

The Glory of Shirdi Sai

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श्रद्धा

गुरुब्रहमा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः | गुरुः शाक्षात परब्रहम तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः:||



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Leela 97

The wondrous Leela of the cure of Harishchandra Pithale's epileptic son is given in Ch.26 of Sai Satcharitra. Harishchandra was blessed by Baba who said "Bapu I have given you Rs.2/- earlier, keep these Rs.3/- along with them, and perform their proper puja,

regularly. It will benefit you greatly". Harishchandra returned home and tried to solve the mystery of Baba's words, as it was the first trip to Shirdi. His mother narrated how his father had received Rs.2/- from Swamy Samarth, earlier thus solving the mystery.

The whole family had gathered to hear, all about the pilgrimage to Shirdi. His brother Vishnu Pant Balwa nt was also present, and a keen desire to visit Shirdi arose in him. He worked as a Thalati in Ville Parle and was rather busy. In 1917 he first visited Shirdi. Carefully he made all preparations, and roamed the fruit market so he could get the choicest unripe mangoes. Finally he found a fruit vendor who had delectable mangoes. Making sure that the fruit were unblemished and unripe he bought a basket of mangoes and set out to Shirdi. Thinking in his mind "If I get ripe mangoes they will spoil by the time I reach Shirdi, but these unripe mangoes will ripen there".

He reached Kopergaon and proceeded thence to Shirdi. Here at Shirdi Baba was sitting with his devotees and talking, when the Dwarakamai was filled with an aroma of mangoes. The devotees looked at each other and wondered where the mangoes were kept. As Baba said nothing they just waited. Vishnu Pant in the meantime reached Shirdi and kept his belongings and the mangoes in the room and went for 'Dhuli Darshan'. Baba welcomed him saying "What have you brought for Me? Where are the mangoes?" Vishnu Pant was abashed and said "Baba the mangoes are in the room as they are unripe" to which Baba replied "Go and fetch them, can't you smell them?" Vishnu Pant went to the room and brought the basket and placed it before Baba. Upon opening it he was surprised that the mangoes were ripened perfectly and were ready to eat.

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Krupaya palitha arbhakaya

Namaha



By Shri S.N.Huddar (As published in Sri Sai Leela English Monthly Magazine from April 1975 onwards) Gurur Brahma, Gurur Vishnu, Gurur Devo Maheshwara Guru Sakshat Parabrahmah Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah

Chapter XV

Principal Holy Places of Bharat

Shri Guru lived at Arogya Bhavani secretly because many persons approached him at any time. These included the good and bad, honest and dishonest, cunning, rich and poor, diseased men of all castes, cults, sex, and ages. Parashurama killed Kartikeya (Arjuna) and gave the earth in charity to the Brahmins. Still the Brahmins approached him and asked for more. So Parashurama lived in the sea secretly. Similarly Shri Guru sent all his disciples on pilgrimage and himself lived secretly.

The disciples asked, 'Gurudev, why are you indifferent with us. Vedas and Shastras say that- all the holy places are at thy feet? When Kalpataru is near us, why should we go elsewhere?' Shri Guru- As you are Sanyasis, you should visit different holy places and make your mind firm. I shall go to Shri Shailya in Bahudhanya Sanwatsar. You should come and see me there.

The disciples - one disobeying Shri Guru has to go to hell. So we go to the holy places as per your instructions but kindly tell us to which places we should go. Shri Guru - Kashi is a famous holy place on earth. It is on the bank of Bhagirathi (Ganga). You travel 60 yojans (yojan-2miles) by its bank and observe 60 Krishhra prayashchittas. Then go to Prayag (Alahabad) and observe 120 Krichhras. There are 25 gram (town) on the bank of Yamuna and 40 on the bank of Saraswati. Take bath in the river daily. This is like performing a sacrifice. One attains Brahma in the end.

Travel by the tank of rivers as Varuna, Kushavarti, Krishnaveni, Vitasta, Saraswati, Marudvriddha, Asikni, Madhumati, Payasvini, Ghritvati, Deonadi etc. At every place take bath and Prayashchitta. Even sin of Brahmahatya is wiped off. Travel by the banks of Chadrabhaga, Revati, Sharyu, Gouthami, Vedika, Koushiki, Mandakini, Sahasravakra, Purna Bahuda, Aruna. Bath at a Sangam confluence of rivers is like that of Prayag.

Will Continue



Pujyasri B.V.Narasimhaswamiji, who visited Shirdi in the year 1936, collected authentic information about Lord Sainath from persons lived with Sai and wrote many books on Lord Sainath. All his works are authentic. One such book is SRI SAINATHA MANANAM. This book was published as early as in the year 1942 and the fourth edition came in the year 1945.

Prayers

Oh Lord Sainath, Give me Thy uplifting arms as I am blind and robbed of my most valuable treasure viz. Viveka by the strong robbers named Indriyas and thrown into the pit of a deep well viz. the darkness of delusion.

Oh God Sainath! lend me they uplifting arm as I have got into a miserable plight viz. being cast into the well of Samsara which is terrible and of immeasurable depth and infested by hundreds of serpents viz., grieves and sorrows.

Oh Lord Sai, in point of Pathaka(demerit) none can equal me; and in point of purification, none can equal you. Keeping this in mind do what you deem fit.

When a person stumbles against something on earth he falls down upon and is supported by earth alone; (similarly) Oh Sai, having offended you I have still to seek, refuge with you alone.

Oh Guru. Sai What is there strange in this that you have shown your fullest mercy towards me! Even after a son goes on perpetually repeating his dereliction of duties, the Mother sill continue to forgive him and look after him.

Bhagwan Sainatha who is described by wise men in their own ways according to their own taste, and by meditating on whose feet in full Samadhi, one's heart is purified and there with one sees the Self,--May he be propitious unto me!





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Krsna rama síva threya maruthyadhi svarupa dhruthe

Namaha



ishnu SahasraNaa

VISHNU SAHASRANAMA STOTRAM kalaneminiha shauri surah surajenesvarah | trilokatma trilokesah kesavah kesiha harih || 69||

kalaneminiha: om kala-nemi-nighne namah.

- a) The destroyer of the wheel of ignorance of Time.
- b) The Destroyer of the asura by name kalanemi.
- c) He Who sets the direction for the sun who is the controller of Time.
- d) He Who is beyond the wheel of Time.

saurih: Om sauraye namah

a) The son of Sura (another name for Vasudeva), or He Who is born in the race of suras, a Yadava clan.

b) A reference of Sauri rajap perumal of tirukkannapuram

c) He Who is ever valiant and victorious. .

surah: Om suraya namah The Valiant.

sura-janesvarah: Om sura-janesvaraya namah. The Chief of the sura-s or the valiant people.

tri-lokatma: Om tri-lokatmane namah

- a) He who ever moves about in the three worlds.
- b) He Who makes the three worlds move about.
- c) He Who is the atma for everything in all the three worlds.

kesavah: Om kesavaya namah.

- a) One who has beautiful locks of hair.
- b) He whose hair is of supreme fragrance.
- c) He who is the source or origin of Brahma and Siva.
- d) He who is the source of the rays emanating from the Sun etc.
- e) The Slayer of Kesi.
- f) The tormentor of His enemies.
- g) One who has adhipatyam over water (oceans etc.).

h) One who has adhipatyam over the different kinds of sukham (including moksham).

kesiha: Om kesighne namah

a) He who killed the asura by name Kesi.

b) He who directs Agni, Surya, Indra, Vayu etc. in their functions. .

harih: om haraye namah.

a) The green-hued.

b) He Who removes the distress of His devotees.

c) He Who wards off samsara with its cause from His devotees.

d) The Destroyer of the Universe at the time of pralaya.

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Happily Vishnu Pant stayed at Shirdi for three days. He made sure he had Rs.15/- for expenses for his return journey. On the day of his departure he bought a photograph of Baba hoping that Baba would touch it. He carried it to the Dwara-kamai and waited. Baba beckoned to him saying "Bhau give Me Rs.15/- as dakshina". Vishnu Pant atonce empted his pocket and gave the Rs.15/-. Then Baba asked him for the photograph, which he happily gave. His joy knew no bounds when Baba took the photograph and held it to his heart for a moment. He returned the photograph and granted him permission to go.

Vishnu Pant though happy was in a quandary, as he had no money. Finally he decided to walk to Kopergaon as there was no money for the tonga. He walked about half a mile or so when a tonga drew up and stopped near him. The driver said "What are you doing walking in the heat of the day? You do not look like a villager?" Vishnu Pant replied "I am Thalati so I am going to the next village". The tonga driver laughed and said "Come and have a seat I will take you to Kopergaon". Vishnu Pant was relieved, and he reached Kopergaon. He alighted from the tonga and collected his belongings. He looked up to thank the tonga driver, but, the driver and the tonga had disappeared. He went into the station and looked around hoping he could find some acquaintances. But no one was around from whom he could borrow money. Finally the train pulled in and he decided to travel ticketless and bear the consequences. At the next station the Ticket Collector entered his compartment looking at him he said "Namaskar, Pithale Saab". Vishnu Pant however, could not recognise him. He feared that since the Ticket Collector recognized him he would surely ask for his ticket and would cause a great deal of embarrassment. But no such thing happened, and he reached Bombay without any problem.

The next day a huge automible pulled up to his doorstep. A well dressed gentleman came to his home and enquired "Are you Thalati, Vishnu Pant Pithale?" Vishnu Pant was bewildered and thought "I must be in trouble now, why is he asking if I am the Thalati?" The gentlaman said "I am J.R.D. Tata, I am in the process of buying land at Sahar (the present airport). I have a huge staff on my pay roll but they can't transcribe the Marathi papers into English and vice- verse. I heard you are a capable Thalati and also bilingual". Vishnu Pant was aghast at what he said and nodded his head. Then the gentleman continued "as a Thalati you earn only Rs.35/- a month. If you agree to work for me I will give you Rs.150/- per a month". Quickly Vishnu Pant said "I will do this transcription for you, but give me two days to think about working for yo u". Tata said "Alright" then drove off.

Vishnu pant was in turmoil now. "What if I give up my Government job with pension and benefits and this man does not keep his word? What if he dismisses me after his work is done?" he thought. He spent a restless night. Suddenly it dawned on him that Baba had emptied his pocket of Rs.15/- and was returning it ten fold. Two days later Tata's Secretary came to his home with the job 'appointment letter' and the details of the job benefits etc. And asked him to sign on the dotted line. He bowed to the photograph that Baba had blessed and signed.





Stories from "Chinna Katha"

Significance of Ramanavami ~ Swami Chidanananda Saraswati

Ram Navami is the birthday of Bhagwan Shri Rama. On this beautiful birthday of Bhagwan Rama, let us ask ourselves the meaning of his birth. What lessons do we learn from the Ramayan, from the glorious example of Bhagwan Rama's life?

Bhagwan Rama exemplified the perfect person; he showed us how to embody the divine on Earth, how to live our lives in accordance with dharma and the divine principles.

The story of the Ramayan is a classic, eternal, universal message of dharma versus adharma, of deva versus demon.

Ravana was a brahmin; he was a great vedic scholar who wrote numerous works on scriptural philosophy. He was powerful, dynamic, and beautiful in appearance. As the brilliant, handsome king of Lanka he had everything one would need to be happy and peaceful. Yet, what made him a demon? He was arrogant, egoistic, greedy and lustful. His insatiable desires led him to crave more and more power, more and more money, and more and more beautiful ladies to fulfill his every whim.

Covetous desires can never be fulfilled, and the ceaseless quest for them brings only frustration. Therefore, regardless of how smart we are, how rich we are, or how beautiful we are, we are demons if our hearts are filled with anger and greed. This is, in essence, the difference between Bhagwan Rama and Ravana. Both were kings; both were learned in the scriptures; both were charismatic; both were beautiful. What makes Rama a god and Ravana a demon?

There is one main difference: Bhagwan Rama's heart overflowed with love, generosity, humility, and a sense of duty. Ravana's heart, in contrast, was filled with avarice, hatred, and egoism. Under Bhagwan Rama's divine touch, the animals became his devotees and his divine helpers. Under Ravana's touch, even humans became ani-

mals.

But we ask, how to be like Bhagwan Rama? How to be godly and peaceful and righteous? How to win the "war of Lanka" within ourselves? Bhagwan Rama has given us the perfect example through his life and his actions. The way to attain divinity, the way to be "perfect," the way to be in peace instead of pieces, is to follow his clear example.

Bhagwan Rama's primary message is: fulfill your duty without any selfish motives; put other people before yourself. When he was exiled to the forest, Bhagwan Rama did not complain, "but that's not fair." He did not fight back in anger. Rather, he helped his father fulfill a promise; he lived according to his duty as a son and as a future king. He did not once think about himself, his own comforts, his own "rights." Rather, he abided by his dharma and his duty.

Ravana's ego led to his own demise, first the demise of his spirit and heart and then the demise of his body. He thought he was the one who ran everything. He thought that he was the "doer" of it all. On the other hand, Bhagwan Rama was always humble, and he never took credit for anything. Even after he victoriously slew Ravana, he reported it to Sitaji only as, "and this is where Ravana died."

As we celebrate this holiday, as we revel in Bhagwan Rama's birth, let us ask ourselves, "Has the Rama taken birth inside us? Has the good in our hearts taken birth?" Ram Navami is not only a holiday about Bhagwan Rama. It is a holy day, about examining ourselves. Life is so short. We never know when the end will come. For how long do we want to let Ravana live in us? For how long do we want to be controlled by Ravana? We must give birth today to Bhagwan Rama in our hearts.

May God bless you all.







Sri Sai Baba's Sermon

SHRI BHAKTA LEELAMRUT

Chapter-31

Appa Kulkarni of Shirdi was a great devotee of Sai Baba. He was once charged with embezzling government money, may be because of his past karma. God alone knew whether the charges were true or false but people started whispering that Appa was a cheat. Appa was scared that he might be taken to court and tried. Soon, sure enough, he received summons from the Deputy Collector asking him to face a court of enquiry. Appa feared that he would never return to Shirdi once he left the place, so before leaving, he went up to Baba with folded hands and pleaded for help. "You are a Sadhu, a Satpurusha. You know whether the charge is true or not. I do not wish to say anything about it but please save me." He caught hold of Baba's feet and started weeping. He then went on to say; "People say I am your Kalyan.(Kalyan was Saint Ramdas' closest disciple). If I were sentenced, your name would be tarnished, You are my father and mother, my sole refuge."

Moved by the Bhakta's earnest pleas. Baba said to Appa, "The Deputy Collector is at present at Nevasa on the banks of the river Pravara. There, in Nevasa, is present the Lord himself, to whom Dyaneswara prayed while writing the Dynaneswari (Bhawartha Deepika). Pray to him before you present yourself at the court of enquiry." Appa did accordingly, and what a wonder! He was acquitted of the charge of embezzlement and his honour vindicated. The next day Appa returned to Shirdi and told Baba everything. Baba said to him, "The Lord controls everything. He turns the impossible into the possible."

.....Will continue

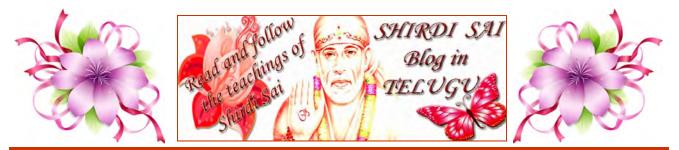


"Sri Ram Jaya Ram Jaya Jaya Ram Sri Ram Jaya Ram Jaya Jaya Ram"



Krupa purnaya Namaha

THE GLORY OF SHIRDI SAI



Srí Sooktam:

Gandha-Dvaaraam Duraadharssaam Nitya-Pussttaam Kariissinniim | Iishvariing Sarva-Bhuutaanaam Taam-Iho[a-u]pahvaye Shriyam ||9||

Meaníng:

9.1: (Harih Om. O Jatavedo, Invoke for me that Lakshmi) Who is the Source of All Fragrances, Who is Difficult to Approach, Who is Always Filled with Abundance and leaves a Residue of Abundance wherever She Reveals Herself.

9.2: Who is the Ruling Power in All Beings; (O Jatavedo) Please Invoke Her Here, Who is the Embodiment of Sri.

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