

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 37-B**

**WHY FEAR WHEN I AM HERE
Oct. 31st, 2022**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba declares, "Why Fear when I am here!" Wherever a devotee may be, if he is able to experience Swami's presence with him, he becomes fearless. If his devotion is pure, the devotee does not fear, because devotion and fear cannot exist together. Sai dwells in a pure mind, and wherever He is, how can fear exist there?

In the Shirdi Avatar, Sainath used to say, "Keep your gaze fixed on Me so that I can keep showering on you My gracious glances!" When He says 'fixed gaze', it means implicitly follow His instructions, and abide by them in life. Only then can one become worthy of His grace, be the recipient of His benevolence, and be free from all worries and fears.

Well, here is a story from the times of Shirdi incarnation. There lived a tailor named Kashiram in Shirdi. He had deep faith and love for Sainath. Out of his love, he stitched a green robe and offered it to Sai. Swami normally wore a white or orange robe, but the loving Sainath accepted it and wore it. The tailor got great joy in giving *dakshina* to Sainath every day.

This Kashiram used to travel to several villages on work. Once, while he was returning to Shirdi from Naur village, he was attacked by a group of tribals. Kashiram was seated on a horse. They surrounded him and robbed him of all his belongings. Initially Kashiram did not resist them, but when they tried to snatch a small bundle of cloth from him, he opposed them strongly. What was there in that bundle which was so precious?

Long ago a realized soul named Janakidas Baba had instructed this Kashiram to feed some sugar to ants every day. Since then, Kashiram followed the instruction and always carried some sugar in that bundle of cloth. To prevent the robbers from taking the

bundle, Kashiram snatched a sword from one of the tribals and attacked them fearlessly, fearlessly! He could attack them, yes! Kashiram in the course of time fell off the horse and became unconscious. Fearing him to be dead, the robbers ran away.

While all this was happening, Kashiram kept experiencing Sainath's presence with him all along and he felt fearless. Well, after some time, some passersby found him. They brought the unconscious Kashiram to consciousness and wanted to take him to a hospital, but Kashiram refused and asked them to take him to Shirdi. At Shirdi, Sainath got him treated through Madhavrao Deshpande, and soon by Sainath grace, he recovered fully.

When Kashiram was being attacked, do you know what happened? At Shirdi in Dwarkamai, Sainath suddenly started beating His chest, lost His temper and caused a commotion. The devotees around Him understood that Sainath was helping some devotee in distress. It was only due to his faith in Sai that the lone Kashiram was able to fight so many robbers fearlessly. Later the government honoured him for his bravery. See, that's how Swami gives you the strength!

In the present Parthi incarnation also, there have been several incidents where Sai devotees have been able to overcome fear during a crisis through their faith in Swami. One small incident – one night, some dacoits went to a remote house in a village with the intention of looting. At that time, an old man was all alone in the house. On realizing the gravity of the situation, he stood in front of Swami's photograph and started invoking Swami saying, "Swami...Swami...Swami!" Nobody knows what exactly happened but the dacoits had a change of heart, and they ran away. The Swami devotee was safe.

Swami says, "If one practises three things in life, he can become one with Me! They are purity, patience and perseverance. Whosoever imbibes these three qualities, wherever he may be, he will always be free from fear. That's what - fear and love can never go together. Where there is love, there is no fear!" Swami always used to say on that.

And then, in *Ramayana*, Prabhu Ramachandra has given a promise to the devotees. He says, "I have taken a vow that I will free all living beings from fear." We are so fortunate to have our Lord Sri Sathya Sai Ram among us, giving us the same assurance.

The devotees are attracted towards many different forms of God but the one that attracts most is where His hand is raised in blessing, because from the *Abhayahasta*, they draw strength to cross this turbulent ocean of life with confidence. In many photographs, we see Swami giving His blessings. His *Abhayahasta* makes us realize that we are under the umbrella of Swami's Grace.

A beautiful story about this *Abhayahasta!* Once, Swami was giving a discourse at Chennai. The pavilion was packed with devotees. They were engrossed in Swami's *darshan* and His discourse. Suddenly from the audience, a one year old child sitting in a lady's lap began to wail loudly. She tried to quieten him but to no avail. Instead he started wailing louder. Everyone around was disturbed and was unable to hear and

enjoy the Divine Discourse. That's how this has become a kind of disturbance! Just then, from the dais, while continuing with the discourse, Swami smiled, looked in the direction of the child and raised His *Abhayahasta* in blessing.

Next moment, He closed His fist tightly. The child stopped crying! The discourse continued. Swami told the translator, "A 25-*paisa* coin was stuck in child's throat. Here, I have taken it out!" Saying so, Swami opened His fist. There was a 25-*paisa* coin in it. On seeing it, the translator was excited. He immediately related the narrative to the audience and the audience responded with a thunderous applause!

How Swami could see the child sat there at a distance, the child starting crying and disturbing the vicinity! Just by a glance, Bhagavan Baba could understand the problem of the child and removed the 25-*paisa* and held it in His fist, which He opened and told to the translator. Imagine the dimension of His Grace, Bhagavan how Swami used to protect everybody!

Here we must understand one thing. Although the child was on its mother's lap, she was unaware of the problem. So she did not even invoke Swami and the child was too young to understand anything. But the One who grants freedom from fear, can anything remain unknown to Him? That's what Bhagavan is!

Well, Bhagavan says, whenever God incarnates, He chooses a suitable dynasty and a place. Baba chose *Ratnakara* dynasty. Sri Kondama Raju, who belonged to this dynasty, was a pious person. Devi Satyabhama was eagerly awaiting the arrival of Sri Krishna, (and He) had come in his dream and given him an indication about the Advent of Sri Krishna in Puttaparthi in the years to come. The pious Sri Kondama Raju had close relations with many realized souls. He used to discuss spirituality with many of them. Among these was Venkavadhoota, a very learned and luminous person.

Once Sri Kondama Raju and Sri Venkavadhoot were sitting in a banana grove and talking with each other. Suddenly Venkavadhoot held Kondama Raju hand in his and said to him, "God Himself is going to incarnate in your family!" In order that the meaning is clear (to) Sri Kondama Raju, he repeated the sentence thrice and added, "You will have the good fortune to see this!" Saying so, he went away and never returned again.

Who was this Venkavadhoot? He was none other than the one named Venkusa, whose name is mentioned in Sri Shirdi Sai *Satcharithra*. Most of you must have gone through that and must have understood Venkusa's role.

A fakir nurtured Shirdi Sai when He was a small child. After his death, his wife handed Baba's responsibility to Venkusa who was a learned, pious soul. Sai spent 12 years in his company. Venkusa nurtured this child with love and imparted knowledge to Him, with a result the other children in the *ashram* began to envy the child. One of them hurled a brick at this Divine child with the intention of killing him. To save the child, Venkusa came in the way and took the brunt on his body. After this incident, the child decided to leave the *ashram*. Later he came to be known as Sri Sai Baba!

After Sainath Samadhi, Guru Venkusa wandered from place to place all over India. He met Kondama Raju of the *Ratnakar* dynasty and told him, “God Himself will incarnate in your dynasty!”

On the morning 23rd May 1940, when Baba moved His hands in thin air and distributed sugar candy and flowers to all the members of the family, the news spread like wild fire and people from their neighbourhood flocked around Baba. Pedda Venkama Raju was not at home at that time. Somebody gave this news to him and he rushed home. Finding his way through the crowds, he stood in front of Baba.

Angrily he raised the club in his hand at Baba and asked, “Who are you – devil or ghost or a mad man? Tell me the truth! I will beat you up!”

Baba was calm. He replied peacefully, “I am Sai Baba! *Gotra – Bharadwaja; Sutra – Apastamba*; I have taken birth in *Ratnakara Vamsa* – dynasty, as a consequence of your prayers to Venkavadhoota.”

The word *Ratnakar* also means an ocean. During *Samudra-madana* – churning of the ocean, many precious gems emerged from it. So it came to be known as *Ratnakara*.

May this ocean of compassion constantly shower His blessings on all of us!

Sai Ram! We will meet later!