

## **Sai Pearls of Wisdom, Part 48-D**

### **EARLIER VISITS TO BANGALORE September 1st, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram  
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

We often hear about *Vibuthi* and also Swami materializing *Vibuthi*; and also on special occasions like *Dasara* and Birthday, Swami doing *abishekam* with *Vibuthi* on Shirdi Baba statue. So *Vibuthi* is very well known to all of us. Let us know a few points relating to this *Vibuthi*.

*Vibuthi* is the gift of Grace that Sri Sathya Sai Baba gives His devotees. It appears in His down-turned palm after a few circular motions of His arm and hand. He offers it into the outstretched palm of His devotees or puts it into their mouths or applies to their foreheads with His thumb. It is an off-white powder and most fine ash, having a slight fragrance.

*Vibuthi* has a strong spiritual significance. The word *Vibuthi* means a divine attribute. It is often seen besmeared on the person of Lord Shiva. Being ash, it is a symbolic reminder that ash is the stage into which all matter will ultimately break down. In a sense, all the spiritual attributes will one day deconstruct to a stage of attributeless-ness as well.

So when Baba gives *Vibuthi*, He indirectly hints that the end product of all things material is *Vibuthi* or ash. The *Vibuthi* given by Baba is potent with healing power and has the ability to bestow upon the receiver, Divine Grace. In Indian tradition, *Vibuthi* is offered in places of worship as *prasadam* or consecrated material, just as holy water is offered in a Christian church.

The Sai Baba of Shirdi offered all visitors to His seat at Dwarkamai, ash from a fire that He always kept alive. He called this ash '*Udi*' – *UDI*, and it had healing powers. When Sri Sathya Sai Baba first started materializing *Vibuthi*, He often mentioned that it was the same *Udi* from the Shirdi fire. Receivers often felt a strange warm sensation in their palms as they received the *Vibuthi*, as though it had come from dying ember.

During festivals, many devotees had witnessed *Vibuthi* emerging from the forehead of Sathya Sai Baba. Many times when He went into a trance, *Vibuthi* would appear on His person. Today devotees from all around the world offer *Vibuthi* to other devotees after formal prayer session in their homes and Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centres.

There are also confirmed reports of *Vibuthi* emerging from photographs and idols kept in shrines in many homes of Sai devotees around the world. Sai devotees generally accept this phenomenon of *Vibuthi* manifestation as an act of Grace bestowed upon the devotee by Baba. This is the significance of *Vibuthi* about which we need to have an understanding.

Until then, Baba had not made such an utterance like what He spoke to Digambara Swamy, correcting him, instructing him to wear clothes, not to crave for name and fame and that He would take care of his essential needs of life.

The teenaged Sai Baba was no longer a fledgling. He had taken on the role of the chastising father, the loving mother and the wise Guru. He had come out of the shackles of household life, and He had begun to address humanity.

The message of the young master had echoed the message of all the grand masters of yore, "Surrender yourself and I assure you that I will take care of you!"

The vision of the young Sai Baba had emerged clearly to uplift humanity from its degenerated slumber and restore back to man the awareness of his lost divine status.

In the emphatic advice to Digambara Swamy, Sai Baba demonstrated one important thing for all who had eyes to see and ears to hear. He made it known loud and clear that His mission had begun!

Early in 1944, probably the 24<sup>th</sup> January, Baba visited the city of Bangalore for the first time. He would have gone by bullock cart up to Bagepalli, stayed at Paragodu village and then proceeded to Bangalore by bus. This was His first major trip outside Puttaparthi since the Grand Declaration.

D N Krishna Murthy would recall Baba's early visits to Bangalore. So this is the narration by D N Krishna Murthy. "Baba visited Bangalore for the first time in February 1944 and stayed for 8 to 10 days in Rama Rao's house near Lal Bagh." Lal Bagh Gardens are very famous, as you know!

Both Karnam Subbamma and Kamalamma accompanied Him on this trip. During this visit, He also visited our house on Cavalry Road. One or two months later He visited Bangalore once again."

Shyamanna's son, Ramaswami of Indira Nagar, would remember Sai Baba visiting and staying at his parents' house in Bangalore. Shyamanna was then working in Ram Kumar Mills. He borrowed his employer's car to bring Baba to their house.

When He went to Bangalore in February 1944, He wore a striped shirt and a *dhoti*. One day, He suddenly said, "I don't want to wear this!"

One Srinivasan brought a few pieces of *dhoti*, dyed light lemon yellow, and had a long *jubba*, a loose collarless shirt made. Such a dress design was called Madanapalli *jubba*, in those days. Very soon Baba gave up His *jubba* and *dhoti*.

Edalam Venkata Ramanappa from Bukkapatnam may have designed the first robe for Baba. It was light grey in colour and not of full length. The dress went through further transformation to a full-sleeved body length light yellow or sometimes off-white robe buttoned at the neck, extending down to the heels. This was reminiscent of the *kafni* worn by Shirdi Sai Baba.

Shantha Krishnamurthy recalls the occasion when Baba visited her house on one of those early trips to Bangalore. It was a few months after they had visited Puttaparthi. This is the narration by Shantha Krishnamurthy:

"Swami suddenly visited our house on 3<sup>rd</sup> Main Road, Chamarajpet, in a horse-driven carriage without prior announcement along with Sathya Narayana, brother of Karnam Subbamma at 11'o clock in the morning. Karnam Kamalamma was then staying in our house. We knew that the train leaves Penukonda for Bangalore at 1.30 am. We have brought 2 *masala dosa* from the nearest restaurant and we were about to eat when Swami came. We were living in a small house then. We cleaned the house while He waited, with no option but to offer the same *masala dosas* to Him."

"I don't know if Swami first visited our house or the house of somebody else. During His subsequent visits too, we were still living in the same small house. We were worried about His security as He was a small boy. We used to make Him stand on a table so that He could give *Darshan*. Many people came for interview, private audience, and Swami used to sleep on the floor, but later we bought Him a cot."

"He was always active, moving from house to house all day. Only an invitation was needed and Swami would be there!"

"Swami used to write us letters twice a week. In one letter, He advised my father, Narayana Sharma, to change our house as it was not good for him. He said that there was *Graham*, negative planetary influence on our house."

"My father tried to shift to a relative's house. Another letter came with the same message. We did not think then that it was a final notice. The following night, my father had a heart attack and died peacefully, blessed with Swami's vision. When he died, he had a picture of Shirdi Sai materialized by Swami at his bedside. He also had *Rudraksha Japamala* with a copper pendant and had images of Shirdi Baba on one side and Hanuman on the other side."

“He had this around his neck and keeping the pendant in the mouth, gulped some water and peacefully breathed his last. It was a state holiday, festival of the royal family. This had happened on 11<sup>th</sup> July of 1944.”

“When Swami had shown my father the vision of *Dasavataras*, ten incarnations in the Chitravathi waters earlier during his visit to Puttaparthi, my father had made Swami to promise to take care of his family. In keeping with this, Swami visited us immediately after my father’s death.”

“During the bereavement, tradition required us to conduct a ceremony each month for a year and then once each year. *Brahmins* were fed as a part of this ritual. On one occasion, Swami Himself had the food as *Brahmin*, freshly bathed, clad in *dhoti* and with a blue towel over His body!”

What a wonderful narration! What a wonderful sequence of events mentioned by Shantha Krishnamurthy! What a wonderful thing it is! Just think of it, Swami’s earlier visit to Bangalore!

We will meet later. Sai Ram for this session!