

Chapter 1

Baba Grinds Wheat

Hemad Pant, after prostrating first to his Ganapathi Sri Sainath, salutes to Saraswathi, Brahma, Vishnu, Siva, Narayan Adhinaath, all rishis of his lineage (gotra), later day saints, and his forefathers and then narrates the following event:

"Some time after 1910 one fine morning Baba started grinding wheat in the masjid. Large crowd gathered to see his action. Four ladies voluntarily came forward, forcibly removed Baba and started grinding the Wheat, singing his praise. Later when they tried to share the flour among themselves, Baba became furious and ordered them to spray it at the outskirts of Shirdi. People said that his was the panacea Baba devised for warding off Cholera from Shirdi. On thinking of this divine sport my heart filled with joy and an urged to write Baba's 'Satcharitra". Sai Baba, who lived in Shirdi for almost 60 years, used to grind wheat on many occasions. In reality, he was grinding off the sins, physical and mental agonies of his countless devotees."

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all.

Chapter 2

Title to Dhabolkar

The life history of saints is not a topic for logical arguments or for debate. The saints resolve for the emergence of their biography and the writer is merely an instrument. The stories of Sai Baba give peace of mind and happiness to those carrying the heavy burden of pain and sadness of this world. Giving Udhi (sacred ash) and placing His wish-fulfilling hand on Hemad Panth's head Sai Baba said: "I should write my own life history and fulfill the cherished desire of my devotees". Dhabolkar, while narrating how in 1910 he came first to Shirdi on the advice of Nana Chandorkar and was attracted by Baba, also describes how baba came to know by His omniscience the assertion made by him to Shri Bhate that Guru was not needed and nicknamed him 'Hemad Panth'.

Next day when Hemad Panth was in the masjid baba told Kaka Dixit: 'To reach high above there is a route also from here. If one takes the assistance of a guide he will steer clear of tiger, fox, ditches etc. and take straight to the goal.'

This was the answer to the debate that Hemad Pant had the previous day whether one needed a Guru or not.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all.

Chapter 3

Story of Rohilla

Giving permission to write His Satcharitra, baba told to Shama: "If a person utters my name with love I will fulfill his desires and accelerate his devotion. I will surround him from all sides. **I will pull out my devotees from the jaws of death.** If my stories are listened to all diseases will vanish. Merely reminding 'Sai', Sai, will wipe out the sins arising out of talks and gossips. 'Again looking at Hemad Panth Baba said: 'He should turn his attention on me avoiding the company of atheists, irreligious and cruel people, be humble with all and bow to me with body and soul. If he does that he will attain limitless bliss."

Rohilla whose built was like a bull recited Koran loudly in the night in the masjid. The highly disturbed villagers requested Baba to make him stop the nuisance. However, Baba told them that Rohilla had a wicked wife named Santhippi and since he recited Koran loudly she did not disturb Him and Rohilla. In fact, Rohilla had no wife and Baba had personified his bad tendencies as his wife.

One day, after the noon arathi, Baba gave the following advice: "Wherever you may be and whatever you do, I know everything, I am the one who control and motivate this universe. Sorrow will not touch one who diverts His attention towards Me. All forms of life and lifeless ones of this world are My body or My manifestation."

Hemad Panth says that on hearing this priceless advice he decided in his mind not to serve any one except out Sai Sadh Guru.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all.

Chapter 4

Advent of Saints to Shirdi

Whenever righteousness declines and evil raises its head, God and on his behalf saints and saviors emerge at appropriate time. That way Shirdi Sai Baba also descended on earth. Peace was His ornament. His heart was as pure as mirror. His court (durbar) was attractive. Though He was a realized soul he acted as one seeking realization. His darshan is our effort for self-realization. His directions are our ancient texts (Vedas). Partaking his Udhi and other offerings (Prasad) will purify everything. He alone is our Rama, Krishna and Supreme Lord.

Ninety six year old Gowli Bhua, a devotee of Lord of Pandharpur who came to Shirdi annually used to say: "This person (Baba) is the reincarnation of Pandharpur Vithal who shows mercy to the helpless and poor ones."

Once Baba told Das Ganu that if one sincerely meditated on the name of God, then Lord Vittal would present Himself. (Somehow, it did not occur to Ganu that the Baba who was talking to him was the very Vittal!). Once Baba told to one Bhagvantrao Kshirsagar that the latter's father was his devotee but Bhagvantrao had starved Vittal and him (i.e. he had stopped worshipping Vittal). Once Das Ganu wanted to go to Prayag and have bath in the holy river Ganges. Baba told him 'Our Prayag is very much here' and immediately Ganges water started streaming out steadily from the two toes of Baba.

No one knows about the details of birth etc. of Baba. He was merely seen to live as a handsome young man under the neem tree. Once on the direction of the one on whom Lord Kandoba had descended people dug up at a place. Under the earth People saw devotional ornaments, articles for rituals and burning lamps. Baba told them that it was His Guru's sacred place and told them to close the pit.

Sathe purchased the place around the neem tree and Sathe Wada was built by him. Baba said that those who burn incense in the evenings of Thursdays and Fridays near the neem tree would get happiness. After some time Dixit constructed a Wada (mansion) which was greatly useful to pilgrims. Later, Shri Buti, a millionaire constructed a stone Wada. It is here now the mortal remains of our Lord Sainath is interned and is known as Samadhi Mandir.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all.

Chapter 5

Sai's arrival along with a marriage party

Chand Patil, a noble Muslim of Dhup village of Aurangabad district while walking back to his village sadly after having lost his costly mare, saw a young fakir sitting under a mango tree. The fakir on hearing his loss told him to search the mare in the nearby groove and to his joy found it right there. By then the fakir made things ready for smoking the chillim. He tapped the ground with his Chatka (small stick Baba used to carry) and water flowed to wet the chillum's cloth. Patil escorted the fakir to his house. A few days later Patil's family came to Shirdi for the marriage of Patil's brother-in-law as the bride was from Shirdi. The fakir also came with Patil but stayed back permanently in Shirdi. As the fakir alighted from the bullock cart near the Kandoba temple at Shirdi, Mahalsapathi exclaimed 'Ya! Sai'. He was our Sai Baba. Initially Baba spent most of His time with Saints Devakidas and Janakidas. Saint Gangajir who came from Puntambi said: "Shirdi is blessed; it has with it the priceless gem (Baba)." Ananthanath of Yevala Mutt, the disciple of Saint Akkalkot maharaj declared to the Shirdi villagers: "This person (Baba) is a priceless diamond. You got it because you deserve it. Shortly you will realize."

In commemoration of Baba's first visit to Shirdi and the glory of the neem tree, some devotees wanted in 1912 to install the replica of the sacred feet (Paduka) of Baba. Upasini Baba gave precious suggestion. The Padukas in marble were chiseled at Bombay and was brought to Shirdi. Baba said that they should be installed on Shravan Poornima day. He touched and blessed them saying that they were the 'feet of Lord'. Kaka Dixit carried them over his head in procession on the said day at 11 AM for installation. Upasini Maharaj Baba composed the following famous sloka on the padukas:

**Sadha Nimba vrukshasya Moolathi vasaath
Sudhasravinam Dhikthamapya priyam tham
Tharum kalpavrikshathigam sadhayantham
Namami eeswaram sadhgurum sai natham**

Wrestling: Once Baba clashed with a wrestler by name Thamboli at Shirdi and lost to him. Since then he wore a kafni and closed his head with a piece of cloth. He used a piece of sack to sit over. He slept in an old and dilapidated masjid. His only possessions were-a hookah, tobacco, small tin container, chatka, a brick, a towel and a long kafni. He constantly kept burning a fire called Dhuni. He was always proclaiming 'Allah Maalik' (God is the only Master). On some days he wore tinkles on his legs and danced in a place called Thagia.

Converting Water into Oil: Baba used to keep many lamps lit throughout the night in the masjid with the oil supplied by the oil merchants of Shirdi. One day all the merchants joined together and refused him oil. Baba went back to the masjid, took the tin container which had a few drops of oil, mixed water in it and drank it. Then he filled the container with water, poured it in the lamps and then lit them. The lamps burned throughout that night. Baba told the frightened merchants to be more truthful in future.

Pseudo Guru Jawar Ali: A fakir by name jawar Ali came to Shirdi. By his glib tongue he made a deceptive show that he was the Guru and Baba his disciple and took the latter to Rahata. This was not acceptable to Mahalsapathi and other like-minded persons. They went to Rahata and brought both of them back to Shirdi. The deception that Ali was Guru and Baba the disciple remained only for a short duration. Ali lost the debate on theology to Gangajir and ran away from Shirdi. Years later he came back and prostrated at the feet of Baba.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all.

Chapter 6

Festival of Sri Rama navami

Dabolkar writes: "The word sadguru brings to out mind Sai Baba. It appears to me that He is standing in front of me, applies udhi on my forehead and places His hands in blessings on my head" Sai Baba Said: "There won't be want of food and clothing in my devotee's home. What ever you want ask God firmly. Keep your mind always firm in my contemplation."

One Mr. Gopal Rao Gund, who remained issueless for years, begot a son with the blessings of Baba. As a gratitude for this grace, he wanted to celebrate an annual urus (festival) at shirdi. Baba advised him to conduct it on Sri Rama Navami day. To tie over the water shortage Baba threw flowers in a well of saltiest water and made it potable. Nimaonkar and Dahmu Anna gave each a flag, which were taken in procession during urus and were installed on either side of the masjid. On the same day Amir Shakar also conducted a sandal procession taken in honour of Muslim Saints. The simultaneous processions by Hindus and by Muslims were going on peacefully. Radhakrishna mayi attended to the cleaning and whitewashing of the masjid and also feeding the pilgrims. Till 1912 this was going on. In 1912 it occurred to Bhishma, a devotee, to celebrate along with these the Rama Navami festival also. All welcomed this proposal. That year Bhishma himself recited the Ram Katha, while Mahajani played the harmonium. Mayi gave the cradle. When Ram Katha was over the sandal powder thrown around entered Baba's eyes and he roared in anger. People considered this as Baba's covert blessings to ward off demoniac thoughts even as Rama vanquished the demons. Couple of years later, Baba nominated Das Ganu as a regular singer of Ram Katha for the festival. From 1912, on the same day the procession of flags, procession of sandal and Ram Navami festival are going on simultaneously without any hindrance.

Masjid repairs: The work of repairing the portico and durbar hall of the masjid was on. Kaka Dixit spent a lot of money and commenced roofing of the portico. The iron poles installed on one night were forcibly removed next morning by an angry Baba. When Tatya went near to pacify him, He pulled off the turban of Tatya, dumped it in one of the pits meant for poles, set fire to it and threw a rupee coin in it as sacrificial ritual. Shortly He calmed down, summoned a turban of flowers from the shop and adored Tatya with it. What made Him to flew into a rage and why He calmed down instantly and blessed Tatya with flower turban? He alone knows.

Chapter 7

Personality of Sai Baba

No one knew for sure whether Sai Baba was a Hindu or a Muslim. He permitted the celebration of Hindu's festivals of Ram Navami and Gokulashtami. At the same time He allowed the Muslims to say Namaz on Id, keep tabut in the masjid and conduct the sandal procession. He lived in a masjid but kept constantly a fire lit like a Brahmin Agnihotri. He permitted application of sandal paste on his forehead and performing of Hindu ways of worship including sounding of bells in the masjid. His ears had been pierced. He used to repeat like Muslims Allah Malik (God is the sole proprietor). But He declared Himself as Ganapathi, Mahalakshmi, Lakshmi Narayan etc., Orthodox Brahmins bowed at his feet without any hesitation.

He renovated all the temples in Shirdi. Wicked ones got reformed. Lepers got cured. He functioned as good medicine man also. Once a person's eyes became reddish and swelled. Baba ground beeba seeds (used by washer men), applied that paste on the eyes and bandaged. Next morning the eyes were absolutely clear without any damage whatever. Baba knew all the yoga method including the ones to pull out the liver and clean it separating his body parts and rejoining them.

In 1910, one day Baba suddenly thrust his hand into the dhuni. Shama and Madhav who were near pulled Him off post haste. Baba said that at a distant village a blacksmith's child fell into the fire and He saved it without any harm. Rejecting all offers of medical aid, Baba directed Bhagoji, the leper devotee, to apply ghee on His hand and serve Him regularly. Not only the wound healed but also the leprosy of Bagoji!

Once Kaparde's wife, while in Shirdi, heard that her son was suffering from bubonic plague in her place and sought the permission of Baba to leave Shirdi. Baba immediately lifted His kafni and showed big bulbs of plague on his body and said: "See! I have to suffer for my devotees. Their sufferings are all mine only."

One day suddenly Baba told Mahalsapathi and two others that all four of them should sing that the doors of Pandarpur temple were open. A little later, Nana Chandorkar from Nandurbar came with his family and said that he had been transferred to Pandarpur and prayed Baba to come with the,. Baba gave them Udhi. There is no end to Baba's divine sports.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 8

Baba seeking alms

Human birth is precious because one can reach God through wisdom (jnana). The grace of God that helps us to surrender to Sai Baba is the best of all luck. Let us see how the One whose mere glance would make the beggar a king went from house to house in shirdi seeking alms.

He carries a tin pot on one hand a square cloth (soli) on the other. Solid food was received in the soli and the liquid in the tin pot. Blessed are those in front of whose houses Baba stood and beseeched "Oh! Lasi, Give me a piece of bread." Food so collected was mixed up in an earthen pot in the masjid. Fakirs, cats, dogs etc. freely part took that Prasad.

During Baba's early days Bhayajabayi, the mother of Tatya Patil used to search for Baba in the jungles and meadows and feed Him with gorgeous meals. Baba did not forget this act till His mahasamadhi. He enormously helped Tatya and Tatya also called Baba as Uncle.

Mahalsapathi, Tatya and Baba used to sleep in the masjid, with their heads facing East, West and North respectively and legs meeting together. They would be discussing till late night. Thus, Tatya slept for fourteen years with baba in the masjid.

Baba liked Chandraben marwari of Rahata and his brother's son Khushalchand. Some times, Baba used to go to Rahata in a Tonga (horse drawn carriage). They would accord reception with musical bands. Baba never went beyond Nimgaon in South and Rahata in West, but knew everything happening thousands of miles away.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 9

Sai Baba's directives to those leaving Shirdi

If any one leaves shirdi without the permission of Baba they used to face hurdles.

Once Tatya was eager to leave for Kopargoan in a horse drawn cart. Baba advised him to leave after some time. Neglecting His advice Tatya left immediately and he got injured when his cart hurled.

Once a European gentleman came for Baba's darshan. For reason better known to Him, Baba did not allow him inside the masjid. When the displeased European wanted to leave Shirdi, Baba advised him to stay for a day. He disregarded the advice and went ahead. But his cart overturned on the way and he had to be admitted in the Kopergaon hospital.

Smt. Tharkad and her son came for summer holidays to Shirdi. The boy's father had promised to conduct the worship of Sai at home regularly. On the fourth day of their stay at Shirdi, Baba told the lady that he went that day noon to her house at Bandra and came back hungry. The boy suspected some slip in Sai's worship back home and wrote to his father to be careful in the Puja. Next day a letter from his father came stating that he had failed to offer nivedya to Baba the previous noon. The letters had crossed!

Once Smt. Tharkad gave two brinjals to smt. Purandare, who was going to Shirdi and told her to prepare pareet and Kacharya (two kinds of preparations of brinjals) and offer them to Baba. Smt. Purandare on coming to Shirdi prepared pareet and served to Baba. Baba immediately asked for kacharya indicating that He was omniscient.

In 1915 a boy named Manger came to Shirdi for performing his father's annual ceremony. Smt. Tharkad gave him a sweet already offered to Baba, as nothing else was available and told him to present it to Baba. When he came for darshan he forgot about it. Baba asked him "Did not that lady gave you sweet to be given to me?"

Once when Smt. Tharkad was preparing rotis during noon, a dog came there and she threw a piece of roti, which was eagerly swallowed by it. When she came to masjid a Baba said: "Mother! You fed me so sumptuously to day that my

withered life forces were rejuvenated. I never speak untruth from this masjid. The dog that you fed is united in me. Like wise all living beings. Hence, serve every being without discrimination."

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 10

Baba's bedstead

Remind yourself always about Sai Baba. One should do it from minute to minute when one's mental physical faculties are fine.

Baba suspended a wooden plank by rags from the ceiling of the masjid, kept lamps burning on four edges and slept on it. While it was a puzzle as to how the withered cloth pieces held the weight of the plank, it was all the more a miracle that it held on to the weight of Baba also. People used to gather to see how Baba climbed up and down. They kept vigil in turns. But no one could see him either climbing up or ascending down. All that they could see was that either he was lying on the plank or already on the ground! One day enraged Baba broke the plank to pieces. Sometimes, Baba appeared as embodiment of love, at times, He threw stones on on-lookers. In fact, only the blessed ones got the treasure called Sai Baba. The inner significance of Baba's preaching was Ram and Rahim are one and the same. Sai is the one Guru who will carry us beyond the sea of bondage of birth.

Once a man named Namavali asked to get up from His seat and sat on it. Baba obliged and said nothing. Immediately he got up and prostrated to Baba. This man was so devoted that he died on the 13th day after Baba's mahasamadhi.

Baba said: "If you shed all intellectual burden and remind yourself "Sai" "Sai" then you will be untied of all bondages and freed."

Listen to these stories with attention. Meditate on them. Without God's grace no one gets the taste to listen to the stories of saints.

With meditation on Sai's form let us close this chapter.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 11

DR. Pandit, Haji Siddik Falke

Sai Baba is incarnation of God. Vedas declare that Brahma is bliss. People enjoyed that bliss at Shirdi. Baba permitted His devotees to worship Him as they desired. Once, Dr. Pandit, during worship in the masjid, applied sandal paste on Baba's forehead. No one ever dared to do that till then. Baba explained to Dada Kelkar that Pandit in his mind personified Baba as his guru and applied sandal paste on His forehead as he would do to his Guru, and hence He could not object. Later, the doctor confirmed this. Some times, though Baba appeared to shake with anger and appear to rotate his reddish eyeballs menacingly, He was at heart embodiment of motherly love.

No one can say when Baba would accept a person. Once, for nine months, Baba did not permit an aged Muslim named Haji Siddik Falke, who had visited Mecca and Medina, to enter the masjid. Shama pleaded for him. Baba exclaimed "Who can enter the masjid without that fakir's permission?" Then he shot three questions to the Haji through Shama. On hearing the replies given by the Haji, an emotionally charged Baba came to the Haji and said: "Why are you imagining yourself as a matured Haji? You do not know Me. You are vain about your trip to Mecca" Then He returned to masjid, sent a basket full of mangoes with Rs.55 to Haji and permitted him to come to masjid whenever he wanted.

One day a severe storm raged at Shirdi frightening men and animals alike. Baba came to the edge of the masjid looked up at the sky and commanded "Stop! Stop your fury". The storm quickly cease, sky cleared and moon shone brightly. Another day, the flames of dhuni rose dangerously to the ceiling of masjid. Baba struck His Chatka in the nearby pillar ordering "Get down, get down" and the flames subsided for each stroke and became normal.

Those who read this chapter would be released from all dangers. Having achieved all their desires they will reach the high state of desirelessness.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 12

Sai Baba's Leelas

Unless Sai Baba Himself decided to invite a person, no one can come near Him. The arrival, stay and departure of any one to Shirdi depended upon the wish of Baba.

Kaka Mahajani once came to Shirdi with the intention of staying for a week. Baba ordered him to leave for Bombay next day. At Bombay Mahajani found his boss anxiously waiting for him and had posted a letter to Shirdi in this regard. The letter that came to Shirdi after Kaka Mahajani left was returned to Bombay.

Once Dumal came to Shirdi on his way to attend a hearing in the court of Nibhat. Baba detained him for over a week and then permitted him to go to Nibhat. There he found that the case had been adjourned due to sudden illness of the magistrate.

When Nimonkar and his wife were in Shirdi, their son at Belapur fell sick. Nimonkar, declining the request of his wife to spend a week at Belapur to see their son and relatives, wanted her to return at once. Before leaving Shirdi, she fell at the feet of Sai standing in front of Sathe Wada. Baba said: "Go, Stay comfortably at Belapur for four days and return after seeing your relatives." Nimonkar's command was countermanded.

Mule Shastri, an agnihotri Brahmin from Nasik came to Shirdi with Buti. That morning, while on His way to Lendi garden Baba said: "Take some jeru (material used to colour clothes to saffron) Let us wear saffron dress to day." None could understand as Baba always wore white dress. During noon arati Baba told Buti to go and fetch dakshina (Money offering) from the Nasik Brahmin. The annoyed Shastri, who felt that as an agnihotri he was superior enough not to give dakshina to Baba, came to outer gate of masjid and stood with flowers in hand, thinking that he would be polluted if he entered a Muslim's place. To his surprise he found his guru Golap Maharaj standing in saffron dress in the masjid and loudly shouting "Jai Golap Maharaj", cast the flowers at his feet and prostrated. On getting up he saw a smiling Baba standing in white robe and asking for dakshina. The devotees now understood why Baba said in the morning "Let us wear saffron dress today"!

A doctor came to Shirdi declaring that as he was devotee of Rama he would not bow before a Muslim in the masjid. But he was the first one to rush in to fall

at the feet of Baba, for, he saw Rama in the place of Sai. Then he vowed in his mind that he would not come to masjid unless Baba blessed him. On the third day along with a friend he absentmindedly entered masjid. Immediately Baba remarked "Did any one invite this man here?" The doctor was moved to tears.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 13

Curing of diseases

Baba said:" Those whose sins are obliterated and the lucky one get to worship Me. If you go on repeating "Sai","Sai", I will take you beyond the seven seas. Have faith in My words. You will surely be benefited immensely. I do not need the nitty gritty of formal worship. Where there is absolute devotion, I remain there. "What else assurance we need?"

Bhimaji: A devotee called Bhimaji suffered from tuberculosis and was vomiting blood profusely. On the advice of Nana Chandodkar, he was brought to Shirdi and four people lifted him and place him at the feet of Baba. Though at the outset Baba appeared to be disinterested, later He remarked with all kindness: "Be patient. Cast off your worries. However much a person is trampled b adversities, he starts enjoying happiness immediately on stepping in to this masjid. The massodi ayi (Masjid Mother) is extremely kind. She will protect you with all love and kindness."While at Shirdi, Bhimaji had two dreams, in one he was beaten severely by his teacher for failing to repeat a mathematical formula and in the other some one rolled a stone grinder on his heart. By these two dream-life sufferings Baba fully cured Bhimaji. Bhimaji started celebrating every fortnight "Sri Satya Sai Narayan Puja" on the lines of the traditional "Sri Satyanarayana Puja".

Shimpi: Once Bala Shimpi suffered from shivering and fever. Baba cured him simply by advising him to feed a black dog with curd rice.

Buti: Shri Buti was once suffering from loose motion and vomiting. Baba menacingly shook His forefinger saying "No on, You shall not pass." The loose motion stopped! When Buti got cholera, Baba asked him to drink almond and dry fruits mixed in milk. Instead of increasing his discomfort, that mixture completely cured him!

Alandi Swamy: By merely blessing "Allah achcha Karega" Baba cured the ear pain of this Swamy and saved him from sure surgery.

Mahajani: Once kaka Mahajani, who was suffering from severe purging, came quietly to serve Baba as usual. At that time the portico work of the masjid was in progress. Suddenly for no reason Baba became angry and started hurling abuse. All got frightened and ran away and Mahajani joined them. Baba caught hold of Mahajani. Some one in the melee had left a bag of groundnuts and had run away. Baba ate the groundnuts, gave some to Mahajani, while continuing the abuses. The he drank some water and asked Mahajani also to drink water and told him that his purging had stopped and he could start the repair works. Can water and groundnuts be ever a medicine to control loose motion?

The incurable stomach pain of DhanthoPant of Hartha was cured by the Udhi and blessings of Baba.

Once when Shama was ailing from piles, Baba cured him by advising him to take senna seeds. (Next time when Shama Patil had piles, he took senna himself and the problem only got aggravated!).

By just uttering "God will Cure You", Baba cured the stomach ailment of the elder brother of Mahajani.

Once when Nana chandodkar was suffering from severe stomach pain, Baba cured him by directing him to take burfi (a sweet dish) mixed in ghee.

Thus, in reality it was Baba's words and Udhi that were curing the patients and not tablets or other medicines.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 14

Ratanji

Ratanji, a rich man of Nanded came to Sai Baba to get blessed for children. Baba asked him to give five rupees (Which he had intended in his mind only). But at the same time He said that He had already received three rupees and fourteen anas and it was enough if he gave him the balance. He also assured him that his sad days had come to an end and he need not worry. Ratanji on returning back wondered to Ganu and Ratanshi went through the account books, they found to their surprise that the money spent a few days ago by Ratanji in honoring Mouli Saheb a Muslim Saint, was exactly three rupees and fourteen anas! Shortly, Ratanji was also blessed with children.

Baba neither asked dakshina from all nor accepted from every body.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 15

Narada's music tradition, Cholkar, two lizards

Narada's music tradition: Once, like all the traditional religious storytellers and kirtankars, Das Ganu also dressed himself with turban, coat, nice shirt inside, long angavastra etc. and presented before Baba, on his way to a Hari Katha. Baba sarcastically remarked: "Fine, groom, Remove all those attire and place them before me. Narada, the celestial kirtankar, never wore anything above the waist." From then on Das Ganu did not wear anything above his waist while reciting Hari Katha.

Cholkar: Das Ganu used to place a photo of Sai Baba and sing in His praise, wherever he performed Hari Katha. Due to this yeomen service, thousands came to know about Baba. Once Cholkar, a temporary Government servant, on hearing about Baba during Das Ganu's Hari Katha, prayed that if he was made permanent he would come to Shirdi and offer sugarcandies. Shortly he became permanent. He began to save money to go to Shirdi by avoiding sweets and even foregoing sugar in tea. Once adequate money was saved he came to Shirdi, bowed to Baba and distributed sugar candies in the masjid. When he was about to leave, Baba told his host: "Give your guest tea saturated with Sugar!" A stunned Cholkar was moved to tears.

Two Lizards: One day during noon a lizard on the walls of masjid made a continuous noise. People sitting there asked Baba as to what the lizard's sound meant. Baba said that it was expressing its happiness about the anticipated arrival of its sister from Aurangabad. A little later, a pilgrim from Aurangabad came non-stop on a steed. When he slighted and dusted the bag containing horse gram, a lizard out of that bag, ran to the masjid wall and started dancing around with the lizard that was already there.

Those who read this chapter with devotion would be rid of all deep sorrows.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 16 & 17

Instant Brahmagnyan

Even small things Baba would gladly accept if offered with love and devotion. But if anything is offered with ego and highhandedness He will not accept.

Instant Brahmagnyan: A rich person once came to Baba, hiring a horse drawn carriage for to and fro trip and asked Baba to show him Brahmagnyan (Knowledge of Supreme Being). Baba said that He would do so and asked a little boy there to go to Nandu Marwadi and get Him a loan of five rupees. The boy came back empty handed saying that Nandu was not available. He then sent him to a few others like Bala grocer but the boy came back with the same reply. The rich man who was watching all these did not bother to offer a loan of rupees five to Baba. Instead he pressed Baba to show him Brahmagnyan quickly (as he had hired the cart for to and fro trip). Baba instantly replied that the essence of His act in his presence was that for realization of Brahmagnyan one should sacrifice one's own five senses and five vital forces. He gave a long discourse on Mumkshu (liberation), Virakthi (disinterest in worldly affairs), inward search, destroying bad traits, good conduct, yearning for good, control of mind and sense feelings, purity of heart and importance of Guru which were sine quo non for Brahmagnyan. Then he told the rich man: " Well sir, Take out five rupee Brahma which is fifty times in your pocket". The man took out of his wallet and found exactly two hundred and fifty rupees! Baba added: "Bundle up your rolls of Brahma. Unless greed is completely eradicated one cannot realize Brahma. The illusion of attachment should be shed. My treasury is full but I should see whether the person seeks that is eligible to receive the treasure."

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Story of Smt. Deshmukh

Sadguru first assesses the requirements of his devotees. As a loving mother forcibly makes her child consume medicine for its sound health, Sadguru also impresses on his devotees the dictums on spiritual progress.

Mr. Sathe was somewhat popular at Bombay. In course of time he fell into difficult days and came to Shirdi. There he completed the reading (Parayan) of Guru Charitra in seven days and on the seventh day Baba appeared in his dream. Next day Baba told Kaka Dixit that if Sathe did one more parayan God would be pleased and release him from the clutches of material world. As He uttered these words, Hemad Panth who was massaging the Feet of Baba thought: "I am reading Guru Charitra for forty years in Vain, while Sathe had the benefit in seven days. Alas! My seven years of Shirdi life has gone a waste." Immediately Baba asked him to get up and go to Shama's house, get fifteen rupees from him as His dakshina and have a chat with him also. Hemad panth came to Shama's house.

Shama told him that he was not having fifteen rupees and hence Hemad Panth should take his fifteen prostrations to Baba. He then narrated an incident about Baba.

"Once a lady called Radha Bai Deshmukh from Sangmner came to see Baba and then vowed not to take even water until Baba gave her a mantra upadesa. Since the lady started sinking I pleaded Baba to intervene and Baba called that lady and addressed thus: **"You are my mother. Please listen to me. My Guru did not utter any mantra in my ear. He shaved off my head and took from me two paise (Faith and Patience) as dakshina. Then how can I do it for you? I sought refuge in my Guru or twelve years. I had nothing buy my Guru for meditation. He also did not expect anything from me. Mother tortoise nourishes its siblings with the mere thought of them though they are not by its side. Siblings too do nothing but thinking about their mother. Oh! Mother! Take me as the sole refuge of your thought, action and speech. Look at me with deep heart. I too will do the same to you. Do not attempt to seek any mantra or upadesa from any one. I speak only truth from this masjid."**

On hearing this story Hemad Panth's eyes were filled with tears. By then they heard the bells ring from masjid for noon arathi and both rushed there. Baba asked Hemad Panth to recapitulate all that he heard from Shama. Then He filled his hands with Sugar Candy and Said: "Worship Me in the form as you see Me day and night here. If you implant the theme of this story in your mind your

life will be as sweet as these sugar candies." At that moment the arathi was over and the assembled crowd shouted in ecstasy "Jai Sai Ram". Let us also shout so.

Baba used to say: "No one including animals come to us without any link of previous birth. To those who come hungry let us offer food. Invite them lovingly. If some one seeks money and you do not want to give, then don't give; but do not bark. Let people say hundreds of things against you, but do not retort with bitter words. God alone is our only protector. None else. His wish alone shall prevail. Let the world go upside down. You remain steadfast in your ideals."

Baba said that talking ill of a person on his back tantamount to a pig swallowing excreta. He used to advise each one in a different manner suited to that person.

Baba also advised not to take anybody's service for free.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Das Ganu's Doubts

When Das Ganu was writing a commentary in Marathi on Ishopanishad he could not grasp the core theme of the said Upanishad.

When he asked Baba, He told him the Kaka's maid servant at Bombay would clear this doubts. Every one felt that Baba was joking. When Ganu returned to Bombay and stayed in Kaka's house, he heard next morning the servant girl singing thus: "What a nice dark red sari! How beautiful is its embroidered border etc. But Ganu saw her wearing rags and taking pity got her a nice silk half sari, through Mr.Pradhan. Next day she came in the new dress, joyously singing and dancing. Then on the third day she came back in the old rag as joyful as the previous day. Das Ganu's initial pity on her became admiration. What a lesson she taught - Happiness or Sorrow depends upon one's mental make up. If some one asks why Baba did not give this advice Himself, we would reiterate that Baba did the right thing because Ganu got direct perception of the core theme of the Upanishad.

We too learn that: "God pervades all and whatever is given by him is for our good only. We should accept humbly His blessings."

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Story of three persons

Once H.V. Thakur saw near Belgaum a Kannada Saint named Appa. He told Thakur to read the holy book Vichara Sagar and predicted that late he would be transferred to North and would come across a great Saint. After some time when Thakur was transferred to Junnar he had to cross the Nanighat hills riding a buffalo. That gave him immense pain. Shortly he was promoted and posted to Kalyan. There he acquainted with Nana Chandodkar and on his advice came to Shirdi. Baba told him: "The path here is not that easy as the Kannada Saint's preaching or Nanighat Buffalo ride." Thus he demonstrated that he was omniscient.

When Mr. Anandarao Patankar from Pune prostrated before Baba, He told a story: "A fisherman came here. A horse also came in front of him and defecated nine balls of excreta. The fisherman eagerly spread his cloth and collected them." Patankar was at a loss to know the meaning, Dhadha Kelkar who was nearby told him that Baba seems to have meant nine methods of devotion. When next day Patankar came to masjid, Baba asked him whether he collected the nine balls.

A lawyer from Pandharpur came, prostrated before Sai and offered dakshina. Baba remarked: "How conceited people are? Elsewhere they abuse us but come here and offer dakshina." When earlier Noolkar, the magistrate of Pandharpur used to come to Shirdi for cure from diseases, the lawyers used to meet in the Bar room and ridicule him. This lawyer accepted that he was one among them.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Protection from snakes

On the way to Chitale, Bala Saheb Mirikar came for Baba's darshan. Baba told him thus: "Do you know our Dwarkamayi. This is our Dwarkamayi. She prevents all dangers and sorrows for those children who sit on her lap. This Dwarkamayi is extremely kind. She saves her devotees from great dangers. Once a person sits on her lap all his troubles and sorrows come to an end." Then after giving Udhi He added: "Do you know the lamba Bhava (he made gesture like hooded cobra). How cruel he is ! But what can he do when Dwarkamayi is there to protect?"

That night when Mirikar was sitting in the Maruti temple at Chitale, a snake climbed the angavastra spread on his lap and moved ahead. It was immediately killed and thus Dwarkamayi Sai saved Mirikar.

One day an astrologer told Buti that the day was very inauspicious for his life. When he rattled Buti came to masjid Baba told him "Let us see how death comes near you". That evening when Buti went to answer nature's call a snake neared hi, but in time it retreated and escaped.

Amir Shakkar who came for cure from rheumatism stayed in Chavadi on the direction of Baba. One night when Baba also was sleeping there, He shouted "Oh Abdul, A ghost is dashing on my bed" and struck his Chatka on the floor. When Abdul came with light he saw a snake coiled near Amir's bed and it was at once killed. Thus Baba saved Amir.

One night Hemad Panth, after witnessing an encounter with a snake in his room in Dixit Wada in which it escapes, had a heated discussion when he insisted that snakes should be killed. The other man differed. Next day when they came to masjid Baba said: "God lives in all lives. He is the great puppeteer of the world. Unless He decides no body and nothing can harm a person. God is the sole protector of all."

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Yoga and Onion

Once when a yoga practitioner came with Nana to masjid, Baba was eating bread and onion. The practitioner thought that how could a person eating onion and stale bread guide him in yoga methods. Immediately Baba looked at Nana and stated: "Nana, Only they should eat onion who can digest it" (i.e. the tamasic qualities of onion). The stunned practitioner of yoga fell at Baba's feet.

One day a poisonous snake bit Shama in his little finger and he ran to masjid to seek Baba's abhaya, his sole refuge. Baba on seeing him shouted: "Oh wretched Brahmin, Do not climb up. Get down. Get down. Go off." Shama was crestfallen and gave up all hopes of survival. In a short time, Baba called him up and said: "Do not be afraid. Do not have an iota of worry. The merciful fakir will protect you. Be courageous. Do not be afraid. Believe me." Shama was completely cured. It turned out that the initial outburst was an order to the cobra's poison not to get mixed with blood and climb up but to get down and go off! (A cobra is believed to be in a cursed Brahmin).

Once when cholera was prevalent at Shirdi, superstitious people did not allow carts carrying firewood. Baba went ahead and Himself brought a cart load of firewood to masjid.

One day some one brought an emaciated goat to the masjid. Baba directed Bade Baba and Shama respectively to kill it. Both refused. Then He asked Kaka Dixit to do the job. Kaka a Brahmin to the core, who could not harm even insects, got ready to kill the goat with a sickle raised. Baba asked him how a Brahmin in him agreed to kill the goat when Bade Baba, a Muslim refused, Kaka said: "Your nectar like words are law unto us. We do not want to debate or scrutinize your orders. We obey only you, day and night." Then Baba said that He would do the killing and asked goat to be taken out. Instantly it dropped down dead.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Baba and humour

We will not succeed in our endeavours unless we surrender our ego at the lotus feet of our *Guru*. We get comfort in this life and after worshipping Sai.

Once when Hemad Panth was massaging the feet of Baba, He showed some grains in the folds of his coat and said playfully that he was in the habit of eating edibles alone. (Hemad Panth feels that it would not have been impossible for Baba to have materialized the grains). Hemad Panth vigorously denied Baba's charge. Baba immediately remarked that if no one was around when one are one should remember Baba. He will remove the evil tendencies. Hemad Panth narrates, incidentally, how Sudama (Kuchela) ate groundnuts alone without offering to Lord Krishna and in his later years became extremely poor.

Once a very old lady named Mavisi Bai and an elder devotee called Anna Cinsanikar were massaging together Baba's back and hands respectively and Baba was moving his body left and right. In the process, at one point the face of Anna came very near the old lady and she lightly commented "Oh! This Anna wants to kiss me". An outraged Anna started a vigorous quarrel. Baba said sweetly "Anna! What wrong a child does in kissing its mother?" and all became peaceful.

This lady was once massaging Baba's stomach vigorously and some devotees cried to her that such action would hurt Baba. Immediately an angry Baba got up, fixed one end of his Chatka in His navel and the other end on the pillar and started violently embracing the pillar with both hands. It appeared that the stick would pierce His stomach and entirely get in to Him. Then He became peaceful. Baba appeared to indicate that nothing can hurt Him and also to advice that one should not interfere in the service of other devotee to Him.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Business ventures of Damu Anna

He who gets complete devotion on Sai, all his dangers and miseries are wiped out and his welfare is looked after by Baba.

Once Damu Anna of Ahmednagar, with the intention of making huge profit by trading in cotton as per his friend's advice, wrote to Shama to seek the opinion of Baba. Even before the letter was opened Baba remarked: "Seth has gone mad. He wants to conquer the skies. He is not content with what God has provided him". When this was informed, Damu came in person and while massaging Baba's feet silently thought that if Baba agrees in this proposition he could give a share of profit to Him. Immediately Baba exclaimed: Hey! I never get entangled in these things." Damu dropped that business proposal. Again he wanted to trade in grains, but Baba predicted that he would buy at the rate of 5 seers a rupee and sell at 7 seers a rupee. Damu dropped that proposal also. In short it was proved that cotton and grains markets crashed and Damu was saved by Baba as he trusted Him.

One day Baba gave four mangoes to Damu and told him to give it to his wife, assuring him four children. The prediction came true.

Baba used to say: **"Believe Me even after my passing away. The bones in my tomb will assure you faith and courage. To those who surrender to Me, my tomb will speak and move with them. Do not worry that I am not amidst you. My bones will discuss about your welfare. Trust in Me. I shall act tremendously even from my Tomb."**

"Let us get insatiable desire in our tongue to utter your name" - so prays Hemad Panth to Baba.

Baba once said that "all the flowers in a mango tree do not turn in to mangoes. Only a few do so. Like wise only a few people who come here (to Baba), get benefit from him."

By narrating how Baba after His mahasamadhi got him back the diamond nose stud the very next day of its loss, Damu narrates that Baba protects his devotees intensely even after shedding His mortal coils.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Pant, Pitale, Ambadekar

"We should wash the Lotus feet of Baba with our tears of joy, apply Love the sandal paste, dress Him with truth and faith, offer eight-folded thoughts as eight lotus flowers, submit the fruit of single-minded attention, smear him with aromatic powder of devotion and adorn His head with the cloth of affection". So writes Hemad Panth.

When Mr. Panth from Bombay came with his wife and son for darshan. The boy ad fits in the presence of Baba and the mother loudly wailed citing allegories like "temple failing on the devotee", "a cow escaping from tiger only to fall into the hands of the butcher", etc. Baba assured her that the boy would be well soon and it was proved so. Before their departure, Baba gave pitale three rupees and told him to worship them. He also said that He had earlier given him two rupees. On coming back home, Pitale was wondering when Baba could have given him tow rupees. His aged mother recalled that when Pitale's father took him as a little boy to Akkalkot Maharaj (a famous saint), the saint gave him two rupees and those two rupees, which were worshipped were later lost. Pitale was stunned at the omniscience of Baba.

Having been buffeted by innumerable problems, Ambadekar, a devotee from Pune came to Shirdi. When he sat on the edge of a well with the intention to commit suicide, suddenly from the nearby hotel Mr.Sagun came to him with a biography on Akkalkot Maharaj and asked him to read it. When Ambadekar opened the book at random, a leela of the saint was found to indicate that once a devotee of Maharaj unable to bear his physical ailment jumped into a well, but instantly Maharaj Himself appeared there, pulled him out and advised that results of past deed should be atoned and suicide would not provide relief. Ambadekar was moved by Sai's silent grace in saving him from suicide. Later he became a successful astrologer and amassed good wealth.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Glory of Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam

Many Ramadasi (devotee of Rama) stayed for some time in Shirdi. His daily routine was to read Ramayana and Sri Vishnusahasranamam in the masjid. One day Baba sent him to the market to get Him some senna seeds, saying that he had acute stomach pain. Once he left, Baba took his Sri Vishnusahasranamam book and gave it to Shama. Shama was afraid of the wrath of the Ramadasi. Baba, however insisted and said: "Shama, This book is very useful. Once when I had dangerous palpitation I kept this on my chest and Lord Hari Himself descended from this book to save me. Read slowly, at least one name a day." (The inner meaning is that if one keeps Lord Vishnu's name at heart nothing can harm him). When the Ramadasi returned and heard the development he was charged with anger and sprang on Shama for a quarrel. Baba told him that there was no use of his calling himself a Ramadasi because a true Ramadasi would have equanimity and not ego and silenced him.

Once Baba gave a book titled "Gita Rahasya" Written by Lokmanya Tilak with one rupee to Sri Jog.

Mr. Khaparde, a famous lawyer, stayed with his wife for seven months in Shirdi. That lady would bring daily variety of food and Baba would take them with relish. One day she brought sansa (a sweet dish from Wheat flour) and baba almost devoured it eagerly. Shama protested that Baba was partial to that lady and asked Him to Justify His special preference for her preparation. Baba said that in previous births that lady had born as a cow, a Kshatriya, a Brahmin lady and served Him very faithfully and as He saw her now after a long passage of time, He was thrilled and consumed her preparations. Then Baba sat in His seat. The lady started massaging His feet while Baba himself pressed her hands affectionately and advised her that if she went on repeating "Raja Ram, Raja Ram" she would get immense peace of mind.

Devotees were thrilled on seeing Lord and the devotee serving each other.

Let us also take delight by serving our Lord Sai mentally.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Devotees wire pulled to Shirdi

Baba often used to say: "However far my man (Devotees) be, even if he is 3000 miles away, he will be pulled to Shirdi as a sparrow dragged by the thread tied to its feet."

Lala Lakshmi Chand: This man in Bombay had a dream in 1910 in which he saw a saint standing surrounded by devotees. From a photo in Das Ganu's Kirtan session he realized that it was Sai Baba who came in his dream. He borrowed fifteen rupees from his uncle (a marwari), gathered a few friends and singing bhajan all through the night reached Shirdi. When he prostrated before Baba in the masjid, Baba said affectionately: 'Conceited fellow! Sings bhajan en route. What is the need to come to darshan even borrowing money from the marwari? Is the heart satisfied now?' On the third day, Lala had some back pain and was hungry while at masjid; also felt at heart that it would be nice if sansa was distributed as Prasad. Baba directed that sansa be prepared for naivedya that day. Looking at Lala he said: 'Eat sansa for hunger. Apply some balm for back pain!' That night during chavadi procession Baba was tormented by cough. Lala thought that it must be due to evil eyes. Next morning when he came to masjid Baba remarked that yesterday He suffered from cough and that it could be that some one's evil eyes were working on Him!

Lady from Burhanpur: Once a lady at Burhanpur had a dream in which Baba was asking her for kichadi. She came to Shirdi and waited for a fortnight, but no occasion came to serve Kichadi. Having lost her patience on the fifteenth day, she forced her entry with kichadi in to masjid after curtains were drawn for Baba's lunch. That day Baba ate only Kichadi.

Mega: Hari Vinayak Sathe sent this Brahmin who was his cook to Shirdi. This simple hearted village rustic came with hesitation as to how a Brahmin could prostrate before a Muslim in a masjid. When he entered the masjid,, Baba shouted: "Kick away that rascal. You will lose your purity if you enter here. That brainless sahib has sent this fool here!" In due course of time, Mega became one of the most ardent devotees of Baba. To bring bilva leaves for Baba's worship he would walk miles daily. He would first go for worship in all the temples in Shirdi, then wash the feet of Sai at masjid and drink that holy water. Once during Makara Shankaranthi he wanted to bathe Baba, his Shiva, with holy waters and hence walked in all 24 miles to bring a pot of water of river Gomathi despite strong objection by Baba. At last Baba conceded to his pleas but told him to put water only on His head. But the emotionally charged Mega shouted "Har Har Gange" and poured water all over his body. Lo! Not a drop fell on Baba's body! Only the Head was drenched!

One day at dawn Mega dreamt that Baba entered his room, cast akshathas (sanctifies rice) and told him to draw a Trishul (Trident) in his room. He woke up and saw akshathas but the door was locked from inside. When he went with doubt to masjid, baba told him that no door was a bar to His entry and directed him to draw trishul in his room. Next day when Mega was at masjid a devotee from Bombay came to Baba and submitted a shiva Lingam. Baba told Mega: 'See Shankar has come. 'Megha drew trishul in his room and Baba installed the Shiva Lingam near to His big portrait in that room.

After serving Baba for years, in 1912 Mega attained Shiva loga prapti (reached the lotus feet of Lord Shiva). Baba termed him as 'his true devotee', covered his body with flower, joined the funeral procession and wailed loudly like ordinary worldly persons. On the 13th day He Baba fed Brahmins at His own cost.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Bhajan troupe from Madras

A bhajan troupe from Madras, on its way to pilgrimage to North India, came with greed to Shirdi on the hearsay that the saint there gave visitors bountiful of money. But the senior lady in the troupe was honest and saw the vision of Sri Rama in Sai repeatedly in the masjid and went into ecstasy. Her husband disbelieved this as hallucination and ridiculed her. One night he had a dream which was thus: "He is in jail and Baba stands out side the prison bars. Suddenly a loud thud is heard and he sees policeman in a pool of blood. Baba remarks: 'Now you are well entrenched in this crime.' He weeps and begs Baba to rescue him. Immediately he is out of jail and prostrates before Baba. He says that his earlier prostrations were for money but the present one was on his realization of Baba as God. Then at his request Baba shows him his Guru Ramadas. The man remarks that Baba appears to be old. Baba challenges him to join him in a race and starts running. Immediately He disappears in the cloud of dust emanating from His feet." The dream ended and the man's greedy attitude changed. They stayed for a few more days enjoying the darshan of Baba and completed the rest of the pilgrimage without any hurdle.

Astrologers told the son of Smt. Tendulkar of Bombay that come what may, he would not get through his examinations that year. Baba assured that he would get through and it happened so.

The father of the said boy took voluntary retirement with a meager pension of Rs.75. Baba told his wife in a dream that He desired that the pension should be raised to 100. Orders came raising the pension to Rs.110.

Once Baba appeared in the dream of Captain Hate at Bombay and exclaimed "Have you forgotten me?" He immediately sent by money order twelve rupees to a friend at Shirdi indicating that ten rupees be spent on vegetables and two rupees foe Puja items. That day all wondered when Baba ate only vegetables.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Kakaji Vaidya

We do not know what devotion is but we know for sure that Sai Baba will not forsake us at any cost.

Vaidya: Kakaji Vaidya, who was the priest in the Sapta Shringi temple at Vani in Nasik Taluka, was tormented by miseries. He prayed to the Devi who came in dream and asked him 'to go to Baba.' He went to Tryambakeshwar and stayed for a fortnight worshipping Shiva with Vedic rituals. But there was no abatement of troubles. Again Devi came in his dream and said that 'She meant Shirdi Sai Baba and not Tryambakeshwar Baba'. Now Vaidya's worry was how to go to Shirdi. Meantime, at Shirdi, Baba told Shama that he could not accept the many unfulfilled vows of his mother to Sapta Shringi and hence Shama should go personally to Vani and complete those vows. Shama came to Vaidya of Vani. Should one explain the joy of Vaidya? After fulfilling vows for which Shama came, both reached Shirdi. Vaidya had blissful days at Shirdi and his troubles came to an end.

Khushalchand: One day Baba directed Kaka Dixit to go in a horse drawn carriage to Rahata and bring Khushalchand to Shirdi. There at Rahata Khushalchand had a dream in which Baba was calling him to Shirdi. What a wonder!

Ram Lal: In Bombay, one Ram Lal had a dream in which a saint beckoned him for his darshan. He was not knowing who that saint was. That evening when he was strolling in the road, in a wayside shop he saw the portrait of Sai and came to know that the saint who beckoned him in dream was Sai baba of Shirdi. He came to Shirdi and had the bliss of darshan of Baba.

Thus Baba pulled a lot of devotees to Shirdi.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Abhaya at the time of death

Lord Krishna says that the thought that one entertains at the moment of death shapes his after life state. Our omniscient Baba will certainly guide His devotees appropriately when their hour for departure comes.

On his way to the pilgrimage of Manasarovar, Saint Vijayananda from Madras came to Shirdi. There, on hearing from Somadev Swami the various hurdles on the Himalayan route to Manasarovar, he abandoned his planned trip. When he came for Baba's darshan He shouted: 'Chuck this good for nothing sanyasi out! His association is fruitless.' The saint anyway stayed back. When he got a letter from Madras that his mother's condition was serious, he came to Baba seeking permission to leave Shirdi. Baba who knew the past and future of all said thus: "Why did you take to sanyas if you have such strong attachment to your mother? Your past store of good deeds is immense and hence you came here. There are lots of thieves in the wada. You are to be their first prey. Be alert. Perform three saptah of the Srimad Bhagawatham. You will get peace." The saint took up saptah (reading in 7 days) of Bhagawatham. He completed two rounds. During the course of the third saptah he laid his head on the lap of Bade Baba and breathed his last.

Baba advised Balaram Mangar to go to Machendra Ghat and practice meditation. Mangar felt that Baba was banishing him from Shirdi. One day Baba appeared in the flesh and blood before Mangar at Machendra Ghat and said: 'You think that I am in Shirdi alone. Now find out yourself whether I am just a man of three and half cubits.' So saying He vanished into thin air. Later when Mangar was desperate to get rail ticket from Pune to Dadar, a nomad wearing only a loin cloth came to him unsolicited, gave a ticket to Dadar and without taking money vanished. Who could be that nomad except Baba?

Noolkar, Magistrate of Pandharpur vowed himself that he would go to Baba's darshan only when he got a good Brahmin cook and nice Nagpur oranges to be offered to Baba. That very night a cook came to him and also received a basketful of Nagpur oranges. The sender of the oranges remained mysterious. Till his end, Noolkar remained at Shirdi. When his hour came, Vedas were recited and holy water used for washing Baba's feet was poured in to his mouth.

Seven days before the mahasamadhi of Baba, an ailing tiger was brought up the steps of masjid to the holy presence of Baba. Baba looked at its eyes and the tiger swilled its tails struck the floor thrice with that and breathed its last instantly.

Bow to shri sai peace be to all.

Importance of Guru

Once Baba narrated an event, which was an allegory. "He and three others were searching for Truth. A Vanjari (one who resides in forest and sells salts etc.) came and told them not to venture into the forest without a proper guide and offered food. The other three persons, pursuing the path of Work, Yoga, and Wisdom brushed his advice aside and roamed in the forest searching Truth and lost their 'lives'. Baba listened to vanjari's advice and took the food offered by him. At that instant His Guru appeared before Him, tied Him upside down in to a well and went away. When the Guru returned after four hours Baba was in a state of bliss." The moral of the story is: Guru in some form is a must; one should not reject food offered with Love; Search for God with hunger is no use; the demand of the sense organs should be diverted to the opposite direction from the present one.

Once when Smt. Gokhale came to Shirdi with the intention of fasting, Baba told her to go to Dada Kelkar's house, prepare Pooranpoli (a sweet dish), serve all and eat herself. Moderate food is essential for mind, health and God realization. Baba used to say: 'Should my children fast on Shimka (a holy day), I will not consent'.

Baba once said that when He was a boy, He was a weaver and earned many times more than His colleagues. He added that what God gave was permanent and not what man doled out.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all.

Greatness of Udhi

Baba profusely gave Udhi to all. Sometimes, while sitting in front of Dhuni He used to sing sweetly: "Playful Rama! Playful Rama! Come! Come! Bring Udhi sacks-full!" (Ramathe Ram, Ramathe Ram, Avoji, Avoji, Udhiyen ke Goniya Lavoji, Lavoji). While spiritually Udhi is an indication that everything would end up in ashes, in real life it was conferring the devotees, health, prosperity, riddance from sorrow and worry.

Once a Scorpion stung a friend of Narayan Jani. Since there was no Udhi of Baba at that time, he applied the ashes from incense stick kept before Baba's photo and uttered the name of Baba. Pain immediately subsided.

Nana Chandodkar once heard on his way to Thane railway station that his friend's daughter at a far away place was suffering from bubonic plague. He had no Udhi of Sai at that time. He immediately picked up the dust from the road, uttered the holy name of Baba and applied it on his wife by his side. Later it came to know that at that same instant the plague bulbs on the body of his friend's daughter subsided.

One day Sai Baba summoned one Ramgir Bua, who was on his way to kandesh, gave him a pocket of Udhi and copy of his famous arathi song by Akhtar and told him to give them to nana Chandodkar at Jamner. Ramgir asked as to how he could go beyond Jalagaon to Jamner as he was having just two rupees only. Baba merely said that God would make all arrangements. When a worried Ramgir got down at Jalagaon station wondering how to go to Jamner, a trimly dressed peon came shouting "Who is Ramgir Bua of Shirdi?" and took Ramgir to a superb coach. On the way he gave Ramgir nice Tiffin and told him not to bother about his caste as he was a Hindu Garwal Kshatriya. At dawn at the outskirts of Jamner, Ramgir got down to answer calls of nature. When he returned he found the coach, horses, and the coach-driver vanished without a trace. By enquiring around he came to Nana's home and gave the Udhi etc. given by Baba. At that moment Nana's daughter in labour was in a critical condition. When the Udhi was given to her and Arathi was sung, there was a safe delivery. When Ramgir thanked nana for coach and food, nana stood aghast, because neither he knew of Ramgir's visit nor he had sent any one to the station.

Narayan Rao fell sick after Baba's Mahasamadhi. In his dream Baba came out of a cellar and assured him that gradually he would improve and would be cured completely in a week's time. It happened so.

In 1917 Appa Saheb Kulkarni started worshipping Baba's picture. Worshipping Baba's picture is as good as having His physical darshan. When a saint named Bala Bua Sudhar came to Shirdi in 1917, Baba told that He knew that person for the last four years. Sudhar remembered prostrating before Baba's portrait in Bombay four years ago.

Once when Kulkarni was not in town a fakir resembling Baba came to his house and his family gave the fakir one rupee. Kulkarni, who had to return back from Bhiwandi canceling his journey as his horse fell ill, remarked that the fakir should have been Sai and had he been there he would have given him ten rupees. Though he was hungry he searched for the fakir through out the town in vain. Later when he took his lunch and came out in the street the fakir himself came in front. (Chapter 32 - one should not search God with hunger).The fakir repeatedly insisted on dakshina and took rupees ten (excluding the one rupee received already from the family) from Kulkarni and left.

In 1917 one Hari Bhav Karnik gave one rupee as dakshina to Baba in the masjid and when he climbed again the steps to give one more rupee to Baba, Shama gestured him to leave. When on his way to Bombay Karnik went to Kala Rama temple at Nasik, Narsingh Maharaj, a saint who resided in that temple, suddenly sprang up, caught hold of the wrist of Karnik and said 'Give me my one rupee'. Thus we know that Baba is the indweller of al and all saints are one.

Those who are fortunate to get the Udhi of Baba should, after bath, apply it on the forehead and eat a little in a glass of water.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all.

Chapter 34

Condensation of Karma-Curing of Dr. Pillai's ailment

At Malegaon a doctor's nephew was ailing with the incurable tuberculosis. The doctor and his fellow doctors failed in their attempt to cure and the boy was at the end of the tether. When his parents brought him to the holy feet of Baba, He remarked: **"He who takes refuge in this masjid shall not suffer in this life or after. Now be rid of the worry."** The boy was cured with the administration of Udhi alone. The doctor also came to Baba and enjoyed the blessings.

An ardent devotee by name Dr. Pillai was suffering from guinea worms in the leg. Since the pain was unbearable and no cure was in sight, the doctor told Kaka to request Baba to apportion the agony to ten births and cure him. Baba was moved on hearing this and said: **"Why should he suffer for ten births? Saints are meant to confer happiness in this life and after. Bring him here on somebody's shoulders. We will labour and cure him in ten days."** When the doctor was brought accordingly, Baba said "Pray Allah always. He alone will protect you. Now rest here. A crow will come and peck at the wound and you will be all right." He rested by Baba's side. At that time Abdul who was rearranging the lamps on the wall of the masjid inadvertently stepped on the wound of the doctor and all the worms and pus came out in one go. The doctor who wailed loudly asked Baba whether crow also would come and peck. Baba replied: 'No crow will come. Abdul is the crow' and gave Udhi. In ten days the doctor was completely cured.

Once Baba sent Udhi to the sister-in-law of Shama who was suffering from fever and bubonic plague. Next morning, Shama found her normal preparing tea.

An aged man was suffering from kidney stones and was mortally afraid to undergo surgery. When Baba's Udhi was given mixed in water, the stone came out in five minutes.

One kayastha caste lady was struggling with pain due to the child getting across the uterus. When Baba's Udhi was given in water, she had easy delivery immediately. But as per its fate, the child was born dead.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Baba being probed

Kaka Mahajani's friend came with the determination that he would not bow before Baba and give dakshina. On his entering the masjid Baba exclaimed in Marathi 'Ka! Yaveji' (Oh! Welcome sir). It was exactly the tone of his father and the friend fell at Baba's feet and voluntarily gave dakshina.

Kaka Mahajani's boss from Bombay came with little faith on Baba. Baba distributed grapes in the masjid. This man, who could not spit the seeds in the masjid thought why the saint could not foresee his discomfort and pocketed the seeds. Again Baba gave the same grapes to all and surprisingly only this man got grapes without seeds. The man thought that now Baba should again start distributing the grapes from Jani. Immediately Baba did accordingly. Again the man thought Baba should direct Jani to return with him. (Normally Kaka was asked to stay minimum, a week every time he came to Shirdi). Baba told Kaka to return with the boss. Then Kaka gave dakshina to Sai. Baba said that he asked dakshina only from those whom the fakir identifies and later they reap huge benefits. Kaka's boss also gave dakshina and returned to Bombay as a devotee of Baba.

A Kayastha caste gentleman from Bandra could not sleep as his dead father came in his dream every night and abused him. When he placed Baba's Udhi under his pillow and hung His photo on the wall over the bed, the torture stopped and he had sound sleep.

Balaji was an ardent devotee of Baba. Every time after the harvest in his fields he would place all the produce at the feet of Baba in the masjid and would take home only the quantity permitted by Baba. One day an angry cobra came hissing in his cattle shed threatening men and animal alike. Balaji placed a cup of milk in its front, remarked 'Baba, Why are you frightening like this?' and sat before the cobra. The cobra quietly returned.

Later when the annual ceremony of this Balaji was celebrated and three times the people invited came for lunch, Balaji's mother scattered Udhi on the food items and started serving nonchalantly. Not only the three-fold crowd had sumptuous meal but a lot was left over in the vessels.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Gentlemen from Goa, Mrs. Aurangabadkar

Two gentlemen from Goa came to masjid. When Baba sought dakshina from one person he refused the dakshina volunteered by the other. Then he said that once he was very poor and prayed to God that if he got a job he would give Him the salary of the first month. He got a job for Rs. 15 and gradually it rose to Rs. 700. But he forgot the vow and as per his karma he came to masjid and the masjid ayi asked for her money. Then he said another story as if it was his own. "I was staying once in a mansion by the seashore. The man in the house stole the Rs. 30000 I had. I was then lying wailing in the portico of the mansion for fifteen days. One fakir came along and told me to pray to a saint and take a vow to forego one food item of which I was very fond of until the lost money was restored. I prayed to that Saint and eschewed taking rice. The thief brought back the money in full. When I came to the steamer, which was full, the peon there who was unknown to me told the ship master that I was his relative and got me aboard. Then I reached the land, boarded the train and came to the masjid.' While taking food Shama told the gentlemen that Baba never left Shirdi and never possessed Rs. 30000 and all the talk meant nothing to them. Then the two gentlemen with tears said that the two stories pertained to their own life and it was unbelievable that Baba knew every nuance of the events.

Aurangabadkar was not blessed with children in his 27 years of married life and his wife pleaded to Shama to talk to Baba. After repeated pleas from Shama, Baba ordered the coconut brought by the lady be broke and directing that half be given to her said that in twelve months from thence she would bear a child. Shama who had absolute faith in Baba swore: 'Mother, if you do not beget a child in twelve months, I will break a coconut on the head of this God and drive Him away from this masjid. Lest let me not be called Shama'. In twelve months time the lady delivered a child and the grateful parents donated Rs. 500 to build a shed for the horse 'Shyamakarna'.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chavadi procession

Baba slept alternatively in masjid and chavadi. From December 10, 1909, at chavadi also the ritual of night worship commenced regularly. When the turn for chavadi stay came crowd would collect like a festival day. Masjid would be decorated with lights and festoons. People with various musical instruments would be stationed at different points and would be singing. The horse 'Shyamakarna' fully decorated and the beautiful chariot would be stationed along. Tatya would come at the appropriate time, place an embroidered shawl on His shoulders and help Baba to get up. Baba would start with his chatka, Soli etc. With Tatya on one side, Mahalsapathi on the other and Jog holding the decorated umbrella from behind Baba would come to the steps of masjid. The announcers would loudly announce His arrival Thus, would slowly start moving our Yogi Raja's bewitching procession. The procession would slowly wound it way while the sky being decorated with colorful fireworks and the heaven and earth being enchanted with music from instruments and 'Jai Gosha' from the emotional devotees. It was a sight that gods would vie with each other to witness. Sometimes, Mahalsapathi would appear to be possessed and dance around. Kaka Dixit would spread all around sandal and incense powder. Baba would make with his hands gestures, the secret of which none knew. On reaching Chavadi, Baba would be made to sit on a lovely cushion. Nimonkar would hold an umbrella over His head. Jog would do ritualistic worship to His feet in the silver vessel. Nice sandal paste would be applied to His forehead. Many a crown of flowers would be brought and held above his head by the devotees. He would be adorned with a number of jewels. He would be fanned on either side. Then the chillum puffed by Baba would come around to one and all as Prasad. To the enchanting bears of auspicious instruments at the end, Jog, would take the conventional arathi. Everyone would get the Prasad, prostrate before Sai and would depart. Baba Himself would spread 50 to 60 white clothes and prepare His bed.

Alas! Those divine golden days have gone once for all. Let us recollect it in our mind every day before going to bed and get His blessings.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Baba feeding the devotees

When Baba decides to feed all, he would do everything from the scratch carefully Himself - He would go to the shop for procuring things, grind wheat, pulverize masala items etc. Sometimes, he would prepare sweet rice puddings. Occasionally he even prepared non-vegetarian food. He would simply thrust His bare hand in to the vessel when things were boiling to check whether items had been cooked. His hand would remain unscathed by the boiling things. After 1910 this event stopped because the food brought by devotees for Baba was so much that it overflowed even after everyone including fakirs and beggars had their fill.

Once Nana Chandorkar while coming to Shirdi skipped the Dattatreya temple on the banks of river Godavari as he wanted to avoid the holy man there to whom he had promised some donation. When he came to Baba and sat quietly, Baba angrily asked how he could do such a thing as skipping God on the way though he was in His association for long.

Every day after the noon arathi, Baba would sit straight in the nimbar and all would sit in rows on either side of him. Food would be served sumptuously. One day after such a sumptuous meal, Baba gave a glass full of butter-milk to Hamad Panth and told him that he would not get such an opportunity again and hence he should drink it in full. Yes, Shortly after Baba attained Mahasamadhi.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Baba's knowledge in Sanskrit

One fine day when Nana Chandorkar was massaging Baba's legs, Baba told Nana that whatever he was muttering then could be uttered loudly. Nana too recited that song from Bhagawat Gita, which was: 'Thath vidhdhi pranipadhena pari presnena sevaya/upadekshanthithe jnanam jnaninaha thathwa darshinaha//.He also gave the general meaning of it. Baba told him to give him word by word meaning, with its grammatical sense. When Nana started giving meaning, word by word, Baba started His cross-examination. Especially for Baba's queries on 'pranipade', 'pariprasna' and 'sevaya', Nana started struggling for counter explanation. Baba said instead of 'jnanam' (wisdom)'ajnanam' (lack of wisdom) also would perfectly suit in the song. Then he asked why Krishna who was a wise man Himself asked Arjuna to go to wise men. Nana was dumbfounded. Then Baba explained thus: "Disciple should ask Guru the question to get knowledge and not to corner the Guru. That is the difference between 'prasna' and 'pariprasna'. One can use the word 'ajnanam' because 'jnanam' is already with all. Only the 'ajnanam' that 'jnanam' is not there' should go. He added that though Krishna was a wise man, He told Arjuna to go to wise men to indicate that He and wise men are one." On hearing this, the illusion to Nana and the rest that Baba was ignorant of Sanskrit was gone and Baba's true Vedic wisdom shone forth to them.

Buti one day had a dream while sleeping in the Dixit wada that Baba directed him to build a wada (mansion) with temple. The same dream at the same time occurred to Shama also. When both of them came to masjid, Baba approved the proposal of Buti to build the Wads. When the construction was on, Baba on His way to Lendi garden would look intently at the building and say: "After the temple work is over, we shall live there. We shall all meet together and celebrate happily". When the main hall was under construction an order was given for the statue of Muralidhar to be installed there, but before the same came, Baba suddenly attained Mahasamadhi and as per His wish he was laid to rest there and it is known today as 'Samadhi Mandir'.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Deo's udhyapan

Deo, who was the mamlatdar of Dahanu wanted to conduct an udhyapan (thanks giving ceremony) on his completing a number of vows. He wrote to Baba inviting him. Baba said to Jog: 'Write to him saying that if one invites me with his heart I rush to him. I do not need any rail or airplane to go to places. Inform him that I, you and one more will come to the function.' A few days before this a sanyasi from Bengal came to Deo at Dahanu asking for donations for the protection of cows. Deo had told him to come after some time. On the day of the function the sanyasi came in a horse drawn carriage with two others and saying that 'he has come for food and not for donation' partook the food and went away. Later Deo wrote to Shirdi complaining that Baba had cheated him by telling a lie that he would come to the function. Before the letter was opened Baba remarked: "I will give up my life than to go back on my words. I went with two persons. But without recognizing me, he thought that the sanyasi came to collect donations. Did not three of us come in time?" Deo was moved to tears at the kindness of Baba and stunned at the way Baba appeared as Bengali sanyasi and two others.

In 1917 on the day of Holi festival (a full moon day) Baba appeared in the dream of Hemad panth in Bandra and said that He was coming to his house for food. At noon, when every one sat for the meals, door was closed, food was offered to Lord Krishna, ghee was also served as a token for commencing the serving of food, and there was a knock on the doors. When opened Hemad Panth saw tow Muslim friends named Ali Mohammed and Ismu Mujavar standing with a big packet. Seeing all seated for food, Ali said 'Sorry! Please carry on with your food. This packet is yours. I will tell the background later' and went away giving the packet to Hemad Panth. When opened Hemad panth was thrilled as it was a big beautiful portrait of Sai Baba. With tears in his eyes Hemad panth installed the portrait in the middle of the room and offered the meals to Him, the one who never forsakes His devotees.

Bow to Shri Sai peace be to all

Story of the portrait

Nine years after the above episode, Ali told Hemad panth the story of the portrait. 'Three months before the portrait came to Hemad panth's house, Ali suffered from big boil in his leg and went to Bombay to his brother-in-law's house. His brother-in-law told him that all his troubles were due to his keeping the portraits of saints in his house and advised him to cast them off in the sea, as was done by him (as idol worship was opposed to Muslim faith). Ali too ordered so to his manager at Bandra. When after three months he came to his home at Bandra, he found that the portraits of all the saints had been tossed into the sea but some how the portrait of Sai Baba had escaped. Fearing that his brother-in-law would throw that picture also into the sea, he consulted Ismu who advised that Hemad panth was the best recipient and thus they came to his house that said day with the portrait of Babal'

Once Deo told jog that he could not read "Gnaneshwari" and asked whether he did that. Later he asked another devotee Balakram what Baba had taught him. When Deo came that day to masjid Baba took him by his hands, sat underneath the pole and accused thus: 'You have stolen my rags. Is this your routine, you grey haired one? I will finish you beating with my stick.' The abuses continued and Deo thought that he might even receive blows. After some pause Baba said: 'I am waiting here to gift you a shawl with golden Zari but you are stealing my rags'. Deo understood that when he has Baba for direct perception he should not seek around for others' experiences.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 42

Baba's Mahasamadhi

On September 26, 1918 Baba developed slight fever. He stopped his food. On October 15, 1918, around 2.15PM He shed His mortal coils. It was Vijaya Dasami day. But the auspicious ekadashi thithi had come. Exactly two years ago on Vijaya Dasami day Baba struck His satka on the floor and shouted 'This is my Seemolangan (crossing the frontiers) day' but no one could know that He was meaning that on Vijaya Dasami day He had planned to shed His body. Shortly after this, Ramachandra Patil fell sick dangerously and in his dream one midnight Baba appeared and told him thus: 'Your death warrant has been withdrawn. But the worry is about Tatya. He will die on Vijaya Dasami. Do not tell him. He would be frightened to death'. Ramachandra Patil told this immediately to Bala Shimpi only. The Ashwin month of 1918 arrived and Tatya fell sick. Patil and Shimpi trembled as Baba's words never went vain. On Vijaya Dasami Tatya's Pulse ebbed. But there was a dramatic turn. Baba suddenly cast off His body and Tatya survived. Was there an exchange of lives or Baba foretold His death day but deliberately mentioned Tatya's name? He alone knew. Next day (16th October) Baba appeared in the dream of Das Ganu at Pandharpur and told him the 'Masjid has tumbled. Oil mongers and merchants troubled Me. Come and cover Me with flowers.' Realizing the meaning, Das Ganu came rushing, covered Baba with flowers and performed kirtan. Just before shedding His body, Baba donated nine rupees to Lakshmi Bai Shinde and told Kaka, Buti and others to go and take their lunch. Then he said thus: "This masjid is not comfortable to Me. Take me to Buti's stone mansion. I will be all right there. Brahmins will worship me". So saying He laid off His mortal frame on the lap of Bayaji. Nimonkar poured a little water in His mouth but it came out. Nimonkar cried 'Oh! Deva.' But life had already fled from Baba's frame. Buti and the rest came rushing discarding their meals.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Baba's Mahasamadhi (Continued)

The news of Baba's mahasamadhi spread like wild fire. People assembled in large numbers and cried. Some rolled uncontrolled in the streets, while others fainted. Late a disagreement arose between Hindus and Muslims on the modus Operandi of disposing His mortal remains. In the meantime Baba appeared in the dream of Lakshman Mama and Said: 'Jog thinks I am dead. He will not come to do my kakad Arathi. You come and do it.' Mama came with requisite items for worship and performed the kakad Arathi despite protests from Muslim priests. Then on Jog started performing the arathi regularly. After 72 hours of debate, there was a sudden change of heart among Muslims and all joined together, carried Baba in a procession to Buti Wada and laid Him to rest there. This was a Wednesday. Though such a long time had passed off the body did not show rigor mortis, remained supple and the kafni was removed easily.

Some days before the mahasamadhi a boy broke the brick that Baba was assiduously guarding. When it broke, He wept like an ignorant man saying 'What was broken is not a brick but my fate itself.'

Thirty two years before the actual mahasamadhi, Baba once told Mahalsapathi thus: 'I am going to Allah, if I do not come back after three days, bury me and plant a flag in commemoration.' Saying so, He became dead. Despite the strong protest by villagers and the village headman, Mahalsapathi kept vigil over His body for three days and nights, keeping Him on his laps. On the completion of the third day, Baba woke up as if from sleep!

After the mahasamadhi of Baba, Jog took sanyas, Baba had told him thus: "At the appropriate time the results of your good as well as bad karmas would be burnt to ashes. Only when you renounce all attachments, sexual pleasures, desire for palate, take to begging bowl and serve God, and then only I will consider you as pure."

With the Baba's saying 'He who bears all tribulations with equanimity, he pleases Me immensely,' Hemad Panth closes this chapter.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 45

Kaka Dixit's doubts

Baba blesses his devotees as ever even after His Mahasamadhi. One morning as usual Kaka Dixit was reading Eknath Bhagwath. The topic of the day related to the nine nadhas (realized souls) of Rishaba family preaching to King Janaka on devotion. Shama and Mahajani too were with him. After the reading Kaka lamented that he and his likes could never have devotion to Lord like Nadhas and hence there was no hope for salvation. Shama did not like this. He said that they had the diamond among the saints in Sai Baba and he had assured them that remembering His name or that of Hari was enough for salvation. But Kaka was not consoled and the whole day he was depressed on this issue. Next day when the reading stated Ananta Rao Pagade came and started narrating the following strange dream he had the previous night: "Myself and Shama were standing in knee deep water in the sea. Baba was seated in an effulgent throne studded with diamonds. At the request of Shama, Baba raised His feet above the water and I fell at His feet. He said immediately 'You will receive your benediction. Now on there is no cause for worry. Give a silk dhoti bordered with Zari to Shama."

Shama said to kaka: 'Yesterday you were assailed by doubt. Today Baba has sent you the reply.' The silk dhoti, brought by Pagade, was accepted by Shama, only after getting Baba's permission by casting chits before His portrait.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Baba's trip to Gaya

Dixit had arranged for the sacred thread ceremony of his son at Nagpur, while Nana Chandodkar's elder son's marriage had been scheduled at Gwalior at the same time. Both invited Baba to participate. Baba told them to take Shams for the function and said: 'After Shama visits Kasi and prayag, **we will be ahead of him at Gaya.**' Watch out for Baba's miracle. After attending the functions and visiting Kasi and Prayag, Shama reached Gaya. A Brahmin guide (Gayawallah) took him from the rail station to his house. On entering that house, Shama started weeping with ecstasy, on seeing the big photo of Sai Baba there. ('We will be ahead of him at Gaya'). Further discussions revealed that it was **the same picture that Shama gave to the Gayawallah with Baba's permission when the Gayawallah visited Shirdi ten years ago.** The thrilled Gayawallah accorded royal treatment to Shama.

Once Baba bought two goats from a herd at four times their price, gave lentil to eat, affectionately patted them and then released them in the herd. People objected to the price paid. Baba said that they were His friends in the previous birth and they killed each other over Oproperty dispute in spite of they being brothers, they had taken birth as goats. He added that since He recognized them in the herd that passed by and wanted to give some solace and rest, He purchased them. He said further that as this venture was not to other's liking, He let them back in the herd.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Baba recollecting previous birth's events

Only refuge at the Lotus feet of saints would eradicate our sins. Baba narrated the following episode: "One day under a tree on a river bed when I was puffing my hookah a passerby joined me to share it. At that time we heard the loud croaking of a frog. I told him that 'a frog is tasting the fruits of its bitter karmas of past'. That man went and saw neat the river bank and came saying that a big black cobra had caught a big frog and the frog's life would be over in ten or twenty minutes. I questioned how that was possible when I its father was very much there and went to the river-bed, against the protest of the man that the cobra would attack us. I went near the cobra and said: 'Oh Veerabadrappa! Have you not shed your hatred on Basappa even after you taking rebirth as a cobra? Despicable.' Immediately the cobra dropped the frog and dived into the river and disappeared while the frog leaped into the bushes. To the bewildered passerby I narrated the story of the cobra and frog. 'There was a Mahadeva temple around here. The rich man of the place swindled the money given by the residents of renovating the temple. The Lord appeared twice in the dream of the rich man's wife and told her that if she gave her jewels to the temple work He would return it hundred fold. The crooked man valued the jewels at Rs.1000, retained them and gave to temple a waste barren land. Even that was not his but belonged to one Dubagi, who had pledged it with that man. Thus, the miser cheated everybody from God. Strange things happened. Lightning struck and the rich man and his wife died. Dubagi too died. The rich man was reborn as a poor Brahmin (Veerabadrappa), his wife as the daughter (Gowri) of the temple priest while Dubagi as the son (Basappa) of the assistant of the temple priest. The girl Gowri worshipped Me and I assured the priest that her husband would come of his own accord. Veerabadrappa on his wanderings for food from place to place came to this place for alms. On my advice the priest gave Gowri in marriage to him. Suddenly land prices spiraled up and the barren land fetched one lakh rupees. **(Exactly a hundred times the estimated value of the jewels in previous birth)**. I told that Gowri was the sole owner of the sale-proceeds, half the interest amount belonged to Basappa and not a pie to Veerabadrappa. A ferocious Veerabadrappa abused Me and vowed to cut Basappa into pieces. Basappa sought my refuge and I assured to protect him. Then Veerabadrappa and Basappa died and took rebirth as cobra and frog. True to My assurance to Basappa God sent me in time to save him. God be praised.'

Moral: As you sow so shall you reap.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Baba eradicating the distress of Sapatnekar

Shevade and Sapatnekar were preparing for Law examination. Of all the people Shevade's preparation was very poor but he was confident that Shirdi Baba had assured him success. All laughed and Sapatnekar too.

In 1913 when Sapatnekar was a practicing lawyer, his son died of a mysterious ailment. The grieving father on pilgrimage to holy shrines came to Shirdi. When he came to the masjid for darshan, Baba drove him away shouting 'Get out.' No body's pleas helped change His command. Sapatnekar returned with heavy heart.

A year later his wife dreamt that as she was going to fetch water from the village well, a fakir addressed her thus: 'Girl, Why exhausted for nothing? I will fill your pitcher with water'. The couple figured out that it was none other than Baba and came to Shirdi. Though Baba welcomed Sapatnekar initially with the same phrase 'Get out', He later allowed him to hold His divine feet. He told the assembled people: 'What for this man comes here and weeps? He accuses Me of having killed his child. Am I a slayer of children? Well! Now itself I will do this. I will place the very same child in the womb of his wife.' Then placing His hands on Sapatnekar's Head, Baba said: "These feet are Ancient and Divine. Now you will have no worry. Trust in Me." As blessed by Baba, in a year the lady delivered a male child named Muralidar and an eight-month old baby was placed at the feet of Baba.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Chapter 49

Hari Khanoba, Somadev Swamy

To those who drink the nectar of Sai Leelas, Sai is bound to help in their liberation.

Hari Khanoba of Bombay came to Shirdi for darshan. He used to wear costly Zari Pheta (Zari Turban). After darshan he lost his new footwear. As he was sitting dejected in the Wada, a boy came in the street hanging the slippers and shouting 'Hari ka beta, Zari ka Pheta, (Hari K's son, Zari Turban). When Khanoba questioned him, he said Baba told him to do so and give the slippers to him who wore Zari turban and claimed himself as son of Khanoba. This surprised him because he did not tell any one that he was the son of Hari Khanoba!

A sanyasi by name Somadev Swamy came to Shirdi. But on seeing the flags flying atop the masjid thought it as symbol of vanity and decided not to see Baba. However, he learnt from the villagers that Baba cared a dime for external paraphernalia and all these were for the pleasure of His devotees. When he came near the Dwarka Mayi Baba roared: 'Be gone. Dare you come inside the masjid? Let our humbug be with us. Is it befitting a sanyasi to fly flags atop?' The sanyasi was immediately devoted to Baba.

Once when Nana Chandodkar was massaging the feet of Baba, two Muslim ladies, removed their veil on their face and prostrated before Baba. Charmed by the beauty of the younger of the two, Nana wanted to see her face again. Immediately, Baba lightly tapped Nana on his thigh. After the women left Baba said: 'As you see beauty, appreciate the greatness of the creator who created that beauty and lives in it. It is our duty to appreciate beauty. Only we should ensure that we do not have evil thoughts. Creation should be appreciated without attachment.'

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

Kaka Dixit, Thembe Swamy

In 1909, Kaka Sahib Dixit who came to Shirdi for cure of his handicap in the leg got convinced that while whatever may happen to that handicap his spiritual handicap should be corrected. Before coming to Shirdi he came to the house of Mirikars at Ahmednagar and after finishing his official work, sought the assistance of Mirikars to go to Shirdi. At that time as God (Baba) sent Shama came to Ahmednagar to see his ailing mother-in-law. That very night Kaka left for Shirdi along with Shama and the big portrait of Sai Baba meant for Mega. Kaka enormously benefited spiritually at Shirdi. Then on he did not bother about his rich law practice or retention of his high social status at Bombay. He was absorbed in Baba and Baba alone. One day Baba said: 'I will take my Kaka in Pushpaka Viman (flower decorated aero plane).' On July 5, 1926 Kaka boarded the train at vile-Parle with Hemad Panth to go to Bombay to see his ailing son. He was talking of Baba with profuse devotion and joy. Suddenly he appeared to be sleeping and when Hemad Panth shook him, the tenant of the body had already fled to his Master. Yes. Kaka was no more. As assured by Baba, Kaka contemplating Baba, painlessly fled in an instant as one would soar in an air plane. Baba released Shama, Mahalsapathi, Mega, Tatyia etc. on Ekadhasi days from their mortal coils.

Once, while in Andhra Pradesh, Pundalik Rao was having conversation with a saint named Vasudevananda also called Thembe Swamy. During the conversation when the name of Baba and Shirdi figured the Swamy at once gave a coconut, did a namaskar and told Rao to give to his brother Baba. He also said that Swamiji generally do not prostrate to others but Baba was an exception. Nearly a month after when Rao was on his way to Shirdi, his friends inadvertently broke the said coconut and mixed it with edibles. When Rao came for darshan, Baba asked him to give His brother's coconut. Rao shivered. Baba then said: **'Fear not. The coconut was broken at My will. Never permit yourself the thought that you are the author of good as well as bad karmas.'**

Once Baba suddenly said 'People of My Durbar are on the way' and shortly Durandhar with his family entered the masjid. Baba gave him his chillum to smoke, which warded off his asthma permanently. (Later he got only once it was on the day of Baba's Mahasamadhi). During arathi and chavadi procession Durandhar saw the halo of Panduranga in Sai.

Bow to Shri Sai Peace be to all

PHALA SHRUTI

FRUITS OF RECITING THE SAISATCHARITRA

- ❖ Devotees of Sai are not to bother about the tribulation of the worldly life.
- ❖ If this Satcharitra is read or heard, the dangers to your body and soul will be warded off.
- ❖ If listened with eagerness all sins would be obliterated.
- ❖ If you want to end the cycle of birth and death, read this.
- ❖ He, who surrenders to Baba absolutely, loses his individuality.
- ❖ By reading this Satcharitra all dangers will vanish. One will get wisdom, wealth and liberation.
- ❖ It is good to read this on holy days like full moon day, Rama Navami, Gokulashtami, Thursdays etc.
- ❖ Sick people will become healthy if they read this Satcharitra.
- ❖ Mind will get one pointed attention.

BOW TO SHRI SAI OUR SADGURU. PEACE BE TO ALL.

AUM SAI SHRI SAI JAYA JAYA SAI.

PRANAMS AT THE FEET OF BABA.