

Sai Pearls of Wisdom Part 49-B

"SRI SAYEESUNI CHARITHRA" November 14th, 2023

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Welcome to Sai Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom.

Today we are going to know some details regarding the publication of the first book on Baba, written by His own teacher.

Those days, devotees being few in number, wherever Swami went -- Bangalore or Kamalapuram or along the shore of Chitravathi, he granted whatever devotees wanted.

Abbaya is one devotee who had no children and always prayed to Swami to give him progeny. Yes! His wish was granted. And somebody asked, "Swami, cure the stomach-ache of my boss." Yes! He materialized a *yantra* for him, which gave him relief.

When thieves looted the house of a neighbour by name Nikam while he was at Puttaparthi, Baba told him, "Your house in Bangalore was broken. Do not worry for I have taken care of it, with the result, nothing is lost.

During this time, He was telling all that He would attain Samadhi, after which He will be born again in Mandya near Mysore, in the state of Karnataka. And all devotees said, "Swami, we don't want to leave You. We want to live with You. That's all! We will never leave You!" That's what they said.

Well, Swami never liked these people to go back to Bangalore from Puttaparthi. He wanted them to stay there. Sometimes He would shed tears also when they were about to go. That was the kind of attachment that Swami had towards His devotees.

Yajaman Narayanappa had no parents. He loved Baba so much that he wanted to be with Him all the time and become His disciple. He decided to settle down at Puttaparthi and gave away all his household things. And in fact, somebody accompanied Narayanappa to the railway station to board the train to Hindupur.

Some of his relatives cried. Jokingly, one of his friends told him, “Why are crying? Don’t cry! He will be back to us in eight days! Narayanappa will return in eight days!” That’s what he said. What a prophetic statement it is!

Narayanappa reached Puttaparthi and stayed a few days. Baba then took him to Madras for a few days and dropped him at his house in Bangalore on the ninth day!

Within a few months, his uncle Rangana passed away. Narayanappa and a second uncle approached Baba. The second uncle’s name is Thangavelu Mudaliar. And these two requested Swami to resurrect, Rangana, the second uncle of this Narayanappa.

Baba replied, “I am also like you. If you cannot give him life, how can I?” The conversation turned bitter and they asked many unwarranted questions, quarrelled with Baba and left. They had faith and devotion towards Baba, but Baba always knows what is to be done.

But when we were in Chitravathi hills earlier, all the five of us promised to lead honest lives and avoid eating mutton on Thursdays. This was the pledge of some who had come to Swami. And friends misbehaved with Baba and everybody felt bad on their account. And see what happened! They did not have the face to see Him until 1995. Only then they could meet Him. That’s all! So, Swami gives you a chance and if you misuse it then you will have a long, long punishment.

Seshama Raju, as you know, is the brother of Bhagawan. Seshama Raju’s brother-in-law, Pashupathi Rama Raju, and his friend G. Subbanna, both hale from Kamalapuram. They heard about Baba’s miracles and visited Puttaparthi a few times. When they went back to Kamalapuram they shared Baba’s wonderful *leelas* with their friends and relatives. Everybody was talking about His materializations at the Chitravathi River. Many people scoffed, questioning what this small Sathya Narayana could do.

To prove that Baba was extraordinary and powerful, Rama Raju and Subanna took Him to Kamalapuram. They took Swami to Kamalapuram in 1945. They took him in a procession around the town in a bullock cart. He stayed in Subanna’s house for three days. During His stay, there were bhajans at the houses of Rama Raju and N.V. Narasimhulu.

People moved by His personality and His love kept aside their criticism and attended in large numbers. Narasimhulu would recall later the details of Baba’s visit to his house. He would even show the place where Swami sat, where bhajans were conducted. That was a thrilling excitement everybody had in those days.

Baba brought a Shirdi Sai Baba photo and first sanctified the floor. During bhajans, He closed His eyes and was immersed in the lyrics. He performed *arathi* after *bhajans* and *puja*. During this visit He materialized vibuthi and a piece of ochre cloth and gave them to a few people in Kamalapuram. These are things that He did in Kamalapuram, having gone there.

Baba's teacher at Bukkapatnam School by name V.C. Kondappa wrote the first book in Telugu on Sri Sathya Sai Baba, entitled, "*Sri Sayeesuni Charithra*". He was fortunate to procure its poetic contents from Baba Himself. Baba asked him to stay up alone one night at Puttaparthi and had narrated the life story of the first sixteen years of Shirdi Sai, as well as details of His own life. That night, Kondappa had a vision of Shirdi Sai.

B.C. Subbannachar, another teacher, who wrote the forward for the book written by Kondappa, he also happened to be the teacher of Bhagawan and they were very eager to meet Swami in the later years, after hearing of Swami and His devotion towards Shirdi Sai. Subbannachar's first impression was that Baba was a great devotee of God. With frequent visits to Puttaparthi, Subbannachar became convinced that Baba was not an ordinary boy, but one endowed with Divine power. Baba soon revealed to both Kondappa and Subbannachar that He was indeed Incarnation of Sai Baba of Shirdi.

V.C. Kondappa asked Baba, "You tell everyone you are Shirdi Baba reborn. What is the proof? Before I write a book on you, I should know this." It was then that Baba agreed to reveal His identity to them.

After this, many devotees prayed for this vision but Baba replied, "It cannot be granted to everyone. There is a specific reason for this!"

Baba took keen interest in the preparation of the book. After the book had been released, Baba asked M. L. Leela one day to read the book in His presence at the Chitravathi riverbed. When the sentence, "Shirdi Sai Baba is now reborn as Shirdi Sathya Sai Baba was read, Baba's form changed to that of Shirdi Sai Baba.

From among the assembled crowd, her father, by name Lokanatha Mudaliar, he rose shouting, "Hey Sai! Hey Sai!" He could not control his ecstasy. He could not control his emotions! He was simply dancing and came towards Baba and hugged Him tightly. Baba found it very difficult to release Himself from Mudaliar's embrace. Until His Form again changed, until He came to His normal form, he didn't leave Him!

For many years, "*Sri Sayeesuni Charithra*" was the most authoritative version of Baba's biography. N. Kasturi mentions that he too had learned heavily from material in this book for his biography, *Sathyam Shivam Sundaram*.

Later, in September 1944, Sai Baba visited the historic city of Mysore for the first time. His visit was primarily to witness the Royal Dasara Festival and to see the famous Kannambadi Dam, later called the Krishna Raja Sagar Dam. He stayed in Mysore for three days and left on the fourth day.

On Vijaydasami in September 1944, Baba was invited to attend the marriage of Sumitramma, the daughter of Gopal Rao at Kanambari, Mysore. Baba went along with a few devotees.

Many ladies in Baba's group were decked with ornaments. Sumitra's family, being poor, could not afford gold ornaments for the bride. Seeing the situation, the ladies decorated the bride with their own ornaments. Associating with Baba had inspired them to spontaneously share their own ornaments and Baba materialized and presented a talisman to the bride on that occasion. The fortunate lady would recall the happenings of that day:

"Swami was like any other ordinary boy, very humorous and playful. Everyone in the marriage party instantly liked Him. Swami demonstrated a shadow-play of animals and birds on the white wall with His hands. People, especially children, enjoyed it very much."

"My grandmother (the bride's grandmother) Tulasamma was eighty years old at the time of her marriage. She had chronic headaches, which greatly tormented her. When Swami came to the marriage function, on the first day, He sat in the marriage hall. Many people did not know in the beginning who this boy was, nor did anyone bother much about Him. Suddenly her grandmother rushed towards the boy, towards Swami and caught hold of His small feet. It was intriguing to many -- an eighty year old lady catching this boy's feet!"

"My grandmother was crying! Swami took her headache. First He touched her head with both of His hands and gently stroked it all over." And from then onwards, her grandmother had no headache at all!

So these are the things that happened in Mysore. And this I meant to share with you, the publication of the first book on Sai Baba, written by His own teacher by name Subbanna, "*Sri Sayeesuni Charithra*."

We meet in the next session, Thank you for your time!