

Sai Pearls of Wisdom Part 49-A

PRIVATE VISITS TO BANGALORE September 2nd, 2023

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Jagannatha Rao Naidu lived opposite Narayana Sharma's house. He would recollect his first encounter with Baba in the following manner. This is from Jagannatha Rao Naidu narration.

"One evening, I had a glimpse of a boy who was about 16 years old, emerging from the residence of my superior officer, Narayana Sharma, and getting into a car. There was a sizeable crowd of neighbours. It only wetted our desire to know the personage who had such powerful charisma, enough to draw so many people to Him.

When He left, we asked Narayana Sharma about Him. Sharma told me about Him. He also said that His followers called Him 'Sai Baba' and that He was staying at Jangam Subba Reddy Choultry Convention Hall in Ulsoor, Bangalore, and would be staying there for a couple of days.

Well, my sister-in-law Naga Ratnamma had severe asthma and was always sick. I thought it would be prudent to ask Baba to cure her. Accordingly, I informed my brother-in-law V Narasimha Rao Naidu. My wife suggested that my brother-in-law and I go to the choultry and invite Baba to come to our house and then petition Him for the desired cure. By the time we reached the place, *bhajans* were over and Baba was resting. Hence we stayed overnight in the choultry.

In the morning, we waited for Baba to come to the hall. When Baba arrived, devotees were taking turns, paying their respects to Him. We found an opportunity to invite Baba to our house for lunch. He took our address and readily agreed to come at noon. We returned home immediately to tell others to be ready to receive Him and requested other members of the family to join us at noon.

Narayana Sharma ushered Baba into our house at 1 or 2 in the afternoon with Srinivasa Reddy, Baba's host at the earlier house, and some other devotees. Lunch had been arranged and all of us sat down to eat. My mother hurriedly served one dish after another, but forgot to serve a certain dish.

"What!" Swami said, "You did not bring one of the dishes?"

My mother was a little flustered. She checked the food items and yes, one dish was indeed missing!

The dish was also brought and served. Though the food was prepared for a limited number, it was sufficient for all the guests. After lunch, Baba rested some time, after which we told Baba about my sister-in-law's asthma.

He said, "Let us see!"

Before He left, Narasimha Rao Naidu invited Baba to visit his house, an invitation, to which Baba readily agreed. See how Swami blessed almost everybody! Yes!

And then what happened was, the following day He visited Narasimha Rao Naidu's house on the 4th Main Road, Chamarajpet. Narasimha Rao Naidu requested that Baba stay for the next day and suggested holding *bhajans* that evening. Baba agreed to the proposal. During the *bhajans*, Baba sang several songs, followed in chorus by others. My wife played the harmonium. Here again, we find an opportunity to tell Him about my sister-in-law's health.

Baba's response was the same, "Let us see!"

After *bhajans*, He retired for the night.

The following day before He left, He gave some *Vibuthi* to my sister-in-law to apply some on her head and to swallow the rest. There was some improvement in her health. He stayed there for 2 or 3 days and returned to Puttaparthi. Before going, He assured us that He would come again.

A month later, Baba visited our house again at our invitation, this time along with Karnam Subbamma. After partaking of some food in our house, He went to stay with Narasimha Rao Naidu for about 10 days. Swami directed him to hold *bhajans* daily. We had sessions from 6.30 to 9, wherein Swami would also sing!

Subsequently, there was *Akhanda Bhajan* for 24 hours starting on Saturday evening and ending on Sunday night. Generally Swami's visits lasted a week or 10 days. A day before His departure, He would again hold an *Akhanda Bhajan* session from evening to next morning. Daily *bhajans* attracted neighbours and friends.

It was during that time that Kamala Bhai, wife of V S Thiru Venkata Swamy Mudaliar, her son-in-law Tirumal Rao and his wife Pushpa Kanti, Captain Thangavelu Mudaliar, Excise Commissioner Navaneetham Naidu family, a nursery proprietor Jayaram, his friends and relatives attended *Akhand Bhajan*. The devotees brought a lot of flowers and some florists of the K R Market visited with flowers and fruits. Fruits received from the devotees were cut and distributed as *Prasadam*.

In 1944 Baba performed *Aksharabhyasam*, the first alphabet learning ceremony of my son Harnad, at Narasimha Rao Naidu's house. On that occasion, He materialized for me a silver pendant with the image of Shirdi Sai Baba on one side and Hanuman on the other. As requested by the family, Baba visited Bangalore once every two months and stayed in Narasimha Rao Naidu's house. Daily *bhajans* continued when He was at Bangalore.

Excise Commissioner Navaneetham Naidu's wife and children were very much devoted to Baba. But he did not like some of Baba's ways. On one occasion, they had arranged a bhajan in the house at Chamarajpet and while it was going on, Navaneetham Naidu sat outside.

Around 9 at night, Baba went inside a room along with Naidu's family and locked the door. He opened the door around midnight and came out looking as though He had got up from a deep sleep.

When people enquired the reason for His delay, Baba replied, "I had been to a hospital at Bombay to perform an operation!"

Navaneetham Naidu, who had a telephone in those days, immediately called up and found out that an operation had just then been performed at the same hospital and that the patient was then being shifted to the ward. From then onwards, Navaneetham Naidu became a devotee. He even gave Baba His first pet dog, which was later always on Baba's lap.

Baba treated both Narasimha Rao Naidu and Jagannatha Rao Naidu as His friends. Once when Baba was returning to Puttaparthi, He asked both to accompany Him. They came by train, the Guntakal Passenger, and alighted at Penukonda. From there, they took a bus to Bukkapatnam, making the rest of the journey to Puttaparthi by foot. They stayed there for two days as guests of Subbamma in her house where Baba was already staying.

The next morning Baba took them to the Chitravathi River and dug a pit of 1 foot depth to show water flowing below the sand. In the evening, He took them to the neighbouring fields near Janakampalli and Bukkapatnam. Baba was a friend and guide.

In the evening, He took them to a devotee's sugarcane field where jaggery was being made. Each had a glass of sugarcane juice and also tasted the delicious jaggery. The

next morning, two of them returned to Bangalore. As they had shown Baba the city of Bangalore, Baba also took the opportunity to show them around Puttaparthi.

Karur is a town 475 kms from Puttaparthi in a Tamil-speaking province. Rama Lakshmi from Karur suffered from an incurable allergic disease. One night, she had a strange dream in which a boy with (a) brilliant aura around His head appeared, standing on the coils of a huge serpent. In the dream, He asked her to come to Puttaparthi. After persistent enquiry, she found out where Puttaparthi was and visited the place. She found Baba to be the same boy as in her dream.

Baba welcomed her. Her incurable disease was soon cured. Her brother, Subramaniam Chettiar from Madurai, followed her to see Baba within a few months. He came with his wife and 17 others. Baba was a young boy, but the Chettiar was convinced of His Divinity almost instantaneously. Subramaniam Chettiar later found Sri Padugha Trust.

Drawn by their own curiosity, florists and flower merchants had found themselves in Baba's presence after witnessing their clients' contagious enthusiasm to see Him. Narayanappa was one such flower merchant in the old flower market of Bangalore.

He would recall later, "Professor Subba Rao stayed with his sister on Patalamman Temple Street. They visited me every day!" This is the description by Narayanappa, as you must have noticed.

"They visited me every day for about 10 days to buy garlands. They invited me to their place, saying, "A small boy from Puttaparthi has become a Swami and He is staying in our house. Why don't you come and see Him?"

I was interested, grabbed a garland and went with them in their car. Baba was staying in a small room. I garlanded Him and prostrated. When I got up, He waved His hand, materialized *Vibuthi* and applied it to my forehead. That moment was like a magnet pulling me towards Him, creating a mysterious attraction.

I attended *bhajans* regularly. After two days, with my friends – both flower merchants, I went to have *darshan*. The *bhajans* interested me and attracted others. The crowd kept increasing in those days. Baba Himself sang songs and took *Arathi*.

Later, five of us visited Puttaparthi and stayed for two weeks. During this visit, there was only a hut with stone walls and a straw roof. There was nothing there. No food, snacks or drinks! We cooked some rice in the open, brought curd from one of the houses and thus had our breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Baba instructed us not to trust anybody there. He asked us not to exhibit money to anyone. One evening around 4 pm, Baba took us to the Chitravathi River. He played with the sand and took out a *Mysore Pak* – a sweet, and gave it to us.

We said, "Swami! It tastes like Gundappa Hotel *Mysore Pak* at Bangalore!"

Baba said, "Yes, I brought it from there!"

We also put our hands in the sand and tried to do what He had done.

Then we said to Him, "What is it, Swami? We do not get anything!"

How do we get it, you see that! It is possible for Him to do anything and it is not for anybody, you see!

On another day, He took us to the top of the hill, picked a mango from a tamarind tree and gave it to us. We pulled all the branches and tried ourselves but nothing of the nature came.

One day we cooked rice and had it with green chillies. Another day, we made tomato *rasam*, which Baba liked very much and spoke about it afterwards!"