

SRI SHIRDI SAI BABA



“AUM SAI RAM”

Aum means universal sound. We use at the beginning of each mantra. Sai means Sai Baba. Ram means Baba is that same Rama we studied last week coming again in a different form.

Baba lived in an old abandoned mosque in Shirdi. He welcomed everyone. He did not care if someone was rich or poor, or Hindu or Muslim. He told the people of all religions should work and love together, and that God was not Hindu or Moslem. They both worshipped the same God in different ways.

If people came to Him with a sincere heart, He would solve their problems and give them blessings. He kept a fire burning 24 hours a day, called "DHUNI". Often he would give devotees "UDI", or ash from the fire. This would also cure their ills. He used to go beg his food at a few households, and then He would share with everyone, even the dogs and the birds which came to eat with Him. He loved everyone, and became very famous because he could heal them physically and bring them inner happiness and peace of mind. He was a saint, God come down to Earth in physical form. He only did good things to others.

Before he passed away, Baba told his devotees that He would help His devotees, even from the grave. Baba is still working on behalf of all of His devotees. Many miracles still occur for people who pray to Sai Baba.

Questions:

- What is UDI?
- Does Baba answer prayers of people who pray with faith and patience?
- Was Baba a saint? What does that mean?
- Did He teach we should love everyone? Why?
- Is God inside everyone?
- Do miracles still occur for those who worship Him?
- What is a miracle?

Some of Baba's teachings are

- Shraddha and Saburi – To achieve anything we need faith and patience
- Purity and Compassion – One should be clean at their heart, and treat everyone equally with love.

STORY

Once, Mrs. Tarkhad was staying in a certain house in Shirdi, a town in India. At noon, meals were ready and dishes were being served, when a hungry dog turned up there and began to bark, Mrs. Tarkhad got up at once and threw a piece of bread, which the dog gulped with great relish. In the afternoon, when she went to the Masjid (Baba's mosque) and sat at some distance, Sai Baba said to her, "Mother, you have fed Me Sumptuously up to my throat, My afflicted pranas (life forces) have been satisfied. Ever act like this, and this will stand you in

good stead. Sitting in this Masjid I shall never, never speak untruth. Take pity on Me like this. First give bread to the hungry, and then eat yourself. Note this well.” She could not at first understand the meaning of what Baba said.

So she replied – “Baba, how could I feed You? I am myself dependent on others and take my food from them on payment.” Then Baba replied – “Eating that lovely bread I am heartily contented and I am still belching. The dog which you saw before meals and to which you gave the piece of bread is, one with Me, so also other creatures (cats, pigs, flies, cows, etc.) are one with Me. I am roaming in their forms. He, who sees Me in all creatures, is My beloved. So abandon the sense of duality and distinction, and serve Me, as you did today.” Drinking this nectar like words, she was moved, her eyes were bedimmed with tears, her throat was choked and her joy knew no bounds.

Questions:

Why did Mrs.Tarkhad feed the dog? Why did Baba say she fed Him?

Is Baba everywhere and in everything?

Is it good to feed birds, dogs, and other animals?

Why does feeding them make them happy?

Is it good to make others happy?

GURU STOTRA

Gurur Brahmaa Gurur Vishnu
Gurur Devo Maheshwarah
Guruh Saakshaat Parabrahma
Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah

The Guru is Brahma, the Guru is Vishnu, and the Guru is Lord Shiva, Maheshwara”. The Guru is inside of you, the Guru is outside of you, and wherever we look, there is the presence of the Guru. And therefore, we bow down to the Respected Guru.

Gurur Brahmaa – The Guru reveals to us our kinship with our fellow beings and with God. Thus he cleanses our hearts of envy, jealousy, hatred, anger and shows the seeds of virtue, wisdom and faith in the hearts of the pupil.

Gurur Vishnu – He fosters and encourages good habits, sound reasoning and healthy emotions.

Gurur Devo Maheshwarah – He destroys the pests of envy, anger, greed, laziness and unsteadiness.

Guruh Saakshaat Parabrahma – The Guru is the Living Representative of God, on Earth. A Guru is a link between the individual and the Divine.

Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah – I bow down to Him.

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