

SAI DIVINE



Sai American Foundation



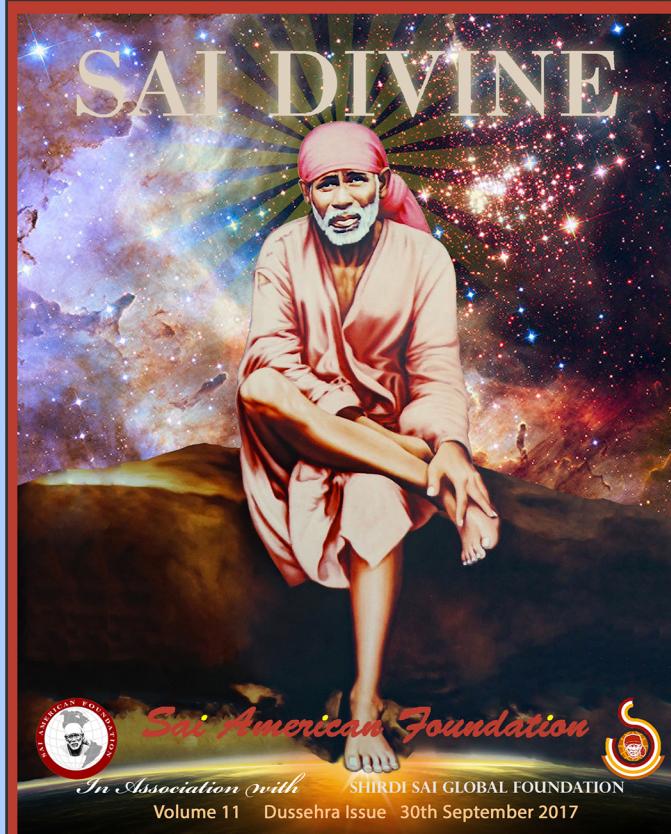
In Association with

SHIRDI SAI GLOBAL FOUNDATION

Volume 11 Dussehra Issue 30th September 2017

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Editor

Biswaranjan Jena

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EDITORIAL

Bijoya Dashami (Dussehra) is one of the auspicious occasion of Hindus and especially for the Sai devotees. It was the day when Sainath left this mortal world and took Maha Samadhi in 1918. From that time onwards, Sai devotees have always been celebrating Dussehra in remembrance of Shirdi Sainath. Devotees indulge themselves into various activities such as- Palki processions in the temples, reading scriptures in temples, reading Sai Satchrita or Parayan in the temples, homes, groups etc. Since Shirdi Sainath has left his mortal coil almost 100 years back, we can still feel his presence by reading of Sai Satchrita and sing his name on this auspicious day. We at Sai American Foundation also get actively involved in celebrating this ceremony in different ways. For last few years, we've been doing Parayan (mass reading of Sai Satchrita) followed by Palki procession. This year we plan to celebrate Dussehra in a big way with Puja, Palki Procession and plans to read the scripture- "Shree Guru Bhagavat" with friends and family so that we feel the presence of Sainath and our revered Guruji Dr. Satpathy amongst us. Dr Satpathy is the guiding force for all of us each moment and showing us the path to many who resort to his feet. He is the savior for all for us who are in the path of Saism. This is my personal experience and I've heard from my closest fellow devotees and friends as to how each one of us have received his blessing over a period of time. Dr. Satpathy always advocates - "Every Sai temple/organization should be center of the service activities". The service activities have always been the hallmark of Sai American Foundation's mission which will continue as we move forward in Sai path.

With the inspiration and guidance from Guruji Dr. Satpathy, at Sai American Foundation (SAF), our major focus has been leaning towards more service related activities. Every month, SAF is involved in Food Drive that helps with feeding 100 homeless and poor people in Dallas downtown area. Besides our Food Drive, SAF is also involved in India by feeding 52 orphan children by giving them food (three meals a day). The organization- Prativa Ashram, situated in the suburb of Bhubaneswar, Orissa has been relentlessly involved in working towards upliftment of orphan children who have either suffered due to child trafficking or child labor. Prativa Ashram has joined hands with SAF to make the lives of 52 children better though providing their daily meals and proper education. Apart from this, Lily Foundation (a Dallas Based voluntary organization) has joined hands with SAF to support basic education for poor kids in India in the state of West Bengal. SAF plans to support to this cause in a big way by providing funds to carry out basic education among the poor kids in India.

Last month, on 25th August, Houston, Texas suffered a major hurricane which has been real brutal as far as mother nature is concerned. Hurricane Harvey had caused catastrophic damages to the city and millions of people have suffered due to the flooding for days. This flooding has been unprecedented in the US history. In this critical juncture, Sai American Foundation (SAF) under the guidance of Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy, in collaboration with Shirdi Sai Global Foundation (SSGF, Shirdi Sai Global Foundation) actively got involved in providing relief to the flood victims of Houston areas. Until now, SAF has distributed an approximately \$4000 worth of food supplies, toiletries, clothing all around Houston area to assist people impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

SAF managed to arrange a boat and load items to be distributed to the flood victims. The items like - Canned Foods, Biscuits, Nutrition Bars, Bread, Bottled water, were distributed among 200 plus families who were in dire needs of food and shelter. The families have sent their blessings to the people who have generously donated to this great cause. Truly a great achievement. On 30th August, 2017, SAF provided another truckload of items to the Houston flood victims to another 350 families. These items include are - Toothpastes, Deodorants, Soaps, Feminine Hygiene products, New clothes for men, women, and children, Baby formula Diapers, Baby wipes, Hand sanitizers, Bottled water etc.

The volunteers of Sai American Foundation helped out Trusted World, (www.trustedworld.org, Trusted World) – A large volunteering organization in the USA, in sorting out food supplies and clothing which are being collected for the Hurricane victims on at their collection center in, Dallas area. Volunteers of SAF had worked tirelessly in collaboration with the volunteers of other states in sorting out the donated items which as not easy task to accomplish. Kudos to all volunteers of SAF who worked tirelessly and rose up to the occasion. ! Truly blessed devotees..... We will continue to respond to the crisis until the need has been met.

Lets pray Sainath and seek the blessing of our Guruji Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy on this auspicious day to imbibe the true spirit of service amongst us and so that we serve the needy and poor.

Biswaranjan Jena
Editor



DUSSEHRA MESSAGE

Faith and Miracle

Shri Shirdi Sai Baba entered Maha Samadhi on 15th October 1918 (Tuesday) according to the English calendar. It was the day of Dussehra or Vijaydashami as per the Hindu calendar. Dussehra falls on the 30th September (Saturday) in 2017 and on 19th October (Friday) in the year 2018. It is observed that most of the temples and organizations, dedicated to Shri Sai Baba and Sai Movement are planning to celebrate the centenary year between the 30th of Sept 2017 (the day of Dussehra) and the 19th Oct 2018 (the day of Dussehra). Reportedly, they are planning to undertake a number of activities during the centenary year.

The exponential growth in the number of devotees, trusts/associations/societies, groups and temples of Shri Sai Baba, in India and abroad, need to be understood in the correct perspective. Today's Global Sai movement is a spontaneous growth without the management or effective support of a single global institution as is the case with many other religious sects. Most of the devotees who have created the temples and trusts in the name of Sai Baba, have done so sheerly out of their love for and faith in the holiness, kindness and magnificence of Shirdi Sai Baba. Most of these devotees are householders without any formal spiritual training. There exists no such dedicated cadre for the propagation of the Sai faith or Sai movement, to the best of my knowledge. A large number of individually inspired activities are being performed for the cause of Baba. As records indicate, before accepting Baba as their Guru, they have been worshipping their family traditional deities. Even after accepting Sai Baba as their Guru, they continued to worship the tutelary deities. These devotees don't aspire to achieve any spiritual status or recognition. They are happy to work for the cause of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba whom most of them, had never met. When asked, they reply that they are internally and emotively connected with Baba and, therefore, love to perform activities in His cause. It has been observed that most of the Sai devotees have high emotive relationship with Shri Sai. Once into the fold of Baba, they undertake many types of inspirational activities like feeding the poor, distributing clothes, medicines and money to the needy and many more. The list is too long to be incorporated in this article. In the process of rendering philanthropic service, the character and personality of many of them evolves gradually.

Hence, the word ‘Sai’ can be defined as “Spiritual And Inspirational” in its quintessence. This used to be felt by the followers who were with Him at Shirdi as much as it is being felt by the present day devotees as well. Today also, a large number of devotees report such emotive connect, at times, bordering on miracles. That is so because, the illuminated horizons of spiritual possibilities that Shirdi Sai Baba showed His devotees filled them with a sense of hopefulness of converting a stressful life to a hopeful existence. Most of these worldly people were afflicted with the mundane problems of the sordid realities of life. Baba performed the unique task of uplifting these devotees to various planes of spiritual experience and awakening. Through varied methods, He tried to inculcate in them the equipoise of mind and ethical behaviour. He performed the act of balancing the counter elements in the devotees and yet evolving them. The indelible message scribed by Him for the posterity, inspires millions towards a pious and happy living. They are gearing up and getting ready to celebrate the centenary year.

The components of the centenary celebration year will, undoubtedly, be numerous events spread over the year. A festive and mirthful ambiance is likely to pervade the temples during these days. On special days, devotees from near and far, shall conglomerate and rejoice in each other’s company, remembering fondly the greatness and kindness of their Guru. Philanthropic acts will make the atmosphere in the temples, pious and joyous. However, amidst such fanfare, we have to think of a more serious agenda on the celebration of the centenary year and the futuristic Global Movement of Shri Sai.

This issue has been deliberated with a cross-section of devotees of Shirdi Sai Baba across the Globe. A few ideas about what the future program should be, are listed below:

- Establish an online global communication network among the Shirdi Sai Baba temples and trusts for quick and effective communication. First, it will establish a healthy camaraderie among the devotees and trusts. Secondly, various religious and philanthropic practices/activities adopted in one temple/trust can be imbibed by others. Exchanging of news and views will strengthen their knowledge base. Further, prior knowledge of the events/programmes of one temple will help the devotees of the other temples/trusts to programme their participation conveniently.
- Besides conducting the ritualistic activities on a daily basis and on special occasions, the temples/trusts should devote a major portion of their time, energy and resources to undertake humanitarian activities. The philanthropic work should be done in a structured manner by the creation of new institutions or updation of the existing institutions in collaboration with the other organisations, wherever possible. Some temples/trusts can also form a consortium and

pool their resources to achieve greater targets rather than aiming for smaller targets in a stand-alone manner. These could include the creation of Schools/ Colleges/ Universities, Medical Colleges/ Hospitals/ Dispensaries, institutions for the differently-abled, homes for people rejected by their own in old age and homes for orphans and destitutes, with a special focus on women and children.

- Setting up a research centre based on the literature on Shirdi Baba in their possession in different languages in a library form, online. To the best of my knowledge no such activity has been started by any organization. These centres should create excellent literature on Baba.
- In flood-prone areas, for example, in the Eastern Coast of India, like Odisha and Andhra, that are afflicted by floods and cyclones, the temples should be prepared to function as flood relief centres. Details can be worked in collaboration with the local authorities. Libraries containing the print/audio and video material on Baba can also be created. Devotees should have easy access to reading material. They should also be encouraged to undertake research and write books and articles on Shirdi Sai Baba.
- Shirdi Sai Baba undertook plantation of flowering plants in Shirdi. He used to get seeds from Neemgaon, a neighbouring village, and water the plants personally. Further, He got the dirty well of Shirdi cleaned. During epidemics like cholera and plague, He used to take a lot of care of the villagers of Shirdi and encouraged cleaning activities. In short, Baba used to give importance to tree plantation (environmental protection) and cleanliness (Swachchata) in the village. Following these precepts, the Sai Baba trusts would do well to undertake massive tree plantation programmes both in urban and rural areas.
- They should also undertake large cleanliness drives not only in and around the temple premises, but also of the urban and rural areas where they dwell, on a regular basis. The nation is undergoing a massive drive to protect the environment and maintain cleanliness. The temples should help and join the governmental and non-governmental bodies in these activities for the maintenance of social health.

Physical, mental, spiritual and holistic growth of His devotees was the aim of Baba. His followers should do what they possibly can to help in the holistic growth of their fellow beings. We can celebrate the centenary year of Baba keeping in mind this pious resolve.

Dr. C. B. Satpathy,

Gurugram.



Service to Humanity is Service To God

Humanitarianism is considered as service to human beings. Man is born with a heart of compassion which reacts in accordance to the feelings of fellow humans. Compassion, love affection and care are the innate qualities which make a human. These qualities define man. Loving and serving humans is considered of the utmost importance. Uplifting the poor by providing basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter is the only rule that finds its place in the agenda of serving people.

Service to humanity is service to God. This axiom of truth is the very essence of the teachings of the Master Sri Shiridi Saibaba. Baba preached no religion but taught people to be humane to one another and to serve the needy and the less fortunate. His daily life was spent in the service of others, be it in providing material, financial or spiritual help. Baba practiced compassion and love and reminded his devotees that when you serve others, you indeed were serving HIM (GOD). Close devotees of Baba understood his teachings through his actions and began their service to the Master by serving others. The holy mother Radhakrishnamai used to clean and sweep the roads and pathways in which the Master walked. She kept the streets of Shiridi clean. Her home used to a place for many pilgrims and devotees to rest and find comfort after a long journey. Thus in serving others, she served her beloved Master.

Baba did not prescribe any mantra or special rituals for his devotees for spiritual progress, but rather reminded his devotees to do the duty of their respective stations. It is by performing your duties whether as householder or as parent or in your respective occupations, he wanted his devotees to serve one another and thus complete their karmic responsibilities for spiritual progress. As God exists within all people, so when you are serving His children, you are also serving HIM. As Mother Teresa said "We cannot do great things, but we can do small things with great love. The fruit of Faith is love and the fruit of Love is service". Jesus specifically said "That which you do for the least of these, my brethren, you do unto me", which is to say that God honors our service to other humans as service to HIM.

Sagduru Kabir Saheb was a saint who taught humanity as a religion. His message is universal. His teachings is to worship God and do service to humanity. God resides in every heart, so no one should

speak harsh or abusive words for others. Similarly the great saint Rama Krishna Paramanhansha taught Swami Vivekanand the Advaita Vedanta (nondualism) that all religions are true and that service to man was the most effective worship of God.

Some years ago, sitting in assembly in Dallas, Texas, I remember our beloved Guruji telling us that we must use our God given “capital” to help and serve others. I at once thought that I would not be able to serve God as I did not have enough “Capital” in my name. Sensing our thoughts ,Guruji further explained that “capital” does not only mean money ,but that we are all blessed with our hands and feet and a healthy mind and body and that we can serve others even with a gentle smile or a tender touch to someone who is in pain and suffering. A kind word of encouragement to someone who is feeling hopeless, or a reassuring pat on someone’s back ,a loving smile ,a genuine prayer for someone in need is to use our “god given capital “ in the service of others. Baba believed in the harmony of the hand and heart. Though our work may be menial, though our contributions small, we can perform it with dignity and offer it with unselfishness. Our talents may not be great, but one can use them to bless the lives of others. The goodness of the world in which we live is the accumulated goodness of many small unseeingly inconsequential acts. As Florence Nightingale, the English social reformer and founder of modern nursing said, when asked as to how she found strength in serving the wounded soldier during the war time” If I could give you information of my life it would be to show how a woman of very ordinary ability has been led by God in strange and unaccustomed paths to do in His service what HE has done in her. And if I could tell you all, you would see how God has done all and I nothing. I have worked hard, very hard that is all, and I have never refused God anything”. These words tell us that GOD gives us strength and courage to serve others if our resolve is true and selfless and we must pray that we may be used as a channel by God to help and serve others. Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.

The famous poem “Abou Ben Adhen “by the English poet James Henry Leigh Hunt sums up this truth and I recall this poem as a young girl listening to it from my mother.

Abou Ben Adhem

*Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold:—
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the Presence in the room he said*

*"What writest thou?"—The vision raised its head,
And with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered "The names of those who love the Lord."
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerly still, and said "I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."*

*The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.*

- James Henry Leigh Hunt

May we all be graced to be like Abou Ben Adhen in the service of God.

Bow To Shri Sai .Peace be to all.

Renuka Arun.

Hamilton, Canada



Become Egoless and Control your Mind



The first teaching of Shri Sai Baba is to “Become egoless and control our mind”. While worshipping Baba, It doesn’t matter how well the rituals are followed, how grandiose the arrangements are, how rich and intellect the devotee is, or how much one knows about Baba. The principal precondition is *Bhava* (Spiritual emotion). It’s perfectly fine if one doesn’t have unwavering faith in Baba as long as the thoughts are pure. Faith is neither a commodity nor can be induced by some external force. Faith develops inside a devotee on its own accord – it’s an organic growth.

I can only guide you on the path which would give you *experiences*. I have seen a lot of people with great *understanding* – who has a plethora of information about temples around the world, have learnt a lot, but hardly have any experiences. Experiences are those shuttle events which we have been a part of, those which leave a lasting impression on our mind.

The language of devotion is *Bhava* (Spiritual emotion) and the only prerequisite is purity of thoughts. For example, take a woman devotee from a small hamlet, whose knowledge of language is minimum, who is devoid of any paraphernalia, but has a strong character – whose thoughts are pure. I have said it many times: “*Sadguru only looks for Spiritual emotion of a simple heart. This is his specialty. There are no strings attached. Caste, creed, religion, gender are trivial while worshipping Baba. One can't receive god's grace by trying to impress upon him. It can only be obtained by the simplicity of devotion.*”

There is no need to serve Baba by neglecting your duties, sacrificing your family, by observing fast or by undergoing any hardship. Baba himself had advised against these. Also, there is no need to feel uneasy by other’s spiritual offerings to Baba. It’s futile to do any comparison with other’s spiritual practice or level of devotion. This is nothing but the illusion of mind.

If you can’t entice positive thoughts while worshipping Baba, or some other god, then mere recital of spiritual chantings is meaningless. Only recital of those chantings are rewarding, whose meaning always reverberates in your heart. Until the meanings of the spiritual chantings are internalized, put

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into practice, and assimilated in our character, it is at best an exercise for the vocal cord. When we recite, “Oh, Narayan! You are present inside every living being”, and at the same time kill animals, then clearly there is a contradiction between our belief and deed.

Purity in thinking is more important than recital of spiritual chantings. They are not needed to worship Baba. Read Shri Sai Satcharita. If you meditate on the stories illustrated there, pure thoughts will arise in your mind. Whatever you cook at home, offer them as naivedya to Baba. The three energies which are universally worshipped in the Hindu religion are: Shri Ganesh, Shri Guru, and Shri Gayatri. Invocation of Shri Ganesh is ubiquitous at the beginning of any event. Next is invocation of Shri Gayatri – be it birth or a death, land consecration, or the inauguration of a temple. And, before you invoke any god or goddess, one should pray to his guru. Nothing more is needed. I myself don't carry out any other spiritual practice. So, simplify your worship and streamline your devotion. There is no need to visit Shirdi by borrowing money. At the same time there is no need to visit temple by neglecting your duties or family. *“A saint who is the embodiment of motherly love never expects his devotees to undergo any stress to serve him. Pray to Baba from wherever you are – Your prayers will definitely reach him.”*

[Translated sections from the keynote speech by Dr. C B Satpathy in Odia language during his visit to Bhawanipatna, Odisha in December 2010]

Bubu Tripathy

Frazer, PA



Shri Guru Bhagavat in Finland, Europe

Guruji Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy visited Helsinki, Finland on 9th June'17 for 2 days .On 10th June'17 Guruji presided the Sai event in Espoo, Finland which was arranged by Sai devotees of Finland. During the event Guruji's message and blessings deepen the unwavering faith of the devotees on Shirdi Sai baba. The time spent by the devotees during the whole discourse was a magical moment and 'once in a life time expereience` for all .

During this unique and distinct occasion, Guruji had presided and blessed devotees of all kind at various countries in Europe viz. Germany(Frankfurt), Austria(Vienna), Luxembourg, Belgium (Brussels) and Netherlands (Amsterdam & Olst). All the events were attended by hundreds of Sai devotees who were gathered from several countries India, United Kingdom, Finland, Germany, Belgium to get a glimpse of Guruji and to hear his divine message.

On 19th of June,2017 Guruji conducted the 'Prana Pratistha` of a new Sai temple in Olst, Netherlands. With Gurujis divine blessing I had an opportunity to attend the 'Prana Pratistha'. For me this was a moment of enlightenment and Trust. I was truly blessed to experience 'Prana Pratishtha` in the hands Guruji and so as all other devotees were present during the occasion.



Shirdi Sai Samaj, Amsterdam



Prana Pratishtha, Olst, Netherlands

My Divine Experience

I am great believer of Shiridi Saibaba and have experienced baba's presence in every moment of my life. It was a miracle as it could be , I met Guruji Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathyji in person on his maiden visit to Helsinki, Finland on 9th June 2017. My experience with Guruji during his short stay in Finland and moments of divine blessings, can neither be explained nor can be penned down in easily. With Guruji's divine blessing, in a sort span of few weeks, I got a chance to visit Sai Ka Angan, Gurgaon on the auspicious Guru Poornima day (July 9th). I got Guruji's blessing and visited Shirdi too. It was just the most incredible Experience of my life. Guru is the key path to find God

Shri Guru Bhagavat Parayana

After Guruji's visit, I used to read 'Shri Guru Bhagavat' every day. I wish and pray all Sai devotees to be blessed by Shri Sai and Guruji and must read the holy book 'Shri Guru Bhagavat'. This holy book not only enlightens the devotees but also provides an divine and eternal experience of 'God realization'. Anyone who is in the path of Sai Movement, will get solace by mere reading this epic treatise and will get his answers to any questions in life.

With kind blessings of Guruji, we have started Shri Guru Bhagavat Parayana for first time in Helsinki, Finland. The very first 'Shri Guru Bhagavat Parayan' event was organized on 27th August 2017 . There were about 10 families who participated this gathering and were truly overwhelmed after reading the first chapter- Guru Prathana. During this event, all the devotees had an unique opportunity to listen a discourse of Shri Guru Bhagavat with utmost devotion and unflinching faith on Sai baba and Guruji Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy ji.

With Baba's grace and Guruji's blessing, we are organizing Shri Guru Bhagavat Parayan a regular activity and the Shree Guru Bhagavat Parayan is now a twice a month activity. The number of participants have now grown upto 15 families and its still growing. Since Shri Guru Bhagavat is originally written in Odia language, we are also translating it in English and discussing with the devotees for their better understanding. At times, we also refer to - Sai Satcharitra, Sai baba and other Perfect Masters, for discussing certain concepts written in Shree Guru Bhagavat. Few lines, I can surely pen here as it has touched my heart.

"Tume bhaktara jeebanare || Aasa je aneka roopare

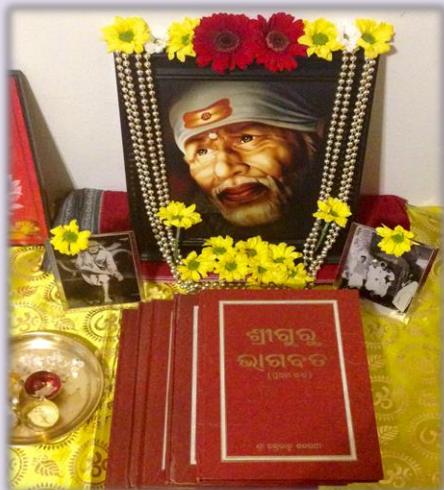
Keun janmara sakhaa,bhraataa || Keun janme tume putra baa pitaai"

[Shri Guru Bhagavat, Vol-1,Ch-1,Verse-3]

You come in the life of the devotee in various forms of relationships. In some birth (You come)as a friend or a brother and in some other birth, as a son or a father.

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This divine discourse on Shree Guru Bhagavt has created a lot of interest and enthusiasm with other Sai devotees who have expressed their willingness to participate in the upcoming days on a regular basis. With Baba's blessing, we are planning to start 'Shri Guru Bhagavat Parayan' event across different cities in Europe in future. I know, this is only possible by his Guruji's grace and blessing.



Jai Shri Sai.

Debasmita Nayak,

Helsinki, Finland.



Baba Adorning our *Mala*

Om Sai Ram to all Sai devotees and my gratitude to Baba for all His blessings which He has been showering on me and my family. Thank You is a small word if I want to thank my Lord Sai Baba for all the boons which He has bestowed on me.

This was in 2009 when I was pursuing my doctorate at the University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico, I used to offer prayers to Baba every day and on Thursdays I used to make a garland of fresh flowers and offer to Him, along with homemade sweets.



I generally did daily Aartis in home and even if I was out of home, I would never miss them. Once me and my wife had to go to Boston for a Conference where I had to present my research work. It was a five days conference from Monday to Friday. As a rule we always searched for Baba's temple whenever we went to a new place and went for His darshan. When we reached Boston, we searched on internet for Sai Baba temple in Boston. We found one in Dracut near Lowell, which was very far from our hotel but luckily my presentation was on Wednesday and on Thursday we were free so we decided to go there and take His darshan. We called the temple people and asked them the best way to reach it and they said we would have to first undertake a 2 hour journey by train to reach Lowell and then someone can pick us up from the station and give us a ride to the temple. He said that he needs to find a volunteer who is coming from that side to the temple and kept the phone. We both were very excited at the idea of Baba's darshan that too on a Thursday and we were praying to Baba

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to send a volunteer. Then after few hours we got a call from the temple that one person has volunteered to pick us from the station. We were a bit scared too as we were going to a new town and it would be late when we would return after night Aarti. We were really happy and thanked Baba for His kindness and facilitating and allowing His darshan. We boarded the train to Lowell around 3.45 PM and we reached there by 6.00 PM. The volunteer was waiting for us and told us that the temple was around 30 min from the station.

We asked the gentleman to stop at some store as we wanted to buy sweets for Baba and since we made a garland for Him every Thursday so we wanted to at least buy flowers for Him. My heart was a bit sad that we will not be making a garland for Him and just offer a bouquet of flowers. But Baba always fulfills even a small wish that you make with a pure heart and we were pleasantly surprised how He thrilled us with His benevolence. I bought a packet of chocolates and Rose bouquet for Him. We reached His temple around 6.45 PM and went in with the chocolates and the Roses. We sat on the floor in the last row. A lady took the chocolates from us to offer them to Baba but didn't ask for the bouquet. I was holding the roses in my hand and was continuously saying sorry to Baba that I was not able to offer Him a garland. Within 5 min a lady came to me with a thread and needle and asked me to make a garland of roses and offer it to Baba. After hearing these words I was so surprised and thrilled and my eyes were full of tears. It is amazing how Baba takes care of His devotees and paves the path for fulfillment of even their minutest wishes.

We thanked Baba for allowing us to have His darshan in the temple and giving us the opportunity not only to come to His temple but to make a garland for Him. He showed us that If you wish anything either big or small with true heart then He will surely take care of it!

Jai Sai Ram.

Deepak Varshney,

Phoenix, Arizona.



A Short Poem: *Yours Forever!*

*Buried deep
Under the weight
Of mundane activities
Sometimes I seem to forget you.
Daily chores
Gradually consumes
My energy,
My time,
And me,
Like the day
Consumed
By the darkness of
The expansive night*

*Oblivious of your greatness,
I fail to see the
Brightness of your divinity
Blindfolded as though
By the cobweb of relations
Yet, you wait for me.
Wait for me to open my eyes
And walk towards you.*

Abhijit Narayan,
Frankfurt, Germany.



Pure Yogi (*Suddha Yogi*)

Pure Yogi (*Suddha Yogi*)

Shri Guru Bhagavat, Volume -1 by Dr. C. B. Satpathy ji

The Suddha (True) Yogis on this earth are absorbed in many types of spiritual emotions. They are pure and pious. The spiritual aspirant in the path of Yogic practices travels through seven levels (phases). In the first three phases he transcends three levels of the subtle world. The fourth Lok is the Mano-lok (mental world). Once he conquers the world of mind, the spiritual consciousness of 'Hamsa' starts permeating in him. Finally, when the Yogi goes through 'Mano-Nash' (destroying the mind), he becomes a 'Paramahamsa' (experiences God and himself as one). Their mind gets detached from everything - food, attire, shelter or wealth. Such God-thirsty souls take birth through spiritual experiences of many lives. In Sufi literature, they have been described in various ways. They are known as "Majub" or "Kamil", "Kalandar" or "Mast". They perform pure yoga being immersed in the Love of God. They adorn different attires and are not easily recognizable. **They are of Five types and roam around in the world.**

Prabhu-Leena (Merged in God)

Before transcending to the stage of 'Paramahamsa', the spiritual aspirant passes through this state. They are not conscious of their body and oblivious of their past lives, they deem the world as illusory.

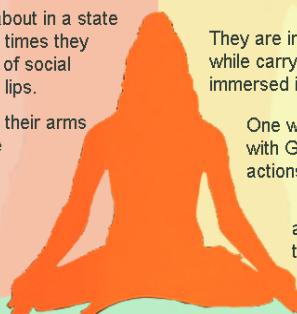
For them God is the only truth. His consciousness is all expansive and imagination goes beyond the universe. For him only he and Bramha (God) exist. The realization that the Bramha (God) and he (his soul) are one and same, dawns on him gradually.

With highly evolved divine consciousness, the Yogi's mind becomes totally internalized, the Yogi continues to remember God with a focused consciousness.

Prabhu-Paagal (Divine Madness)

These yogis are mad after God and are very rare. They move about in a state of Divine insanity, being detached from all the worldly illusion. At times they dressup like kings and at times, they wear no clothes. Unaware of social modesty and shame, they roam about with God's name on their lips.

At times they stand at a place for a long stretch of time pointing their arms towards the sky oblivious of their self. One who experiences the sports of God (divine leela), loses his human intellect. When overwhelmed with divine love, the devotee roams like a mad man. Renouncing the depravity of passion and desires, they evolve to the state of "Ardhanareeshwar" (God as both man and woman).



Prabhu-Matta (God Intoxicated)

They are fortified with Divine Power and remain in the state of divine intoxication, at home, in the forest or in solitude. In a moment, he is united with God, in another moment he is anguished with a sense of separation. Tears start rolling-down from the eyes. Compassionate blessing of the Guru fills him with strong confidence. His actions are for the welfare of the living beings. He sees God in living and non-living things.

Intoxicated in love of God, the Yogi becomes oblivious of the world. Absorbed in the divine bliss, he becomes the Seer of Divine sports of God.

Prabhu-Lipta (God Engrossed)

They are intensely attached to God. They are worldly saints, who while carrying on all their worldly duties, yet remain ever immersed in the thought of God.

One whose Prana (life-force) is close to God, he is absorbed with God externally and internally. In their thoughts, speech or actions, truth reveals itself in a simple spontaneous manner.

While managing their families, such Yogis are ever absorbed in the remembrance of God and also focusing their mind at the feet of the master (Shri Guru Charan)

Prabhu-Prayaasi (Seeker of God)

The fifth type are the intense seekers of God. Many such yogis and Rishis undergo Yoga sadhana (Spiritual practices) for the evolution of the soul. They are 'Mahamanas' (Yogis with a evolved state of Mind). By strong application of their will power, they undertake lots of Yoga and Tapas (Penance) practices. While meditating on God, they receive some divine knowledge.

However, all of them will not become 'Paramahamsa' just in one life. Only after going through the Sadhana (spiritual practice) of many cycles of births, can they attain the state of Paramahamsa.

Designed by - Manoj Gouda (Dallas)



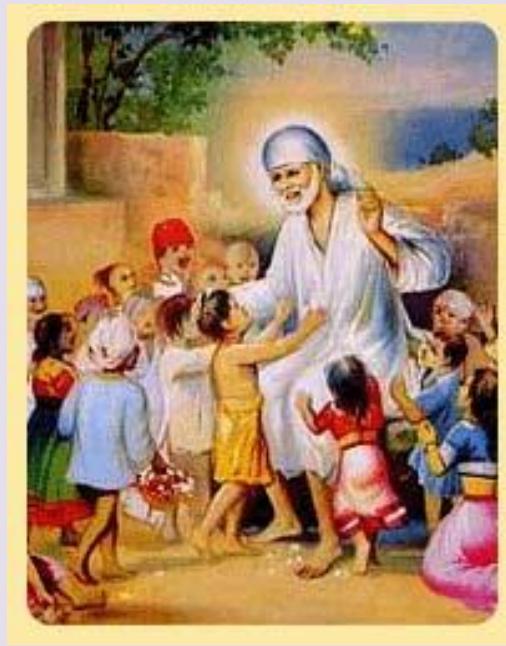
Kids Section

Our Baba- The Savior

Shirdi Sai Baba is the vanquisher of all sorrows. He is an inspiration to many people who have been through predicaments of their own. He is the spiritual guide of several others who aim very high to achieve their goals. I believe that he is the supreme leader of all time and space.

I love my wonderful Sai Baba. Why do I love him you ask? I love him for his simplicity and forgiveness for all things. He carries all of our burdens and sorrows. The only thing that would make him grateful is when us, his dear children, try to make our world a much better place. We could make the world a better place by growing the spark that inspired us to reach for our goals and make our dreams a reality.

When Sai Baba was in his mortal body, he guided others to become a better self. Sai Baba still speaks from the tomb and says, "my dear



children. Your goal is to make the world a better place for all living entities." Even right now, in McKinney, Texas. There are ordinary people doing extraordinary things such as helping the people impacted by hurricanes and feeding the hungry people etc. I know that we all can make a difference with the inspiration and blessings from our revered Dr Chandra Bhanu Satpathyji.

I write these articles for a reason. I am empowered by Sai Baba's trust and faith in me. Because of him, we are making a difference. Because of him, you're sitting down right now reading this article. My supreme goal is to make the world a better place.

Bow to Shree Sai. Peace be to All.

Archit Gouda (10 Years)

Dallas, Texas, USA.

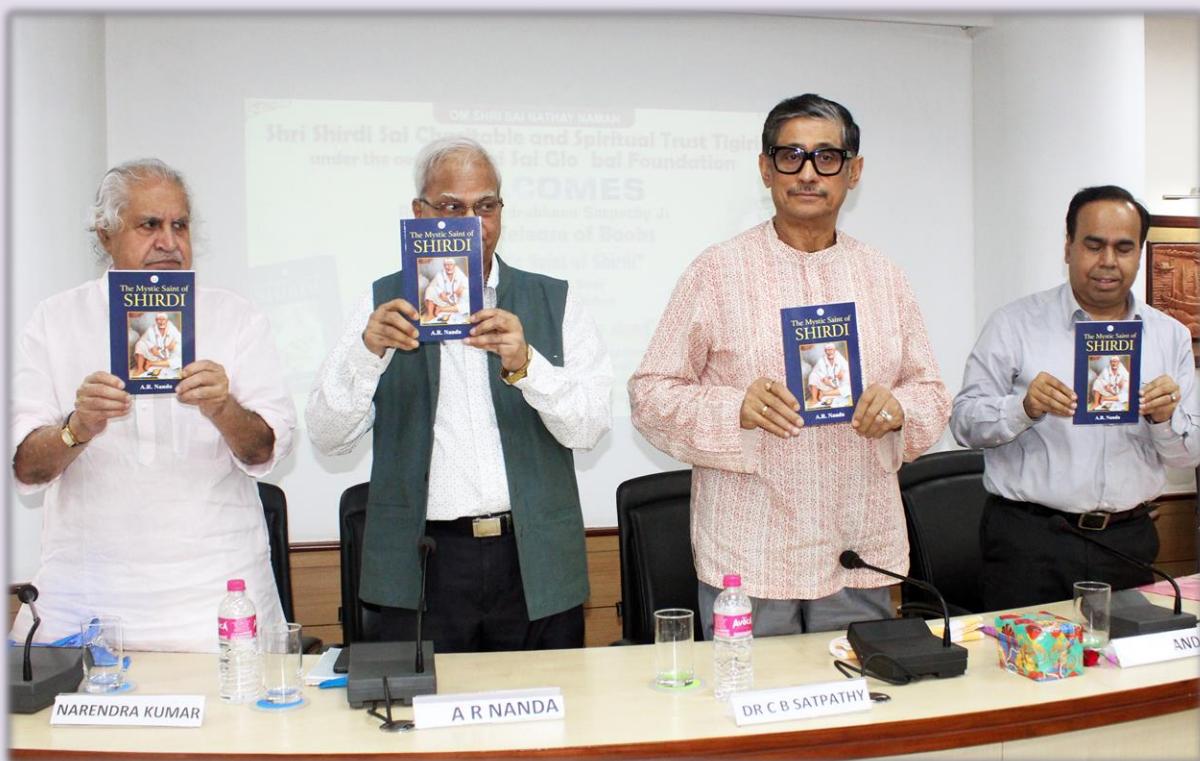


Events Diary

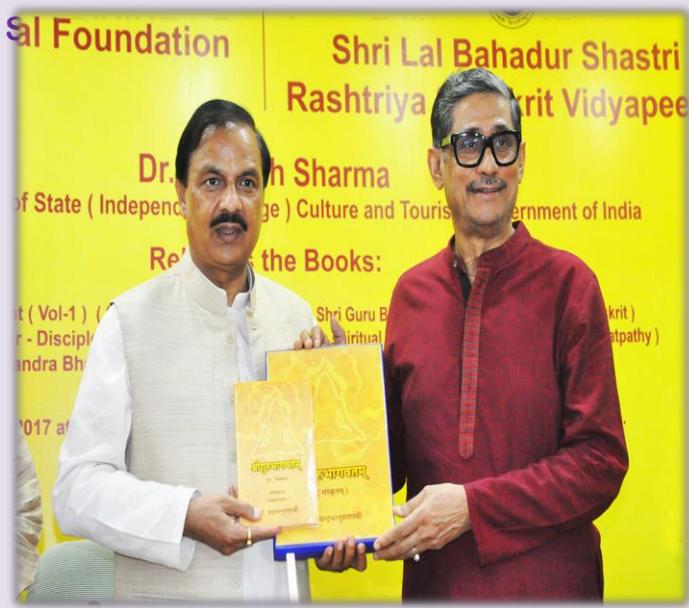
Book Release

NCERT complex, New Delhi - Sept 19th, 2017

Shri Shirdi Sai Spiritual and Charitable Trust, Tigiria organized a Book release event on 19th September at 5.30 PM in Chacha Nehru building, NCERT complex, New Delhi. Dr. C. B. Satpathy graced the event as Chief Guest.



The book titled “The Mystic Saint of Shirdi “written by Shri A R Nanda, Former Secretary, Government of India , was released by Dr. C. B. Satpathy as also the Hindi version of the book titled “The Eternal Sai Phenomenon” originally authored by Shri A. R. Nanda in English and translated by Dr. Meeta Khanna.



Shri A.R. Nanda felicitated Dr. Satpathy for his immense contribution to the spread of Sai Consciousness across India and abroad through the creation of hundreds of Sai centers, literature, music and through service to society.

In his keynote address, Dr. Satpathy mentioned about the importance and merits of the books as mediums for spreading the experience acquired over the years. Shri Suresh Panda, former CEO Prasar Bharti, delivered the vote of thanks.

Release of Shri Guru Bhagavata (Vol-1) (Sanskrit)

New Delhi - September 1, 2017

Shirdi Sai Global Foundation, Gurgaon in association with Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, organized a book release event at the Convention Hall, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on the occasion of 23rd Delhi Book Fair, on 1st September 2017 from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

The book that was released by the Chief Guest Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (Independent Charge), was the Sanskrit translation of the book titled Shri Guru Bhagavat (Vol-1) originally written by Dr. C. B. Satpathy in Odia language. It was translated by Dr. Bhagirathi Nanda, Professor of Sanskrit. On the dais, were also present Prof. Ramesh Kumar Pandey, Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Bhagirathi Nanda, Dean and Shri Debi Prasad Tripathi, the Proctor of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi.

Another book in Sanskrit titled 'Guru Bhakti Kushumanjali Shatakam' written by Dr. Bhagirathi Nanda, was also released. Dr. Nanda dedicated his literary creation to the spiritual inspiration of Dr. Satpathy.

Trustees' Meet

Lucknow - August 19, 2017

Shirdi Sai Kripa Dham Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in association with Shirdi Sai Global Foundation organized a "Trustees' Summit" for the trustees of Shirdi Sai temples working in the Hindi speaking



states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The Centenary Year (2017-2018) celebrations of the Maha Samadhi of Shirdi Sai Baba were discussed. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh. In his speech, Mr. Sharma appreciated the various programs of social service conducted by Shirdi Sai Global Foundation across India.

Dr. C. B. Satpathy suggested various ideas to the trustees which included arranging food for the poor sections of society, organizing medical camps, giving scholarships to meritorious students, tree plantation, cleanliness drive, yoga and meditation camps, etc.



Sai Sandhya by Sai Kashmiri Parivar

Gurugram - July 30, 2017

Sai Kashmiri Parivar, an organization of the Kashmiri Pandits, organized a Sai Sandhya in Gurugram on July 30th, 2017 at Club Florence, Gurugram. The ambiance and decor of the venue, the musical and cultural events as also the food items served to the guests were ethnically Kashmiri.

In his keynote address, Dr. C. B. Satpathy advised the Kashmiri community to remain united and preserve their rich culture and heritage. The first volume of Shri Guru Bhagwat, written by Dr. Satpathy and translated in Kashmiri by Shri B.L. Koul was released.

18th Foundation day of the Shirdi Sai temple, Kushinagar, Nagpur

Nagpur - July 23, 2017

Sai Kripa Sansthan, Nagpur in association with Shirdi Sai Global Foundation organized a function on 23rd July, 2017 to celebrate the 18th foundation day of the Shirdi Sai temple at Kushinagar, Nagpur. On this occasion, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India, who was the Chief Guest, felicitated Dr. C. B. Satpathy for his lifelong humanitarian endeavours and spreading of Indian Culture & Philosophy in numerous national and international forums. This was followed by a cultural program and bhajans by famous Marathi singer Pandit Ajit Karkare.

Shri Guru Bhagavat Parayan

Bhubaneshwar - July 13, 2017



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‘Sai Nirmalya’ in association with Shirdi Sai Servants’ Society organized Shri Guru Bhagavat Parayan at Tirumalla Tirupati Kalyana Mandapam, Bhubaneswar on 13th July, 2017. Dr. C. B. Satpathy graced the interactive session on the concluding day i.e. 14th July, 2017 and addressed the devotees on “Shri Guru Bhagavat O Guru Sishyanka Bhabagata Samparka”. A traditional “Bhagavata Tungi” model was inaugurated by Dr. C. B. Satpathy and a few lines from Shri Guru Bhagavata were presented in the form of Odia “Pala”.

Guru Poornima Celebrations 2017

Gurugram - July 9, 2017

Shirdi Sai Global Foundation in association with Sai Prakash Spiritual and Charitable Trust, celebrated Guru Poornima at Sai Ka Aangan, Gurugram on Sunday, 9th July 2017. Local devotees attired as Tatya, Shyama, Kaka Saheb Dixit etc. filled the temple premises with a festive mood. The Palki procession of Baba was carried out traditionally accompanied by various musical instruments such as



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Dhol, Tasha, Nagada & Turai. Besides the locals, devotees from different states of India and other countries like USA, Canada, UK, and Europe also participated in the event.

**Pran Pratishtha of Maha Shiva Linga and Shri Ganapati at Sai Karuna Dham, Noida
Noida - July 8, 2017**



The Pran Pratishtha of Maha Shiv Linga & Shri Ganapati was ceremoniously conducted by Dr. C. B. Satpathy at Sai Karuna Dham, Sec-61, Noida. The Maha Shiv Linga is almost 4.5 feet in height and weighs about 1400 kgs. Besides the devotees of the temple, devotees from different states of India and also from

SAI DIVINE – Dusshera Edition (2017)

USA, Canada, UK and Europe participated in the event.

'Sai Saranalayam', Sri Lanka

April, 2017

'Sai Saranalayam' which means Sai Sanctuary, temple of Shirdi Sai Baba located in Kotahena, Colombo, Sri Lanka. First opened in April 2017 it was established, within a short span of a few weeks. The statue of Baba in this temple is called ' Jeevathara Baba'. A number of religious activities are organized like regular bhajan practices, group question-answer sessions on various spiritual matters, learning of stotras etc. A live darshan of Baba is available from 6 am to 8 pm through the website www.saisaranalayam.org.

A huge Shirdi Sai temple is under construction at Avisawella – about an hour from Colombo. The objective is to serve the community via various philanthropic activities. A grand dance event portraying Shirdi Sai's life was conducted to raise funds for the temple. This trust is in association with Shirdi Sai Global Foundation (SSGF) and works under the patronage of Dr. C. B. Satpathy, the founder Chairman of the Foundation. Mr. Eswaren and Ms. Marutini of Colombo, Sri Lanka are the main organizers of these activities.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Shirdi Sai's life was a lesson in simplicity and utmost sacrifice which no ordinary man can ever achieve.

- Guruji Dr. C. B. Satpathy

Poverty is better than Kingship, far better than Lordship

- Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 5

The "Children" of Sai, as he used to call his devotees, will in future, by their conduct and selfless service make the world a better place to live.

- Guruji Dr. C. B. Satpathy

Purification of mind is absolutely necessary; without it, all spiritual endeavors are nothing, but useless show and pomp.

- Shri Sai Satcharita, Ch. 16 & 17

Sai Baba has been accepted as an incarnation (Saguna Sakara Avatara), which means, God who walked on earth in human form.

- Guruji Dr. C. B. Satpathy



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