



SAI SANDESH

The official monthly newsletter of

Om Sai MANDIR

A Non Profit Organization

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Baba Does Not Ignore Our Prayers; He Simply Waits For The Right Time

By The Sai Sandesh Team

"Baba, I have been asking something for so long. Why are you ignoring my prayers?" Our faith is often called into question when such thoughts enter our mind. No matter what our age, we are children after all when we stand in front of Baba and Baba, too, has a unique way to draw out the child in all of us. At times, He plays with us like a mother plays with infant babes, while at other times He bursts the bubble by bringing out the worst in us -- not to harm us but to show us what we need to work on.

How Baba saved Ambedkar

Once, a devotee by the name of Ambedkar was suffering constantly in life. Almost nothing was going right. No matter what task he undertook, suffering and obstacles stood way ahead of him. He would visit Baba every year and share his worries with Baba. Baba would listen patiently and ask him to wait for the right time.

Finally, after several years of constant pleading, Ambedkar lost hope and decided to end his life in Shirdi. One night, he visited the local well in Shirdi and decided to plunge himself and all his sorrows by drowning in the holy water. His suffering was so intense, he did not give much thought to how his cowardly actions would impact others. He just wanted to escape.

As he was about to commit the unpardonable mistake, suddenly a devotee of Baba appeared on the scene and asked him whether he had read a book on Akkalkot Maharaj. Strange enough, when Ambedkar randomly opened the book, there was a page where a devotee of Maharaj was about to jump into the water when the saint appeared there and pulled him out. He chided the person and explained that suicide would not solve his problems. Instead, he would have to take rebirth and suffer again and again. Further, the bad karma of taking one's life would only add to the store of karma.

Ambedkar took this to be a hint from Baba and cancelled his actions. He started following Baba's teachings and learnt some new skills. True to Baba's words,

his fortune improved and he led a very comfortable life later on. Had Ambedkar rushed through his thoughtless acts, he would have never enjoyed the good fortune that awaited him.

It takes just one second for destiny to take a swift turn and change our circumstances in a favorable direction. When that time would arrive only Baba knows.

Saptanekar blessed

Another devotee of Baba, Saptanekar, had lost his only son. The incident had caused great despair and a constant aura of gloom around his family. When Saptanekar approached Baba, the latter roared "Get out!" This was repeated several times -- in fact, every time Saptanekar visited Baba. This imaginary rebuke and rejection only made his condition worse. He felt as if God had thrown him out too. But can God do something like that? Impossible!

Every time Saptanekar would leave Shirdi, somehow Baba would arrange circumstances to call him back. Yet, he would meet with the same "Get out!" from Baba. What was he to do? Baba's ways are not understood so easily. Finally, when Saptanekar visited Shirdi one time, he firmly held Baba's feet and surprisingly, Baba placed his Divine hands on Saptanekar's head. Baba also pronounced a benediction that He would bring back that very child to Saptanekar and assured him to be fearless as Baba's feet were holy and ancient. True to Baba's words, Saptanekar's wife gave birth to a beautiful baby boy.

If Baba wanted to bless Saptanekar, why did he reject him at first? No one can understand Baba's ways but it is well known in Shirdi that Baba would often drive away obstacles and bad circumstances surrounding His devotees by roaring "Get out!" Perhaps, Baba was driving away Saptanekar's sorrows and not Saptanekar himself as it was misunderstood. Nonetheless, Baba made Saptanekar very happy later on.

Hemandpant was taught patience

Hemadpant, the author of Sai Satcharita, faced a sim-

Baba Does Not Ignore Our Prayers; He Simply Waits For The Right Time

ilar situation. Once, in Hemadpant's presence Baba blessed another devotee with a vision. Hemadpant was naturally envious. After all, he had been pursuing spiritual studies for over forty years without any fruit but this new gentleman was successful in just seven days. Baba created some strange leelas to drive a point to his confused devotee and through Shama narrated a story whereby Baba waited on His guru for over twelve years before achieving success. The lessons were faith, patience, and "right time".

Gayatri sadhaka learnt "time is everything"

Our scriptures have numerous stories to illustrate the virtue of patience, especially patient obedience to a sadguru. Once, an aspirant was pursuing Gayatri sadhana whereby he would chant the Gayatri Mantra thousands of times every day. From morning to night, he would tirelessly pursue his prayers in the fond hope that the Divine Mother would bless him with her vision. Despite the arduous effort, unfortunately, there was no result and the devotee appeared to be going nowhere. He was dejected and one day out of sheer frustration left the place of worship to pursue worldly goals. As soon as he had stepped out of the shrine, a divine figure appeared in front of him and said, "Child, where are you going? Why are you so perturbed?" This luminescent being was none other than Kal Bhairav, often depicted near Devi Maa.

When the devotee explained his situation Bhairav explained, "All the sadhana you have done until today has burnt out countless sins from numerous past lives that you do not recall. It was because of this sadhana that you could have my vision. Now that your merits and demerits have balanced if you pursue any further studies you will win the vision of the Divine Mother." The aspirant was motivated and continued with his prayers. Within a very short period of time, he won the vision that he had been striving for.

The right time had finally arrived. Baba once said that he often waits for the right time to accomplish ten things simultaneously. Until such time arrives, we may lose patience but when it comes, He acts fast. March on! Baba asks for only two things: faith and patience.

Guru Penetrates Our Hearts By H. Shivaramakrishna

Few of a million miracles of Baba that I wanted to share. It was Saraswati Pooja day and I was in Baba's darbar worshipping him while all others are worshipping Maa Saraswati and thinking in my mind that all other gods are not significant as Baba to me. I also know for a fact that my wife and mother are Kamakshi Maa devotees but still used to have a speculation whether to worship a god other than Baba or not. Same way, I used to blindly believe Baba without having inclination towards Ram, Krishna, Shiva, Ganesh etc., I used to ponder deeply about this asking Baba to show me the way. It was slow progress.

I was walking home from Baba's mandir thinking about this very deeply. And the moment I entered my house I saw my touch display computer's screen from a distance and Voila!! The wallpaper was changed from Baba's dwarakamai picture to Saraswati Ma holding a veena dressed white.

I could not believe what I saw and for a moment a sense of deep perception was felt. Standing still there, I didn't know what to do or who to share this miracle with as I was alone at home then, I just saw Baba's poster on top of the screen and could not control the tears of joy. All my questions were answered within a moment, what can I say, I just hugged his two dimensional picture and expressed all the deep felt feelings. The lesson I learnt while iterating the experience is that our sadguru can give anything at any moment, when there is 'Saburi' which is patience. And that I have to hold on to him all the time. Same way, I was very much naive about our hindu vedic scriptures and the great characters like Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, Lord Shiva etc. Baba slowly revealed to me who Ram is by making my attention incline to Ramayan. Ever since I finished watching, my devotion to Lord Ram has increased exponentially. Same way, during Shivaratri my devotion to Lord Shiva increased. Lately, Baba has introduced me to Lord Krishna. In Baba's mandir close to my home, I miraculously started reading Vishnu Sahasranamam. Hanuman Chalisa is another instance to getting devotion towards Hanuman Ji. More than getting devotion, it was my understanding the character of all the gods that induced devotion. And only Guru can make it happen. Baba taught to me that it is only guru who is the gateway to God.

Baba Knows Everything! We have to have Faith.

By S. Bhatnagar

The question often arises, embarrassingly even in the minds of the truest devotees, does Baba really know EVERYTHING? Does He really know me and things going on in MY life? Baba is so busy with more important things, like taking care of the world. What am I to Him? We think, "I have never met Baba personally – perhaps He knows more about people who see Him all the time or those who get personal interviews and so are close to Him..."

Well, I can certainly tell you: BABA KNOWS EVERYTHING! I am going to narrate an incidence from my family life to show this. Mind you, we have never had an interview with Baba. We, however, have had the opportunity to get His Darshan like anyone else and, even then, few and far in-between.

One night on a long holiday weekend, late at night, my husband got called to a hospital, which is about an hour away, because a little boy had fallen and fractured his arm. It was raining so heavily that night that you could not see 200 feet ahead of you. The road to the hospital is through a long patch of woods, unlit, and with many dangerous twists and turns.

As my husband was driving fast over a particularly treacherous curve, his car slid off the road and crashed into a tree. The air bag inflated and in the process pinned both his arms (we later found out that he sustained a fracture to his left wrist).

He was in a lot of pain and almost unconscious. He called me, half conscious, to tell me about the accident. I could barely even understand him—he was in so much pain and shock. He could not even tell me WHERE he was and I was horrified thinking, "HOW am I going to get to him?" I told him to dial "911" immediately before anything happened. I had no idea the extent of his injuries, whether there was bleeding, etc. I do remember looking at the clock—it was midnight. Just then, my husband told me, "Someone is coming to help me." He could barely see who it was—with the pain and in the darkness/rain.

I later found out that it a Peapod van. These are

vans, run by our local grocery stores, which deliver food to people during the daytime. They are never out roaming around at night. He told me the driver got out, pulled him out, made sure Mohit was okay and immediately called "911". Before Mohit knew it and within what seemed like seconds, the police/ambulance were there, in the incredibly deserted dark road. The police was peering at him and telling him, "Looking at the extent of the car and the damage, man, you are just so lucky to get out of this accident alive." Mohit turned to look for the Peapod driver to thank him and he was no-where.

He was immediately taken to the hospital. Later, even the doctor told me he was incredulous that someone would be driving that road so late at night in the pouring rain, be in such a significant accident, and escape with minor injuries. We had a large Toyota Land Cruiser and the tree, which was hit head-on, left an indentation halfway through the front hood. Mohit was very fortunate that he only broke a few bones in his wrist and did not rupture his spleen, break any ribs, etc, with such a bad accident. Mohit was indeed lucky. I just felt that it was incredible that someone one would be making grocery deliveries at midnight during a holiday weekend.

That morning, our good friend from Bangalore called. He is very close to Baba. He called to say, "How is Mohit doing?" As I did not want to cause any unnecessary worry, I said, "Mohit is fine." He said, "No. I was with Baba this morning. At 9:30 a.m., (which is midnight our time) Baba said, "Wait, I have to go save a devotee. He is getting into a bad accident". Baba did His hand motions, with the circling in the air. Then Baba proceeded to tell our friend that He pulled Dr. Mohit out of the car. Baba said, "I even had to drive a van!" He told our friend, "Your friend is okay now and I called the police." Baba often says, "Not even a blade of grass moves without My Will." If He can move a blade of grass, think about how much He cares for each and every one of us, his children. We may think we are inconsequential. But for Baba, everyone is the same. We should be truly grateful that we are in our Beloved Baba's Folds. We should have complete Faith in Him. He is truly Antaryaami—the One within you

Om Sai MANDIR's ACTIVITIES

DAILY ARATIS

Kakad Arati: 8.00 A.M.
Madhyana Arati: 12.00 P.M.
Dhoop Arati: 6.00 P.M.
Sheja Arati: 8.00 P.M.

SPECIAL BHAJANS

Every Thursday: 7.00 P.M.-8.30 P.M.
Every Sunday: 2.00 P.M.-3.00 P.M.
SAHASRANAM, BABA'S 108 NAMES, ETC.: Daily
ANNADAN (FOOD SERVICE): Daily at the Mandir

Ekadasa Rudram: Daily 8.30 AM to 11.30 AM
Hanuman Chalisa 108 Times: Every Sat 12.30 to 6 PM
Mrityunjaya Jap 1008 Times: Every Mon 4.00 PM to 6 PM

PUJA SPONSORSHIP

Archana: \$11
Abishekam: \$51
Satyanarayana Vrata: \$81
Vahana Puja: \$15
Annadan: \$251
To sponsor pujas, call (718) 461-0454.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Sun, Mar 10 - Mahashivaratri

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SAI WISDOM

It is the Divine that inspires, activates, leads and fulfils the life of every being, however simple or complex it may be! From the atom to the Universe, every single being is flowing fast to merge in the sea of bliss. Never forget that every one of you is Sath-Chith-Ananda Swarupa (Embodiments of Existence-Consciousness-Bliss) – only you are unaware of it and imagine yourself to be bound to this form and its limitations! This is the myth that should be exploded, so that your Divine Life may begin. Leading a Divine Life consists of practising Truth, Love and Non-injury (Sathya, Prema and Ahimsa). Since all are parts of the same Divine Self, all should be loved as oneself, without fear and falsehood. When all are one, why should we injure another one, who is part of the same Divine Being?

Source: *Thought For The Day*, Prashanti Nilayam, Mar 02, 2013

Don't Miss Mahashivratri

**Sun, Mar 10, 6 PM to Mon,
Mar 11, 6 AM**

Divine Actions Are Shrouded In Mystery, But Always Beneficial

By The Editor, Sai Sandesh

Divine actions are always shrouded in mystery. It is only God who knows the reasons behind all His actions.

Blow exchanged for death

Swami Nityananda, a Godintoxicated saint, once visited the house of a lady and hit her head with a stick, for no apparent reason or provocation. The lady was disturbed at this act but kept quiet. After a few months an astrologer visited the lady; when he reviewed her horoscope, he was shocked to find her alive. It turned out that her allotted time of death was at the very moment when Swami Nityananda had hit her. The Swami in His infinite mercy had exchanged her death for a small blow on her head. Isn't that wonderful? Mahaavatar Babaji, the deathless saint from the Himalayas, too, performed a similar miracle once. Once when a group of disciples were in the Babaji's company, He struck one disciple's shoulder very hard with a stick. The other disciples immediately interceded with the words "How cruel!" Babaji calmly explained that the disciple was to die at the very minute he was struck. The blow had been exchanged for his death. The little pain that was caused by the blow had saved his very life.

Depend on God alone

God never does anything to hurt us. All his actions are performed out of pure love. This has been proven innumerable times. Take the instance of Krishna. Once when Krishna and Arjuna were walking, a Brahmin came to seek the blessings of Krishna. Around the same time Duryodhana, too, came to seek His blessings. Krishna blessed both of them. Duryodhana was blessed with immeasurable wealth, while the poor Brahmin's cow died immediately. The cow was his sole means of sustenance. Arjuna, though a great devotee, could not fathom Krishna's divine leela and immediately chided the Lord for being so harsh on the Brahmin while blessing a wicked one like Duryodhana, who was already so wealthy. Krishna calmly explained to Arjuna that Duryodhana being so wicked would not be able to progress spiritually and hence he had been blessed with excess wealth (excess is always bad), while the Brahmin was

dear to Krishna and God wanted him to depend only on the Lord. Now that the cow was gone, he was free to think only about the Lord and progress spiritually. Krishna, in turn, would always take care of his devotees' needs.

Datta uproots tree, reveals treasure

Lord Dattatreya once performed a similar miracle. He visited the house of one devotee to seek alms. The devotee had in his yard a vegetable tree that provided food for the family. The Lord on his way out uprooted this very tree and threw it out. The lady of the house was very disturbed at this act but the husband calmed her with the wisdom that everything happens for one's own good. When they went to replant the tree they found a hidden pot of gold. The Lord in His infinite mercy had revealed the treasure that would have been hidden otherwise.

History is witness to the fact that the best of inventions and personalities have arisen from the toughest of times. Take the instance of Gandhi. If he were not ill-treated and subjected to racial discrimination, would Gandhi have become the great leader that he eventually turned out to be? Innumerable social causes have a painful experience as the basis of their foundation.

Dethroned king gains enlightenment

I once read about a king who was dethroned by his own brother. The pain that the incidence caused was unbearable and the dethroned king resorted to meditation and God for peace. The initial act of mediation turned out to be so fruitful that he started spending more and more time on his spiritual practices. Within a few years he gained enlightenment. The newly enlightened soul returned to his kingdom to thank his brother, instead of accusing him. Had his brother not dethroned him, would he have gained enlightenment? Situations may sometimes appear disappointing, but the underlying purpose is known only to God and is always for the benefit of devotees. What we need on our part is firm faith that everything that is happening to us is for our own good, a good that we can't see in the present but will surely recognize in the near future.

Swami Is Omnipresent

By M. Chugh

This incident occurred back in 2007 just few months after my wedding. My father-in-law who had passed away in 2001 was an ardent devotee of Swami. He had great love and respect for Swami and had utmost faith in Him. My wife, who grew up in the US with her family, knew about Swami through her father, but it was only heard-belief and not felt-belief. But it was only a matter of time for her to experience Swami's Omnipresence.

After getting married in July 2006 in NY, USA., we visited India in early 2007 to meet our relatives who couldn't attend the wedding in the US, and also to visit Puttaparthi (Swami's Ashram in South India) to take Swami's blessings. By Swami's Grace, the whole trip went smoothly as planned and we got to see Swami, who came everyday to bless the devotees. On our way back from Puttaparthi, my wife insisted on buying some books on Swami as she felt the desire to read more about Him.

After returning to the US, we resumed work. My wife use to work in NY City which was a 45 minute commute from our house in queens. Every morning on her way to work, she started reading one of Swami's books that we had bought from Puttaparthi.

One day, while she was on her way to work on the train and reading the book, she came across a line in the book in which Swami said "I am Omnipresent". On reading this, my wife paused briefly and questioned in her mind "if Swami is Omnipresent then why cannot I see Him now?" As quickly as the question aroused from an inquisitive heart of a spiritual aspirant, our Beloved Swami replied back instantly. Immediately after the question struck her mind, she looked around and to her astonishment everything she saw appeared orange in color. As we all know, orange is the color of Swami's robe, which he wears most of the times.

Not believing her eyes my wife rubbed her eyes and looked around again, and yet everything she saw appeared orange in color. This continued for several minutes as she walked out of the train on the street. Finally, she entered the elevators of her office building where she was the only one in the elevator. By now, everything was back to normal and she could see things in their true colors. But as we know, mind

is very fickle and never trusts easily; it again occurred to my wife to question what she had just seen! She said to herself "Swami, if what you showed me was true, give me one more glimpse of your presence in this elevator" Our all tolerant and patient Swami didn't wait to respond back! As soon as the elevators doors were about to close, a lady came running and forced herself through the closing doors of the elevator. Next what my wife saw just brought tears in her eyes. The lady was wearing a bright orange scarf!!! These are one of very small mysterious ways of Swami to show His omnipresence and Love to His true seekers.

TRENDING ON OM SAI MANDIR'S BLOG

[Omsaimandir.org/blog](http://www.omsaimandir.org/blog)

The Power Of Prayers: Problems Vanish

<http://www.omsaimandir.org/blog/?p=217>

How Baba Demonstrated His Omnipresence

<http://www.omsaimandir.org/blog/?p=243>

How Baba Demonstrated His Omnipresence

<http://www.omsaimandir.org/blog/?p=243>

Onion Transformed Into Sweet Potato: Baba's Will Is Supreme

<http://www.omsaimandir.org/blog/?p=209>

Baba Always Watches Over His Children

<http://www.omsaimandir.org/blog/?p=160>

Balloon Miracle Happened Yet Again, Today At Om Sai Mandir

<http://www.omsaimandir.org/blog/?p=111>

How Baba Lit Lamps With Water -- And Orange Juice

<http://www.omsaimandir.org/blog/?p=158>



MAHASHIVARATRI

SUN, MAR 10, 6.00 PM

TO

MON, MAR 11, 6.00 AM
All-night bhajans, vigil, four phases of abhishekam

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MAHASHIVRATRI CELEBRATIONS - SUN, MARCH 10, 2013



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MAHASHIVARATRI PUJA SCHEDULE - Sunday, March 10, 2013, 6:00 PM To Monday, March 11, 2013, 6:00 AM - All-Night Bhajans, Jagran/Vigil, and 4 Phases of Shiva Abhishekam

Phase I Abhishekam: 6 P.M.–8.30 P.M.

1. Ganesh Abhishekam: 6 P.M.–6.15 P.M.
2. Shri Sai Baba Maha Abhishekam: 6.15 P.M.–6.45 P.M.
3. Shiva Maha Abhishekam: 6.45 P.M.–8.30 P.M.
(Followed by Alankaram, Rudram Chamakam, Arati, and Mahaprasadam)
Coffee, Tea, Snacks, & Prasadam will be served throughout night

Phase II Abhishekam: 9 P.M.–11.30 P.M.

Shiva Maha Abhishekam followed by: Alankaram, Arati, and Prasad Viniyoga

Phase III Abhishekam: 12 A.M.–2.30 A.M.

Shiva Maha Abhishekam followed by: Alankaram, Arati, and Prasad Viniyoga

Phase IV Abhishekam: 3 A.M.–5.30 A.M.

Shiva Maha Abhishekam followed by: Alankaram, Arati, and Prasad Viniyoga

MAHASHIVRATRI PUJA SPONSORSHIP FORM (Check applicable and mail or e-mail form)

Any one Abhishekam: \$81

All three Abhishekams in Phase I: \$101

Two Abhishekams from any Phase: \$101

Three Abhishekams from any Phase: \$201

All Night (4) Abhishekams: \$251

24 Hours - All Day + All Night (All Four) Abhisheks - \$501

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The sponsorship form can be mailed at the address above or you can sponsor pujas online at <http://www.omsaimandir.org/shivratri.cfm>

For more information, please contact: OM SAI MANDIR at 1-718-461-0454

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