

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 36-D**

**BOTH ARE ONE
Oct. 15th, 2022**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prasanthi Sandesh, welcome to Sai Pearls of Wisdom.

It's familiar to all of us that Bharat is the birthplace of all *Avatars*. Bharat is called *Bharata Bhoomi*. It's also a place of activity, so *Karma Bhoomi*. It's the land of merit – *Punya Bhoomi*. So it is the place of birth of several *Avatars* – *Janma Bhoomi*. These things Swami said many times.

I would like to draw your attention to one important point. Sri Rama was born in Ayodhya but the mission of destroying Ravana and other demons was carried out in Lanka. Sri Krishna was born at Mathura but He narrated *Bhagavad Gita* on the Kurukshetra and made Dwaraka His capital. But the present Sri Sathya Sai Avatar is an exception because His birth place and the place of His mission are the same, and that is Puttaparthi!

On 20th October 1940, Sathya Narayana Raju or Sathya or Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba declared, "From now on, I am no more your Sathya. I am Sai!"

Saying that, He left the house of His brother Seshama Raju in Uravakonda! Then Sathya then walked to a garden in front of Sri Anjaneyulu's house and sat under a tree. He taught His first bhajan, '*Manasa Bhajorey Guru Charanam, Dustara Bhava Sagara Taranam*' to all those who had gathered there. The bhajan singing continued for three successive days.

Suddenly Baba said aloud, "Look, *Maya* has come!"

Everyone turned in that direction indicated and saw Mother Eswaramma and Pedda Venkama Raju. Both of them urged Baba to return home but He said, "Who belongs to whom? Who is a son? Who is a father?"

Eswamma wailed but to no avail. Finally Baba told her, “Bring Me some food!”

She rushed home and brought some food in a plate. Baba mixed it all and made several balls out of it. He swallowed three of them and said, “Now *Maya* has run away; no need to worry!”

He turned around and went back to the garden. Now Eswamma accepted the fact that from now on, He was not her son but Sai!

She said to Baba, “I will not come in the way of Your task, but You must return back to Puttaparthi!”

Baba acceded to her request and left for Puttaparthi. In this manner, the *Avatar* accepted His *Janma Bhoomi* as His *Karma Bhoomi* – the place of birth and place of His mission.

Well, I would like to draw your attention to another one. Mr. Homer, a resident of California, United States of America, works as a scientist for NASA. He photographed Puttaparthi through a satellite stationed about 200 miles above the earth. But when he saw the photographs, he was disappointed. Due to the great distance, only black and white clouds were seen on the photographs. Years later, he showed the photographs to some guests. While seeing them, a lady suddenly exclaimed, “This is Sai Baba!”

On close observation, they were able to perceive Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s face clearly. It was composed from those numerous black and white clouds. The crown of His thick black hair, eyes, nose and even the mole on Swami’s cheek were clearly visible.

Mr. Homer calculated on the basis of the latitudes and concluded that Swami’s form was spread over the area of 40 miles in length and 20 miles in width. Everyone was surprised, and they all realised that although Swami is in Puttaparthi, His grace and presence is spread over a very large, large area. Very interesting to note these details!

At the age of 14, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba declared that He was the reincarnation of Shirdi Baba. Yes, in 1963, on the auspicious occasion of Guru Poornima, He spoke about Shirdi Sai, Sathya Sai and the next incarnation – Prema Sai. He gave fresh and new information about all the 3 *Avatars*, which nobody was aware of. In 1940, after He declared that He was the reincarnation of Shirdi Sai, many came to Him to seek His *darshan*. But most of them did not know about Shirdi. Baba used to often sing to them the glory of *Dhuni*, *Vibuthi*, *Dwarkamai*, neem tree, *Buti Wada* and *Samadhi Mandir* through *bhajans*.

Once He gave a vision of Shirdi Sai Samadhi, neem tree, Kandoba Mandir to Smt. Subbamma, the doubting Thomas and advocate by name Krishnamachari and Pedda Venkama Raju in Puttaparthi itself. From then on, Pedda Venkama Raju and the advocate’s doubts about Baba were cleared. Later, Swami revealed through many incidents that He was Shirdi Sai in His earlier incarnation.

For the first time, during Navaratri in 1961, Bhagavan Baba organized *Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yagna*. All the learned Brahmins were invited to perform the *yagna* - with Brahmasri Sivarama Bhairavi Shastri as the head priest. Bhagavan was very keen that *yagna* should be performed properly according to the prescribed rites and rituals. So He called Bhairavi Shastri to Him and asked for a list of all the required materials for the *yagna*. Shastri prepared a list after consultations with his colleagues and gave it to Bhagavan. Accordingly, all the materials were acquired and brought there. Despite this, just five minutes before the *yagna* was to commence, Shastri realized that he had forgotten to list a particular type of '*kalasha*' – a vessel required for the *yagna*.

A petrified Shastri approached – Shastri was very much perturbed, disturbed, very frightened – and he approached Swami and confessed his lapse. The ever compassionate Swami said, "This is why I had asked you to for a proper list! Now only 5 minutes are left for the *yagna muhurtham*!"

Saying this Swami went inside a room and within 3 minutes came out with a beautiful silver '*kalasha*' with pictures of deities inscribed on it. On seeing that perfectly suited *kalasha*, Shastri was wonder-struck!

Bhagavan Baba told him, "In Shirdi *Avatar*, I have kept this *kalasha* in Chincholi Palace. At the moment, it was lying around with other odd things in the store room of the palace. I just went there and brought it back!"

The letters Sa, Ba – SA and BA – meaning Sai Baba were inscribed on the *kalasha*. It is only by His Divine Grace that we have been fortunate to witness the Divine *leelas* of Prabhu Sathya Sai, who was Shirdi Sai in the previous incarnation.

In 1963, on the occasion of Guru Poonima, Swami declared for first time that He is Shiva-Sakthi incarnate! We all know that Kailash is the original abode of Shiva-Sakthi. Once a devotee named Kailasam came to Swami. Swami asked him what the word '*Kailasam*' meant. The devotee was unable to reply. Swami said, "*Kailasam* is the symbol of cleanliness, holiness and purity. It also means a pure heart. Therefore, Shiva chose the pinnacle of Kailash as His abode. And as *Paramatma*, He also resides in the sacred hearts of His devotees!"

Well, this is a story of Shirdi Sai devotees. Let me narrate and share with you. Well, a Shirdi Sai devotee travelled to Bangalore for sightseeing in May 1963. When he along with his family was about to get into a hired car, an old man over 6 feet tall, with white hair and beard, wearing a white *dhoti* and a shirt came to them asking, "Do you want any help? I belong to this city. So I know it well. If you are going for a sightseeing, I can guide you."

Well, charmed by his speech and happy for the help, the devotee readily accepted the offer. The old man showed them the entire Bangalore city, but avoided eating lunch with them. On much insistence, he had coffee. In the evening, the old man asked the driver

to take the car on a particular route. Although the driver was familiar with the city, this particular route was not known to him. The old man asked to stop the car at a place. He took all of them inside a narrow tunnel. It was dark inside but there was an oil lamp and in its light they saw an effulgent Shiva Linga. The old man asked everybody to take *darshan* of Shiva Lingam and also gave them the *theertham*, but he himself did not partake it.

At the end of the day, when the old man was about to leave, the devotee offered him some money but he refused. When they asked his name, he said something which was strange; and when he asked his address, he pointed in a particular direction saying, "Over there!" He also told them, "We'll meet the day after tomorrow!"

Just before the family were to leave Mumbai, a friend of theirs had suggested that they should go to Whitefield and seek *darshan* of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who is the incarnation of Shirdi Sai. Accordingly, they reached Whitefield at noon. After having waited in the front of the closed gates in the hot afternoon sun for half an hour, they received a message, "Call those people from Mumbai inside!"

When the family went in, Swami welcomed them personally. He smiled and asked them, "So how did you like our Bangalore? Have you visited all the places? We had met the day before yesterday!"

That hint was enough for him to realise that the old man who accompanied them as a guide was none other than Sri Sai Baba Himself. Now he remembered what the old man has told them the name, '*Jodi Adipalli Somappa*'! *Somappa* is Shiva who resides in pure hearts. Swami Himself showed the old Shiva temple to this devotee with a pure heart. How lucky he is! Yet He was mysterious because later there was no trace of the temple despite all efforts by many devotees to locate it.

Many devotees have had similar experiences whenever they are faced with calamities. '*Jodi Adipalli Somappa*' has given them *darshan* and rescued them.

Sai Ram! We will meet again later!