

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

**SHIRDI TO PARTHI
Nov. 1st, 2022**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

We are so glad that these series are followed by all our participants and (who) have been eagerly awaiting for the next episode. Thanks Swami and all our participants!

Bhagavan Baba has shown many of the miracles even before His birth, and later it is all wonder of wonders of miracles. But it was on 23rd May 1940, He declared for the first time that He is Sai Baba. To prove this, He asked for a handful of fresh jasmine flowers and threw them on the ground. Miraculously they formed the word 'Sai Baba' in Telugu alphabets.

Even prior to this incident, thousands of years ago, the sages Bhrgu, Vasishtha and Shuka have recorded about the advent of the triple incarnation of Shirdi Sai, Sathya Sai and Prema Sai. This has been written on *Talapatra* or papyrus leaves – PAPHYRUS, in Sanskrit language.

After the proclamation of His avatar-hood, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has shown us through many *leelas* that He was Shirdi Sai in His earlier incarnation.

Sharadamma, a lady devotee, who had the good fortune of spending some time in the presence of Shirdi *Avatar*, spent the later period of her life in the Divine presence of Sathya Sai Avatar.

Smt. Hirabai Badodhkar, Sri. Pandurange Dixit's mother, received blessings from both the *Avatars*. They saw many similarities in the two forms – in the manner of speaking, facial expressions and the method of performing miracles as well.

Well, this is a story from the times prior to the establishment of Dharmakshetra. Once during a visit to Mumbai, Swami was residing at Sri Modi's Bungalow in Andheri. One morning He called Sri and Smt. Panduranga Dixit to the bungalow for an interview.

Accordingly, the couple reached there early in the morning. But Swami did not call them till 3, afternoon. Till 3! Both husband and wife kept waiting under the staircase without having taken any food.

Finally at 3, Swami walked down the staircase, and on seeing them said, "Oh, Dixit! How was your fast? Today is Thursday! It's good, good to fast! What a *tapas* it is! Come in!" and granted interview and spoke to them for an hour; and towards the end Swami suddenly said, "I want to see the documentary you have filmed on Shirdi Sai. Go and bring it!"

It was at that time Dixit was making a documentary film on Shirdi Sai. This, our Bhagavan Baba wants to see. So He commanded him to bring it and show it to Him.

Obedying Swami's directive, Mr. Dixit immediately left for the office where the film was being processed. In fact, this film had been given for processing just 2 days prior and Mr. Dixit knew that it would take at least 8 to 10 days for it to get ready. But with faith in Sai and in obedience to His word, Sri. Dixit reached the office. As he entered the premises, he saw a peon carrying 2 large boxes over his shoulders. These boxes contained the reels of the documentary on Shirdi Sai. It seems the film was processed through a new method; hence it was ready in 2 days.

Well, Sri. Dixit rushed back to the Modi Bungalow with those boxes. Swami had invited a few select devotees. Sri Dixit garlanded Swami and started the film with His permission. As each scene flashed on the screen, Swami would describe it in great detail. On seeing the statue of the horse Shyam Sundar, Swami said, "He was a cook by name Shyam in his earlier birth. Later he was born as a horse. So I named him Shyam Sundar!"

While commenting on Sai's portrait in Dwarkamai He said, "Kaka Jaykar kept persuading Me to grant him permission to do this portrait. So I had to sit in front of him for 2 whole days!"

In this manner, Swami described every scene in detail. After the documentary got over Swami said, "Do you know why I saw this film today? I saw the film and celebrated My birthday today!"

Everyone present there was surprised by this comment because Swami's birthday falls on 23rd November and the date on this particular day was 28th September. How could this be? Swami immediately cleared the doubt. He said "Not mine, but of My earlier body!"

From this incident, it is very clear there is no difference whatsoever between these two incarnations. To date, Swami has never visited Shirdi in His physical form but the way He described each and every detail while seeing the documentary, doubts if any about the oneness of these two incarnations get dispelled.

As you know 'Shankara' means, 'Shan' – all that is auspicious, 'Kara' means the bestower, the One who gives you. God bestows bliss and prosperity upon us. That is the meaning of Shankara.

Sai is Shankara-Incarnate. Since childhood, Sathya Narayana – our Baba had a habit of drawing a horizontal line of *Vibuthi* on His forehead. He used to tell His elder sister to put a big dot of *Kumkum* in between the lines of *Vibuthi*. If *Vibuthi* or *Kumkum* got wiped out, Baba would insist on applying it again. But everyone realized its significance much later. That *Vibuthi* symbolizes, Shiva and *Kumkum* symbolises Sakthi. So Baba is Shiva-Sakthi.

Later in 1940, at the Virupaksha temple in Hampi, Bhagavan Baba gave a vision of His form in place of Shiva lingam and revealed for the first time that He and Virupaksha were one and the same.

When the foundation work of the Prasanthi Mandir commenced, many bases which support Shiva lingam were found underground.

Someone asked Baba, "Where are these Shiva lingams?"

Baba smiled and pointed towards His stomach. None really understood the meaning of this gesture at that time. But when *Lingodbhava* started, it started naturally. Maha Shivaratri, the mystery was cleared.

Shiva allows *Vibuthi*; the Divine father Shiva smears *Vibuthi* all over His body, so He is also known as *Vibuthi-Bhushana*. In the Shirdi incarnation, Sai created the burning fire through His yogic powers and lit *Akhanda Dhuni*, the eternal fire. He used to distribute the *Udi* from this fire as *Prasad*. Today Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba materializes the sacred eternal *Vibuthi* and gives it to His devotees.

Well, here is one more story about *Shankara-Rupa* of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. There was a devout couple who were very sad because they had no issue. The lady undertook several penance and worship of Guru Dattatreya and was able to secure His Grace. Those who knew about her wish insisted that she should seek blessings of some realized souls and accept a Guru. But the lady had resolved in her mind that unless she got verily the vision of God Himself in a Guru, she would not accept him as a master.

Once her husband became seriously ill and had to be hospitalised. At that time, Sri Sathya Sai gave her *darshan* in a dream and called them both to Puttaparthi. When the couple reached there, Swami called them for an interview. In the first interview itself, He gave her *darshan* in the form of Shankara with the crescent moon on His forehead, Ganga falling from His head and *Vibuthi* smeared all over the body. This Sai Shankara then filled their life with so much of joy that it left no place for any sadness or regret.

With *darshan* of Sai Shankara, all our sins get washed, washed away; and getting His *Charan-sparsha*, Bhagiratha undertook severe penance and brought Ganga down to

earth from the heavens. The powerful force of its waters would have flooded the earth so Bhagavan Shiva Shankara held her in His hair and later she started flowing on earth in a regulated manner to bless us all. All the people rejoiced. Today, Sai Shankara has undertaken Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project all over India and has given happiness to all the people with the Ganga of Grace.

See, really the *leelas* are mysterious, un-understandable, un-understandable! But still it's a matter of *Sadhana* to recall those *leelas*, to go through those *leelas* and share them with our friends.

This is a story dates back 60 years. An educated young man came to Vasai, near Bombay, Maharashtra. He came with the intention of securing a job in the field of education. At that time, Vasai was a mere village. This young man was Sri Mahadeo Mangesh Pinge, Sri Mahadeo Mangesh Pinge! He took up a job as a school teacher. In those days, the salary of a teacher was very low. In such a situation, the entire family including himself contracted malaria. Their health suffered a great deal. So they left Vasai and moved to Dadar. They managed to get a 2-room tenement but their financial condition remained unstable.

The earlier tenant had left behind two photographs on the wall – one of Gurudevo Dattatreya and the other one, Shirdi Sai Baba. Sri Pinge started garlanding and worshipping both the photographs although he did not know much about Shirdi Sai Baba.

One day unexpectedly, a *fakir* came to his door and asked him for *dakshina* amounting to a rupee and quarter. At that time, Sri Pinge was not in a position to pay the amount. So he kept 2 *annas* on the *fakir's* palm. In those days, even 2 *annas* was considerable amount.

The *fakir* took the coins and touched to Pinge forehead and then to His own forehead. Then He closed His fist tightly and asked Sri Pinge to cup His palm. Water trickled from the *fakir's* closed fist and it fell into Pinge's palm. Mrs Pinge was observing everything from the house and as the *fakir* asked Pinge to drink up the water, she came out and said, "What are you doing? Don't drink that water!" But by then, Pinge had already gulped it down.

Suddenly the *fakir* did something most unexpected. He took out His intestines, yes, from the mouth and kept those warm intestines on Sri Pinge's hand. Instantly, He restored them back in His body through His mouth. On seeing this, Sri and Smt. Pinge were really frightened.

It's very difficult to imagine Shirdi Baba bring His own intestines and taking them back. Not an ordinary thing! By the time they recovered their wits, the *fakir* had gone away. The *fakir* left and Sri Pinge noticed the similarity between the *fakir* and the photograph of Shirdi Sai and he realized that He was Sainath!

He set out in search of Him but could not trace Him anywhere. However, one thing happened. From that day, they were cured of malaria and their financial condition started improving. Sri Pinge started tutorial classes and in a short time, Pinge's tutorials became well known all over Maharashtra and they prospered greatly.

Sri Sainath used to say, "Just like one ties a string on a sparrow's feet and pulls her to oneself, I search out and select the people whom I like and pull them towards Me!" See that! Sri Pinge was a noble soul, so Sainath blessed him by giving *darshan* in Shirdi Sai form; and improved his health and helped him to prosper.

In 1964, Sri Sathya Sai also blessed Pinge. He granted him the honour to perform *Bhoomi Pooja* ceremony of His *ashram* in Mumbai. Swami also graced the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Pinge's classes with His Divine presence and showered His love and grace on His noble devotee and his endeavours.

May Bhagavan bless us all!

Sai Ram! We meet later!