

Shirdi Sai Baba

Shirdi Baba led a simple life of a fakir. He had no home. He stayed in a dilapidated mosque. He wrote no books. He built no ashram or matha [monastery]. He did not appoint any successor...no monastic order. He never left Shirdi for nearly 50 years. He protected and protects now also, all His devotees. Just think of Him---that will do - ---Like Lord Krishna said in the Gita, you can worship Him with a flower, a leaf and even a drop of water. Only your devotion matters!

Baba attained Mahasamadhi in 1918 on the Vijayadasami day-in Dussera festivals. One wonders what is the glory of Sai Baba?. Answer is simple. He loved and brought all people together...whether Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Parsee---people of all faiths were equally welcomed by Him. Rich or poor, healthy or sick---all received His Grace. He did not show any of the caste/religious prejudices of lesser religious heads and preachers/ acharyas He always said: "Allah Malik, Allah Acha karega" He was the servant of the Supreme Being, call Allah, Rama, Krishna and so on. He served the poor. Prepared food by his bare hands [literally]. He nursed a leper devotee, Bagoji Rao, whose face appears in the familiar photo of Baba walking with an umbrella. He loved animals and protected them---even a sick ,dying tiger!

Shirdi village became famous because of Sai Baba. He was highly intellectual and good-natured. He had no love for material things, but was always thinking of Atma. His heart was as clear as a mirror. He never bowed to desires. He never differentiated between the rich and the poor. Though he was living at Shirdi, he knew what was happening at distant places. Though he had all the powers (siddhis) at his feet, he never used them.

The mere touch of Sai's feet will detach us from worldly attachments and help us in getting Atma Sakshatkara (self-realisation). His Pada Tirth (water with which his feet are washed) has the power of destroying the evil forces. His udi (vibhuti) will cure all types of ailments. His order or command is like one from the Vedas. He never appeared tired. He never exhibited displeasure or overjoy. He was always in a happy mood. Everyone realised this true state of Sai Baba soon.

In the earlier days, Gowli Buva, who was a staunch devotee of Vittal, had expressed about Sai Baba as follows: "Baba has come into this world for the sake of orphans and the downtrodden." At one time Baba had a bout of wrestling with Mohiuddin Tamboli and pretended to lose. But from that day the egoism in Mohiuddin was removed and he stopped wrestling bouts, slowly working towards self-realisation (Atma Sakshatkara) . A false Guru named Jowahar Ali from Ahmednagar came to Shirdi and told everyone that Sai Baba was his pupil (shishya) and took him along with him to Rahata, a nearby village. Without any protest, Baba followed Jowahar Ali and served him as his pupil for about six months. Even though several defects were found in the false Guru, Baba, without complaining served him sincerely, thus showing to the world how a pupil should behave towards his Guru. Afterwards, the villagers of Shirdi exposed the false Guru and brought Baba back to Shirdi. After experiencing Baba's love towards them while he was at Shirdi, and missing it while he was away at Rahata, the villagers realised the greatness of him. They realised that Sai Baba was just like a mother to them and his words were full of nectar. Some devotees shed tears out of joy at Baba's return to Shirdi from Rahata. Sai Baba gave them the following message.

"You should never think I am nearer to you or at a distant place. I will be knowing from any distance your actions. I am the ruler of your hearts. I am in every atom of all matter and living beings in this world . I am the Creator, Preserver and Destroyer of this world. Whoever concentrates his thought on me will have nothing to fear . But Maya will punish those who forget me.

On hearing authentically about Sai Baba's true state and his words which were like nectar, the devotees prostrated before him. Irrespective of age and sex, they started visiting him before attending to their works. Baba gave udi as prasad to all the devotees who visited him. Baba, with his huge personality used to wear a long shirt (kafni) from top to bottom and tie the piece of cloth given to him by his Guru Venkusa, around his head . He used to carry a big bag (jholi) on his left shoulder. He rarely changed his clothes. Sometimes he used to give the clothes for washing, whenever his devotees insisted. He used to give some of the food he got from the five houses, to the domestic animals and birds, some he used to put in the Dhuni for his mother and used to eat only the remaining. Sometimes, the animals and birds used to put their mouths and beaks inside the pot in which the food was put, but Baba never objected.

Sometimes Baba used to tie small bells around his legs and sing divine songs and dance near a place called Takiya. His voice was very pleasing. Sometimes when he sang with full fervour, not only the devotees, but also the animals used to watch him and enjoy his music.

In those days there used to be Hindu-Muslim religious differences in most parts of the country. The English who ruled the country, wantonly used to create such differences. In view of the then prevailing conditions, Baba never disclosed anything about his parents or the details of his birth. He dressed like a Muslim fakir He used to have firewood continuously burning in the Dhuni (a Hindu custom) in the mosque. He grew a tulasi (basil) plant in the left front side of the mosque. In this way, he used to follow both Hindu and Muslim customs. He thus drew devotees from both the religions and used to teach them religious tolerance and co-existence.

In due course Sai Baba's name reached far-off places like Bombay. Ailments which could not be cured with medicines, got cured with the udi given by Sai Baba. His pada tirtha acted like sanjeevani (the herb that cured Lakshmana in the war with Ravana). Problems which could not be solved earlier got solved, before the devotees reached their respective places after praying to Baba personally. Not only Hindus and Muslims but also Sikhs, Parsis and Christians came to Sai.

Mhalsapati used to perform Puja to Baba personally every day. Shama used to look after the needs of devotees. Baba used to ask some devotees for dakshina (alms). He declined it from some devotees who voluntarily offered. He used to distribute the amount collected by way of dakshina to poor people who depended on him.

The village munsif Bhate did not like what Baba was doing, thinking that he was practising black magic and mesmerism. Bhate tried to find some drawbacks or defects in Baba so that he could be proved to be a cheat in the eyes of his devotees.

Sai Baba liked lighting the lamps very much. He used to request the village oil merchants to donate oil with which he used to light the lamps in the mosque. Bhate persuaded the oil merchants not to donate oil to Baba, for then Baba would not be

able to light the lamps in the mosque and everyone would come to know of his incapacity.

Sai Baba, without worrying over it, asked Bhagoji to bring some water. He drank the water and later vomitted it in a vessel. This water turned into oil with which Bhagoji lighted the lamps and they burned the whole night. The oil merchants, who had declined to donate oil, and were watching this, seeing the lights burning with water, ran up to Baba and fell at his feet, pleading for forgiveness.

Baba lighted the lamps with waterGiven a message to all devotees thateven water can burn with his grace then with his grace and his teaching why not we should help the poors.

These are poors ,mentally ill peoples wandering on His Shirdi to Ahmednagar Road and around.

This is our duty to help them. Feed them ...and treat them.

These are all his beloveds .May be Baba is waiting for our turn.

May be Baba is watching for our consciousness towards his beloveds.

Please Follow Shri Shirdi Sai Baba's Cosmology and help these unfortunate.

We all together can Colour their lives with Ranbow.

With Baba's grace is we can help these mentally ill peoples and homeless peoples from his district.....