



Aura of Shirdi Sai



SaiAura
I AM EVERYWHERE —

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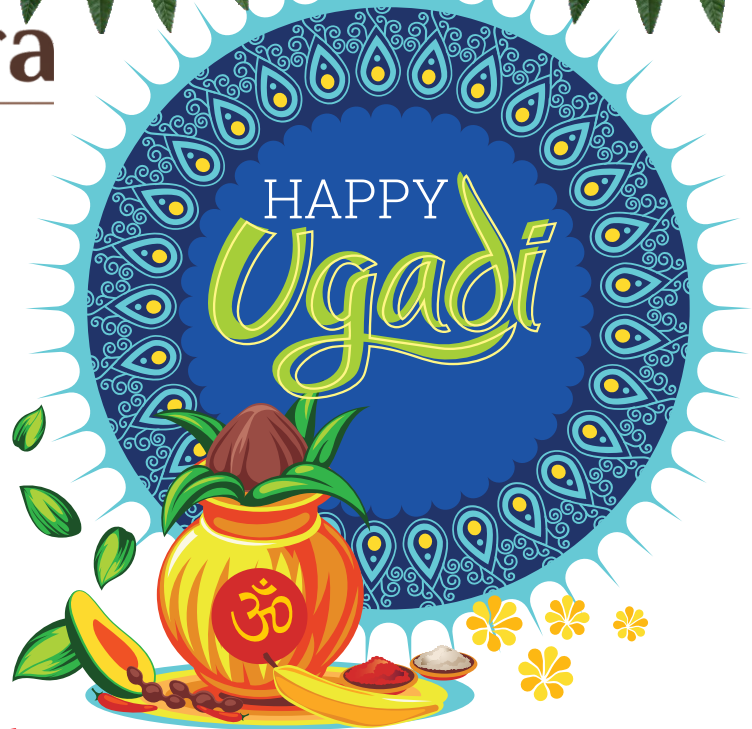
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I saw a movie at Las Vegas USA during my short visit in May 2017. In this film a devotee had the opportunity to take God's job. He found out quickly that God is loaded with all kinds of gifts and has a few billions of people waiting for this



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O My Lord SAINATH

by **Dr. A.R. Mohapatra**

Lord Sainath! You are Omnipotent
You are Omniscient
You are in all.

O Lord Sainath! You are kind and great
Love and blessed
Truth and beauty.

O Lord Sainath! You are power of all powers
Sweet and sublime
Pure and perfect.

O Lord Sainath! You are Soul of all self
God of the Universe
Friend of all.

O Lord Sainath! You are within and without
Forms or no forms
Qualities or no qualities.

O Lord Sainath! You are Thy grace supreme
Doer of all good
Destiny of all JIVAS

O Lord Sainath! You are the principal guide
Shelter of all
Devotion of devotees.

O Lord Sainath! You are eternal creation
Sustainer of all
Destroyer of the universe

In his early days at Shirdi, Baba had undertaken the mission of service to the sick and disabled. He would visit them, treat them and nurse them at their homes with herbs and medicinal plants.

Sitting near them He would reassure them with His sweet and compassionate words. His loving behavior made them happy and their bodies and minds recovered in no time! The miracle on the Deepawali day in 1860, attracted many villagers from the neighborhood to seek his blessings and hopes of divine healing many incurable diseases and other miseries. Many lepers had come for cure!

Sai Baba is a role model of our Vedic prayer:

“My He protect us together

Nourish us together

May our studies shine and be effective and

May we not hate others."

Our motto should be:

“Be good and do good

Simple living and high thinking.”

Our prayers should be –

“Let noble thoughts come to us from every side”

In short, compassion is the most efficacious way for all to realize Sai Baba. It equally applies to the learned and the illiterate. At the very first step of Sai-Bhakti all distinctions of birth, and social status vanishes. Once we develop compassion, Sai Baba will ensure our steady progress.

A Story on Human Behavior

by **Sri Radhakrishna Swamiji**

When I was with Sri Narasimha Swamiji at Madras in the early nineteen forties, a devotee came to him and confessed that she resented a prominent devotee of All India Sai Samaj. Sri Narasimha Swamiji said to her, "Go to her immediately. Don't try to justify yourself. Tell her that you have had unkind thoughts about her. Be humble and ask for forgiveness."

The woman said, "I can't forget the hurt she had inflicted on me." But Sri Narasimha Swamiji told her that she holds a grudge against her and there is a danger of hurt leading to hatred which makes her miserable. Sai Baba has stated that the 'Divine' has assumed different names and forms and has manifested in realized persons so that they could guide sincere seekers on the path of transcendence. Some great spiritual experiences bestowed upon disciples through their Guru may not be even known to the Guru. This is because Divine Consciousness is utilizing the form of the physical Guru as an instrument to help genuine seekers in their evolution. Thus, all Gurus, avatars and prophets put together represent 'One Reality'. This Divine Consciousness is timeless and omniscient. 'Dakshinamurthy' is the teacher of all teachers.

When we surrender ourselves before the Divine, this seed of omniscience is positioned in us and in due course of time it sprouts and flourishes, thereby dissolving all falsehoods. Whenever a seeker has the sincere aspiration to progress, Divine Consciousness graciously appears on the scene either in its original formless state or by assuming a form to guide the person. There are some seekers who keep on searching for an ideal Guru! What is required is



deep faith. Do not bother about external attributes or practices.

Sai Baba is close behind our thoughts as an avatar of Divine Consciousness. His devotees do not require mantra, tantra, pothi, pilgrimage, fasting, rituals and study of love because He himself is the final destination to be sought (Satchidananda). He is love, truth, ananda.

Sri Narasimha Swamiji told the devotee that had approached him the story of Sai Baba serving a common fakir Jawahar Ali who visited Shirdi sometime in 1870 and claimed to be the Guru of Sai Baba. He knew Koran by heart. He was a good conversationist. Besides Koran, he had studied Ramayana, Gita, Bhagavatha etc., from which he used to quote profusely and had won arguments



Swamiji often sang: “Haridwar, Mathura, Kashi Shirdi mein teerth saare hain, Sai Baba ke charano mein Charo dhama hamare hain.” conveying the meaning that Shirdi is a pilgrimage place in which Haridwar, Mathura and Kashi are all embraced and encompassed. All the four great places of worship are found at Sai Baba's Holy Feet.

Sai Baba's Love Plays in My Heart

by **Usha Ranganathan**

In the temple of my heart
Dwells a beautiful babe
Of surpassing charm
Its name is Sai Baba's love
It wanders freely inside the temple
Throwing light wherever it goes
A festival of flowers of varied hues
Adorn the soft pathway
The pools of crystal water shine
Here and there in its light
The tiny birds with multi-dyed feather
Fly lightly over the bewitching scene
Strains of the music fill the fragrant air
Throbbing with sweetest 'OM SAI RAM'
Sai Baba's love hovers all things
Sai Baba's presence permeates space
Sai Baba smiles – a smile unique
Radiating joy and peace for ever and ever
And Sai Baba manifests the entire universe
Now it alone is – all is it.

This incident convinced Dabholkar that Sai Baba is a super power and his hostile attitude softened! Later he visited Shirdi. Sai Baba called him 'Hemadpant' and gave him the task of compiling details of his life. That is how Sai Satcharitra was composed. Even before he could have his physical darshan, Sai Baba went in search of his biographer.



Sainath's Protective Umbrella

By **Dr. G.R. Vijayakumar**

I made a pilgrimage to Amarnath in 2015. It was a perilous journey in the Himalayas amidst snow-storm, rainfall and severe cold. Helicopter services were cancelled. The only option was palanquin costing Rs.12,000 or a horse. I chose the palanquin. Walking slowly over snow-covered mud and ice, the boys avoided holes in the ice. Some holes were so big that you could see a river flowing underneath. We passed a big rock next to the river and I could see several pilgrims taking bath before entering the holy cave.

After trekking 48 kilometers, we arrived at the steps leading to the holy cave. The young men helped me get off the palanquin and said, 'Uncle, we will wait here for you'. I started walking up a few steps and soon became aware of the high

altitude. I stopped, caught my breath, and walked up another few steps. I was glad to see that I was not the only one who had to rest. Even people younger than me had to stop for a while.

For a while, I wondered as to how I would climb the steep row of 200 steps. Lord Sainath watched my helplessness and sent me help. A girl of 19-20 years came near me and asked me in Hindi, 'Brother, do you need any assistance?' Even before I nodded, she took my hand and slowly led my way. As we climbed, she gave me water to drink and bottled 'Fruity' juice.

As soon as we reached the level walkway inside the holy cave, I felt completely overwhelmed. The combination of exhaustion, high altitude, shortage of breath, and intense emotion as I was imbibing the sheer power of the place made me



PART 3

In the year following his first visit to Shirdi, Ramanavami Utsav celebrations were started in Shirdi and at that time as a token of his gratitude to Baba, he arranged at his cost a grand ceremony of “The standards Procession” and he continued that Standard Procession for next 40 years, by providing one ornamental standard on that occasion every year.

Children's Victory Over Alexander

by **R. Seshadri**

*M*y Guru Sri Radhakrishna Swamiji was fond of children. He used to tell them – Take out the word 'IMPOSSIBLE' from your life.

The Greek Emperor Alexander was victorious against all rulers in the world. He destroyed men and material, and nobody could defeat him. As he was victorious in a series of wars information reached a city that he was expected to invade a prosperous city in North India. People were scared of the massive destruction that Alexander and his army would cause in a chorus.

However, one young man was confident of victory against Alexander. He was a poet. He composed a heart-rendering poem and taught it to children.

Next day, when Alexander entered the city with his army, he did not come across soldiers but a group of lovely children in their uniform holding colored bunting and flowers. They were singing in a chorus-“O mighty Alexander. We welcome you to this Children home. We have no desire to wage a war with you. Give us an opportunity to learn, play and live in peace”.

Alexander was delighted and ordered the soldiers to return. When children said 'Victory to Alexander' he countered – 'No, no. It is not my victory. Your love has defeated me'

World needs love and affection.

Book Review



Sai Baba's 261 Leelas, Author – Balakrishna Panday,

Published by Sterling Paperbacks, New Delhi - 110020

Pp – 190 pages Price –Rs.125/-

This book puts together the authentic and pithy miracles of Sai Baba during 1900-1918. They are arranged under scintillating titles. The comments are like a thriller, 'Believe it or not and yet it all did happen'. The readers will be deeply moved by the sentiments of devotion expressed therein.

—*Capt. V.K. Kadam*

Nanasaheb Nimonkar

B. Uma Maheswara Rao

Shankarrao Raghunath Deshpande alias Nanasaheb Nimonkar was from Nimon which was a small village 20 miles from Shirdi. Balwantrao who was father of Shama, was Nimonkar's uncle. Nanasaheb Nimonkar was Inamdar of Nimon. As he came from Nimon village, he was called Nanasaheb Nimonkar.

Nanasaheb Nimonkar was a special Magistrate of Sangamner and Village Chief of 5 villages in and around Nimon. He also owned many acres of land in Nimon village and was very affluent and a very influential person. He was married to Jayaji who hailed from Belapur. He left everything in his ancestral village and went along with his wife to Shirdi and settled there permanently to do service to Baba. Nana used to address Baba as “Deva” and Baba used to address Nana as “Matara Kaka”. Nana served Baba till his Mahasamadhi with utmost love and devotion.

Nanasaheb Nimonkar first met Sai Baba at the Maruthi Temple at Rahata in 1890. Nana Saheb Nimonkar was the blessed devotee to whom Baba gave his Holy Padukas in the year 1898.

Once Balwantrao took Nimonkar to Baba saying, "People believe he is a mad fakir. I doubt if he is really mad, but you had better go with me, see him and give me your opinion." Whenever Balwantrao had gone to see Baba the latter kept him at a distance by taking up a brickbat and either flinging it or threatening to fling it at him. Thus He kept him away from going into the mosque. But when Balwantrao and Nimonkar went to see him, Baba did not fling any stone and they went near Baba. Nimonkar was attracted to



Late Shri Nanasaheb Nimonkar

Baba as soon as he saw Baba and on his return to home he told his uncle with certainty that Baba was a divine saint and not a mad fakir. Balwantrao could not understand as to why stones were hurled when he went to Baba earlier but not on the present occasion. For this Nimonkar said, "That is because you doubted if Baba was mad, but I did not". From that moment onwards, Nimonkar visited Baba several times.

Sri Ramanavami celebrations were permitted by Baba in the year 1911 in Shirdi. Every year, two new flags were ceremoniously carried in the procession and tied to the dome of the Dwarakamai by fixing permanently. Damodar Sevalram Rasane, a staunch devotee of Baba was supplying the green flag and Nimonkar was providing embroidered flag at the time of these celebrations. This tradition was continued by the



Complimentary copy. Not for sale.