

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

**SURRENDER TOTALLY
Nov. 5th, 2022**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom, Part 37-D welcomes you.

In the Shirdi Sai incarnation, Sai resided in a dilapidated masjid called Dwarkamai. He had described the Masjid Dwarkamai like this – “This is our Dwarkamai who looks after one and all! Whoever sits in this masjid, She assures her children fearlessness and frees them from worry. This Masjid Mayi is very gracious. She is the mother of all the simple-hearted devotees. Whoever may encounter any difficulties, She will instantly protect him without a doubt. Once one sits in Her lap, he is bound to attain salvation. Whoever rests in Her shade will always derive happiness. This is Dwaraka whose gates are open to all!”

The place where gates are open, doors are open to people of all castes and creeds, for accomplishing the four *Purusharthas* is called Dwaraka. All four types of devotees are showered with grace and blessings here. Shirdi Sai had asked devotees to construct a temple of Sri Krishna in the Buti Wada. This is now Sri Sai Mandir.

In the second incarnation, Sai has created a new Dwaraka known as Prasanthi Nilayam. People of all castes, creeds and religions are welcome here. Just like in Dwarkamai, the four types of devotees, *Artha* – seeking help, *Artharthi* – seeking wealth, *Jignasu* – seeking knowledge and *Jnani* – seeking wisdom are blessed here for accomplishing the four *Purusharthas* of *Dharma* – righteousness, *Artha* – wealth, *Kama* – good desire and *Moksha* – liberation.

This is a story of Sai devotee named Sri Shyam Yuvale from Mumbai. He wrote a book which was blessed by Swami. At that time, a special event was being celebrated at Shirdi to commemorate the completion of 80 years of the *Samadhi* of the Shirdi Sai Avatar. This Shyam Yuvale attended the celebration and carried this book along with him. When he went near the *Samadhi* of Shirdi Sai, the electricity went off unexpectedly. There was a total darkness; only the effulgent idol of Sri Sainath was visible in the dim light of the burning oil lamps.

Suddenly he could see Sri Sathya Sai Baba standing behind the *Samadhi*, with a gentle smile on His face; and Shyam was overwhelmed and tears of bliss started rolling down his cheeks. He bowed down in reverence and placed his head on the *Samadhi*. Just then the power supply was restored. A noble devotee was blessed with *darshan* of Parthi Sai Krishna in the vicinity of Sri Shirdi Sai's Holy Dwarkamai. It's really wonderful to note these *leelas*, miracles!

The village of Puttaparthi rests on the banks of Chitravathi River and this river originates from the Nandi Hills (near Chickaballapur). The hills are shaped like the Nandi, Lord Shiva's vehicle – the bull. So they have derived the name Nandi Hills. The kings from the Chola Dynasty constructed a Shiva temple here during their reign.

Whenever Divine incarnations have appeared on earth, they have selected settlements along the banks of rivers as their places of birth. Sri Rama was born in Ayodhya on the banks of Sarayu River. Sri Krishna was born on the banks of Yamuna. Shirdi Sai too was born near (the) river bank in Patri village to Devagiri Amma and Ganga Bhav.

In the same manner, Sri Sathya Sai Baba chose His birth place on the banks of the river Chitravathi. In childhood, He would sport with His friends on the sands of this river. Before Prasanthi Nilayam was constructed, Swami would go to the Chitravathi River every day along with His devotees. He would sit on the sands and sing *bhajans* and impart instructions to them. He also performed a number of miracles on these banks. He would move His hands through the sands and materialize rare idols for His devotees. He has manifested several gems, conches, *yantras*, pens and even (a) copy of the *Bhagavad Gita*, and delighted His devotees.

After spending long hours on Chitravathi sands, when the devotees, especially the young children would feel hungry, Swami would move His hand through the sands and materialize hot Mysore-Pak, dripping with ghee and steamy vadas! And these eatables would not have a single grain of sand stuck to them! How blessed were those devotees who had the good fortune to witness these miracles.

This is a story from the time when Swami used to reside in the old Mandir. It was the monsoon season. The rain started coming down heavily. The torrential rainfall just would not cease. This constant rain caused a rise in the water levels of Chitravathi River. The water flooded the banks and started flowing towards the village. It seemed everything would soon get submerged in the water.

In the time of the Krishnavatar, when the waters of the Yamuna rose and started flooding Gokulam, the people had prayed to Sri Krishna. In the same manner, the villagers of Parthi had only one refuge – Swami! The flood water started flowing towards the Mandir just as the Yamuna yearned to take *Charana-Sparsha* or *Padanamaskar* of Sri Krishna, the waters of the Chitravathi too yearned to touch the Lotus Feet of Sai Krishna.

If the water level had risen any higher, the temple and the houses of the devotees would have been submerged in it. Was it difficult for Sai Krishna to perceive this? He rushed out and allowed the water to touch His Lotus Feet and commanded the water, "Enough, no more! Now, go back!" and the River Chitravathi, sanctified by the touch of Prabhu Sai, calmed down and the water started receding rapidly. How wonderful it is!

We must have heard a word *Sakthi-pradaya*, *Sakthi-pradaya* – meaning 'One who bestows energy or *Sakthi*.' Sai Baba is *Shiva-Sakthi* Incarnate and He bestows strength, vitality and wisdom upon His devotees. From Shiva, we receive bliss and *Sakthi* grants us vitality, fortitude and intelligence.

In the life of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who is the bestower of strength, we find many instances where He has transmitted special powers and we are able to witness its effects. In July 1957, Bhagavan Baba visited the *ashram* of Swami Sivananda at Rishikesh. Swami Sivananda seated in a wheel chair went along with his disciples to welcome Bhagavan Baba and greeted Him by joining both his hands together. Bhagavan Baba raised His *Abhayahasta* – a protecting hand! *Hasta* - the hand, *Abhaya* be fearless; and blessed everyone.

The next day, Baba moved His hand in a circular motion and materialized a *Rudraksha Mala* of 108 beads. 108 beads just imagine, set in gold! He put it around Swami Sivananda's neck. He also materialized *Vibuthi* and smeared it on his forehead. During His stay in the ashram, Bhagavan Baba gave a discourse to Swami Sivananda and his disciples every day.

One day, Baba materialized some fruits and *Vibuthi* and asked Sivananda Swami to eat it. From that moment onwards, there was a dramatic improvement in Swami Sivananda's health. The same Swami Sivananda, who had gone to welcome Baba in a wheelchair initially, the moment he became recipient of strength from Bhagavan, was able to now stand on his feet. Later he himself walked with Bhagavan to show Him the ashram and its surroundings with great enthusiasm. This is how Shiva-Sakthi incarnation, Bhagavan healed the great ailing Yogi and brought him back to normalcy.

Well, this incident represents just one example. But there are innumerable noble devotees who have been blessed with wisdom and vitality through Bhagavan Baba's grace.

In 1961, Bhagavan Baba visited Badrinath along with a few select devotees. The purpose of this pilgrimage was not only to secure the *darshan* of Badrinath for His devotees, but also revitalize the *Sakthi* – (the) divine potency in the *Atma Linga*, which was installed under the idol of Narayana. This *Atma Linga* was given by Lord Shiva Himself to Sri Shankaracharya. Baba retrieved it from its hidden place and sanctified it with all the rituals. He also gave an opportunity to all His devotees to have *darshan* of this *Atma Linga* and then sent it back to the original place after empowering it with divine potency.

Later He also empowered the *Jyothir Linga* in like manner at Somnath Temple in Saurashtra. He visited Dwaraka, Pandharpur and Srisailam to revitalize the divine powers in the respective idols. Such things are possible only for Shiva-Sakthi incarnation! That is our Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba!

Well, we also must have heard of another word *Sharanagatha*. *Sharanagatha* means the one who has surrendered. There is another word '*thrana*' meaning 'to protect.' *Sharanagatha-thranaya* – *Sharanagatha*, the one who surrendered, *thrana* means protect. So a devotee who offers his body, heart and soul at Swami's Divine Lotus Feet can be called *Sharanagatha*.

In all the earlier divine incarnations, God has always protected those who have completely surrendered to Him. In Ramavatar, Prabhu Ramachandra declared, "Whosoever surrenders completely to Me, however sinful he may have been in his past life, I will accept him!"

In Krishnavatar, Sri Krishna has said, "*Mam Ekam Sharanam Vraja!*" meaning "Thereby surrender to Me alone and I will take you across and liberate you!"

In the Shirdi incarnation, Sainath has declared, "Is it possible to find that anyone who has surrendered to Me has not been protected? Show me, show me such a person!" meaning, "Thereby whoever surrenders to Me completely, I promise to take him across this ocean of life!" Sainath also says, "I will also carry your burden. This is My promise to you!"

In this present Sathya Sai Avatar Swami says, "Surrender completely and save yourself!"

Kuppuswamy was a Swami's childhood friend. They were both studying in the same class and were best friends. Wherever Swami went, Kuppuswamy always accompanied Him. One day, as they were talking to each other, Kuppuswamy said to Baba, "Swami, we devotees love You so much that if required we can even offer our life for You!"

Swami interrupted him and said, "Speak for yourself! Why do you give assurance on behalf of others? Why?"

After a few days, along with His devotees, Swami walked through a forest. Suddenly He cautioned His friends to keep quiet and warned them, "See, there is a ferocious tiger approaching us! All of you run away. The tiger may even want Me as its prey. So hurry up, run!"

As they saw the ferocious tiger, everyone ran away. Kuppuswamy and two others waited there. Kuppuswamy held on to Swami's Feet and closed his eyes tightly. Soon he heard Bhagavan Baba's words, "Now you may go back!" and the tiger went back. He commanded the tiger to go back.

Swami then asked Kuppuswamy to get up and said, “Oh, you are still here! Why did you not run away? Where are all your friends about whose devotion you were giving Me assurance that day?”

Kuppuswamy replied, “Swami, wherever You are, I am bound to get protected!” This is how Kuppuswamy’s devotion and surrender towards Bhagavan Baba remained for all time.

In 1976, Kuppuswamy fell seriously ill. Doctors diagnosed it to be blood cancer. Weak and ailing Kuppuswamy came for Swami’s *darshan*. On meeting Swami, he started talking as if he was to pass away soon.

He said, “Swami, I am quite certain that at least in this life I have not sinned. But if I am meant to suffer this illness, I would prefer to give up my life at Your Feet!”

No sooner did He hear these words, Swami spoke in an authoritative tone, “Have I brought you in this world along with Me on the same day to let you die this way? I have cancelled your blood cancer today! I have cancelled your blood cancer today!”

And from that moment, Kuppuswamy was cured of leukaemia, the cancer! This was made possible owing to Kuppuswamy’s intense devotion and total surrender to Bhagavan Baba right from the childhood.

Sai Ram loves all those who surrender to Him completely. Let us surrender to Sai Ram!

Thank you! Meet again!