

samarpan

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Editorial

By: Ashok Jain

Dear Sai Friends, there is a common thread which binds us all and that is Sai-Baba. Sai-Baba is inspiration and invisible energy driving countless people all over the world to evolve. Life well led is one where lessons learnt are practiced, actions represent thoughts and character takes precedence over appearance.

Spiritual lessons taught by Baba were also lived by Him. He did not preach anything which He did not practice himself. In His kindness, He imparted lessons according to the capability of every soul which was drawn to Him. Sai Baba did not have any motive except well-being of mankind. Those who were drawn to Him more than rest became His devotees. Sai Baba is not an ordinary teacher; He is true master. A master does not impart bookish knowledge; He imparts his own realizations. He distributes His own wealth and not borrowed money. He shares His own wealth of blessings so that we all become wealthy in true sense.

Master cares for its students in manners unimaginable. A true master establish a bond with student which lasts several life times.

We students also have to imbibe those lessons, learn from all our life experiences and not let any valuable lesson lost without being understood. All of us are exposed to law of karma, we also believe in rebirths. However, very few of our actions in this life are congruent to our knowledge. Most of our actions are because of limited vision. We have worries of future however limited vision of future. We live as if this is the only life. We settle accounts with power, money, vengeance and hoard, confiscate material objects as if this is the only life.

The knowledge of rebirth is like a fact known to us the way we know that the sun rises in east. This idea has not seeped into very core of our being and we do actions

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without being aware of a future life where we will have to pay our debts.

Life is such a precious entity and nothing else is comparable to it. Yet we waste our life pursuing worthless goals and objects. Samarpan team has attempted to keep the theme of this editions as rebirth or circle of life. About human being invaluable, I remember Kabir Dasji's doha:

दुर्लभ मानुष जन्म है, देह न बारम्बार,
तरुवर ज्यो पत्ता झड़े, बहुरि न लागे डार।

Hope you like this edition and Baba bless you always. Peace and love to you.



Spiritual Experiences

My Experiences with Baba

By: M.C. Mathur

Dear Sai devotees, I've had many great experiences with Baba of which I narrate three as follows:

First experience: This happened few months back, when during my sleep at night I used to have discussions and interactions with Baba in my dreams. Those days Baba often came in my dream where He always stressed on how much He had given me in my life, and therefore, now I should look at helping others who are in financial need. Baba kept insisting that I should help someone (whose name I'm not disclosing) by giving that person with 1 lakh rupees, as this person was badly in need of same.

When I realized what Baba said was indeed correct, I started to negotiate with Baba on how much money I should actually help that person with. I wanted to extend help for Rupees 25,000/- and not One lakh as suggested by Baba. Every night for almost 4-5 days such negotiation took place in my sleep and I finally agreed with Baba to extend financial help of Rupees 50,000/-. With this commitment made to Baba, I



decided to give this sum to that person and realized that I had a packet kept aside which was lying idle and that contained exactly Rupees 50,000/-. I immediately gave that money to person, who upon receiving the same was much obliged.

After honoring my commitment made to Baba the time went by and soon I forgot all about this incident. After many days, I happen to casually look at the same place from where I had initially picked up the packet containing Rs 50,000/- and to my surprise, I saw the same packet lying there. I was shocked to see that rupees 50,000/- came back to me unknowingly. That's when I realized that since I honored my commitment to Baba, Baba gave me the same money back.

Second experience: Once it so happened, was waiting in the Prasad queue to get

after Baba's darshan in Sai Temple in Delhi, I the Prasad from that temple, and while I was



waiting all of a sudden someone from behind came up to me and said “I have brought this Prasad for you from Shirdi”. He gave me the Prasad from Shirdi, which I gladly took and was overjoyed to receive the same. I waited in the queue and also took the Prasad from the local temple as well. That was indeed Baba’s blessing which I received that day all the way from Shirdi.

Third experience: Once I was invited to a family get-together at my relative’s house for a party. We were all enjoying and having fun when all of a sudden one of Baba’s pictures fell on my head. To everyone’s surprise, nothing happened to me or to the picture? Both were safe and intact. I kept wondering what happened? Was this Baba’s blessing for me?



My Tomb Shall Bless and Speak to the needs of My Devotees

By: Akshaya Murugan

I would like to state one of my experiences, yet again, which I never expected would happen. This was sometime back when I was working for BPO for two years and was now entering my third year of my career with this company, when I realized I was not really happy working there any longer. I don't know why but I didn't like it at all, and was just continuing to work there without any interest. Although I had worked there for two years, still I did not have the comfort to continue any further as the environment there made me much uncomfortable. I somehow didn't like the company of people around with whom I had to work. While there were no official problems, I wanted to quit my job and felt like being at home with my parents.

I often prayed to Baba to help me out of this situation. I used to read Sai Assurances daily and had faith that once I leave all on Him, He will surely help me out. I shared my views with my parents, who guided me to wait for few days till they found a suitable marriage alliance for me which they were looking out. I was still unhappy and felt why I need to wait till such time and why I couldn't resign from my job right away.

Soon a marriage proposal came our way and it looked 80% confirmed, therefore on that pretext my parents allowed me to quit. I was very happy and much relieved and thanked Baba to make this possible for me. Subsequent to my leaving this job, within a week the proposal was declined from the boy's side of family. We were all very shocked and upset and I even scolded Baba as to why we had to go through all this. My family members convinced me saying all happens for good and soon we learnt that the alliance was not favorable as boy's family was not nice. This brought us relief and we were all happy.

This made me to think about one of Baba assurance, "My Tomb Shall Bless and Speak to the needs of My Devotees", which came true, as Baba created this situation for me to help me quit the job. He answered my prayers and helped me get out. I thank Sai Baba from bottom of my heart for blessing me and my family and I wish to be in His holy feet forever.



Om Sai Ram – the powerful chant

By: Yogesh Prabhu

"Om Sai ram" this is a very powerful chant I have ever seen in my life. I would like to share some beautiful experiences with you.

My wife had chickenpox when she was 3 months pregnant; I was very much concerned about the new born. That moment, I could only pray to Baba; suddenly a thought just came to my mind about Baba's Vibhooti (Udi). I just mixed it in water and gave it to my wife. I had a strong belief that my baby will be normal and yes I was very surprised, my wife had a normal delivery and the baby was fit and fine. I couldn't find words to thank Baba. He is great. If you believe in Him, He is always there to help you.

One more experience of mine which I would like to share, is one of the miracles, I can say. During a weekend holiday I was playing with my daughter when suddenly my mobile fell into water. That was my favorite and I was heartbroken. I tried switching it on, but nothing worked. I had to give my mobile for servicing and got to know that it could not be



repaired in UAE and had no other alternative, but to send it to India for repair. That night, before going to bed I prayed to Baba and hoped that my phone would start working. I put my phone for charging and slept praying to Baba. Morning when I woke up and re-started the phone, there was the miracle. The phone re-started and was working fine. This is nothing but his blessings and a miracle.

Some time back, I was very depressed due to my office work. I prayed Baba to help me come out with a solution but nothing was working in my favour and I was going through a tough time. Then I remembered that Baba would always say, that whatever come your way, happiness or sorrow, we need to go through it with Shraddha and Saburi. We need to learn to be happy and lead life remembering Him and all our sorrows will come to an end. I prayed to him relentlessly and came out of the depression.



हारे के सहारे साईं शम्भू हमारें

डॉ नीरजा सिंह

साई बाबा इस छल-प्रपंच और पाखण्ड से भरी दुनियाँ में उस स्वाती की बूँद की तरह है । जो चातक को उसकी प्रतीक्षा का एक सुखद फल देता है या उस ओस से है साई बाबा ,जो एक सादगी और शीतलता प्रदान करता है । और आपके भीतर को ही शुद्ध करता है और आप निष्पाप हो जाते हैं । साई बाबा मेरे जीवन में उस समय आये जब मैं इस जीवन से पूरी तरह से निराश हो चुकी थी । बार बार इस दुनियाँ से विरक्ती लेने का मन करता था । ऐसा लगता था कि इतनी पूजा पाठ करने के बाद भी यदि हमारे साथ धोखा होता है। तो कोई किस पर विश्वास करें। हम सब ईश्वर की शरण में इस लिए जाते हैं ताकि उनके साथ कोई अनिष्ट ना हो कोई धोखा न दें । पर जब इतनी पूजा पथ के बाद भी हमें इतना बड़ा धोखा मिले तो कोई क्या करें । एक जीवन के सबसे बड़े झूठ ने तो मेरी पूरी दुनियाँ ही बदल दी थी क्या मेरे समर्पण और सेवा का यही परिणाम था। हर पल मन में उधेड़ बुन रहती थी। कि यदि ऐसे ही जीवन बर्बाद होता रहा तो इस

दुनियाँ में ईश्वर के होने का या सच्चे मन का क्या अर्थ है । मैं जीवन की निराशा और अपने साथ हुए धोखे को समझ रही थी पर मेरे पास कोई विकल्प नहीं था । क्यों कि जो छल मेरे साथ हुआ था मैं नहीं चाहती थी कि वही छल मैं किसी और के साथ करूँ । बार बार जीवन समाप्त करने के विचार आते थे ।



एक बार मैं ऐसे ही निराशा में डूबी अपने थोड़ी दूर पर एक साई बाबा का मंदिर

विश्वविद्यालय के पास से गुजर रही थी वहाँ से था पर कभी भी उस ओर मेरा ध्यान ही नहीं



गया था या ये कहे कि सायद साई बाबा को मेरे जीवन में इसी समय आना था । पता नहीं क्यों उस दिन मैं साई बाबा के मंदिर में गई वहाँ पर साई आरती हो रही थी । मैं भी आरती में शामिल हुई फिर मैंने साई बाबा को प्रसाद चढ़ाया और मंदिर के एक कोने में बैठ गई । पता नहीं क्यों मेरे आँखों से आंशू बह रहे थे और मुझे ऐसा लग रहा था की मैं यहाँ कितना रो दूँ । पर अपने आस पास के लोगों को देख कर संकोच भी हो रहा था कि मैं इन लोगों के सामने अगर ऐसा करूँगी तो लोग क्या सोचेंगे । लाख कोशिशों के बावजूद भी मेरे आंशू रुक नहीं रहे थे । मैं बार बार अपने आंशुओं को पोंछ कर सामान्य होने का प्रयत्न कर रही थी पर शायद मैं अपने आपको पर अपना नियंत्रण नहीं रख पा रही थी । थोड़े समय पश्चात मेरे पास मंदिर के ही पुजारी जैसी वेशभूषा में एक भाई आये और मुझे एक साई बाबा की पुस्तक पकड़ा दी और कहा कि साई बाबा का ध्यान करें वो बड़े कारसाज है वो तुम्हारी भी जरूर सुनेंगे । मैंने मन ही मन में साई बाबा को प्रणाम किया और वो पुस्तक लेकर घर आ गई ।

अगले बृहस्पतिवार को मैंने साई बाबा को ध्यान किया और फिर कुछ समय पश्चात मैं साई बाबा के व्रत रखने लगी । थोड़े दिनों पश्चात मुझे साई बाबा ,शांति और आत्म संतोष देने लगे ,यहाँ इसका अर्थ है कि पहले मैं बात- बात पर नाराज हो जाती थी और अपनी ही हाँनि कर लेती थी पर जब से साई बाबा मेरे जीवन में आये मुझ में न जाने कहा का संतोष समा गया । जो बात- बात पर गुस्सा आता था और मन में उलझन होती थी वो न जाने कहा चली गई । जिस काम के लिए मैं हर पल प्रयास करती थी पर हमेशा निराशा ही हाथ लगती थी वो काम धीरे-धीरे रफ्तार पकड़ने लगा और पिछले चार सालों में पूरा नहीं हो रहा था वो एक साल में पूरा हो गया और मुझे एक नौकरी भी मिल गई ।

जब से साई बाबा ने मुझ पर अपनी दया दृष्टि की ,ऐसा कोई भी वर्ष खाली नहीं गया जब साई बाबा ने मुझे कुछ दिया न हो । जीवन की दौड़ में जहाँ मैं दस साल पीछे हो गई थी वो सारे काम चार सालों में पूरे हो गए । कहा हर पल जीवन को समाप्त करने का ख्याल आता था और कहा आज साई बाबा ने एक सम्मानित सरकारी नौकरी दी वहीं जो मेरा प्यार मुझसे चौदह साल पहले अलग कर दिया गया था वो मुझे मिला और साई बाबा की कृपा से उसने मुझे स्वीकार भी किया और आज हम दोनों जीवन साथी हैं । साई बाबा अब कभी हमें रोता नहीं देखते, जब हम थोड़े समय के लिए परेशान होते हैं तो साई हमारी हर विपदा दूर कर देते हैं । पता नहीं क्यों पर एक प्रश्न मेरे मन में बार बार आता है कि आज हम जिस दुनिया में और जिस जीवन पद्धति को जी रहे हैं उसमें हमारे पास देर तक पूजा करने और तपस्या का समय कहा है । हमें आज अपने साई बाबा की ही जरूरत है जिनको अपने मन में भज कर ही हमें आत्मा संतोष होता है और वो एक पिता और माता की भांति हमें हर पल सही राह दिखाते हैं और एक सच्चे मित्र की भांति हमेशा सुख और दुःख में हमारे साथ हैं ।

अपने साई बाबा के बिना साँस ले सकूँ

आज कोई पल और समय ऐसा नहीं जब मैं

क्योंकि साई बाबा के बिना मेरा जीवन



अधूरा ही नहीं बल्कि जीवन ही नहीं है । इस जीवन रूपी नौका को मैं अपने साईं बाबा के बिना एक पल भी नहीं चला सकती । हे मेरे साईं बाबा जैसे आपने हम पर अपनी दया दृष्टि की है वैसी ही अपने सब भगतों पर करना जिससे कि इस दुनिया में इशानियत जिन्दा रह सके । आज बस साईं बाबा के सहारे मेरी जीवन नौका चल रही है और वो ही खेवनहार है । उनकी दया दृष्टि के बिना मैं एक पग नहीं चल सकती और न ही चलना चाहती हूँ क्योंकि मुझे पता है कि मेरे साईं बाबा मेरा हर पल मार्ग प्रशस्त कर रहे हैं और वो ही मेरा अच्छा-बुरा समझते हैं ।



Sai Kripa

By: Shreya Chaudhary

There are some experiences in life that just restore your faith and I have experienced one such very recently. My son was writing his 12th board examinations and was not too confident of mathematics exam. After the exam he came home in a depressed state and told us that he will not be able to clear it. My initial reaction was of panic as he is otherwise a fairly decent student. Then we both decided to check the dates for the supplementary exams. In fact, I called his school and conveyed that he might have to re-write math exam and got the details of the process.

Just then, a colleague from my office returned after having darshan from Shirdi and I thought that was a message for me to go in Shri Sai Baba's sharan. So I did a saptah parayan of Shri Sai Satcharitra and in the book I came across the story of a couple whose son was destined to fail due to a bad planet



alignment and Baba assures them that all will be well. I really believed that the message was for me and continued praying to Baba, and you will not be surprised to know that my son scored 65% in Math.

Sai never fails his devotees. Jai Shri Sai Samarth, please bless everyone who comes to your lotus feet.



My Experience in Shirdi

By: Raghavendra Rao

This is my first experience in Shirdi when I went there with my mother. During the journey to Shirdi we discussed about Baba, the place where he used to sit and take Bhiksha. Later, when we came back after Darshan at Dwarakamai Temple; a person came to us and said he could show where Baba used to sit mostly and took Bhiksha. We completely forgot about our discussion in the bus about the exact same thing.



While showing us the places, that person kept saying that he was also like Baba and refused to take money at the end and told me that he already has a lot of my money with him. Saying so, he left. After a few minutes when we went back to our room, it struck to me that me and my mother had the same discussion and wondered how that person could know about it. When I rushed back to where I met him, he was not there and no one there has seen him. Tears rolled down my eyes as I realized that he is none other than my Baba.

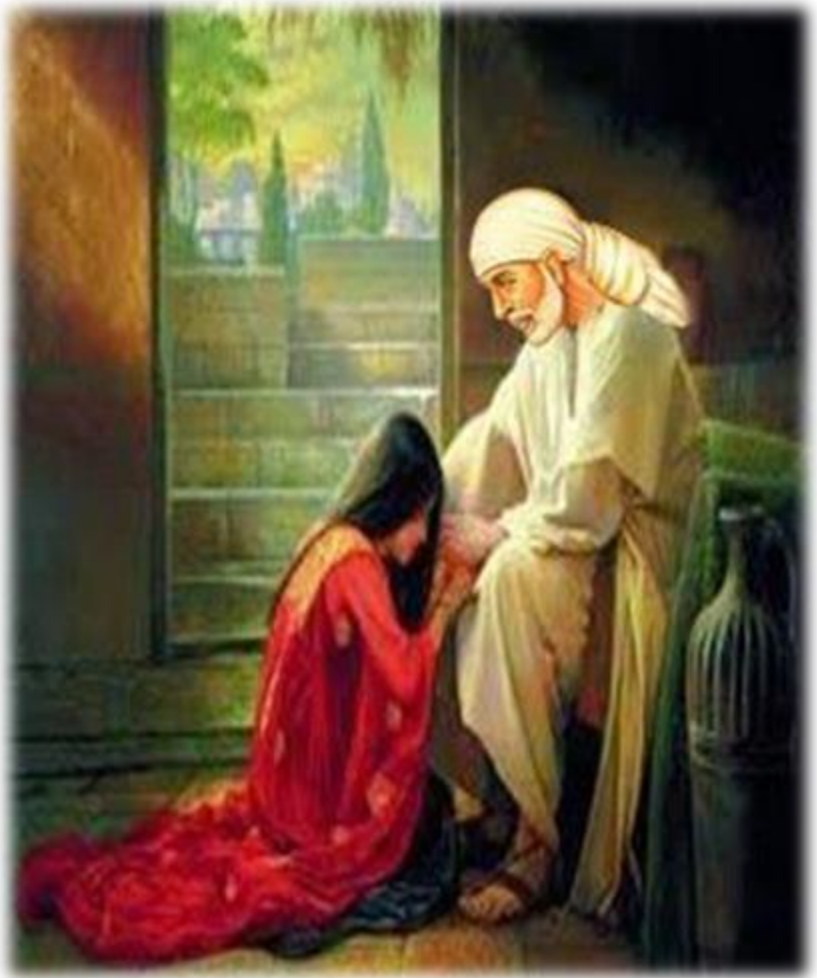
Baba please forgive my ignorance that I did not recognize you. Please be kind and bless me and my family always.



Baba my Savior!

By: Preet

My marriage is a love marriage and so we had to face some issues because we both belong to different parts of India. None of our relatives came forward to help. It was so stressful that at one point we decided to drop the idea of marriage. On the day of our journey to the marriage venue at my now husband's location I was fervently praying Sai to be with me. When the train approached and I was scared to board it and was asking Sai to come with me, miraculously I found a magazine with a big picture of Baba in it. It was as if Sai was telling me that he was with me and I need not have any doubts. It was strange that though I was there in the station for one hour, neither I nor my relatives noticed that magazine there before. Though this could be a small experience, it was a wave of encouragement and relief for me that everything will be okay. Even after marriage when I had to face issues, I cursed Baba that he was not helping me but today after 7 years of married life I realized that he has never stopped standing beside me and guiding me. Not only that but he also blessed me with an amazing life partner who has been a pillar of support to me at all times.



Another experience I remember is after I got married, my husband had to leave for Malaysia. South India was completely new to me and being told that the location we stayed was not that good, I requested our maid to stay with me at least at night. She agreed to it. One morning she woke up scared and shivering and told me that she will not work at my place anymore. When I asked her the reason, she told me that she had a dream in which an old man sat on her chest, pressing her neck scolded her. He said,



“How dare you steal items from this house during my presence? Nexttime if you repeat this act then I will punish you.” Being new to the area, I have not unpacked all my boxes; later after I unpacked all puja items including Baba photo when the maid returned she told me it was the same person she saw in her dream!

Believe me, Baba will never ever abandon his devotees.



I did the real Seemollanghan!

By: Divya

I have had many experiences where Baba helped me but I never wrote or disclosed any to anyone but I want to share one particular experience that happened recently on Dusshera (Vijaya Dashami) day.

I have been a devotee of Baba from my childhood and I have read Satcharitra a few times. I have often wondered about one particular chapter in the book. I never understood why Baba had to tear off his clothes and shout at the devotees who were doing Seemollanghan on Dusshera. People usually cross the village/ city boundary that day to observe this ritual. I found no reason for why Baba to be so angry about it but I never questioned it. Recently when I was hearing a discourse on Baba I understood that Seemollanghan meant crossing your own boundaries of lust, anger, attachment, greed, over pride, jealousy, selfishness, injustice, cruelty and ego. It is said that we should observe Navratri to leave all these and celebrate Dusshera (Dasha Hara- ten defeated) at the end that we defeated all these ten bad habits. It is not just a mere ritual of crossing boundaries.

So coming back to my experience, I had a hard time at work. I was reluctant to come out of my comfort zone and learn a new technology but I had a deadline to meet and I was not anywhere near to what had to be done. It came up to a point where it could lead to losing my job. Having so many personal commitments and a new baby I could in no way lose this job. On Dusshera day I went to my work place and started working but constantly praying Baba in the back of my mind. The time had come to demonstrate my work but I was still failing. I was certain that I would lose this job but at the same



time I was sure that Baba will not abandon his devotees. One last click would determine my fate. So leaving everything to him, I did what I had to do and closed my eyes shut as I could not face failure and embarrassment in front of my colleagues. I was making up my mind to pack my things and leave but all of a sudden I hear applause! As I open my eyes I saw everyone congratulating me. Slowly after everything settled down, I realized that I did Seemollanghan! Just like Baba wanted me to! I crossed my boundary of comfort zone (attachment), tried something new-



though I failed at first; I eventually succeeded. He was there all the way to help me and guide me. It was of special significance to me as it happened on Vijaya Dashami.

I, with His help crossed one of the ten boundaries. I am sure someday he will make me cross the other nine and teach me the real meaning of Seemollanghan and finally take me into his path!



Sugar Tea

Source: internet

Das Ganu was once performing his Kirtan (religious discourse) and singing the glory of Sai Baba, in the Koupineshwar temple in Thana. One Mr. Cholkar, a poor man serving as a candidate in the Civil Courts in Thana, was amongst the audience. He heard Dasganu's Kirtan most attentively and was much moved. He there and then mentally bowed and vowed to Baba saying - "Baba, I am a poor man, unable to support my family. If by your grace, I pass the departmental examination, and get a permanent post, I shall go to Shirdi, fall at Your Feet and distribute sugar-candy in Your name."

As good luck would have it, Mr.Cholkar did pass the examination and did get the permanent post and now it remained for him to fulfill his vow, the sooner the better. Mr. Cholkar was a poor man with a large family to support; and he could not afford to pay for the expenses of a Shirdi trip. As Mr. Cholkar was anxious to fulfill his vow as early as possible, he resolved to economize, cut down his expenses and save money. He determined not to use sugar in his diet and began to take his tea without it. After he was able to save some money in this way, he came to Shirdi, took Baba's darshan (sight of a holy person), fell at His Feet, offered a coconut, distributed it with a clean conscience along with sugar-candy as per his vow and said to Baba that he was much pleased with



His darshan and that his desires were fulfilled that day. Mr. Cholkar was in the Masjid with his host Bapusaheb Jog. When the host and the guest both got up and were about to leave the Masjid, Baba spoke to Jog as follows:- "Give him (your guest) cups of tea, fully saturated with sugar." Hearing these significant words, Mr. Cholkar was much moved, he was wonderstruck, his eyes were bedewed with tears, and he fell at Baba's Feet

again. Mr. Jog was also curious about this direction, regarding the tea-cups to be given to his guest. Baba wanted by His words to create faith and devotion in Cholkar's mind. He hinted as it were, that He got the sugar-candy as per his vow and that He knew full well his secret determination not to use sugar in his diet. Baba meant to say, "If you spread your palms with devotion before Me, I am immediately with you, day and night. Though, I am here bodily, still I know what you do; beyond the seven seas. Go wherever you will, over the wide world, I am with you. My abode is in your heart and I am within you. Always worship Me, Who is seated in your heart, as well as in the hearts of all beings. Blessed and fortunate indeed, is he who knows Me thus."

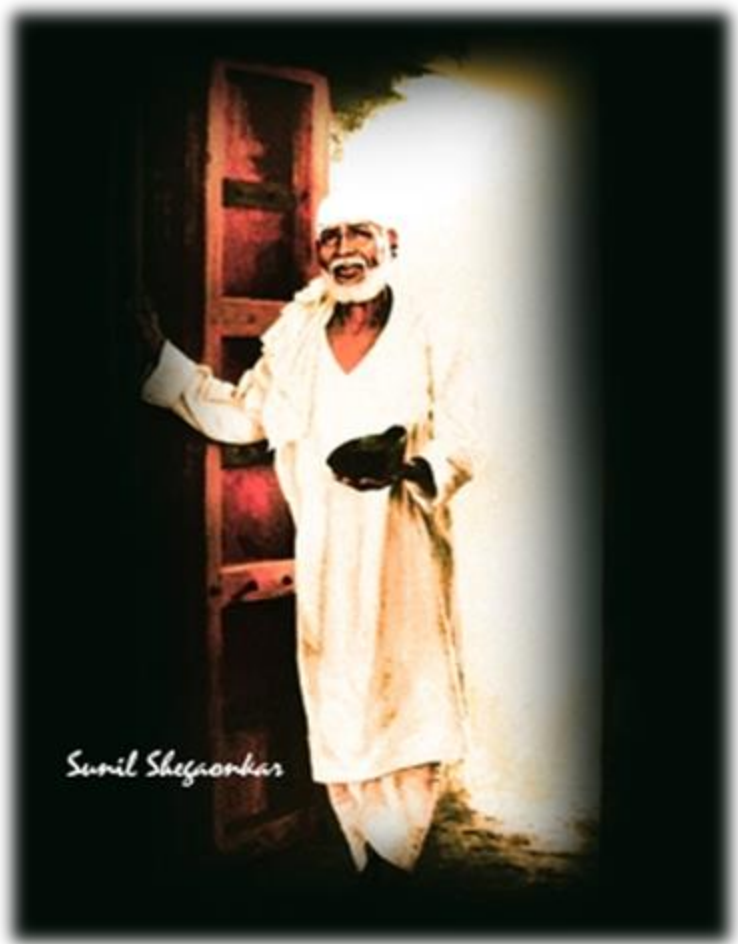


Picture equivalent to Darshan

Source: internet

It was often the experience of Sai Baba's devotees that seeing Baba's picture earnestly is equivalent to seeing Him in person. The following story illustrates this statement.

A Saint of Bombay named Balabuva Sutar, who on account of his piety, devotion and bhajan (sacred singing), was called "Modern Tukaram", came to Shirdi for the first time in 1917. When he bowed before Baba, the latter said "I know this man since four years." Balabuva wondered and thought, how could that be, as that was his first trip to Shirdi. But thinking about it seriously he recollected that he had prostrated himself four years ago before Baba's portrait at Bombay and was convinced about the significance of Baba's words. He said to himself, "How omniscient and all-pervading are the Saints and how kind are they to their Bhaktas (devotional devotees)! I merely bowed to His photo, this fact was noticed by Baba and in due time He made me realize that seeing His photo is equivalent to seeing Him in person!"



Suicide Thwarted

Source: internet

Mr. Gopal Narayan Ambadekar of Poona was a devotee of Baba. He served for ten years in the Abkari department, from where he had to retire. He tried to get some other job, but he did not succeed. He was overtaken by other calamities and his condition grew from bad to worse. He passed 7 years in this condition, visiting Shirdi every year and placing his grievance before Baba. In 1916 his plight became worst and he decided to commit suicide in Shirdi. So he came there with his wife and stayed for two months. One night while sitting in a bullockcart he resolved to end his life by throwing himself into a well close by. He proposed to do one way but Baba wished to do something else. A few paces from this place, there was a hotel and its proprietor Mr. Sagun, a devotee of Baba, came out and accosted him thus, "Did you ever read this Akkalkotkar Maharaja's life?" Ambadekar took that book from Sagun and began to read it. Casually, or we may say providentially he came across a story which was to this effect. - During the life time of Akkalkotkar Maharaj a certain devotee suffered very much from an incurable disease and when he could endure the agony and pain no longer, he became desperate and to end his miseries threw himself one night into a well. Immediately the Maharaj came there and took him out with his own hands and advised him thus, "You must enjoy the fruit - good or bad - of your past actions; if the enjoyment be incomplete, suicide won't help you. You have to take another birth and suffer again; so instead of killing yourself, why not suffer for some time and finish up your store of the fruit of your past deeds and be done with it once and for all?"



Reading this appropriate and timely story, Ambadekar was much surprised, and moved. Had he not got Baba's hint through the story, he would have been no more. Seeing Baba's all-pervasiveness and benevolence, his faith in Him was confirmed, and he became a staunch devotee. His father was a devotee of Akkalkotkar Maharaj and Sai Baba wanted him to walk into his father's footsteps and continue his devotion to Him. He then got Sai Baba's blessings and his prospects began to improve. He studied astrology and gained proficiency in it and thereby improved his lot. He was able to earn sufficient money and passed his after-life in ease and comfort.



An unforgettable experience

By: S.L.Luthra

I visited Shirdi for the first time sometimes in 2004 along with my son, who was then working as a senior officer in a leading multinational company at Bombay. The visit was very inspirational and by Baba's graceful blessings I could lay hand on an Urdu version of Sai satcharitra named 'Sab ka Malik Ek'. Repeated study of the book gave so much confidence and realization that I could observe and feel Baba's blessings pouring day in and day out in all our living activities. This automatically resulted in changing my life style creating full faith in Bhagwan Shri Sai Baba and his teachings viewed through his lilas.

My visits to Shirdi became frequent and Baba's 11 vachans were being realized and felt quite often. In one of our visit to Shirdi, we five members started from Bombay as usual by our car early morning at 5.00 am, with intention to return back by night as my son had an important meeting next day. While we had travelled half way a few miles before Nasik, the car developed some problem and stopped. Although it was almost a new car, our expert driver could not start it and we were waiting to take a decision to go back as my son's next day meeting was crucial. My prayer to Baba as usual was, 'Tera Bhana Mitha lagee'. The moment I uttered the prayer, a big eight seater car stopped near me. Apart from driver it had one person (a Sai Bhagat or Sai himself) sitting on the front seat. He just enquired what the problem was. I told him, the car had developed some problem. He immediately responded that he was going to Shirdi and could accommodate five of us easily.

We thanked him and immediately accepted the graceful offer leaving instructions to driver to have the car repaired and if so done in an hour's time come to Shirdi or leave for Bombay if repairs take longer time. On our way to Shirdi he told us that he stays at Dubai and visits Shirdi every year. He added that he had been to Shri Satya Sai Baba before visiting Shirdi. We continued on talking about Sai, when we thought of having Brunch in a good restaurant. He agreed and we had the privilege to have lunch with Him. In spite of our best intentions and efforts he did not allow us to pay the Bill. He asked us whether we had any problem for darshan at smadhi

mandir. We informed that we had requested someone for arranging VIP passes. On reaching at Shirdi near reception office he told us look for the person for our passes and if we do not get, to tell him for assistance. After contacting person concerned for arranging our passes, we came back within five minutes to thank him and take his visiting card which he promised to deliver on reaching Shirdi, we could neither find the car nor the person. We made frantic efforts to locate him and his car at nearby parks, but failed. On



the contrary we met our own Driver with

our car. He added that after half an hour when he tried again car started without any effort and after taking lunch on way he has reached just now. 'Is this all a chance or Baba's blessings' depends on how much you are devoted to Him. He says 'bhar tumahara mujh par hoga wachan na mera khali hoga'.

This incident had happened about six or seven years back but my mind enjoys His affectionate touch even today. I had the grace of shaking hand and taking lunch with Him-a superb blessing. Not adding much, I very humbly confess that that even at the age of 80 years, I hardly pass a day when I do not notice his perpetual blessings and have developed a habit of thanking him for showering his blessings at us at every step. Satguru Sai Nath Maharaj ki jai.



Bhajans & Poems

Kabir's Dohe on Life

Source: internet

कहत सुनत सब दिन गए, उरझि न सुरझ्या मन.
कही कबीर चेत्या नहीं, अजहूँ सो पहला दिन.

अर्थ : कहते सुनते सब दिन निकल गए, पर यह मन उलझ कर न सुलझ पाया. कबीर कहते हैं कि अब भी यह मन होश में नहीं आता. आज भी इसकी अवस्था पहले दिन के समान ही है.

कबीर कहा गरबियो, काल गहे कर केस.
ना जाने कहाँ मारिसी, कै घर कै परदेस.

अर्थ : कबीर कहते हैं कि हे मानव ! तू क्या गर्व करता है? काल अपने हाथों में तेरे केश पकड़े हुए है. मालूम नहीं, वह घर या परदेश में, कहाँ पर तुझे मार डाले.

पानी केरा बुदबुदा, अस मानुस की जात.
एक दिना छिप जाएगा, ज्यों तारा परभात.

अर्थ : कबीर का कथन है कि जैसे के बुलबुले, इसी प्रकार मनुष्य का शरीर है। जैसे प्रभात होते ही तारे छिप ये देह भी एक दिन नष्ट हो जाएगी.

हाइ जलै ज्युं लाकड़ी, केस जलै ज्युं घास.
सब तन जलता देखि करि, भया कबीर उदास.

अर्थ : यह नश्वर मानव देह अंत समय में लकड़ी की तरह जलती है और केश घास की तरह जल उठते हैं. सम्पूर्ण शरीर को इस तरह जलता देख, इस अंत पर कबीर का मन उदासी से भर जाता है. —



पानी
क्षणभंगुर
जाते हैं, वैसे ही



जो उग्या सो अन्तबै, फूल्या सो कुमलाहीं।
जो चिनिया सो ढही पड़े, जो आया सो जाहीं।

अर्थ : इस संसार का नियम यही है कि जो उदय हुआ है, वह अस्त होगा। जो विकसित हुआ है वह मुरझा जाएगा। जो चिना गया है वह गिर पड़ेगा और जो आया है वह जाएगा।

झूठे सुख को सुख कहे, मानत है मन मोद.
खलक चबैना काल का, कुछ मुंह में कुछ गोद.

अर्थ : कबीर कहते हैं कि अरे जीव ! तू झूठे सुख को सुख कहता है और मन में प्रसन्न होता है? देख यह सारा संसार मृत्यु के लिए उस भोजन के समान है, जो कुछ तो उसके मुंह में है और कुछ गोद में खाने के लिए रखा है।

कबीर सो धन संचे, जो आगे को होय.
सीस चढ़ाए पोटली, ले जात न देख्यो कोय.
अर्थ : कबीर कहते हैं कि उस धन को इकट्ठा करो जो भविष्य में काम आए। सर पर धन की गठरी बाँध कर ले जाते तो किसी को नहीं देखा।

माया मुई न मन मुआ, मरी मरी गया सरीर.
आसा त्रिसना न मुई, यों कही गए कबीर.

अर्थ : कबीर कहते हैं कि संसार में रहते हुए न माया मरती है न मन। शरीर न जाने कितनी बार मर चुका पर मनुष्य की आशा और तृष्णा कभी नहीं मरती, कबीर ऐसा कई बार कह चुके हैं।



Spiritual Articles

Excerpt from a book

Source: Osho's writings

Early one morning, before sunrise, a fisherman went to a river. On the bank he felt something underfoot, and found it to be a small sack of stones. He picked up the sack, and putting his net aside, squatted on the bank to await the sunrise. He was waiting for dawn to break in order to start his day's work. Lazily he picked a stone out of the bag and threw it into the water. Then he cast another stone and then another. In the absence of anything else to do, he kept tossing the stones into the water, one by one.

Slowly the sun rose and it became light. By that time he had thrown all the stones away except one; the last stone lay in his palm. His heart almost failed him when he saw, by daylight, what he held in his hand. It was a gem! In the darkness, he had thrown a whole sack of them away! What had he lost



unknowingly! Full of remorse, he cursed himself. He sobbed and cried, almost out of his mind with grief.

He had accidentally stumbled upon enough wealth to enrich his life many times over, but unknowingly, and in the darkness, he had lost it. Yet in a way he was fortunate: still one gem was left; the light had dawned before he had thrown it away too. Generally, most people are not even that fortunate.



Hail Sai Baba

By: Rupa Debasis Bhattacharjee

“A Soul’s journey through the world is much determined by Karma”. This is the idea that we absorb to our understanding when faced with adversities. Some of us feel that nothing can be done. Our absence of acceptance of adversity makes us frustrated and eventually we seek the ways of temporary pacification. If the ways of dodging is constructive then we end up doing some earthly good to ourselves or else we burrow to scale down in Karma preparing for yet another adversity. This cycle goes on and on without any respite.

What if we could treat pain and pleasure, loss and gain, appreciation and criticism uniformly? They would never create ripples in our mind. We could live as an observer of our lives and be like a swan sucking the milk out of water- as told by Shree Ramakrishna Paramhansa. This equivalent state of mind or ‘sthitapragya’ as said in Bhagavat Gita can be arrived through realization of the ultimate goal that is Sai Baba, who is the face of God.

I have realized God when my boss rebukes me as this is the time when God trains me on patience and improvement. I am conscious of him when I receive appreciation as he tells me that He is the doer and I should submit my ego and the path I am moving on is precise. I have to develop myself each and every moment; as life is nothing but an examination and we should perform our best by rectification. He would give us the theatre acts but we have to ensure that we do not folly- as a single conscious misdeed can be harmful for us. He is one but who is represented by various expressions. Sai Baba had been the supreme superpower who had helped us abstain from such follies. He had given me the opportunity to do right action when all the doors were closed in front of me.

I have realized him in serving my family, on a daily interaction. He trains us

friends and colleagues or even people I meet and it is our assessment of shaping up our



Karma coupled with creating new action through will power. Baba is everything, not a mere source of peace or earthly gain. He is the one who could provide us ultimate liberty. I want to be near to Him as a dust at his 'Lotus feet'. Endurance and patience are but the tools to dig through the way to Him.

Hail Holy Father Sai Baba. Never leave us for a moment. We are mere mortals attracted by bubbles of materialism. I humbly request You to stay with us as we want to reside in You.



Baba's Sayings

Source: internet

- ✚ Unless there is some relationship or connection, nobody goes anywhere. If any men or creatures come to you, do not discourteously drive them away, but receive them well and treat them with due respect. Shri Hari (God) will be certainly pleased if you give water to the thirsty, bread to the hungry, clothes to the naked and your verandah to strangers for sitting and resting. If anybody wants any money from you and you are not inclined to give, do not give, but do not bark at him like a dog.
- ✚ If my Leelas (sportive Divine actions) are written, the Avidya (ignorance) will vanish and if they are attentively and devoutly listened to, the consciousness of worldly existence will abate and strong waves of devotion and love will rise up and if one dives deep into my Leelas, he would get precious jewels of knowledge.
- ✚ Let the world go topsy-turvy, you remain where you are. Look on calmly at the show of all things passing before you. Demolish the wall of difference that separates you from Me; and then the road for our meeting will be clear and open. The sense of differentiation, as I and Thou, is the barrier that keeps away the disciple from his Master, and unless that is destroyed the state of Union or At-One-ment is not possible.
- ✚ There will never be any dearth or scarcity, regarding food and clothes, in any devotees' homes. It is my special characteristic, that I always look to, and provide, for the welfare of those devotees, who worship Me whole-heartedly with their minds ever fixed on Me. Lord Krishna has also said the same in the Gita.
- ✚ Be wherever you like, do whatever you choose, remember this well that all that you do is known to me. I am the Inner Ruler of all and seated in their hearts. I envelope all creatures. I am the Controller - the wire-puller of the show of this Universe. I am the mother - origin of all beings - the harmony of the three gunas (attributes), the propeller of all senses, the Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer. Nothing will harm who turns his attention towards me, but Maya will lash or whip him who forgets Me. All the insects, ants, the visible, movable and immovable world is my Body or form.
- ✚ You need not go far, or anywhere in search of Me. Barring your name and form, there exists in you, as well as in all beings, a sense of Being or Consciousness of Existence. That is Myself. Knowing this, you see Me inside yourself as well as in all beings. If you practice this, you will realize all pervasiveness and thus attain oneness with Me.



Story of Shalibhadra

Source: Internet

Once upon a time, there lived a poor mother and her son in a small village. One day, there was a festival in the village and all the kids, including the poor son gathered to play. After playing, everyone started to eat khir (sweet rice pudding and milk) which they brought with them. This poor boy did not have anything with him. He felt bad and ran back to his mother. He asked her if she would make him the khir since all the children were eating it. His mother said that she could not make khir and told him to eat whatever she had cooked. He started crying and insisted on the khir. His mother did not want to see him cry. So she went to the neighbor's house and borrowed some milk, sugar and rice to make the khir for her son. She poured the khir into a dish and left to get the water from the well. As the boy was about to start eating, he heard the words, "Dharma Labh," (meaning, you be blessed of spirituality, usually spoken by a Jain Sadhu). He saw a monk at the door for the alm (food). Without any hesitation, the hungry boy invited the monk in and offered him the khir. While pouring the khir all of it slipped into the monk's pot. He was happy that he could offer this to the monk even though nothing was left for him to eat. His good intention brought him good karmas, and in his next life, he was born as a famous Shalibhadra.

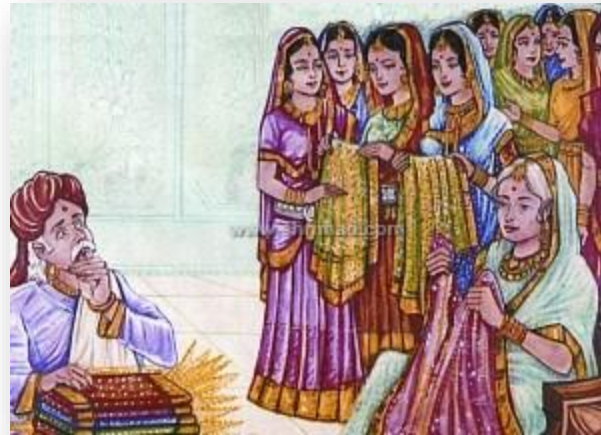


Shalibhadra's mother was Bhadra Shethani and his father was Gobhadra Sheth. His father had left the house when the boy was young and became a monk. Shalibhadra was a born multimillionaire. His life was like being in heaven. It was said that even the heavenly angels were jealous of his lavish lifestyle. He had 32 beautiful wives. His mother never let him out of his palace in a fear that he might become a monk like his father.

One day, some merchants from Nepal came to sell some very expensive saris. They went to king Shrenik's court where the king told them that he could not afford to use his citizens' money for such expensive saris. They were going back with disappointment because they had the high hopes about this city. When Bhadra Shethani came to know about this, she sent for those merchants. The merchants were reluctant to go because if the king could not buy, how any resident could buy such expensive thing. But they went there anyway. Bhadra Shethani asked, "What do you have?" They said they had sixteen saris. She said, "Only sixteen? I need thirty-two saris because I have thirty-two daughter-in-laws." The merchants thought she



was joking and would not buy even one. She said, "What are you waiting for. Take out those saris." They took out those sixteen saris. The merchants were surprised that without any second thought she bought all sixteen saris. They were further dazed to see her tearing such precious saris into two pieces in front of them and giving a piece to each of her daughters-in-laws to wipe their feet. The merchants were stunned but left with joy. The daughters-in-laws used these pieces once and threw them away.



One of the servants liked the queen, so she took one piece for the queen. The queen was baffled but happy that such rich people lived in her kingdom. She told this to king Shrenik. He also felt very proud of such rich people who uphold the good name of his kingdom. He invited Shalibhadra to his court to honor him. When Bhadra Shethani found out, she went to the king and told him her son was very shy and invited the king to come to their palace to honor Shalibhadra. King Shrenik accepted the invitation and went to Shalibhadra's palace. When King Shrenik reached there, he realized that his palace was nothing compared to Shalibhadra's palace. Bhadra Shethani offered him a place to sit and asked Shalibhadra to come down to see the king. Shalibhadra did not know anything about king or kingdom and thought that there was some sort of merchandise that his mother wanted to show him. So he said, "I do not want to see that but go ahead and buy it." His mother said, "This is not the merchandise. He is our king, our master, and you need to come down to greet and honor him." The word "master" started ringing in his ears. He wondered, "Why should I have a master over me. I should be the master of myself." While thinking like this, he came down, and paid respects to the king, but he could not stay very long and went back.

He kept on thinking that he was not free because there was someone over him. He started to think about his father (who had become a monk) and the real meaning of life. He decided at that moment to become a monk and told his family about the decision. His mother and wives tried to convince him to spend some more time with them and maybe later think about it. But he did not listen. At last, he agreed that instead of leaving all thirty-two wives at once, he will leave one wife at a time, and then he would definitely become a monk. He started to do that the very same day.

A few days passed by. One day, his sister Subhadra was giving her husband Dhanna a bath and suddenly tears rolled down from her eyes and fell on him. He looked up, and saw his loving wife crying. He asked her what had happened. She told him that her brother had decided to be a monk and he had been leaving one wife every day. Dhanna laughed and told Subhadra, "Her brother was a coward. If he wanted to leave his wives, why wait?" Subhadra was upset to hear that, and told her husband, "It is easier said than done." This sparked an awareness in Dhanna's mind, and he told her, "I am leaving all eight of you right now, and I am leaving right now to be a monk." Subhadra was taken by



a surprise. She told him that he must be joking. But Dhanna said, "It is too late now. I am determined to be a monk. If you all want to join me you are welcome." Seeing Dhanna determined, Subhadra and the rest of his seven wives, also decided to become nuns.

Now, Dhanna came to his brother-in-law Shalibhadra's place and challenged him, "Hey coward! If you really want to leave the family and become a monk, then what are you waiting for? Join me."

Shalibhadra heard and accepted the challenge. He told his wives, "Sorry, but I am leaving you all today." He went down to join his brother-in-law. His wives joined him too. All of them went to Lord Mahavir and took deeksha.

What an incredible ending to such a luxurious life! After observing the penance as monk, he was born as an angel in Svarthsiddha viman. From there, he would be born in Mahavidehksheeta and ultimately attain liberation, moksha



Story of Gautamswami

Source: internet

In 607 B. C., in a village lived a Brahmin couple called Vasubhuti and Prithvi Gautam (family name) had a son named Indrabhuti. He was tall and handsome. He had two younger brothers named Agnibhuti and Vayubhuti. All three were well versed in the Vedas and other rituals at an early age. They were very popular and great scholars in the state of Magadh. Each one of them had 500 disciples.

Once in the city of Apapa, a Brahmin named Somil was conducting a Yagna (sacrificial ceremony) at his home. There were over four thousand Brahmins present at the occasion, and there were eleven popular scholars among them.

Indrabhuti stood out as a bright star. Somil was a staunch supporter of the Brahmin philosophy and was very happy during the ceremony. The whole town was excited by this event in which they were going to sacrifice the sheep and the goats. Suddenly,



Somil noticed many celestial beings coming down towards his sacrificial site. He thought that this would make his offering ceremony the most popular in the history. He told the people, "Look at the sky, even the angels are coming to bless us." The whole town was eagerly looking at the sky.

To their surprise, the celestial beings did not stop at their site, instead they went further down. Somil's ego melted away as he learned that the celestial beings paid homage to Lord Mahāvīr, who had come to nearby Mahasen Forest. Indrabhuti was outraged by this incident and his ego was bruised. He started thinking to himself, "Who is this Mahāvīr who does not even use affluent Sanskrit, but speaks the common public language of Ardha Magadhi." Everyone in the ceremony was overpowered by the mere presence of Lord Mahāvīr. Indrabhuti once again thought, "If Mahāvīr succeeds then we Brahmins will lose our livelihood. I will debate with him." He left to challenge him.

Mahāvīr welcomed Indrabhuti by calling him by his name even though they had never met before. Indrabhuti was surprised, but then he said to himself, "Who does not know me? I am not surprised he knew my name. I wonder if he knows what I am thinking." Omniscient Mahāvīra knew what was going through Indrabhuti's mind. Indrabhuti, even though a great scholar, had a doubt about the existence of Atma (soul) and was thinking to himself, "Can Mahāvīr tell that I doubt the existence of the soul?" The next moment Mahāvīr said, "Indrabhuti, Atma (soul - consciousness) is there and you should not question it." Indrabhuti was shocked and began to think very highly of philosophical discussion, and Indrabhuti



changed his beliefs and he became Mahāvīr's first and chief disciple. Indrabhuti was fifty years old at the time, and from then on he was called Gautamswāmi, because he came from Gautam family.

Meanwhile in the town, Somil and other scholars were waiting to greet the expected winner of the debate, Indrabhuti. They were shocked to learn that Indrabhuti had become the disciple of Mahāvīr. The other ten Brahmin scholars, also went to debate with Mahāvīr, also became his disciples, the same way as Indrabhuti. The people present at the Somil's place began to leave, and Somil canceled the ceremony and turned all the animals free.



One time, Gautamswāmi was going back after the gochari (getting food or alms), and he noticed many people going in another direction. He asked them what was going on. They said, "We are going to see Anand shravak. He has been performing austerities and has attained a special knowledge (Avadhignan)." Anand shravak was Mahāvīr's follower, so Gautamswāmi decided to go and visit him. When Anand saw Gautamswāmi coming to his house, he was very happy that his guru (spiritual teacher) was coming. However, even though he was very weak due to his austerities, he got up and welcomed Gautamswāmi. Gautamswāmi inquired about his condition. Anand replied, "With your blessings, I am fine." After some time, Anand told Gautamswāmi with respect, "Reverend teacher, I have attained Avadhignan because of which I can see as high as fourteenth heaven and as low as the seventh hell." Gautamswāmi thought, "A shravak can attain Avadhignan, but not to this extent." Aloud he told Anand, "You should do prayshchit (atonement) for your imagination." Anand was puzzled. He knew what he could see, but his teacher told him to atone for telling that. So, he politely asked Gautamswāmi, "Does one have to atone for telling the truth?" Gautamswāmi replied, "No," and then left the place thinking, "I will reconfirm this with Lord Mahāvīr."

Gautamswāmi returned to Lord Mahāvīr, who was sitting with his other disciples, and asked about Anand. Mahāvīr said, "Gautam, Anand was telling the truth. How could a person like you with so much knowledge make such a mistake? You should atone for your mistake." Mahāvīr believed in the truth, and he would never cover up the mistake of his disciple just to make their group look good. Gautamswāmi put his alms aside, and immediately went to Anand's house to ask for forgiveness for his doubt. Anand was proud of his humble teacher, who did not mind admitting his own fault to his followers.

On another occasion, Gautamswāmi went to town for the alms. He was returning with the kheer (a sweet made from rice and milk) in a patra (bowl) when he saw fifteen hundred hermits. Gautamswāmi felt that they were hungry and offered them the kheer. They began to wonder how Gautamswāmi would feed all of them. Gautamswāmi requested all of the hermits to sit down, and then he served everyone with the kheer with the help of



Aksheenmahanasi (nondiminishing) Labdhi (special power). While serving the kheer, he kept his thumb in the kheer. To everyone's surprise they were all well served from the small patra (bowl). The hermits were all so impressed by Gautamswāmi that all fifteen hundred decided to take diksha (renunciation) from Lord Mahavir.

Many sadhus, including those hermits, attained Kevaljnan, but Gautamswāmi was still unable to achieve it. He was worried that he would never attain Kevaljnan. One day, Gautamswāmi asked Lord Mahāvīr, "There were eleven of us (main disciples - Gandhars) who accepted diksha and most of them have attained Kevaljnan. Why am I so unlucky that I am not able to attain Kevaljnan?" Lord Mahāvīr replied, "Gautam, you have too much affection for me. In order to attain Kevaljnan you must overcome the attachment. So, until you give up your attachment towards me, it would not be possible for you to attain Kevaljnan."



On the day when Mahavir was to attain nirvana (liberation), Mahavira sent Gautamswāmi out to preach to a man named Devsharma. On his way back, Gautamswāmi learned that Lord Mahāvīr had attained nirvana and reached the moksha (salvation). Gautamswāmi went into a state of shock and sorrow, lamenting, "Lord Mahāvīr knew this was going to happen. Why did he send me away?" Gautamswāmi could not stop his tears and started weeping. Within a few minutes, he came back to his senses and began thinking, "Maybe this was destined to happen this way. No one can live forever; no relationship is permanent. Why was I so attached to Mahāvīr?" He contemplated that he was wrong and gave up attachment for Mahavir. During this deep thinking, he burned his Ghati Karmas and attained Kevaljnan at the age of eighty.

Gautamswāmi taught and spread Jain principles for next twelve years. He attained Moksha, at the age of ninety-two in 515 B. C.



Articles & Spiritual Experiences are invited

Articles & spiritual experiences are invited for publication in January-2015 edition of Samarpan e-magazine. Please send your articles by 1st December, 2014.

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