

Sai Pearls of Wisdom Part 49-C

RELIEF FROM EVIL SPIRITS

November 19th, 2023

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh – Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Swami was like any other ordinary boy, very humorous and playful. Everyone in the marriage party instantly liked Him. Swami demonstrated a shadow play of animals and birds on the white wall with His hands. People, especially children, enjoyed it very much.

Tulasamma, an elderly lady was 80 years old at the time of the narrator, who narrated this episode. When Swami came to the marriage function on the first day, He sat in the marriage hall. Many people did not know in the beginning who this boy was, nor did anyone bother much about Him.

Suddenly her grandmother rushed towards Him and caught hold of His small Feet! It was intriguing to many – an 80 year old lady, catching this boy's feet! My grandmother -- I mean the one who narrated this episode, her grandmother, 80 years old, about whom I have been mentioning, she was crying! Swami took her head in both His hands and gently stroked it all over. From then on, her grandmother never had to suffer any more pain. In fact she was suffering from this excruciating pain before. After the touch of Swami, that pain vanished completely.

Whenever He visited weddings, people used to forget about the wedding and throng around Him. Baba's Bangalore visits had created quite a sensation. The good word spread and many more devotees from Bangalore started visiting Puttaparthi. Among others who came to Baba in 1944 were Ravel Seshagiri Rao, C M H Ranjoth Singh, Angamma, Captain Thangavelu Mudaliar and A H Tirumal Rao.

It was about this time that the first book on Sai Baba was published. This book in Telugu was entitled '*Sayeesuni Charithra*'. The author was Kondappa, who happened to be the school teacher of Bhagavan. Subbannacharya also had taught in the VIII Standard in the Board Elementary School in Bukkapatnam. A little later, he heard Sai Baba's

devotion to Shirdi Sai, of His complete transformation from a simple un-ostentatious student into an altogether different miracle worker. He grew very eager to meet Him. To the superficial observers, Baba might have seemed to be a mad boy, but Subbannacharya's first impression of the lad was that He was a great devotee like Prahlada. However as days passed on and Subbannacharya's visit to Puttaparthi became more frequent, he gradually became convinced that Sai Baba was not an ordinary human being, but a boy endowed with supernatural powers.

One day, V C Kondappa and Subbannacharya – both happened to be His teachers – came to Puttaparthi to satisfy their long time desire to know about the early life of Shirdi Sai Baba, because the available books threw no light on this unknown period. They were wonder-struck when Sai Baba revealed that He was Shirdi Sai Baba Himself!

He also asked them to stay there for the night when He would narrate His life story, granting them their heart's wish even before asking. During that momentous night, they heard the story of Shirdi Sai Baba from Sathya Sai Baba, who gave them, in addition, the *darshan* of His previous incarnation in flesh and blood. See that!

At Bukkapatnam, T Viswanatha Rao of Anantapur was destined to see Baba earlier in the summer of 1944. Rao would recall later how as a young boy, he had his first *darshan* of Baba. He would describe Baba as a young lad of light brown complexion in His late teens, short of stature, lean with well-groomed but slightly curly hair. He wore a cotton grey coloured *kurta* reaching down to the middle of the thighs and a cotton *dhoti*. He had wooden sandals and was at the head of a small group of 5 or 6 children and elders.

Rao's sister Kalavathamma sat down on the floor, stretching her legs and thought to herself that Baba looked like a mad man with a strange hairstyle.

Baba approached her and asked, "Am I mad? Tell Me! Am I mad?"

Surprised and flustered by Baba's sudden question, she hurriedly said, "No, no! I never said that!"

But as she was replying, she realized that Baba was merely reflecting her thoughts. He certainly could read her mind, to say the least!

Rao had lost his baggage on his way to Bukkapatnam. But sure enough, as Baba predicted, he received his lost baggage by the same evening. In an interview with the family, Baba blessed them with *Vibuthi Prasadam* and directed them in their search for a suitable match for Rao's sister, Kalavathamma. He also promised to visit their house in Anantapur which He did.

Baba arrived at T Chidambariah – Rao's father residence at Anantapur, from Kadiri. At about noon time on the sacred *Jyeshtha Poornima* day, that is on Monday, the 5th May 1944. This was during the Second World War. To save fuel, vehicle motors had been

converted into coal-fired steam engines. Baba was given the privilege of sitting next to the driver. The bus stopped right in front of Chidambariah's house.

Baba wore a *kurta*, a *dhoti* and wooden sandals. After lunch and a brief rest, He called the family for an interview. He appeared to know every nook and corner of the house. The family offered worship to Him during His brief stay of 3 days. He even exorcised Chidambariah's daughter Kalavathamma and daughter-in-law Narasamma, both of whom were believed to have been under the influence of evil spirits! That's how Rao narrates this.

"The process was very elaborate, ritualistic in those days. Both my sister and sister-in-law were called in. It appears He pulled out a small hair and He wound it around a silver-wired rod. The length of the hair was astonishingly long, a few metres, having been pulled out from the vortex of the head! Neither of them had any pain. It was later sealed in a locket of silver as a talisman and each of them was asked to wear it around the neck. The lockets given to them remained throughout their lives.

That night the whole family slept very soundly and could get up only in the late hours of the morning. But Baba got up early, cleaned the premises, had His bath and kept hot water ready for their bath. He also placed coconut and other things at the doorway of the main entrance and performed *Pooja*. He said that He had driven away the evil spirits and they could live free from fear from then on.

Baba's relationship with the family was very informal. The family would sit around Him and attend to things like arranging a seat cushion or driving away flies or mosquitoes. In the middle of His talk, He would often abruptly go into very deep sleep, and those around would prevent others from disturbing Him. There were huge crowds of people eager to see Baba so much so that one day during dinner, Chidambariah's wife, Subbamma closed the door of the house to keep visitors out.

Baba insisted that doors be opened. The lady protested, saying that she had prepared food for only 50 people, whereas the crowds outside consisted of more than 200 people. Baba went to the kitchen, removed the lids covering the dishes, sprinkled water on them and asked her to serve the food to all devotees. To everybody's surprise, a large surplus of food remained even after all the devotees had their fill.

Three months later, in August and September, Baba decided to tour the Gooty Taluk. He started from a small village called Ellur situated 5 kms from Kallur, Railway Station on the Guntakal – Bangalore Line on the south bank of the River Pennar. This is to give you an idea of Gooty Taluk.

Huge crowds began to stream into the house of the local village officer, Karnam Adi Narayana Rao, with whom Baba was staying.

Pamidi was a town located on the northern bank of the river, consisting of businessmen and known as a commercial centre. Though Baba camped in Ellur for 15 days, He did not visit Pamidi.

Baba Himself used to lead the *bhajans* most of the time. Rao was staying at his uncle's house at Panki and was trekking to Ellur for *darshan*.

On one such occasion, he sang two devotional songs from the classic movie '*Bhakta Pothana*', which was very popular then. From then on, Baba began to call Rao, '*Paatala Abbay*' - a singer boy!

That's how Swami has been of immense help to local villagers, leading them towards the spiritual path. Not only that, Swami helped everybody, giving them a relief from the influence of evil spirits.

Those days, people suffered heavily because of these evil spirits. Swami was of great help. He was a reliever. He cured all of them permanently once and for all!

These are all the episodes where we find Swami extending His help to all who sought His refuge. That's the old narration of His contribution to the local people

Baba suddenly left for Anantapur all alone one day, followed close on His heels by members of Karnam's family, protesting vehemently against His unannounced decision to go back.

Baba was unmoved and went on. At Anantapur, however, He agreed to stay with one of the Karnam's relatives. To allay the fear of the Karnam's family that His sudden departure spelt some calamity, Baba returned to Ellur before coming back to Anantapur, where He again stayed for a few days.

Well, we will continue this in the next session. Thank you for your time.