



Sabka Maalik Ek

SAI SANDESH

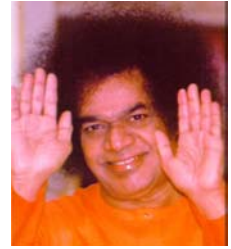
The Monthly Newsletter of Om Sai Mandir

November 2004; Volume 1, Issue 5

45-11 Smart Street ♦ Flushing, NY 11355 ♦ Tel: (718) 461-0454

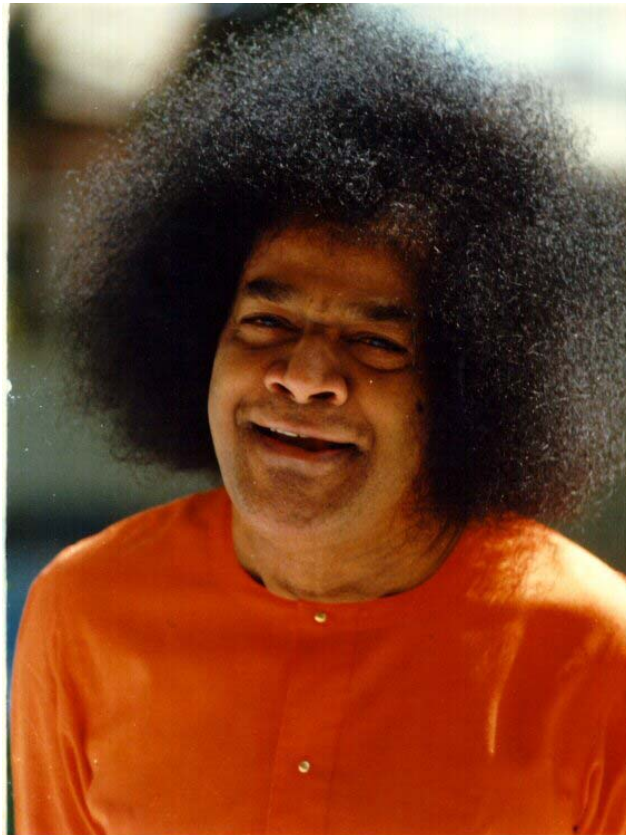
www.omsaimandir.org ♦ info@omsaimandir.org

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Love All, Serve All

Swami's Birthday Special Issue



Happy Birthday Dearest Lord!

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FAITH IN GOD: THE BEDROCK OF ALL VIRTUES; NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ONE WITH FAITH

It is with faith alone that Hanuman easily crossed the ocean; it is with faith alone that stones were made to float in water; and it is with faith alone that we will reach the divine.

Thought for the Month

“At my mere sankapla [will], I can transform earth into sky and sky into earth.”-

Baba

The power of faith can accomplish even the most impossible of tasks with utmost ease. A devotee’s childlike faith and devotion can melt the Lord’s “butter-like” heart in a moment. History is replete with examples of how devotees, on the strength of their faith alone, moved the compassionate Lord to perform the most phenomenal of miracles.

Mira. Mira, a famous saint, used to spend all her time in singing the glories of the Lord. She was once offered poisoned drink in the guise of “prasadam” [consecrated food]. With complete faith in the Lord, she drank the offering; at her mere touch, the poisoned drink was transformed into divine nectar.

The Greatest Devotee. Once Sage Narada desired to find the greatest devotee of the Lord. He approached earth and visited a well-known priest. The priest prostrated to the sage and inquired about the welfare of all, including the Lord. When asked about what the Lord was doing at the present moment, Narada replied, “The Lord is passing an elephant through a needle’s hole.” The priest burst into uncontrollable laughter and ridiculed Narada for making such a statement. Narada smiled and walked away and continued on his quest. During his wanderings, Narada met several “self proclaimed” devotees, but none could believe what Narada was saying.

Finally, Narada arrived at a cobbler’s shop. The cobbler was thrilled at the sight of a divine guest and welcomed Narada into his humble home. After offering due hospitality, the cobbler inquired about the Lord. Narada again made the same statement: “The Lord is passing an elephant through a needle’s hole.” On hearing this, the cobbler’s eyes were filled with tears of joy. He said, “Ah, my Lord is so great. He can accomplish even the most impossible of feats. He can definitely pass, not just an elephant, but the entire universe through a needle’s hole.” Narada’s eyes were filled with tears to have finally found the best devotee. Implicit faith does not seek the support of logic or scientific proofs when it comes to the Lord. There is

no rationale that can demystify the Lord’s power. The Lord is the Master of this entire creation and there is absolutely nothing he cannot accomplish. Swami has often said: “At my mere sankapla [will], I can transform earth into sky and sky into earth.”

How many of us practice this faith, though? When we are traveling by plane, don’t we trust our life in the hands of an unknown pilot? When we are being operated, don’t we place our entire body in the care of a surgeon we hardly know? Then why can’t we have implicit faith in our Lord? The Lord is our mother, father, and protector and the only one who really loves us and will never hurt us in any way.

St. Peter. Another story comes to mind: Once Lord Jesus appeared in the middle of an ocean and asked St. Peter to walk on water. St. Peter obeyed and, to the wonder of all, was able to walk on the surface of water. After crossing a certain distance, though, he felt fear and doubt. The moment he doubted, he fell into the water. While drowning, however, he called out to the Lord for help. Jesus immediately rescued his beloved devotee and said, “Why did you doubt, child?” Peter could walk on water as long as he had faith, but the minute he doubted, he fell into the water. The ocean in the above story could be compared to the world full of worries. The Lord is asking us to walk on it with implicit faith in Him. As long as we walk with faith, we won’t be affected by the sufferings of this world. The minute we doubt, though, our sufferings will overwhelm us. But, even in doubt, if we call the Lord, he will surely come to our rescue. Such is the unconditional love that the Lord has for us.

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Faith can be cultivated by all. Being Swami’s children, there is nothing we cannot accomplish either. Let us pray to the Lord to grant us pure faith.

DID YOU KNOW: WHAT IS DIWALI?

Diwali, the festival of lights, is recognized as the festival that leads us into Truth and Light. It symbolizes that age-old culture of a country that teaches us to vanquish ignorance that subdues humanity and to drive away darkness that engulfs the light of knowledge. The word "Diwali" is the corruption of the Sanskrit word "Deepavali" -- Deepa meaning light and Avali meaning a row. It means a row of lights. Diwali is very enthusiastically celebrated for five continuous days. Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, is also appeased during Diwali.

OM SAI MANDIR'S DAILY 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. – 8.00 P.M.
Every Sunday	2.00 P.M. – 3.00 P.M.

SAI NAAM JAP (CHANTING BABA'S HOLY NAME):

Last Saturday of Every Month 8.30 A.M. – 8.30 P.M.

STOTRAS (CHANTING SAHASRANAM, BABA'S 108 NAMES, ETC.):

Daily 12.30 P.M. and 6.30 P.M.

ANNADAN [FOOD SERVICE]:

Daily at the Temple

ANNADAN [FOOD SERVICE] FOR HOMELESS

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Every Saturday at 54th Street & Lexington Avenue: 1 p.m.; 29th Street & 1st Avenue: 3 p.m. For more info, call the temple at: (718) 461-0454.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Sat. Nov. 06 (6.00 p.m.) to Sun. Nov. 07 (6 p.m.): 24 Hour Bhajans for world peace

Wednesday, November 10: Dhanteras

Friday, November 12: Deepawali

Sunday, November 14: Bhai Duj

Friday, November 19: Ladies Day

Tuesday, November 23: Shri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday

Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 26:

1. Guru Nanakji Jayanti 2. Karthika Poornima

DECEMBER

Fri, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

Sat., Dec. 25: Christmas Celebrations

Sun., Dec. 26: Datta Jayanti

Fri., Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Celebrations

SHORT STORIES BY BABA:

URGENT LETTER TO LORD NARAYANA

In an obscure village lived a mother and her son. The boy had lost his father when he was just two years old. The mother exerted herself in many ways to earn enough money for bringing up her only son and for educating him. The boy too was very smart, obedient, and had a great love and regard for his mother. The boy grew up and reached seventh class. He was studying hard for the examination. One day he told his mother, "Ma, I have to pay fees Rs. 20 for the examination within four days. Please somehow get me the amount."

The mother was panicky, she had no money with her, and it was the last week of the month. She went to the headmaster and explained her inability to pay the fees in time and requested to help her in some way or other. The headmaster replied that nothing was in his hands. The mother returned home, sat under a tree near her hut and was weeping. The boy returned from school only to find his mother weeping. He sat near her and asked: "Why are you weeping mother?" "My son, I cannot find money. You cannot go to school from tomorrow. You better come and work with me. There is no other way." The boy said: "Why don't you ask somebody a loan of Rs. 20. After the examination, I shall work and will be able to pay back the amount." "My dear son," replied the mother, "who will give me the money? Only God if He will." The boy eagerly enquired, "Who is God, Ma? Where is He? What is His address? I shall go and get money from Him." The mother helplessly said: "Yes, there is the Lord of Vaikunta, Narayana, who is the source of all wealth."

Without a moment's hesitation, the boy ran to the post office. He had a few small coins with him. He purchased a card and wrote on it his mother's unfortunate condition, his own need, and requested God to send Rs. 20 immediately by return post. He ran to the post box tied to a tree, but he was too short to reach the slit to put in the letter box. The postmaster who had been observing the boy all the while, came out took the card from him and asked: "To whom are you writing the letter?" The Boy said: "Oh Sir! This is a very urgent letter to Lord Narayana in Vaikunta. I have to pay my examination fees within three days. I am writing to him requesting him to send Rs. 20 immediately." The postmaster stared at the address on the post card. He could not find words, tears gathered in his eyes at the innocence of that boy. "My dear boy, who gave you this address?" asked the postmaster. The

boy narrated the dialogue between himself and his mother. "Sir, my mother says that God is very kind and He will certainly help poor ones like us if only we pray to Him earnestly." The postmaster was very much moved. He patted the boy and said: "My dear boy, I shall see to the express delivery of this post card. You better come day after tomorrow."

The boy ran home in a joyful mode. He told his mother that he would get the money in a day.

The boy went to the postmaster the day after. The postmaster said: "My dear boy, here is the cover, inside it you will find Rs. 20. Now go and pay the fees." The boy ran home with the cover and placed it in his mother's hands. The mother asked him sternly how he had got the money. The boy narrated the entire discussion with the postmaster. She would not believe him. She hurried to the postmaster and asked him whether what her son had told her was true and how it could have happened. The postmaster told her: "Mother, believe me. I have always been a hard hearted man. When I saw your son with that letter, I could not believe my own eyes. A letter written to God with such faith. It moved me. It must be God who had induced me to come to the rescue of your son. Please take the money. It must be God's will that I should give this money. Otherwise I would not have chanced to see your boy and your son's faith in God would have been shattered. I consider this an opportunity to help a good boy."

If we pray to God sincerely, God does help us. He would induce someone to act as His agent. Implicit faith in God alone would rescue everyone from all troubles and travails.

- Adapted from Oka Chinna Katha by N. Kasturi

Sai Sandesh can be read online at:

<http://www.omsaimandir.org>

**Devotees can send articles, experiences,
etc. to saisandesh@omsaimandir.org**

DEVOTEES' EXPERIENCES

SWAMI AVERTS SURGERY

- A Sai Devotee, New York, USA

An active participant in full contact sports, I had once broken the scaphoid bone in my wrist. The bone had split into two pieces, had separated, and moved apart.

For eight full months I had not realized the extent of damage that had been caused and continued participating in sports as if nothing had happened.

Once, during a casual medical checkup, the doctors discovered the extent of damaged and could not explain how I had continued my activities for such a long time. I was immediately referred to an orthopedic surgeon who advised me to undergo surgery. As I was appearing for my board exams, the surgery was postponed till after the exams.

On completion of the exams, I went for an X-ray and to the amazement of the radiologists, the X-rays showed no sign of the fracture. The bone had healed as if nothing had happened. The radiologist couldn't believe what he saw and asked if I was the same patient he had seen a few months back. I was again referred to the orthopedic surgeon who marveled at the miracle and asked me to resume all my normal activities.

Since then, I represented the country at a World Tournament and continued practicing martial arts for another 4 years.

This miracle happened due to Swami's grace and his divine intervention.

PUJA SPONSORSHIP

Archana.....\$11

Abishekam.....\$51

Satyanarayana Vrata.....\$81

Vahana Puja.....\$15

Annadan.....\$251

To sponsor pujas, call: (718) 461-0454.

TEMPLE JOURNAL

SHRI VISWAGURU VISWAMJI VISITS OM SAI MANDIR (OCTOBER 01, 2004)



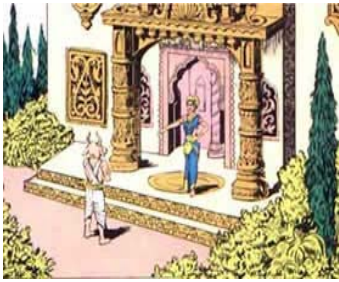
NAVARATRI & DUSSERA/VIJAYADASHMI CELEBRATIONS (OCTOBER 15-23, 2004)



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Sai Ram,
On September 18th, we celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi. Lord Ganesha is the son of Lord Shiva and Parvathi. So here is the story on how Lord Ganesha was created.

One day Parvathi asked Nandi (one of Lord Shiva's attendants) to guard her while She was bathing. Nandi tried to stop Lord Shiva from entering, but Lord Shiva turned a deaf ear and entered.



Parvathi was displeased to see Lord Shiva walk in. She thought that all the attendants obeyed only Lord Shiva's orders and that She did not have anyone of her own. One of her friends suggested, "Why don't you create someone who will only follow your orders?"

So Parvathi collected saffron paste from her own body and created a boy. The boy was very handsome. She kissed him with affection and said "You are my son." The boy bowed and said "Mother, what shall I do for you?"



Parvathi gave him a staff and asked him to guard her while she was taking a bath. When Lord Shiva returned home the boy stopped Him. Lord Shiva

got angry at the boy and shouted "Do you know who I am? I am the King of Kailasha and Parvathi is my wife. How dare you stop me?"

The boy did not move. Lord Shiva got very angry at the boy and in a fit of rage slashed the boy's head. In the meanwhile Parvathi came out and was upset to see her son



without a head. When Lord Shiva learnt about the whole story from Parvathi, He promised to put the head of the first living creature sleeping with its head to the north.



The first creature that He came across was an elephant and therefore, He re-created the head of His son from the elephant. But Parvathi was not very happy with this. So Lord Shiva then blessed His son with a boon. According to the boon, people who worship Lord Ganesha before beginning any task will experience a smooth completion of the task. Therefore, we all should worship Lord Ganesha before we start any activity.

Source:
<http://www.webonautics.com/mythology/ganesha5.html>

Children are requested to send stories, articles, drawings, pictures etc. for publishing in the Children's Corner section of the newsletter.

AN APPEAL

Devotees are requested to generously contribute toward the development of the temple. Devotees can make their checks payable to: **Om Sai Mandir**

ADDRESS/EMAIL/DONATION FORM

Donation Amount:	<input type="text" value="\$"/>	Date:	<input type="text"/>
First Name:	<input type="text"/>	Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>	Tel:	<input type="text"/>
Mobile:	<input type="text"/>	Fax:	<input type="text"/>
Address1:	<input type="text"/>	Address2:	<input type="text"/>
City:	<input type="text"/>	State:	<input type="text"/>
Zip:	<input type="text"/>	Country:	<input type="text"/>

Please enter comments in the space provided below:

Please mail your checks to the following address:

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Email: info@omsaimandir.org
Website: www.omsaimandir.org

Devotees can also donate online at:
www.omsaimandir.org

HAPPY DIWALI



*Sai Sandesh, on behalf of Om Sai Mandir, wishes all a
A Very Happy Diwali and a Prosperous Year Ahead.*