

THE GLORY OF SHIRDI SAI - 21

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DIWALI SPECIAL ISSUE

GURUR-BRAHMA, GURUR-VISHNUH; GURU-DEVO MAHESWARAHA;

GURUR-SAKSHATH PARAM BRAHMA; THASMAI SREE GURAVE NAMAHA:

Diwali

The festival marks the victory of good over evil. The Sanskrit word Deepavali means array of lights that stands for victory of brightness over darkness. As the knowledge of Sanskrit diminished, the name was popularly modified to Diwali.

On the day of Diwali, many wear new clothes, share sweets and light firecrackers. The Indian business community usually starts their financial new year on Diwali and new account books are opened on this day.

Hindus find cause to celebrate this festival for different reasons:

* As per sacred texts, according to Skandha Purana, the goddess Shakti observed 21 days of austerity starting from ashtami of shukla paksha (waxing period of moon) to get half part of the body of Lord Shiva. This vrata is known as kedhara vrata. Deepavali is the completion day of this austerity. This is the day Lord Shiva accepted Shakti into the left half of the form and appeared as Ardhanarishvara. The ardent devotees observe this 21 days vrata by making a kalasha with 21 threads on it and 21 types of offerings for 35 days. The final day is celebrated as kedhara gauri vrata.

* Diwali also celebrates the return of Lord Rama, King of Ayodhya, with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana to Ayodhya from a war in which he killed the demon king Ravana. It is believed that the people lit oil lamps along the way to light their path in the darkness.

* It commemorates the killing of Narakasura, an evil demon who created havoc, by Lord Krishna's wife Sathyabhama. This happened in the Dwapara Yuga during this time of Lord Krishna's avatar. In another version, the demon was killed by Lord Krishna himself. In South India,

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1. FROM THE SATSANGHS OF SAIBANISA JI

Compiled by: Sai Sevak Smt. Rajeswari Kasturi, Saidarbar – Hyderabad.

FAITH & DEDICATION FETCH DIVINE HELP

Man often desires to have a vision of God, forgetting that while He may not be seen by the human eye. He can certainly be identified in action – by the manner in which He guides a person unseen, in every one of his day-to-day activities.

Scriptures tell us how to discover Him, how to recognize His true nature, His incomparable traits and how to be one with Him. When there is a firm conviction that the Supreme Being exists and that with absolute faith, we can pray to Him to guide us, God is sure to make His presence felt amidst us, sometimes directly and often, in an indirect manner.

The fundamental duty on our part to win His grace is that we should discharge all our obligations, in whatever position we may be stationed, in the firm belief that we do so at His behest.

Om Shantih Shantih Shantihi

Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu

To be continued...

2. SAI'S NEWS FROM THE TIME MACHINE:

October 1, 1918: Baba asked a devotee by name Waze to read ' RamaVijay' (by Shridhar Swami) and listened to it for 14 days.

October 8, 1918: A tiger met its death at the feet and presence of Sai Baba and was emancipated.

October 15, Tuesday 1918: On Vijaya Dashmi, SaiBaba left His mortal coil at about 2:30 p.m. Few minutes before, He gave Rs.9/- as charity to Laxmibai Shinde.

October 16, Wednesday 1918: Early morning Baba appeared to Das Ganu at Pandharpur in dream and said "The Dwarakamai has collapsed and all the oilmen and grocers have troubled Me a lot. So I am leaving the place. Go there quickly and cover My body copiously with flowers".

October 16, Wednesday 1918: Early morning Baba appeared to Laxman Mama in dream and said," Get up quickly, Bapusaheb Jog thinks that I am dead and he won't come, so you do My worship and Kakada Arati".

3. SAI IN DREAMS:

These are the dream sequences and messages as received by SaiBaNiSa Ji From our beloved GURU LORD SAINATH OF SHIRIDI. In Anticipation that this feature will help in one's spiritual growth are hereby compiled from his personal Diary and presented to SAIBANDHUS.

Translated and presented by RAGHU RAMAN SATULURY.

30-09-1994

I was thinking about family life and that of a saint. I prayed to Sai to educate me as to how I can live like a saint while continuing to live in the family environment. He presented me in series of visuals in essence as-

-To think about and complete all responsibilities

-Not to interfere in others.

-To avoid taste for food.

-Not to aspire for others wealth.

-Never to think of other women in life.

-To pray god for granting peace.

Sainthood is not open for all except few pre-destined.

OCTOBER-1994:

01-10-1994

How should a Saibandhu conduct himself in society?

Baba said – “Having realized that a mighty individual is forcing you on the wrong side, it would be wiser to keep away from such people rather than falling prey to the wrong path. Being deceitful to others is much more sinner than living in deceit”.

Established norms and guidelines are meant for observance.

02-10-1994

Sai, please tell me about spiritual matters.

Baba said-

We set out on the spiritual path to know about the supreme God. Possibly, we may come across with smaller achievements; feel elated and deviate from the very purpose of entering into this arena. Thus we fall down, never to recover again. It is therefore essential to surrender ourselves to the Guru's care and guidance, shedding the inner ego. Then only progress can be made.

Remember that on the spiritual path, relatives and friends do not like to accompany us. It is only a sadhguru who can do that.

Spiritualism is not everybody's cake.

05-10-1994

Yesterday, I was recollecting about my enmity with one of a close relative of ours. According to Sai philosophy, one should get rid of it in this life itself, so that it does not get carried over further. How to do that?

Sai presented me with the following visual-

I come out of a jail after undergoing a sentence for the mistakes committed. Even though I have completed the imprisonment, my mind was not literally free from the vengeance. I decide to buy a weapon with the money I earned during my stay in the prison and kill the enemy. I disclosed this intention of mine to my wife. She advised me not to resort to such extreme step as I would

be retracing back to the jail again and it would be wiser to pardon and loosen the hard stand in view of the age and other health conditions. I realized that carrying forward with this aptitude will be meaningless and that I should rather put an end to this now itself.

Vengeance leads to mindless decisions.

To be continued.....

4. QUINTESENCE OF SRI SAIBABA'S PHILOSOPHY:

(By Late Sri Bharam UmamaheswaraRao)

"Shashi": shashi_31@yahoo.com

25. Importance of Swadharma

Baba further said:

“He who utilizes his wealth in self-less attitude to perform his Swadharma, he will get rid of all his sins and attain Divine-knowledge. He will not get drown in sins. So he, who acquires property through Swadharma, has to utilize that in doing Swadharma only. So you must do Swadharma – Yagna.”

“Yevam Pravartitam chakram nanuvartayati ehayah

Agayu rindriya ramomoghun Partha sagivathi” (B.G III / 16)

The Swadharma –Yagna is very perfect. Out of ignorance if we do not perform our Swadharma and get immersed in worldly pleasures, our life becomes a waste. Always every one of us should keep his mind in doing Swadharma. At the time when we acquire this body, know that then itself some bounded duties also get attached to the body and come along with it. After acquiring this body, if we neglect our bounden duties, we are considered worthless. So we must control our senses, leave the selfish-action and do Swadharm. If we perform Swadharma with selfless attitude, we will attain Brahmi –shithi in the family life itself.

The main location for Kama and Krodha is indriyas. The desire for action starts from indriyas. So if we cannot control our indriyas, we cannot perform Swadharma well. When we do not throw out our desires, from Anthakarna, we get destroyed completely. If actions are done Swadharm, with its help, we will get salvation if actions are done, without selfish attitude (Kartriwa – Abhimannam), we will proceed further and further towards our goal. If we perform self-less actions, we will attain truthfulness and good character and our Buddhi becomes pure and steady. Then only the true path of salvation will be known. Our mind will get rid of tribulations and become steady and peaceful. We will attain sweetness in our life. Then we can see the true nature in all things. In that state, we will know the state of our body and world and get merged in Universe.

If we perform our Swadharma activities well, the evil effect cannot touch us. We will get rid of bodily ailments, we will get immersed in Divine contemplation and become pure.

To be continued.....

5. SANATANA DHARMA & SRI SHIRDI SAIBABA

”AKHILANDAKOTI , BRAHMANDA NAA YAKA, RAAJAADHI RAAJA, YOGIRAJA, PARABRAHMA SREE SATCHITANANDA ,SAMARDHASADGURU, SAINATH MAHARAAJ KI JAI”

NEWS FROM ABROAD

news.bbc.co.uk

LONDON, ENGLAND, October 3, 2006: Deities made from clay, straw and organic vegetable dyes were immersed in the River Thames, West London, and hundreds from the Bengali community attended the ceremony. This is the first time the community was allowed to give a traditional Navaratri send-off to the Deities by the London port authorities. The Deities, belonging to a tableau measuring 18ft by 20ft, were built at the British Museum by craftsmen who were brought in from the Indian state of West Bengal. The Deities were then moved to the Camden Town Hall where the week-long festival was held. The submergence marked the end of the week-long festival of Durga Puja. The organizers, London Durga Puja Dusserah Committee, said this is the first time in its 40 year history the community had got a chance to observe all the rituals

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, September 15, 2006: "Hindu Heritage Society" conducted Sanskriti Diwas - Vishnu Sahasra Naam Archana at Northmead Public School on Sunday, 16th July, 2006. Over one hundred families participated with performing Pooja, Abhishekam for Lord Vishnu and His Consort, Lakshmi. The enthusiastic response of participants, especially children and youth and the ease with which they were able to chant sahasranamam is a reflection of the commitment of the society to enthuse spirituality in the next generation. The Society will conduct Devi Jagran / Nav Ratri Pooja Saturday 30th September 2006, from 6.00pm till 12.00 midnight at the Northmead Public School, Moxhams Road, Northmead, Sydney.

paras_ramoutar@yahoo.com

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, September 23, 2006: "The Hindu Thought Contribution to World Thought and Culture" is the theme for the twentieth edition of the annual Divali Nagar, set for October 12 - 20, 2006. Richard Ramlakhansingh, manager, said in an interview that "Divali Nagar is the gravitational centre in Trinidad for the annual celebration of Divali Festival of Lights. It is also the venue for other socio-cultural activities during the year. This year, as always, the big stage at Divali Nagar will be the focal point for the presentation of artistes of repute," Ramlakhansingh said. As a prelude to Divali Nagar, there will be a five-night Bhakti Gyan Yagna beginning Tuesday, October 3 to Saturday October 7. Officiating will be Pundit

Abhedananda Persad Sharma, assisted by Pundit Purnima Ganga-Persad. For additional information on this event, contact Paras Ramoutar at the e-mail address above.

www.ndtv.com

LONDON, ENGLAND, October 1, 2006: The Bengali community in Britain marked the opening of the festival with a number of events in London and other cities. Several hundred people gathered at a hall in the London district of Camden while a priest chanted prayers as worshippers lit incense sticks and offered food to the Goddess. This is a Durga with a difference. She was created by Bengali craftsmen working at the British Museum - as part of the museum's Voices of Bengal exhibition. The celebrations will continue until Monday, when the images will be ritually immersed in the River Thames, where the materials from which the Deity was made will be returned to their original state.

www.hudsonreporter.com

JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY, October 1, 2006: From September 29 to October 7, a one block area of Newark Avenue in Jersey City, New Jersey, will be the center of a huge religious and cultural block party. Navaratri 2006 is scheduled to take place on each of the days from 7 p.m. up to 2 a.m. (rain or shine). It is a street festival that will see singing and dancing performances and worship services.

6. SAIBANISA OFFERS PRANAMS TO GODDESS LAKSHMI

The birth of goddess Lakshmi is related to an ancient story. Durvasa the short-tempered sage once presented Indra, the king of the gods, with a garland of flowers which would never wilt. Indra gave this garland to his elephant, Airavata. Sage Durvasa saw the elephant trampling the divine garland and, short-tempered as he was, cursed Indra, for he had shown disrespect to the sage. The sage cursed Indra that he and all the gods would lose their power because it had made them so proud and vain. Due to the curse, the demons vanquished the gods out of the heavens.

The defeated gods then went to seek refuge to the Creator Lord Brahma who asked them to churn the ocean of milk, to obtain the nectar of immortality. The gods then went to Lord Vishnu, to seek his assistance. Lord Vishnu took the Avatar Kurma (Tortoise) and supported the Manthara Parvata (mountain) as a churning rod, while the king of the serpents, Vasuki, became the churning rope. The gods and the demons (under the leadership of the pious and wise King Bali Chakravarti) both helped each other in churning the ocean of milk.

Amongst the host of divine gifts which appeared from the ocean, goddess Lakshmi appeared and then chose Shri Vishnu as her consort, as only He had the power to control Maya (illusion). Because of this, Lakshmi is also called the daughter of the sea; since the moon also appeared from the ocean during the churning, the moon is called her brother.

. She is the goddess of whom we ask for happiness in family, friends, marriage, children, food and wealth, beauty and health. Hence she is a very popular goddess who is worshipped by every

Hindu. As she is the goddess of prosperity, she is also called as Dharidranashini (destroyer of poverty) and Dharidradvamshini (one who opposes poverty).

7. DEVOTEES EXPERIENCES:

satish.achanta@farmersinsurance.com

9/11/2006 08:24:33 -0700

SaiRam

Second Leela - Last Thursday, my colleague Mr. Venkat was preparing his dinner (Parata with Omlette) at home (family is on visit to India). He ate first paratha and preparing second one. While he was preparing, he suddenly heard the voice "Please offer me also". He was so surprised and said to BABA I already ate half of this how can I offer? Again he heard Its ok offer me after you finished.

He finished his dinner and took shower and offered Milk with sugar to BABA. After 10 mints he drank as prasadam. He told me that in his entire life he never tasted that kind of milk.

He came to work on Friday and told me all this. He sits next to my cubicle. My side I have BABA picture. While he narrating his experiences, You will not believe... strong Vibhuthi smell started coming... After 10 mins strong Sandal smell is coming from picture. We both were surprised. Remenant of that smell was there till I left the work.

That night I called him again to remind him to offer BABA prasadam. After a While he called me back and said for first ten bites, it is not his usual eating habits. He felt that somebody in him. What can I say it's all" BABA

BABA "

Regards,

Satish

FOR STARTING A SAIDARBAR CHAPTER OUT SIDE INDIA:

Please contact: saidarbar@saidarbar.org & saidarbar@gmail.com

8. SAI WITH CHILDREN:

Smt. Madhu Gopal Ravada, Saidarbar, Hyderabad.

Hello Children! I am Madhu aunty. Do you know Baba use to play with children and used to tell stories to them? I felt children visiting Saidarbar should be entertained with good stories. For the last two years I have told you about Lord Krishna's Leelas and Lord Rama Story. Now I want to tell the stories what heard in my child hood.

THE CUNNING CRANE:

An old Crane lived near a large lake in a forest. As he had grown slow, he could hardly catch any fish and so remained hungry most of the time. One day he hit upon an idea and decided to act accordingly. He stood near the edge of the lake and started weeping. After sometime, a huge Crab came near and looked up. "Why are you weeping Crane?" asked the crab.

"Oh! I am so sorry to hear the news of the fishermen. I heard that they have huge nets and will catch all the fish in this lake and that is why I am crying out of pity. I have stopped eating fish and am very worried about their future." The Crab went scurrying back and informed the fishes about his conversation with the Crane. The fishes decided that the Crane was their well wisher and came to him for proper advice. The Queen Fish asked, "Dear Crane! Is it true that the fishermen are coming to capture us?" "Yes my child" answered the crane. "I am very worried about your future that is why I can't stop weeping."

"What do you suggest as a solution Dear Crane?"

"The best way out would be to get out of this pond and escape to the one a little far away." "But how can we do it? We cannot walk on land!"

"I knew you would say this and I have the answer. I will pick each one of you and carry you on my back." "Then do start off now, before it's too late." Cried the Queen Fish. So the Crane started carrying each of them. He would go a little distance and eat them behind a huge rock and then rush back. After this had gone on for a few days, the Crab cried, "You have been carrying the fishes only, over the days. It is my turn to go now." Crane agreed and thought, "It would be a change of taste. I am getting bored with eating fish all the time." So carrying the Crab on his back he walked away. As they reached the rock, the Crab saw the remains of fishes all around and he understood the treachery in a flash. Instantly he clamped hared on the throat of Crane until he could hardly breathe. "This is the reward for your betrayal and you shall pay with your life" saying this he clamped harder until Crane choked to death."

Lesson: "Never listen to an adversary's advice without verifying facts for your self."

9. ARTICLES FROM SAI DEVOTEES:

Sai ka laadla saikalaadla@yahoo.com

9/7/2006 05:00:36 -0700

Belief

I don't believe in Sri Sai Baba. Why do I need to believe in something I feel so strong about? When you feel angry, you don't say: "I believe I'm angry." When you are in love, you don't say: "I believe I'm in love." You know you are in love, because the feeling is so strong, that you can hardly think of anything else than the person you love.

So, in that sense, I don't believe in Sri Sai Baba, because there is no need to believe. I can feel the presence of Sri Sai Baba. .

And why do we even have to go to certain places to meet Sri Sai Baba when He is everywhere? Well, do you think there are some places not good enough for Him to be in? We keep asking Him something but that is like saying we know better than Him what's good for us.

What we are actually saying is that whatsoever is there already is not enough. It's like saying, "Oh Sai, something is wrong with your creation, so improve it!" So where is the trust in Him?

For me trust or prayer is not asking things from Him. It is thankfulness and gratitude for what is already there. Now I'm not going to tell you a beautiful story how I found Sri Sai Baba since there is no way to find something which has always been here and everywhere.

The only thing I can talk about are the moments when I feel closer to Him. These glimpses of Sri Sai Baba happen as a sudden feeling of unlimited love. It's a love of such an intensity that it feels like I am going to burst into a thousand pieces if I don't get to hug somebody at that very moment.

Sometimes, these moments come when I get closer to pure nature, when I lie down on grass and feel the earth with my whole body. When I breathe deep and realize how tender it is to breathe the air and how amazing it is that it happens without our doing anything about it.

Sai Ka Laadla

10. LETTERS FROM SAI DEVOTEES:

On 9/26/06, arya sharma: arya_orth@yahoo.co.in

Jai Sai ram

It seems getting a mail from SAI DARBAR is like getting blessings from BABA it self.
Thanks a lot for issue.

Dr. Susheel Sharma.

vikasdivine@gmail.com

23 Sep 2006: 01:38:16

There is no doubt that this is the one of the best site form the Baba's devotees I appreciate your efforts. Om Sai Ram

rdrala@yahoo.com

23 Sep 2006: 06:33:51

SaiRam!

<http://www.saidarbar.org> is very nice, your efforts in distributing the CDs is highly appreciable.

Shantha shanmugam shas_prof@yahoo.com

On 9/28/06

Thank you for sending "The Glory of Shirdi Sai" issue-20. Your service in the form of E-magazine is just amazing.

Om Sai Ram

Sanju vij vsvg_ss@yahoo.co.in

On 9/29/06,

Jai Sai ram,

My life is full of Sai experiences, I want to share here one of them. On 28.9.2006 I was reading Sai Sachchitra I pray to Sai to come in my home today as I am waiting for Sai to come. When I woke up in the next morning and went to puja room what I have seen, you all can't believe the joy at was lightening which I was enlightened last evening i.e. 28.9.2006 the day prayed to Sai to come , I put little ghee in it so that it would enlightened for 2-3 hours . Its miracle, how Sai makes jyoti enlightened whole night with just small amount of ghee. I always thank sai ji for all this doing to me and rising my faith in HIM day by day. Saiji I always pray to You to make this whole world saimya.

I thank once again for the website <http://www.saidarbar.org> which is doing a lot in a rising faith in God in this kalyuga. Times are going bad we have to change ourself make ourself totally of God and nothing else.

Sanju

suresh@somtek.com suresh@somtek.com

On 10/2/06

SaiRam!

No leaf turns without his consent and knowledge

Sab Ka Malik EK

Vikas sharma vikas_sharma256@yahoo.com

On 9/23/06

Sairam

These type of effort brings to close Baba's bhagat's. I shall appreciate your work. Please stay in touch and send E-magazine "The Glory of Shirdi Sai" regularly.

Vikas

11. SAI'S BOOK WORLD:

Sai Sharan Me

C B Satpathy

Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd A-59, Okhla Industrial Area,

Phase 2, New Delhi 110020

Tel: 011 26387070 / 26386165

Email info@sterlingpublishers.com

The God and the Apostle

Prof. C. R. Narayanan

All India Sai Samaj

Mylapore

Chennai - 600 004.

Messages of Shirdi Sai Baba from the Spiritual Plane

Bharam Uma Maheshwar Rao

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4th Lane, Brundavan Gardens

Guntur - 522 006 A.P

Ph: 0863-2315381

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<http://www.angelfire.com/celeb2/saidarbar/pages/S3500041.htm>

Saidarbar members would like to convey hearty thanks to Saibandhu Murali Koneru of Australia and Saibandhu Murali Bala of USA who has uploaded Saibanisa's discourses Audio C.Ds in their web sites

<http://www.omsrisai.org>

You can download Audio:

Sri Sai Satcharithra (In English Language)

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<http://www.saiaudio.com/sairam/index.htm>

Contact Murali Bala murali@itmodule.com

13. EDITORIAL

“DIWALI GREETINGS”

Saidarbar team conveys the best wishes for a Happy Deepawali to all the Saibandhus and may the festival of lights bring all time joy to the Sai fraternity.

Things impressed me from this Magazine:

“The fundamental duty on our part to win His grace is that we should discharge all our obligations, in whatever position we may be stationed, in the firm belief that we do so at His behest”.

Sai devotees may write about their Sai activities in their place, essays, articles and poetry on Sai to "The Glory of Shirdi Sai" – they may address their contributions to E-mail id: saidarbar@gmail.com with a copy marked to webmaster@saidarbar.org

We shall put in our best efforts to include them in the Glory of Shirdi Sai- the bi-weekly E - Magazine. Unless the author of the articles instructs, not to publish his/her E-mail id, we will publish them as a matter of routine practice.

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Submitted by Sai Sevak: Srinivasa Rao Kasturi

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