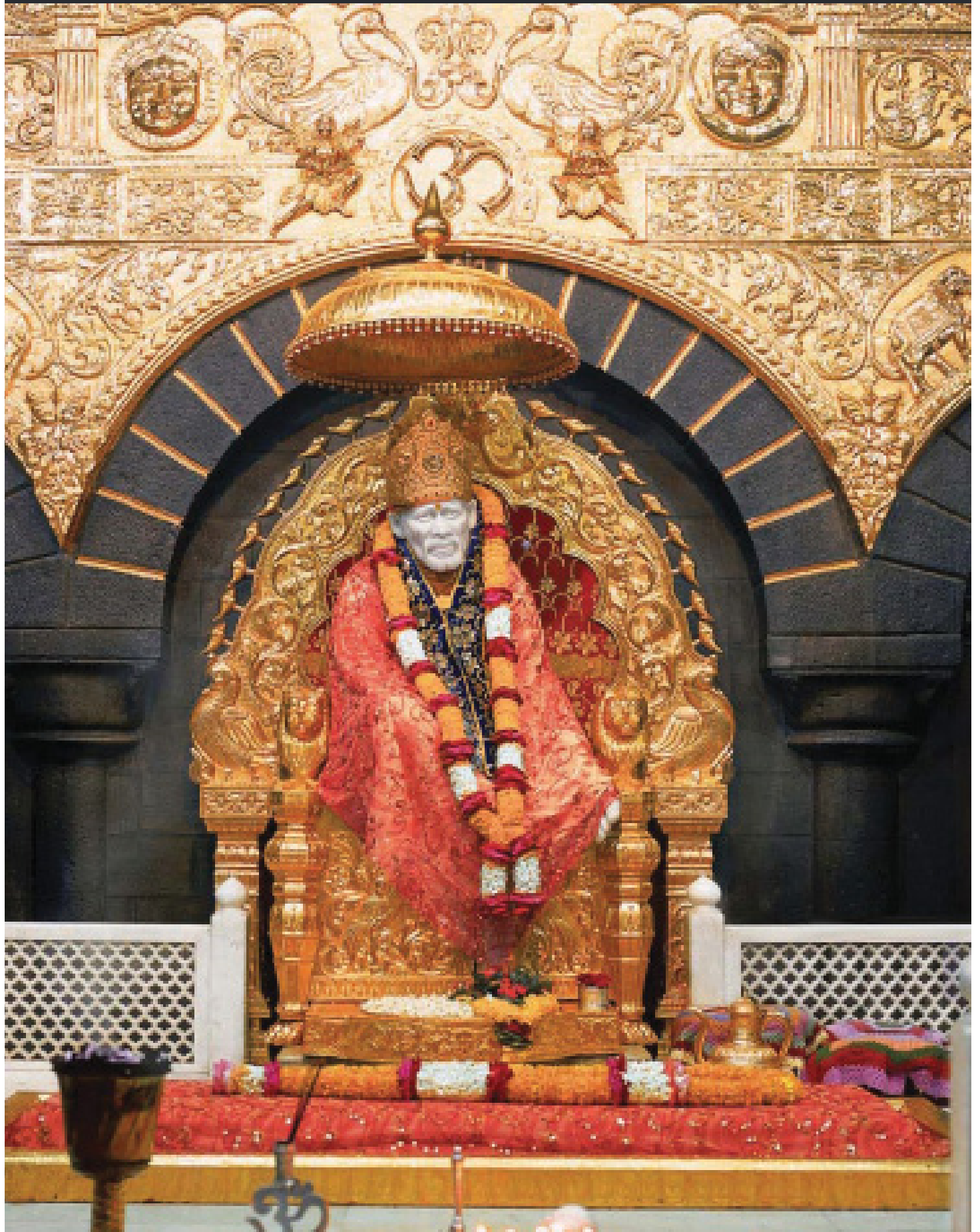
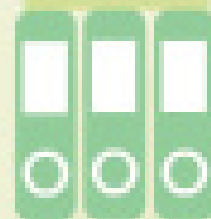
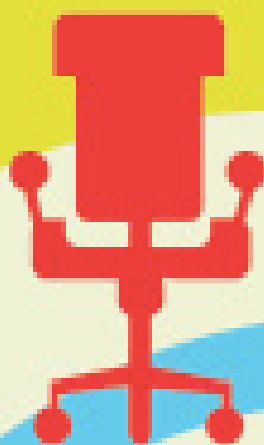
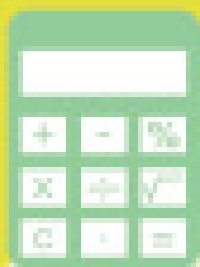
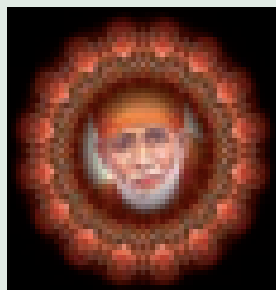


# SAID DHUNI





## Office Stationery



*Congratulations & Best Wishes to  
Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London  
(SHITAL)  
on their 1st Anniversary*



**Pafax**  
PRINTWELL

**Litho  
and  
Digital  
Printing**

1214 Bilton Road, Pafwala, Greenford, Middx. UB8 7DB  
Tel: 020 8997 5764 • Fax: 020 8991 5473  
Email: sales@pafax.com • www.pafax.com

# Contents

SHITAL - 1st Anniversary - 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 - Volume 1

Page no.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>2</b>  | Message from Temple Priest              |
| <b>3</b>  | Message from SHITAL Chairman            |
| <b>4</b>  | Message from Shirdi Sai Baba Sansthan   |
| <b>5</b>  | Message from Editorial Team             |
| <b>7</b>  | Shri Shirdi Sai Baba - Introduction     |
| <b>9</b>  | - <i>Qualities</i>                      |
| <b>15</b> | - <i>Reaching Baba</i>                  |
| <b>16</b> | - <i>Shri Sai Satcharitra</i>           |
| <b>20</b> | - <i>Sai Mandirs around the Globe</i>   |
| <b>23</b> | UDI                                     |
| <b>27</b> | Dakshina                                |
| <b>28</b> | Discipline                              |
| <b>33</b> | Shradha & Saburi                        |
| <b>37</b> | Ego & Poem                              |
| <b>39</b> | Philosophies of Baba                    |
| <b>39</b> | - <i>Pleasure of Senses</i>             |
| <b>40</b> | - <i>Human Births</i>                   |
| <b>42</b> | - <i>Deeds (Karma)</i>                  |
| <b>44</b> | - <i>Cycle of Rebirths</i>              |
| <b>45</b> | - <i>9 Types of Devotion</i>            |
| <b>52</b> | - <i>Devotion</i>                       |
| <b>54</b> | - <i>Speech</i>                         |
| <b>57</b> | - <i>Food</i>                           |
| <b>63</b> | 108 Names of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba       |
| <b>70</b> | Shirdi History                          |
| <b>71</b> | - <i>Khandoba Temple</i>                |
| <b>72</b> | - <i>Gurusthan &amp; Neem Tree</i>      |
| <b>77</b> | - <i>Chavadi</i>                        |
| <b>79</b> | - <i>Lendi Baug</i>                     |
| <b>80</b> | - <i>Nanda Deep</i>                     |
| <b>81</b> | - <i>Samadhi Mandir</i>                 |
| <b>83</b> | - <i>Hanuman Mandir &amp; 3 Temples</i> |
| <b>84</b> | - <i>Vitthal Temple</i>                 |
| <b>87</b> | London to Shirdi Guide                  |
| <b>88</b> | Program at Samadhi Mandir               |
| <b>90</b> | Festivals in Shirdi                     |

Page no.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>94</b>  | Baba & Devotees                        |
| <b>95</b>  | - <i>Mhalsapati &amp; Upasani Baba</i> |
| <b>96</b>  | - <i>Bapusaheb Buti &amp; Das Ganu</i> |
| <b>98</b>  | - <i>Shama &amp; Hemadpant</i>         |
| <b>99</b>  | - <i>Tatya Kote Patil</i>              |
| <b>100</b> | - <i>Kakasaheb Dixit</i>               |
| <b>102</b> | SHITAL's History                       |
| <b>104</b> | SHITAL's Daily Schedule                |
| <b>109</b> | Events held by SHITAL                  |
| <b>112</b> | SHITAL's Future Plans                  |
| <b>116</b> | Baba Loves Children                    |
| <b>119</b> | Acknowledgement                        |

## Baba's 11 Promises

|            |            |           |           |           |           |
|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ( Page No. | <b>11</b>  | <b>21</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>51</b> |
|            | <b>61</b>  | <b>67</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>85</b> | <b>93</b> |
|            | <b>103</b> |           |           |           |           |

## U.K. Devotees Experience

|            |           |            |           |           |           |
|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ( Page No. | <b>14</b> | <b>19</b>  | <b>22</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>32</b> |
|            | <b>69</b> | <b>101</b> |           |           |           |



*"Why should one fear, when I am here ?"*



# Message from Temple Priest



Om Sai Ram

First of all I want to congratulate SHITAL on their 1st Anniversary celebrations. By Baba's grace the Temple was established on January 31st 2010. Since then Baba blessed everyone fulfilling their desires. To bless thousands of his Devotees in London, Baba stepped into London.

*"Guru Namagrajam Shreshtam I Guru padasmaram harim II  
Guru Namarchaye nithyam I thasmai sri Gurave Namah II"*

Which means, among all the names, Guru's name is pure and noble, touching Guru's feet is like getting blessings from Lord Shri Narayan. Chant Guru's name all the time, thus always pray to Guru (*teacher*).

Baba is an incarnation of Lord Shri Guru Datatreya. It is believed that Shri Guru Datatreya is born again in Kaliyug as Saibaba to free people from their sins and show them the path of enlightenment as He did during His Datta Avatar.

As the name says, Saibaba is Sadguru, an eternal teacher or prime and noble teacher. Like it is said in Sai Satcharitra, take Baba's name once and all your troubles for rest of life will be taken care of.

I now congratulate the entire team of "SAI DHUNI" who worked very hard to bring Baba's message to the Devotees.

Om Sairam!

Shri Shravankumar Chiliveli  
Temple Priest



*"I am formless and everywhere"*





# Message from SHITAL Chairman



Om Sai Ram

By Baba's grace, I am honoured to have been elected as Chairman of the Board of Trustee's. I would like to thank Board of Trustee's for giving me this opportunity to serve Baba and Shirdi Sai Baba Temple Association of London. (SHITAL)

This Temple was a vision of 5 people, who got together way back in April 2009 and started weekly Bhajans on Thursday's at Union hall, Wembley. By end of 2009, with Baba's blessings we got opportunity to open a Temple in the same premises. On 31st January 2010, Baba fulfilled our dream and blessed us all.

The Temple is open from 8A.M. to 9P.M. daily except on Thursday's being a special day, closes at 9.45P.M. Food is served daily and Sri Sai Satcharitra is given out for free to Devotees wishing to have one.

SHITAL is now a year old, the year has been very fruitful and full of challenges. With Baba's grace most of the challenges have been met. During the year, SHITAL aimed in spreading Baba's word throughout London. With his blessings we organised 2 Major functions and one of them in collaboration with Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi at the Royal Albert Hall. It was a major success.

At the same time, a devotee of Baba, Mr. Dhiren Badiani, offered a double storied building on lease for a nominal annual rent of £15. We gladly accepted it as a blessing from Baba and named it Dwaravati. It will be used for Baba's Meditation, Information, Research and Library. We thank Mr. Badiani for this generous gesture.

On our 1st Anniversary celebrations I congratulate the editorial team of SHITAL, who have tremendously worked hard for past 3 months in bringing you our "SAI DHUNI" magazine with the aim of spreading the name of our beloved Shirdi Sai Baba.

I would like to sincerely thank the SHITAL's board of Trustee's, Management team, Volunteers and you the Devotees who all have worked hard in the past year in helping the Temple achieve everything. Bow to Shri Sai. Peace be to All!

Darshan Singh Nagi

Chairman - SHITAL Board of Trustees

*"I am the Progenitor of God. Meditate on Me as pure Ananda Nirakara; But if you cannot do so, meditate on this Body as it is"*



# Message from Shirdi Sai Baba Sansthan



PTR. NO. : E-69, AHMEDNAGAR

**SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI**

SHIRDI : Post : Shirdi - 423 109, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra (India).

Telephone : +91 - 2423 - 258 500, Fax : +91 - 2423 - 258 770, Telegram : Sainath, Shirdi.

## **Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL) - 1st Anniversary Celebrations**

On behalf of Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust – Shirdi, board of Trustees, Management and people of Shirdi, I would like to convey my heartiest congratulations to the Trustees, Management, Volunteers and the Devotees of SHITAL on their 1st Anniversary celebrations on 31st January 2011.

A year has gone by; today we all stand proudly with the achievement of SHITAL. On 19th September 2010, Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust – (Shirdi.) organised Bhajan Sandhya evening at The Royal Albert Hall, London. SHITAL together with its entire team organised the event, within a short period of time, how they managed and organised the whole event was a commendable job, the spirit and commitment showed was second to none.

I am privileged, to be asked to write a message by the editorial board of SHITAL, who have done a tremendous job in bringing out a souvenir magazine in the name of “SAI DHUNI”. Spreading our dear Shirdi Saibaba Leela’s all over the United Kingdom via “SAI DHUNI” will definitely bring more Devotees closer and closer to Shri Shirdi Saibaba and indeed to Shirdi. We at the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust – Shirdi, welcome everyone with open arms.

I now send our best wishes and congratulations to SHITAL and the editorial board of “SAI DHUNI” on this joyous occasion.

Om Sainathaya Namaha.

Mr. Jayant Sasane  
Chairman  
Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust – Shirdi.

*“If you avoid rivalries and bickerings, God will protect you”*



# Message from the Editorial team



***Shri Satchitanand Satguru Sainath Maharaj ki Jai !***

Sairam All!

By Baba's grace, we are proud and delighted to launch our first ever souvenir magazine called "SAI DHUNI" on the 1st Anniversary celebrations of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple Association of London (SHITAL.)

We bow down and heart-fully thank, our beloved Shri Shirdi Sai Baba for giving us His blessings to carryout this beautiful task. We thank him for choosing us to spread His glories and name through this 1st ever "SAI DHUNI" in the United Kingdom.

Dhuni (Sacred Fire) was created by Baba in Shirdi during His lifetime and never left it uncared for. It is still burning in Shirdi enlightening us and giving Udi. He gave Udi from His Dhuni to anyone who was in any kind of danger; and it protected them from any harm. The same way our "SAI DHUNI" intends to enlighten us and teach more about our beloved Shirdi Shri Sai Baba both, His past in Shirdi and after. It will also provide information on SHITAL, it's past, present and activities. By Baba's grace, we hope with everyone's support to make "SAI DHUNI" an annual magazine.

We thank the Trustees & the Management, Volunteers and you the Devotees of SHITAL in supporting us in making "SAI DHUNI" successful. We also sincerely thank all our Donors and everyone who contributed to "SAI DHUNI" magazine in form of both the articles and stories. Your support is highly appreciated.

Lastly, a big thank you to the editorial team namely Harpreet Sandhu, Avninder Ghai, Kunal Ghogre, Harshal Lonare, Uday Tikoo and Vinit Lakhani, who have been working tirelessly for the last 3 months in making sure that "SAI DHUNI" could be launched on the 1st Anniversary of the Temple 31st January 2011. A big Thank you to Hitesh Chohan, who designed the wonderful "SAI DHUNI". Special thanks to: - Tina Handa and Kalyani Patel for kindly helping in proof reading the contents, and Manojbhai Gandhi, and his team at Pafax Printers, who ensured "SAI DHUNI" is printed and delivered on time.

We wish you a very happy and pleasant reading. As we intend to make "SAI DHUNI" an annual publication, your feedback , suggestions and ideas will be greatly appreciated. Please write to us at the Temple address or e-mail us at [feedback@saidhuni.com](mailto:feedback@saidhuni.com)

We now present you "SAI DHUNI", The Infinite light!

Om Shri SaiNathaya Namah.

Editorial Team – SHITAL

E-mail: [info@saidhuni.com](mailto:info@saidhuni.com)

Website: <http://www.saidhuni.com>

*"Baba, there is no other saviour, except you, save me anyhow"*





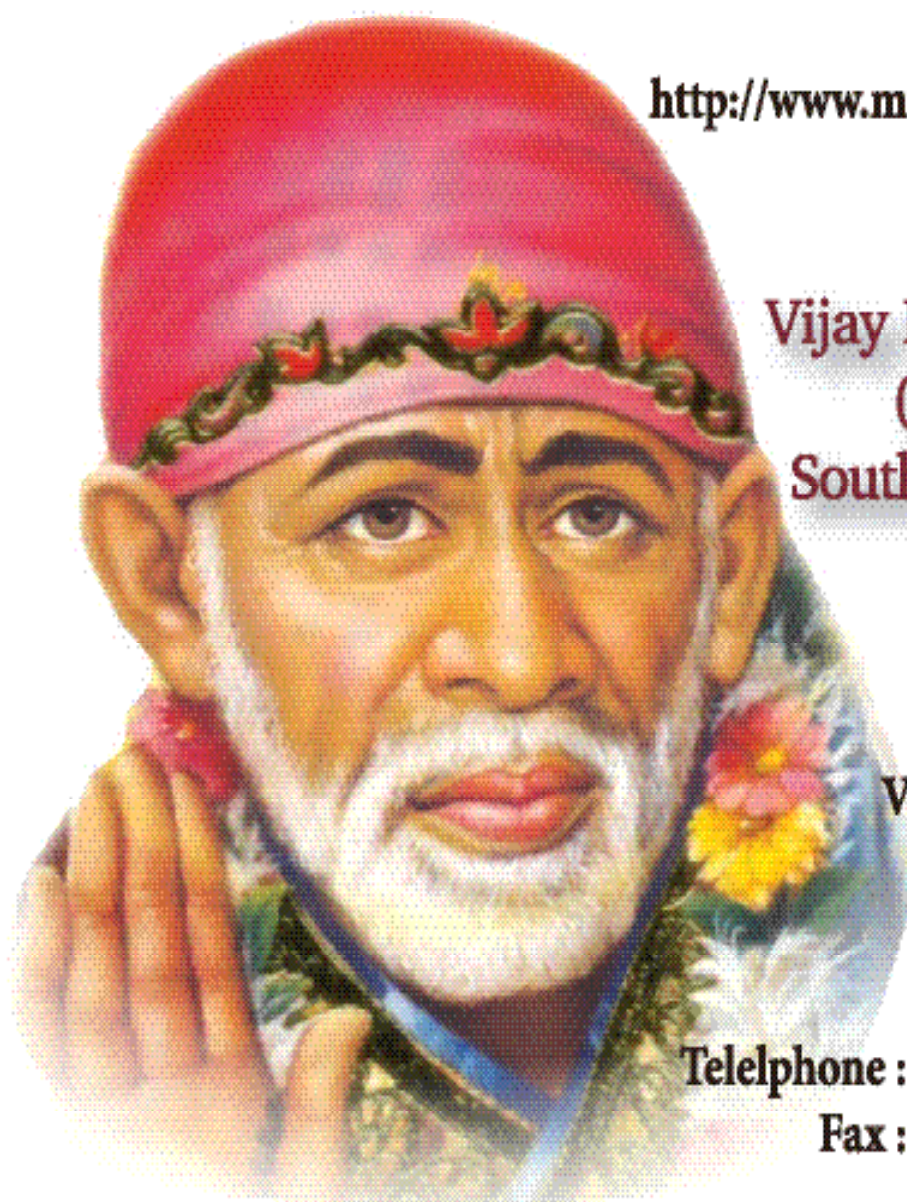
*Congratulations & Best Wishes on the 1st Anniversary of  
Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)  
From*

**Mumbai Junction Restaurant  
231 Watford Road  
Harrow  
Middlesex  
HA1 3TU**



**Tel: +44 (0) 208 904 2255  
Fax: +44 (0) 208 904 2255**

**<http://www.mumbaijunction.co.uk>**



**Vijay India Restaurant  
( est. 1964 )  
South Indian Cuisine**

**Vijay India Restaurant  
49 Willesden Lane  
NW6 7RF**

**Telephone : +44 (0) 207 228 1087  
Fax : +44 (0) 207 328 1982**

**<http://www.vijayrestaurant.co.uk>**

# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction

How to describe Shri Sai Baba? Where to begin? Baba came to Earth to unite people from different castes and religions and to bridge the gap between mankind and God. To say that Baba, Himself, belonged to a certain religion would be false. There are so many religions in the world, all of which have the purpose of directing people towards God. In today's world, however, it appears that religion is being used to highlight the differences between people. In reality, there are no differences between any of us. We all exist in this world to work out our karmas from our past lives and to get closer to God and achieve God-realisation, i.e. to become One with God.

Holy Scriptures state that when there is a decay of Dharma (*righteousness*) and an ascendancy of unrighteousness, God manifests Himself, for the protection of the virtuous and the destruction of the vicious; and for the establishment of righteousness, He manifests Himself Age after Age. This is God's mission and time after time, He has manifested Himself amongst us, on Earth, in the form of Saints, Sages, and Gurus. Shirdi Sai Baba was one such form of the Lord, brought down to Earth to unite people and to remind us of our true path in life.

But how does Shirdi Sai Baba differ to other Sages and Saints? What makes Him unique? We shall explore this in more detail now by delving deeper into Baba's personality. Who was Sai Baba of Shirdi?

Sai Baba's name is used as a Sacred and powerful mantra by thousands of persons. He was not a non-historic or remote personality, but one who was with us in the flesh till 1918, moving familiarly with tens of thousands and that too for decades. Shri Sai Baba is revered as one of the greatest Saints ever seen in India, endowed with unprecedented powers, and is worshipped as an incarnation of God incarnate. (SAI meaning Sakshaat Ishwar) – God the Absolute.

Sai Baba first appeared in Shirdi as a youth of around sixteen years of age and appeared to be full of the knowledge of Brahma. He had no desire for worldly objects. He was not influenced by Maya (illusion). His form and features were so beautiful that a mere look endeared Him to all. Outwardly, He looked very young, but by His actions He was really a Great Soul. Mukti (*deliverance*) was reached by serving at His feet. Sai Baba was the embodiment of dispassion and was an enigma to all.<sup>2</sup>

He conquered this Sansar (*worldly existence*), which is very difficult to cross. He was the repository of wisdom and maintained a state of mental equilibrium throughout His life. He had no love for perishable things, and was always engrossed in self-realisation, which was His sole concern. He felt no pleasure in the things of this world or of the world beyond. His Antarang (*Heart*) was as clear as a mirror, and His speech always rained nectar. The rich or poor people were the same to Him. He neither knew nor cared for honor or dishonor. He was the Lord of all beings. He spoke freely and mixed with all people, still, He swerved not an inch from Samadhi (*mental equilibrium*). The name of the Lord was always on His lips. His inner self was as calm as the deep sea, and though He sat (lived) in one place, He knew all the transactions of the world. He told hundreds of stories daily; still He swerved not an inch from His vow of silence. He was meek, humble and egoless, and pleased all. Such was Sai Baba, and as the soil of Shirdi was trodden by Sai Baba's Feet, it attained extraordinary importance. Blessed are the grass, leaves and stones of Shirdi, for they could kiss the Holy Feet of Sai Baba. Contact with Sai Baba of Shirdi was like our study of Holy Literature; it quietened our Sansar (*worldly consciousness*) and rendered self-realisation. To us, His commands were the Vedas themselves, and accepting (i.e. eating) His Udi (*Sacred ash*) and Prasad (*blessed food*) was all purifying. He was always engrossed in His Self as 'Existence, Knowledge and Bliss'. Shirdi was His centre, but His field of action extended far

*"Oh mother, My Guru never taught Me any Mantra, then  
how shall I blow any Mantra in your ears ?"*



# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction ( *contd...* )

beyond. Thus, the fame of Sai Baba spread, far and wide, and people from all parts came to take His darshan and be blessed. By mere darshan, minds of people, whether pure or impure, would become quiet at once.<sup>3</sup>

Baba stated that His mission is to “Give Blessings” to all without discrimination, and He proved it in a myriad of ways by healing the sick, saving lives, protecting the vulnerable, averting accidents, granting offspring, facilitating financial gain, bringing people into harmony within themselves and with each other and, above all, in affecting the spiritual evolution and transformation of those who came to Him as their last resort.

Baba is, as one of his contemporary Devotees put it, “The embodiment of the supreme spirit lighting the Sadhakas (*seekers*) path by his every word and action”. To His Devotees, Baba is no less than God Himself. This has been something that thousands of Devotees all over the World have experienced themselves and continue to do so to this day.

*“I look at all with an equal eye”*

An outstanding aspect of Sai Baba is that He is beyond distinctions of religion, caste or creed. He embodied all religions and preached the universal religion of love.

Devotees of all faiths find their meeting point in Sai and people from all communities and all walks of life are united by the great love and reverence Baba inspires in them. Baba had great regard for His Devotees and their Guru’s and He responded to their needs and permitted worship according to both Hindu and Islamic religious rituals. At the same time His dwelling place was a Masjid (*Mosque*) and the name of Allah was ever on His lips. He described himself as a servant of God and as a soul ever remembering Allah.<sup>4</sup>

He healed people’s diseases and provided moral and material comfort to His Devotees. Baba helped bring Unity and Harmony between all communities. He said that God is one, and that God could be called by many different names. Baba said that He was a slave in the service of those who loved Him, He was ever living to help those who turned to Him and that He had to take care of His children day and night. He taught values of total surrender to the Almighty Master and how to experience His grace.<sup>5</sup>

Before discarding His mortal coil, He said that His Devotees need not be sad or frightened at his casting off His fleshy kafni (*gown*), and that wherever and whenever any devotee should think of Him, He would be present and attend to him. This has been found indeed to be true by innumerable persons; and earnest souls can still take Baba at His word and prove its truth from their own experience. Sai Baba, the soul of truth and reality has never spoken any untruth.

He had nothing that He could call ‘mine’. For over thirty years, He was leading the life of holy poverty, and then His Devotees whom He affectionately termed His children, pressed the pomp and show of royalty upon Him. For the last ten years of His life, He appeared as a prince though He behaved throughout like a poor fakir, who at times owned nothing and at times owned everything in the world. His was the life of perfect celibacy, a fact that was beaming out of His brilliant tiger like eyes. His virtues were numerous and would naturally sink into the heart of those coming into contact with Him, and thus raise them gradually towards the highest level. Great souls raise the Devotees to their own level; Lord Krishna says, **‘Though Devotees do not wish to be one with me, I pull them unto myself’**.

*“Om Sai Sri Sai Jai Jai Sai”*





# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction ( *contd...* )

In order to understand Baba correctly or to please Him, His teachings need to be implemented. Baba was so kind and compassionate that even cats & dogs used to eat from His utensils freely. He used to say that to feed a hungry dog, was like offering food to Him. Baba never gave discourses to His Devotees. His Devotees were attracted to Him by their own personal experiences, by reading about the experiences of other Devotees and the knowledge that His Devotees had gained from His Teachings.

There are no steadfast rules or protocols when it comes to worshipping Baba as Baba is a slave to those who love Him and wants their devotion only. Baba never advised anyone to spend hours in Temple worship, nor did He advise anyone to neglect their worldly responsibilities or their homes. He continuously reminded His devotees that by simply keeping Baba in their Minds it was equal to doing His worship wherever the devotee maybe. The Purer a Heart, the Closer is Baba, as a Pure Heart needs no miracles from Baba to believe in His existence. This simple truth was experienced by Devotees of Baba both in the early days and continues to be experienced to this day.

Those who have profound faith in Baba will always feel close to Baba, a feeling experienced not just by earlier Devotees in Shirdi but by Devotees all over the World to this day. Hence there being Shirdi Baba Devotees across the six major continents.

## Qualities of Shri Sai Baba

Amongst His qualities, the most notable was, of course, love - uniform, all embracing, intense love, showered on all and at all times, without any idea of the extent of sacrifice involved or any idea of recompense - truly maternal love at its highest. God is love and the means to reach God is also love. Baba was nothing but the embodiment of love. This love was perpetually manifesting itself in His every act, word, and thoughts, though at times was hidden by His ascetic modes of life. In the beginning He would move and talk with none save for when it was strictly necessary. However, when there was any suffering in the village, He would run to relieve it and would accept no favours in return.<sup>7</sup>

Where there were Saints or holy people, He would be found in their company. They were the first to discover His merits; and in the early 1890's, some of them revealed the fact that Baba was like a diamond lying in a dunghill, and that the world would one day discover what a great Rama Bhakta He truly was. The world has since discovered that fact, and moreover, has identified Him with Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, and Lord Hanuman etc. Beyond the miracles of Baba, there is one bright, marvelous fact, worthy of people's adoration and that is: His golden heart of love with its message of universal love. Baba loved all - Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Buddhists, the learned and the illiterate, the poor and the rich, the Priest and the criminal - alike.

Baba declared that if people hated one another, His heart would be smarting with pain and sorrow and if persons forgave enemies and endured the ill treatment, He was highly pleased with their conduct. This is the most valuable lesson for this day and for all times. Hatred, destruction, plunder. It is apparent that absolute disregard for truth and virtue, are the predominant features in the daily history of the world today. The only thing that can avert this doom is Love, a revival of the very ancient from God i.e., 'To Be merciful'. Baba's whole life was an illustration of how this divine message could be carried out in life, and the more Baba's message is heeded, circulated, and preached, the greater the hope for saving Humanity from the current gloomy outlook we face today.

*"All the insects, ants, the visible, movable and immovable world is My body or Form"*



# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction ( *contd...* )

One species of miraculous achievements wrought by Baba for the benefit of His Devotees is the blessing given for issue. Whenever Baba blessed anybody and said that there would be an issue, invariably the lady brought forth the child, i.e. in twelve months, exactly as was stated by Baba.

Baba, however, is not just a mere worker of miracles. He is a Samarth Sadguru (*Omnipotent Supreme Master*). He applies miracles or uses miraculous means to fill the hearts of His Devotees with faith and gratitude. Gratitude soon turns into love and then Baba's real work is seen. Baba purifies the hearts of all and gradually raises the Devotees' souls to and still higher states of being, till they finally merge into Himself. People begin with the notion that Baba is a kind provider of all that they need and in fact resort to Him to have their temporal needs satisfied. But they soon discover that Baba is after all their Ishtamurthi, their very own Lord Rama or Lord Siva, the God of their fathers who has now taken a new shape to carry out the ancient divine plan of the Universe which is to establish righteousness in the World by showing Man how to correct his behavior.

## **Baba – Hindu or Muslim?**

The question is often asked whether Baba was a Hindu or Muslim. Before trying to answer this question we should understand why this question is being asked.

Some Hindus believe that they should not go near a Muslim whose views run counter to their own ideas, and who would disrespect their religious emblems and idols. Similar is the sentiment on the part of some Muslims who find it difficult to accept Hindu traditions, which they consider to be idolatrous.

From an impartial perspective, whether we are Hindus or Muslims we find, that the above question is actually irrelevant and holds in itself very little importance. First, about the irrelevancy, God-fearing Hindus and Muslims will both agree that when a person has reached a state of perfection, i.e., the level of Brahman, the question of that person's caste or creed should not arise at all. Caste (or 'Jathi' as it is called in vernacular) refers to that which has been born and that which has had a 'janma' (*birth*). The self-realiser who is identical with God is not technically born though his body has been born. The body is not 'He' and there is no need to go into the question as to whether the body arose from parents who were Hindus or Muslims, or if the self-realiser was trained and brought up among either of them. Whether Baba was a Hindu or a Muslim, He allowed every sect to keep to its own method of approaching God. To Hindus, He said: 'Continue your Lord Rama worship, and worship the stones which your forefathers worshipped'. He even presented Lingams (*objects used for the worship of Lord Shiva*), silver Padukas (*holy slippers*), pictures and coins for worship by Hindus. For Muslims, he never gave any of these items but allowed them to follow their nirakara (*formless*) form of worship as far as it was possible. So the real cause for raising the question about one being a Hindu or Muslim does not arise in this case on account of Baba's own views and own practices.

Persons whose pious learnings meant that they were easily attracted to such great souls would run to Baba. They did not ever raise any questions about His Jathi (*caste*), and, deserved and obtained the highest blessings whilst many doubters continued to debate endlessly about which caste this holy man belonged to and in all too many cases had forsaken their chance of bettering themselves.

( *contd ...pg. 12* )

*"Alright, do not go, we should mean well and do well.  
Whatever is destined to happen, will happen"*





*“Whoever puts his feet on Shirdi soil,  
his sufferings would come to an end”*

# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction ( *contd...* )

It depends a great deal upon one's Poorva Sambanda (*past relationship*) or Rinanubhanda (*Divine bond*) whether one is attracted by Sri Lord Krishna or Sri Sai. When one is in intense pain or great trouble, his heart leaps out with the request, 'Baba, help me', and not for a second does he question how Baba was born or how He was brought up; and once he receives innumerable and miraculous benefits, he gets perfectly convinced that Baba is God to him, whatever He may be to others and he cares not for discussions as to the legal position regarding Baba's caste. Baba Himself used to say at times to such Hindus who considered him a Muslim: "I am a Muslim, don't come to me" and to persons who regarded Him as Sadguru or Guru-God: '**I am a Brahmin. Give me dakshina. This place wherein I am sitting is not a Mosque; it is a Brahmin's Mosque; it is Dwarakamai**'. He was everything to everyone.

Some Sadhakas (*spiritual aspirants*) are obsessed with being granted special powers or Siddhis, which are often granted to them as a result of their Sadhana (*spiritual practices*). Many Gurus have warned their Devotees from hankering after such Siddhis. It has also been pointed out by many Gurus that there is a waste of accumulated powers in the exhibition of Siddhis and the performance of Siddhis is generally attended with the danger of increasing one's passions especially the rajasic qualities (*action and passion*) and tamasic qualities (*ignorance and inertia*), which are embedded in one's nature. But can these objections ever arise in the case of one like Sai Baba? The differences between miracle-mongers and souls like Lord Krishna and Sai Baba are these. Firstly, in the case of the latter, power arises not by the repetition of mantras or by the adoption of tantras, but simply as part and parcel of their divine nature. Secondly, these high souls have no hankering for the results of the Siddhis. They do not ask for recompense, nor do they try to attain ulterior aims of their actions by having recourse to Siddhis. Thirdly, the siddhi power, being part of their own nature, does not exhaust itself by any number of miracles. Fourthly, they are prompted by pure love, karuna and their employment of powers is a means for achieving the highest temporal or spiritual ends for themselves and others. None of these statements can be said to be true for miracle mongers.

In this short introduction we cannot possibly begin to give even a very rough outline of the various activities of Baba, as there were so many. It is enough to say that He was a Bramagnani and Samartha Sadguru. A Guru is one that teaches; a Sadguru is one that teaches and draws one to God; a Samartha Sadguru is one who draws people to God employing all His Siddhis and other high powers for the purpose. It is not all Gnanis who have realized God that perform these chamatkars (*miracles*). Baba ought not to be compared with any other Guru. Comparisons are always odious and have no benefit for the aspirant. There is no need for him to worry as to how Baba is to be classed - as an Avatar (*God Incarnate*), Devatma (*Godly Person*) etc. One may simply feel the taste of sugar and use it without raising the questions to whether it is derived from beetroot, sugarcane or Palmyra juice. Wise men do not ever worry about such trivial matters. They do not attempt to classify various Gnanis (*Wise Person*). We must all be always humble in our approach to God and divine persons. Any other attitude will simply thwart our endeavors to reach divinity or to attain the highest benefit by spiritual exercise. If any spiritual aspirant earnestly feels that he wishes to know more about Baba's qualities and Baba's life then opportunities for this will always arise.

We may very well close this topic with the practical question.

- i) what are the benefits that Baba can confer?
- ii) what has one to do in order to obtain these benefits?

*"Am I not always with you ?  
Then do you offer Me anything before you eat ?"*





# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction ( *contd...* )

The first may be met by a counter question. What benefits does one expect when he is approaching Baba? Are they temporal or spiritual? Whatever they may be, there is no benefit that is beyond the power of Baba to confer. He is worshipped every day with phrases like ‘All-powerful’ (*sarva sakthi murthaye namah*) etc., and the experiences of His Devotees proves that He is able to confer benefits of all types- curing both physical and mental diseases, removing domestic troubles giving relief to departing and departed spirits and to those who are suffering from obsessions or infirmities, etc.

One more word about such labels and comparisons, Humans sometimes unconsciously find themselves in a position where they judge various grades of spiritual nature and power and say that Lord Krishna is superior to Lord Rama, Lord Buddha is superior to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, etc., and cause irritation to others as well as confusion in their own minds. If we find the water in one creek or bay saltish, should we say this creek or bay is superior or inferior to the ocean? God is one. Divinity manifests itself in innumerable places and ways and according to the needs of the times, and each God-man does the work of alleviating man’s miseries and raising him upward. When the question is asked, why should one give up his Lord Shiva or Lord Rama worship and go to Lord Sai, the answer should be that there is no need to give anything up.

If one feels Sai Baba is different from Lord Rama or another Ishta Devata Form and that the latter serves all the purposes of the Devotees, if one is thus satisfied and contented, then there is no need to change anything. Sai Baba has never asked and does not ask such a person to change his position. Baba is highly conservative and wants each man to stick to his religion, caste, Guru, Ishta Devata, Idol, mantras and sampradaya and to continue worshipping God in a way that the devotee is comfortable with. It is only if one feels that he is still left with a desire for further benefits and if he is disposed to place faith in Baba’s powers to grant these or other benefits, that Baba allows or directs him to come to His feet. Baba does not interfere with a person’s loyalties. Faith in Baba is added on to the old loyalties.

That faith works miraculous benefits and tends to strengthen itself. Gratitude and love follow faith and the resultant benefits. Through these, Baba purifies the heart and draws the devotee higher and higher up the spiritual ladder. That man who came for worldly goods finds his desires purified, his mentality changed and he thinks more and better of Baba till at last, finding that Baba is only one of the numerous names and forms assumed by God, resigns himself to Baba. He then realizes the absurdity of instituting comparisons between Sai and other names or forms and of asking why one should go to Sai. It is only those who are specially blessed by poorvakarma (*past deeds*) that can be drawn by each of these personalities, and when so drawn no question arises, and all doubts are driven off. One huge wave of faith, love and knowledge drowns the soul and draws it to the feet of God, in Sai form and in all forms.



*“Are not your thoughts, doubts and apprehensions calmed down now ? (Hari) Lord will protect him who has got faith and patience”*



# U.K. Devotee: “An Experience of BABA”

It is my daily routine that after finishing my work in the evenings, I generally go to the gym and exercise there for an hour and then go back home. One fine Wednesday I went to the gym with two of my friends in the evening after work. One of my friends was a new gym member so I was showing him around. After that was over we went to the changing room and got dressed in our gym outfits. As he was new so I showed him his lockers to keep his belongings in. He locked his belongings and both of us went up on the gym floor. After I came back and opened up my locker, to my horror I found out that my mobile phone and watch were missing. I quickly went to the manager and lodged a complaint. After two hours of thorough research they could not find anything. I was dejected as it was a very expensive mobile phone and the watch was expensive as well. That night before going to the bed I asked Baba to give me a reason behind all that happened.

The next morning (Thursday) I woke up but didn't remember whether Baba gave me a vision or not. But when I went to do my prayers before Baba, I found out to my surprise that on Baba's calendar there was a thought written (it was different for different day) which read: “The thing which needs to happen will happen, so do not worry unnecessarily, just believe in me, thus everything will be fine.” I was very happy after reading the thought as I had full faith in Baba that this is not a loss and that He has certainly made this happen so that I get even more faith in Him. After my prayers were over, I went to the office and in my lunch called my mother. She had no clue about this incident but she spoke to me that she had read in her Sacred book that I would get a jeevan daan (*another life*) and that I should remember Baba always. After hearing what she said, I was so happy that my eyes got wet. Baba Himself told me through my mother that He saved my life and that I need not bother about the incident and just remember Him always. Later on after thinking about that night in the gym, I realized that while pushing heavy weights I had accidentally dropped the weight on my chest but luckily I had my friend who spotted it quickly and pushed the weight down on the floor. Baba saved my life this way and instead averted the danger.

Not only this after I went back home after visiting the Sai Temple in the evening, I received a letter from the tax office stating that I had over paid my tax 2 years ago and similarly in the previous year. The letter also mentioned that the tax office would compensate me with almost the same amount of money that was the cost of my mobile and watch combined together. No one would ever expect the tax office to pay the tax back and this happened to me at this time when I needed it most. The very next day I also received the cheque for that amount in the letter. Baba has His own way in dealing with situations. Any action that we do is actually not taken by us but it is Him instead. He averted death by getting my mobile and watch (two material things) to get lost also teaching me a lesson of disattachment towards material things. I will always be thankful to Him and my faith in Baba has manifested ten times.

Bow to Shri Sai Baba.

**Jai Sai Ram.**

*“As I have given it (Vishnu Sahasranama) to you, better keep it with you for safe custody; it will be of use to you”*





# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction ( *contd...* )

## Reaching Shri Sai Baba

What are we to do to obtain our desired ends with the help of Baba? There are some who raise questions even preliminary to this. Is it not better to have no desires at all? Is it not degrading to go on praying and asking for temporal things from the Lord? To persons who really have no attachments i.e., to advance Viraktas (*renouncers of worthy pleasures*), this question really will not arise. They are not compelled or induced to go to Sai Baba to receive objects, but are attracted by the Leelas of the Lord Himself. Sai Baba's Leelas were purely unmotivated by desire, His whole life in the flesh was one continuous self-sacrifice for the sake of humanity. In serving Man, He was serving God; and He advised his Devotees to do the same.

Undoubtedly it is better not to desire than to have desires and to seek their gratification through the help of Sai Baba etc. But how many are there who can calmly reason thus and find the power to crush the roots of desire in their hearts? If there are any such among the readers, they are not asked to seek Baba's help or God's help, if that is different, to attain any objects. Even the desire for mukti - liberation - is a desire; and even to attain that, people pray and seek the aid of experts, i.e., Sages who know the way to liberation and who are gracious enough to extend their help to those who seek help.

The vast majority wants benefits, temporal and spiritual, maybe temporal first and then spiritual. The body and its adjuncts, a family, have to be maintained with sufficient provision for health and some degree of comfort before people can begin to think of spiritual notions. All who feel the need for His urgent help may approach Sai Baba. The more impassioned their appeal, and the more faith they have in Baba, the quicker will be the results all other things being the same. To those we may suggest the ways and means of contacting Baba.

There are no special ways for approaching Baba, i.e., ways are different from those adopted for approaching other high and noble personalities. How do we approach our Mother? It looks ridiculous for us to ask such a question. The Mother has showered her love on the child long before it is aware of such love. Thus Baba has similarly played the part of an unseen Mother showering benefits on Her children, the Devotees, even from their previous births. But how are they to approach Baba now? Let them sincerely wish to do so. At once the approach has been started. They are improved from that very instant. They get more and more enthusiastic and get more and more benefits. These produce gratitude first and finally strong love. Let the reader daily think of Baba, seeing his future in the medals, pictures etc. he keeps with himself and let him read about Baba's great deeds. Baba's 108 Namavalis (*Slokas*) is a mnemonic device for recalling these holy qualities that were present in Sai Baba. Let the devotee attend Bhajans (*devotional singing sessions*) and Puja's (*prayers*) where sincere Devotees gather. One song from a sincere devotee, will thrill the hearer and fill him with awe, joy, piety and sentiments that will instill a yearning for God in the devotee.

Let one always serve humanity for the sake of Baba and give the devotee the chance to view Baba as He exists in each individual person and or creature. Baba Himself will direct the further steps of the earnest enquirer. Baba Himself will disclose ways and means for further contact and further growth in innumerable ways to each ardent devotee. The manner in which He imparts these varies. Some Devotees see Him at times even today and some talk with Him during waking hours. Others may get such contact in their dreams. Still others earnestly wanting some response to a question or dilemma may piously open some book with a prayer, and find Baba's response in that book.

*“As she thus sought My protection, I gave her a pledge that  
I would cross seven seas to help her”*



# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction ( *contd...* )

Others resort to chits (a note). Others may simply rely on the correctness of their own intuition and may believe that the thought suggested to them at a particular time is the thought given by Him. In these and other ways, Devotees receive their blessings from Sai as well as their contact with Him. Are not all these, Devotees adapted way to get access to and a response from their God or Ishta Devata? The same applies to Sai Baba.

## Shirdi Sai Baba's Satcharita – It's importance

### What is Shri Sai Satcharita?

Shri Sai Satcharita is a discourse on the experiences Devotees had with Shri Sai Baba and His preaching's. Baba got Shri Sai Satcharita written through Shri Anna Saheb Dhabholkar alias Shri Hemadpant by giving inner motivation to him. Baba had clearly told him: **"I Myself will write My own life. Hearing My stories and teachings will create faith in Devotees' hearts and they will easily get self-realisation and bliss."** (Shri Sai Satcharita). This is the first and foremost book based on the life-story of Shri Sai Baba, which was originally composed in Marathi verse form. The writing of the book started in the lifetime of Baba with His blessings. The divine truth imparted by this book is as great as the knowledge contained in the Vedas and Gita, because all of the characters and events in it are real and authentic and are describing genuine experiences. As one reads the book and his spiritual understanding begins to increase he is able to take inspiration from the divine words in the Satcharitra.

The foremost Duty of a Sai devotee is therefore to read 'Shri Sai Satcharita' and absorb it into their heart if possible. The more they read this book, the more it will bring them closer to Baba and all their doubts and apprehensions will be cleared. It has also been experienced that during times of crisis, if any devotee is searching for an answer, if he randomly opens 'Shri Sai Satcharita' praying to Baba sincerely and with faith, his answer can be found in that open page. Many people have got their desired benefits after reading 'Shri Sai Satcharita' for a week in a Parayan (*study*) form. In times, of distress and agony if one sincerely searches for the answers from 'Shri Sai Satcharita', he will not only find the answers but he will also find solace. His faith in Baba will also grow. We pray to Shri SaiNath to reveal the divine knowledge and mysteries contained in this book to the Devotees in the same manner in which He had inspired Hemadpant to write this book by sitting in his heart. Shri Sai Satcharita should be revered by all Sai Devotees, as are both the Bhagvad Gita and the Holy Bible.

**All Sai Devotees should utilise 'Shri Sai Satcharita' in the following manner :**

1. Get the book, 'Shri Sai Satcharita' in whatever language one chooses to read. Neatly wrap it up in a piece of new cloth, and place it near Baba's photograph or idol with due sanctity.
2. Whether at home or elsewhere, one should always read a few pages of the book every night before going to sleep. Every devotee should try to keep Baba as their last thought before going to sleep.
3. During times of crisis it should be read devotionally for a week, as is mentioned in 'Shri Sai Satcharita'. If possible, reading should begin on a Thursday or on some other special day, such as RamNavami, Dushera, Guru Purnima, Janmashtami, MahaShivratri, Navratri, etc. After it's completion on the seventh day one should feed the poor and destitute either in the Temple or at home or wherever possible.

*"After the Temple is complete, I will come there to stay"*



# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba – Introduction ( *contd...* )

4. One should read the 'Shri Sai Satcharitra' sitting in some isolated corner in the Temple or in front of Baba's statue or Photograph/painting. If other people are present, then it should be read to them or with them as well. Group reading should always be encouraged.

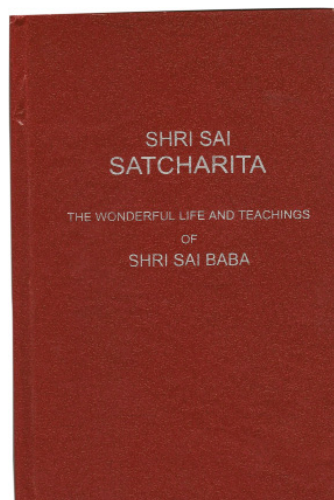
5. Shri Sai Satcharita can also be obtained free of cost from the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple in London in a variety of different languages. Please come to the Temple if you would like to obtain your free copy.

## The significance of 'Shri Sai Satcharita'

Lighthouses are constructed at various places in the sea, to enable the boatmen to avoid rocks and dangers, and allow them sail safely. Sai Baba's stories serve a similar purpose in the ocean of worldly existence. They surpass nectar in sweetness, and make our worldly path smooth and easy to traverse. Blessed are the stories of the Saints. When they enter our hearts through the ears, the body - consciousness or egoism and the sense of duality vanish; and when they are stored in the heart, doubts fly out to all sides, pride of the body will fall, and wisdom will be stored in abundance. The description of Baba's pure fame, and the hearing of the same, with love, will destroy the sins of the devotee and, therefore, this is the simple Sadhana for attaining salvation.

The Sadhana for Krita Age was Sama-dama (*tranquility of mind and body*), for the Treta Age, it was sacrifice, for Dwapara Age it was worship, and for the Kali (present) Age, it is the singing of the names and glories of the Lord. The other Sadhanas, viz. Yoga, Yagya (*sacrifice*), Dhyana (*Meditation*) and Dharana (*concentration*) are very difficult to practice, but singing and hearing the stories and the glory of the Lord (*Sai Baba*) is very easy. We have only to turn our attention towards them. The listening and singing of the stories will remove the attachment to the senses and their objects, and will make the Devotees dispassionate, and will ultimately lead them to self-realisation.

With this end in view, Sai Baba made Hemadpant or helped him to write His stories, **Sat-Charitamrita**. The Devotees may now easily read and hear these stories of Sai Baba and while doing so, meditate on Him, His form and thus attain devotion to Guru and God (*Sai Baba*), and get detachment and self-realisation. In the preparation and writing of this work, Sat-Charitamrita, it is Sai Baba's grace which has accomplished everything, making use of Hemadpant as a mere instrument.<sup>36</sup>



*"All this is God's Leela or sport"*





A true expression of your emotions



RAM PARKASH SUNDERDASS & SONS

20, 108 and 110 The Broadway, Southall, Middlesex, United Kingdom, UB1 1QF  
Tel.: +44 (0) 20 8574 2450 • Fax: +44 (0) 20 8571 2866 • Email: mail@rpsjewellers.com

www.rpsjewellers.com

"SPECIALIST'S IN BESPOKE JEWELLERY"

# U.K. Devotees: “An Experience of BABA”

I have been working in London for quite sometime now. Two years ago I had an average job and was struggling to make my ends meet. I had an average salary and was also not sure whether my company would make me redundant any day. My nightmares were turned into reality and I was asked to leave my job. After coming back home, I was depressed and I started crying in front of Baba's idol. At that very instant I saw Shri Sai Satcharita on my table and a thought arose in my mind to read and finish the Book within seven days. As determined, I completed the Book in that time. The very next day after I was done with my reading, my friend came up to me and told me that there was a vacancy for a position in his company and asked me to forward my resume to him. I did send him my resume and to my surprise, I got a call for my interview the very next day. After taking my interview, they offered me the job straight away. That was one day that my faith in Baba grew manifold. The next year I had to apply for my work visa. In order to get a visa, I had to achieve a certain number of points to be eligible to apply for it. I was not clearing the eligibility criteria, as my salary was not up to the mark required for the application. In order to get this criteria solved, I consulted a solicitor who was willing to prepare my case by giving me solutions but was charging quite a large amount of money that I couldn't afford to pay. I decided to apply for my visa and borrowed money from my friends in this case. After giving money to the solicitor for my case preparation, the UK government took out new rules that the category of visa that I was applying for was about to finish in the next two weeks. It took me about more than a week and got my casework ready for me to apply the visa in time. I applied for my visa in person, two days before the scheduled close date. That very day my visa caseworker told me that there was a delay in the casework and asked me to come the next day. The next day was a Thursday and I had full faith in Baba that being His day, He would not let me down. I went to the Home Office to collect my passport and was granted the visa. This was a miracle it was the last day for anyone to get the visa in that category and Baba chose the most opportune day for the event- Thursday. Only Baba knows His Leelas (*deeds*). We are mere puppets in His hands. Baba's Leelas are beyond human intellect. **Jai Sai Ram**

V V V V V V V V V V

I am a devotee of Shirdi Sai Baba and have been brought up in a family where everyone is a staunch devotee of Sai. I came to the UK as a student in January 2010. Few days after settling down in London, I heard from one of my friends that Sai Baba's Temple had recently been inaugurated in London. It made me feel blessed; it felt as if Baba had come all the way here (to London) to receive me beforehand. I decided that very day to visit the Temple. As soon as I reached the Temple, I could feel a sense of connection with the Sai Baba Temple. It felt as if I had been here once before. I saw Sai Baba's idol in the Temple and the feeling of joy and thrill that I got was simply unexplainable. From that day onwards I made it a point of visiting the Temple every Thursday and have been doing so to date. Once it so happened that I fell ill and had high fever for about a week. I didn't resort to any medicines as I had full faith in Baba that He would look after me. On seeing my condition deteriorating day by day, my friends asked me to visit the doctor. I called up Shirdi Sai Baba's Temple in London and had a chat with one of the trustees there. He suggested me to start taking Udi mixed with water twice a day and also chant “Om Sai Shri Sai, Jai Jai Sai” (holy verse) before going to bed. I had to get well so that I could appear for my examinations in a weeks time and also submit my final report before that time. As suggested, I followed the trustee's advice and surprisingly after following this process for two days, I started feeling better and my condition improved with time. I could be in a condition to study and revise for my exams and also was able to finish my assignment in time for submission. Even after I have been fully cured, I still carry out this process of chanting the verse every night before going to bed and also taking Baba's Udi with water everyday. It taught me a lesson that if I have full faith in Baba, then He is going to make sure that He looks after my well being and keeps me protected and blessed. **Om Sai Namo Namah.**

*“Avoid needless disputations and avoid falsehood”*





# Sai Mandirs around the Globe

Baba touched a number of Devotees in a number of ways by securing them onto the spiritual path and guiding their souls across this ocean of worldly existence. Within these Devotees grew an unfathomable Love for Baba and it was these Devotees that spread Baba's fame far and wide. They carried their faith in Baba to the length and breadth of Maharashtra and beyond.

Baba's own miraculous personality surviving His release from His physical body has however been the principal reason for the success and wide spread knowledge of His name. His power is still working and by reason of that alone, myriads in Madras and other Presidencies have become firm adherents to, and worshippers of, Baba. The faith is well grounded in the experience showered upon them now as liberally and miraculously, as they were showered before Baba's passing away. Baba's figure is occasionally seen, and His wondrous powers are manifested to those that have the necessary faith, at any place, as Baba has no partiality and His grace cannot be the monopoly of any person or place. Baba is working wonders today at various places and therefore Sai Mandirs (*Temples*) have sprung up in many of them.

Approximately 50,000 Devotees take Sai Baba's darshan at Shirdi every day. Their number is steadily increasing with Thursdays, Saturdays and religious festival days witnessing huge numbers of Devotees. Shri RamNavami, Shri GuruPurnima, and Shri VijayaDashami are the three main celebrations at Shirdi. Palanquins come from far and near to Shirdi for every festival. Devotees accompany the Palanquins on foot. A large percentage of them are youths.

The State of Andhra Pradesh alone has an estimated 3000 Temples, with Sai Baba as the presiding deity, by far the largest number for any single state in India. The State is known for its deep devotion to Sai. More Temples are coming up almost every day. Some of the Temples are makeshift to satisfy the urge of the Sai Devotees, whose number is increasing.

There are many Temples of Sai Baba in Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, etc. Most of the Idols are made at Jaipur in Rajasthan, the artisans themselves being Devotees in many cases.<sup>8</sup>

Overseas, there are some 29 Temples in the United States of America alone. Most major cities have Sai centres where Devotees come together every Thursday for prayer and worship. Each congregation attracts some 500 to 600 Devotees. Currently there are more than 100 such centers across America with some centres planning to construct permanent Sai Temples.

In the city of Chicago, a beautiful statue of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba has been installed in a 120 year old Church. Aarti is performed here four times a day, as it is in Shirdi. Sai Baba Temples can be found in Australia, Bermuda, Canada, East Africa, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, the West Indies, Zambia and the United Kingdom to name a few countries. Truly Baba's appeal is Universal and extends beyond just the realms of the divine land that he lived. We sincerely hope that more and more Devotees' world over are able to bring Baba and Baba's grace into their lives.

*"Am I not in the place where you go to ease your self? Why do you fear?"*







*“The wretched and miserable will rise  
to joy and happiness as soon as  
they climb the steps of the Mosque”*

# U.K. Devotee : “An Experience of BABA”

Sainath Maharaj, My Guru, My Creator. Shri Sai Knows His followers needs and is always there to fulfill them. Baba has always been there when I have needed him, but there is an instance in my life when I thought that I would not be able to carry out my duties as a mother.

My son had just passed his B.B.A. He had done quite well in his examination. This gave him reason to try to go forward. My son wanted to pursue his studies. This is where my problem began. He wanted to go to London. The business had money but it is a joint family venture. In such circumstances it is difficult to make all the other family members see your problem – The financial question!! I told my son to give up this idea of studying abroad. We did not have sufficient funds or the needed documents in our name to secure a bank loan. What could we do? Baba come to my mind. I told my son that there was one person who could help him. Sai Baba, I told my son to read one chapter of the Shri Sai Sachcharitra daily. Simultaneously, I also read the whole book in a week. I also pledge the gift of one Sai Sachcharitra. It is not only in times of difficulty that a read this holy book, but it is my daily routine to read one chapter everyday.

During this time my son went to my brother's place and took out all his frustrations by crying his heart out. He told his maternal uncle his wish to study in London and also the financial situation and opposition he was facing at home. By the grace of Baba, my brother's heart went out to my son. He told him to prepare for his journey to London, he will take on the financial responsibility to send him abroad. Today my son is in London. He is doing very well in his studies and has good job. We have repaid my brother about 25% of what he had given. He gave us the money in good faith, but we had decided to return the amount when he had given us the money. My son's first work in London was Seva in Baba's Temple. Every Thursday my son visits the Temple, to do Seva in the Temple. It is on his insistence that I am writing of my rewards. My thanks to the graceful Baba. **Om Shri SaiNath Namah**



**Future Technics Ltd**  
Specialist in IT & Telecoms  
Products.  
Suppliers of Hardware &  
Software Solutions including  
Graphics/Web Design &  
Printing

**E-mail:**  
[f\\_technics@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:f_technics@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Call : 07968875565 /**  
**07804149746**

*“As long as the body remains, Samsara remains”*



# UDI: Greatness of Udi ( Its Miraculous Powers )

Baba took Dakshina (*offering with gratitude*) from all, and out of the amount thus collected, He spent most of it on charity and purchased fuel with the balance that was left. This fuel He threw into the Dhuni - the Sacred fire, which He kept ever burning. The ash from this fire was called Udi and it was freely distributed to the Devotees at the time of their departure from Shirdi. Udi or ash is the purest substance on Earth and is the result of sacrifices offered to fire (*Agni*). Performing 'Yagnya' (*Dhuni*) is the most pious ritual recommended in the ancient Vedic literature. The Ancient Hindu texts the Vedas give upmost importance to the act of making offerings to the fire.

There is a deeper underlying significance behind Baba's practice of distributing Udi. Baba taught by His Udi that all the visible phenomena in the universe are as transient as the ash. Our bodies composed of the five elements will fall down, become inanimate after all their enjoyments are over, and will be reduced to ashes. In order to remind the Devotees of the fact that their bodies will be reduced to ashes, Baba distributed Udi to them. Baba also taught by the Udi that the Brahma is the only Reality and the universe is ephemeral and that no one in this world, be he a son, father or wife, is really ours. We come here (in this World) alone and we depart from this World alone. Baba wanted to convey into the Devotees' ears the principles of discrimination between the Unreal and the Real, and non-attachment for the Unreal, by His Udi and Dakshina. The former (Udi) taught us discrimination and the latter (Dakshina) taught us non-attachment. Unless we have these two things, it is not possible for us to cross over the sea of the mundane existence. So Baba asked for and took Dakshina, and while the Devotees took leave, He gave Udi as Prasad, besmeared some of it on the Bhaktas' foreheads and placed His boon-conferring hand on their heads. When Baba was in a cheerful mood, He used to sing merrily. One such song was about Udi. The text of the Udi song was, **"Oh, playful Lord Rama, come, come, and bring with You sacks of Udi."** Baba used to sing in very clear and sweet tones. As well as the spiritual implications of Udi, it also had its material significance. There have been many instances both in the past and also in the present to do with the curative properties of Udi as the Udi has cured both mental and physical maladies. It has conferred health, prosperity, freedom from anxiety, and many otherworldly gains. So the Udi has helped us to gain both our ends - material as well as spiritual.

Baba, from the very beginning, was always helping humanity, at first by dispensing medicines and later by dispensing 'Udi' i.e., Vibuthi or ashes from the fire that He always kept burning by His side. Udi has played a very important part in the grace shown by Baba to people all these years, and it is still being sought and used by people all over the world. But, as Baba explained, it is not the Udi itself that works the wonder. {**"What can the Udi do? Nevertheless, take the Udi as it is wanted"**, said Baba to G.G.Narke} the Devotees' bhakti (faith and devotion), for instance, has always to take its part in the good results produced by the Udi. The Udi was generally the material with which His blessings were issued. The Udi is the cup enshrining the really valuable blessings of Baba. But these blessings often came and do come without the Udi.

When people came to Him, He would give them the Udi and say '**Allah bhala karege**' (i.e. God will bless) and everything He uttered proved effective. Once He said 'I go on speaking things here and things happen there.' Baba's words were words of authority. When He addressed the elements, they obeyed Him. Fire, Water, and Air were seen by several Devotees to obey His orders. He ordered high flames to sink down and they did. He ordered the rain and storm to cease and they ceased (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 11). The heart of every one present or absent, He knew, without effort and he could control it. He himself declared that He is in the hearts of all creatures.

( contd ...pg. 25)

*"All mental and bodily process are Samsara"*







**Congratulations & Best Wishes on the  
1st Anniversary Celebrations  
of Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London  
(SHITAL)**

*from*

**EUROPEAN FREIGHT SYSTEMS LTD**

- \* AIR FREIGHT
- \* SEAFREIGHT
- \* IMPORT AND EXPORT
- \* COURIER

**ALL OVER THE WORLD**

Rapat House

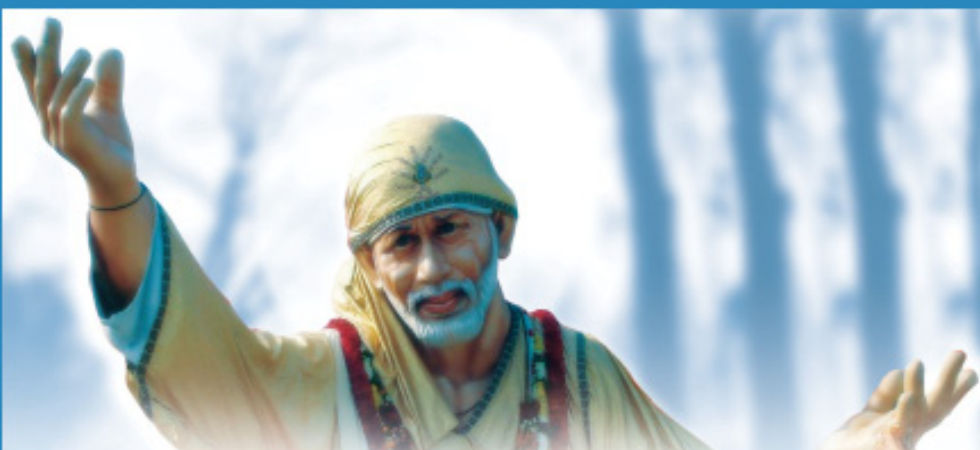
Amberley Way, Hounslow

Middlesex, TW4 6BH

Tel : 020 8570 7777

Fax : 020 8577 3376

*E-mail: info@efsl.co.uk*



**Congratulations & Best Wishes on the 1st Anniversary of  
Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)**

*from*

**TRANSPUTEC  
COMPUTERS PLC**

THE FUTURE: INVENT IT

**TRANSPUTEC OFFERS**

Professional services, Product fulfillment, Software development and Integration, Managed Services and Business Process Outsourcing from a single reliable source. Our client-base includes major international companies in commerce, finance and communications, construction, logistics as well as government organisations

**WWW.TRANSPUTEC.COM**

# UDI: Greatness of Udi ( Its Miraculous Powers )( contd... )

Below are some instances from the Shirdi Sai Satcharita, which describe the miraculous effects of Udi. These have been replicated here in completeness

## **Scorpion-Sting (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 33)**

Narayan Motiram Jani of Nasik was a devotee of Baba. He was serving under another devotee of Baba, by name Ramachandra Vaman Modak. Once he went to Shirdi with his mother and saw Baba. Then Baba Himself told her that he (her son) should serve no more, but start independent business. Some days after, this prophecy turned true. Narayan Jani left service and started a boarding house 'Ananda Ashram' which thrived well. Once, a scorpion stung a friend of Narayanrao and it caused severe and unbearable pain. Udi is most efficacious in such cases; it is to be applied on the seat of pain, and so Narayanrao searched for it, but found none. Then he stood before Baba's picture and invoked Baba's aid, chanted Baba's name and taking out a pinch of the ashes of the joss-stick burning in front of Baba's picture and thinking it to be Baba's Udi, applied it on the seat of pain and the sting. As soon as he took out his fingers, the pain vanished and they were both moved and felt delighted.

## **Bubonic Plague Case (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 33)**

Once a devotee in Bandra came to know that his daughter, who was staying in another place was down with bubonic plague. He had no Udi with him; so he sent word to Nanasaheb Chandorkar to send the same. Nanasaheb got this message on a road near the Thana Railway Station when he was travelling with his wife to Kalyan. He had no Udi with him at that time. He, therefore, took up some Earth from the road, meditated upon Sai Baba, invoked His aid and applied it on the forehead of his wife. The devotee was very glad to learn that his daughter, who was suffering for three days, began to improve from the very moment Nanasaheb invoked Baba's aid near the Thana Railway Station.

## **The Jamner Miracle (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 33)**

About 1904-05 Nanasaheb Chandorkar was Mamlatdar at Jamner, in the Khandesh District, which is more than 100 miles distance from Shirdi. His daughter Mainatai was pregnant and was about to deliver. Her case was very serious and she was suffering from labour pains for the last two or three days. Nanasaheb tried all remedies but they were in vain; he then remembered Baba and invoked His aid. There in Shirdi, one Ramgirbua, whom Baba called Bapugirbua, wanted at this time to go to his native place in Khandesh. Baba called him and told him to take a little rest and stop at Jamner on his way home and give the Udi and Aarti to Nanasaheb. Ramgirbua said that he had only two rupees with him and that amount was barely sufficient for the railway fare upto Jalgaon and it was not possible for him to go from Jalgaon to Jamner, a distance of about 30 miles. Baba assured him, he need not worry, as everything would be provided for him. Then Baba asked Shama to write the well-known Aarti composed by Madhav Adkar and give a copy of it with Udi to Ramgirbua to be delivered to Nanasaheb. Then relying on Baba's words, Ramgirbua left Shirdi and reached Jalgaon at about 2:45A.M. He had only two annas left with him and was in a hard plight. To his great relief he heard somebody calling out "Who is Bapugirbua of Shirdi?" He went to him and told him that he was the person Bapugirbua. Then the peon, professing to be sent by Nanasaheb, took him out to an excellent tonga with a good pair of horses. They both drove in it. The tonga ran fast and early in the morning they came to a brooklet. The driver took the horses for water and the peon asked Ramgirbua to partake of some eatables.

*"All persons, all creatures differ in form etc., why ?  
Because of previous karma of each"*





# UDI: Greatness of Udi ( Its Miraculous Powers )( *contd...* )

On seeing the beard, moustache and the livery of the peon, Ramgirbuva was unwilling to take any refreshments from him, but the peon satisfied him by saying that Nanasaheb had sent these refreshments and that there should be no difficulty, nor any doubt about acceptance. Then both of them took the refreshments and started again. They reached Jamner at dawn. Ramgirbua alighted to attend a call of nature and returned within a few minutes, but found that there was no tonga, no driver and no peon. He was dumbfounded. Then he went to the neighbouring Katcheri and making enquiries, learnt that the Mamlatdar was at home. He went to Nanasaheb's house, and announced himself and gave to Nanasaheb, Baba's Udi and Aarti. At this time, Mainatai's case was most serious and all were in deep anxiety about her. Nanasaheb called out his wife and asked her to give the Udi, mixed with water, to their daughter to drink, and sing Baba's Aarti. He thought that Baba's help was most opportune. In a few minutes came the news that the delivery was safe and that the crisis had passed away. When Ramgirbua thanked Nanasaheb for the peon, tonga and the refreshments etc. the latter was greatly surprised as he had sent none to the station, and was not aware of any person coming from Shirdi.

Mr. B.V. Deo of Thana, Retired Mamlatdar, made enquiries about this matter with Bapurao Chandorkar, son of Nanasaheb and Ramgirbua of Shirdi and after satisfying himself wrote an elaborate article - part prose and part poetry - in Shri Sai Leela magazine (Vol. 13 Nos. 11, 12 and 13). Brother B.V. Narsimhswami has also taken down the statements of (1) Mainatai (No. V page 14) and (2) Bapusaheb Chandorkar (No. XX page 50) and (3) Ramgirbua (No. XXVII, Page 83) dated 1st June 1936, 16th September 1936 and 1st December 1936 respectively and published them in his "Devotees' Experiences, Part III." The following is quoted from Ramgirbua's statement.

"One day Baba called me to Him and gave me a packet of Udi and a copy of Baba's Aarti. I had to go to Khandesh at the time. Baba directed me to go to Jamner and told me to deliver the Aarti and Udi to Nanasaheb Chandorkar, at Jamner. I said to Baba that all I had was Rs. 2, and asked Him how that could take me by train from Kopergaon to Jalgaon and next by cart from Jalgaon to Jamner. Baba said, "God will give." That was Friday and I started at once. I reached Manmad at 7-30P.M. and Jalgaon at 2.45A.M. At that time plague regulations were enforced and I had much trouble. I was yet to discover what I should do to get to Jamner. At about 3A.M. a peon in boots, turban and well equipped with other details of good dress came to me and took me to a tonga and drove me on. On the way at Bhaghoor, I took refreshments. We reached Jamner early in the morning and by the time I attended my call of nature the tonga and its driver had disappeared (page 83)."

V V V V V V V V V V

## U.K. Devotee: "An Experience of BABA"

Weather is one of the non-happening things in London. Having lived in India for 27 years of life, it's always difficult to adapt. I had developed migraine or sinus because of which I had to take painkillers every 3-4 hours. It's a shame on me being Baba's devotee and having read about His miracles in Satcharitra about Udi did not give a thought. No sooner I realized I stopped taking medicines and applied Udi on my forehead after every Aarti. Within three days the pain was gone.

*"Always take your meals before you start for a journey"*



# Dakshina - Mimansa

It is a well-known fact that Baba always asked for Dakshina from people who went to see Him. Somebody may ask a question, “If Baba was a Fakir and perfectly non-attached, why should He ask for Dakshina and care for money?” We shall consider this question broadly now. First for a long time, Baba did not accept anything. He stored burnt matches and filled His pocket with them. He never asked anything from anybody-whether he be a devotee or otherwise. If anybody placed before Him a paise or two, He purchased oil or tobacco. He was fond of tobacco, for He always smoked a bidi or Chilim (*an Earthen pipe*). Then some persons thought that they could not see the Saints empty-handed, and they, therefore, placed some copper coins before Baba. If one paise was placed before Him, He used to pocket it; if it was a two paise coin, it was returned immediately. Then after Baba’s fame had spread far and wide, people began to flock in numbers, and Baba began to ask Dakshina from them.

It is said in the Shruti (*Vedas*) that Puja of the Gods is not complete, unless a golden coin is offered. If a coin was necessary in the Puja of the Gods, why should it be not so in the Puja of the Saints also? Ultimately, the Shastras laid it down that, when one goes to see God, King, Saint or Guru, he should not go empty-handed. He should offer something, preferably a coin or money. In this connection we may notice the precepts recommended by the Upanishads. The Brihadaranyak Upanishad says that the Lord Prajapati advised the Gods, men and demons by one letter “Da”. The Gods understood by this letter that they should practice (1) “Dama” i.e. self-control; the men thought or understood that they should practice (2) “Dana” i.e. charity; the demons understood that they should practice (3) “Daya” i.e. compassion.

The teacher in the Taittiriya Upanishad exhorts his pupils to practise charity and other virtues. Regarding charity he says, “Give with faith, give with magnanimity, i.e. liberally, give with modesty, with awe and with sympathy. In order to teach the Devotees the lesson of charity and to remove their attachment to money and thus to purify their minds, Baba extracted Dakshina from them; but there was this peculiarity, as Baba said, that He had to give back a hundred times more of what He received. There are many instances, in which this has happened. To quote an instance, Mr. Ganpatrao Bodas, the famous actor, says in his Marathi autobiography, that on Baba’s pressing him often for Dakshina, he emptied his moneybag before Him. The result of this was, as Mr. Bodas says, that in later life he never lacked money, as it came to him abundantly.

There were also secondary meanings of Dakshina, in many cases, in which Baba did not want any pecuniary amount. To quote two instances - (1) Baba asked Rs.15/- as Dakshina from Pro. G.G.Narke, who replied that he did not have even a paise. Then Baba said, “I know you have no money; but you are reading Yoga-Vashistha. Give Me Dakshina from that.” Giving Dakshina in this case meant - ‘Deriving lessons from the book and lodging them in the heart where Baba resides’. (2) In the second case Baba asked a certain lady (Mrs. R. A. Tarkhad) to give Rs.6/- as Dakshina. The lady felt pained, as she had nothing to give. Then her husband explained to her that Baba wanted six inner enemies (lust, anger, avarice etc.) to be surrendered to Him. Baba agreed with this explanation.

It is to be noted, that though Baba collected a lot of money by Dakshina, He would distribute the whole amount the same day, and the next morning He would become a poor Fakir as usual. When Baba took His Mahasamadhi, after receiving thousands and thousands of Rupees as Dakshina for about ten years, He had only a few Rupees in His possession.

In short, Baba’s main object in taking Dakshina, from His Devotees was to teach them the lessons of Renunciation and Purification.<sup>10</sup>

*“Believe Me that if anybody sings My Leelas,  
I will give him infinite joy and ever-lasting Contentment”*



# Discipline - Baba's Advice Regarding our Behaviour

The following words of Sai Baba are invaluable and if kept in mind and acted upon, will always only benefit the devotee. **"Unless there is some relationship or connection, nobody goes anywhere."** If any men or creatures come to you, do not discourteously drive them away, 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. Let anybody speak hundreds of things against you, do not resent by giving any bitter reply. If you always tolerate such things, you will certainly be happy. Let the world go topsy-turvy, you remain where you are. Standing or staying in your own place, look on calmly at the show of all things passing before you. Demolish the wall of difference that separates you from Me, then the road for our meeting will be clear and open.

The sense of differentiation, as thou, and I is the barrier that keeps away the disciple from his Master, and unless that is destroyed the state of union or atonement is not possible, **"Allah Malik"** i.e. God is the sole Proprietor, nobody else is our Protector. His method of work is extra-ordinary, invaluable, and inscrutable. His will be done and He will show us the way, and satisfy our heart's desires. It is on account of Rinanubandh (former relationship) that we have come together, let us love and serve each other and be happy. He, who attain the supreme goal of life, is immortal and happy; all others merely exist, i.e., live so long as they breathe".

Putting this into practice may seem difficult, however, Baba is always there and He wants us to succeed in bettering ourselves. Discipline is required on our part to serve our Lord and surrender our mind, body and soul to Him. If we pray sincerely and earnestly Baba will always support us and encourage good thoughts to help us along the spiritual path.

## Encouraging Good Thoughts of Fruition<sup>11</sup>

It is interesting to note how Sai Baba encouraged good thoughts. You have to surrender yourself completely to Him with love, and devotion, and then you will see how, He helps you. Saints have said, that when you get a good thought, immediately after awakening from sleep, and if you develop the same afterwards during the day, your intellect will be unfolded and your mind will attain calmness. Hemadpant (a well-known devotee of Baba who was blessed to write the Shirdi Sai Satcharita) wanted to test this theory. On one Wednesday night before going to bed, he thought - "Tomorrow is Thursday - an auspicious day and the place, viz. Shirdi, is so holy; so let me pass the whole day in remembering and chanting the Rama-nama, and then he slept.

The next morning when he got up he remembered without any effort the name of Rama and was much pleased. He then, after finishing his morning duties, went to see Sai Baba with flowers. When he left Dixit's Wada, and was just passing Buti's Wada (*presently the Samadhi- Mandir*) he heard a beautiful song that was being sung nicely by one Aurangabadkar, in the Masjid before Sai Baba. The song was "Guru - kripanjan payo mere bha" by Ekanath, in which it says that the devotee got collyrium in the form of Guru's grace which thus opened his vision and made him see Lord Rama, in all and everywhere. There were so many songs that Aurangabadkar could have been singing at the moment when Hemadpant walked by; yet why was this song particularly chosen by Aurangabadkar, a devotee of Sai Baba? Is this not a curious coincidence arranged by Sai Baba to encourage the determination of Hemadpant to sing unceasingly Rama-nama, during the day?

*"Be wherever you like, do whatever you choose,  
remember well that all what you do is known to Me."*



## Discipline - Baba's Advice Regarding our Behaviour ( *contd...* )

All Saints agree on and stress upon the efficacy of uttering Lord Rama's (God's) name, in fulfilling the ambitions of the Bhaktas and in protecting and saving them from all calamities. Baba enhanced the devotee's faith and devotion by encouraging them in their spiritual endeavors. If Devotees gave up worshipping their family deity or Saints, Baba made them visit Shirdi and reminded them of the importance of continuing the family tradition. The following example from Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter-4 can be quoted here: The father of Bhagwantrao was a devotee of Vithoba, and used to make Varis (*annual trips*) to Pandharpur. He also had an image of Vithoba at home, which he worshipped. After his death, the son stopped everything - the Vari, the worship and shraddh (*remembrance ceremony for deceased relatives*) ceremony etc. When Bhagwantrao came to Shirdi, Sai Baba on remembering his father, at once said, "His father was my friend, so I dragged him (*the son*) here. He never offered Naivaidya (*offering of food*) and so he starved Vithal and Me. So I brought him here. I shall remonstrate him now and set him to worship."

Another instance to do with the son of Harishchandra Pitale can be recounted here. Pitale took his son to Shirdi as he was suffering from epilepsy. On hearing Kirtans of Das Ganu he was inspired to go to Shirdi as his last hope to save his son. Baba cured the son by mere glances, and he was benefited in other ways too. On returning Baba gave him three rupees and reminded him about the two rupees that had been given to him by Akkalkot Swami Maharaj earlier. This persuaded Pitale to start the worship of Akkalkot Swamy Maharaj again.

In another instance, Nanasaheb Chandorkar came to Shirdi with his 'Sadu' (*husband of his sister-in-law*), Mr. Biniwalle. When they went to the Masjid and sat before Baba talking, the latter suddenly got angry with Nanasaheb and said - "You are so long in My Company and why do you behave like this?" Nanasaheb then at first did not understand anything and humbly requested Baba to explain. Baba asked him when he came to Kopergaon and how he came to Shirdi from thence. Nanasaheb then at once realized his mistake. He usually worshipped the Shrine of Lord Datta, on the banks of the Godavari at Kopergaon on his way to Shirdi, but this time he dissuaded his relation who was a Lord Datta Bhakta from going to that Shrine, to avoid delay and drove straight. He confessed all this to Baba and told Him that while bathing in the Godavari, a big thorn went into his foot and gave him much trouble. Baba said that, that was the slight punishment He met and warned him to be more careful in future.

Another example can be seen through Baba's relationship with one of His most loved Devotees, Megha. Sai Baba's help to Megha was not through any oral instruction. He worked upon Megha internally (*mentally*) with the result that he was considerably changed and benefited. Then Megha began to look upon Sai Baba as an incarnation of Lord Shiva. In order to worship Lord Shiva, bel leaves are required and Megha used to go miles and miles every day to bring them and worship his Lord Shiva (Sai Baba). His practice was to worship all the Gods in the village and then come to the Masjid and after saluting Sai Baba's gadi (*seat*) he worshipped Sai Baba and after doing some service (*shampooing His Legs*) drank the Tirth (*washings*) of Sai Baba's Feet. Once it so happened that he came to the Masjid without worshipping God Khandoba, as the door of the Temple was closed. Sai Baba did not accept his worship and sent him again, saying that the door was open then. Megha went, found the door open, worshipped the Deity, and then returned to Sai Baba as usual. It is important to remember that our goal is God.

Our centre is God. Our ideal is God. Everything we do is for God. Everything we receive is from God. We came from God. Turn back to God and realize everlasting bliss. Resting on Him we will be saved. As the lamp cannot burn without oil, so too, we cannot live without God. God is within us all the time, inspiring us, lifting us up. Withdraw. Aspire. Meditate. Realize.<sup>12</sup>

*"Blessed and fortunate indeed is he who knows Me"*





## Discipline - Baba's Advice Regarding our Behaviour ( *contd...* )

In Baba's own words: "If a man utters My name with love, I shall fulfill all his wishes, increase his devotion. And if he sings earnestly My life and My deeds, him I shall beset in front and back and on all sides. Those Devotees, who are attached to Me, heart and soul, will naturally feel happiness, when they hear these stories. Believe Me that if anybody sings My Leelas, I will give him infinite joy and everlasting contentment. It is My special characteristic to free any person, who surrenders completely to Me, and who worships Me faithfully, and who remembers Me, and meditates on Me constantly. How can they be conscious of worldly objects and sensations, who utter My name, who worship Me, who think of My stories and My life and who thus always remember Me? I shall draw out My Devotees from the jaws of Death. If My stories are listened to, all the diseases will be got rid of. So, hear My stories with respect; and think and meditate on them, assimilate them. This is the way of happiness and contentment. The pride and egoism of My Devotees will vanish, the mind of the hearers will be set at rest; and if he has wholehearted and complete faith, he will be one with Supreme Consciousness. The simple remembrance of My name as 'Sai, Sai' will do away with sins of speech and hearing".

One day at noon after the Aarti, Devotees were returning to their lodgings, when Baba gave the following beautiful advice: - "Be wherever you like, do whatever you choose, remember this well that all what you do is known to Me. I am the Inner Ruler of all and seated in their hearts. I envelope all the creatures, the movable and immovable world. I am the Controller - the wirepuller of the show of this Universe. I am the mother - origin of all beings - the Harmony of three Gunas, the propeller of all senses, the Creator, Preserver and Destroyer. Nothing will harm him, 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, are My Body or Form".

Leave out the various hindrances viz. indolence, sleep, wandering of mind, attachments to senses, etc. and turn your whole and undivided attention to the stories of Sai Baba. Let our love be natural, may Baba bless us with the knowledge of the secret of devotion; let us not exhaust ourselves by other Sadhanas, and let us stick to this one simple remedy, i.e. listening to Sai Baba's stories. This will destroy your ignorance and will secure you for salvation. A miser may stay at various places; but he always thinks of his buried treasure. So let Sai Baba be enthroned in the hearts of all.



*"The donor gives (i.e.) sows his seeds,  
only to reap a rich harvest in future"*







*“I shall be ever active and vigorous  
even after  
leaving this Earthly body”*

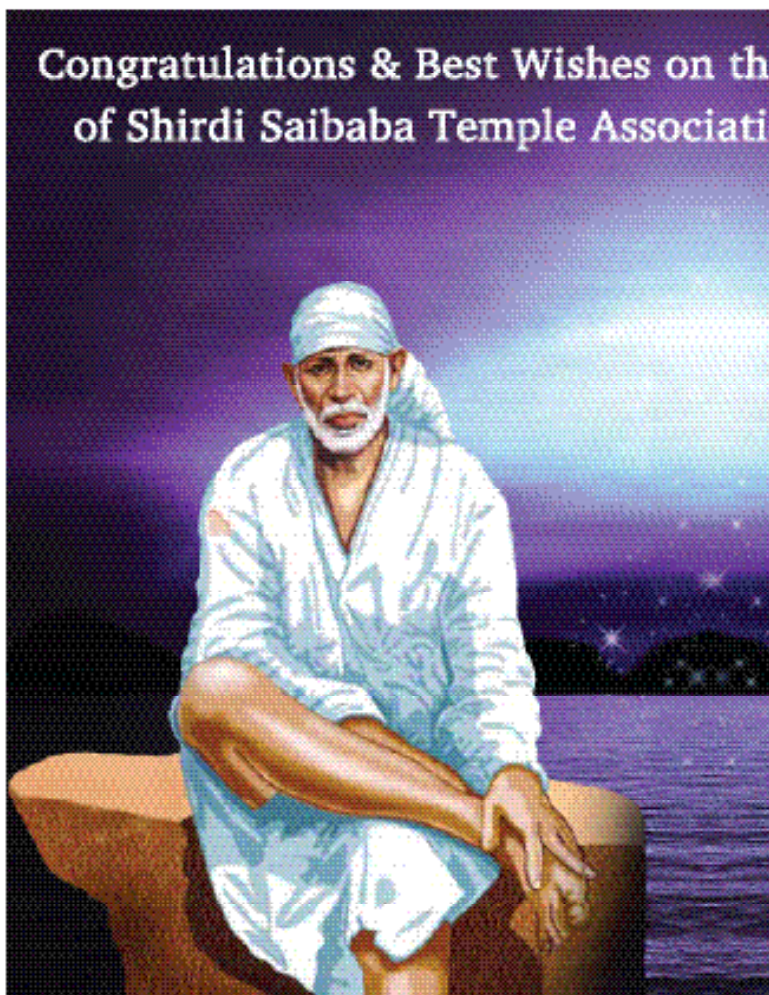
# U.K. Devotee : "An Experience of BABA"

I came to the London from India in January 2010 as a student to pursue my MBA. I have always been a brilliant student throughout my academics. My confidence to carry out my Masters Degree brought me here to the U.K. Coming from a family where everything has been fed to me did not help me at all in this country. I did not know how to cook, iron my clothes, clean etc as I have been provided with all these facilities back home. My first few months in the U.K were a nightmare. I was simply not able to manage myself at all. Be it studies, work or social life, I had lost interest in everything and wanted to go back home. Once one of my friends took me to Shri Shirdi Sai Baba's Temple in London. After getting back home that night, I felt very relaxed and happy.

After a few days I got my first phone call for a job interview. I appeared in the interview but could not clear it. I was not depressed as going to the Temple that day had installed my confidence back in me. I kept on applying for jobs and left everything up to Baba. After five months in the country without any job, I was starting to feel the pressure as my bank account figure was decreasing everyday living in one of the most expensive cities of the world. One Thursday I got a phone call from a company that I had appeared in an interview 3 months ago. They asked me if I could join their company from the next week. Just like a thirsty person being asked whether he wants water or not, I immediately agreed to their offer and that day was a Thursday which changed my life altogether. Today I am doing well with Baba's grace and I make it a point of going down to see Baba every Thursday in the Sai Baba's Temple even though it takes me quite a long time to reach the place but -anything for Baba.

**Jai Sai Ram**

**Congratulations & Best Wishes on the 1st Anniversary Celebrations  
of Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL) from**



**Makeesh**  
hairdressing salon  
unisex

**Opening Hours:**  
**Mon-Fri**  
**9.30a.m. to 6.30p.m.**  
**Sat**  
**9.00a.m. to 5.30p.m.**

**Makeesh - Hairdressing Salon**  
**36 Bilton Road, Perivale**  
**Middlesex UB6 7DS**  
**Tel: 020 8991 1928**

# Shraddha & Saburi

Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi descended on the Earth to lead mankind to the realm of eternity. As the divine mother He gave His immense love and as the divine father, gave direction to our search for truth. His mission was to make people conscious of their divine nature. The people who follow His teachings and preaching are indeed blessed souls. 'Shraddha' and 'Saburi' are the cardinal principles of the Sai Path. Sai Baba explicitly asked for these two qualities in His Devotees by giving His self-experiential instance that His 'Murshid' or Master asked from Him only two paise - one Shraddha and the other Saburi.

## Shraddha

'Shraddha' is a Sanskrit word, which has no equivalent in English, at best it can be understood as, faith with love and reverence. Such faith or trust is generated out of conviction, which may not be the result of any rational belief or intellectual wisdom, but a spiritual inspiration. Baba sowed the seeds of spiritual inspiration in the hearts of people who knew Him. This Divine inspiration was so instant and profound that they automatically took refuge in Him.

Baba reiterated that steadfast love in God is the gateway to eternity. He used the example of a mother tortoise to illustrate this point. The mother - tortoise may be on the other side of the river, whereas her children are on the far side. She does not transfer food and water to her children but sends her loving glances. These loving looks are enough to protect her children. Similarly, people who lovingly look at God get His reciprocity. God's looks offer peace, protection and prosperity for His children. Baba's teachings, both directly and indirectly explicate the significance of 'Shraddha'. Baba reiterates the spiritual guidance of Lord Krishna to Arjun - **"Who-so-ever offers to Me with love or devotion, a leaf, a flower, a fruit or water, that offering of pure love is readily accepted by Me"** (Bhagvad Gita Chapter 9, Verse 26).

## Saburi

'Saburi'; is patience and perseverance. Saburi is a quality that we all need throughout the spiritual path to enable us to reach our goal. This quality must be ingrained in us otherwise we may lose our stride and leave the path half way. As a hunter waits patiently and motionlessly for his target, a devotee too has to wait patiently for attaining his goal. There are many trying situations in life. A test may come in the form of frustration, distress, agony, illness, mishaps, prolonged wait or bereavement. In such moments we should seek support from the Master and hold onto him.

If patience means anything it should last till the end, and faith will see us through every turmoil of life.<sup>13</sup>

In practice, the problem is the conviction of the people about their faith and surrender to Baba. The qualities, sacrifices and time needed for establishing closer contact with a Sadguru cannot be done in the way we do in our ordinary life with people around. In a social relationship people generally have a limited approach and may pre-calculate any mutual benefits that can be gained from the relationship. Any deviation or non-fulfillment of ones expectations from a relationship can end up impacting the relationship negatively. Today even in a family set-up, relationships in a large number of cases are built on such considerations. These norms are changeable from society to society and from time to time. But these norms cannot be applied in relation to the spiritual world or in relation to a Sadguru as a Sadguru has no expectations from us and wants only our love.

*"Believe Me, though I pass away,  
My bones in My tomb will give you hope and confidence"*





# Shraddha & Saburi ( contd... )

Bhakti Marg at its highest point leads to 'surrender'. Surrender means giving-away our mind, body and soul to the deity or Sadguru. Having given these, the devotee is to realize that what ever happens to his body, mind and soul is done by the Sadguru. Also, he has to use these three for the work of the Sadguru. Since anything and everything happening to him is done by the Sadguru, he has nothing to be happy about, nothing to be sorry about, nothing to complain against and nothing to desire - not only materially or mentally but also spiritually, hence the Devotees reactions in all circumstances should maintain a sense of equanimity.

The state of actual surrender can be achieved by only a few among millions of spiritual aspirants over a few lives and that too, with the help and kindness of a Guru. How many people, who say that they have surrendered to Baba fall into this category? Baba was once sitting in Dwarakamai Masjid talking about His relationship with His Guru who had given Him severe tests. Baba was tied by His legs and hung in a well for a few hours. When the Guru on return asked Him as to how He felt, Baba said that He felt fine. He had nothing to complain about and was content with what the Guru had done. In this context Baba asked the Devotees sitting around Him as to how many of them can be His disciples in the way in which He was a disciple of His Guru. None had the courage to answer affirmatively. Therefore simply to say, or show that one has surrendered is not good enough because a man who has surrendered will have no desires and no complaints. He would only follow the path laid down by Baba expressed in two words i.e. Shraddha (*Faith*) and Saburi (*Patience*).

## ***Shraddha i.e. unwavering faith means :***

1. *Devotional faith,*
2. *Faith that Baba is the Almighty and the Protector,*
3. *Faith that both the good and the bad happening to the devotee's life are controlled by Him,*
4. *Faith to happily acknowledge and patiently tolerate all vicissitudes of life with equanimity,*
5. *Faith to realize that Baba is always with him, around him,*
6. *Faith to be able to sacrifice anything and everything for the cause of the Master in the manner prescribed by Him,*
7. *Faith to follow what He dictates in letter and spirit, whatever be the consequences,*
8. *Faith to hold on to Baba exclusively and not to run to different deities / Temples for different purposes.*

## ***Saburi, i.e. patience, means:***

1. *Following actions as mentioned before without complaint, either external or mental and to live normally everyday with faith in Baba.*

How many people can really do this? If not, one should think on the word 'surrender' continuously before considering himself to be a devotee. It is wiser to think of what we can do for Baba's work instead of thinking what Baba can do for us. To get perfect association with a Perfect Master, the person concerned must be a perfect devotee. Baba used to say that a devotee will experience Him as per his bhava, which means inner thought process. Imperfect minds will reflect an imperfect image of the Sadguru and the person will get imperfect results. It is not easy to achieve this state of mind and it is also not correct to use the word surrender so easily without understanding its full implications.

*“Brahma is the only “Reality” and the universe is ephemeral and that no one in this world, be he a son, father or wife, is really ours”*



## Shraddha & Saburi ( *contd...* )

The better path would be to develop the qualities prescribed by the Sadguru gradually, living in the world like an ordinary man enjoying and suffering happiness and unhappiness with the Guru in the heart.<sup>14</sup>

From another standpoint, Shraddha (*Faith*) and Saburi (*Patience*) are like twin sisters. They are not different. They are the two sides of the same coin, if one is there; the other also has to be present. The strength of one's Shraddha, reflects there level of Saburi and vice versa. Saburi is a mine of virtues and Shraddha is Saburi's life. It is not possible to think that we would get the fruits immediately, today or tomorrow while walking on the path of devotion to Sai Baba. It may so happen that we don't get the fruits immediately so we should not get disappointed. We must ensure that our love and trust do not decrease if we do not get the desired results. Our devotion should be strong enough to wait for the such time that it is right to get the results that we want. When questions like "My devotion is not up to the mark or Sai Baba doesn't listen to me" or "I don't get answers to my questions" crop up in our mind, we get depressed and this weakens the backbone of devotion. So it is inevitable and necessary that the reactions of Devotees should not be like this. We should learn to see difficulty from a positive point of view and think of each difficulty as an opportunity to learn and grow. So we should keep patience at all times in our beloved Sai Baba and ensure that patience is a virtue that we commit to for the rest of our lives.

Can one imagine that a tiny seed sown in the ground would become a tree and bear fruits? The seed does its natural work in the ground. This effect is not seen outside. To see the effect some patience is essential. The water in the sea becomes vapour due to the rays of the sun. This vapour then gets converted into clouds, which give us rain. But this process cannot occur in a few minutes, it requires a long time. Most of the phenomenons are invisible, but they all have their own importance. An Earth quake which occurs is also not a phenomenon of a few minutes or a day, but this process take places for a long time in the Earth's crust. The mother has to bear so much pain to give birth to a child. For this she has to keep much patience and courage.

If we don't get the desired answers while walking on the path of devotion, generally we become depressed or we are left without faith. To overcome this situation it is necessary to have patience. Devotees should leave the thought of getting something from their devotion; instead they should try to progress in the matter of spirituality. This again requires patience. Sai Baba said, "If a man does any deed, he would get it's result one day". Saburi is a tough test to be passed on the path of devotion. This test can be taken by the Guru only. A common man goes to a market to purchase an Earthen pot, which is of a very nominal value i.e. £1-2. He pays for the pot only after checking the pot by turning it around again and again. Likewise in the path of devotion, the devotion should not be just an outward act or just to show off. It must come from within. It should encourage us.

Shraddha is as important as Saburi. Shraddha is the foundation of the path of devotion and Saburi is the time taken to walk on that path. The path of devotion is a personal experience of one's deeds. One has to do all the tasks himself while walking on the path of devotion. No one can do anything without surrendering himself to his Guru. If we have to repair our gold ornaments, we have to give i.e. surrender our gold ornaments to the goldsmith. So unless we surrender our mind to our Guru (Sai Baba), we won't get any result. After surrendering to our Guru, Saburi is required. The fruit of complete devotion is only achieved through our Guru's blessings and God's blessings. But God or Guru are equally eager to pour their blessings only on the ones who have complete faith and devotion in them. Now to fill up the blessings, God/Guru require a container/vessel. Likewise each food/eatable requires a specific vessel to be stored in, in the same way God/Guru requires the vessel.

*"Be entirely pride less and egoless in all things and  
thus your spiritual progress will be rapid"*





# Shraddha & Saburi ( *contd...* )

For example we store wheat in big vessels and milk in a small vessel. If we have to interchange the food/eatable to another vessel/container, then first we have to empty the vessel, clean it up and then only it can be used. Now to store God/Guru's blessings or to get the benefits of the blessings, each one has a small or a big vessel. But no one has any empty vessel. This means that the vessels are full of one or more things. Due to our good deeds, we somehow get the blessings of God/Guru, but due to non-availability of space in the vessel, we feel as if we have got nothing even after getting it. For example, imagine someone comes to our door to give us pure ghee free of cost.

If we don't find any empty vessel or container, then we have to be ready to return the pure ghee. So even if we receive our Guru's blessings, our vessel has not got enough space because it contains many dirty things and we are not ready to empty it. So we have the said feeling of not getting the blessings or benefits. Let's see which empty vessels we have. We have our 'mind' and 'intelligence'. These two are the largest vessels to store our Guru's blessings. So immediately clean them up, let go of what is unnecessary, so that we have somewhere suitable to store our Guru's blessings. Due to our deeds in our past births and lust, etc, they are fully filled up. It will take time to clean and empty them. In order to clean a drum of coal tar it has to be heated repeatedly and it takes time and patience. The meaning of this process is Saburi. So to get the blessings and grace of the Guru, make Shraddha and Saburi the foundation of your life.<sup>15</sup>

Congratulations & Best Wishes on the **1st Anniversary Celebrations**  
of Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL) from



**WATCHDOG**  
FIRE & SECURITY LTD

**TOTAL FIRE & SECURITY SOLUTIONS**



- Monitored Intruder Alarms
- Repairs & Upgrades
- CCTV Security
- Commercial / Industrial / Domestic
- Free Surveys
- Insurance & Police Approved
- 24 Hour Monitoring
- Fire Detection / Fire Extinguishers
- Access Control / Door Entry



**CALL US FREE: 0800 389 9725**

W: [www.wfas.co.uk](http://www.wfas.co.uk)

E: [info@wfas.co.uk](mailto:info@wfas.co.uk)

T: +44 (0) 800 389 9725

F: +44 (0) 870 850 8863

According to Sai Baba, the importance of the company of Saints is very great if we are to overcome the false pride that goes hand in hand with one's ego. It removes our body-consciousness and egoism, destroys completely the chain of our birth and death, cuts asunder all the knots of the mind and takes us to God, Who is pure Consciousness. It certainly increases our non-attachment to sense-objects, and can make us indifferent to pleasures and pains, and leads us on the spiritual path. When the disciple's egoism props up, God presses it down with His hand, and giving him His own power, makes him gain His object, and thus satisfies and blesses him. If any one prostrates before Sai and surrenders heart and soul to Him, all the chief objects of life viz. Dharma (*Righteousness*), Artha (*Wealth*), Kama (*Desire*) and Moksha (*Deliverance*), are easily and unsolicitedly attained. Four paths, viz., of Karma, Jnana, Yoga and Bhakti lead us separately to God. Of these, the path of Bhakti is thorny and full of pits and ditches, and thus difficult to traverse, but if you, relying on your Sadguru, avoid the pits and thorns and walk straight, it will take you to the destination (God). So assures, Sai Baba.

Unless egoism is dropped, avarice got rid of, and the mind made desireless (pure), self-realisation is not possible. The idea that 'I am the body' is a great delusion, and attachment to this idea is the cause of bondage. Leave off this idea and attachment therefore, if you want to get Self-realisation. The teachings of a Guru are of no use to a man, who is full of egoism, and who always thinks about the sense-objects. Purification of mind is absolutely necessary; without it, all our spiritual endeavors are nothing, but useless show and pomp. It is, therefore, better for one to take only what he can digest and assimilate. Unless, we surrender our ego to the feet of our Sadguru, we will not succeed in our undertaking. If we become egoless, then our success is assured. By worshipping Sai Baba, we attain both the objects, worldly and spiritual, as we are fixed in our true Nature, and get peace and happiness. Therefore, those who want to progress on the spiritual path, should respectfully hear Sai Baba's Leelas or stories and meditate on them. If they do this, they will easily attain the object of their life and get Bliss.<sup>16</sup>

## Poem by Vikas Mehta

IT IS A THURSDAY NIGHT  
TODAY SAI BABA WILL GO WITH PROCESSION TO CHAVADI  
FOR WHOLE NIGHT HE WILL BE SHINING  
FOR WHOLE NIGHT HE WILL BE SMILING  
IT IS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT  
IT IS A THURSDAY NIGHT  
THERE WHEN SAI BABA IS SITTING ON HIS SEAT  
SOME ROSE PETALS ARE LYING ON HIS FEET  
AFTER SEEING ME HE WAS SMILING  
HE CALLED UP ME NEAR BY HIM  
I TOUCHED HIS FEET AND GREET  
  
HE PUT HIS HAND ON MY HEAD AND SAID  
WHY FEAR WHEN I AM HERE  
TODAY IS THURSDAY  
MEDITATE ON MY FEET  
THEN YOU WILL REALIZE YOUR INNER HEAT  
WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL POWER  
WHICH IS TO GREET

*"Be contented and cheerful!"*



*Congratulations & Best Wishes on the 1st Anniversary of  
Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)  
From*



**We Specialise In Refurbishment And New Build Works For**

- Care Homes
- Hotels
- Luxurious Homes and Apartments
- Alterations & Extensions Works
- Design and Build

**Registered Considerate Contractor**

**T : 020 8451 6674, F : 020 8451 6673**

**info@acrecontractors.com, www.acrecontractors.com**

**NHBC** ACRE HOUSE - Unit 4, Sapcote Trading Centre, 374 High Road, Willesden, London, NW10 2DH



*Best Wishes to  
Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)  
From*

*Saffran*  
Bar & Restaurant

*Beer Garden and Function Suite available*

551 High Road, Wembley  
Middlesex HA0 2DW

**020 8903 0455**

**www.saffranbar.com**

**For Private Parties Or Group Booking Contact Prakash Gorasia**

# Philosophies of Baba

## Shirdi Sai Baba's Philosophy about Pleasure of Senses

In the Shri Sai Satcharita, Hemadpant has said, **“Even though Sai Baba appeared to be tasting things with His tongue, He was not aware as to what He tasted nor had He any desire to enjoy that taste say it. Those who have no desire to enjoy the pleasure of the senses, will they ever enjoy them? The objects of the senses (hearing, touch, sight, taste and smell) do not even touch their organs. So will they ever get entangled in them?”** This is possible for a God man but what about common family man who is constantly in close touch with these pleasures and is usually of a weak mind? How should he avoid the above-mentioned dangers? Should he give up his family altogether? On the contrary Sai Baba never advised thus.

When Nanasaheb was once sitting in the Masjid with Mhalsapati and others, Muslim gentlemen from Bijapur came with his family to see Baba. Seeing gosha (veiled) ladies with him, Nanasaheb wanted to go away but Baba prevented him from doing so. The ladies came and took the darshan of Baba. When one of the ladies removed her veil in saluting Baba's feet and then resumed it again, Nanasaheb, who saw her face, was so much smitten with her rare beauty that he wished to see her face again. Knowing Nana's restlessness of mind, Baba spoke to him after the lady had left the place as follows - **“Nana, why are you getting agitated in vain? Let the senses do their allotted work or Duty; we should not meddle with their work. God has created this beautiful world and it is our Duty to appreciate its beauty. The mind will get steady and calm slowly and gradually. When the front door was open, why go by the back one? When the heart is pure, there is no difficulty, whatsoever. Why should one be afraid of any one if there be no evil thought in us? The eyes may do their work, why should you feel shy and tottering?”** - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 49.

Our mind is fickle by nature; and must be tamed. The senses may get restless, the body however should be held in check and not allowed to be impatient. Senses run after objects, but our mind should not follow these objects and then crave for these objects. By slow and gradual practice, restlessness can be conquered. Again, in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 20, through Kakasaheb Dixit's maidservant, Baba has taught us a beautiful and ingenious method of enjoying sense objects. The maidservant was always cheerful and contented, even when on the first day she had only a torn rag on her person, or the next day when she wore a new sari presented by M.V. Pradhan or on the third day when she wore the torn rag again. In fact the maidservant thus gave a practical demonstration of the lesson of Ishavasya Upanishad.

Thus Sai Baba has given us many simple methods to control the senses without giving up our family life. However, to the person seeking self-realisation He insists on strict discipline. He says, in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 49, **“Objects of senses are harmful. With Viveka (*discrimination*) as our charioteer, we should control the mind and not allow the senses to go astray. With such a charioteer we reach the Vishnupada - the final abode, our real home from which there is no return.**<sup>17</sup>

*“Be not obsessed by the importance of wealth”*



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

## Shirdi Sai Baba's Philosophy about Human Births

According to Hindu Scriptures, there are 8.4 Million types of births in this world. Souls continue to take birth and after death are reborn according to the merits and demerits accumulated in previous births. , In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 8 it is written, "Four things are common to all the creatures, viz. food, sleep, fear and sexual union. In the case of man, he is endowed with a special faculty, viz. knowledge, with the help of which he can attain God-vision, which is impossible in any other birth. It is for this reason that Gods envy man's fortune and aspire to be born as men on Earth, so as to get their final deliverance."

So Sai Baba, advised us not to miss this rare opportunity by only engaging in activities that satisfy the senses. Sai Baba loves Devotees who take real interest in spiritual matters and He puts all of His efforts into removing any obstacle from this path for the ease and happiness of His Devotees. For example, in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 41, we had seen how He blessed B.V. Dev with his wish to read Dnyaneshwari and guided him in this matter by appearing in his dream.

In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapters 16 & 17, Baba said, "Many people come to Me, and ask for wealth, health, power, honour, position, cure of diseases and other temporal matters. Rare is the person, who comes here to Me and asks for Brahma-Gnyan (*Knowledge to reach God*). There is no dearth of people asking for worldly things, but people interested in spiritual matters are very rare, I think, it is a fortunate and auspicious moment, when people come and ask Me for Brahma-Gnyan."

When thinking seriously why Baba used to call so many persons to Shirdi, it would not be wrong to guess that He wanted His Devotees to progress in spiritual matters and for this He resorted to many different ways. He used to say, "Let My man (*Devotee*) be at any distance, a thousand miles away from Me, he will be drawn to Shirdi like a sparrow, with a thread tied to its feet." For example, how Sai Baba pulled Nanasaheb Chandorkar to Shirdi. He became a nearest and dearest devotee of Sai Baba, who constantly looked to his spiritual interest. There are other examples that can be referred to; for example, Lala Lakshmichand (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 28) and Ramlal Punjabi (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 30) were called by Sai Baba when He appeared in their dreams. Also in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 28, Sai Baba demanded Khichadi (*rice cooked with dal-lentil and salt*) from one Burhanpore lady by appearing in her dream and, thus, called her and her husband to Shirdi. Another incident, in which Sai Baba forced the reading of Vishnu Sahasranama on Shama, His intimate devotee, who was reluctant to take the book fearing Ramdasi's quarrelsome nature who the book belonged to. Thus the efficacy of God's name is well-known. It saves us from all sins and bad tendencies, frees us from the cycle of births and deaths. There is no easier Sadhana than this. - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 27.

Moreover giving importance of human birth, Baba has said, "We get human body as a result of merits in past births and it is worth-while that with its aid, we should attain devotion and liberation in this life. So we should never be lazy, but always be on the alert to gain our end and aim of life."<sup>18</sup>

*"Be liberal and munificent but not lavish or extravagant"*







*“My tomb shall bless and speak to  
the needs of my Devotees”*

# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

## Shirdi Sai Baba's Philosophy about Deeds (Karma)

The theory of Karma (*our deeds*) is difficult to comprehend. We can recall scientific principle of 'Action and Reaction'. The theory of Karma is of similar type. We have to bear the consequences of our deeds whether immediately or later, but there is no escape from it. If we touch fire, our hand will burn immediately. On the other hand if we smoke, our body will diminish slowly. Following the same principle, whatever the outcome is of our good or bad actions, which were performed in our previous births, have to be experienced in our present & future births to come. There is no way out of it.

One has to reap what one sows and there is no escape unless one suffers and squares up one's old debts and dealings with others - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 47.

**Baba offers the following advice :**

- **Always Do Good Acts:**

While doing any good deed, it must not be done because some other person is doing it. It must be according to one's physical, financial and spiritual capacity.

This was put into action by Sai Baba when He rejected the offer for another wooden plank to be hung from the ceiling for Mhalsapati by Kakasaheb Dixit in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 45.

In the same Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter, we have seen what Baba has said about running around and trying advice of various Gurus, "There are innumerable Saints in the world, but our father (Guru) is the real father (Real Guru). Others might say many good things, but we should never forget our Guru's advice, because he knows what is best for us."

- **Seek Company of Saints:**

Sai Baba advised His Devotees to shun company of atheists, irreligious and wicked people altogether. Instead, He used to ask His Devotees to seek the company of Saints, "**The importance of the company of Saints is very great. It certainly increases our non-attachment to sense-objects, and makes us quite indifferent to pleasures and pains, and leads us on the spiritual path. If you have no other Sadhana, such as uttering God's name, worship or devotion etc., but if you take refuge in them (Saints) whole-heartedly, they will carry you off safely across the ocean of worldly existence. It is for this reason that the Saints manifest themselves in this world. Even Sacred rivers such as the Ganges, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri etc., which wash away the sins of the world, desire that the Saints should come to them, for a bath and purify them. Such is the grandeur of the Saints**" - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 10. Even hearing the stories of Saints or reading the books, written by them is in a way, keeping their company.

- **Avoid Bad Deeds:**

It may happen that even if a person wishes to do good acts and walk on the path of teachings prescribed in Scriptures, he is not able to do so which leads him to evil path. What can be the reason behind this? It is because of deeds in their past life and his nature is, therefore, framed accordingly.

*"By the action of Karma, I got embroiled and came to a body"*



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

Sometimes one can experience difficulty in deciding to perform a good act. Some other person with evil nature may advise not to proceed with a good act. Thus this time can be seen as a test for the good person as he has to distinguish between a good and a bad deed. By being firm to his decision and taking action accordingly, he can certainly reach his goal and avoid evil advice. Devotees were often helped by Sai Baba in their good determinations. In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 19, we have read that Sai Baba encouraged thought to Hemadpant to sing unceasingly Rama's name during one Thursday, by arranging coincidence of making him listen to a song sung by Aurangabadkar on Lord Rama.

Baba felt regretful that very few Devotees came to Him for spiritual upliftment. He says in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 32, "What My Sarkar (*God*) gives, lasts to the end of time. My Sarkar says, 'Take, take,' but everybody comes to Me and says 'Give, give!' Nobody attends carefully to the meaning of what I say. My Sarkar's treasury (*spiritual wealth*) is full, it is overflowing. I say, "Dig out and take away this wealth in cartloads; the blessed son of a true mother should fill himself with this wealth. The skill of My Fakir, the Leela of My Lord, and the aptitude of My Sarkar are quite unique. What about Me? Body (Earth) will mix with Earth, breath with air. This time won't come again. No matter where I go or where I sit, Maya always troubles Me much, still I am always anxious for My men. He, who does anything (spiritual endeavour), will reap its fruit and he, who remembers these words of Mine, will get invaluable happiness."

- **Doer-ship of Deeds:**

Sai Baba in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 50 very well explains this by the following story. Once Shri VasuDevAnanda Saraswati, known as Shri Tembe Swami encamped, at Rajamahendri (*Andhra State*), on the banks of Godavari. One, Mr. Pundalikrao, pleader of Nanded (*Nizam State*) went to see him, with some friends. While they were talking with him, the names of Shirdi and Sai Baba were casually mentioned. Hearing Baba's name, the Swami bowed with his hands; and taking a coconut gave it to Pundalikrao, and said to him, "Offer this to my brother Sai, with my pranam and request Him not to forget me, but ever love me." After one month Pundalikrao and others left for Shirdi with the coconut. Unfortunately the fruit that was entrusted to Pundalikrao was broken. Fearing and trembling, he came to Shirdi and saw Baba.

Baba had already received a wireless message, regarding the coconut, from the Tembe Swami, and Himself asked Pundalikrao first to give the things sent by His brother. He held fast Baba's Feet, confessed his guilt and negligence, repented and asked for Baba's pardon. He offered to give another fruit as a substitute, but Baba refused to accept it saying that the worth of that coconut was by far, many times more, than that of an ordinary one and that it could not be replaced. Baba also added- **"Now you need not worry yourself any more about the matter. It was on account of My wish that the coconut was entrusted to you, and ultimately broken on the way; why should you take the responsibility of the actions on you? Do not entertain the sense of doership in doing good, as well as for bad deeds; be entirely prideless and egoless in all things and thus your spiritual progress will be rapid."** What a beautiful spiritual instruction Baba gave.<sup>19</sup>

*"Brahman is My father and Maya My mother"*







**LAVA  
LANES**

# Now Open!!!

Bowling • Cocktail Bar • Lounge

16 Church Road, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4AR

Lava Lanes blends luxury surroundings, with fine Italian Cuisine & Cocktails! It boasts stunning special effects, state of the art lighting with modern Ten Pin Bowling. Presenting exclusive and specially designed lane's encompassing glow in the dark, ultra violet lighting and high definition video projection screens lava lanes is by far the most modern Ten Pin experience.



Bowling • Cocktail Bar • Lounge

*"Posh, Innovative"*



**SKY SPORTS**

For all Reservations Call: 0208 420 7318

Lava Lanes is part of Maurya Restaurants [www.maurya.co.uk](http://www.maurya.co.uk)

E: [info@lavalanes.co.uk](mailto:info@lavalanes.co.uk)



W: [www.lavalanes.co.uk](http://www.lavalanes.co.uk)



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

## Shirdi Sai Baba's Philosophy about Cycles of Rebirth

It is well known that Sai Baba lived in Dwarkamai - a Mosque and dressed like a Fakir, but He believed in the Hindu theory of rebirth. In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 36, after lunch, one afternoon when Shama was drying the wet hands of Sai Deva with a towel, the Latter pinched the former on his cheek. Shama feigning anger said, "Deva, is it proper for You to pinch me like this? We don't want such a mischievous God who pinches us thus. Are we Your dependents, is this the fruit of our intimacy?" Sai Baba replied, "Oh Shama, during the 72 generations that you were with Me, I never pinched you till now and now you resent My touching you".

It was the experience of the Durandhar brothers on their visit to Shirdi that Baba commented thus:  
**"We are acquainted with each other for the last sixty generations."**

Another instance can be taken here. Nanasaheb Chandorkar, an intimate devotee of Sai Baba, was serving as a personal assistant of the collector in the year 1887. Baba sent a message to Nanasaheb Chandorkar through Kulkarni of Shirdi when he went to the collector's office for government work to fetch Nanasaheb with him. Nanasaheb did not believe the words of Kulkarni. So Baba again sent the message, but Nanasaheb did not turn up this time. Baba not minding Nanasaheb's negative attitude again called him. This time Nanasaheb came with some of his colleagues and sat before Baba and asked, **"Baba why did you call me?"** Baba answered, **"There are few men in this world. From those people I call you; hence there must be some specific reason behind it. We are related since past four births. You do not know this, but I know, so I called you. Do come at your convenience now onwards."**

Some Dervishes brought before Baba a tiger suffering some agony. The tiger breathed his last and the Dervishes were much dejected and full of sorrow, but on mature thought they came to their senses. They considered that as the animal was diseased and nearing its end, it was very meritorious on its part that it should meet its death at the feet and in the presence of Sai Baba. It was their debtor, and when the debt was paid off it was free and met its end at Sai's Feet.

One noon Mrs. Khaparde brought a dish containing sanza (*wheat-pudding*), purees, rice, soup, and kheer (*sweet rice*) and other sundry articles to the Masjid. Sai Baba, who usually waited for hours, got up at once, went up to His dining seat and removing the outer covering from the dish began to partake of the things zealously. Shama then asked Him - "Why this partiality? You throw away dishes of others and do not care to look at them, but this You draw to You earnestly and do justice to it. Why is the dish of this woman so sweet? Sai Baba then explained - "This food is really extra-ordinary. In a former birth this lady was a merchant's fat cow yielding much milk. Then she disappeared and took birth in a gardener's family, then in a Kshatriya family, and married a merchant. Then she was born in a Brahmin family. I saw her after a very long time, let Me take some sweet morsels of love from her dish." Thus, by narrating the lady's tale of many previous births, Baba probably explained to His Devotees how a soul could progressively rise from an animal form to a human form and then to a Brahmin birth on account of virtuous deeds. The above examples convince us regarding the theory of rebirth and also make us realize how Sai Baba cared to look after His Devotees from birth to birth. While talking about rebirths, Sai Baba always said that these births, whether happy or full of miseries, one gets according to one's previous deeds only.

*"Be quiet. Do not fear"*



# Philosophies of Baba ( contd... )

For example, see how, in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapters 46 and 47, after narrating the past and present lives of two goats and frog and snake, Sai Baba concludes, “The moral of the story is that one has to reap what one sows and there is no escape unless one suffers and squares up one’s old debts and dealings with others.” That is why Sai Baba advised His Devotees to always act honestly and with integrity, keeping one’s conscience awake to what is right and what is wrong.

The last wish or thought that a man has at the hour of death, determines his future course. Shri Lord Krishna has said in Gita (VIII-5-6) that **“He who remembers Me in his last moments, comes verily to Me, and he that meditates otherwise at that time goes to what he looks for.”** We cannot be certain that we can entertain a particular good thought at our last moment, for, more often than not, we are more likely to be frightened and terrified by many causes. Hence constant practice is necessary for enabling us to fix our mind on any desired good thought at any or the last moment. All Saints, therefore, recommended us to always remember God and chant His name always, so that we may not be puzzled when the time for departure comes. The Devotees on their part surrender themselves completely to the Saints, fully believing that the all-knowing Saints would do the needful in their last moments. Such examples in Sai Satcharita are of Vijayananda Sanyasi, Balaram Mankar, Tatyasaheb Noolkar, Megha and a tiger. All of them were fortunate as they breathed their last in the presence of Baba. Thus Baba ensured a good rebirth or complete escape from births by such dealings<sup>20</sup>

## Shirdi Sai Baba’s Philosophy about Nine Types of Devotion

In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 21, Sai Baba told Anantrao Patankar a parable of Nine Balls of Stool (Nava-vidha Bhakti). Baba said there are nine forms of Bhakti :

- |                         |                                  |   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Shravan - Hearing    | 4. PadaSevan - Resorting to Feet | 7. Dasya - Service                      |
| 2. Kirtan - Praying     | 5. Archan - Worship              | 8. Sakhyam - Friendship                 |
| 3. Smaran - Remembering | 6. Namaskar - Bowing             | 9. Atmanivedan - Surrender of the Self. |

If any of these is faithfully followed, God or Lord Hari will be pleased and manifest Himself in the home of the devotee.

Now let us see how Baba practiced all these Himself and gave us practical examples:

### 1. Shravan (Hearing Praises):

Baba used to ask educated Devotees like Kakasaheb Dixit and Bapusaheb Jog to read out Dnyaneshwari, Eknathi Bhagwat and Bharavarth Ramayana to others regularly and send other Devotees to hear the stories from these Sacred books. About Shri Sai Satcharita Baba Himself said,

**“Hearing My stories and teachings will create faith in Devotees’ hearts and they will easily get self-realisation and bliss”.**

*“Consider yourself as the seeker after the truth and be anxious and eager to collect or cultivate “Loving Devotion,” then you will attain stability and peace of mind”*



# Philosophies of Baba ( contd... )

## 2. Kirtan (Singing the Praises of God):

We have seen that Baba used to get Kirtans performed during festivals like RamNavami (*birth-anniversary of Lord Rama*) and Janmashtami (*birth-anniversary of Lord Krishna*) in the open space in front of Dwarkamai. In the year 1914, Das Ganu Maharaj was permanently entrusted with the function of doing Kirtan. Baba made him dress like Sage Narada from whom the Kirtan Paddhati (*Ritual or Procedure*) originated by wearing nothing on his torso and head, and carrying a pair of Chiplis in his hand and a garland around his neck. Actually it was Baba who made Dasganu Maharaj give up his service in the Police department and take to singing God's praises – Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 15.

In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 3, Baba assures, **“If a man earnestly sings about My life and My deeds, him I shall beset in front and back and on all sides. Believe Me that if anybody sings My Leelas, I will give him infinite joy and ever-lasting contentment.”**

In the same Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter, it was seen how Rohila used to recite, in a loud and harsh tone the Kalma (*verses from the Holy Quran*) and shout “Allah Ho Akbar” (*God is Great*). The villagers suffered this nuisance for some days in silence, and when they could stand it no longer, they approached Baba and requested Him to check the Rohila and stop the nuisance. Baba, instead of attending to the complaints of villagers, in turn, took the side of Rohila and asked the villagers to mind their own business. As Baba liked prayers and cries to God better than anything else, He asked the villagers to wait and bear with the nuisance, which would abate in due course.

## 3. Smaran (Remembering Form and Name)

**Smaran** means naam-smaran, which means constantly repeating the name of the Lord by remembering His form. Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter – 27 says: The efficacy of God's name is well known. It saves us from all sins and bad tendencies, frees us from the cycle of births and deaths. There is no easier Sadhana than this. It is the best purifier of our mind. It requires no paraphernalia and no restrictions.

Also in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 3 Baba says, **“If a man utters My name with love, I shall fulfill all his wishes and increase his devotion. If you always say “Sai, Sai, I shall take you over the seven seas believe in these words, and you will certainly be benefited.”** – Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 13.

## 4. PadaSevan (Service of Feet)

PadaSevan means salutation to the deity of worship or Guru by respectfully touching His feet with both hands and resting one's head on them or massaging them. PadaSevan also includes remembering and meditating. In connection to this, in Shri Sai Satcharita Baba's posture is described as follows: **“He is sitting with His legs folded, the right leg held across the left knee. The fingers of His left hand are spread on the right foot. On the toe are spread His two fingers – the index and middle ones. By this posture Baba seems to say – if you want to see My true form, be egoless and most humble, and meditate on My toe through the opening between – index and middle finger – and then you will be able to see My light”**. If you refer to Baba's photographs, you will see that Baba's feet are always visible in photo's, making it convenient for Devotees to salute or massage them. In short, Baba encouraged the method of PadaSevan Bhakti.

*“Devotees could never approach Me unless I meant to receive them*



# Philosophies of Baba ( contd... )

To drink water used for washing the feet of one's deity or Sadguru or to sprinkle it on one's head as a symbol of bath is also part of PadaSevan. As seen in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 4, under the title Dasganu's Bath in Prayag, Baba convinced not only Dasganu but all of us that such water is as holy and meritorious as the waters of Ganga and Yamuna rivers at their confluence at Prayag (Allahabad) which He proved by miraculously making the streams of water of these rivers flow through His toes. Similarly in Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 45 when Kakasaheb Dixit was surrounded by doubts for his own devotion after reading Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 2 of Eknath Bhagwat about very tough Bhakti of nine Naths Siddhas of Rishabh family, Sai Baba arranged the narration of Anandarao Pakhade's dream for convincing Kakasaheb that bowing to the feet of one's deity or Guru is a quite sufficient form of Bhakti or devotion.

## 5. Archana (Worship)

Archana means worship of one's deity or Guru in person or through His picture or idol. This includes bathing feet, applying sandal paste on forehead, decorating with clothes and flowers, waving of lights and offering Naivedya, etc. In the beginning, Sai Baba did not allow His Devotees to perform any such worship. But later on due to the insistence of Devotees, He allowed them to do so, and even today Sai Baba's worship is being continued in the same manner daily in Baba's Samadhi Mandir in Shirdi.

## 6. Vandana/Namaskar (Bowing)

Baba never forced any person visiting Him to bow down before Him, however, sometimes He inspired people to want to bow down before Him, for example, Mulay Shashtri (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 12), or a doctor devotee of Rama (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 35), Kaka Mahajani's master Sheth Thakkar Dharamsey by showing them some miracles. But this was only to convince them and other Devotees present the importance of bowing down and surrendering completely before a saint and not for showing His own importance or greatness. Lets take the case of Hemadpant, the author of Shri Sai Satcharita, and his experience when he first bowed down to Baba at Shirdi, He writes, **"I ran and prostrated before Baba and then my joy knew no bounds. All my senses were satisfied and I forgot thirst and hunger. The moment I touched Sai Baba's feet, I began a new lease of life"** - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 2.

## 7. Dasya (Service)

This form of devotion as read in Shri Sai Satcharita was seen practically in cases of Radhakrishna Mai and Laxmibai. Radhakrishna Mai was a beautiful young widow. She never came to the Masjid during Baba's presence and always covered her face with the end of her saree in front of Baba. She most willingly and regularly carried out the task of renovating the Masjid and cleaning the path from which Baba used to pass. With her toil and efforts Shirdi took the form of a Sansthan. Learned and most educated men like Kakasaheb Dixit, Vamanrao Patil and Bapusaheb Buti were sent to her by Baba.

Laxmibai Shinde was a good and well-to-do woman. She was working in the Masjid day and night. Except Bhagat Mhalsapati, Tatyaa and Laxmibai, none was allowed to step in the Masjid at night. Once while Baba was sitting in the Masjid with Tatyaa in the evening, Laxmibai came and saluted Baba. The latter said to her - **"Oh Laxmi, I am very hungry."** Off she went saying - **"Baba, wait a bit, I'll return immediately with bread."** She did return with bread and vegetables and placed the same before Baba. He took it up and gave it to a dog.

*"Do not try to get any Mantra or Upadesh from anybody.  
Make Me the sole object of your thoughts and actions and you will,  
no doubt, attain Paramartha (the spiritual goal of life)"*





# Philosophies of Baba ( contd... )

Laxmibai then asked - **“What is this, Baba, I ran in haste, prepared bread with my own hands for You and You threw it to a dog without eating a morsel of it? You gave me trouble unnecessarily.”** Baba replied - **“Why do you grieve for nothing? The appeasement of the dog’s hunger is the same as Mine. The dog has got a soul; the creatures may be different, but the hunger of all is the same, though some speak and others are dumb. Know for certain, that he, who feeds the hungry, really serves Me with food. Regard this as Truth.”** This is an ordinary incident but Baba thereby propounded a great spiritual truth and showed its practical application in daily life without hurting anybody’s feelings. From this time onwards Laxmibai began to offer Him daily bread and milk with love and devotion. Baba accepted and ate it appreciating. He took a part of this and sent the remainder with Laxmibai to RadhakrishnaMai who always relished and ate Baba’s remnant Prasad. This bread-story should not be considered as a digression; it shows, how Sai Baba pervaded all the creatures and transcended them. He is Omnipresent, birthless, deathless and immortal - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 42.

## 8. Sakhya (Friendship)

In Shri Sai Satcharita the only unique example of friendly love is love between Sai Baba and Madhavrao. He had spent some 40 years continuously in Baba’s company. Baba used to address him out of love and fondness as **“Shama”** or sometimes **“Shamya”** and Madhavrao in return used to address Baba as **“Deva”** i.e. God. No one else could dare to talk to Baba in such a manner nor could anyone argue with Him so boldly. We could say that it is indeed Baba’s wish that Shama behaved so. In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 36, we see how Baba once jokingly had even pinched Shama on his cheek, and in the same Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter we see how Shama had said to Mrs. Aurangabadkar who had presented a coconut to Baba with the hope of getting a son, **“Dear Madam! You are the witness to my words. If within 12 months you do not get any issue, I will break a coconut against this Deva’s head and drive Him out of this Masjid”** Who else could speak such words to Baba, Who was known to get into sudden fits of anger and even hit Devotees with His stick. In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 46, we had seen how Baba arranged for Shama’s comfortable pilgrimage to Kashi, Gaya and Prayag free of cost.

## 9. Atma-Nivedan (Surrender of the Self)

Atma-Nivedan means complete surrender to God. Apart from worldly attachments a devotee surrenders his intellect and ego in this form of devotion. Without Atma-Nivedan or complete surrender of self, there is no escape from the chain of births and deaths. Smarana is the beginning and Atma-Nivedan is the end of Bhakti. The case of Kakasaheb Dixit is the best example of Atma-Nivedan. It was known that Kakasaheb Dixit left his wife, children and well-settled business and made Shirdi his permanent home. After the death of his loving daughter Vatsali in 1911, Kakasaheb Dixit isolated himself from worldly attachments. He decided to live on whatever he could earn with the grace of the Almighty. He brought all his wealth to Shirdi and placed it at the Lotus Feet of Baba. Sai Baba knew that Kakasaheb would need money in the future so He said, **“O Keep the money with you only. It will be useful in your old age”**. Kakasaheb said, **“Your blessings are with me. I do not need this money.”** Kakasaheb emptied the bag of money before Baba even though He refused. Baba did not keep even a single penny with Him and donated all the money generously among other Devotees present in Dwarkamai. The famous judge of Mumbai Shri Garade was also present in Dwarkamai at this occasion. He was surprised to see this deed of Kakasaheb. Kakasaheb did not mind Baba’s not accepting his gift and distributing it among the Devotees. He wore the same smile on his face, which was always present. Kakasaheb said to Baba while pressing His legs, **“Baba this world is full of pits and falls, please have mercy**

*“No quest can be successfully carried out on an empty stomach”*



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

on me and give me permission to sacrifice this Sansar.” What a great renunciation and what a complete surrender to Sadguru Shri SaiNath!!!

Once Kakasaheb Dixit was asked by Baba, as a test, to kill a goat with a knife and although a Brahmin by caste and had never known killing in his life, Kakasaheb not giving a second thought to his action got ready to do it. When stopped by Baba he said, **“Your nectar like word is law unto us, we do not know any other ordinance. We remember You always, meditate on Your Form and obey You day and night, we do not know or consider whether it is right or wrong to kill, we do not want to reason or discuss things, but implicit and prompt compliance with Guru’s orders, is our Duty and Dharma.”**

These are the nine forms of bhakti, which Baba Himself taught us. Baba encouraged the Manifested (Sagun) type of devotion. But taking the example of Radhabai Deshumukh who was insisting on getting a mantra or upadesh from Him, Baba gave a very simple but most effective form of Bhakti, **“Look at Me wholeheartedly and I in turn will look at you, just as the tortoise feeds her young ones, whether they are near her or away from her on the other side of the river bank, by her loving looks.”** Later Baba said, Meditate always on My formless nature, which is knowledge incarnate, consciousness and bliss. If you cannot do this, meditate on My form, top to toe as you see here night and day. As you go on doing this, your virtues will be one-pointed and the distinction between the Dhyata (*meditator*), Dhyana (*Meditation*) and Dheya (*thing meditated on*) will be lost and the meditator will be one with the consciousness and be merged in the Brahma.

( *contd ...pg. 52* )



**Congratulations & Best Wishes on the  
1st Anniversary Celebrations  
of Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London  
(SHITAL)**

*from*  
**Kirti Catering**  
**Outdoor pure vegetarian catering specialist**

**Weddings - Receptions – Birthdays – Anniversaries  
Community events - All type of parties & functions**

**For booking contact: Jayaben or Mukeshbhai Patel**

**Tel: 0208 204 0293, Tel/Tax: 0208 422 9883**

**Mobile: 07956 129 267**

**Unit 6, Archdale Business Centre,  
South Industrial Estate, Bremer Road, off Stanley Road,  
Harrow, Middx, HA2 8DJ**



*“I shall be active  
and  
vigorous even from my tomb”*



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

Lastly, how can we forget the main mantra given to us by Baba? The simplest method for devotion He gave us to keep: Shraddha (*complete faith*) and Saburi (*patience*). For His devotion and our long living love affair with Him, we need these two basic qualities and He is sure to make us sail over this ocean of worldly existence.<sup>21</sup>

## Shirdi Sai Baba's Philosophy about Devotion

There are four methods of obtaining God-realisation - Gyana (*Knowledge*), Yoga (*Control of Mind*), Karma (*Selfless work*) and Bhakti (*Love of God*). The method of knowledge is the quickest but it is very difficult. In the Yoga method, the body and the mind have to be restrained greatly and quite a few restrictions are to be observed with regards to food and drink. In the Karma method, a common man finds it difficult to give up doership and fruits of his actions. Bhakti is the easiest method of all and can be conveniently followed by all even whilst leading a secular life. That is why Sai Baba repeatedly advised His Devotees to follow the path of Bhakti Marg or love of God.

In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 6, Hemadpant quotes Sai Baba's words as thus: Four paths, viz., of Karma, Gyana, Yoga and Bhakti lead us separately to God. Of these, the path of Bhakti is thorny and full of pits and ditches, and thus difficult to traverse, but if you, relying on your Sadguru, avoid the pits and thorns and walk straight, it will take you to the destination (God). Bhakti means real and deep love for God. It can be considered as a love affair with God. When we are in love, we are always engrossed in thoughts of our beloved. Similarly when we are in love with God, our thoughts are dedicated to Him. Thus in a way the path of devotion is not so hard as compared to others. Our deep love for our beloved makes way to be with him/her forever, the same applies to our affair with God - Bhakti.

### Two Types of Devotion:

There are two aspects of God or Brahma: (1) the Unmanifested (Nirgun) and (2) the Manifested (Sagun). The Nirgun is formless, while the Sagun is with form, though both denote the same Brahma. Some prefer to worship the former, some the latter. As stated in the Gita (chapter XII) the worship of the latter is easy and preferable. As man has got a form (body, senses, etc.), it is natural and easy for him to worship the God with form. Our love and devotion do not develop unless we worship Sagun Brahma for a certain period of time, and as we advance; it leads us to the worship (Meditation) of Nirgun Brahma - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 11. Thus to attain the position of Nirgun worship, Sai Baba not only professed Sagun worship to His Devotees but also tried to convince them about its effectiveness by giving them personal experiences.

### A few instances from Shri Sai Satcharitra can be quoted with regard to this teaching:

1. A Saint from Bombay named Balabua Sutar, who on account of his piety, devotion and Bhajan, 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**". Balabua wondered and thought, how it could 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! 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!**" - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 33.

*"No other gift from any man can be compared to His (God's)"*





## Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

2. In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 9, we have read about the Tarkhad family. Babasaheb Tarkhad was a member of Prarthana Samaj and did not believe in the worship of idol and pictures. On the contrary, his son and wife worshiped Sai Baba's portrait in their house. Both mother and son visited Shirdi with promise from Babasaheb Tarkhad to perform daily worship of Sai Baba's portrait, who stayed back. Although Babasaheb tried to perform the Puja rites sincerely like his son, one day in a hurry to go to work he forgot to offer the sugar-candy as Naivedya. Immediately on the very day at Shirdi when Babasaheb's wife and son went for Baba's darshan in Dwarkamai, Baba exclaimed, **"Mother! I had been to your house at Bandra with a view to having something to eat. I found the door locked. I somehow got inside and found to my regret that Mr. Tarkhad had left nothing for me to eat. So I had to return unappeased"**. This convinced Babasaheb that food and drink offered to the picture/idol of a God/Saint reached Them.

3. In 1917, on the full moon day of the Holi festival, Baba appeared in Hemadpant's dream and told him that He would come to his house for meals that day. His wife expressed doubt regarding the dream, but Hemadpant was sure that Baba would come to his house in any form. Just after meals were served and formal offering to Vaishwadeva and Lord Krishna were about to begin, Baba came in the form of a big and nice picture. It was brought by two Muslim friends of Hemadpant, Ali Mohammed and Ismu Mujavar. This confirmed that Hemadpant's dream was true and Baba did fulfill His promise. Later during a chance meeting, Ali Mohammed explained to Hemadpant how and why he had bought that picture to him on that day. Ali Mohammed had bought this picture of Sai Baba from a hawker and hung it on a wall in his house at Bandra along with pictures of other Saints.

After some days, while Ali Mohammed was staying with his brother-in-law at Bombay due to abscess on his leg, his house at Bandra was locked. His brother-in-law told him that to keep and worship pictures of Saints in the house was idol-worship and against the tenets of Islam, and if he desired an early cure of his illness he should immediately remove them from his house. Accordingly, Ali Mohamed asked his clerk to collect all such pictures from his household at Bandra and hand them over to his brother-in-law for immersing them into the sea. But surprisingly after three months, when Ali-Mohammed got well and returned to his house at Bandra, he found Sai Baba's picture still hanging on the wall. He was at his wit's end and wanted to understand how Sai Baba's picture alone was not removed by his clerk with other pictures. Knowing Hemadpant to be a Sai Devotee, he brought it and gave it to him on that day for safe custody. With this incident, Baba convinced His Devotees that He was present in His picture form.

4. When Kakasaheb Dixit invited Sai Baba to attend his son's thread ceremony at Nagpur and Nanasaheb Chandorkar invited Him to his son's wedding at Dwaliar, Baba asked them to take Shama on His behalf. When Kaksahab pressed Him to Himself attend, He added that He would also reach ahead of Shama after visiting Kashi and Prayag. When Shama reached Gaya, he found Baba present there in Priest's residence, ahead of him, in the form of a picture - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 43.

5. In addition to giving such experiences to His Devotees, Sai Baba also propagated worship of Saguna (*Manifested*) form through His actions and advice. At Shirdi, He not only carried out repairs of old Temples through His rich Devotees but also refused to allow any of His Devotees to perform His Puja unless all the idols in all the Temples in Shirdi were first worshipped.<sup>22</sup>

*"Offers of bread and food should be regarded as  
auspicious signs of success"*



# Philosophies of Baba ( contd... )

## Shirdi Sai Baba's Philosophy about Speech

"The tongue has two functions - to taste the food and to speak."

### Use of Scornful and Slightful Speech:

We have read about the importance of 'Non-violence' in our Scriptures. 'Non-violence' means not hurting anybody physically, mentally or by speech. Thus Sai Baba also advised us to be humble in our speech. Scornful words hurt a person much more than physical or mental violence. Such words are not easily forgotten and cannot be withdrawn. Consequently they cause ever-lasting ill feeling. Thus Baba's advice was to be soft in speech. Even more He said, **"Let anybody speak hundreds of things against you, do not resent by giving any bitter reply. If you tolerate such things you will certainly be happy"** - Chapter 19 of Shri Sai Satcharita. To make it more sure that the Devotees should follow it, He added, **"He, who carps and cavils at others, pierces Me in the heart and injures Me, but he that suffers and endures, pleases Me most"** - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 44.

### Arguments and Disputes:

Another teaching, which Sai Baba gave about speech, was to avoid arguments and disputes, which spring from egoism. They spread ill feelings, hatred and enmity. We have seen how Baba checked this habit of arguing regarding necessity of a Guru by Shri Hemadpant. Baba made Hemadpant realize the futility of arguing & unnecessary discussions by addressing him as **'Hemadpant'** and granting him permission to write Shri Sai Satcharita.

### Indulgence in Scandal-mongering and Discussions of Other's Affairs:

Sai Baba advised His Devotees not to indulge in scandal mongering or slandering others. Baba by His Omniscient nature knew where and when Devotees committed any mistakes. He made it a point to correct them by effectively taunting them.

This is seen by the following incident: Once it so happened that, a Bhakta of Baba, reviled someone behind his back before other people. Leaving aside merits he dwelt on the faults of his brother and spoke so sarcastically that, the hearers were disgusted. Generally we see that, people have a tendency to scandalize others unnecessarily and this brings on ill feelings. Sai Baba knew this and when He met the slanderer at noon, near Lendi, Baba pointed out to him a pig, that was eating filth near the fence and said to him, "Behold, how, with what relish it is gulping filth. Your conduct is similar. You go on reviling your own brethren to your heart's content. After performing many deeds of merit you are born as a human and if you act like this, how can Shirdi help you in anyway?" Needless to say; that the Bhakta took the lesson to his heart and went away. - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 19.

Let us take another incident. A pleader from Pandharpur unnecessarily indulged in discussion regarding sub-judge Noolkar's coming and staying at Shirdi for cure of his ill-health. When the pleader went to Shirdi, Sai Baba said, "How cunning people are! They fall at the feet, offer dakshina, but inwardly give abuses behind the back. Is not this wonderful?" The pleader understood that the remark was aimed at himself, and being

*"Demolish the wall of difference that separates you from Me;  
and then the road for our meeting will be clear and open"*



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

convinced, later said to Kakasaheb Dixit, **“This is not a rebuke to me but a favor and advice that I should not indulge in any scandal or slander of others and not interfere unnecessarily in others’ affairs”.**

## **Always speak nothing but truth:**

Repeated stress is laid on always speaking the truth. In Mahabharata, Yudhisthir Dharmaraj, the eldest amongst the Pandavas, always spoke the truth, but once in his life he told a lie and therefore had to spend a few hours in hell. Sai Baba was always practical and realistic in His teachings. It was Baba’s teaching to His Devotees to always speak the truth. Even if a person dares to speak untruth, Baba knew it there and then as He is the Knower of secrets of every being’s heart. In the original, Marathi version of, Shri Sai Satcharita, Hemadpant has written untruth does not work before Sai Baba and Sai cannot be procured with untruth. Untruth means downfall. Untruth in the end takes you to hell.

Success is not possible by telling a lie. Sai Baba is Omniscient. However there are a few instances where Sai Baba Himself told small lies. In Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 27, Baba told a lie to Ramadasi who was reading Vishnu-Sahasranam (1000 names of Lord Vishnu) about His stomach-ache and sent him to the market to fetch Sennapods. Shama was a very intimate devotee of Baba and Baba wanted to favour him in a particular way by giving him a copy of Vishnu-Sahasranam. He took the Ramadasi’s book in his absence, gave it to Shama and also played the peacemaker’s role to calm down the Ramadasi in the end. Another case was that Baba went with Aarti and Udi in the disguise of a tonga-driver with Ramgiri for urgent and safe delivery of the daughter of Nanasaheb Chandorkar.

Now the question arises of how can we interpret such acts? Firstly, the Saints do not have to bear the consequences of these acts, whether good or bad, since they do not claim the doer-ship of these acts to themselves. Secondly, even if such acts are sinful, they are prepared to bear their consequences for the sake of their Devotees. In the first instance, Sai Baba wanted to favor His devotee Shama with some religious practice and hence he enacted this drama. Normal advice by words would not have been that effective. In the second instance, Sai Baba wanted to respond to Nanasaheb Chandorkar’s fervent prayers to save the life of his pregnant daughter who was having severe labour pains and was unable to deliver. In this case, there was urgency to reach Udi and Aarti more than 100 miles away and that too at night. Hence, Baba not only prompted Bapugir to go to his native place at that odd hour but helped him to reach Jamner from Jalgaon railway station in a tonga resorting to lies to convince Bapugir. Thus, the deeds of Saints who always want to favor His Devotees in times of calamities and danger are never questioned as good or bad.

Indeed, we have seen many such instances wherein Saints take calamities of their Devotees on themselves. Taking examples of our Sai Baba, He took four fully developed bubos of Dadasaheb Khaparde’s young son on Himself willingly. More than that in the year 1910, Baba put His arm into the Dhuni to save the little child of a blacksmith from falling into the furnace at some distance from Dwarkamai. Baba was not concerned about His burnt arm but He had a sense of satisfaction glowing on His face for saving the child. The burnt arm was not allowed to be medicated; in turn the leper devotee Bhagoji Shinde’s service was accepted. Now, how can we measure such acts of Saints? Only it can be said that they showed Godhood and were not natural for us.

*“Do not be anxious that I would be absent from you”*



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

Never tell a lie, at least for self-interest or satisfaction of one's ego. However, sometimes for benefit of others, there is no harm in telling a little lie. For example, if telling some sad news is likely to shock a person, there is no harm in telling a lie that such a thing has not happened or that we do not know about it. Similarly, if somebody has offered some food with love and care and even if it is not relished by us, will it not be wiser to praise the quality of food smilingly rather than bluntly telling the truth and hurting the feelings of the person? Telling the truth is good but telling what is beneficial to others is better. **Real truth results in the ultimate welfare of all beings.** One should speak the truth and speak what is pleasing and agreeable to others. Never speak the truth, which is not pleasing and agreeable to others.

## Always Keep your Promise:

Sai Baba taught us that if you promise anything to anybody you must fulfill it. So never make a false promise to anybody. Instead do not make any promise if you are not sure of fulfilling it. Still Devotees make a vow or promise to God to some act or offer something on condition that their desires are fulfilled, but once fulfilled they forget to fulfill their vow. Such instances were tackled by Baba skillfully. Appasaheb Kulkarni wished to pay Fakir Rs. 10 who had visited his residence during his absence, and Baba got it fulfilled by approaching him again and demanding the full amount - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 33. Similarly we had seen another instance of Shama. In this case Sai Baba manoeuvred to get Shama's long pending offering to Saptashringi Goddess fulfilled - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 30. Mr. Cholkar was treated lovingly as Baba was much pleased to note that His devotee gave up sugar and drank tea without it until his vow to offer sugar candy to Sai Baba by visiting Shirdi was fulfilled - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 15.

## Talk Less:

Sai Baba's principle was to talk less. He never gave any lengthy lectures, but gave His Devotees suitable experiences by narrating suitable stories. For spiritual advancement, observing silence for some time everyday is good. Baba Himself practiced this by spending some time twice a day in Lendi Baug till the end of His life regularly. Talking too much consumes a lot of energy and time, hence even in day-to-day business, it is advisable to avoid unnecessary talk.

## Repeat God's name:

In speech, Sai Baba's most important advice was about repeating God's name. He Himself used to repeat 'Allah Malik Hai' (*God is Lord*) constantly. He was fond of making others chant God's name continuously day and night for a whole week. This is known as Nama-Saptah. Views of Hemadpant, "**The efficacy of God's Name is well-known. It saves us from all sins and bad tendencies, frees us from the cycle of births and deaths. There is no easier Sadhana than this. It is the best purifier of our mind. It requires no paraphernalia and no restrictions. It is so easy and so effective**".<sup>23</sup>

Best Wishes to Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)

From

DADIMA RESTAURANT, 228 Ealing Road, Wembley. HA0 4QL Tel : 020 8902 1072

*"Did you forget Me ?"*





# Philosophies of Baba ( contd... )

## Shirdi Sai Baba's Philosophy about Food

We provide here some generic points around Sai Baba's beliefs about the consumption of non-vegetarian food, the act of fasting, etc

### Non-vegetarian: Food

Although some of Baba's teachings were quite revolutionary for their time, they always encouraged unity amongst human beings and always were for the betterment of Society as a whole. As per some religious schools of thought, it is a widely held belief that one cannot attain fully Supreme Lord if he or she eats non-vegetarian food. This belief has been carried down many generations. Baba Himself had full knowledge of the Supreme Spirit as He was the Supreme Spirit Himself, yet He never objected to the eating of non-vegetarian food and nor did He ask His Devotees who did eat meat to stop consuming it. On the contrary, He Himself cooked non-vegetarian food in the early years and distributed this as Prasad to Devotees who did eat meat. What is the lesson behind this action of Baba's? There are two observations that can be made from this. Firstly, Baba wanted to bridge the gap between Hindus and Muslims. Although, his outwardly style of living gave an impression that He was a Fakir, Baba accepting non-vegetarian food reflected the lifestyle that a Fakir would be expected to adopt.

Secondly (and this is a more subtle observation), Baba wanted to spread the message that being a vegetarian alone does not guarantee that a devotee will merge with God. It is wrong to kill innocent animals for the sake of filling our stomachs and to some extent we are accountable for the choices that we make. Also by eating non-vegetarian food, the attributes of both passion and ignorance can act as dominating characteristics in us and could hinder our spiritual development. But it would not be correct either to say that avoidance of non-vegetarian food alone opens the doors to the Supreme. Indeed, as a person progresses on the spiritual path his attraction to any type of food decreases and eventually ceases to exist as the person has moved beyond the temporal satiations of the physical body. Baba, never advised His Devotees to give up non-vegetarian customs. Similarly Baba never asked vegetarian Devotees to eat non-vegetarian food. There are instances in the Shri Sai Satcharita where Baba has demonstrated His teachings in practical examples.

Taking the example of Kakasaheb Dixit, Baba asked him to kill a goat seeing that its end was near. But this was only a test into the Devotees devotion i.e. their Guru-Bhakti. Seeing that Kakasaheb was willing to carry out Sai Baba's order, Baba Himself stopped Kakasaheb. Baba's method of persuading His Devotees from abstinence of non-vegetarian food was unique in that He would always say to His Devotees that He pervaded every living creature let it be humans, animals, birds or insects. This He practically demonstrated when He said to Mrs. Tarkhad- Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 9, **"The dog which you saw before meals and to which you gave the piece of bread is one with Me, so also the other creatures are one with Me. I am roaming in their forms. He who sees Me in all creatures is My beloved. So abandon the sense of duality and distinction and serve Me as you did today"**.

### Fasting

Baba's views on fasting were quite clear. Baba never kept fasts Himself, and he did not encourage other to do so either. "The mind of the faster is never at ease, then how could He attain his Paramartha (Goal of life)? God is not attained on an empty stomach; first the soul has to be appeased. If there is no moisture of food

*"Do not disregard offers of food; served dish should not be thrust away"*



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

in the stomach and nutrition, with what eyes should we see God, with what tongue should we describe His greatness and with what ears should we hear the same? In short, when all our organs get their proper nutrition and are sound, we can practice devotion and other Sadhanas to attain God. Therefore, neither fasting nor overeating is good. Moderation in diet is really wholesome both to the body and mind. Taking another instance, we have seen how Baba made Mrs. Radhabai Deshmukh, who was determined to fast unto death if Baba did not give her Upadesh (*religious exhortation*), to give it up by narrating His own experience with His Guru. Fasting is done for religious purposes and is an act of self-discipline. On the day of the fast a devotee must ensure that they have a pure mind, pure consciousness and meditate wholly on God.

## Not to disregard offers of food

Baba advised not to disregard offers of food. To do any work or job, energy is needed and it is acquired by eating food. So to do any task perfectly, we need to have our food in required quantity. Offers of food when neglected, may hurt someone's feelings, which Baba did not like. To show us this preaching practically Baba narrated His own experience when He met His Guru in the woods through a poor Vanjari (*a person from hindu caste*). His companions disregarded the offer for food, Baba did not. So He met His Guru - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 32. Also Appa Kulkarni could not find Fakir when he started his search on an empty stomach. But when he went after his lunch, the Fakir Himself was seen to be coming towards him and asking for Dakshina - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 33.

## Always eating by sharing with others

This message was conveyed by Sai Baba in a subtle way in Chapter 24 of Shri Sai Satcharita. The author of the original Shri Sai Satcharita – Shri Annasaheb Dhabholkar Alias Shri Hemadpant, was questioned by Baba about grains of gram on the folds of his coat sleeve. Baba has advised us that before the senses, mind and intellect enjoy their objects, He should first be remembered, and if this be done, it is in a way an offering to Him. The senses etc. can never remain without their objects, but if those objects are first offered to the Guru, the attachment for them will naturally vanish. In this way, all the Vrittis (*thoughts*) regarding Desire, Anger, Avarice etc. should first be offered and directed to the Guru and if this practice be followed, the Lord will help you in eradicating all the Vrittis. Through offering the objects to our Guru our love for our Guru will grow and pure knowledge will sprout up. When this knowledge grows, the bondage of body-consciousness i.e., I am the body will snap and our intellect will be merged in spirit-consciousness (*we are the spirit*). If we serve our Guru as stated above, the Lord (*God*) will be certainly pleased and purifying our minds He will give us self-realisation. To put the matter in a nutshell, we should not enjoy any object with our senses etc. without first remembering our Guru. When the mind is trained in this way, we will be always reminded of Sai Baba, and our Meditation on Sai Baba will grow. The Sagun form (*the Manifested*) of Sai Baba will ever be before our eyes and then devotion, non-attachment and salvation will all be ours. When Sai Baba's Form is thus fixed before our mental vision, we forget hunger, thirst and this sansar; the consciousness of worldly pleasures will disappear and our mind shall attain peace and happiness.

## Hemadpant has also given the below example of Lord Krishna and Sudama:

Shri Krishna and His elder brother, Balarama, were living with a co-student, named Sudama, in the ashram of Their Guru, Sandipani. Once Lord Krishna and Balarama were; asked to get fuel from the forest. Then the wife of Sandipani also sent Sudama for the same purpose with some quantity of grams for the three.

*“Drink it all, you won't get any such opportunity hereafter”*



# Philosophies of Baba ( *contd...* )

When Lord Krishna met Sudama in the forest, He said to him - **"Dada, I want water as I am thirsty"**. Sudama replied - **"No water should be drunk on an empty stomach, so it is better to rest a while"**. He did not say that he had got grams with him and that He should take some. As Lord Krishna was tired, He lay down for rest on the lap of Sudama and was snoring. Seeing this, Sudama took out the grams and began to eat. Then Lord Krishna suddenly asked him - **"Dada, what are you eating, whence is the sound?"** He replied - **"What is there to eat? I am shivering with cold and my teeth are chattering. I can't even repeat distinctly Vishnu-Sahasranaam"**. Hearing this, the Omniscient Lord Krishna said - **"I just dreamt a dream, in which I saw a man, eating things of another, and when asked about this, he said - "What Earth (dust) should he eat?" meaning thereby that he had nothing to eat? The other man said - "Let it be so". Dada, this is only a dream. I know that you won't eat anything without Me; under the influence of the dream I asked you what you were eating?"** If Sudama had known a bit of the Omniscient, Shri and His Leelas, he would not have acted as he did. Therefore, he had to suffer for what he did. Though he was a friend of Lord Krishna he had to pass his later life in utter poverty. But when he later offered Lord Krishna a handful of parched rice, earned by his wife with her own labor, Lord Krishna was pleased and gave him a golden city to enjoy. This story should be remembered by those who have the habit of eating things alone without partaking them with others. More than these, Baba Himself did not eat anything without offering it to others. He used to beg food from 4-5 houses in Shirdi. The food thus collected was kept in an Earthen bowl. Some beggars used to take 3-4 bread slices and dogs and birds used to eat out of it, but Baba never drove them away. Whenever any devotee offered Him fruits or richly cooked food, He hardly tasted it and distributed it amongst the Devotees present. Every afternoon in Dwarkamai, when the meal was served and ready to eat, Baba used to call Bade Baba and made him sit next to Him on His left respectfully as an honoured guest. To make us understand this philosophy, Baba used His own deeds and dealings.

## Food - the best charity one can give

Different Sadhanas (*means of accomplishments*) have been prescribed in the Vedas for different ages. Tapa (*Penance*) is recommended for Krita age, Jnana (*Knowledge*) for Treta age, Yajna (*Sacrifice*) for Dwapara age and Dana (*Charity*) for Kali (*present*) age. Of all the charities, giving food to the hungry is considered the highest act of Charity that there is. The Taittiriya Upanishad says that **"Food is Brahma; from food all the creatures are born and having been born, by food they live, and having departed, into food again they enter."** When an Atithi (*uninvited guest*) comes to our door at noon, it is our Duty to welcome him by giving him food. In Mrs. Tarkhad's case, Baba was much pleased with her when she gave a piece of bread to a hungry dog who stood in front of her before meals. On another incident, Baba said to Laxmibai Shinde that He was hungry. She hastily went home and cooked chapati for Baba and returned. Baba gave all the food to a dog nearby realizing its hunger. This annoyed Laxmibai but Baba explained to her that the appeasement of the dog's hunger was the same as His. Though some speak and others are dumb, the hunger of all creatures is the same. Know for certain that he who feeds the hungry, really serves Me with food". Baba Himself performed this act of charity by cooking food for the poor and needy. On the day of mass feeding, Baba used to get all of the required raw materials, did the necessary grinding and chopping without allowing anybody to interfere in His service. Devotees who received such charity had a heavenly experience. Later on when Devotees flocked in large numbers to Shirdi, food came in large quantities. Still the practice of distributing it to others was continued. Such was the compassionate nature of our Beautiful Lord.

*"Do not entertain the sense of doership in doing good as well as bad deeds"*





We offer worldwide flights and holidays to any destination in the world

Price  
match  
promise

A new travel company to design  
your dream holiday

20 years  
travel  
experience

0208 864 6554 or email : [sales@holidayunited.com](mailto:sales@holidayunited.com)

Grove House , 2nd Floor, 55 Lowlands Road, Harrow on the Hill, HA1 3AW



**Holiday United**  
*perfect holiday everytime*

SPECIALIST

# WEDDING LIGHTS

EST. 1982

- OVER 160 LED LIGHT EFFECTS -  
(INCLUDING WATER FALL EFFECT)
- FULL UK COVERAGE -
- 24 HOUR CALL OUT SERVICE -
- FULL HOUSE LIGHTS FROM £149
- FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE -



T: 07957 595 626

E: [KUDOSEVENTS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK](mailto:kudosevents@hotmail.co.uk)

[WWW.KUDOSEVENTSUK.COM](http://WWW.KUDOSEVENTSUK.COM)

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR 8 MILLION POUNDS. ALL ELECTRICAL  
EQUIPMENT FITTED WITH SURGE & RCD SWITCHES AS STANDARD  
INSTALLERS ARE NICEIC REGISTERED



© 2007 KUDOSEVENTS





*“My mortal remains will speak from  
my tomb”*

Continental House,  
497 Sunleigh Road,  
Wembley,  
HA0 4LY.



SPECIALISED IN

#### LOOSE DIAMONDS



Round



Emerald



Heart



Marquise



Oval



Pear



Princess



Radiant



Royal Asscher



Cushion

#### ENGAGEMENT RINGS



#### WEDDING BANDS



#### DESIGNER COLLECTIONS



FOR MORE PLEASE VISIT:

[www.kohinoordiamonds.com](http://www.kohinoordiamonds.com)

0208 422 9971

# 108 Names of Shirdi Sai Baba



*Om Shri Sai Nathay Namah - Lord Sai*



*Om Shri Sai Laxmi Narayanana Namah -  
Goddess Lakshmi's Consort*



*OmShriSaiKrishna-Rama-ShivaMarutyadirupa  
Namah -  
ManifestationofKrishna-Rama-Shiva-Maruti,*



*Om Shri Sai Sheshashayini Namah -  
Manifestation of Vishnu On Sheshanaga*



*OmShriSaiGodavaritataShildhivasiniNamah-  
MakingAbodeInShirdiOnGodavariBanks*



*Om Shri Sai Bhaktahridalaya Namah -  
Dweller In Devotee's Heart*



*Om Shri Sai Sarvahrinnilaya Namah -  
Dweller In all Beings*



*Om Shri Sai Bhutavasaya Namah -  
Dweller In all Living Creatures*



*OmShriSaiBhutabhavishyadbhavaVarjitaya  
Namah-DispellerofTormentingThoughts*



*Om Shri Sai Kalatitaay Namah -  
Beyond Time Limitations*



*OmShriSaiKalaayNamah-TimeIncarnate*



*Om Shri Sai Kalakaalaay Namah -  
Lord of Eternity*



*Shri Sai Kaladarpadamanaay Namah -  
Destroyer of the Pride of Death*



*Shri Sai Mrityunjaya Namah -  
Conqueror of Death*



*Shri Sai Amartya Namah - Immortal*



*Shri Sai Matya-Bhay-Pradaay Namah -  
Granter of Freedom From Fear of Death.*



*Om Shri Sai Jeevadhaaraay Namah -  
Support of all Living Beings*



*Om Shri Sai Sarvadharaay Namah -  
Support of the Universe*



*OmShriSaiBhataavaSamarthaayNamah-  
Bestower of Capacity to Achieve Results*



*OmShriSaiBhataavanPratigynaayNamah-  
OneWhohasPromisedProtectiontoDevotees*



*Om Shri Sai Anna-Vastra-Daay Namah -  
Bestower of Food and Clothing*



*OmShriSaiArogya-KshemdaayNamah-  
Bestower of Health and Happiness*



*OmShriSaiDhan-Maangalya-PradaayNamah-  
Granter of Wealth and Well-being*



*Om Shri Sai Riddhi-Siddhi-Daay Namah -  
Bestower of Spiritual Psychic Powers*



*OmShriSaiPutra-Mitra-Kaltra-Bandhu-Daay  
Namah-GranterofSons,Friends,WivesandKin*



*Om Shri Sai Yogakshem-Vahaay Namah -  
Provider and Sustainer of Yogic Powers*



*Om Shri Sai Apad-Bandhavaay Namah -  
Protector of the Distressed*



*Om Shri Sai Maarg-Bandhave Namah -  
Companion On Life's Path*



*"Everything is Mine"*



# 108 Names of Shirdi Sai Baba ( *contd...* )

*OmShriSaiBhukti-MuktiSwargapravargadaya  
Namah-BestowerofWorldlyPleasuresand  
Salvation*

*Om Shri Sai Priyaay Namah - Beloved*

*Om Shri Sai Priti-Vardhanaay Namah -  
Provider of Boundless Love*

*Om Shri Sai Antaryamine Namah -  
Knower of Innermost Secrets*

*Om Shri Sai Sachchidatmane Namah -  
SymbolofTruthandPureConsciousness*

*Om Shri Sai Nityaananda Namah -  
Eternal Bliss*

*Om Shri Sai Param-Sukh-Daay Namah -  
Bestower of Supreme Happiness*

*Om Shri Sai Parameshwaraay Namah -  
Supreme Lord*

*Om Shri Sai Parabrahmane Namah -  
Absolute Lord*

*Om Shri Sai Parmaatmane Namah -  
Supreme Self*

*Om Shri Sai Gyaan-Swaroopine Namah -  
Embodiment of Knowledge*

*Om Shri Sai Jagat-Pita Namah -  
Father of the Universe*

*OmShriSaiBhaktanaamMaatru-Dhaatru-  
PitamahayNamah-Mother,BearerandGreat  
Sire of Devotees*

*OmShriSaiBhakta-Bhay-PradayNamah-  
Granter of Freedom from Fear*

*OmShriSaiBhakta-PradadhinaayNamah-  
Subservient to Devotees*

*OmShriSaiBhaktanugrahkatraayNamah-  
Showerer of Grace on Devotees*

*OmShriSaiSharnagatvatsalaayNamah-  
Lover of Refuge Seeker*

*OmShriSaiBhakti-Shakti-PradayNamah-  
Granter of Devotion and Power*

*OmShriSaiGyaan-Vairaagya-DaayNamah-  
BestowerofKnowledgeandDetachment*

*Om Shri Sai Prempradaay Namah -  
Granter of Love*

*Om Shri Sai Sanshay Hriday Dourbalya  
PaapkarmaVaasnaa-KshyakaraayNamah-  
ObliteratorofDoubts,WeaknessofHeart,Sinful  
Acts and Evil Desires*

*OmShriSaiHriday-Granthi-BhedkaayNamah-  
Remover of Knots in Hearts*

*Om Shri Sai Karma-Dhavansine Namah -  
RemoverofEvilEffectsofSinsofPreviousLives*

*OmShriSaiShuddhaSatvasthitaayNamah-  
Established in Pure Truths and Thoughts*

*OmShriSaiGunantitaGunaatmaneNamah-  
Virtuous and Attributeless*

*OmShriSaiAnantKalyaan-GunaayNamah-  
Limitless Virtues*

*OmShriSaiAmit-ParaakramaayNamah-  
Unlimited Supreme Power*

*Om Shri Sai Jayine Namah -  
Personification of Victory*

*“For a greedy man there is no peace, neither contentment nor  
certainty (Steadiness)”*





# 108 Names of Shirdi Sai Baba ( *contd...* )

*OmShriSaiDurdharsha-KshobhyayaayNamah-  
Unchallengable and Unshakeable*

*Om Shri Sai Aparajitaay Namah -  
Unconquerable*

*OmShriSaiTrilokeshuAvidhaatgatayeNamah-  
LordoftheThreeWorldsWithoutObstruction*

*Om Shri Sai Ashakyaahitaay Namah -  
For Whom Nothing is Impossible*

*OmShriSaiSarva-Shakti-MurtayeNamah-  
Almighty*

*Om Shri Sai Suroop-Sundaraay Namah -  
Beautiful Form*

*Om Shri Sai Sulochana Namah -  
With Beautiful Eyes*

*OmShriSaiBahuroop-Vishwa-MurtayeNamah-  
Protean*

*Om Shri Sai Arupaa-Vyaktaay Namah -  
Formless and Indescribable*

*Om Shri Sai Achintayaay Namah –  
Inconceivable Truth personified.*

*Om Shri Sai Sookshamaay Namah -  
Subtle and all Pervasive*

*OmShriSaiSarvaantaryaamineNamah-  
Dweller in Every Creature*

*Om Shri Sai Manovaagtitaay Namah -  
Transcends Mind and Speech*

*Om Shri Sai Prem-Murtaye Namah -  
Embodiment of Love*

*OmShriSaiSulabh-DurlabhaayNamah-  
Easy to Reach, Difficult to Approach*

*OmShriSaiAsahaay-SahaayaayNamah-  
Supporter of the Helpless*

*OmShriSaiAnaath-Naath-Din-Bandhave  
Namah - Protector of the Unprotected*

*OmShriSaiSarva-Bhaar-BhruteNamah-  
Acceptor of all Burdens*

*OmShriSaiAkarmaa-Nek-Karmasu-Karmine  
Namah - Inspiration for Virtuous Deeds*

*OmShriSaiPunya-Shravan-KirtanaayNamah-  
Sai Evokes Religious Fervour*

*Om Shri Sai Tirthaay Namah -  
Embodiment of Holy Places*

*Om Shri Sai Vasudevaay Namah -  
Incarnation of Vasudeva*

*Om Shri Sai Sataangataye Namah -  
Resort of the Virtuous*

*Om Shri Sai Satparaaynaay Namah -  
Truth Incarnate*

*Om Shri Sai Lok-Naathaay Namah - L  
ord of the Universe*

*Om Shri Sai Paavanaandhyaay Namah -  
Pure and Free From Sins*

*Om Shri Sai Amrutaanshave Namah -  
Bestower of Immortality*

*OmShriSaiBhaaskar-PrabhaayNamah-  
Lustrous like the Sun*

*OmShriSaiBrahmacharyaTapascharyaadi  
Suvrataay Namah -  
Celibate,AsceticwithOtherHighSpiritual  
Disciplines*

*“For those who come here (to Me), I have to grind. (Their Karma)”*



# 108 Names of Shirdi Sai Baba ( contd... )

OmShriSaiSatya-Dharm-ParaaynaayNamah-  
Engrossed in Truth and Righteousness



Om Shri Sai Siddheshwaraay Namah -  
Lord of Spiritual Powers



Om Shri Sai Siddha-Sankalpaay Namah -  
Whose Will Prevails



Om Shri Sai Yogeshwaraay Namah -  
Incarnation of Shiva and Krishna



Om Shri Sai Bhagvate Namah -  
Possessor of Divine Glory



Om Shri Sai Bhakta-Vatsalaay Namah -  
Full of Love for Devotees



Om Shri Sai Satpurushaay Namah -  
Virtuous, Pious and Venerable One



Om Shri Sai Purushottamaay Namah -  
Incarnation of Purushottama



OmShriSaiSatya-Tatva-Bodh-KaayNamah-  
Preceptor of The Essence of Truth and Reality



OmShriSaiKamadi-Shad-Vairi-Dhvasine  
Namah - Destroyer of Worldly Desire



OmShriSaiAbheda-Nanadaanubhav-Pradaay  
Namah - Bestower of Bliss



OmShriSaiSam-Sarva-Mat-SamtaayNamah-  
Preacher of Equality of all Faiths



Om Shri Sai Dakshina-Murtaye Namah -  
Lord Dakshina Murti



OmShriSaiVenkatesh-RamanaayNamah-  
Lord Venkateshwara



OmShriSaiAdbutaanant-CharchaayNamah-  
Performer of Marvellous and Blissful Deeds



Om Shri Sai Prapannarti-Haraay Namah -  
Eradicator of Distress



OmShriSaiSansaraSarva-Dukh-Kshaya-Karaay  
Namah - Destroyer of all Calamities



OmShriSaiSarvit-Sarvato-MukhaayNamah-  
Omniscient and Omnipresent



OmShriSaiSarvantarbahiSthitaayNamah-  
All Pervading



OmShriSaiSarva-Mangal-KaraayNamah-  
Cause of Auspiciousness



OmShriSaiSarvaa-Bhisht-PradaayNamah-  
Fulfiller of all Desires



OmShriSaiSamaras-Sanmaarg-Sthapanaay  
Namah - Establisher of Amity



OmShriSaiSamarthSadguruSainathaayNamah  
- Supreme and Powerful Guru



“God will cure”





*“I am ever living to help and guide  
all who come to me, who surrender  
to me and who seek refuge in me”*



SEE FOR YOURSELF

[www.amazingtiles.com](http://www.amazingtiles.com)

# CERAMIC TILES SPECIALIST

**WHOLESALE PRICES**  
@ **1/3 OFF**  
WHEN YOU BUY OVER 500 METRES OF PLAIN TILES



## FLOOR & WALL TILES

Bathroom  
Kitchen  
Hallway  
Drive  
Conservatory  
Footpath  
Dining Room  
Lounge  
Porch  
Swimming pool



## SPECIALISTS IN RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Homes  
Hotels  
Restaurants etc...

**95% OF TILES IN THE  
SHOWROOM IN  
STOCK**

Designers and  
Manufacturers  
of custom made  
designs

SHOWROOM & WAREHOUSE

45 Park Royal Road, London, NW10

**0208 83 84 900**



# U.K. Devotee: “An Experience of BABA”

Saturday 3rd March 2007 was the first time I visited Shirdi. That day was Holi. A day before i.e. Friday afternoon, my office colleague asked me if I would like to go to Shirdi with him. It was a very unusual decision that I made, to go to Shirdi and not stay back home to enjoy Holi with my family & friends. This proves that He is a wirepuller. To be honest I never liked the idea of waiting in queue at Temples, and Shirdi is no different when it comes to queuing. It took us more than 5 hours to reach the Samadhi Mandir but to my surprise once I had His darshan it did not felt like I was waiting in some queue for five hours. The whole experience was not less than a miracle. As stated in Sai Satcharitra Baba used to read minds of His Devotees, He did somewhat to me by changing my concept of queuing up. Since then I am not bothered about queue at Shirdi or anywhere else. And this was not the end; this was just the beginning of a number of experiences. Once I got back to my routine life everyone around me, be it my family members or office colleagues, everyone said that I have changed. I could not feel any difference within myself, but yes my actions were blessed.

## Sai Sagunopasna Story:

My good friend who took me first time to Shirdi always kept a red covered book with him. During our second visit I asked him what the book was about. He told me it was Shri Sai Satcharitra. After Baba's darshan he wanted to buy a copy of Sai Satcharitra for one of his relatives. I thought of buying the same and I did. Along with Sai Satcharitra I received a small yellow book named SaiNath Sagunopasna for free (which ideally is Rs.3). My friend and I were both surprised why did the person gave it for free. But its a human psychology anything we get for free, most of the time we don't bother to care for it or look into details of it. I was no different, and just kept it in my bag without even opening it. There was a reason for it, which I was unaware about till I came to SHITAL.

On 15th November 2008 on way to Shirdi from Ahmedabad, once we crossed village namely Rajpipla, we met with a major accident at 7:30P.M. as the front axle got damaged. Because of which our car did not turn to the right but instead went straight. There were no lights apart from headlights. For a while we thought its over, but here we go 'Bang' and the car stopped. It was Him who saved five of us. We were at a height of more than 150 Feet from the ground, and the route we opted for hardly had any railings on the danger side of the road. The pole with which our car banged was the only one in approximately 200 metres. It was not merely a pole it was Baba. From the local people we then discovered that only one in thousands survive. We not only survived but none of us had any scratch from the accident. After one and half day of several hindrances and tests finally we reached Shirdi on 17th of November 2008.

After exactly one year i.e. 15th November, 2009 I was on my way to London of which I had never dreamed of. One of the things on my mind was how would I see Baba in this part of the World. Within 15 days of my landing I found this name SHITAL (Shirdi Sai Baba Temple Association of London) that was to open on 31st January 2010. I was amazed at the way the Aarti's and other rituals were performed in this part of the world. Mostly I used to be a part of Dhoop & Shej Aarti due to my college schedule. After some days I found the Devotees who sang the Aarti used the same yellow colour book that I received for free in Shirdi. The yellow book was none other than Sai Sagunopasna, which had all the Aarti's in it. Firstly I was disappointed, as I had no clue of that books whereabouts. One fine day, I found it from my Laptop bag. In those initial days of Temple when there were only few copies at the Temple itself, having one in my hand felt special.

*“Give one and receive ten fold”*



# Shirdi's History – Past & Present

## A Brief Introduction to Shirdi

Shirdi, a small town in Maharashtra is situated about 300kms away from the state capital Mumbai and lies in the heart of the sugar-cane belt of the state. Some 22,000 people reside in Shirdi with some 8 – 10 million pilgrims flocking to Shirdi every year. It is the site of the second most revered pilgrimage after Tirupati Balaji in Andhra Pradesh (India). It is said to be the second richest shrine in India. The reason why so many Devotees come to this rustic land is to seek the blessings of Shri Sai Baba.

### How Shirdi was in the times of Sai Baba (Nineteenth Century):

- The village of Shirdi had been a small Hamlet in the map of India when Maharashtra state did not exist. As per Shri Sai Satcharita: Shirdi falls in the Kopergaon Taluka or Ahmednagar district. The river Godavari that is said to have flourished many Saints flows in this district. After crossing the Godavari river at Kopergaon, one gets on their way to Shirdi. When you go 9 miles from this spot, you come to Nimgaon from where Shirdi is visible.
- Shirdi is as famous and well known as other holy places like Gangapur, Nrisinhawadi, Pandharpur and Nasik. A long tradition of Saints is attached to Maharashtra, thus it was very much appropriate for this 'Fakir' who was named as Sai Baba after alighting at this Holy land, to flourish it and make it His Karma-Bhoomi (place of work).
- Sai Baba came to Shirdi in mid nineteenth century.
- Shirdi till then did not have lighting, drainage or any other facilities of a civilized town. The streets and passages were all dark at night.
- The old and dilapidated Mosque of Shirdi had taken the shape of a royal court, which mostly consisted of learned men from other provinces of present day Maharashtra state and rustic villagers of Shirdi, mostly labourers and artisans.

### Present Day Picture of Shirdi:

- Though Shirdi has the same devotional energy continuously flowing through it, day and night, one will find an all different spectacle today.
- More than a rustic hamlet, it has become a concrete-city and a pilgrimage, where Devotees flock in millions with their ever-increasing numbers.
- The Samadhi Temple complex - where the Earthly body of Lord Sai Baba rests, is now being well maintained by Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi.
- An 'A' Grade railway station was constructed in Shirdi in early 2009. The project of constructing an airport is on going and is expected to be completed soon.
- For the facility of pilgrims visiting Shirdi, Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Trust has constructed Bhakt Niwas with the latest modern facilities at a nominal cost.



*"God is great. He is the Supreme Master"*

# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

- There is also a multi-specialty hospital with all the latest technology and equipment.
- Shirdi also has the facility of a state transport service with a small, but neat and clean, Bus-station.
- A large Prasadalay has been constructed, wherein about 5000 Devotees can dine at a time, here simple yet delicious food is cooked with solar energy.
- Many hotels and buildings are rising here day by day. Even commercial complexes have found their way here. There are a few other buildings waiting to take shape that are presently laid in the drawing sheets of aspiring builders.
- Apart from buildings, one can find travel agencies, telephone booths, shops with flowers, garlands, small pictures, large portraits and idols of Sai Baba, Puja materials, books on Sai Baba, etc. In a nutshell, a large market surrounds the Samadhi Temple complex and one can easily find and purchase anything within a small radius of 300 meters.
- Still the feeling remains the same. Every step of this Holy land reminds us that it is the same place where Sai Baba had once walked during His lifetime. This magnetic feel influences many Devotees and this is enough to mould and change their lives. Shirdi is the place where the definition of God has taken shape and is continuously being experienced by many, as soon as they step onto the soil of Shirdi.<sup>27</sup>

## Khandoba Mandir

In the sequence of events that were destined to become famous as part of the early life of a most beloved and very great Saint, this small Temple is of two-fold importance: first as the spot where Shri Sai Baba halted on His entry into Shirdi with the wedding party of Chand Bhai Patil, and secondly as a place where He acquired His name.

It is said that a young man, dressed in the Muslim fashion in a Kafni (*Robe*) arrived in a bullock cart as the guest of the wedding party. As the party approached the Temple, the Temple priest, Mhalsapati, on seeing the fakir, called out, "Aao, Sai!" (*"Welcome, Sai!"*) And the name remained ever after (Sai is a Persian word meaning 'Saint' or 'Holy', and Baba means 'father'). In this way, it was Mhalsapati who was responsible for Baba's name, which has become the Sacred mantra of thousands of His Devotees.



In those days, the Temple was on the periphery of the village in the midst of a burial ground. The structure was very basic and did not even have a door. However, it seems to have appealed to Baba's temperament as He commented to the incumbent priest, Mhalsapati, that being so quiet and solitary, it would make a good spot for an Ascetic like Him to stay.

*"God runs to His Devotees for help in times of danger"*



# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

Khandoba was the tutelary deity of the Mhalsapati family, and Mhalsapati was the Temple's hereditary priest. Khandoba, originally a pastoral deity, is popular in Maharashtra and is now worshipped as a form of Lord Shiva. The Temple here was a simple, rural Temple; today, it is a small, well-maintained and neatly kept building.

The idol of Khandoba – a colourful image – is flanked on either side by one of His two wives. On the right sits Baanyani, and on the left is Mhalsa, who represents the business community. Mhalsa is worshipped as a form of Parvati and Baanyani is venerated as a form of Goddess Ganga.

At the entrance to the Temple is a large banyan tree, which is mentioned in the 'Shri Sai Satcharita' as the place where the bullock cart halted. It is now commemorated with a small shrine and 'Padukas' at its base.

Baba would sometimes stop at Khandoba Temple on His way back from Rahata (which was then a village, five kilometers away from Shirdi).

Upasani Maharaj, a prominent devotee of Shri Sai Baba, spent about two years here, on instruction from Baba to stay in Shirdi for four years. Baba told Shri Upasani that he would win the grace of Khandoba on completion of the four years' tenure. Later, in the 1920s, Upasani Maharaj sponsored the renovation of the Temple as a gesture of gratitude for the benefit he had derived there.<sup>28</sup>

## Gurusthan and Neem Tree

Gurusthan means "place of the Guru". It is both where Baba spent most of His time when He first came to Shirdi, and also where, according to Baba, the tomb of His own Guru is located by the Neem Tree. Gurusthan is therefore one of the most important places in Shirdi.

Once when some villagers were digging the foundations for Sathe Wada just behind the Neem Tree, they came across some bricks in the soil and what looked like the opening of a tunnel. Uncertain whether to proceed or not, they asked Baba what they should do. He told them that this was the site of the tombs of His ancestors and that it would be better not to disturb them.

The first thing that catches the devotee's eye at Gurusthan is this huge Neem Tree. This tree gave shelter to Baba for a few years when He stayed beneath it. Neem has many medicinal properties, though its leaves are notoriously bitter. However, some people once reported that the leaves of one of the branches tasted sweet. For them it was a sign of Baba's grace; others see it as evidence of the tree's exceptional sanctity.

One incidence concerning the Neem Tree illustrates how practical and down-to-Earth Baba could be. In the early 1900s, after Baba had moved to the Mosque, construction work on Sathe Wada was hampered by a long branch of the tree. However, nobody wanted to remove it, as this tree had been sanctified by Baba's stay under it.



*"He who wants to get rid of the cycle of births and deaths, should lead a righteous life with his mind calm and composed"*





# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

When Baba was approached for His advice He told the villagers, “Cut off however much is interfering with the construction. Even if it is our own foetus which is lying across the womb, we must cut it!” But despite this clear instruction from Baba, none dared meddle with the tree. Eventually Baba Himself climbed up and lopped off the branch.

Another reason for the villagers' reluctance to prune the tree may have been that some time previously a boy had climbed the tree to trim it, and had fallen to the ground and died. At that moment, Baba, who was in the Mosque, sounded a note of distress, blowing Shankh (Conch shell) with His cupped hands. Baba sometimes did this when a person was in great danger, although he could not have “seen” from the Mosque what was occurring at Gurusthan. Villagers linked the boy's death with His attempt to cut the tree, and became afraid to do anything to it that might have been sacrilege.

Today at Gurusthan, in addition to the Neem Tree, there is a pair of marble Padukas on a pedestal, a 'Lord Shivaling' and a statue of Baba. The statue, carved by the grandson of the sculptor of the Samadhi Mandir statue, was donated by Y. D. Dave and installed in 1974; the other things were set up in Baba's time. Saint Shri Parnerkar Maharaj did the unveiling ceremony.



The Padukas were the initiative of a couple of Devotees from Mumbai (Bombay). During their visit to Shirdi they became friendly with two local Devotees, G. K. Dixit (not to be confused with H. S. “Kakasaheb” Dixit) and Sagun Meru Naik. As they were sitting talking one day, they all felt it would be good if there were some kind of memorial to Baba's advent in Shirdi and His stay under the Neem Tree. They first thought of laying some Padukas made of rough stone. Then one of them suggested that if he put the proposal to his employer, Dr. Ramrao Kothare, he would probably be willing to sponsor something more elegant – as indeed he was. Dr. Kothare gladly came to Shirdi from Bombay, drew up a plan for them and showed it to Upasani Baba. Shri Upasani made some improvements adding a conch, lotus, and Mahavishnu wheel and suggested that two of his Sanskrit slokas extolling the tree's greatness and Baba's powers be inscribed on the Padukas' pedestal. These translate as follows.

**“ I bow to Lord SaiNath, who by His constant stay at the foot of the Neem Tree – which although bitter and unpleasant, was yet oozing nectar – made it better than the wish-fulfilling tree. I bow to Lord SaiNath, who always takes delight in resting under the Neem Tree and bestowing material and spiritual prosperity upon His Devotees who lovingly attend to Him.”**

The Padukas were made in Mumbai and sent to Shirdi. When they arrived, Baba commented that they were “Allah's Padukas” and should be placed in Gurusthan on a particular day. The Padukas were duly installed in a solemn ceremony on the August full moon day (15th) of 1912, having been carried in procession from Khandoba Temple (it was G. K. Dixit who bore them on His head).

At this time, Aarti was already being performed every day in Sathe Wada and Dixit Wada. With the installation of the Padukas, a third Aarti was started, at Gurusthan and G. K. Dixit was employed to officiate.

*“One must rest content with one's lot”*



# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

A few months after their installation, someone damaged the Padukas and some of Shirdi's Temple idols. The Devotees were very distressed, believing it was a bad omen. Baba, however, took the matter casually and told them simply to repair the crack with cement and feed the poor. In fact, the broken Padukas were later replaced and the originals are said to be in the pedestal underneath. The Lord Shivaling was installed in Gurusthan the same year. It had previously belonged to Megha, a zealous devotee of Shri Sai Baba, who had taken over officiating the Aarti in the Mosque after the demise of Tatyasaheb Noolkar.

During Baba's lifetime, Gurusthan was completely open and looked quite different from the fully paved and enclosed area it has now become. Shri Sai Baba said that whoever burns incense and cleans here on Thursdays and Fridays would be blessed by Allah (*Thursday is Sacred to Hindus, and Friday to Muslims*). We assume that out of love and respect for His Guru, Baba wishes the place to be venerated and kept clean. A small Dhuni on a stand is kept in front of the shrine here. Until recently it was kindled every day by embers brought from the main Dhuni at the Mosque, but this is now done only on Thursdays and Fridays.

Finally, before we leave Gurusthan, let us return to the Neem Tree. Since the 1980's more and more Devotees have started doing Pradakshina (*encircling in prostration*) around the tree (and thereby the tomb). Now, one can often see large numbers of people going around throughout the day and night. Others find that Gurusthan is a powerful place to sit quietly. Some people regard the tree as a symbol of the Guru's grace under which humanity may take shelter and protection. Indeed, Sai Baba once commented that His Devotees are simply resting in the shade of the Neem Tree while He bears the brunt of their deeds.<sup>29</sup>



**Congratulations & Best Wishes  
on the  
1st Anniversary Celebrations  
of Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London  
(SHITAL)**

*from*

**Popat Store  
Importers, Exporters & Distributors  
of Houseware,  
Cookware & Electrical Appliances**

**138 & 158 Ealing Road,  
Wembley Middlesex.  
HA0 4PY. United Kingdom**

**Tel: +44 (0) 208 903 6397 or  
+44 (0) 208 902 2543**

**Fax: +44 (0) 208 903 9613**

**Email: [popatstore@btopenworld.com](mailto:popatstore@btopenworld.com)**



*“If you look to me,  
I look to you”*



# SPD

## SAI PROPERTY DEVELOPERS LTD

*“Unlocking the potential in property”*



LOFT CONVERSION

EXTENSIONS

DECORATION

REWIRING

PLUMBING

FITTED KITCHEN'S BEDROOM'S

AND

BATHROOM'S ROOFING

**ROOF STRIPPED, FELTED, BATTENED  
AND TILED  
WITHIN 48HRS**

*Full architectural services*

**DESIGN - PLAN - DEVELOP**

**07961 397 841**

**020 8758 9469**



# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

## Chavadi

Though apparently and formally Baba used to go to the Chavadi every other night, in His super consciousness, He was never asleep and used to tell His Devotees that in His everlasting awareness (consciousness) He will always protect His Devotees who were asleep at night.

Chavadi means “village office”, and was the place where taxes were collected, village records kept and visiting officials put up. After Baba's Mahasamadhi the Sansthan acquired Chavadi, and until the late 1930s, used it for storing books and accommodating pilgrims. The village offices have long been relocated and Chavadi is kept as a shrine to Baba and is open to all. Sai Baba is intimately connected with this place, as He used to sleep here on alternate nights, during the last decade of His life. The routine was started one wild and stormy night, around 1909. It was raining heavily, and water was coming through the leaky walls of the Mosque. The Devotees tried their best to persuade Baba to move out, if only until the water had subsided, but Baba did not want to go. Eventually, they virtually forced Him to leave, by picking Him up and half-carrying Him to Chavadi. From that day on, Baba would spend alternate nights there.



Chavadi is also very significant to Sai Devotees as it played a major role in the inception of formal worship of Baba. Once Baba started sleeping at Chavadi, the custom arose of offering regular Aarti to Him on His arrival from the Mosque. This was Shej (*night*) Aarti. Later, Kakad (*morning*) Aarti was offered when He woke up there. The performance of Midday and Evening Aarti's at the Mosque probably developed subsequently.

Around the time that Dwarkamai was renovated, Chavadi was also upgraded. The mud walls were neatly plastered, huge mirrors were hung, glazed tiles replaced the mud floor and glass chandeliers were suspended from the ceiling. Anna Chinchani, who was deeply devoted to Baba, provided the funding for the renovations. He had been involved in a land dispute and after a prolonged struggle, during which he repeatedly asked Baba about the outcome, he was elated when the court ruled in his favour. Feeling that the triumph was due purely to Baba's grace, he very much wanted to give Baba the full sum awarded. Baba, however, refused it and Dixit suggested that the money be spent on Chavadi and named after Chinchani and his wife. Consequently, their names are inscribed (in Marathi) on a plaque above the doorway. The sitting platform along the outside of the front wall is a later addition. Inside Chavadi is a large portrait of Baba, which was painted by Ambaram from Navsari in Gujarat after Baba had given him darshan in a dream in 1953. At the time, Ambaram was only eighteen years old. The Navsari villagers were touched by Baba and Ambaram's painting of Him, so they collected donations in order to buy it and bring it to Shirdi.

On the left of the painting is a plain, wooden bed on which Baba was given His last bath after He passed away in Dwarkamai. These days, the bed is taken out each Thursday and the Palanquin is placed on it. In the same corner next to the bed is a wheelchair that was presented to Baba when He was suffering from asthma, but which He never used.

*“Have you got such faith ?”*



# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

The right portion of the building contains the framed photo of the cross-legged Baba kept in grand attire (hence it is known as the Raj upachar photo) and this is the picture that is taken out on procession on festivals and each Thursday. The silver throne where it is kept is where Baba used to sleep. Women were not allowed in this section and this tradition is maintained today; only men and children are allowed in this area. Chavadi is open 5A.M. to 9P.M.

## **The Chavadi Procession (Utsav):**

This procession (Palkhi) is the only 'authentic' and traditional procession of Baba's Padukas and photograph – from Masjid (Dwarkamai) to Chavadi.

Over time, the moving from Dwarkamai to Chavadi took on the form of a grand affair. This was thanks largely to the efforts of Radhakrishnamai, who wanted Baba to be honoured as a Maharajah, and supplied all sorts of ceremonial regalia. With the bedecked horse Shyam Sunder or Shyamkarna leading the way, Baba followed with Tatya on one side and Mhalsapati on the other, walking on carpets laid on the path. A crowd of people accompanied them, singing Bhajans and dancing, playing musical instruments, shouting Baba's name, letting off fireworks, holding a silver umbrella over Baba, waving flags and fans, and chanting Hari-Nama. The distance of a few metres took up to three hours to cover. Years earlier, Baba had predicted such scenes when talking to a few Devotees, "In Shirdi there will be huge storied buildings, grand processions will be held, and big men will come. Chariots, horses, elephants will come, guns will be fired..."

One cannot help marveling at Baba. We know that He did not like such pomp and paraphernalia and we have seen the importance to Him of Fakiri (*holy poverty*) and His reluctance to allow Devotees to worship Him, yet here He was allowing Himself to be lead to Chavadi in an extravagant display of adoration. In describing the scene a few moments before the procession Hemadpant hints at Baba's response. People were singing Bhajan, some were decorating the Palanquin, rows of oil lamps were burning, Shyam Sunder stood waiting fully decorated, "then Tatya Patil came to Baba with a party of men and asked Him to get ready. Baba sat quiet in His place till Tatya came and helped Him to get up by putting his arm under Baba's armpit." Clearly, Baba was not eagerly waiting to begin – in fact, we may sense a certain resignation – yet He went ahead with it not just once, but hundreds of times! Again and again this scene was re-enacted, and it is one replete with poignancy and poetic tension. A great Saint, adored as a living deity, but to whom any personal worship was distasteful, yet allowing it out of love for His Devotees and sympathy for their human longings.

However, we are fortunate that those days are not completely gone. We can experience something of that splendour and ardent devotion even today, as each Thursday evening, a similar procession takes place with Baba's photo in honour of that tradition. It is a passionate, understrained – yet exalted,celebration of Sai Baba.

In the evening, Baba's Satka and Padukas are displayed in front of His Sacred tomb from 7.30P.M., until they are carried out at the beginning of the procession at 9P.M. The Samadhi Mandir is even more crowded, as people are eager to touch and pay their respects to these Sacred objects, which are accessible only at this time. The hearty singing of melodious Bhajans by some villagers enhances the sense of occasion, while outside a group of young men from a local youth organisation move rhythmically to a rapid drumbeat.

*"He who surrenders himself to the feet of Hari (God)  
will get free from all troubles and attain bliss"*



# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

At about 9.15P.M. the procession moves out of the Samadhi Mandir, to a flurry of horns, cries and waving fans. At the centre is the garlanded portrait of Baba (the one from Chavadi) carried reverently by the great-

grandson of one of Baba's dearest Devotees, Taty Kote Patil, and another of his relatives. They are preceded by one of the Temple staff carrying the Padukas and Satka (stick). Other staff follow, dressed in Maharashtrian-style festive red tunics and turbans. The procession progresses its way through the street lined with eagerly waiting crowds, and the music and excitement crescendo as people strain for a glimpse of the photo and Padukas. Many throw flowers and guns fire marigolds, petals and confetti into the air. The procession enters Dwarkamai about ten minutes later, where again there is an assembled crowd waiting for its arrival and jostling for a view. Here the photo is placed on the decorated silver Palanquin to the accompaniment of more exuberant Bhajan. This takes about fifteen minutes. Temple staff and locals then carry the Palanquin to Chavadi, where people are waiting.

As the Palanquin approaches Chavadi, we come to the climax of the evening. The Palanquin is parked outside, and the picture, draped in gold embroidered red velvet, is carried inside Chavadi and greeted as if Baba Himself were entering. People may prostrate, shout His name, say a silent prayer, or gaze longingly at His face. Baba's picture is then settled into place on a silver throne and Aarti is performed. Finally, the whole group returns to the Samadhi Mandir. Here, a local person receives the Satka and Padukas, and the Kote brothers hand back the picture and collect a coconut as Prasad. The Prasad is kept beside Baba's statue until the final night Aarti is over (around 10.30P.M.) The picture is returned to Chavadi after morning Aarti the next day.

During the procession, Lalkari is performed at prescribed places along the route. There is no direct translation for "Lalkari", but it means the shouting of slogans or words of praise, such as "Long live Sai Baba!" There are three specific places where this is done during the Utsav, just as there were when Baba made the trip by foot, nearly a hundred years ago.<sup>30</sup>

## Lendi Baug

At the end of 1999, Lendi Gardens was radically re-landscaped, and the previously paved and tree-lined area turned into a lawn with a waterfall and flowerbeds. Lendi is significant as a place that Baba used to visit every day. It contains some tombs, a shrine, and most importantly the perpetually burning lamp lit by Baba and placed between the two trees He planted. A few months before Baba's Mahasamadhi the land was bought by a Bombay devotee, M. W. Pradhan, and later presented to the Sansthan.

In Baba's time, Lendi was an area of wasteland between two small streams, the Lendi and the Sira (now dried up). Baba used this area for toilet purposes. He would leave the Mosque for Lendi around nine o' clock in the morning accompanied by some Devotees. However, none were allowed inside with Him except Abdul Baba.

It was a particular characteristic of Baba's that once He had started something, it became a strict and lifelong routine. For example, though initially Devotees forced him out of the Mosque into Chavadi because of severe rain, He continued the routine of sleeping there every other night as long as He was alive. Similarly, after His arm had got burnt in the Dhuni, it was dressed and tended to by Bhagoji Shinde. The wound healed and Baba lived for a further eight years, but the practice of Bhagoji changing the bandage every day continued until the end.

*"Have consideration for the poor and the wretched"*





# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

Showing a similar regard for routine, Baba always took the same route whenever He went to Lendi from Dwarkamai. A fakir will sometimes take up non-deviation from routine as a practice, as it is supposed to reduce the opportunity for personal preference, and hence development of the ego. Baba had no need for any practice, but He seemed to maintain the routine anyway. His route to Lendi was not the most direct or obvious, yet He stuck to it unswervingly. Perhaps we will never know what His reasons were, but just as Baba used to go along with a few Devotees, let us also walk with Him and take a short stroll to Lendi.

We begin by turning right out of Dwarkamai, then left down a narrow lane opposite the entrance to Gurusthan. Halfway along this path, the route kinks right and immediately left. Baba would often pause at this corner (which was where His devotee Balaji Pilaji Gurav lived) and, taking up the posture of Vitthal, stand facing the small Vitthal Temple opposite. A small shrine enclosing a pair of Padukas now marks the spot where He would stand. At that time, the Temple was private, but now it is publicly owned and has been reconstructed a little further down the lane on the left.



At the bottom of the lane we turn right, and within a few metres, come to a small Temple on the left opposite the post office. This is one of the oldest Temples in Shirdi. It is dedicated to Shri Kanifnath, one of the nine leaders of the Nath cult, whose distinguishing feature is the maintenance of a Dhuni. Baba used to sometimes linger here. Perhaps He had some connection with the place and therefore incorporated it into His routine. From here we turn right along the main road and make our way to Lendi, again on the right. Now the area is peppered with small stalls selling trinkets and snacks, but in Baba's time it would have been virtually empty. Arriving at Lendi we may pause for a moment and remember that this was where Baba asked His Devotees to also wait, since He preferred to enter Lendi alone.<sup>31</sup>

## Nanda Deep

This is the main feature of Lendi: the perpetually burning lamp between the two trees that Baba planted side by side, a Neem and a Bodhi. It is said that these trees at first remained spindly and would not grow until one day Baba shook them, and that from then on they flourished. The trees are now in fine shape, and as they were touched by Baba and planted close to where He sat, serve as a focus for Pradakshina along with the lamp.

The lamp as we now see it, and the area around it, has been paved by the Sansthan. In Baba's time the lamp was sunk into a small pit and protected from the wind by some zinc sheets and later some pieces of cloth, making a kind of tent with the lamp in the centre.



*"If a man utters My name with love, I shall fulfill all his wishes"*





# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

Nanda Deep was a place where Baba liked to sit in contemplation. Abdul Baba says that Baba would sit on the ground close to the lamp, but not in a place from where He could actually see the lamp. It seems, therefore, that Baba was not using this lamp for its light or flame (since it was covered). Just as the lamp itself was concealed, exactly what Baba was doing here is also veiled from us.

One of Abdul's duties was to keep two buckets of water by the lamp. After sitting, Baba would apparently take these, and in a ritualistic and rather mysterious way, throw the water in all four directions around the lamp. NarasimhaSwami observes, "He seemed to be blessing Devotees in each direction and warding off evils that may be threatening them." This, however, is estimation and again we cannot be sure why Baba did this.

## Samadhi Mandir

Baba has promised, "I shall be active and vigorous even from the tomb," and it is perhaps in the Samadhi Mandir (*place where the mortal remains of Shri Sai Baba are entombed*) that we can most fully experience the phenomenon of Sai Baba and the remarkable way He has touched the hearts and lives of millions of people from all over the globe. Baba's Omniscient presence is felt when one has Baba's glance, when one sits at Baba's feet.

## Ardent Devotion

At any given point, the shrine is full of Devotees eagerly queuing up to have Baba's darshan. People carry flowers, garlands, sweets or fruit to offer Baba at His Samadhi. Some may have personal items- such as a shawl, book, key to new possession, etc, for which they want to get Baba's blessing by offering it at His feet and having it touch His tomb.

**"Shri SatchidAnanda Sadguru SaiNath Maharaj ki Jai!"** (Hail the Great Sadguru, Lord Sai, who is pure consciousness-knowledge-bliss!) is the chant on the lips of most of His Devotees while most others may sing Bhajans or whisper prayers.

At busy times, especially during festivals, the queue for darshan used to stretch for hundreds of meters along the village streets, though the recently constructed Queue Complex has changed this.

People may wait up to eight hours just for the opportunity to pay brief homage to their Lord. The atmosphere of fervent and one-pointed devotion reaches its zenith here. "Attention one and all!" commands the noon Aarti psalm, **"Come, come quickly and make obeisance to Sai Baba!"** This is exactly what the Devotees are hastening to do, and to be part of this torrent of emotion is a powerful experience.<sup>32</sup>



*"If a man sings earnestly My life and My deeds,  
him I shall beset in front and back and on all sides"*



Best Wishes on the  
1st Anniversary Celebrations  
of Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)  
from  
Kakkad and Vekaria families



Ray-Ban

DKNY

D&G

PRADA

roberto cavalli

Chloé

## Keena Rakkado Opticians

**Buy One Get One FREE**  
from £74.99 including single vision lenses,  
2nd pair can be prescription sunglasses

Single Vision glasses  
from £35

Designer frames  
from £50

Contact lenses  
from £25  
(30 Day supply)

[www.keenarakkado.com](http://www.keenarakkado.com)

### Our Services





- ✓ Fashionable frames
- ✓ Free Spectacles\*
- ✓ Free Home Visits


- ✓ Fast and Efficient Delivery
- ✓ Full after care service


General Optical Council

**Eye Examinations**  
General Optical Council,  
Private and NHS Eye examinations  
**Childrens Examinations**

  
DVLA, VDU, Glaucoma,

  
Diabetes Screening

  
Free Home Visits

  
Contact Lenses

### FREE

Eye examinations in the  
comfort of your own home,  
Screening for  
Diabetes, Glaucoma,  
Cataracts, Macular  
Degeneration,  
DVLA Screening



Please call to book or visit our website for more information

18 The Broadway, West Ealing, W13 0SR  
Tel: 020 8567 2320 / 020 8840 4505

10B High Street, Datchet, Berks, SL3 9EA,  
Tel: 01753 592 900

[www.keenarakkado.com](http://www.keenarakkado.com)

\* Provided free to those entitled to NHS benefits

# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

## Hanuman (Maruti) Mandir

Down the lane that runs between Dwarkamai and Chavadi is the Hanuman Mandir, one of the oldest Temples in Shirdi. Marked by a pair of trees enclosed by a circular railing, it is also known as the Maruti Mandir. Unusually, the Temple faces south and there are two Hanuman images here, side by side. You may also notice a few weights and dumbbells in the corner. Because Hanuman is considered strong and vigorous, young men find this an auspicious place to come and exercise. Baba seems to have had some connection with this Temple, sometimes He would stand in front of it and remain there for a while, occasionally slowly moving His arm up and down. Once during the procession to Chavadi, when He came to the lane facing the Mandir, He was suddenly seized as if by a spirit and some Devotees had to hold Him until He reached Chavadi, where the spirit left Him. Shama asked Him about the incident, **“Baba, this Maruti is our Swami, Why do you worship and adore our Swami?”** Baba replied, **“Arre, Shama, in my childhood my parents dedicated me to Maruti, and so I make signs at Him to remind Him I am His brother.”**



The Mandir was a place where Sadhus (*Saints*) used to stay, including the Ascetic Devidas, whom Baba would occasionally visit in His early days. When Baba went to Rahata (a village about five kilometers from Shirdi) with the fakir Javhar Ali in the early 1890s, His Devotees were deeply unhappy at His absence from them. After about eight weeks they succeeded in persuading Javhar Ali to let Baba return to Shirdi, though he insisted on coming too. A few days later, a debate was held in this Mandir between Javhar Ali and Devidas. The fakir was roundly defeated, causing him to flee the area, after which Baba remained among His Devotees in Shirdi until the end of His days. At night, especially on Thursdays, the Temple is sometimes filled with music when locals gather to sing Bhajans.

## The Three Temples

Just behind the new outdoor theatre is a row of three small Temples. They are dedicated to Ganesh, Shani (i.e. Saturn) and Mahadev (i.e. Lord Shiva). Baba's local devotee, Taty Kote Patil, was fond of offering lamps here. The shrines were rebuilt and enlarged in 1999 as part of the re-modeling of the Temple complex. The small Samadhi of the tiger, commemorated by a statue in Dwarkamai and said to have received mukti from Baba, is a few feet from the Mahadev shrine.

## Mahalaxmi Temple

This Temple is just by the side of Pilgrims Inn (MTDC) in Pimpalwadi Road; about five minutes walk from Dwarkamai. Baba occasionally visited it on His begging rounds and the Temple is mentioned in the Shri Sai Satcharita, as Baba once sent His devotee there on an unusual mission. Baba Ganapat Shimpi had tried all sorts of medicine to cure his malaria, but nothing worked and he had a raging fever. Baba gave him a curious prescription “Give a black dog some rice mixed with curd in front of the Laxmi Temple” Shimpi wondered how he could carry out this instruction, but he found the necessary ingredients and took them to the Temple. There he saw a black dog wagging its tail. The dog ate the offered food and Shimpi quickly recovered. The Temple has recently been restructured.

*“I shall draw out My Devotees from the jaws of Death”*





# Shirdi's History – Past & Present ( *contd...* )

## Narasimha Temple

This is near Chavadi next to where Sakharam Shelke's house used to be (one of those from which Baba took bhiksha (alms), and was built by his descendants in the mid 1960's. Its compound houses the Samadhi's of Sakharam's son and daughter-in-law and that of Ramgiri Bua ("Babugir" of the Jamner Leela).

## Kanifnath Temple

This Temple is in front of the post office. Kanif Nath is one of the Navnaths. Baba is said to have visited this Temple on various occasions. Festivals are conducted in this Temple in the month of Shravan, Gokulashtami and other holy days. The village Pujari (*hindu priest*) conducts daily Pujas (*prayers*).<sup>33</sup>

## Vitthal Temple, Pandharpur, Maharashtra

Pandharpur is a town in the district of Solapur in the state of Maharashtra in Western India. It is one of the most revered pilgrimage sites in Maharashtra. It is located 65 km west of Sholapur, on the banks of the river Bhima, which is also known as Chandrabhaga. Known as "Southern Kashi of India", Pandharpur proudly hosts the "Kuladivat" of Maharashtra State- Shree Vithoba and Rukmini, on the banks of the river. Also known by the other names, Pandurang, Vitthal or Pandhari, He is supposed to be The Supreme God of The Universe for all the Maharashtrians and an incarnation of Lord Shiva and Vishnu. The word Vitthala is derived from the word Vishnu in Kannada. Panduranga is a sanskritized form of Pandarga, the old name of Pandharpur. Pundalik, a Saint was closely associated with this shrine, and hence this shrine is also known as Pundarika pura. The worship of Vishnu - Vitthala at Pandharpur is derived mainly from the Puranas (ancient Vedic Scriptures) and has been augmented by the contribution of the great Vaishnava Saints of Maharashtra and Karnataka from the 13th through to the 17th centuries like Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, Sant Eknath, Purandara Dasa, Vijaya Dasa, Gopala Dasa, Jagannatha Dasa, Chokhamela, Janabai and many others.

There are inscriptions in this Temple dating back to the 13th century. In the Temple of Vithoba, 'Pad-Sparsha-Darshan', is a special ceremony. Irrespective of caste any devotee can enter the sanctum sanctorum and can place his/ her head at the feet of Vitthal. Although not religiously very crucial, certain daily rituals do form the routine of Bhagwat Dharma, at Pandharpur. These signify the devotion of the followers towards their deity. These rituals include Kakad Aarti (*Early Morning Prayers*), MahaPuja (*Grand-Worship*), Mahanaivedya (*Grand Food offering*), Poshakh (*putting the robe*) Dhoop Aarti, Padya Puja (*worship of Holy Feet*), etc. All this is performed in the main Vitthal Temple. As one enters from Namdeo-Payri (*The Step in memory of Saint Namdeo*) and comes out of the Paschim Dwar (the Westward Exit) one crosses various other Temples- as many as 25, in the same premises, like the Ganesh Mandir, Garud Mandir, Ekmukh Lord Dattatreya Mandir, Satyabhama Mandir, Kanhopatra Mandir to name a few.

At Pandharpur, every Wednesday is regarded as an auspicious day and Ekadashi- as an auspicious day of the month. Pandharpur hosts four "Yatras" (Holy Major Events) in a year. Out of which "Aashadhi Yatra", Kartiki, Magh and Chaitra Ekadashi's are celebrated yearly and it thus, attracts the most pilgrims to Pandharpur. Out of these, the first two attract a crowd of about 8 to 10 lakhs.

Here, the Palanquins (Palkhis) of various Saints from different locations come together at Wakhri, 5 kilometers away from Pandharpur. And then, the pilgrims take holy bath in river Bhima and usually stand in queues 3km long in order to take "Darshan" of Lord Vitthal.<sup>34</sup>

*"I am the inner Ruler of all and seated in their hearts"*







*“If you cast your burden on me,  
I shall surely bear it”*



**JALARAM MONEY TRANSFER  
CURRENCY EXCHANGE &  
PARCEL SERVICE  
JALARAM PAN HOUSE**



WE AIM TO PROVIDE LOW COST AND FAST SERVICE FOR MONEY  
TRANSFER TO AND FROM INDIA.

ALSO, PROVIDE SAME DAY MONEY TRANSFER SERVICE TO AND FROM  
INDIA.

**\*PARCEL BY AIR £2.50 PER KG (NO HIDDEN CHARGES)**

WE ALSO PROVIDE VAN WITH DRIVER FOR REMOVALS

HEAD OFFICE: JALARAM MONEY TRANSFER  
95-97 EALING ROAD, WEMBLEY, HA0 4BN  
TEL/FAX: 0208 903 6233  
EMAIL: jalaram97@yahoo.co.uk

BRANCH: JALARAM PAN HOUSE  
782 HARROW ROAD, SUDBURY, HA0 3EL  
TEL/FAX: 0208 904 3228  
EMAIL: jalaram97@yahoo.co.uk

\* T & C APPLY

*Congratulations & Best Wishes on the 1st Anniversary of  
Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)  
From*



**OM Jewellers**



**Visit our Exclusive Showroom for 22ct. and 24ct. Hallmarked Gold,  
Diamond and Platinum Jewellery  
Tax-Free purchase for Overseas visitors**



**Specialists in :**

**22 Karat Gold Jewellery & Diamond Jewellery**

**OM JEWELLERS**

**25 King Street, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4DG**

**Tel/Fax: 020 8574 6388**

# London to Shirdi Guide

The sacred abode of Shri Sai Baba at Shirdi is easily accessible from all the corners of India and even from all the major cities of the world. You can reach this pilgrim center by air, train and road, whichever medium suits you.

## By Air

For devotees coming from outside India:

(Check with the Office of Consulate General of India in your region for visa and travel requirements)

Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai (BOM) is the nearest airport to Shirdi for devotees coming from outside India. However, there are other several International Airports in India.

For devotees coming from within India:

Devotees travelling from different states of India can travel by Air to the below airports in Maharashtra:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Gandhinagar Airport, Nasik (ISK)       | 3) Lohegaon Airport, Pune (PNQ)                            |
| 2) Chikkalthana Airport, Aurangabad (IXU) | 4) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai (BOM) |

## By Rail/Train

For devotees travelling by Rail/Train from different parts of India, below are the nearest railway stations to Shirdi:

Sai Nagar Shirdi (SNSI)

Manmad Junction (MMR)

Kopergaon (Daund-Manmad Line) (KPG)

Not all trains go directly from point to point. You have to check if the train goes directly to above stations or if you have to break your journey and change over trains.

(For further details kindly visit: [www.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.indianrail.gov.in))

TRAIN STARTING WITH DIGIT 2 (TWO) IS SUPER FAST TRAIN

ENQUIRY NO. OF MANMAD STATION - 02591- 222242

I VRS ENQUIRY FOR P.N.R. INFORMATION: MANMAD 02591-224501,134;

SHIRDI-02423-236500,258107,134

## By Road

Shirdi can be reached by taking a Bus from almost all major cities of India. Shirdi is on the Ahmednagar-Manmad Highway, 250 km from Mumbai and 75 km from Nashik. There are government as well as various private operators providing the bus services. You could take a Cab, hire a private taxi or drive. (If you are an international tourist you may want to check the requirements for Driver's license and road regulations with the Maharashtra State Road Transport department.)

*"I shall repay his debt by giving him salvation(Self Realisation)"*



# Daily Programme at Samadhi Mandir

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 4:00A.M.         | Temple opens   |
| 4.15A.M.         | Bhupali  |
| 4:30A.M.         | Kakad Aarti (morning)  |
| 5:00A.M.         | Bhajan in Sai Baba Mandir  |
| 5.05A.M.         | Holy Bath of Shri Sai Baba (Mangal Snaan) in Samadhi Mandir  |
| 5:35A.M.         | Aarti "Shirdi Maze Pandharpur"   |
| 5:40A.M.         | Darshan begins in Samadhi Mandir   |
| 9:00A.M.         | Abhishek Puja  |
| 8:00,10:30       | SatyaNarayan Puja  |
| 11:30A.M.        | Dhuni Puja with rice and ghee in Dwarkamai   |
| 12:00 NOON       | Mid-day Aarti  |
| 4:00P.M.         | Pothi (Devotional reading/Study) in Samadhi Mandir   |
| At Sunset        | Dhoop Aarti  |
| 8:30 - 10:00P.M. | Devotional Songs in Samadhi Mandir and other Cultural Programmes (if any)  |
| 9:00P.M.         | Chavadi and Gurusthan closes   |
| 9:30P.M.         | In Dwarkamai water is given to Baba, a mosquito net is hung and the hanging lamp is lit  |
| 9:45P.M.         | Dwarkamai (the upper part) closes  |
| 10:30P.M.        | Shej (night) Aarti, after this , a shawl is wrapped around the statue in the Samadhi Mandir, a Rudraksha mala is put around Baba's neck, Mosquito net is hung, and a glass of water kept there |
| 11:15P.M.        | Samadhi Mandir closes after night Aarti  |

## Abhishek Puja Timings:

1st Batch from 7.00A.M. to 8.00A.M. and 2nd Batch from 9.00A.M. to 10.00A.M.

**\* Note: amount payable for Abhishek Puja is Rs 101/- only**

**Palanquin Program is arranged on every Thursday at 9.15PM.**

**We at SHITAL would be more than happy to assist you in planning your trip to Shirdi. Please feel free to contact the Temple on 020 8902 2311 or Dwaravati on 020 8795 0684.**

*"Plants bend when they have fruits"*





# Three Main Festivals in Shirdi

## RamNavami, GuruPurnima and VijayaDashami

The three main festivals in Shirdi last around three to four days each. They are Ramnavmi (March/April), Gurupurnima (July) & Vijayadashmi (September/October). These festivals are celebrated with great passion, spirit & merriment. Thousands flock to bathe in the grace, which seems to flow especially freely at such times. There is a programme of Puja, music (Bhajan) public Parayan (reading of Scriptures & devotional texts) & exuberant processions with the Palanquin & the Chariot. The Samadhi Mandir remains open all night during one of these days with Dwarakamai being open the previous night and there are all night Bhajans and Qawali (*classical song*) sessions at various locations in the village.

### RamNavami

In 1897, Gopalrao Gund proposed holding an Urus as an expression of his gratitude to Baba for having been granted the birth of a son after many childless years. Baba gave His permission for the celebration and fixed the day for RamNavami. This was an ingenious touch of Baba's. Urus is a Muslim festival honoring a Muslim Saint (usually one who has passed away); by holding the Urus, on the day of a Hindu festival, the two communities were brought closer together in a natural yet remarkable way.

Things were going on in this way and the fair was gradually increasing in importance until 1912, when a change took place. That year one devotee Mr. Krishnarao Jogeshwar Bhishm came to the fair and was staying in Dixit Wada. A new thought arose in his mind and he wrote a letter thus: There is some providential arrangement in the fact that the Urus or fair is celebrated in Shirdi on the RamNavami day. The RamNavami day is very dear to all the Hindus then why not begin the RamNavami festival, the celebration of the birth of Shri Ram, on this day here? Kaka Mahajani liked the idea and it was arranged to get Baba's permission in this matter. Bhishm solved the difficulty of Kirtan by saying that his Ram Akhyan, the composition on Rama's birth, was ready and he would do the Kirtan himself while Kaka Mahajani should play on the harmonium. It was also arranged to get 'Sunthavada' (ginger powder mixed with sugar) as Prasad prepared by Radhakrishnamai. So they went to the Masjid to get Baba's permission. Bhishma explained the idea of celebrating RamNavami festival and asked for Baba's permission and Baba gladly gave it. All rejoiced and made preparations for the Jayanti festival.

The next day the Masjid was decorated. A cradle was supplied by Radhakrishnamai and placed in front of Baba's seat and the proceedings started. Bhishma stood up for Kirtan and Mahajani played on the harmonium. Baba took a garland from the 'Nimber' (*Neem tree*) and placed it around his neck and sent another for Bhishma. Then the Kirtan commenced. That day's programme including MahaPuja and Aarti was finished. Later on Mr. Mahajani asked Baba for permission to remove the cradle. Baba refused the same saying that the festival was not yet finished. The next day another Kirtan and Gopalkala ceremony was performed and then Baba allowed the cradle to be removed. While the Ram-Navami Festival was thus going on, the procession of the two flags by day and that of the sandal by night, went off with the usual pomp and show. From this time onwards the Urus of Baba was transformed into the RamNavami Festival and began to grow gradually year-by-year, Radhakrishnamai started a Naam-saptah. 'Shirdi' looked like a beehive of men. It is to be noted that both the Hindus and Mohammedans have been working together in both the processions during the entire festival and there has been no confrontations or quarrels between them at all so far.

( contd ...pg. 91)



*"If you always say (Sai, Sai), I shall take you over the seven seas)"*



**Congratulations & Best Wishes to Shirdi Sai Baba Temple Association of London (SHITAL) on their 1st Anniversary Celebrations**

from

## **Suraj Sweet Mart Ltd**

44-A Ealing Road, Wembley, HA0 4TL

**Open 7 Days a week**

*Specialist in  
Vegetarian food*

*Catering for  
All occasions*

**Pure Vegetarian**

*Specialist in Mini Lunch,  
Sweets & Savouries*

**Tel: 0208 900 1339, 0208 900 1991**

**Mobile: 07786442 737**

**Established Last 15 Years**

**Weekend Specials**

*Patta Gathiya  
& Jalebi*

*Mini Lunch  
from £ 1.99 only*



*The Taste you will love  
The Quality you can trust*



# Three Main Festivals in Shirdi ( *contd...* )

In Shirdi, two locally historic rituals are carried out during this festival: the sack of wheat that is kept in Dwarkamai is changed and the old one taken to Prasadalya to be used there, and secondly, the dwarkamai flags are replaced. When Urus was first celebrated, Gopalrao Gund prevailed upon his friend to supply a flag for the procession. This was Damu Anna Rasane of Ahmednagar who had similarly been blessed by Sai Baba with sons having come to Baba for this purpose on the recommendation of Shama's father – in – law. In addition, Gund asked Nanasahab Nimonkar to supply a second flag with embroidery. This was also done and both flags (described as “huge” by M. W. Pradhan, who saw them) were taken in procession through the village and fixed at the two corners of Dwarkamai. Descendants of these two Devotees continue this tradition and flags are brought and offered at Baba's Samadhi before being taken on a grand procession. Various religious activities are arranged and a great number of people flock to Shirdi during this Festival - Shri Sai Satcharita Chapter 6

## GuruPurnima

Guru Purnima (“Purnima means full-moon”) is where disciples and Devotees honour and felicitate their Guru and seek His or Her special blessing. It is of great importance in Shirdi, perhaps because it is the only festival, which Baba asked us to celebrate. The festival originated in Buddha's time when the monks used to take diksha (instructions on their spiritual practice) at the beginning of the rainy season. The practice was then borrowed by the Jain tradition and later by the Hindus. Hindu Purana's say that the programme of respecting or worshipping the ‘Guru’ on this day started at the time of ‘Vyas’, the writer of Mahabharata. Baba asserted the significance of this day indirectly. Once, in 1908, Tatyasaheb Noolkar came to Shirdi and stayed in Chavadi. One day Baba told Madhavrao to worship a post (pillar). The post Baba showed was near the Dhuni and Baba used to lean on it. That was the day when he was glad to have a chance to worship at least the post in the Masjid. Then Madhavrao Deshpande went into the Masjid. Baba told him to worship the same post along with Noolkar. But Madhavrao refused and instead requested Baba to allow him to worship Baba Himself. At last Baba gave the permission. Dadasaheb Kelkar was unaware of this Puja. Tatyasa Kote Patil was called from the farm. People gathered the ‘Puja’ material. Dhoti was brought and people put Dhoti on to Baba, and worshiped Him. Baba had no use of clothes but He gave permission in order to start the routine of Vyas Puja. Thus this Puja was started at Baba's time and now has taken the form of a festival lasting for three days. Various religious activities are arranged and a great number of people flock to Shirdi during this Festival.

## VijayaDashami

VijayaDashami is celebrated throughout India, under different names and with regional variations, as the victory of good over evil. For Sai Devotees, it is venerated as the holy day that their beloved GuruDeva (Sai Baba) attained Mahasamadhi (also known as Punyatithi) and is a big festival in Shirdi. Baba left His mortal coil on the 15th October 1918. Two years before i.e. in 1916, Baba gave an indication of His passing away. It was as follows: on VijayaDashami (Dassera), Baba, all of a sudden got into a wild rage in the evening when people were returning from Seemollanghan (crossing the border of the village). Taking off His headdress, Kafni and Langota (material garb) etc. He tore them and threw them into the Dhuni before Him. He stood there stark naked and with His burning red eyes shouted “You fellows now have a look and decide finally whether I am a Muslim or Hindu”. Everybody was trembling with fear and nobody dared to approach Baba.

After some time, Bhagoji Shinde the leper devotee of Baba went boldly near Him and succeeded in tying a Langota around His waist and said, “Baba what is all this? Today is (Seemollanghan i.e. Dushera).” Baba striking the ground with His Satka said, “This is my Seemollanghan”.

*“I rest there where there is full devotion”*



## Three Main Festivals in Shirdi ( *contd...* )

Baba did not cool down until 11.00P.M. and people doubted whether the Chavadi procession would ever take place that night. After an hour Baba resumed His normal condition and, dressing Himself as usual, attended the Chavadi procession. By this incident Baba suggested that Dushera was the proper time for Him to cross the border of life.

**Baba gave another indication as follows: -**

Ramchandra Patil became seriously ill. He tried all remedies, but finding no relief despaired of his life and was waiting for his last moment. Then one midnight Baba stood near his bed. Patil held His feet and said, "I have lost all my hopes. Please tell me definitely when I shall die". Merciful Baba said, "Don't be anxious, your Hundi (death-warrant) has been withdrawn but I am afraid of Tatya Patil. He will pass away on Vijaya-Dashami of 1918. Ramachandra Dada soon left his bed and was on his legs. Time passed quickly. The month of Bhadrapad of Shake 1840 (1918 A D) was ending and Tatya fell sick and was bed ridden. Baba was also down with fever. Tatya had full faith in Baba. Tatya's illness grew from bad to worse and could not move at all but always remembered Baba. The day predicted i.e. VijayaDashami was impending and Ramchandra Dada and Bala Shimpi, who was told the prediction, were terribly frightened about Tatya. Tatya's end was near. But a curious thing happened, Tatya remained and Baba passed away instead. People said that Baba gave His life for Tatya and made VijayaDashami more significant for Sai Devotees. In Shirdi, VjayaDashami is performed as usual as well as with special programmes of Sai Punyatithi. On VijayaDashami 'Brahman Bhojan' (Priests dinner) is arranged with Dakshina (Donation to Guru). Every year the number of the honoured couples of Brahmin is increasing. On the last day of the festival "Gavjewan" free meal for all village people and Devotees is given by Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi.<sup>35</sup>



**On this Joyous occasion to celebrate  
the 1st anniversary  
of  
Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London  
(SHITAL)**

**We would like to take this opportunity to  
Congratulate all the Trustees, Volunteers and Devotees  
for their profound dedication towards the temple**

*from*

**Deepak Puri  
& Family**

**Property investor &  
Developer**

**Mobile: 07957648501**

**E-mail: dpuriproperties1@hotmail.com**





*“If you seek my advice and help,  
it shall be given to you at once”*

# Baba & Devotees

Baba and Devotees go hand in hand. Human beings have been sent in this world to carry out their missions in their life. We are generally sent on this Earth to remember God, sing His praises and be good towards everyone. When these principles are followed and acted upon, this becomes a way to achieve God. Human activities involve eating, sleeping and sexual union. These activities get us so engrossed in life that we tend to forget God. When people tend to neglect the basic principles and are involved in carrying out wrong deeds then God Himself takes birth in the form of a human body to make sure He sets the people on the right path. It is for this reason Shirdi Sai Baba took birth.

If we are not present in this world then to whom is Baba going to teach His lessons? More importantly, we say that we should worship Baba and follow His teachings to lead a better life but what if Devotees choose not to listen to Baba's words or follow His teachings? Every person is different and everyone has his own opinion. So it is very important for us to also accept the fact and to understand that the teachings that Baba wants us to follow, would lead us to the right path. Baba will never force a person to follow His teachings or the eleven promises that He has laid down for us. It is only up to us to make a decision for ourselves that whether we want to follow His path or not. As a result Baba is dependent on us and needs us to choose the right path that He has designed, in order to achieve our mission in this life.

Baba knows that if we as humans do not appreciate His work (work of God), then how can we as parents be able to impart right teachings and principles to our children. As a result, the upcoming generation would also be left neglected from His teachings (which are the words of God). In this way our purpose of coming into this world (to remember God and praise His work) would not be fulfilled and hence our birth would be in vain.

As Baba's mission is to lead His people on the right path to attain salvation, so it is His duty to make sure that He is successful in showing people the way to achieve God. Thus Baba needs Devotees and is dependent on them in listening to Him and following His teachings for their betterment and welfare. We all know that we lack knowledge and wish there was someone who is always there for us whenever we require him, be in good times and especially in our difficult times. Baba is the only one who keeps a track of the welfare of His Devotees and will always be there for them in any situation.

It is very important for us to have a control over our senses in order to resist ourselves in following the wrong path. Our senses always run after object things and hence our mind gets distracted and we are sometimes tempted in doing certain things that we would rather not have done and end ourselves in difficult situations. Hence we need Baba to hold our hand and protect us in this life that is full of evils such as anger, lust, jealousy and hatred etc. Thus we need to always remember Baba so that we realize our limitations and resist our temptations and follow the right path.

Every human being on this Earth wants to be loved fully and completely understood. Yet no human completely knows another, for everyone has things they don't reveal to even their near or dear ones, be it good or bad. Sai, who created us, knows each of us completely, and loves us enough despite knowing all our mistakes. Hence we want Him to be ever like this and always love us even if we make any mistake. We will find fulfillment and peace when we do what He designed for us to do. This can only be achieved if we have full faith in Baba and are ready to surrender our ego at his feet and carry on following his teachings for the rest of our lives.

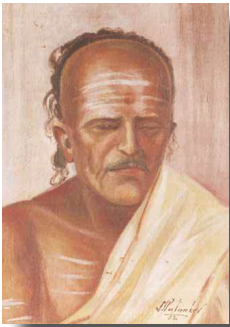
*"I always think of Him who remembers Me  
I require no conveyance, carriage, tonga nor train nor aeroplane"*



# Baba & Devotees ( *contd...* )

The Universal Sai movement started with Mhalsapati, an uncultured poor village goldsmith. He has been the pole star amongst the Sai Bhaktas. He is considered as the first person to start Sai worship. Earlier as a Pujari (Priest) of the Khandoba Temple Mhalsapati's faith grew, making him the most zealous admirer and ardent worshipper of Baba. He was the first person to be allowed to worship Baba for a long time. His self-dedication and great attachment to Baba, were irresistible for a large hearted soul like Baba. His placing of flowers and sandal at the lotus feet of Sai and his offerings to Baba were obviously a mark of respect.<sup>38</sup>

## Mhalsapati



Mhalsapati was one of the most intimate devotees of Baba and the one who stayed with Him the longest was Mhalsapati, a goldsmith by caste and Priest of the Khandoba Temple in Shirdi.

He was the first person who addressed Baba as "Sai". As days passed by, Mhalsapati came closer and closer to Baba and became a part of Baba's daily life. He kept Baba company day and night and slept in the Masjid with Him. He spread his own cloth and on this he and Baba slept; he occupied one half and Baba occupied the other half of the cloth. Baba never sleeps. His soul always meditates for the people, to protect them from wrong forces as well as diseases. This is the general experience of Mhalsapati.

This means that Baba and Mhalsapati totally devoted their lives for the world. Mhalsapati continued his nightly Puja of Baba after His death in October 1918 but his own death came four years later. He gave his staff to his son and told him: "**Spend time piously in Uttam Bhakti Marg**" (*spiritual path*). He died on 11 September 1922, he uttered one word 'Ram' and died. Mhalsapati is one of the diamonds of Sai Baba. He devoted his whole life to Sai Baba and Khandoba.

## Upasani Baba



Among the eminent Devotees of Sai Baba one of the most prominent was Upasani Baba, whose full name was Kasinath Govind Upasani Maharaj. He was born in 1870 in an orthodox Brahmin family in Satana village in Maharashtra. He had little formal education and was married when he was 14 to a girl of 8 in 1883, she died a year later. He married again in 1885 and his second wife also passed away shortly thereafter. Upasani ran away from home and lived away from his family for long intervals. He met Sai Baba in 1911. After staying for a day, Upasani asked Baba for permission to return home. Baba said: "**What! So soon! When are you returning?**" Upasani replied it was not easy for him to return to Shirdi. Baba said: "**Then you had better stay. Do not go away.**" Seeing him undecided Baba said: "**Well, go. I shall see what I can do**". Upasani thought permission had been given to him to leave and left Shirdi. While he was at Kopergaon, the Priest at the Lord Datta Temple there told him to go back to Shirdi and stay with

Baba. Upasani said: "**No, I have been there already.**" Some visitors who came there asked the Priest for the way to Shirdi. The Priest then asked Upasani to guide the visitors. So, in spite of his protest, Upasani was forced to accompany them to Shirdi. At Shirdi, Sai Baba welcomed Upasani and said: "**You have come back again**". This is an example of one of Sai Baba's Leelas. Thereafter, Upasani continued to stay in Shirdi. On July 25, 1914, Upasani left Shirdi after a stay of three years. Upasani Baba Passed away in 1941.

( *contd ...pg. 97* )



*"Unless you have given it before you do not get it now"*



# Tulsi® Pure Vegetarian RESTAURANT

**Party Bookings upto 120 people Outside Catering  
for Events & All Occasions including Live Cooking**

All tasty recipes of Mumbai's Maharaj (Chef) at your service. Now you can enjoy Mumbai style in London. As well as South Indian and Chinese. Fresh Fruit Juices, Milkshakes & many more....



## Our Specialities

- Bombay Sandwich
- Delhi Chat
- Pau Bhaji
- Pani Puri
- Traditional Chappatis (Millet)
- Bajrina Rotla
- Fresh Fruit Juice
- Milk Shake and more
- South Indian Dishes
- North Indian Dishes
- Chinese Food Starters
- Gujarati Traditional Dishes
- Sweets,
- Ice Cream,
- Coldrings, Falooda
- Punjabi Dishes

**મો માં પાણી આવી ગયું ને!!**

વતનથી દૂર, વતનનો સ્વાદ!!  
શુદ્ધ શાકાહારી રેસ્ટોરન્ટ મુંબઈની મધ્યમધતી વાનગીઓનો રસાસ્વાદ કરાવશે,  
ખાસ મુંબઈથી આવેલ મહારાજ. વિશાળ અને આરામદાયક વાતાવરણ મુંબઈની  
મોહક વાનગીઓ સાથે સાઉથ ઇન્ડિયન, નોર્થ ઇન્ડિયન અને ચાઇનીઝ વાનગીઓ  
ઉપરાંત સ્પેશીયલ ગુજરાતી ચાણી વિનાનું તો જમણ જ અઘરું!!

બિઝનેસ લંચ હો યા ખાસ યાદગાર પ્રસંગ, આપના એક-એક પ્રસંગ પર ખુશીની મહોર લાગી જશે.

## Music Night Most Evenings

**Monday to Thursday 11:00am to 3:00 pm & 6:00pm to 11:00 pm  
Friday to Sunday 11:00am to 12:00pm**

**TULSI RESTAURANT 22/22a Ealing Road, Wembley, Middx, HAO 4TL  
Tel: 0208 900 8526 Fax: 0208 900 0793**

website: [www.tulsirestaurant.co.uk](http://www.tulsirestaurant.co.uk)

email: [tulsirestaurant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tulsirestaurant@yahoo.co.uk)

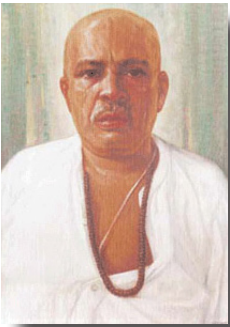


## Bapusaheb Buti



Sriman Gopalrao Buti was a millionaire of Nagpur. Buti became an eminent devotee of Baba right from his first visit to Shirdi. From 1910 A.D onwards, Bapusaheb Buti was a permanent resident of Shirdi. Buti's outstanding service to the Sai Sansthan and Baba's Devotees was that he constructed the huge building and devoted it entirely for the Mahasamadhi shrine of Baba. This stone building was known as Buti Wada. Baba used to refer to it as Dagadi (*stone*) Wada. The construction started in 1915. But Baba mentioned this construction in 1913 to Narke. In Shri Sai Baba's last moments, Bapusaheb Buti, Kakasaheb Dixit and others were anxiously waiting upon Baba but Baba asked them to go to the Wada and return after having their food. After Baba left His mortal coil, a committee was formed to manage the worship of Sai Baba's Samadhi, comprising of 15 members with Shriman Bapusaheb Buti as the Chairman. Buti employed G. K. Dixit to take care of Baba's Samadhi. Most Devotees spoke and argued with Baba off and on, but only three, viz. Buti, Noolkar and Khaparde kept always silent. They were meek, modest, humble and good-natured.

## Das Ganu Maharaj



Das Ganu Maharaj, one of the close associates of Baba, was responsible for the spread of His name and fame in Maharashtra through his ballads and discourses. He was a constable orderly attached to Chandorkar and had the opportunity to visit Shirdi with Chandorkar and meet Baba. Das Ganu had various experiences with Him. Narsimha Swamiji says that for a long time, though Das Ganu had high regard for Baba, he could not accept Baba as a God or a Guru. Baba brought about a great transformation of his mind, although at first he was unwilling. He arrived in Shirdi in 1890 with little education and was employed as an actor in village dramas and later he became a sub-inspector in the police department. Baba, however, had other plans for him. He was determined that Das Ganu's character, calling and work should be totally changed.

Baba advised him to concentrate on his ballads and discourses. Das Ganu was good at singing Kirtans. He had a metallic voice and held big audiences spellbound with his singing which sometimes went on for eight hours. As he sang and spoke Das Ganu would keep a picture of Baba by his side and even though his discourse might be on Tukaram, Namdev and Dnyaneshwar, he could find opportunity to mention Baba and hail Him as a Saint, or a SatPurush (*True being, highest revelation of God*) whose darshan would be a blessing to anyone who sought it. This resulted in hundreds of people rushing to Shirdi to receive Baba's blessings.

Das Ganu was not only a good singer, but was also a great writer. This is possibly only because of Sai Baba. Das Ganu spread his Sai Leela through Kirtans and his poetry work. And people always remember him for his noble cause.



*"If others hate us, let us simply take to "Nama Japa" and avoid them"*

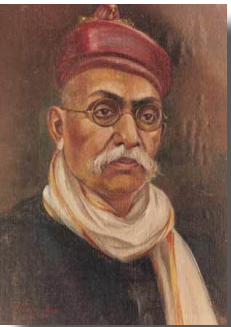
## Madhavrao Deshpande alias Shama



Madhurao Deshpande (alias Shama) Shama belonged to 'Nimon', a small village near Shirdi. Later they moved to Shirdi, when Shama was a small child. He worked as a schoolteacher in the school next to the Masjid for a few years and as he grew more attached to Sai Baba gradually he left off teaching. Shama met all the newcomers to Shirdi and helped them with their stay etc. He was the person through whom they could approach Baba. Baba once told a story of a former birth in which He, Bapusaheb Jog, Dada Kelkar, Madhavarao Deshpande, Khaparde & Dixit were associated and lived in a blind alley.

Shama became an intimate devotee to Baba in a short period and he became a kind of personal assistant to Baba. If some devotee had any question or problem and needed the answer from Baba, they used to convey their messages to Baba through Shama. Baba also conveyed His message to the devotee through Shama. Shama, a helpless villager was obliged to depend entirely upon Baba. Baba looked after all his interests and provided him and his children with means of subsistence, comforts, safety, and a position in society. Baba used to call Madhavrao as 'Shama', and he used to call Baba as 'Deva' (*Lord*). Shama used to serve lunch in the Masjid along with Nanasaheb Nimonkar and he always had his lunch in the masjid with Baba. Shama also used to prepare Baba's Chillim in the Chavadi festival. After Baba's Mahasamadhi, Shama continued to live in Shirdi and serve Baba until his death. Shama died in the year 1939.

## Govind Raghunath Dabholkar, alias Hemadpant



Govind Raghunath Dabholkar, alias Hemadpant, is the devotee who wrote Shri Sai Satcharita (originally in Marathi and later translated into English by Shri N.V. Gunaji), while Baba was alive. This work is thus treated as the foundation of all writings on Baba, as it was from a direct source. Realising what a difficult task it was, Hemadpant appealed to Baba not to make his work more difficult by not cooperating. Baba desired no attention but His Bhaktas (*Devotees*) like Hemadpant wished to share their experiences with all. Hemadpant also enlisted the support of Shama to convince Baba about the need for writing His "biography". Once Baba agreed, it was easy to record some of the events, happenings, Leela (divine doings, miracles) and messages of Baba.

Mr. Dabholkar was born in 1859 in a poor Brahmin family in a small town called Kelave-Mahim in Thana district. As the family was poor, his primary education took place in his native-place and then his English education, upto primary standard, was finished at Pune. On account of his adverse circumstances he could not continue his education any further. He could only manage to pass the Public Service Examination of the time. Then he had to accept the post of a schoolmaster in his native place. Mr. Sabaji Chintaman Chitnis, who was then Mamlatdar in the Colaba district, noted his good nature, intelligence and work. He appointed him first as a Talati (village-officer), thence as an English clerk and afterwards Aval (head) clerk in the Mamlatdar's Court. In 1901 he was appointed as a Mamlatdar of Shahapur (Thana district) and in 1903 as a Resident Magistrate, at Bandra where he served till 1907. Thence he was transferred to Murbad, Ananda, Borsad (Kheda district) and was again posted in 1910 at Bandra as a Resident Magistrate. It was in this year that he had the good fortune to go to Shirdi and get the darshan of Baba. He retired from service in 1916. After this, he again got a temporary

*"Unless his mind is purified, he cannot get self- realisation"*



# Baba & Devotees ( *contd...* )

Government job but that was of very short duration. After his retirement he served Sai Baba with heart and soul until Baba's Samadhi and afterwards managed very skillfully and efficiently Sai Baba's Shirdi Sansthan until his own death, which occurred in 1929. He left behind him his wife, one son and 5 daughters, most of who were married to suitable and worthy husbands.

## Tatya Kote Patil



Tatya Kote Patil's family was one who loved Baba for Himself and not for what they got from His divinity. Tatya was the first amongst the Devotees who was fully soaked in the gentle rain of Baba's love. Tatya Kote Patil was a little boy of six or seven years old when Baba first came to Shirdi. Tatya used to call Baba 'Mama'. Baba used to treat him like His own nephew. Baba used to watch his childish behavior with motherly love. Baba used to call Tatya "Tatya". Tatya received Rs. 35 everyday from Baba.

Tatya Kote Patil belonged to a middle class farming family. Initially as a result of his hard work, and later on with the money given to him daily by Baba, Tatya became a big farmer in the village. Tatya had a helping nature and was very co-operative with other villagers. Tatya's was one of the houses from where Baba used to accept the alms. Tatya's mother never sent Baba away empty handed, no matter how many times He went for alms. When there was a famine in 1876 in the state, Baba went for alms only to Tatya's and Nanduram Marwadi's houses. At the age of 17/18 Tatya went to many places to participate in 'Naamsaptah' with Gangagir Maharaj, who praised Sai Baba as a "Precious Jewel". When Tatya told Baba about attending the Naamsaptahs, Baba was very happy about it. Shri Tatya Kote Patil passed away in 1945. Shri Tatya Kote Patil's Samadhi is located between the entrance gate to Lendi garden and the powerhouse Shri Sai Baba Sansthan. Tatya was widely regarded as the light in the eyes of Shri Sai Baba. Perhaps his Samadhi being adjacent to the powerhouse giving light to the whole of Shirdi is the divine will of Shri Sai Baba and not entirely a coincidence.

## Kakasaheb Dixit



Hari Sitaram Dixit, better known as Kakasaheb Dixit, was a close and exemplary devotee of Sai Baba. He went to England about 1906. There he had an accident in which his leg was injured and he became lame. In spite of repeated efforts, the injury could not be cured. About 1909, Nanasaheb Chandorkar suggested him to go and see Sai Baba, the wonderful personality at Shirdi, who might cure his lameness. Kakasaheb Dixit felt, 'Lameness of the body does not matter much, and wanted Sai Baba to cure the lameness of his mind.' Kakasaheb Dixit came to Shirdi with Shama from Ahmednagar. Baba told him he sent Shama to Ahmednagar to bring him to Shirdi. Baba used to call him 'Kaka'.

Dixit blindly obeyed Baba and had firm faith in Him. Dixit entertained no doubt about Sai Baba's nature. He was simply God, whether in the flesh or out of it, i.e. in Samadhi. From 1910 Kakasaheb began to stay continuously in Shirdi at the feet of his master Sai Baba. He wanted to build a Wada for his own use as well as the use of other Devotees. The foundation stone was laid for a Wada there in December 1910. The work was pushed through and completed in five months (i.e.) in April 1911.

*"If you always tolerate hatred, you will certainly be happy"*





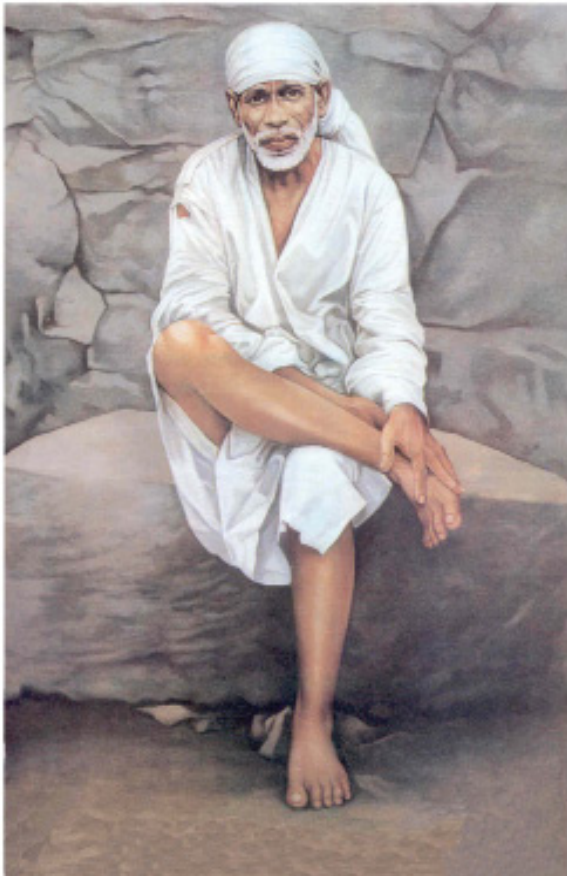
## Baba & Devotees ( *contd...* )

This house was popularly known afterwards as Dixit Wada. Dixit lived in a modest room on the first floor and generously kept the rest of the building, including a small dining hall, for the use of visiting pilgrims. Dixit bequeathed part of the Wada to the Sansthan and later he gave the whole building to them.

Kakasaheb took an active part in the dispute as to where Baba's body was to be laid to rest in Samadhi. He mediated between both the parties and finalised the terms for burying Baba's body in Buti Wada. Dixit used to extend his sympathy to those in need, any creature or person. He was known from his early days as a very liberal host, inviting all people to his table and even in Shirdi at his Wada, a special event was held and many people were fed free of charge at his expense.

Kakasaheb wrote a diary in Marathi, which is known as Dixit diary in which he noted all that Baba did and said, with experiences of the Devotees. Kakasaheb was very largely responsible for the establishment and progress of Shirdi Sai Sansthan. After Baba's Mahasamadhi, he worked as an Honorary Secretary for Shri Sai Baba Sansthan. He started the 'Sai Leela Masik', the Marathi monthly magazine of the Sai Sansthan in April 1923, which drew many Devotees to Baba. This was mainly his work. Kakasaheb died on July 5th 1926, in the remembrance of his Guru whilst talking to Hemadpant about Sai Baba.

( *contd ...pg. 101* )



On this Joyous occasion to celebrate the 1st anniversary  
of Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London  
(SHITAL)

We would like to take this opportunity  
to Congratulate all the Trustees, Volunteers  
and Devotees  
for their profound dedication towards the temple.

*from*



**AQUARIUS  
AIRFREIGHT  
SERVICES**

Unit 6, Bridge Business Centre, Bridge Road,  
Southall, Middlesex UB2 4AY

Tel : 020 8574 9105

Fax : 020 8574 2183

E-mail : [info@aquariusfreight.co.uk](mailto:info@aquariusfreight.co.uk)



# Baba & Devotees ( *contd...* )

## Prominent Devotees of Baba

|                              |                           |                             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Shri Madhrao Wamanrao Aadkar | Shri Laxman Nulkar        | Shri Yashwant Galwankar     |
| Shri Madhavrao Deshpande     | Smt Bayajabai Kote        | Shri Mahadeo Sapatnekar     |
| Shri Abdul Baba              | Shri Dadasaheb Purandare  | Dr. Pillay                  |
| Shri Atmaram Kulkarni        | Shri Nanasaheb Chandorkar | Shri Ramkrishna S. Nawalkar |
| Shri Laxmanrao Mahajani      | Smt Parvatibai Sapatnekar | Shri Ganesh Khaparde        |
| Shri Annasaheb Dabholkar     | Shri Dajisaheb Awasthi    | Shri Swami Shamanand        |
| Shri Balasaheb Miralkar      | Shri Radhakrishna Swamy   | Shri Hari Sitaram Dixit     |
| Shri Bhaguji Shinde          | Shri Chotubhaiya Paralkar | Shri Shyamrao Jaykar        |
| Shri Bhagat Mhalsapati       | Shri Meghashyam Rege      | Shri Gopal Mukund Butty     |
| Shri Balasaheb Dev           | Shri Ghanshyam Babre      | Shri Nanasaheb Kharkar      |
| Shri Moreshwar Pradhan       | Shri Rajubhaiya Naik      | Shri Narshimha Swamy        |
| Shri Balasaheb Bhate         | Shri Das Ganu Maharaj     | Shri Y. R. Sukher           |
| Shri Sundarrao Navalkar      | Shri Sadhubhaiya Naik     | Shri Taty Patil Kote        |
| Shri Kashiram Bala Shimpi    | Shri Damodhar Rasne       | Shri Bhaumaharaj Kumbhar    |
| Shri Laxman Govind Mungi     | Shri Nandlal Sankalecha   | Shri Trimbak Damodar        |
| Shri Bhausahab Dhumal        | Shri Dattatreya Rasne     | Smt Laxmibai Shinde         |
|                              | Shri Sagun Meru Naik      | Shri Nanasaheb Nimonkar     |

## U.K. Devotee: "An Experience of Baba"

Everyone in my family is a devotee of Shirdi Sai Baba. Once it so happened that my aunty (who is a staunch devotee of Sai Baba) met me in Sai Baba's Temple in the morning. She looked tensed so I asked her if she had any tension. On asking this she replied that her husband (my uncle) was not well and he was critical. I told her to have full faith in Baba and that He would definitely look after him. She is such a true devotee of Baba who trusts Baba blindly. Her daily routine starts off with getting up at four in the morning and after bath going to Baba's mandir (*Temple*) situated in Chandigarh (city in the northern part of India). She prepares Baba's food for His breakfast and also cleans the floors in the Temple. Coming from a rich background, she still is too humble that despite doing all the morning preparations in the Temple everyday, she doesn't want any importance at all. I had full faith in Baba that He will surely look after her husband's health, being such a true devotee of Baba herself. The doctors had said that he would not live for more than two months and that she should be prepared mentally beforehand. She also had full faith in Baba and knew that Baba would look after his health. After two days she organized a religious Puja (*prayer ceremony*) at her place with an intension to get Baba's blessings for her husband. She had placed Baba's idol in her shrine with Baba's hands in such a way that it clearly showed that He was blessing everyone who were present there. After an hour into the Puja (*prayers*), Baba's idol started showering loads of Udi, which just kept on coming out from His hands and wouldn't stop. Everyone who was present there were so surprised. Tears began to flow from the Devotees' eyes and my aunty just couldn't stop crying. She was blessed with Baba's Udi. She gave the Udi to her husband to drink with water. He drank the whole glass and went back to sleep. After a couple of days she again took her husband to the doctor and after his check up the doctors were amazed to see the amount of recovery that he had done in the past week. They told her that this has happened for the first time that a patient who was suffering from that disease could firstly recover and could be cured permanently. This shows that Devotees who have full faith in Baba even when He tests them in hard conditions are His true Devotees. Here my aunty had full Shraddha (*faith*) and Saburi (*patience*) in Baba and hence Baba came to her rescue.

*"I require nothing, I am ever free"*



# SHITAL's History

Shri Ramchandra D.Kote

In November 2008, Baba has given strength to few people in London resulting in the formation of SHIRDI SAIBABA Temple ASSOCIATION OF LONDON (SHITAL). Ever since, by the grace of Baba, the members of SHITAL are working on the core principle of establishing a SHIRDI SAIBABA Temple in London.

In December 2008, SHITAL launched its portal [www.shirdisai.org.uk](http://www.shirdisai.org.uk) to unify all the Devotees under one umbrella and to work on the sole objective of establishing 1st ever Shirdi Sai Baba Temple in London.

- By Baba's Grace, On 23rd April 2009 SHITAL was incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 as a private limited company
- Charity commission of U.K. registered Shirdi Sai Baba Temple Association of London a U.K. Registered Charity on the 25 October 2010.

Since April 2009, every Thursday, Shirdi Sai Baba Bhajan's were held at the Union Hall from 7 PM to 9PM thereafter Preeti Bhoj was served. Within a few months, the number of Devotees increased from 25 to nearly 250 people. With numbers of Devotees increasing day by day, by Baba's Grace, SHITAL was offered a long term lease on Union Hall. Without having second thoughts the Temple opening plans were put in place.

Finally, Baba heard the inner voices of thousands of His Devotees in the United Kingdom and the first ever Shirdi Sai Baba Temple in the UK opened its door to the public. With Baba's grace the Grand opening was held on the 31st of January 2010.

In the morning we performed a Kalash Puja, Navgraha Mandap Araadhna and Havan (*Fire Puja*). At around 11 am a procession took place at Ealing road heading towards the Temple. Devotees carried Baba on their shoulders while singing and dancing during this procession. At around 2PM Baba entered the Temple.

Baba's MangalSnan and Abhishek took place thereafter. 'Shirdi Maze Pandharpur' Aarti took place followed by doors opened to the public. Nearly 9000 people came to witness the grand opening of the Temple. Prasad was distributed to Devotees through out the day; Bhajans were performed in the evenings.

The Temple came to close at 9 PM with Shej Aarti.



*"Those who are attached to me heart and soul,  
will naturally feel happiness when they hear My stories"*





*“There shall be no want in  
the house of my devotee”*

# SHITAL's Daily Schedule

## Baba's Aartis at SHITAL

At SHITAL we wish to offer Devotees a similar environment to that found in Shirdi. For this we adhere to the following before conducting all the Aartis:

### The Importance of Aarti:

Aarti is a ritual performed in front of an image, idol of a deity or a form of God / Sages and/or Saints. 'Aa' means towards and 'rati' means virtue. The meaning of Aarti in Sanskrit points towards developing love towards God or Guru in form of Sat Chit Ananda. Aartis can be performed both at Mandirs (*Temples*) and at home. All Aarti rituals daily performed in Shirdi Temples started when Shri Sai Baba performed His Leelas as an embodied form of Sat Chit Ananda. It is believed that the first Aarti was offered to Baba in 1910 on 10th December. "**Shri Sadguru SaiNath Sagunopasana**" which is sung during Aarti, is composed by Krishnashastri Jageshwar Bhishma of Nagpur.

Aartis are usually performed five times a day, out of which four Aarti's are major and one Chotta (*Small*) Aarti.

Morning (sunrise time) and evening (sunset time) are considered as Sai Baba evoking times. So these two times are termed as the best times for evoking the love of God. Usually a second Aarti follows in the morning after the sunrise Aarti. Noon Aarti is performed in the mid noon time and the last Aarti is performed at nighttime.

### Conducting Aarti:

Vocals: Aarti is a simple fire ritual, where Devotees gather often in large numbers and sing the Aarti in unison. It evokes a great spiritual energy. Moreover when large groups of people gather and sing the Sai Baba lyrics of Aarti, their minds are all centered around one act i.e. the praise of God. Aarti lyrics contain the words and shlokas in praise of God.

### Rotation of fire lamps:

Along with the singing, the most important part of Aarti is rotating Aarti diyas (lamps lit with wicks (oil or ghee)) (sometimes camphor is also used) in clockwise motion in front of the idol or picture form of the Deity which is believed to be throbbing with Sacred energy and can be felt by many. A priest or a devotee rotates the lamp while all the others sing with devotion in their hearts. A lamp with wicks burning ghee (*clarified butter*) is the most preferred, sometimes, accompanied by ignited camphor. All such details as the number of wicks, the kind of fuel, etc., carry their own esoteric symbolism.

The ritual helps the devotee to invoke the spiritual and Sacred feelings within them and ward off the evil influences one might have got in the course of daily routine life. For those deep in love with God, the Aarti brings about Sai Baba's mystic ecstasy in them. Sai Baba's devotee's shout in ecstasy "**Shri Sat Chit Ananda Sadguru SaiNath Maharaj Ki Jai**" (*Victory be to our Sadguru Sai Maharaj, Who is Pure Consciousness, Knowledge and Bliss*).



*"Inquire always, who am I?"*



# SHITAL's Daily Schedule ( *contd...* )

For those who have still not developed an intense love for God, the simple fire ritual of Aarti helps in exorcising the bad effects of an 'evil-eye' and regular practice of performing Aartis thus results in developing love towards God. The lamp, fire charged with spiritual energy, is taken to all the Devotees who pass their hands over it and then bring their palms to their forehead as a gesture of receiving the Sacred energy into their minds.

## **Acoustics in Aarti:**

Along with the singing and the rotating of the lamp, is the acoustic that goes with the Aarti. Usually small bells are played. In Temples, along with the bells, more musical instruments like drums, tabla, blowing of Shankh is played, adding to the ambience of the Sacred environment.

## **Aroma:**

Another important part of the Aarti is Aroma. Aromatic flowers are offered to the Lord and aromatic incense is burnt, dhoop (a powder of loban or aromatic powder made from herbs and tree barks, prescribed in Hindu tradition) are sprinkled on red hot burning charcoal. This fills the place with an aromatic smoke. Dhoop is also prescribed in many religions for creating a Sacred energised environment, eliminating all negative and evil energies.

## **Food and cleanliness:**

Food is offered to Sai Baba before the Aartis and then after the Aarti ritual is over, the blessed food is distributed to the congregation. Devotees receive and eat what is offered as Prasad (*consecrated food*). In the morning Aarti the Idol or the picture form of Baba is given a bath with aromatic water. Before all the Aartis take place, the Temple premise is thoroughly cleaned.

## **Temple opens at 8:00A.M. Daily.**

## **Kakad Aarti: Morning Wake Up Aarti: (8:15A.M. – 9:00A.M.)**

The meaning of Kakad is a cloth that is dipped in ghee. This cloth is then wrapped around a stick and lit to perform the Aarti. The singing is done in the Bhoopali or Raga melody. In Kakad Aarti we request Sai Baba to wake up and give His Darshan and blessings for which we all have been waiting and longing for. The Aarti starts by playing a CD at 8:15 AM followed by vocal singing, which finishes at 9:00AM.

## **MangalSnan – The Holy Bath: (9:10AM – 9:30A.M.)**

As soon as the Kakad Aarti finishes, MangalSnan (*Holy bath*) is offered to Baba. The holy water of the bath is sprinkled or offered as blessings to His Devotees during all Aartis performed in the day. There have been several instances/miracles where Devotees have been cured by taking that holy bath water. Fresh clothes, ghee and camphor lamp, flowers and Naivaidya are offered to Baba along with 'Shirdi Maze Pandharpur' the so-called Chotta (*small*) Aarti. After this Devotees are allowed to take Baba's darshan and offer Him their offerings. The Darshan continues until 11:30A.M. on Thursday's, Saturday's & Sunday's and until 11:45A.M. on the rest of the weekdays.

*"Joy and sorrow are mere delusion"*





ESSENTIAL FOOD INGREDIENTS



# CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES

ON THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS OF  
SHIRDI SAIBABA TEMPLE LONDON

[WWW.KTC-EDIBLES.COM](http://WWW.KTC-EDIBLES.COM)

# SHITAL's Daily Schedule ( *contd...* )

## **Madhyaan Aarti: The Afternoon Aarti: (12:00P.M. – 12:30P.M.)**

A fresh pair of clothes, ghee and camphor lamp, flowers and Naivaidya (*food items*) are offered to Baba at the time of Madhyaan Aarti. The Naivaidya offered to Baba is then distributed amongst Devotees as Prasad. Darshan resumes from 12:30P.M. Darshan continues until 5:30P.M. on Thursday's, Saturday's & Sunday's and 5:45P.M. on the rest of the week days.

## **Dhoop Aarti or The Evening Aarti: (6:00P.M. – 6:30P.M.)**

A fresh pair of clothes, ghee and camphor lamp, flowers and Naivaidya is offered to Baba at the time of Dhoop Aarti. The Naivaidya offered to Baba is then distributed among Devotees as Prasad. Darshan resumes from 6:30P.M. onwards. Devotees take Baba's darshan and offer Him their offerings. Darshan continues until 08:00 PM on Thursday's, Saturday's & Sunday's and 8:15P.M. on the rest of the weekdays.

## **Shej Aarti or Good Night Aarti: (8:30P.M. – 9:00P.M.)**

A fresh pair of clothes, ghee and camphor lamp, flowers & fruits or nuts are offered to Baba at Shej Aarti. The Prasad is then distributed among Devotees. As a tradition nothing is offered to Baba after Shej Aarti. Darshan closes at 9:45P.M. on Thursdays and at 9:00P.M. on the rest of the weekdays including Saturday & Sunday.

## **Additional rituals on Thursdays:**

As Thursday is the most important day for Baba, the following schedule is followed: after Dhoop Aarti i.e. 6:30P.M., A chapter from Shri Sai Satcharita is read aloud followed by the singing of Shri Hanuman Chalisa.

Music is one thing that Baba cherished extremely and keeping the tradition alive, Bhajans are performed between 7:00P.M. & 8:00P.M. Baba's Palkhi Seva is another ritual performed on Thursdays which is carried out at 8:00P.M. Baba's Murti (*idol form*) is placed on a Palanquin and carried by four paldaar-choubdaar (Devotees dressed in Maharashtrian-style festive red tunics and turbans) accompanied by flags, poles, Chhatra (*umbrella*), ghee lamp, fruits, incense, flowers & coconuts. The Palkhi (*palanquin*) is taken to the opposite Shiva Temple where rituals are performed and is then brought back to the Temple for Baba's Shej Aarti.

## **Sai Satya Vrat Puja:**

As part of the daily routine, 'SatyaNarayan Puja' is performed every day in Shirdi from 8.00A.M. to 10.30 A.M. SatyaNarayan Puja is one of the best & easiest ways to seek blessings from Lord Vishnu, who is the God responsible for maintenance of this Universe. SatyaNarayan Puja is believed to bring abundance and peace in all forms of life. "People in Maharashtra, always celebrate Satya Narayana Puja in their homes every fortnight or month. But it was this Bhimaji Patil, who started a new Sai Satya Vrata Puja, instead of Satya Narayana-vrata Puja, in his house, when he returned to his village"- Shri Sai Satcharita, Chapter 13 by Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi. 'Sai Satya Vrat' Puja has been adapted by Shriji's (Baba's) Devotees to show their love and affection to Him. By Baba's grace SHITAL has been organising the 'Sai Satya Vrat Puja' on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. All Devotees who wish to participate please email us on [bookings@shirdisai.org.uk](mailto:bookings@shirdisai.org.uk)

*"Know for certain that he who feeds the hungry,  
really serves Me with food. Regard this as an axiomatic Truth"*



**currency direct**

money without borders

# Foreign exchange and international payments specialists.

- Foreign exchange
- Global payments
- Risk solutions
- International VAT recovery
- Exclusive rate for shirdi sai baba Temple Association of London

Contact us now: 0845 389 3000 +44 (0) 20 7847 9400

[shirdisai Baba@currencydirect.com](mailto:shirdisai Baba@currencydirect.com)

[www.currencydirect.co.uk](http://www.currencydirect.co.uk)

Head Office: 51 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6RH, UK

US | CANADA | UK | SOUTH AFRICA | SPAIN | FRANCE | INDIA | AUSTRALIA



# Events Held by SHITAL

## RamNavami Utsav

We celebrated Ramnavami on the 24th & 25th March 2010. It was a two-day event & the Temple was opened all night for Devotees. The celebration started on 24th March at 6.00A.M. with Baba's Kakad Aarti, followed by MangalSnan, Nishaan (*Sacred Flag*), Baba's Paduka's, Chatra and Mukutpratishtaas as are done in Shirdi. At 9.00A.M. we did Chota (*Small*) Aarti, which is "**Shirdi Maze Pandharpur**" & after that Devotees started taking Baba's darshan in queue. Madhyan Aarti was performed at 12:00P.M. Around 2:00P.M., Vishnu Naam Parayan, was performed by two Devotees. 3P.M. to 8P.M. we had Sudarshan Havan in the marquee & requested to all Devotees to participate in the same. Baba's Dhoop Aarti was performed at the regular time of 6:00P.M.. After the Sudarshan havan, Kathakaar Piyush Bhai Shastri of Shri Jalaram Temple in Greenford, London, performed Ram Janma Adhyay Keertan. Then we started the Akhand Parayan of Shri Sai Satcharitra in English but first chapter was read in Marathi as in Shirdi they read whole Shri Sai Satcharitra in Marathi. We had allocated chapters to the Devotees as per their convenient timing and the reading continued throughout the night. Next morning we did Baba's Rudra Abhishek as done in Shirdi, followed by Shirdi Maze Pandharpur Aarti. By Babas's grace around 11:45A.M. Akhand Parayan completed successfully on time & Madhyan Aarti followed. Hanuman Chalisa & Bhajans started after the Dhoop Aarti. Palki procession then followed around the Temple premises as done in Shirdi. After procession we did Gopal kala/Dahi Handi ceremony in opposite Eelapatheeswaram Temple. An Earthen pot containing a mixture of milk, dry fruits, ghee is hung around 20-30 feet high in the air with the help of a rope. Silver coins are hung along with the rope, which are later distributed as prize to the winners. Winners being the one's who break the pot whilst blind folded. Much fun was had.



At 8:30P.M. we did Shej Aarti followed by Preeti Bhoj & the Temple closed by 10:00P.M. By His grace, we were able to replicate all the events that occur in SHIRDI for this festival.

## Anup Jalota Live in Concert – 19th June 2010

First Ever Charity Event held by SHITAL. Shri Anup Jalota, Live in Concert on 19th June 2010 at the SKLPC Grounds Northolt. The event was a success and all tickets were sold out by Baba's Grace.

## Sai Bhajan Sandhya at Royal Albert Hall – 19 September 2010

For the first time in the history, Shree Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi, is embarking upon a journey to spread Sai Baba's message across the globe and it is our fortune that their first step outside India is London at The ROYAL ALBERT HALL London on 19th September.



*"I am the Controller-the wire Puller of the show of this Universe"*



# Events Held by SHITAL ( contd... )

A full house of 5000 people experienced the evening event with the priests, officials, and the trustees of Shri Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi. Famous well-known singers Shri Manhar Udhas, Suresh Wadkar, Padmashri Joglekar and Mr. Mukul Nag, who played the role of 'Shri Shirdi Sai Baba' in Ramananda Sagar's TV serial telecasted in Star Plus, popular across the globe, were unable to come from India to perform due to unforeseen circumstances. At the last minute, Baba saved us all like always, By His Grace, Shri Anup Jalota stepped in to give us one of the most memorable events. SHITAL would like to thank Shri Anup Jalota from bottom of our hearts for performing at the last minute and giving all the Devotees a wonderful evening. As SHITAL follows only Shirdi Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, we tried to celebrate all three festival same as Shirdi.

## Guru Purnima:

*Gurubrahma Guruvishnu Gururdevo Maheshwaraha |  
Guruhu sakshaat Parambrahman tasmai Shrigurave namaha ||*

**"The Guru is Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh (Shiva), veneration to the Guru who is Parabrahman manifest."**

## Significance of Guru Purnima:

Hindus attach paramount importance to spiritual Gurus. Gurus are often equated with God and always regarded as a link between the individual and the Immortal. Just as the moon shines by reflecting the light of the sun, and glorifies it, all disciples can dazzle like the moon by gaining from their Guru's. Various measures were taken to ensure that the events were not compromised for their spiritual importance. SHITAL also made extra efforts in decorating the Temple for the festival, as there is no bigger festival than Guru Purnima to dedicate to Baba. In essence, one can only attain salvation by serving the satpurush, in our case Shri Shirdi Sai Baba. Compared to any other day during the year, the SatSeva done on Guru Purnima fetches substantial grace of the Guru for the devotees spiritual progress.



*"GuruGovinddonukhade,kisko laagu paay,  
Balihari GuruDevaki jinhe Govind diyo bataay"*

**"The Guru and Govind-God, are present before me, to whom shall I bow down first? Glory to the Guru since he showed me Govind."**

The celebrations started on Saturday the 24th July 2010 and ended on Sunday, the 25th July 2010 and the whole Temple was decorated with marigold flowers, which we got from India especially for this event. Temple was open at 8:00A.M. & we started our celebrations with Baba's Kakad aarti followed by Pothe (Shri Sai Satcharitra) Palki procession & MangalSnan (Holy Bath) of Baba. Around 9:20A.M. we began the Shri Sai Satcharitra Akhand Parayan.



*"Lust ruins mental balance and strength or firmness.  
It affects the learned also"*





# Events Held by SHITAL ( contd... )

Shri Ganapati Atharva Sheersha chanting, Rudra Parayan & Bhajans performed by Sunrise Radio fame Pt. Ram Bhatt. Rudra Abhishek Puja was completed by midnight followed by Shri Sai Maha Mantra dhoon (*chanting*). Shri Sundarakand recitation was done by Devotees in the early morning. Then around 8:00A.M. we had a Chariot Procession around the Ealing Road where more than hundred Devotees followed us with it & chanted Baba's name on the Ealing Road. In the afternoon, Classical Indian Instrumental performance was given by the professionals to entertain Baba & His Devotees.

Dahi Handi / Gopal Kala , where an Earthen pot containing a mixture of milk, dry fruits, ghee is hung around 20- 30 feet high in the air with the help of a rope. Silver coins are hung along with the rope, which are later distributed as prize to the winners. Handi was broken by one of the devotees. After Dhoop Aarti professional singer & music players performed Bhajans. Temple was closed after Shej Aarti at 10:30P.M. Baba's Maha Prasad was served continually from SAT, 24/07/10 (12.30P.M.) through to SUN, 25/07/10 (10.00P.M.). More than seven thousand Devotees visited within these two days & more than five thousand took Baba's Prasad.

## VijayaDashami

As you all must be aware that on the 17th of October was VijayaDashami, which is also known as Dushera. Dushera can also be interpreted as "Dasa-Hara", which means the cutting of the ten heads of Ravana. Dushera is the tenth day after Navratri. It marks the end of the nine days of Navratri.

It celebrates the homecoming of Lord Rama, after He rescued His wife Sita from Ravana, the king of Lanka. For Sai Devotees, it is venerated as the holy day that their beloved GuruDeva (Sai Baba) attained Mahasamadhi (also known as Punyatithi) and is a big festival in Shirdi. By Baba's grace SHITAL's endeavoured to follow Baba's Punyatithi as closely to Shirdi as possible and was a success.

## Punyatithi Celebrations

Baba's Punyatithi started on Saturday 16th Oct 2010 and finished by Sunday 17th Oct 2010, the Temple was opened right through from Saturday 16th Oct at 8.00A.M. to Sunday 17th Oct 10.00P.M.

We started our day with Baba's Kakad Aarti followed by Pothi (Shri Sai Satcharitra) Palki procession & MangalSnan (*Holy Bath*) of Baba. Around 9:30A.M. we began to Shri Sai Satcharitra Akhand Parayan. After Madhyam Aarti Baba's Maha Prasad served continually till next day evening. In the afternoon Devotees started Shri Sai Maha Mantra dhoon chanting & Bhajan performed after the Dhoop Aarti. Around 12:00A.M. Shri Sai Satcharitra Akhand Parayan finished & we had pothi procession around the Temple. At midnight we read Stavan Manjari followed by Shri Sai Maha Mantra dhoon chanting. Morning 9:30A.M. Sai Satya-Vrat Puja performed by pt. Ram Bhatt. After Madhyam Aarti we did Biksha- Zholi programme, where all the trustees went to the neighbours & ask them give bhiksha (*alms*) in their zholi (*bag*). After this, professional Singers & Music players performed programme a Shirdi Sai Kirtan. In the evening the Dahi Handi / Gopal Kala event took place where an Earthen pot containing a mixture of milk, dry fruits, and ghee is tied up at a height of around 20-30 feet in the air, with supporting ropes which are used to move the pot to different heights, as the participants who are blindfolded try and break the Earthen pot with a wooden stick. Silver coins were also added to the mixture, which were then later distributed as prizes to the winner. Again Bhajan Sandhya was performed after the Dhoop Aarti & Temple was closed after the Shej Aarti followed by Preeti Bhoj.

*"Leaving out pride and egoism and with no trace of them,  
you should surrender yourself to me who am seated in your heart."*



# SHITAL's Future Plans

## Yearly Events

**Sai Satyavrat Puja – Every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month**

**31st January – Anniversary Celebrations**

**March/April – Ramnavmi Celebrations**

**July – Guru Purnima Celebrations**

**October – Vijayadashmi, Punyatithi Celebrations.**

**Please visit SHITAL's website for more information: <http://www.shirdisai.org.uk>**

By Baba's grace, the last 12 months at SHITAL for many devotees has been like visiting Shirdi. Thankfully hundreds of volunteers dedicated their time and eased the activities and helped the management to concentrate on future activities.

Baba has blessed us all by letting the Shirdi Sai Sansthan visit London and organized a programme in the prestigious Royal Albert Hall with the assistance of SHITAL. It's a tremendous achievement for SHITAL to have this great blessing within one year of its establishment.

As mentioned in one of the famous bhajans, that when you surrender to Baba, you will understand that Sunshine will be followed by Darkness. Likewise, SHITAL, after the success of the Royal Albert Hall programme, faced serious challenges from our local Council. By His own grace, most of these issues were resolved and we are looking forward to focussing on many pending advancements of SHITAL.

To start with, SHITAL, by Baba's grace, is primarily focussing on Dwaravati-Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Information & Research Centre.

## Dwaravati

### Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Information & Research centre

By Baba's grace, Mr Dhiren Badiani (*in picture*), an ardent devotee of Baba residing in Harrow, Middlesex offered a double storied building on lease for a nominal rent of £15 per year to SHITAL for storage purposes. The lease term was for 3 years and SHITAL gladly accepted the generous offer without visiting the site at this stage.

In September 2010, when The Shirdi Sansthan decided to visit London for the Royal Albert Hall programme, there was a clear demand for extra space in our Temple. The Dwaravati building is located on 85 Wembley Hill Road, HA9 8BU, opposite Wembley Stadium & Wembley Plaza Hotel and it is a beautiful modern office building, i.e. very well furnished.



*“Without suffering the results of Prarabdha Karma,  
you cannot get rid of the body”*





# SHITAL's Future Plans ( contd... )

## Dwaravati Opening

On the morning of 19th September 2010, at 11.00A.M., the Chairman of Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Trust, Shri Jayant Sasane opened the building formally in the presence of the Sansthan's trustees: Capt. Vasudeva, Smt. Urmila Jadhav, Shri Shailesh Kute and Executive Officer of Sansthan Mr Kishore More, the senior priest of the Sansthan-Shri Sulakhe Shastri and Mr Jitendra Shelke - a prominent resident of Shirdi, along with the SHITAL team.



## The name Dwaravati:

We named this beautiful building Dwaravati. In Chapter 22 of Shri Sai Satcharita Baba says to Shri Balasaheb Mirikar **“This Dwarkamai, Dwaravati or Masjidmai (its presiding Deity) is very merciful, she is the mother of the simple devotees, whom she will save in calamities.”**

The description of Dwaravati by Baba, is exactly what we want to replicate by making this building the centre of all charitable activities, whilst the Temple fulfils the worship part. We have listed below some of the plans that we hope will be implemented in Dwaravati in the coming time:

- ✓ **Information**
- ✓ **Research**
- ✓ **Library**
- ✓ **Services**
- ✓ **Meditation**
- ✓ **Reading Room**

## Information

We hope to provide information about Shri Shirdi Sai Baba to anyone interested, including all relevant travel information on pilgrimage to Shirdi. We also aim to provide information on SHITAL and its upcoming activities locally and, in the future, extend Dwaravati branches globally and serve the Shirdi Sai community.

## Research

Unfortunately it has been noted that there is not a lot of information available to devotees on Baba apart from what is featured in the Shri Sai Satcharita.

We should note that the author of Shri Sai Satcharita visited Shirdi during the later years of Baba's bodily form; hence not all of Baba's life was covered in Shri Sai Satcharita. While Baba's Satcharita always serves as the base for our research, what we would want to achieve is a detailed version of Baba's life in its totality. If so much is known about Lord Rama & Lord Krishna, which is from thousands of years ago, then what happened 100 years ago should not be very difficult to ascertain by His grace.

*“Wealth and prosperity are transient and  
the body is subject to decay and death*



# SHITAL's Future Plans ( *contd...* )

SHITAL would recommend the topics and fund the research to certain extent, but it would rely mostly on volunteers to achieve this. We are in the process of appointing a panel of Judges to assess the researched topics and their authenticity.

## Library

Part of the first floor in Dwaravati has been converted into a dedicated Library. Here, we have collected the books published by Sansthan, All India Sai Samaj etc. We are also in the process of collecting all of the books that were recommended by Baba to His devotees in the Sai Satcharita.

Whilst the books published by the Sansthan are blindly trusted, books by other private publishers are carefully selected to avoid any conflicting information about Baba. We will take the opinions of Shirdi Sansthan, Shirdi residents and our judges', before displaying such books.

Apart from the hard copies, we intend to have them electronically available to read online. At this stage, we are in the process of approaching the relevant publishers/authors to obtain any permission wherever needed.

## Services

Every action of Baba, in fact every second of Baba's life was an action of charity. He lived and is continuing to live for us. At some point of time in our life, we should think about what we can give back to Him. Materially not much is possible as we all know Him, but we could, to some extent, pay Him back by being charitable in our actions.

If you are a professional, for example, a Doctor, Solicitor, Accountant, Dentist, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Police officer, Teacher, IT professional, Recruitment Consultant, Motivational speaker, Health & Safety officer, HR manager etc please feel free to contact us . Whoever you are, if you think your knowledge could help someone, please get in touch with us. We will send your details to our devotees and arrange a platform in Dwaravati for both sides to meet and learn from one another. At the same time, we are asking our devotees to contact us if they find any help is not reachable or affordable to them. In short, we are requesting all these professionals to voluntarily contribute an hour every month as Baba's devotees.

## Meditation

Part of our second floor is dedicated to a Meditation Hall. A serene atmosphere is created to focus on Baba and meditate upon Him. Please note that we are not teaching any Yoga here.

## Reading Room

Part of the second floor will also be used as a Reading room. All the necessary arrangements will be made as per any public reading room. Presently, this is just a short overview of how Dwaravati will be used. Our aim is, by Baba's grace that it should become a global resource centre for all of the information on Shri Shirdi Sai Baba and serve as a global platform to promote the life and ideals of our beloved Shri Shirdi Sai Baba.

*"Our Karma is the cause of happiness and sorrow therefore  
put up with whatever comes to you"*



# SHITAL's Future Plans ( *contd...* )

## Temples outside London

Considering the demand for Baba's Temples in various cities of the United Kingdom, SHITAL's next project, by Baba's grace, is to concentrate on opening Temples in East London, Milton Keynes & Leicester. Eventually, the aim is to have His small Temples in Wembley, East London, Cardiff, Leicester, Manchester and Edinburgh. Also, in the circle of M25 region (Greater London), if Baba permits, the dream is to replicate a Temple as it is in Shirdi. We don't dare to say that we have enough funds to achieve our aims but we do note that when the Wembley Temple opened, SHITAL had less than £3,000 in its bank account.

We would like to follow the same tried and tested approach i.e. working with a small group of devotees in all locations, hiring local halls and starting bhajans.

We have tried this in East London and in fact, it's advancing with great pace in. The congregation started with a group of 20 devotees, and within a few weeks only the count is up to 60 and increasing. Please note that SHITAL will support all such activities by providing all facilities for prayers including sending our priests, organizing bhajans and Preeti bhoj etc.

We also held a One Day Programme in Milton Keynes on 20th November 2010. Nearly around 1000 people attended. We did all 4 Aartis as done in Shirdi. Similarly, SHITAL intend to hold One Day Programmes in Cambridge, Manchester and Leeds. At the time "SAI DHUNI" being in print, SHITAL held a One Day Programme in Leicester.

### A Day in Milton Keynes with Shirdi Saibaba Temple



We would encourage any reader residing in the above mentioned locations or if you would like to conduct Sai Bhajans in your locality to please contact us at the Temple.

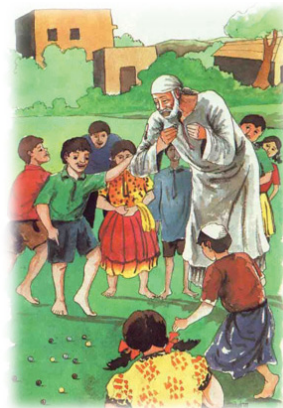
*"No body should take the labour of others in vain.  
The worker should be paid promptly and liberally"*



# BABA loves Children

## Baba Loves Children

Baba loved children very much. The children in the village of Shirdi used to gather and go to the Masjid (*Mosque*) to play with Baba, amongst them were also Bayaja's son Taty Patil and his friend Raghu. When Baba came to Shirdi, Taty Patil was about 7 or 8 years old. At that time, Baba was not residing in the Masjid. He had started residing in the Masjid later. At that time, he did not have any particular place to live. He stayed for about 10 months in the Masjid and then for some time under the Neem tree. Baba told the villagers that under the Neem tree was His Guru's Samadhi (*shrine*). After this, Baba started living in the Masjid.



### Protection of Children

There was a girl of 3 years of age, named Shanti Kirvendkar in Shirdi who used to call Baba her brother. One day her foot slipped and she fell into the well. All the people nearby rushed to the spot. When they reached there they were amazed to see that neither did she get any injury nor did she drown. She was holding a piece of the wall, which was protruding out just above the water. Everyone asked her that how did she come out of this without any injury. She replied that when she fell into the well, she called out to Baba and it was He who held her in His arms and lifted her up. There is absolutely no doubt that it had to be nothing else but Baba's protective shield that saved the girl.

### Lighting of Lamps with Water

Every evening Sri Sai Baba would go to the shopkeepers and ask for oil in alms to use it to light the lamps in the Masjid. Similarly, one day in the year 1892, Baba went to the shopkeepers for oil, but they refused to give it to Him. They collectively decided not to give oil to Baba in Bhiksha (*alms*) and prove their importance to Him. They even told him, "Let us see how you will light the lamps today." Therefore, Baba had to return to the Masjid empty handed. After some time all the shopkeepers and some of the villagers went to the Masjid and saw that there was a little oil left from the previous day in Baba's vessel. Next, they saw Baba put water into the vessel from the pitcher placed in the Masjid and mix it with the oil in the vessel. He then took the oil mixed with water in his mouth and again poured it back into the vessel. He put that water in the lamps kept in the Masjid and lit them with the match-stick. Miraculously, the water lamps started burning, and they lasted for the whole night. Seeing all this the shopkeepers begged him for forgiveness and started giving Him oil again.

### An Iranian Girl

Sri Sai Baba loved children very much and was always worried and concerned about them. He helped his devotees all over the world, for example, he helped an Iranian girl who was suffering very badly. The Iranian family's younger daughter used to have convulsions every hour and as a result she would faint very often. When she got the convulsions, she would become unconscious and it was difficult for her to do anything. The girl's father tried every treatment, but it was of no use. Sri Sai Baba's devotees informed the girl's parents about Baba's powers and also about the divine healing effect of the Udi. They told him that he could get this Udi from Shri Kaka Saheb Dixit, a resident of Ville Parle. The Iranian man took the Udi from Kaka Saheb and mixed it with water and gave it to his ailing daughter. After taking the Udi, the Iranian girl who initially got convulsions every hour would now get convulsions in intervals of 7-8 hours. A little while later they stopped altogether. Like this Sri Sai cured the girl by giving her blessings in the form of the Udi (*ashes*).



*"Mere appearance of worldly Joy is not happiness"*



# BABA loves Children

## Word Search - Can you find the following words ?

GURUPURNIMA  
TATYA  
MHALASAPATI  
SAI BABA  
BADEBABA  
SHAMA  
KHANDOBA  
BHAGOJI  
BUTI  
SAMADHI  
SHIRDI  
DASGANU

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | A | S | G | A | N | U | G | H | K |
| G | T | A | T | Y | A | S | U | J | H |
| J | I | S | F | H | N | U | R | K | R |
| S | H | A | M | A | F | M | U | H | B |
| A | M | I | R | R | S | H | P | A | A |
| M | Q | B | I | A | H | A | U | N | D |
| A | X | A | H | B | I | L | R | D | E |
| D | G | B | V | U | R | S | N | O | B |
| H | J | A | S | T | D | A | I | B | A |
| I | K | D | L | I | I | P | M | A | B |
| P | O | P | W | Y | G | A | A | J | A |
| N | M | L | V | H | U | T | T | M | J |
| B | H | A | G | O | J | I | T | C | N |

Fill Our  
Beloved  
BABA  
with  
lovely  
colours  
&

Please post with your  
full contact details  
to:

Shirdi Saibaba Temple London  
Union Road  
Wembley, Middx  
HA0 4AU



# Word Search Solution & References

## Word Search Solution in BOLD

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | A | S | G | A | N | U | G | H | K |
| G | T | A | T | Y | A | S | U | J | H |
| J | I | S | F | H | N | M | R | K | R |
| S | H | A | M | A | F | H | U | H | B |
| A | M | I | R | R | S | A | P | A | A |
| M | Q | B | I | A | H | L | U | N | D |
| A | X | A | H | B | I | A | R | D | E |
| D | G | B | V | U | R | S | N | O | B |
| H | J | A | S | T | D | A | I | B | A |
| I | K | D | L | I | I | P | M | A | B |
| P | O | P | W | Y | G | A | A | J | A |
| N | M | L | V | H | U | T | T | M | J |
| B | H | A | G | O | J | I | T | C | N |

### Disclaimer

“SAI DHUNI” or “Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)” does not claim any copyright on the articles and or pictures posted in this magazine and does not claim authenticity of the same. The liability of writing original articles and giving credit to original authors rests upon the members who have submitted the posts. All the articles undergo a basic level of editing to make them fit for the magazine and to cater to the overall objective of the magazine without changing their essence. This includes abbreviating the articles or doing grammatical corrections or changing the topic of the post or any other edit deemed fit by the editorial team. Checks for copyright violations are done and acknowledged in bibliography, it is at a very primitive level and the overall responsibility of the articles submitted rests with the members. “SHITAL” is a non-profit organisation aiming at spreading spirituality in its various forms while maintaining emphasis on Shirdi Sai Baba.

## References

- 1) (Shri Sai Satcharita, Chapter IV, page 16, English Version)
- 2) (Shri Sai Satcharita, Chapter 4, page 21, English Version)
- 3) (page 17, 18 & 21 Shri Sai Satcharita)
- 4) [https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new\\_eng%20template\\_shirdi/shirdi/introduction.html](https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new_eng%20template_shirdi/shirdi/introduction.html)
- 5) <http://www.shirdikesaibaba.org/history/>
- 6) <http://saibabadwarkamai.com/forum/index.php?topic=1648.0>
- 7) <http://www.saiLeelas.org/books.htm>
- 8) <http://saibabadwarkamai.com/forum/index.php?topic=4325.0>
- 9) <http://www.asiantribune.com/news/2009/10/02/sai-baba-3000-Temples-andhra-pradesh-100-centres-us-first-ever-animation-film-sai-ba>
- 10) (Chapter 14 – Shri Sai Sat Charitra)
- 11) (Shri Sai Satcharita Chapters 18 & 19)
- 12) <http://babaprayers.blogspot.com/2010/03/discipline-of-speech.html>
- 13) <http://www.shirdibaba.org/aboutsai/ss.htm>
- 14) <http://www.mail-archive.com/saimsg@googlegroups.com/msg00832.html>
- 15) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2008/05/shraddha-faith-and-saburi-patience-twin.html>
- 16) Chapter 6, 10 & 24 Shree Sai Satcharita
- 17) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/10/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about.html>
- 18) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/09/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about-human.html>
- 19) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about-deeds.html>
- 20) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about-cycles.html>
- 21) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about-nine.html>
- 22) [http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about\\_13.html](http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about_13.html)
- 23) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about.html>
- 24) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about-food.html>
- 25) [http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about-food\\_04.html](http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2009/08/shirdi-sai-babas-philosophy-about-food_04.html)
- 26) <http://www.saiLeelas.org/books.htm>
- 27) <http://www.shirdisaibabastories.org/2010/11/complete-shirdi-guide-history-and.html>
- 28) [https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new\\_eng%20template\\_shirdi/shirdi/khandoba\\_Temple.html](https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new_eng%20template_shirdi/shirdi/khandoba_Temple.html)
- 29) [https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new\\_eng%20template\\_shirdi/shirdi/gurusthan.html](https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new_eng%20template_shirdi/shirdi/gurusthan.html)
- 30) [https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new\\_eng%20template\\_shirdi/shirdi/chavdi.html](https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new_eng%20template_shirdi/shirdi/chavdi.html)
- 31) [https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new\\_eng%20template\\_shirdi/shirdi/lendi\\_gardens.html](https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new_eng%20template_shirdi/shirdi/lendi_gardens.html)
- 32) [https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new\\_eng%20template\\_shirdi/shirdi/samadhi\\_mandir.html](https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new_eng%20template_shirdi/shirdi/samadhi_mandir.html)
- 33) [https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new\\_eng%20template\\_shirdi/shirdi/other\\_Temples.html](https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new_eng%20template_shirdi/shirdi/other_Temples.html)
- 34) <http://www.religiousportal.com/Pandharpur.html>
- 35) [https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new\\_eng%20template\\_shirdi/shirdi/ramnavmi.html](https://www.shrisaibabasansthan.org/new/new_eng%20template_shirdi/shirdi/ramnavmi.html)
- 36) Chapter 3 Shri Sai Satcharita
- 37) <http://saibabadwarkamai.com/forum/index.php?topic=1648.0>
- 38) <http://www.liveindia.com/sai/Devotees.html>

*“See, how I have to suffer for my Devotees,  
their difficulties are Mine”*



# Acknowledgement

By Baba's Grace, SHITAL would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Generous Support & Well-wishers. Special Thanks to Trustees & Management of Shri Elapateeshwara Temple (Shiva Temple).

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shri Saibaba<br>Sansthan Trust, Shirdi<br>Shri Anup Jalota & family<br>Sudhir Choudhry & family<br>Mr. Nagrecha & family<br>Dhiren Badian & family<br>Mr. Hiro Makhijani & family<br>Jayaben Patel & family<br>Dipak Puri & family<br>Deepak Saswadkar & family | Kaycee & family<br>Gopalbhai Mistry & family<br>Vivek & Gopi Ana.<br>Apa & Kumar Aya<br>Star TV Uk.<br>New Sound Radio<br>Sabra's Radio<br>Hindu Forum Britain.<br>Vascroft Contractors Ltd<br>Lords Merchants Builders | M & N Builders.<br>Quality Food Stores<br>Kingsway Tandoori<br>Hyderabad Tastes<br>Anand Paan Centre<br>VideoRama Paan Centre<br>Meera Paan House<br>Vikram Mithas<br>Watchdog Security<br>Gogy Chandra | Vikas Mehta<br>Laxman Kaluri & Ram<br>Abhishek Chavda &<br>Bhajan Group.<br>Ashok Parmar<br>Manjit Singh Juttla<br>AutoPoint Cars |
|---|---|---|---|

Hats off to the hardworking Volunteers below:

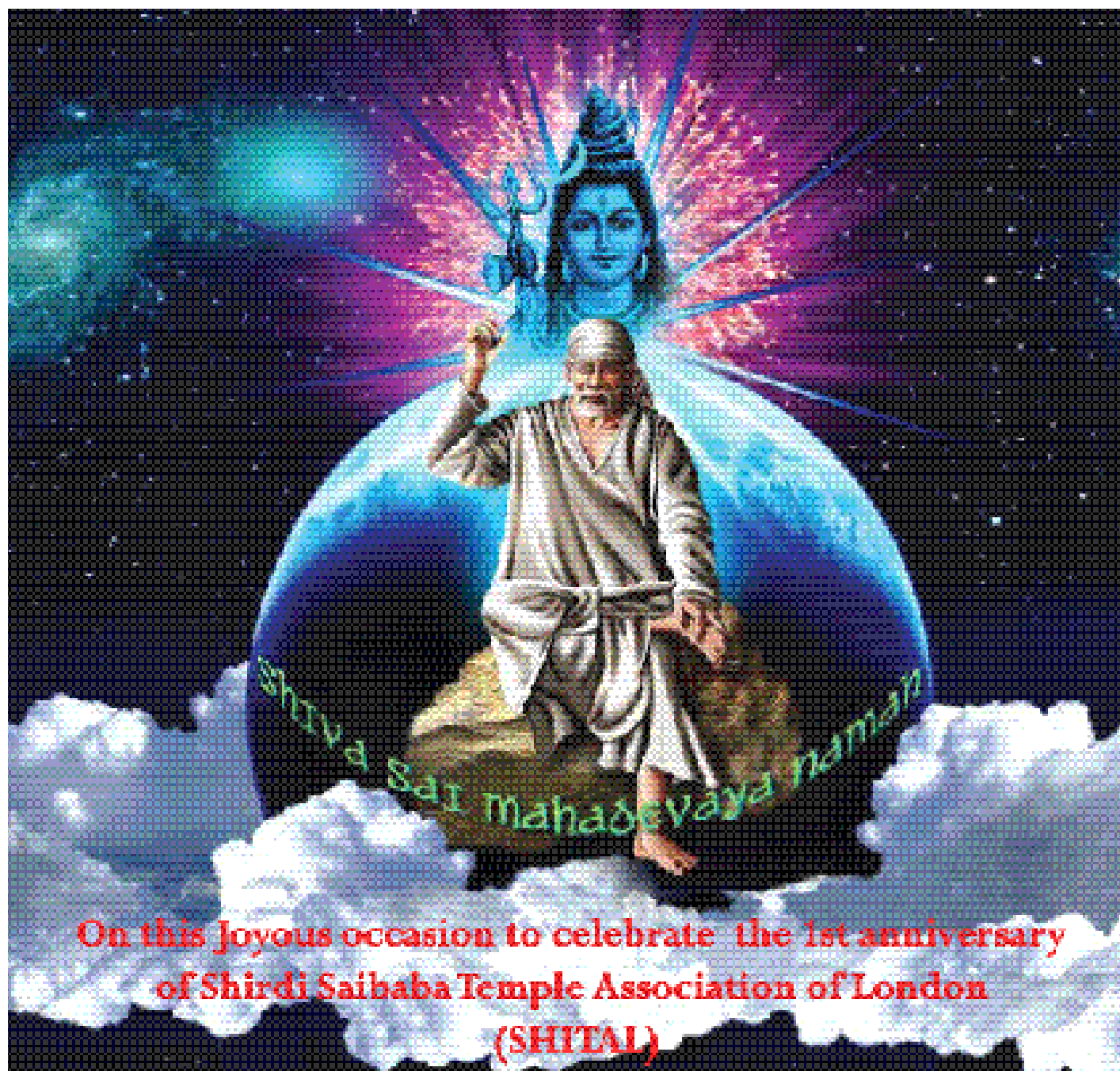
|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abhilesh Jawanjal<br>Abhisaran Kalluri<br>Mr. Ali<br>Anand Acharya<br>Anil Patel<br>Anita Chuhan<br>Anjana Patel<br>Annapurna Divvela<br>Archana Patel<br>Arpan Soni<br>Avninder Ghai<br>Mr. Balan<br>Baldeep Nagi<br>Bhanukumar Pashm<br>Bharatkumar Dave<br>Bijal Yagnik<br>Chinmayee Krishnamoorthy<br>Darshan Singh Nagi<br>Dayalji Sachania<br>Dev Joshi<br>Diabhai Panchal<br>Dipal Patel<br>Divyesh Dhamali<br>Gaurang and his wife<br>Geeta Jadeja<br>Gopal Patel<br>Gunjan Patel<br>Gurpreet Nagi<br>Hansa Mistry<br>Hardik Vaidya<br>Haritha Dudala<br>Harpreet Sandhu<br>Harshad Parmar<br>Harshal Lonare<br>Hasmukhbhai Joshi<br>Hemali Patel | Hetal Salvi<br>Hitesh Patel<br>Hitesh Soni<br>Inderjeet Nagi<br>Jatin Patel<br>Jigarkumar Bhatt<br>Jignesh Patel<br>Jitendra Manchanda<br>Mr. Jonas<br>Jyothsna Praveen<br>Kailashben Patel<br>Gopal Dave<br>Kalpana Acharya<br>Kalyani Patel<br>Kantaben<br>Keerat Khalsa<br>Kiran Haldankar<br>Krupa Patel<br>Kuldeep Nagi<br>Kunal Ghogre<br>Kusumben<br>Lal Tejwani<br>Lalji Patel<br>Lata Patel<br>Madhusudan Krishnamoorthy<br>Mahendra Savani<br>Mahesh Shah<br>Manisha Joshi<br>Manisha Parmar<br>Mr. Manoj<br>Mr. Maulik<br>Mayur Zinzuvadia<br>Meena Joshi<br>Meera Bahl<br>Megi Deva<br>Milind Patil | Mukesh Bhatt<br>Mr. Nagar<br>Nalin Mehta<br>Narendra Tharwani<br>Naresh Patel<br>Nareshna Shah<br>Neethu Urs<br>Niranjana Ganesan<br>Mr. Nischay<br>Nishant Hajare<br>Pankaj Shah<br>Pavan Ratan<br>Pradip Parmar<br>Prasath Suthagar<br>Ms. Priyanka<br>Radheshyam Karwal<br>Rahul Kulkarni<br>Rahul Sharma<br>Raj Vyasbhattu<br>Rajabhai Singh<br>Rajesh Dudala<br>Rajesh Jagtap<br>Raju Kamella<br>Ram Bhatt<br>Ramachandra Yelluri<br>Rameshkumar K Mehta<br>Ranjanaben Hariyani<br>Rashi Malhi<br>Rashmika Patel<br>Reena Kakkad<br>Rishi Gautam<br>Roshan Goswami<br>Sai Krishna<br>Samir Khatri<br>Sandip Gohil<br>Sanjay Bhiraj | Satish Divvela<br>Shilpa Kanchan<br>Shilpa Patil<br>Mr. Shyam<br>Simmi Patel<br>Simone Acke<br>Smriti Andhin<br>Sravanthi Krishnamoorthy<br>Sreenivasa Kumar Thota<br>Mr. Sreeram<br>Mr. Sudhakar<br>Sudhakar Akula<br>Sue Merry<br>Sunny Vanraj<br>Swaroop Ramadugu<br>Swastik Gurung<br>Swati Kamella<br>Tejal Patel<br>Tripjot Oberoi (Sonu)<br>Uday Tikoo<br>Ujjwala Chevuri<br>Mr. Vanish<br>Vanitaben Vanraj<br>Varsha Parmar<br>Varun Patil<br>Venu Gokaram<br>Vijay Parmar<br>Vikram Vikrant<br>Vimal Tadv<br>Vimal Tadv<br>Vinit Lakhani<br>Viraj Tadv<br>Yesha Lakhani<br>Zarrin Pestonji |
|---|---|---|---|

If we have forgotten to acknowledge anyone, we would like to apologise.

**Your Support & Dedication is Valuable to SHITAL.**

*"Mediate always on My formless nature which is knowledge incarnate, consciousness and bliss"*





On this Joyous occasion to celebrate the 1st anniversary  
of Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London  
(SHITAL)

We would like to take this opportunity  
to Congratulate all the Trustees, Volunteers  
and Devotees  
for their profound dedication towards the temple.

**Specialist in 12 karat Gold and Diamond Jewellery**

**OM SAI JEWELLERS**

EXCLUSIVE JEWELLERY SHOWROOM

276 BATH ROAD HOUNSLOW WEST

MIDDLESEX TW4 7DF

TEL/FAX: 020 8572 7700



# Shivam Nursing Home



*Our staff at Shivam Nursing Home are highly skilled to provide you with 24 hour high standard of nursing care. There will be a registered nurse on duty at all times, on-going training for all staff and support workers. We intend to offer full nursing care for the following types of resident:*

- General and Medical Clients
- Elderly Clients
- Terminally Ill
- Physically Disabled
- Respite Care
- 100% Vegetarian



**Shivam Nursing Home**  
**12 Chaplin Road**  
**Wembley**  
**London**  
**HA0 4TX**

**Tel: 0208 903 6878**

# NAGRECHA CHARITABLE TRUST

Wishes

Shirdi Saibaba Temple Association of London (SHITAL)

Happy 1st Anniversary

## SHIRDI SAI BHAJANS

(including Dhoop Aarti as done in Shirdi)

## IN EAST LONDON

LOCATION :

HARIBEN BACHUBHAI NAGRECHA HALL

198-202 LEYTON ROAD

E15 1DT

Tel : 0208 555 0318, [eastlondon@shirdisai.org.uk](mailto:eastlondon@shirdisai.org.uk)

Every Sunday 4:00P.M. to 6:00P.M.

*Followed by Preeti Bhoj*

FREE COPIES OF *Shri Sai Satcharitra*

Volunteers required

### SHITAL

Union Hall,  
Union Road  
Wembley.  
Middlesex.  
HA0 4AU  
London, U.K.

Tel: 020 8902 2311

E-mail:

[sai@shirdisai.org.uk](mailto:sai@shirdisai.org.uk)  
[www.shirdisai.org.uk](http://www.shirdisai.org.uk)



## SAI DHUNI

E-mail:

[info@saidhuni.com](mailto:info@saidhuni.com)  
[www.saidhuni.com](http://www.saidhuni.com)  
(To be launched soon)

### DWARAVATI

85 Wembley Hill  
Road  
Wembley.  
Middlesex.  
HA9 8BU  
London, U.K.

Tel: 020 8795 0684

E-mail:

[sai@shirdisai.org.uk](mailto:sai@shirdisai.org.uk)  
[www.shirdisai.org.uk](http://www.shirdisai.org.uk)