

SAI DIVINE



Sai American Foundation

Volume 8

New Year Issue

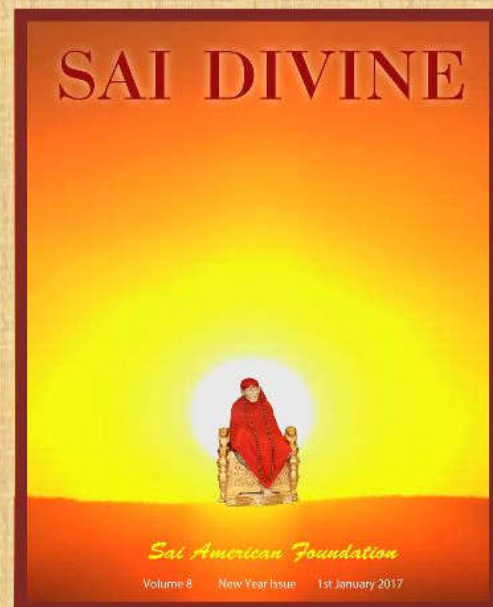
1st January 2017

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Editor

Biswaranjan Jena

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Editorial



Happy New Sai Year to You All.

The year 2016 marks several accomplishments for Sai American Foundation. The first ever International Shirdi Sai Retreat was held in Dallas in June 25 and 26 with the auspicious of Dr. C.B. Satpathy. Devotees around the world attended this two blissful days of Retreat with Guruji and listened him about Shree Guru Bhagavat and its relevance in the modern society. The feelings of Sai friendship and Sai fraternity was felt tremendously and it had deep rooted impressions on the minds of each and every one who attended this Retreat.

On the day of Vijaya Dashmi, devotees had Baba's Palki procession where hundreds of people joined to sing bhajans followed by Shree Guru Bhagavat recital. It was a dream come true for most of us as Sai American had its first ever Palki for Baba.

On December 11 and 12 Shirdi Sai Sansthan celebrated its first ever Global Sai Summit to celebrate the centenary celebration of Sri Sainath. It was on 15th October, 1918, Sri Sainath left his mortal body and took Samadhi. To commemorate 100 years of Mahasamadhi, Shirdi Sansthan had arranged the first ever Global Sai Summit where in 1100 trustees from India and 43 representatives of foreign nationals joined this Summit. Sai American Foundation also had this unique opportunity to attend this two day meet to participate this event.

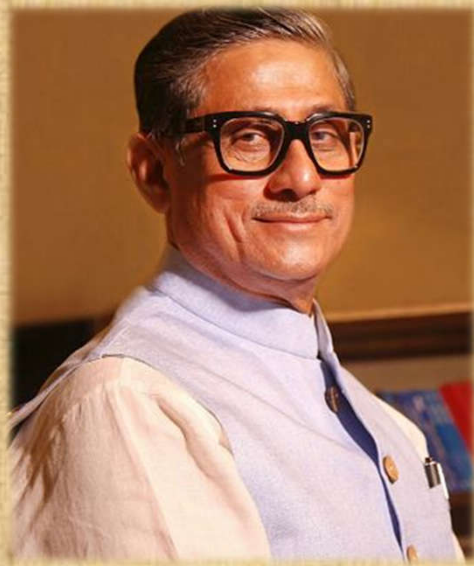


Inaugurating this event, Dr. Satpathy outlined few measures for Shirdi Sansthan to implement for the devotees across the world. He stressed on opening a world class library in Shirdi Sai literature with translation of languages like- German, French, Mexican and English. Dr. Satpathy also requested the chairman of the Sai Sansthan to open a University of Shirdi Sai and make substantial research on Sainath and his life during 60 years of his tenure at Shirdi. Lastly he urged Sansthan to do real Baba's service by opening up a cancer hospital at Shirdi. Various trustees across the globe including India also expressed their views and visions to Shirdi Sai Sansthan as to how the Sansthan can make this famous Shrine a world class place of worship by giving some of the best possible suggestions and views.

Sai American Foundation in association with Shirdi Sai Global Foundation will pursue all its activities and future programs as well. It's because of Baba's grace and Shirdi Sai Global Foundation, we could be able to visit Shirdi and part of death centenary celebration.

Jay Shree Sai, Jay Gurudev !

Biswaranjan Jena
Editor, Sai Divine
Plano, Texas, USA



New Year Message

At times, people claiming to be on the spiritual path, say that they have no use for money and matters. On the other hand, people carrying on with material pursuits say that they need money and material things always. This is a *mono-theistic* view towards life and not a practical one towards human existence.

The European writer Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel proclaims the theory of “Spirit Alone Is” whereas Karl max proclaims “Matter Alone Is”. Life is a synthesis of matter and spirit. A balanced life means the maintenance of a balance between spirit and matter in the right proportion. It is the spirit or soul which holds a dynamic human body in an organic form. Without the medium of a material body, the spirit cannot manifest itself and without the spirit within, the organic body is nothing but a dead substance. One needs to have a strong body to carry on with the spiritual practices. Therefore, the Yogis of yore always emphasized about the maintenance of physical excellence. Yoga and pranayama are the prescriptions. One may theoretically assert the existence of a subtle body within a gross body. However, the particles of the subtle body are basically gross in nature.



The gravitational and magnetic forces also consist of material forces only. These two aspects of human life are balanced by the mind. Mind has two components: Imagination and Desire.

All the activities of the human being emanate due to imaginations and desires of various types. Saints like Shirdi Sai Baba always emphasized on the control of mind as a sine qua non to spiritual advancement. They also knew that it is not easy for a human being to control the two fundamental ingredients of the mind, i.e., imagination and desire so easily and within a short period of time. Examples show that Baba for decades, tried hard to evolve the minds of His devotees from its sheer grossness to lofty heights. He was keen to know the way in which His devotees used to think. He often asked His devotees as to what they talked in Dixit *wada* or in some other place when they came to meet him.

Two anecdotes from Shri Sai Satcharita would explain the point: Once Hemadpant and Balasaheb Bhate were sitting in Dixit Wada having a heated argument on whether one needs a guru. The discussion went on for some time and in the end remained inconclusive with both men losing their peace of mind. Later when both went with others to the Masjid, Baba asked Kakasaheb Dixit “What was going on in the wada? What was all that dispute about? And what was this Hemadpant saying?” Between the wada and the Masjid is a considerable distance. How then did Baba know about this incident? This shows Baba’s all pervasiveness and omniscience as He could read the minds of all, no matter at what distance they may be from Him.*



Nanasaheb was once sitting in the Masjid when a Mohammedan gentleman from Bijapur came with his family to see Baba. On seeing veiled ladies with him, Nanasaheb wanted to go away, but Baba prevented him from doing so. When one of the ladies removed her veil for saluting Baba's feet, Nanasaheb, who had a glimpse of her face, was extremely attracted by her beauty. Knowing Nana's restlessness of mind, Baba spoke to him after the lady had left the place, "Nana, why are you getting agitated in vain? Let the senses do their allotted work or duty, we should not meddle with their work. God had created this beautiful world and it is our duty to appreciate its beauty. This again shows how Baba knew what was going through His devotee's mind and how He helped them to control it and evolve. **

We should sincerely pray for getting the inner strength of mind and ethical conduct.

Jai Shri Sai.

Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy
Gurugram

* Indira Kher (1999). Shri Sai Satcharita: The Life and Teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba. Sterling: New Delhi, Translated from the original version in Marathi by Govind R. Dabholkar. See chapter 2.

** ibid., chapter 49.



Euthanasia in the Light of Sai Philosophy

Samarth Sadguru SaiBaba's teachings emphasize on the language of lovable human behavior towards all irrespective relations. Strange that it might sound the language of worship can better be seen through the current century mantra as coined by Sai Baba, Love all, Hurt never. An occasional reading of Sai Satcharitra allows us to perceive the Master's thought. Love in all situations, becomes the basic human right. Life cannot be terminated in no stage through physical or medical interventions.

Certain events create disharmony especially the cycle of life. Being on a facetime mode, Sai Baba and the Sadgurus teach us through glaring images. We might not know the learning outcome of certain given situations. Sai takes care of one and many while teaching. This article comes as a lesson to me and teaches me of an important concept in the wake of our courts handling Euthanasia.

To share with I spent a good number of years in a South Delhi colony frequented by the Sikh community and the Punjabi Hindu families. Cheerful and optimistic in approach they taught me on undefined ways and introduced me to vet care, apart from other forms of formal and informal worship. One among my neighbor a young *Sardar* often attended and took care of all street pups, stray dogs, shared his breakfast, poured a drop of wine in water when situations became difficult to handle.



On one unfortunate day, a neighbor unmindful of some pups resting under his car, took to the wheels, leaving two pups to groan in pain. A resourceful Monu Anand took the pups to the nearest veterinary hospital in Motibagh. The attending doctor advised that the pups be put to sleep. A restless Monu came home with his pups, treated them with the holy water of the Ganges and took the name of His *Ishta*.

He ensured that the pups left for their eternal abode through minimal pain and wished to induce alcoholic sedation in their final stage. A few years later Monu Gurpreet Anand left the world after being struck by renal failure. Probably Sai taught me a fact and faction of treating life with dignity. And as I see Baba addressing the one and many issues, the Satcharitra reflects with the concept of euthanasia among human beings and the world of animals.

For a change our spiritual worships have gone beyond the age old ancestral coin of Sanskrit anecdotes and renditions. Though a part of India's landscape still follow the rituals in pleasing Gods and Goddesses in the event of entry and exit of life, Sai taught that the highest rituals was to leave the world in an ordained time as writ by our Masters and wait for the creator to take us into the invisible world rather than adapting Passive Euthanasia. Master of masters Sai, addressed life and its adversities in incomprehensible ways. Knowing that death could be reversed and altered, he recommended the reading of epics during the transition phase.

Baba taught us on the concept of dignified exits. He advises us to take the long track and stops us from a short term. As mankind continues to pause and ponder on how life could be treated , it would be best to go through the Sai Satcharitra and see the concept of Euthanasia. It would be unwise to think of the absence of the very subject then.



Euthanasia can be classified into active and passive or alternatively into voluntary, involuntary and non-voluntary. Active euthanasia means putting an end to the life of an individual for merciful reason by a medical practitioner by giving a lethal dose of medication to the patient. Passive euthanasia takes place where methods such as removing artificial life support systems such as ventilators, hydration, etc. are resorted to.

Sai Baba never advocated or tipped on unnatural death. Be it the tiger, be it the snake or the frog, be it human beings, Baba wished that it was better to desist from death rather than practice death. All knowing Omniscient Baba knew the last days of a patient. He advocated the reading of spiritual literature be it *Ram Vijay* or *Gita*. He made it thus evident that good death meant the remembrance of tranquil thoughts. Euthanasia ("good death") is the practice of terminating the life of a terminally ill person or animal in a painless or minimally painful way, for the purpose of limiting suffering. Sai Baba asks us to work out our sins and play the song of life with the tunes ordained by our Sadgurus.

I plead Sai Baba to reign upon all our generations with a determined will , to face life with all challenges, to recreate a place of energy in the entire world through its creed.

Peace , Endurance , Strength and Serenity through Light prevail.

Chintamani SVJ
Gurugram



Pride and Spiritual Arrogance

Pride is a universal human problem. Pride takes many forms and shapes and encompasses the heart and mind like the layers of an onion- when you pull off one layer, there is another underneath. Pride is much more difficult to discern than any other corruption because, by nature, pride is a person having too high a thought of himself. In any field, whether it's sports, the arts, your profession, or spiritual growth there are always going to be some people that are farther along in their development than others. We live in a society where “trash-talking” sports stars and celebrities are idolized. Inevitably, there will be people that feel the need to tell you how much better they are than you. In the area of spiritual development, this is known as **“spiritual arrogance.”**

First of all, spiritual arrogance can come from the pride of knowledge. Now, knowing God's word ought to be the passionate prayer of every believer (Col. 1:10), but once received that knowledge has the tendency of creating pride. By its nature, spiritual arrogance is exclusionary. Unlike the mystic understanding that All is One, people suffering from spiritual arrogance will tell you “they are advanced” implying that “you are not.” Some of the worst offenders are those who have some understanding of the spiritual laws that govern the universe and who have opened some of their inner senses. As Saint Paul put it, “Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know” (1 Cor. 8:1-2). Knowing this inclination Paul writes, **“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition”** (2 Tim. 2:24-25). Speaking the truth is imperative, but it must be harnessed by love or else pride will drive the cart (see Eph. 4:15)



Maybe that's why all Faiths teach us humility, the exact opposite of arrogance. In the Satcharitra, Shri SaiBaba repeatedly warns us about the dangers of fanaticism and pride, two versions of the same kind of arrogance and superiority. Stories from the Sai Satcharitra are replete with many incidents where Baba continually corrected and reminded all his devotees not to fall into the pitfalls and dangers of spiritual arrogance.

Dada Kelkar an orthodox Brahmin was once corrected by Baba for his arrogance and feeling of superiority when he insulted and berated another devotee's mother-in-law for cutting onions while cooking a meal in his presence. As per Vedic scriptures onions are considered impure and Brahmins need to maintain purity as they worship gods who are *sattvic* (pure) in nature. Later the same day Dada Kelkar's granddaughter was affected by severe pain in the eye and when Kelkar consulted Baba for some relief he was advised by Baba to foment her eyes using onions. Baba directed Kelkar to get the onions from the same lady whom he had berated thus correcting and humbling Kelkar for his indecent behavior. Baba's omniscient gaze was ever watchful of His devotees conduct and if he discovered that any of them was committing a folly, He was prompt in his correction and nipped it in the bud. Here are two more examples from other faiths that demonstrate this:

Hasan al Basri (642-728) the great Sufi master was raised in Medina and had met many of the Companions of the Prophet. During his lifetime he acquired a considerable reputation for his piety and humility. Hasan tells how one day he noticed a man and a woman sitting on the river bank. In front of them was a wine-skin. The scene caused Hasan to think self-righteously to himself: "if only I could reform this degenerate wretch and make him more like me!" At that precise moment a boat out on the river began to sink, throwing seven people into the water. Without hesitation the man Hasan had been watching leapt in the river..



When he had successfully rescued six out of the seven people, the man went up to Hasan and said: Hasan, if you really are better than me, in the name of *Allah* save the last man. Hasan relates that he was unable to save him, and the man drowned. The rescuer then said to Hasan:” The woman with me is my mother, and the wine-flask is filled with water. Do you see how judgmental and arrogant you have been? At this Hasan threw himself at the other man’s feet and cried” You rescued six out of seven whose lives were in peril ,save me from drowning in human pride disguised as spiritual merit (Idries Shah, Thinkers Of the East,48)

Another story from the Bible tell us in God’s eyes, spiritual arrogance is not to be taken lightly:

The well-known story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector can help us recognize our own spiritual pride. It tells of a much-despised tax collector and a self-righteous Pharisee who went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee proceeds to commend himself to God because of his careful observance of the law and to look down with scornful contempt on the sinful tax collector. “God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortionist, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.” Notice in his prayer that his focus is not really on God at all but on how good he is and how bad others are. Here is pride wrapped in the cloak of religion and giving it a bad name. The tax collector is so painfully aware of his sins and unworthiness before God that he cannot even lift his eyes as he stands in the back of the temple, far from the altar. Pounding his breast in sorrowful contrition over his sins, he can manage only the desperate plea, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner. His focus is very much on his own sins, not the sins of others, and especially on his need for God’s mercy. In a surprising reversal of expectation, Jesus says that God answered the tax collector’s prayer, not the Pharisee’s. Then he concludes with his main point: “everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”



How do we gain the mind of Christ and Baba and humble ourselves? To put on the mind of these Masters, we will need to make a firm decision to ponder, understand, and adopt their ways of thinking; their values and attitudes must become ours. Shri SaiBaba's strong emphasis on humility and meekness and his example of it must take hold of our thinking, our desires and our conduct. We must admire His humility and want it for ourselves. For this to happen, we need to earnestly and regularly pray to God to change our hearts, for it is impossible to do it in our own strength. If pride is an exalted sense of who we are in relation to God and others, humility is having a realistic sense of who we are before God and others. We must not think too highly (or too lowly) of ourselves. Rather, we must be honest and realistic about who and what we are. We humbly and sincerely pray to Baba to guide and help us in our spiritual journey and endeavors. Pray to Baba Peace be to all.

[Compiled from various sources]

Renuka Arun
Hamilton ,Ontario
Canada

“Without the help of a Master who has traveled along and experienced the path of spiritual evolution, the seeker goes through a process of trials and errors and his evolution slows down. If one accepts a *Sadguru* as his mentor, and strictly abides by His advice, his evolution becomes easier and faster.”

- Dr. C B Satpathy



‘BRAHMA VIGYANA’

The modern age is witnessing a tremendous explosion in knowledge. It's happening because of the rigorous research of the scientists. The science has brought benefits and advantages to the common men, which were unthinkable several years ago. In the field of medicine it has reduced human sufferings to a large extent. Spaceships have landed in Moon and Mars; scientists are planning to promote extraterrestrial real estate ventures in future. Because from among all the species, only human beings are incrementally more intelligent due to the process of evolution. There are new discoveries happening every day and every moment, yet the more one discovers of Nature's creation the more one realizes that the secrets of the creation are far deeper and mysterious than one can imagine.

There always has been a relationship between God and the Universal Nature. *Gyanis* (also pronounced as 'Janis') and *Vigyanis* (scientists, also pronounced *Vijnanis*) are always close to the Nature and the God, as they both contemplate upon God. Both *Gyanis* and *Vigyanis* are deeply aware of its greatness, diversity, and surrender to the power of creation. They follow the path of nature by logic and intellect.

It is seen that renunciation, supreme knowledge, self-realization, dedication towards exploration are the attributes of *Vijnani*. Many of the *vedic* rishis, saints of yore in the past had developed state of mental equipoise through yogic practices, meditation and various other methods. Similar are the attributes of a *Vijnani* in the present time. It will not be wrong to address the scientists as '*Brahma Vijnani*' of the present time.



Rishis in ancient India stood for the highest ideals and were accorded great veneration. They were freed from all social obligations, conventions and usually led a secluded life. A holy man who sits alone in a cave or “wanders like a rhinoceros” may be a paragon of perfection, but his way of life cannot be followed by the vast majority of people, especially in the market-oriented, industrialized modern societies, which puts a premium on work and social life. Don’t think that only a person who sits in a temple all day, sings devotional songs and rings temple bells is truly worshipping God, it is not so.

Brahma-Vidya is the knowledge, which every soul in this world is longing for in each and every birth. But the veil of ego (associated with our body) drawn over our soul restricts the knowledge and we live and die in that bondage of ego. There are the questions like the purpose of life, the real happiness, how to attain this etc. in the wonder filled universe. The answers to these and other such questions lie in the wisdom that we call ‘*Brahma Gyana*’.

The man of science sees and observes things only as they appear to be to his sense-perception. *Prakriti* or Nature is quite unbiased. What has science done to us? It has added both a fond of knowledge as well the discomfort, restlessness, and enhanced human complexities and intricacies. It is not the science or the discoveries by scientists that become the cause of destruction or downfall of human beings, but the negative forces like pride and prejudice of human nature. Please read chapter 34 of ‘Gopya ru Agopya’ by Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy for simple explanations of the subject discussed here.

Sasmita Mohapatra
Allen, Texas



Shradhha Saburi

Baba's message of "Shradha Saburi" or *faith* and *patience* are merely two words but when put into practice they can solve all the problems and one can achieve all their life goals. Throughout his lifetime, whenever Baba was asked about problems of their devotees, the only thing he insisted on were faith and patience. He always said have faith be patient and things will fall in place. Was that some miracle that only faith and patience could solve any problem! No it wasn't. If followed carefully an interpretation of his message of "Shradha Saburi" could be that when someone really wants to achieve something, they should have faith in themselves and really believe that they can achieve what they have set out to achieve, and work hard towards it with utmost patience until they achieve their goal.

If we take this interpretation of Baba's message, then we can relate it to everything that every great personality in the world has ever achieved. For example, Mahatma Gandhi had faith in the power of Non-violence and patiently worked hard towards independence and achieved it for India. Bill Gates or Steve Jobs both had faith that they could shape the world of technology and they worked hard patiently to achieve their goals. So on and so forth.

So come this New Year, we should all remember Baba's message of "Shradha Saburi" and should aim towards applying it to achieve our day to day goals. With the blessings of Baba and his teachings of faith and patience we can achieve anything we set our minds to.

Plawan Rath
Dallas, TX

Autumn



Oh Lord,
The seat in my heart
Is decorated
With memories,
Colourful,
Like the beautiful
Leaves,
Which decorates the trees,
Up in the hills
On a quiet autumn evening
And
Waits
Patiently,
For You
To come
And make it thy place

Abhijit Narayan
London, UK

Dawn of a New Era

Global Summit of Shirdi Sai Temple Trustees at Shirdi



Shri SaiBaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, organized a Global Summit of Shri Sai Temple Trustees during 11th and 12th December 2016 at Shirdi. The purpose of the summit was to exchange the ideas on Shri Sai Baba Samadhi Centenary Year Celebrations 2017-18 and Global Sai Movement. Representatives of more than 1,100 temples from across the Globe were in Shirdi for this summit. The representatives included 43 foreign delegates, who maintain Sai temples in their respective countries.

Revered Guruji Dr. C.B. Satpathy ji gave the following valuable suggestions to the Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi:

- Documentation of literature regarding SaiBaba
- Translation of Sai Satcharita in major world languages
- Maintenance a rich library on SaiBaba related literature and allied subjects.
- Starting of chairs in different university for deeper study on the philosophy of Shri Shirdi Sai baba.





- Establishment of a university in Shirdi for research in Shirdi SaiBaba.
- The release of fresh postal stamps/coins /covers on the centenary celebration of His Mahasamadhi to celebrate the centenary year.
- Establishment of an Air Radio and TV station at Shirdi.
- Shirdi SaiBaba temple should go global now. “With cooperation from the international temples, we should start developing world class infrastructure in Shirdi”.
- Relatives of first few disciples of SaiBaba must be recognized and felicitated. They are one of the most valuable links for us.
- Sansthan should build a cancer hospital and research institute in Shirdi.
- A series of *Sai Sahitya Sammelan* should be conducted.

Source(s): <http://www.shirdisaiglobalfoundation.org>





A special session with overseas Trustees was organized by the Shirdi Trust on the next day i.e. 12th December 2016. The session started with the lighting of the lamp by Dr. C B Satpathy, Dr. Suresh Haware and the other trustees of the Shirdi trust. In his address, Dr . Satpathy stressed upon the important role being played by the overseas based trusts and associations in spreading the Sai Consciousness and Indian culture across the world, with their own effort and resources.

Following are some of the highlights of Dr. Satpathy's suggestions during the meeting with the overseas trustees:

- Baba's movement is movement with Love. The work need to be done with love in heart.
- I have seen how many people have been working for Baba out of their sheer love without any expectation. They should be given the respect from the parent organization (Shirdi Sai Sansthan).
- If you can help, help them with positive thoughts. Do not spoil with negative thoughts. We do not want any negative thoughts.





Revered Guruji Dr. Satpathy urged all to consider and acknowledge the important role played by these overseas trusts / associations in spreading the teachings and philosophy of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba abroad, despite varied statutory limitations and circumstances at foreign lands. Dr. Satpathy was felicitated by the Chairman and the trustees of the Shirdi Sansthan.

(Source: Compiled from the speech)

New initiatives by Shirdi SaiBaba Sansthan:

Following are some of the new initiatives taken by the Shirdi Sai Sansthan:

- Electronic time *darshan* management system: The Biometric based Free *Darshan* Access card (Time Slot) is issued 24x7 for Sai Devotees through counters.
- All Sai Devotees will be welcomed with *tilak* in the queue and Tea, Coffee, Milk, Biscuits and drinking water will be served while in the queue.
- Special *darshan* will be available for the senior citizens, patients, women with infant.
- Blood donation camps: Similar to how people do *mundan* (donating hair), there will be facilities where people can donate blood.
- Cultural events will be held every day for the entire year.
- *Sai App* – a mobile app will be available by Sansthan.
- Free food will be served during the entire year of *Shatabdi Mahotsav*.
- ‘Sai Srushti’ Project, Sai Laser Show, Sai Planetarium, Sai Park – Star gazing gallery and Sai Wax museum are being planned.

(Source: Booklet provided by Sansthan during the Summit (Shri Saibaba Sansthan, Shirdi to become Service Oriented – Suresh Haware, Chairman)

Compiled by: **Manoj Gouda**
Dallas, TX



SARVAMATHA SAMMATHAAYA

SARVAMATHA SAMMATHAAYA is the 97th Nama (Name) in *Shri Sai Namavali* (108 names of Shri Sai Baba). Sainath did not find a new religion or favor any religion. Though devotees of all religions worshiped Him, He encouraged them to follow his or her religion strictly. Once Baba happened to scold a person who wanted to convert into Islam " Can you change your father? " The great Mughal Emperor Akbar started a new system of common prayer to God by establishing 'Din Illahi' (God's religion). Baba Sai, by practicing what He Has preached, showed the way of worshiping God according to one's own religious faith. By sitting in a dilapidated Masjid and naming it as *Dwarakamai*, Baba started *Akhand Deep*, *Tulsi Brindavan* and *Akhand Dhuni* (Sacred Fire, The Parsi community worships Fire God) He got hung a big bell as we observe in churches. Entry to *Dwarakamai* is open to all religious faiths even animals; insects and birds, which have no religion, found their way and received Baba's *prasad*.

Baba listened to *Khoran* and to *Gita*. No one definitely knew whether Baba was a Hindu or a *Mahomedan*(Muslim). In fact He unified the two communities by celebrating the Hindu Festival of *Rama Navmi* with all due formalities and at the same time permitting the "Sandal" procession of the *Mahomedans*. He got the 'Gopal Kala' ceremony duly performed on *Gokul Ashtami* day and on Id festivals, He allowed *Mahomedans* to say their prayers (*Namaz*) in His Masjid. So none could definitely decide whether Baba was a Hindu or a Muslim. He declared to the court of enquiry that His religion was that of *Kabir*.



Such a unique and wonderful incarnation was Sai Baba who saw no difference between caste and caste and even beings and beings. This is no wonder, for he who completely surrenders himself to the Lord, by getting rid of his egoism and body consciousness thus becomes one with Him, has nothing to do with any questions of caste, religion or nationality. (Chap VII, *Shri Sai Satcharitha*) No one can sufficiently describe Baba's greatness and uniqueness. He always uttered "Allah Malik " meaning God is the sole owner. Though He had a human body, His deeds testified to His Godhood. All people considered Him as the Living God in Shirdi.

Devotees of Shri Sai should try to propagate religious tolerance and avoid bloodshed in human activities in the name of religion!

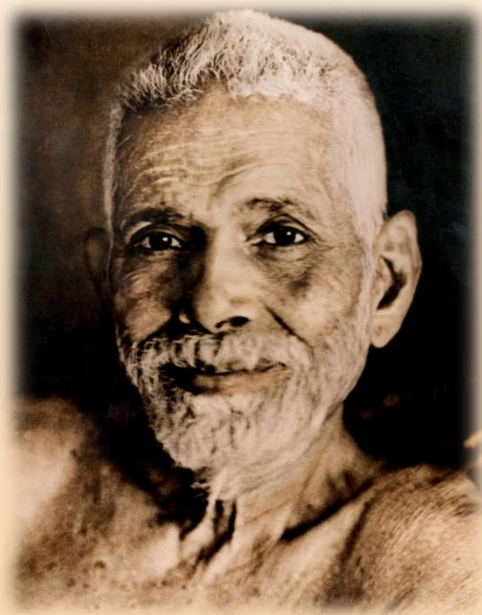
Om Sai Shri Sai Jai Jai Sai !!

Sai Eshwari.
Vancouver, Canada.

“ A man comes into contact with a *Sadguru* only as a result of accumulation of lots of good deeds in the past lives. One can try to seek God by going from one Guru to another but once *Sadguru* comes to his life, he should end his search and surrender to him because only he can give *God realization* to the seeker.”

- Dr. C B Satpathy

The Mind



Another year- of 4 seasons, 12 months and 365 days, fundamentally, a ‘Time Frame’ is coming to an end filled with lots of happiness, sorrows, griefs, surprises and much more. While taking its final footsteps from this gross world, this past year is welcoming one more year with full of joy and enthusiasm in its place. Every time, we celebrate new year with more joy, more ecstasy, and pray to God to fill our lives with more happiness and prosperity.

According to the book ‘The Teachings of *Bhagavan Shri Ramana Maharshi*’, all these happiness, sorrows are the projections of mind. *Bhagavan Shri Ramana Maharshi* has explained “MIND - is a wondrous power residing in the Self. It causes all thoughts to arise. Apart from thoughts there is no such thing as mind. Therefore thought is the nature of mind. Apart from thoughts, there is no independent entity called the world. In deep sleep there are no thoughts, so there is no world. In the states of waking, there are thoughts and there is a world also. Just as the spider emits the thread out of itself and again resolves it into itself. When the mind comes out of the Self, the world appears. Therefore the world appears, the Self does not appear; and when the Self appears, the world does not appear. The mind always exists only in dependence on something gross; it cannot stay alone.”



Therefore, it's the mind(aka the '*man*') who is always the architect of his destiny. Just as a day filled with good thinking, good work, happiness gives the man the same sweet mental reflection in his dream, the same way the practice of nurturing good thoughts, good behavior will carry the man to a good and healthy environment where he can enquire his mind about it's true nature. When one persistently enquires the nature of mind, the mind will end, leaving only the Self, what is referred to as the 'Atman'.

Hope this New Year brings you more joy and happiness with more blessings.

Suchismita Pradhan
Plano, TX

"Our pole, our protection is Shri Sainath. We should be as close to Him as possible. In every state of mind and soul while going through the different events of life, we should always look to Him so that we do not go far away from Him and are grinded badly by the illusions of the world."

- Dr. C B Satpathy

Kids Corner



New Year and New Morning

It's a New Year
When with Baba, don't fear
There is nothing bad
So don't be sad

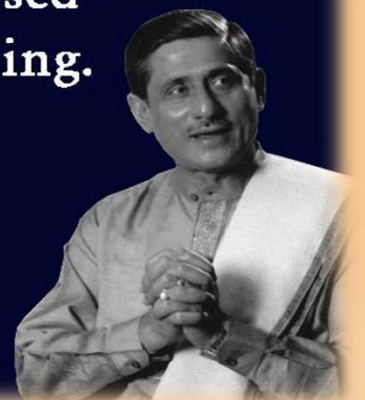
With all joy
Always enjoy
When Baba is around
He will always be found

With all we give and take
There is no mistake
If we pray Baba by heart
We're off to a good start !

Shreyanshi Swain
Seattle, WA

Love is above possessiveness. Love does not bind people to misery. It is supposed to give more openness and understanding.

Dr. C. B. SATPATHY



True Goal of Life



Have you ever wondered what is the Goal of Life? The Mysteries of Life is an article of which talks of the questions such as how life works, how to be successful in life, which things to know, what not to know and who to look up to when you are in need. I am an eight year old kid and this is what I think of life with my limited experience and Baba's blessings. The first thing (and the primary thing) to know about life is who you are. Other questions that link to this one are: why am I here? What should I do? How can I make a difference? and what is the right thing to do? The goal in life can be simple for a calm and focused mind but for others who don't try hard or work hard. It's a much different story. A very crucial and important thing to know is 'GOD IS WITH YOU'. Four words that when made into one sentence can change your perspective and others in a very divine way. In life, even when you are superior to the other in the sense that you have more money, or more worldly possessions than someone else, always keep in mind that without your things you are just like the people around you.

The people who are suffering, having only enough food to keep from leaving their body. Their lunch being only a half of your breakfast. The primary goal in life is to love God, have many selfless attributes such as honesty, bravery, kindness, determination and focus to name a few. First stop, think and listen, what is going on? Be a philosopher, Think, Imagine and go with your heart and soul. It is very important to remember Sai Baba for all that he does and know that whenever we fail at doing something he takes the fall with us. He carries all our burdens as his. We are destined to worship him with all our heart and show heartfelt for him. He accompanies all of us everywhere we go. In everything we do. He is a hero to all. Whenever you are in need, think of him and worship him mentally and everything will be fine. Our true goal is to walk in the divine path of Baba and help others.

Archit Gouda (8 year)
Plano, Texas



All those months gone by,
All the days spent away.
I wait for the last second,
To start a new life.

I look back at the past,
To learn from my mistakes.
Commit myself to good deeds,
Trying to make life better.

Start of new year,
Is a start of new things,
So I wish you all
A Happy New Year.

Rushav Sai Dash
Seattle, WA



Adishree Tripathy
Frazer, PA (7 Years)

Adishree Tripathy (7 Yr.)
Frazer, PA

Event Diary

The Global Sai Movement



Global Summit of Shri Sai Temple Trustees (11th and 12th December 2016, Shirdi)

Shri SaiBaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, organized a Global Summit of Shri Sai Temple Trustees during 11th and 12th December 2016 at Shirdi. The purpose of the summit was to exchange the ideas on Shri Sai Baba Samadhi Centenary Year Celebrations 2017-18 and Global Sai Movement. Representatives of more than 1,100 temples from across the Globe were in Shirdi for this summit. The representatives included 43 foreign delegates, who maintain Sai temples in their respective countries’.

Release of www.shirdisaiglobalfoundation.org (10th December 2016, Shirdi)

The much awaited official website of SSGF has been released by Guruji Dr. Satpathy. The website address is <http://www.shirdisaiglobalfoundation.org>

The 'Shirdi Sai Global Foundation' is an umbrella organization, patronizing about three hundred Sai temples/trusts/forums/community centers/ philanthropic and charitable institutions worldwide. The Foundation is dedicated to provide information, guideline and support to institutions associated with it, in India and abroad in carrying on Shri Sai movement.





Boita-Bandana Festival (14th November 2016, New Delhi)

On the auspicious day of Kartik Purnima, 14th November, Bal Jagruti Association organized the traditional Boita Bandana Festival 2016 on the lawns of Boat Club, near Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. People in Odisha celebrate 'Boita Bandana festival' to recall their glorious maritime past. Dr. C.B. Satpathy graced the function as the Chief Guest. Special Guest Shri Jual Oram, Union Cabinet Minister for Tribal Affairs, many senior officers from the central and other state governments, and people from the Odia community & those of others living in Delhi also participated in the function.





Clean and Green Drive Program at Shirdi (11th November 2016, Shirdi)

Green & Clean Shirdi Foundation in association with Shirdi Sai Global Foundation organized tree plantation and cleaning of roads in Shirdi on 11th November 2016. Dr. C.B. Satpathy led the plantation drive, planted a tree and appreciated the efforts of members of the foundation.



Dr. C.B. Satpathy Felicitated at Shirdi (10th November 2016, Shirdi)

Dr. Satpathy ji paid obeisance at Samadhi of Baba at Shirdi. He was felicitated by the Chairman, Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, Dr. Suresh Kashinath Hawre.





Release of www.cbsatpathy.com & Shri Guru Bhagavat in Hindi (Part III) and Marathi (Part II) (3rd November 2016, Sai Ka Aangan)

The Sai Movement pioneered by Dr. C.B. Satpathy ji took another leap in history with the launch of the official website of Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy (www.cbsatpathy.com) on the 3rd of November, 2016. The event was hosted at Sai Ka Aangan, Gurgaon, by Shirdi Sai Global Foundation in association with Trusts of various Sai Temples established under the guidance of Dr. Satpathy. General (retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Shri Suresh Kashinath Haware, Chairman of Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi graced the momentous occasion. The paperback editions of Dr. Satpathy's treatise Shri Guru Bhagavat in Hindi (Part III) and Marathi (Part II) were also released on this day.

The website address is: <http://www.cbsatpathy.com>





Xatra honours Dr. Satpathy ji (15th October 2016, Guwahati)

The Xatra welcomed Dr Satpathy in the traditional Assamese way by a *fulam gamosa* and a colorful *jaapi*. He was accompanied by a team comprising senior officers of the State Government, the district as well as officers from other parts of India, in addition to the local devotees. The cultural programme comprised traditional Xatriya dance, Sri Krishna Bhaag, depicting *Sri Krishna Leela* and *Bortaal*. A beautiful rendition of the Borgeet composition of Sankardeb and Madhabdeb verses was also performed. After the cultural programme, Dr Satpathy congratulated all the artistes who had put in a brilliant performance.

During his visit to the Sualkuchi Xatra, Dr Satpathy was also taken around the Xatra to have a glimpse of the Xatriya way of life. Dr Satpathy visited the *Namghar* and saw the Guru Asana, *Manikut* and mythological figures of Garuda etc., inside the *Namghar*. He also had a detailed interaction with the *Xatra* management, including the *Xatradhikar*.

(Source: <http://www.cbsatpathy.com/media>)

“The little lamps that has been kindled in us by the Lord is for lighting other lamps. None on this earth received enlightenment who had not been taught the lesson to distribute it’s energy among others. We should pray for being taught the lesson to enkindle others before we wish to be kindled. This path is easier.”

- Dr. C B Satpathy

Official Website of Shirdi Sai Global Foundation



<http://www.shirdisaiglobalfoundation.org/>

Official Website of Dr. C B Satpathy



<http://www.cbsatpathy.com/>



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