappeared.

Appa was fortunate to have the love and affection of his *Sadguru*.

Back