



Sabka Maalik Ek

SAI SANDESH

The Monthly Newsletter of Om Sai Mandir

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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

Christmas Special Issue



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LORD JESUS: A MESSENGER OF LOVE AND FAITH



Lord Jesus, the messiah who incarnated to redeem mankind, and lead us to the path of bliss and love, was born approximately 2,000 years ago. The Lord was born to Joseph, a carpenter by profession, and Mary, his faithful wife. Mother Mary had conceived the Lord with God’s grace. An angel had appeared to her and revealed facts about the birth of the Lord -- who was to be the “King of Kings” and the “Savior of Saviors.”

The Birth. While on their way to Bethlehem to register for a census, Mary gave birth to a beautiful child. She laid him on a manger because there was no room at any inn. On arrival of the Lord, shepherds visited Jesus in Bethlehem. Later, three wise men brought gifts for Jesus. They informed Herod, a wicked king, that Jesus would rule Israel one day. On hearing this, Herod sent soldiers to kill all the children born in Bethlehem. An angel, however, warned Joseph and Mary beforehand and they escaped to Egypt. After Herod died, they returned to Israel and raised Jesus in Nazareth.

His Apostles. Jesus had many friends, including John the Baptist and 12 disciples. John lived in the wilderness baptized people in the holy river to obtain forgiveness for sins. Although Jesus had never sinned, he was baptized by John. When Jesus came up from the water, the Holy Spirit descended and God spoke, saying, “This is my beloved son.” Jesus had 12 disciples from varied backgrounds. The apostles’ names were: Peter; Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee; John; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alpheus; Thaddeus; Simon; and Judas Iscariot.

His Teachings. Jesus was a paragon of virtues. Every act of his was suffused with selfless love. During his sermon on the mount, Jesus delivered his most famous sermon. He taught:

- Love even your enemies.
- Do not judge others. Trust God.
- Don’t be anxious about tomorrow.
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Jesus’ teachings were delivered in parables. He often told a parable of two builders. One was wise and built his house upon a rock. The other built his house on sand. When a storm came, the foolish man’s house fell. Whoever obeys God is like the wise man and whoever disobeys is like the foolish man.

His Miracles. Jesus performed many miracles during his lifetime, and continues to do so even now. Once Jesus and his disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee in a small boat. While Jesus was sleeping, a fierce storm came and began to sink the boat. The disciples woke him. Jesus arose and rebuked the storm saying, “Peace be still.” It became calm, and Jesus said to them, “Where is your faith”? Even the wind and sea obeyed Lord Jesus. Using his powers, Jesus gave sight to the blind, cured incurable diseases, and even resurrected a man named Lazarus who had been dead for 4 days.

Death & Resurrection. Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus. They accused him of blasphemy and had Jesus arrested. A Roman governor named Pilate tried Jesus. He wanted to release Jesus but when Jews threatened to riot, Pilate condemned Jesus to death on a cross. Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion. He was beaten by Roman soldiers, scourged, stripped, and nailed to a cross. He was crucified between two robbers.

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His body was placed in the tomb of a rich man named Joseph of Arimathea. Jesus had promised the disciples he would come back after he died. His

enemies knew this so to prevent anyone from stealing the body, they had soldiers guard the tomb of Jesus. On the third day after Jesus died, an angel descended, and the soldiers fled. The disciples came and found an empty tomb. Jesus had risen from the dead. He later appeared to many believers and performed countless miracles. Blessed is the life of Jesus who sacrificed his life in the service of humanity.

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 29th Street & 1st Avenue: 1 p.m. For more information, call the temple at: (718) 461-0454.

UPCOMING EVENTS**DECEMBER**

Fri, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
 Sat., Dec. 25: Christmas Celebrations
 Sun., Dec. 26: Datta Jayanti
 Fri., Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Celebrations

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“From the moment of birth, suffering pursues man in one form or the other throughout life. If in all these ordeals one has to maintain equanimity and peace, one has to lead a righteous life with firm faith in God. There is no need to give up one's duties. But, all acts should be performed as an offering to God. Thereby, even ordinary acts become sanctified. Love of God should express itself in the form of consecration of every action.”

- Baba

SHORT STORIES BY BABA:**FAITH**

During the Second World War, a steamer carrying Indian Sepoys was bombed by the Japanese and was sunk. Many lost their lives. Five among them managed to row their lifeboat and hoped to have a chance of surviving in spite of the surging ocean. They were tossed about for many hours.

One of them became desperate and cried, “The Sea will swallow me. I will be a meal for the sharks.” In that panic, he drowned.

Another sepoy wept for his family, “Oh, I am dying without arranging for the future of my family.” He too lost faith in his survival and breathed his last.

The third sepoy thought, “I have with me the Policy and documents of Insurance. What a pity! I should have kept them at home. What will my wife do? I am sure to die.” He also died.

The other two men reinforced each other's faith in God. They said, “We shall not yield to fear. We shall prove that however desperate the situation may be, God will certainly protect man if he has faith in Him.” Even as they were talking like this, a helicopter sent from a coastal ship which had received signals for help, caught sight of these two men and hauled them up. When they were safe on land, they said, “It is only five minutes between victory and defeat. Faith earned the victory; lack of it brought about defeat and death.”

- 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

DISPLAY OF DESTINY

A certain person was a captain during the Second World War, but since he died of a commonplace disease in a civil hospital his widow did not get much by way of pension. So she had to earn some money teaching music, in order to keep her three children - two daughters and a son in elementary ease. The son passed his B.Sc. examination with a first class from the Madras University, while still in his teens. The army authorities gave him a job in their cantonment office at Bangalore. His mother, who was overwhelmed with joy, sent him to offer homage to the family deity, Venkatchalapathi on the Tirumala Hills in Andhra Pradesh, so that he could join duty at Bangalore with divine blessings.

However what did happen was the boy got drowned in the holy tank of the temple. His body was in police custody for two days as it was unidentified. The anxious mother was confronted by the photograph of her son's corpse which appeared in the daily papers. But, Baba appeared to her in a dream and directed her to come to Puttaparthi. Bhagawan called her and her children for the precious interview. "Don't weep," He said, "for your son who led a disciplined life and was full of devotion, has now merged with God. When he has found the lotus feet of Bliss, you should not indulge in grief". But she could not be consoled.

Then Baba said, "I know your heart is broken since you could not have even a last glimpse of his body. See, it is here." Saying this, He spread His palm in front of her, and she could clearly see the events of that faithful pilgrimage appear upon it: The son slipped on the steps of the tank, and a few people jumped in to save him. A lotus like bunch of flames rose from his body and proceeded towards the innermost shrine where the idol of Venkatchalapathi is installed, disappearing in a blaze of glory of the Lord's feet. Then she saw the idol come alive and change into a charming image of Baba Himself.

After sometime Baba spoke to her, "Mother, the one you loved as your son was a staunch devotee of the Lord during his previous life. He was engaged in tapas [penance] for 12 years on the

steps of this very holy temple tank. His deepest desire was to attain Jala Samadhi [water-mergence] in those sacred waters. To fulfill that desire he took birth again. Remain in Puttaparthi, ever singing the glory of Venkatchalapathi, who has accepted you on into His fold".

Source:

<http://www.saibabalinks.org/saibabamiracles.htm>

PUJA SPONSORSHIP

Archana.....	\$11
Abishekam.....	\$51
Satyanarayana Vrata.....	\$81
Vahana Puja.....	\$15
Annadan.....	\$251

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

WANT TO RECEIVE SAI SANDESH VIA EMAIL--FREE?

**Receive Sai Sandesh, FREE, in
your inbox every month. You will
also receive regular announcements
about temple's activities.**

**To sign-up, simply visit the
temple's website at:**

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**Once there, submit your email
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sign-up.**

TEMPLE JOURNAL

AKHANDA [24-HOURS] BHAJANS (NOVEMBER 13, 2004 – NOVEMBER 14, 2004)



SWAMI'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS (NOVEMBER 23, 2004)



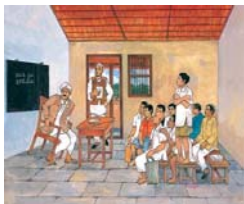
CHILDREN'S CORNER

November 23rd was Sathya Sai Baba's 79th birthday. So here's a story on how Baba was born and stories from his early childhood. When God takes a human form He decides the time, place of birth, and parents. Before Baba was born, God appeared in Lakshamma's dream, a pious and religious lady who lived in Puttaparthi, a village in India, and said that He would be born in her family. She told her daughter-in-law, Easwamma about this dream.

Soon after that, one day as Easwamma was drawing water from the well, a big blue ball of light came directly towards her and entered her body. Thus, God entered Easwamma's womb and was born on Nov 23rd 1926. He was named Ratnakara Venkata Satyanarayana Raju, but everyone in the village called him Sathya. His parents raised him as an ordinary child. Although Baba was born in a poor family, He always helped the needy. He talked about God to all the kids in the school



and formed a bhajan group. Sometimes He would surprise the kids by materializing Prasaadam.



One day in school, the teacher noticed that Baba was not taking notes. When asked, Baba said, "I know this lesson." But the teacher did not believe Him and punished Him by making him stand on the bench. When the teacher tried to get up after the class he found

himself stuck to the chair. When Mr. Mahboob Khan, another teacher, came to the class to teach his subject, he saw the teacher stuck to the chair. Mr. Mahboob Khan loved Baba and knew that Baba was not an ordinary student. He soon realized the problem. He asked Baba to get down from the bench and immediately the teacher who was stuck to the chair was also released. After many years Baba told devotees that He had staged the whole incident not to humiliate the teacher but to make everyone around Him conscious of His divine powers.

Once there was a cattle show in the neighboring village. The teacher took all the students to help organize the fair. Baba could not join the group because He did not have the money to pay for the bus trip. So Baba walked to the fair with very little food to eat and fulfilled all the duties assigned by the teacher. When Baba returned home, He was punished for not doing the household work. But Baba never criticized them for their harsh treatment. In fact later on Baba said that He had created those difficult situations to teach us a lesson that we should always respect elders.

Baba was different from all the kids of his age. He spoke very little. Whenever Baba spoke it was always on spiritual matters.



He would sometimes recite Hymns from the Vedas.



Finally, on May 23rd 1940, Baba revealed Himself. Baba was as usual materializing sweets, and flowers. His father thought that He was playing tricks and asked "Who are you? Are you a God, Ghost or a Devil?" Baba calmly replied "I am Sai." His father was puzzled and asked "What are we to do with you?" Baba replied "Worship Me every Thursday." Since then everyone in the village began to worship Baba.

Once someone in the village challenged Baba and said "If you are Sai Baba, show us some proof." Baba then asked for some flowers. He threw the flowers on the ground and they formed the word SAI BABA in Telugu language. All throughout his childhood Baba performed several miracles to show the people

His divine power.

Finally, on October 20th 1940 Baba declared "I am no longer your Sathya. I am Sai. I don't belong to you. I have My work. My devotees are calling Me. I am going. I can no longer stay here." Baba then walked to the neighbor's house and sat on a rock and



people flocked in numbers bringing flowers to offer Baba. Baba then sang,

**Manasa Bhajare
Gurucharnam, Dustara
Bhavasagara Tharanam**

O mind! Meditate on the Lotus Feet of the Lord! That alone will help you to sail across the turbulent sea called life.

Since then devotees have flocked to Him and have accepted Him as the Divine Incarnation.

Source:

<http://www.radiosai.org/Journals/06NOV15/SaiStory/saistory.htm>

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**

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First Name:	<input type="text"/>	Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
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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"/>

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS



*Sai Sandesh, on behalf of Om Sai Mandir, wishes all a
A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous Year Ahead.*