

THE GLORY OF SHIRDI SAI - 3

Fifth Year of Publication

Published as Bi-Weekly

Issue 03/2007

01-02-2007

**GURUR-BRAHMA, GURUR-VISHNUH; GURU-DEVO MAHESWARAHA;
GURUR-SAKSHATH PARAM BRAHMA; THASMAI SREE GURAVE NAMAHA:**

THIS ISSUE CONTAINS:

- 1. FROM THE SATSANGHS OF SAIBANISA JI**
- 2. SAI'S NEWS FROM TIME MACHINE**
- 3. SAI IN DREAMS**
- 4. QUINTESENCE OF SRI SAIBABA'S PHILOSOPHY**
- 5. SANATANA DHARMA &SHRI SHIRDI SAIBABA**
- 6. DEVOTEES EXPERIENCES**
- 7. SAI WITH CHILDREN**
- 8. SPIRITUAL GEMS FROM SAI SATCHARITRA**
- 9. ARTICLES FROM SAI DEVOTEES**
- 10. LETTERS FROM SAI DEVOTEES**
- 11. SAI'S BOOK WORLD**
- 12. EDITORIAL**

1. FROM THE SATSANGHS OF SAIBANISA JI

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

INCARNATIONS

Whenever there is a decay of Dharma and rise of Adharma, then I embody Myself. To protect the good, to destroy the wicked and to establish Dharma, I am born age after age.

- Bhagavad Gita IV: 7, 8

Like water, Dharma also finds its level. When an individual commits an Adharma towards another, he will be made to compensate the other for it in some form or other, in this or in a subsequent life. Sin and retribution are inalienable action and reaction. That is a law of nature.

When that Adharma exceeds individual limits and spreads its wings to cover large sections of society, and a few ordinary virtuous mortals are unable to meet the challenge, God descends on earth in the form of an incarnation or Avatar to neutralize that collective Adharma. There is nothing accidental or extraordinary in this. It is only the operation of law referred to above on a very comprehensive scale to extend its effect to all the groups of society that deserves it. The combined Karma of all the individual souls of the society gets embodied in this incarnation. An incarnation is an agent of the Supreme Godhead, sent into our midst; with full authority and power to set in order all lapses and aberrations in the practice of Dharma.

But in this process, two significant departures of the Lord from His supreme station of spectatorship deserve special mention for our enlightenment.

“Prakita’ or “Mayasakti” is a creature of Eswara, the lord. At the time of His incarnation on earth, He manipulates ‘Prakriti’ and appears to be born and growing, through in reality. He is unborn and eternal.

Secondly, though in His original state He is above all Karma, in an incarnation he moves in actual flesh and blood among us as influenced by Karma but as an ideal Jivatma. He does this among other things, to bring Himself nearer to His devotee’s understanding of Him – nearer than a mere concept of God, or scriptural ideal to reach an unseen perfect personality of an epic.

Om Shantih Shantih Shantihi

Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu

To be continued...

2. SAI'S NEWS FROM THE TIME MACHINE:

February 25, 1912: Madhavrao Deshpande (Shama) left Shirdi to attend Kakasaheb Dixit's thread ceremony at Nagpur and Nanasaheb Chandorkar's son's wedding at Gwalior.

February 14, 1914: Mr.B.V.Deo was charged by Baba for stealing His rags and after lot of abusing and scolding was favored with instructions to read Dhyaneswari regularly every day as per Deo's desire.

3. SAI IN DREAMS:

These are the dream sequences and messages as received by SaiBaNiSaji 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.

08-12-1994

I prayed Lord Sainath to give message to HIS devotees.

Sri Sai in the form of an unknown person said that

Women, children and even dumb animals are employed in Politics and Cinema field with a motto of personal gains. Earlier such crimes were restricted only to select people like kings and Zamindars (elite and rich). Now-a-days even common people are found indulging in such acts. My advice would be to distance from such activities, tarnishing the image of humanity.

Exploitation has become the order of the day.

09-12-1994

A day before was Thursday. Some of my friends visited my house. I briefed them about Sai, HIS Philosophy and I felt happy for having done well. If Sai permits, I thought I could do it for life long. I put this before Sai and the approval was granted like this. He placed a white stone like mass in my hand asked me to drop it into the water storage tank kept on our rooftop. The stone purified the water. He further asked me to serve the purified water to the Sai devotees visiting my house. I was glad to get a green signal to go ahead for spreading HIS philosophy.

Good deeds are always encouraged.

19-12-1994

Yesterday, I was thinking more about the problems faced in leading family life often resulting in conflicts. I prayed Lord Sai to give me a solution to this vexed problem. Sai presented with the visuals as follows:

Imagine the family life as a pond of water with a couple of fish in the pond. It's possible that they may get separated due to the motion of waves set by strong winds blowing and female fish may get separated and reach the ground. It will be the duty of the male fish to drag the female fish back into waters, lest it may die or someone else may catch to eat it up. It will be foolish to expect that someone will come selfless and push it back into waters. So it is essential that in spite of the strong disturbances, the fish should never be separated and touch the ground.

Movement of friends inside the house should be selective.

To be continued.....

4. QUINTESENCE OF SRI SAIBABA'S PHILOSOPHY:

(By Late Sri Bharam UmamaheswaraRao)

"Shashi": shashi_31@yahoo.com

26. Mind Alone Is Held Responsible For the Bondage & Emancipation

Mind is the cause for man's life, sorrow, joy and liberation as well. It is the mind that makes us oblivious to Divinity and lures us to the enchantments of the world. Maya is that mental state in which the existent appears to be non-existent and the non-existent appears to be existent. All the experiences in the dream state are seen in the waking state as unreal. The joy derived in the deep state is attributed to the higher mind. Our mind shines with resplendent purity if we cultivate noble thoughts ideas and feelings. It is only developing the purity of mind; we can ensure the purity of action. Pure deeds can yield, if we keep our mind pure. Our destiny rests on our thoughts only. For our rise and for our fall the thoughts in us are the cause. Thoughts in our mind can lead us into dungeons of darkness and also illuminate us. The thoughts in our mind are the very vital breath to us. Harboring evil thoughts, or hatred, envy, anger and ego is the cause of our downfall. We are under estimating the supreme importance of our mind by our ignorance. Our whole life rests on the mind.

We should make earnest efforts to understand the power of the mind. Our love and hatred, pain and pleasure, life and death are based on the mind only. Even the five elements, the five senses, the five sheaths and the five vital airs draw sustenance from our mind only. We must have faith that the mind is the sacred power in the world. We must all understand that worldly pleasures that tempt our mind tantalize our mind. But we must know that there is an immortal Divinity in our mind. It is the mind which makes us to scale ethereal heights and also fall down to irretrievable depths. Everything becomes subservient to us, if we can control our mind. It is the mind which makes us a man. Man, mind and world are one and the same. It is the mind which makes the world. Our mind is a slate containing the writings of our many past lives.

So the mind must surrender multiplicity unto the God to attain unity.

To be continued.....

5. SANATANA DHARMA & SHRI SHIRDI SAIBABA

How can I accept or reject anything? Is there anything apart or distinct from Brahman? Now, finally and clearly, I know that I am the Atman, whose nature is eternal joy. I see nothing. I hear nothing. I know nothing that is separate from me.

When one's consciousness, peaceful and strengthened by goodness, is focused on the divine, one then achieves Dharma, wisdom, detachment and opulence. "

NEWS FROM ABROAD

www.mysanantonio.com

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, January 29, 2007: After a 16-year wait, San Antonio's Hindu temple finally has received its crowning touch, a raja gopuram --literally, a "kingly pagoda" -- that identifies the building with its roots in South India. The gopuram, a 42-foot-high entrance tower built by Indian artisans with statues of 52 Hindu Deities sculpted in concrete on site over the past eight months and painted white, was sanctified Sunday. The ceremony was conducted by two resident temple priests assisted by two other priests from Austin and Houston temples. Several hundred people attended. "This is my dream come true," said Venkateshwar Goud, a member since 1991, when the temple building itself was completed. "The temple is finally complete. It's wonderful. We're all blessed." No Hindu temple is considered authentic unless it has a gopuram built according to scriptural specifications by artisans from India and sanctified according to Hindu rituals. The door must face east.

"It's like the entrance to a palace," said Dr. Rajender Thusu, a longtime temple member. "It's the entrance to God's house. The various Deities protect both the house itself and the people." Every gopuram is built to be seen from a distance. That way, even people who don't have the opportunity to go to the temple may pray whenever they see it or pass it. Ram Kushwaha, president of the temple trustees, said the 15-year wait for the US\$120,000 gopuram was necessitated by the requirement that a specially trained team of 10 sculptors from India do the work.

www.elfarocentamelilla.com

CEUTA, SPAIN, January 15, 2008; (HPI note: This report is translated from Spanish)
Carpenters, electricians and bricklayers are working against the clock on Echegaray Street where the new Hindu temple is being built. "We hope to inaugurate it by the end of February," explains Ramesh Chandiramani, president of the Hindu community. In order to build the temple the Ceuta city government and the Hindu community signed an agreement last year in which the city committed to finance part of the work, estimated at approximately US\$390,000. The work started around the middle of September, once the "Consejeria de Fomento" granted all the required permits.

When completed, this temple will be an oasis of peace to which inhabitants of the city, whatever their religious affiliation, will be able to come when looking for a place of withdrawal and tranquility. "Like Hinduism, this temple will be open to everybody," says Chandiramani. "Gandhi also said: a culture that is not open is condemned to extinction."

www.nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, January 25, 2007: (HPI note: A kavadi is a decorated wood arch carried in procession during the festival of Thaipusam honoring Lord Murugan. Pots of milk are carried on each end of the arch and offered to the Deity upon arrival at the temple. Kavadi range in size from small to large affairs weighing over 100 pounds. What is described in this article are the small to medium ones. Thaipusam in Malaysia in a big way this year.

Malaysian-made kavadis are now much sought after overseas. Hindus celebrating Thaipusam in Australia, Canada, Africa and Japan are ordering the kavadis to fulfill their vows. Devotees from India have also made several trips here to take home samples of kavadi decorations as they felt the decorations here were grander. Kavadi decorator Soraja Maniam said most of her customers living abroad were fascinated with Malaysian-made kavadis.

Devotees and tourists are expected to throng the Sri Subramaniam temple in Batu Caves during the Thaipusam festival, with kavadi bearers climbing the 272 steps to the famous temple as a show of faith, sacrifice and fulfillment of vows. This year, the festival falls on Feb 1 and it has also been included as one of the major events in the tourism calendar for Visit Malaysia Year.

6. DEVOTEES EXPERIENCES:

saiappu_v@yahoo.co.in

Thu, January 11, 2007 2:59 pm

OM SAI RAM

I am Sai Aparna. I am devotee of SaiBaba. On November 25th 2005, I had an eye infection. It pains a lot, and it was Friday. On Monday, doctor visits to our city & I thought of consulting him. Meanwhile I should go nearby doctor. He is not Sure of what it is and gave medicines. On Sunday night I had too severe pain such that if I hit my head to the wall also strongly (I made it practically) I couldn't feel sense because of pain. All my family members are worrying about me. Meanwhile my mother bought BABA's Udi and applied on my head and in mouth.

After applying Udi with that pain only I sang Baba's song and unknowingly I went to sleep. Next day when I visited doctor he said it is Herpis zoster and he is not sure of sight. I suffered with it for 3 months and I prayed to Baba to give me good eye sight. After one week check up doctor was surprised and said you are so lucky. This all happened because of Baba. Not only this Baba

had showed me many incidents. I want to share this happiness moment to all devotees. So I am sending my real experience. If you have 100% faith in Baba then he will surely help him.

Sai Aparna

7. 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. Now I want to tell the stories what heard in my child hood.

The Crow and the Serpent:

Once a pair of crows built a nest on a big banyan tree. They lived there in a great happiness. One day a black serpent took shelter under the tree. He started living there in a hole. The crows did not like this but they could not do anything. After some time the female crow laid eggs. In due course small crows were hatched. The crow couple looked after their small ones with loving care. One day while they were away in search of food, the serpent climbed the tree. He ate up the young ones of the crows. When they came back to their nest they found the nest empty. They were very sad. They asked other animals and birds living there if they had seen their young ones. No one could tell them anything. They were dejected for a long time. Finally when they got over their sorrow, they decided that the next time they had young ones they would not leave them alone.

Many months passed. The female crow laid eggs once more. Once again they had young ones. This time the crow couple was very careful. They always kept their eyes on the young ones. One of them always remained with them. One day the female crow saw the big black serpent climbing the tree towards her young ones. She crowed wildly for it to go away. But the serpent paid no heed. He ate them up. The mother crow was heartbroken. She wept bitterly. All her relatives gathered round her. They wanted to punish the serpent but by then he had vanished in to his hole.

When the father crow returned in the evening, he heard the whole story. His sorrow too knew no bounds. At last the mother crow said that they would leave the tree and go away somewhere else. That way the tragedy would not be repeated in future. But the father crow reasoned with her. He said that they had been staying there for such a long time. It was their house. If anyone, then, it was the serpent who had to go.

How could they punish the serpent? Then they remembered their friend, the cunning old, fox who lived nearby. They would go and ask her to help them. She was sure to have some clever way to punish the serpent. So they went to the fox. They told her the whole story and then begged her to help them. Otherwise they would have to leave their old banyan tree and go somewhere else.

The fox thought for some time. Then she told them, "No, you do not have to leave your old home. I will tell you how the serpent is to be properly punished." "Tomorrow morning the royal Princess will be going to the river bank for a bath. Before entering the water she will take off her ornaments and clothes and keep them beside the water. There will be guards to look after them." The fox continued, "You make it a point to be hiding in a tree there. When nobody is looking, one of you pick up the precious necklace of the princess and fly away. The other one will follow making a lot of cawing sound. This would make the guards and others see that you have taken away the necklace. They will surely chase you. You carry the necklace to your tree and drop in on to the hole of the serpent. Then watch the fun."

The crows agreed to do as they were told. The next morning the crow couple went on to the river-bank and hid themselves among the thick branches of a tree growing near the bank. After some time the Princess, followed by her friends, servants and guards also reached there. The Princess and her friends took off their clothes and ornaments and kept them at one place on the bank. Then they entered the water and started frolicking among themselves. The crow-couple were waiting for this opportunity. They had noticed a beautiful pearl necklace among the ornaments of the Princess. The mother crow swooped over it, picked it up and started flying away. The father crow followed it, cawing loudly all the while. The servants and the guards had seen the crow pick up the necklace. They all shouted loudly and started chasing the crows.

The mother-crow came to the banyan-tree and dropped the necklace on the hole of the serpent at the foot of the tree. Then she flew away.

The chasing servants had seen the necklace falling being dropped. They reached the foot of the banyan tree. The necklace was half inside the hole. So they tried to take it out with the help of sticks and spears. The serpent did not like this disturbance. He got infuriated and came out of the hole hissing menacingly. The attendants of the Princess surrounded the serpent and beat it to death with their sticks and weapons. They then picked up the necklace and went back. The crow couple was watching the show from a safe distance. When they saw that their old foe was safely dead, they both heaved a sigh of relief. Then they lived happily ever after, increasing their family and always grateful to their friend, the clever fox.

Learn from your parents the moral of the story - bye children meet you in the next issue.

8. SPIRITUAL GEMS FROM SAI SATCHARITRA

"Swamy" swamymain@yahoo.com

Mon, January 22, 2007 7:52 am

Spiritual Gems from Sai Satcharita - Chapter 22 continued

Sai Ram. We saw how Sri Balasaheb Mirikar was saved from the Lamba Baba. Now, let us see how the predictions of an astrologer were challenged by Sadguru Sai in case of Shri Bapusaheb Buty thus proving that Guru's grace can overcome any karma or planetary influences, as asserted in Sri Guru Gita and Sri Guru Charitra. Some more examples of similar intervention by Sai Maharaj are narrated in this Satcharitra and we will link up these Spiritual Gems into a nice necklace. Sai Ram.

Sai Ram. My apologies for not posting the installment in time for the previous issue of Glory. I was caught up with some other works and forgot. It is His will. Sai Ram.

SSS: A great astrologer named Nanasaheb Dengale told one day Bapusaheb Booty, who was then in Shirdi, "To-day is an inauspicious day for you, there is a danger to your life". This made Bapusaheb restless. When they, as usual, came to Dwarakamai, Baba said to Bapusaheb - "What does this Nana say? He foretells death for you.

Well, you need not be afraid. Tell him boldly "Let us see how death kills." Then later in the evening Bapusaheb went to his privy for easing himself where he saw a snake. His servant saw it and lifted a stone to strike at it. Bapusaheb asked him to get a big stick, but before the servant returned with the stick, the snake was seen moving away and soon disappeared. Bapusaheb remembered with joy Baba's words of fearlessness.

SSG: Sai Ram. In Sri Guru Gita and Sri Guru Charitra too, it is asserted that Guru is Karma Dhwasmi that is destroyer of karma. It is also mentioned that Guru can save the disciple from the wrath of Brahma, Vishnu and Siva but the Three Gods cannot save the disciple from Guru's wrath! That is because Guru doesn't get angry with the disciple but for the welfare of the disciple. And thus it obviously goes without saying that if the Guru is pleased, all the Gods will be pleased (in fact Deepaka, the disciple of Veda Dharma does say that when Sri Siva and Sri Vishnu appear to him and ask him for seeking their boons). Sai Ram. The above story appears at first sight rather simple but is quite deep in its spiritual significance. Sai Ram.

SSS: Amir Shakkar was a native of the village Korale, in Kopergaon Taluka. He belonged to the butcher caste. He worked as a commission agent in Bandra, and was well-known there. He once suffered from Rheumatism, which gave him much pain. He was then reminded of God, and so, he left his business and went to Shirdi, and prayed to Baba to relieve him from his malady. Baba then stationed him in the Chavadi, which was then a damp unhealthy place, unfit for such a patient. Any other place in the village, or Korale itself would have been better for Amir, but Baba's word was the deciding factor and the chief medicine.

SSG: Sai Ram. Similarly when another devotee who was suffering from tuberculosis and for whom all medicines failed came to Shirdi and sought refuge at the feet of Sai, He ordered him to stay in the house of Bhimabai, which again was not an appropriate place when looked with the ordinary worldly vision. Sai's objective in such inappropriate remedies was to show to all doubting thomases like us that faith in Guru is the real medicine. Sai Ram.

SSS: Baba did not allow him to come to the Dwarkmai, but fixed him in the Chavadi, where he got very great advantage. Baba passed via Chavadi every morning and evening; and every alternate day Baba went to the Chavadi in a procession and slept there. So Amir got Baba's contact very often easily. Amir stayed there for full nine months, and then, somehow or other, he got a disgust for the place.

SSG: Sai Ram. It is an example of how even great devotees sometimes slip from their sadhana. Meant to be a lesson for all of us to be always alert. Sai Ram.

SSS: So one night he stealthily left the place and came to Kopergaon and stayed in a Dharmashala. There he saw an old dying Fakir, who asked him for water. Amir brought it and gave it to him. As soon as he drank it, he passed away. Then Amir was in a fix. He thought that if he went and informed the authorities, he would be held responsible for the death as he was the first and sole informant, and knew something about it. He repented for his action, viz. leaving Shirdi without Baba's leave, and prayed to Baba. He then determined to return to Shirdi, and that same night he ran back, remembering and muttering Baba's name on the way, and reached Shirdi before day-break, and became free from anxiety. Then he lived in the Chavadi in perfect accordance with Baba's wishes and orders, and got himself cured.

SSG: Sai Ram. It is Sai's grace that forgave Amir Shakar and allowed the prodigal disciple to return to Sai's fold. Sai Ram.

SSS: One night it so happened that Baba cried at midnight- "Oh Abdul, some devilish creature is dashing against the side of My bed". Abdul came with a lantern, examined Baba's bed but found nothing, Baba asked him to examine carefully all the place and began to strike ground with His satka. Seeing this Leela of Baba, Amir thought that Baba might have suspected some serpent had come there. Amir could know by close and long contact the meaning of Baba's words and actions. Baba then saw near Amir's cushion something moving. He asked Abdul to bring in the light, and when he brought it, he saw the coil of a serpent there, moving its head up and down. Thereupon the serpent was immediately beaten to death. Thus Baba gave timely warning and saved Amir.

SSG: By saving His disciples from serpent bites and from many other dangers, Sai is giving a simple message that Sadguru takes care not only of the para but also of the iha, the worldly matters as needed in the case of those who depend on His grace. Sai Ram.

We will continue with this chapter in the next issue. Sai Ram.

S.V.Swamy

9. ARTICLES FROM SAI DEVOTEES:

"Raghammudi ramchandrakiran" ramchandrakiran@yahoo.com

Thu, 18 Jan 2007 09:29:46 +0000 (GMT)

Baba tu hi maata tu hi pita

Nahi sachha aur koi jag ka naata

Tere dar pe aakar sab kuch paata

Hey jagannath hai tu hi ek data

Teri mahima badi nirali

Bhar de sadgunom se meri man rupi jholi

Naiya uski kaabhi na doobey jiski tu karta rakhwali

Aa bas ja mere hriday mein

Mera hriday hai janmon se khali

Upkaar tere kai hain mujh par

Phir bhi jholi phailaye aaya tere dar

Nij swabhavvash nirash na karna Harihar

Sadaa apney bhakton ki rakhta tu khabar

Ye Moodh prarthna karta, sada rahe shraddha tum par

Puri karo sabki manokaamna Hey Gurvar

10. LETTERS FROM SAI DEVOTEES:

"Raghammudi ramchandrakiran" ramchandrakiran@yahoo.com

Thu, 18 Jan 2007 09:29:46 +0000 (GMT)

Dear Saibandhu,

SaiRam

“The Glory of Shirdi Sai” E-magazine is very nice and I always enjoy reading it and try to put the teachings into practice.

om sairam,

R.Ramchandra kiran

"Ramesh khanna" neelkanthpublications@rediffmail.com

25 Jan 2007 11:32:05 -0000

Respected Saibandhu,

Thank you very much for keeping me on your mailing list. I appreciate and request you to continue sending me valuable information on Sai.

With regards,

Ramesh Khanna

Editor-in-Chief

Neelkanth Publications.

FOR STARTING A SAIDARBAR CHAPTER OUT SIDE INDIA:

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

11. SAI'S BOOK WORLD:

Title: Shri Shirdi Sai Baba: His Life and Miracles

ISBN: 8120728777

Price: Rs. 25

Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd. A-59, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II,
New Delhi-110020.

Title: Life History of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba

Author: Ammula Sambasiva Rao

ISBN: 8120720334

Price: Rs. 95

Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd. A-59, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II,
New Delhi-110020.

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From

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

12. EDITORIAL

Things impressed me from this magazine:

Like water, Dharma also finds its level. When an individual commits an Adharma towards another, he will be made to compensate the other for it in some form or other, in this or in a subsequent life. Sin and retribution are inalienable action and reaction. That is a law of nature

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

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