

The Glory of Shirdi Sai

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श्रद्धा

गुरुब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः | गुरुः शाक्षात परब्रह्म तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः:|| सबुरी

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In the 51st chapter of Sai Satcharitra, details about PHALA-SRUTI, reward for reading the Holy Book i.e. SAI SATCHARIRA, with devotion is given. It is said that miseries disappear for those people who read it with full faith and love towards SAI. It is also said that completion of PARAYAN in seven days time and worshipping him thereafter, all the hurdles disappear and even material desires are fulfilled. It is my routine practice to read one chapter from SATCHARITRA every day. Every time on completion of reading 51 chapters, I experienced a state of mental bliss and something or other happening to increase my faith further. This is one such typical and memorable experience of mine. This will be the last episode in the series titled - EXPERIENCES OF SAI BANISA WITH SHIRDI SAI.

I was deputed to South Korea on official assignment and the same was mentioned in my first experience already covered. One of the incidents that happened in SOUTH KOREA is described here. It was on 15-05-1991, after the day's routine I completed the reading of the 51st chapter in the city of Changwaan and set out to Mr.Lee's residence as he was hosting that night's dinner. After Dinner, Mr. Lee has come out to drop us at our Hotel in his car. It was around half past nine in the night, I was not contented with the day's routine as nothing specific worth the earlier happenings has taken place after completing reading of 51st chapter this time. My thinking process was nagging me that, perhaps I could not read Satcharitra with the expected devotion or SAI is not accepting my prayers from South Korea. Why has he not heeded and responded to my prayers from a foreign land was the most pre-occupied question in my mind.



.continued in page 3

Sii Guan Charitha





Jathí vídhya dhanaíh chapí hínan ardhrahrdha vanaya

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 XXXV

Kach-Devayani

"Once Maitrayani, wife of Yadnyavalkya, came to the king. Simantini request her 'kindly tell me a means, by which my Sowbhagya will be perpetual.' Maitr yani then told her to observe Monday vrata and said, 'by observance of the vrata. Your desires will be fulfilled and you will get all prosperity. Simantitherefore began to observe this vrata devotedly.

"Simantini was married to Chandrangad, son of Indrasen of the famous 'N family, with due festivities. Chandrangad stayed at Chitrayarma for some day Once he went to Kalindi (Yamuna) river with some friends. They were traveling in a ferryboat. All of a sudden the boat sank in the river. Even after diligensearch no trace of Chandrangad was fund.

Simantini and her parents were greatly shocked to know this. Indrasen and havife were deeply grieved. He lost interest in the affairs of his kingdom. Talking this opportunity, his enemies usurped the throne and put Indrasen and his wife jail.

Simantini resolved to observe 'sat' as per the religious rule of a devoted with But as the dead body of her husband was not found, she could not observe the sati-rite as per Shastras. So she was prevented from the observance of sati.

Simantini continued her Monday fast and worship of Shri Shiva.

When Chandrangad was drowned, the Nagkanyas took him to Vasuki in Patal, a beautiful city with buildings glittering with precious stones. The gate of the city was golden and all persons in it were like serpents. Takshak the king with 1000 hoods was sitting on a bright throne. Chandrangad was brought before him Takshak inquired about him with affection and assured him about his safety an asked him to live there happily.

After some days Chandrangad requested Takshak, "I am the only son of my parents. I am recently married and my wife simantini is only 14 years of age. No parents, wife and mother and father-in-law must be mourning deeply for me. Skindly arrange to send me to them very soon."

Will continue



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Excerpts from Sai Leela

LORD SHIVA~ Saileela Jan-Feb 2004

The blue colour of the neck symbolizes the pervasiveness or maya or vidya up to the neck, and beyond the neck is the seat of jnana leading to eternity and immortality. Blue colour represents distance, the vast distance that we'll have to traverse from the realms of the body and the heart to the realms of the intellect and beyond.

Crescent moon: The moon is a very apt symbol of the phenomenon of time with its two important features: duration and periodicity. The crescent moon is an ornament of Lord Shiva's body and not an integral part of it. The unmanifest reality transcends time.

-will continue

Continued from page 1....

All of a sudden as if to make matters light, Mr. Lee came forward, with a proposal and offered to take us to LORD BUDDHA'S TEMPLE located on the hilltop and was seeking our formal permission. I took it as an invitation from LORD SAINATH and readily gave my consent with out any second thought or hesitation. The temple was to close by 10:00 Hrs. in the night. Seeing in me a sudden change and more enthusiastic, he raced the car at a speed of 100 km / Hr., uphill towards the temple in an attempt to reach before its closure. Approximately it took half an hour for the drive and we were there by 10.15PM fortunately for us that day, the temple has, not yet closed.

I felt as if 'LAMA' of the temple was in wait only for us standing at the main entrance to the temple. Mr. Lee introduced me and other colleague of mine Shri. Sreenivasa Rao to LAMA- the chief priest. He recognized both of us as Indians and traditionally welcomed us. Later on he offered us green Tea. LAMA blessed all the three of us in the presence of LORD BUDDHA and presented us three chains to one each containing a silver dollar. My imagination stretched beyond and I could see SAI in LAMA who was donned in white robes. My eyes got wet and with full devotion I prostrated before him. He helped me up, hugged and embraced me with utmost affection. I felt as if his eyes were questioning me whether I felt happy or not at that particular moment. The silver Dollar, which I consider as a gift from BABA in Lama's form and a precious possession is preserved in my prayer room forever.







Iambhunadha parithyagine Namaha



Please enjoy the talk given by Saibanisa ji in Telugu

VISHNU SAHASRANAMA STOTRAM

aadhaaranilayo-adhaata pushpahaasah prajaagarah oordhyagah satpathaachaarah praanadah prranavah panah.||102||

Aadhaaranilayah -"One who is the fundamental sustainer" -the support for all that exists. All things and all beings are supported by the earth which itself rests upon the lord, the self, that each mind projects the entire world of names and forms.

Adhaataa -"Above whom there is no other to control or to command" -One who is the supreme controller of all. He is the Law; the eternal truth is that the Law and the Law-Giver are one and the same.

Pushpahaasah -"He who shines like an opening flower." The bud opens and manifests into the lord at the time of deluge existed as the total Unmanifest, and there after, at the maturity of the vaasanaas, opens up as the manifest world of things and beings. He came to be indicated by this term.

Prajaagarah -"Ever-Awaked" -He who knows no sleep. Sleep means 'non-apprehension.' This 'non-apprehension' of reality is called 'Avidyaa' (nescience) which produces our 'mis-apprehension' of I and mine, and the world of pains and shocks. Since Narayana is the self, He is 'Ever-available" and is never asleep to his Eternal-Divine-Nature.

Oordhyagah -"One who walks the path of truth" -a path which other implicitly follow to reach the Truth Inifinite. "Whatever an adored one does, other people will implicitly follow," warns Krishna in Bhagava Geeta. Lord is the standard of perfection" and all devotees place him as the ideal -trying to imitate, in their own lives, His Absolute Goodness, Absolute Love and Absolute Peace.

THE GLORY OF SHIRDI SAI

Praanadah -"One who gives 'Praana' to all." The term 'Praana' in our Sastras means the physiological functions, the manifestations of life in man. Therefore, Narayana, the self, is the Vital Source from which all sense organs, mind and intellect barrow their power of perception, capacities of feeling and their faculties of thinking and understanding.

Pranavah -"Om-kaara is Pranava." The Infinite reality is indicated by 'OM' in the Vedas. 'OM' is the manifesting sound of the supreme self. Therefore, Sree Narayana is called 'Pranavah': meaning he is of the 'nature of Omkaara."

Panah -"The supreme Manager of the universe." The root 'Pana' means "to transact." By giving the exact rewards for all actions, Lord both orders and justly manages all activities of each individuals and things constituting this scientifically precise universe.

AN ANTHOLOGY OF PRAYERS AND PRECEPTS

Compiled by B.S. NARAYANAMURTHY

HE WHO RECITES THY PRAYERS

He who recites Thy prayers,
Worships Thee and meditates on Thee,
He alone is the blessed among mortals.
His tongue, ears and hands
Are the only limbs worthy of the name.

O Baba! What does it matter
Whether one is a bachelor or householder,
or a recluse or an ascetics or anything else?
Whosoever surrenders his heart fully to Thee
Thou art his saviour and
Will bear the entire burden of his cares.

O Baba! As the person
caught in midstream seeks the bank,
As the weary traveller seeks the cool shade of the tree,
As one caught in rain seeks a strong shelter,
As the guest seeks a hospitable host,
As the poor seeks the protection of a generous patron,
As the person in the dark seeks the lamp,
As one shivering in the cold seeks the warm fireside,
I seek Thy Lotus-feet which dispel all fear.





GITA FOR CHILDREN



Krishna replies, 'Ah, that is because God disguises and hides Himself to see if you can find Him! It is a game He likes to play! Consider a garland with many beautiful flowers. Can a bunch of flowers form a garland all by themselves? You need a connecting

thread don't you? Yet, when you see a garland, is that connecting thread visible? No! I am the foundation and the basis for the physical and manifest Universe. Can you have a house without a foundation? It is the same thing here; and like the foundation of a house, I remain hidden!'

'However, this does not mean My presence cannot be felt or experienced. Let us say you are very thirsty and your throat is absolutely parched. You see a clear stream with cool water flowing in it. You drink that water to your heart's content and find it very refreshing. But you do not know that the sweetness of that cool and fresh water is Me! It is I, latent as sweetness in that water that brings joy to you.'

'Another example. It is a hot and humid day and you are perspiring heavily. Suddenly there is a gust of cool breeze and you feel relief. Arjuna, I am that breeze, giving you that refreshing experience.'

'I am the brilliance of the blazing fire and the radiant blue of the sky. Time being short, I won't give more examples, though I can go on and on till the end of Time! It is enough for you to know that all excellence and beauty in the Universe flows directly from Me. If you see a very intelligent person, know for certain that this person's intelligence is not his own but flows from Me. Your brother Bhima is very strong; you know that; but do you know that his strength is really a tiny part of My strength, reflected via him?'

'And now, a word of caution! Sometimes you would find excellence no doubt but along with it also some unwanted contamination! The excellence is Mine but the contamination does not come from Me! Take, for example, the case of

Hiranyakashipu, the father of Prahalada. Hiranyakashipu was a brilliant scientist and that brilliance essentially came from Me. But he misused that gift of excellence and thereby became a demon.'

'In this world, excellence often appears with contamination. When you encounter such contaminated brilliance, do not ever associate the adulteration with Me! Let us say you go to the stream that I mentioned a minute ago. You have with you two bottles and you fill both with water. One bottle is red while the other is clear. The water in the red bottle would appear red while the water in the other bottle would appear clear. The same water is present in both bottles but they appear different. Why? On account of the colour of the bottle.

'In the same manner, while Divine Power everywhere is pure, humans contaminate it with their innate tendencies or Gunas. More about Gunas later but I hope that you will remember to identify clearly the different origins of excellence on the one hand and contamination on the other.'

'Divine Love also gets adulterated in the same way. Love is My Form and since I am in all, I am present as Pure Love in every Heart. But when it flows out into the world through the Mind, the senses and the body, it almost invariably gets adulterated. This adulterated stuff appears as attachment between mother and son, as infatuation between husband and wife, as desire between man and worldly attractions, and so on.'

'All this adulteration takes place on account of the Gunas. These latent tendencies of the human superimpose themselves on Pure Love, and thus it is that the world is full of only contaminated stuff. It is very difficult to come across Pure Love, and incidentally, that is one reason why God comes down as Avatar, to remind man at least from time to time, what Pure Love really means!'

'The Avatar's Love is Pure and Unsullied because He is always totally above the Gunas. Like a powerful magnet, His Love draws people from everywhere and of all kinds. Yes Arjuna, that is the nature of My Love!'

'Arjuna, all sorts of devotees come to Me, each with his or her own agenda! Broadly speaking, one can identify four categories amongst the devotees. All devotees love Me no doubt but except the devotees in category four, all want something or the other from Me. People in category one want wealth, people in category two want their problems solved and fixed, and people in category three hunger for Knowledge, which, by the way, is a very good thing.'.....Will Continue







Jagaruka vithaprajaya

Namaha

Sri Sai Satcharita

Saibaba-The Invocation of the Divine

All this while, not a word escaped Baba's lips. But as they proceeded to divide the flour into four equal parts, listen to what Baba said.

'Are you out of your senses? Where are you taking the flour? Does it belong to your father that you are carrying it away? Go at once, at the village boundary and throw all the flour at the side of the brook there!

Free-booters, all! How they came running to loot me! Was it some borrowed wheat that you now stake a claim to the flour?'

Fretting and fuming in their hearts, and greatly ashamed of their greediness, the women, in their discomfiture began whispering amongst themselves. But, all the same, they at once set out for the village boundary, as commanded

No one understood Baba's intention, at first, and the reason for his actions appeared to be beyond one's understanding. A patient waiting was ultimately rewarded by an understanding of his marvelous ways!

Later, I asked people why Baba did all this, and they said that in this way Baba banished the disease from the village, altogether.

It was not wheat, but the terrible cholera epidemic that he fed to the quern to be crushed. Afterwards, he got the coarsely ground flour to be thrown along the side of the brook at the village border.

When the flour was thus thrown away, the epidemic was on the wane from then onwards and the days of distress were over for the village. Such was Baba's skillful handling!

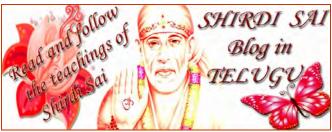
A cholera epidemic chanced to erupt in the village, and this was the mysterious remedy employed by Baba to counter it. The disease was eradicated and, once again, the village enjoyed peace.

The spectacle of Baba grinding at the quern filled me with admiration and wonder. How does one connect his action to its cause and its effect? How can a correspondence be found between all these?

What connection can there be between the wheat and the dreaded disease? It was far beyond one's imagination. I felt that I must write a book about this.

Will Continue







Durga Suktam:

Prtanaa-[A]jíta[ngu]m-Sahamaanam-Ugram-Agní Huvema Paramaat-Sadhasthaat | Sa Nah Parssad-Atí Durgaanní Víshvaa Kssaamad-Devo Atí Duríta-Aty[í]-Agníh ||5||

Meaning:

(We offer our oblations to the Fire of Durga to cross over this very difficult ocean of worldly existence)

5.1: (She is) the (Great) Fire Who is Invincible in Battle, and charges ahead in a Terrible manner conquering (the Enemies); We invoke Her together from the Highest Assembly (i.e. ardently invoke Her together with the greatest reverence),

5.2: May that Agni (Fire of Durga) carry us over this World full of Great Difficulties, by (charging ahead and) Burning to ashes the very difficult Enemies (within us) with Her Divine Fire.

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BOW TO SHRI SAI ~ PEACE BE TO ALL

