



Sabka Maalik Ek

# SAI SANDESH

The Monthly Newsletter of Om Sai Mandir

February 2005; Volume 2, Issue 2

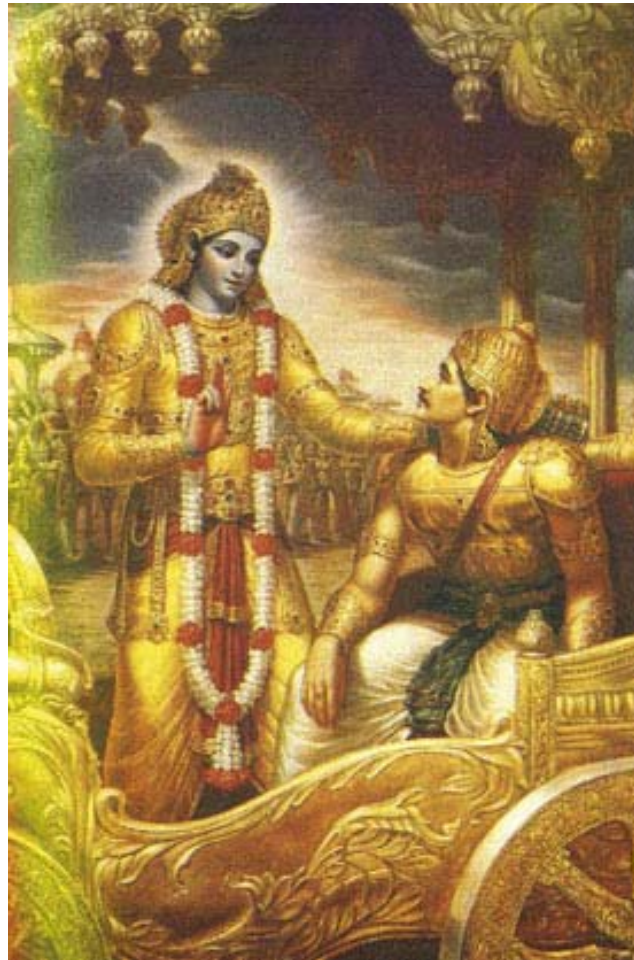
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Love All, Serve All



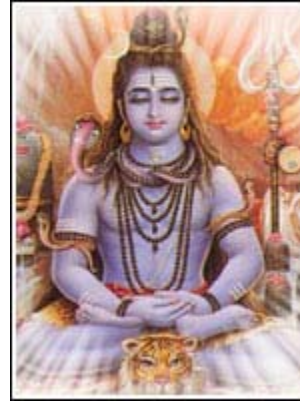
## GOD'S GRACE IS ALL YOU NEED

It was the battlefield of the Great Mahabharata War (an ancient battle that was fought between Pandavas—a clan of five brothers, symbolizing righteousness; and Kauravas—a clan of hundred brothers, symbolizing evil). When the Pandavas were emerging victorious, Ashwathamma, a great warrior in the Kaurava army, out of desperation, released the unfailing “Narayanastra”—a weapon that can never fail in causing complete destruction. The divine weapon was such that there was no remedy, nor any protection against its fury. The weapon created havoc in the Pandava army. Soldiers were dying by the millions; it appeared as if the entire Pandava dynasty was in the brink of extinction.

Finding themselves completely helpless, the Pandavas surrendered to Lord Krishna, their protector and sole refuge. In times of adversity, it is only the Lord who comes to the rescue of his devotees. In response to their heartfelt prayers, Lord Krishna advised the Pandavas to follow the most unusual strategy. He advised them to drop all weapons and humbly surrender to the weapon. Ordinary individuals would have never followed such advice, but the Pandavas were no such. With implicit obedience, they immediately complied with God's command. The weapon, though destructive, was one of divine origin. As soon as the Pandavas bowed to it in reverence, it immediately calmed down and disappeared.

Indeed, the Lord's grace had saved the entire Pandava army from destruction. The Lord's “will” must manifest and even nature will obey the command of divinity with utmost reverence. Such is the power of God.

At the beginning of the Mahabharata War, Lord Krishna gave an option to both Duryodhana, the Kaurava king, and Arjuna, a Pandava prince. One would get Krishna's huge army and the other, Lord Krishna Himself—unarmed, though. Arjuna chose Krishna, whereas Duryodhana, His mighty army. Arjuna was wise in choosing the Lord and hence he won despite the mighty forces and wicked strategies deployed by the Kauravas. It was only the Lord's grace that helped Pandavas achieve victory. Following Arjuna's example, in the battle of life, the wise man always chooses God, and not his mighty army—a mere illusion of worldly pleasures. The one who chooses God and wins his grace will always emerge victorious in the battle of life and attain the final goal of liberation.



**The Sage Markandeya.** According to a divine boon, Markandeya, an ancient sage, was allotted a lifespan of only 16 years. The parents of this young boy were very perturbed on the arrival of the sixteenth year of this boy. On his sixteenth birthday, the parents revealed to the young boy the truth about his short lifespan.

The young lad was not disturbed. He had firm faith in the Lords' grace and knew that His sankalpa [will] could alter the writ of destiny itself. With this faith in his chosen deity, Shiva, Markandeya, on his sixteenth, and supposedly last birthday, visited the temple of Lord Shiva. At the temple, he immersed himself in deep prayer and clung to the Shivalinga [a symbol of Shiva]. At the allotted time, Yama, the God of Death, appeared on the scene and cast his noose around the young boy's neck. The lad, however, did not yield and prayed to Lord Shiva to such an extent that he literally became one with Shiva. Pleased with his devotion, Maheshwara [Shiva] appeared on the scene and rescued his beloved devotee from the jaws of death. Not only did he save Markandeya's life, he also bestowed on him the boon of immortality—thus overruling the writ of destiny itself. God's grace had saved the boy.

**God's grace confers all else.** A mother-in-law was complaining against her new daughter-in-law that she consumed large quantities of milk, curds, cream, butter, and ghee. The girl's brother, on hearing the story, called her, and after reprimanding her, advised her to give up stealing all the items, except milk. “Milk, you can drink any quantity you like but why steal these other by-products of milk.” (Prashanti Vidwanmahaasabha, Ananthpur, 07/31/1967). Milk is nothing but the Lord's grace and once you have it, all other byproducts will naturally follow it.

Another story comes to mind: A man who had four wives was once traveling on business. When the time to return home came, he sent a word to his wives, asking each what they desired. The three oldest wives sent a long list of desired things. The youngest, on the other hand, only asked for the husband to return. On his arrival, the husband, sent each of the three wives what

they desired but, personally, with all his wealth, visited the youngest wife. God's grace is like that. It will confer on you whatever you choose, but you must ask for the Lord Himself, all else will follow him like loyal slaves.

**Hanuman.** Hanuman, the great protagonist of Ramayana was born among the species of monkeys. Despite the birth among monkeys, Hanuman's devotion, purity of heart, and surrender, won Rama's heart, and hence his grace. With this grace, Hanuman performed the most impossible of feats as if they were mere child's play. Hanuman lifted and transported an entire mountain from Sri Lanka to Ayodhya, made rocks float on water, and destroyed the most terrifying demons—all because of Rama's grace.

**God's grace is for everyone.** God's grace, contrary to human fancies, is not reserved for a chosen few. He is the most generous of givers and confers His grace on one and all.

The door will be opened, but did we knock yet? When we knock someone's door, don't we wait patiently till it is opened? If there is a delay, don't we keep knocking till the call is answered? God's door is like that. We must knock and wait till He answers the call. Till the call is answered, we must pray without giving up, as He has promised to answer every knock on His door. Patience and faith are the twin virtues that Shirdi Sai Baba, Swami's previous incarnation, taught to all His followers.

No karma, no sin, no imaginary shortcoming of ours, can come in the way of God's grace. His grace will spare no barriers and change our lives once and for all. Remember, our Swami can alter the writ of destiny itself. Why fear and despair then? He is always with us. Let us strive for nothing short of God's grace. God's grace is all you need. All else will follow.

**Sai Sandesh can be read online  
at:**

**<http://www.omsaimandir.org>**

**Devotees can send articles,  
experiences, etc. to  
[saisandesh@omsaimandir.org](mailto:saisandesh@omsaimandir.org)**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“All relationships are incidental and temporary. Hence, one must perform one's duties in the world with detachment. Even when involved in worldly life, one has to recognize the relationships between mother and son, husband and wife, brother and sister etc., as being impermanent. Separation is inevitable sooner or later. But, between man and God there can never be any separation. Even if you forget God, He will not forget you. Therefore, develop faith in God and yearn for His love and grace.”

- Baba

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tuesday, March 08, 2005: Mahashivaratri

An all-night vigil will be observed from Tuesday, March 08, 2005, 6:00 p.m. to Wednesday, March 09, 2005, 6:00 a.m. Four phases of abhishekam will be performed along with all-night Bhajans.

### Friday, March 25, 2005: Holi Festival

**4 Phases of Abhishek will be performed  
on Shivaratri. To sponsor, please call:  
1.718.461.0454**

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

## SHORT STORIES BY BABA: TRUE DEVOTION WILL SURELY WIN

Sri Sailam is a great pilgrim center in Andhra Pradesh, and is famous for its temple of Siva and Parvathi. There, Lord Siva is adored as Mallikarjuna and Goddess Parvathi as Bhramaramba. There is a legend relating to this sacred shrine and the Divinity that abides there as Siva and Shakti.

In a hamlet very near Srisailam, there lived a mother and a lad, six years old. He was called Balaramanna. He was studying in the local elementary school. Once, on the eve of Sivarathri, all the school boys were returning home, eagerly discussing the festival.

One boy said: "My sister and brother-in-law are coming tonight for Sivarathri. Tomorrow we will all go to the temple on the hill. Oh! What fun it is to be with my sister and brother-in-law." Another boy said: "My sister and brother-in-law have already come. They have brought me new dress to wear. We are all going to the temple tonight itself." Balaramanna heard this talk. He wondered whether he too had a sister and brother-in-law.

He ran home and asked his mother: "Mother, do I have a sister? Where is she? What is my brother-in-law doing? Why don't they visit us? My friends are all enjoying themselves in the company of their sisters. I too would like to be with my sister and brother-in-law."

The mother knew the child's heart. In order to comfort him and sow the seeds of faith in him, she said: "My dear child, you too have a sister and brother-in-law. They are, "Brahmaramba and Mallikarjuna." "Is that so? Where are they? I shall go and bring them home for the festival. Tell me where they are," said the lad.

The mother sent her son along with her neighbours to the temple on the hill. She told them to take care of their son and gave them some money to buy odd little things for him. Balaram said: "Mother, should I not take something for my sister?" The mother replied: "No, my son, since you are a child, they will themselves give you a lot of gifts."

Balaram was taken into the shrine. The neighbours showed him the two idols, beautifully decorated with flowers and apparel and said, "Look that is Goddess Brahmaramba, your sister and that is Lord Mallikarjuna." Balaram at once ran to the idol of Brahmaramba, caught hold of her hand and said:

"Sister, please come home with me. Mother has sent me to invite you." There was no response. He ran into the other shrine and loudly said: "Brother-in-law, please come with me along with my sister. I won't leave the place without you."

The temple priests took him for a mad cap and pushed him out. Balaram's agony knew no bounds. He was determined to return home with his sister and brother-in-law. He decided to end his life if his sister and brother-in-law did not appear before him. He ran and stood on the top of a peak and cried: "Listen, if you won't come with me, you my sister and you my brother-in-law, I will jump off the peak and end my life."

At once, he heard someone calling: "Brother, wait! wait! We are coming, we are coming." Both Lord Mallikarjuna and Brahmaramba ran towards him and gathered him into their arms. Balaram said: "You must come with me, mother is expecting you." The all compassionate Lord and his consort did accompany the lad. They granted both the mother and the child the vision to see them as Siva and Shakti.

"Whatever you hold once, you have held,  
hold on to it, till you win.  
Whatever you have asked, once you have asked,  
ask aloud for it, till you win.  
Whatever you wish, once you have wished,  
wish deeper for it, till you win.  
Whatever you have planned, once you have planned,  
plan firmer for it, till you win.  
He must grant to stop your wail.  
Wail, weep, pray till you win.  
Don't lose heart and turn away.  
True devotion will surely win."

- Adapted from *Oka Chinna Katha* by N. Kasturi

### PUJA SPONSORSHIP

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

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

## DEVOTEES' EXPERIENCES

"I had the good fortune of having darshan of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai for the first time at Sanathnagar, Hyderabad in 1964 – 65. Swami came there as Sri Raja Omapathi Rao was organizing Narayana Seva. One of my colleagues, Mr. Vijaya Sarathi, a devotee of Bhagavan, took me there. A large plate with laddus was brought before Swami.

As Swami waved His hand over the plate by way of blessing, we all saw vibhuti fall from Swami's empty hand on the laddus. After sometime, a person brought a boy of about 6 or 7 years carrying him on his shoulders. He could not stand or walk owing to some illness. Swami asked the person to leave the boy on the ground. The person carrying the boy replied that the boy could not stand. Swami insisted that he should make him stand with his support. Then Swami came near that boy and passed His hand along the boy's leg and commanded, 'get up! and walk!' We were all looking eagerly when, to our amazement, the boy stood erect and walked! I saw Swami again at Hyderabad in 1977 when He visited Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar in our colony. I took padanamaskar when Swami came along the line. After going forward a few paces, Swami paused. A devotee handed over a coconut to Him. Swami took it into His hand, and beat it with His other hand. It broke into two! I never saw anyone who could break a coconut that way.

In our house, we have a photograph of Shirdi Sai and also that of Sri Sathya Sai. In 1996, my wife fell ill. As her condition was deteriorating, we admitted her in a hospital. Even after that she did not improve. Her condition became serious. When I went to pray before those two photographs of Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai, I found vibhuti at the bottom of the photographs. There were clear indications that vibhuti had emanated from those photographs. There were still some traces of vibhuti left on the photographs as vibhuti fell down from them. A few minutes before my noticing the vibhuti, all those who were in the house at that time could find a fine fragrance coming from both the Photographs. It came like that for about a fortnight.

In fact, on the second day, I took both the photographs, cleaned them with a cloth and changed their places. This time I kept them on a white cloth spread over an almirah. Even then, vibhuti began to emanate. Soon my wife recovered miraculously. I thought that Swami came to our house in the form of

vibhuti and granted a fresh lease of life to my wife. She lived for 3 more years after that.

In 2000, I went to Prasanthi Nilayam as a member of a group of 120 devotees taken there by Sri B.V. Pattabhiram, the famous magician. We were there for four days. That was my first visit to Prasanthi Nilayam. We had darshan in the morning and evening everyday. Swami was busy with the Sports Day. When we were boarding our buses on the last day to return to Hyderabad, one person came to us. 'I am coming from Swami', he said. 'As Bhagavan could not meet you all in person owing to His busy schedule, Swami sent you vibhuti prasadam.' We were all immensely happy. When the vibhuti packets were distributed, all 120 of us got each one packet, neither more nor less. The messenger who brought them told us that Swami had picked up a lot with both His hands and gave them to him for distribution. How could Swami know that we were 120? How did only 120 packets come into His hands when Swami picked them up in a lot with His hands?

I recall another incident that took place in 1988. My wife had cardiac problem for which open-heart by-pass surgery was indicated. She was also a diabetic. Naturally we were very much concerned about her condition. On the advice of one of my friends who is a devotee, we tied Rs. 5 each in two separate packets in two separate new clothes. We call it 'mudupu'. One was for Sri Shirdi Sai and the other for Sri Sathya Sai. We prayed to Bhagavan intensely. She underwent the surgery successfully and recovered well. A few weeks after the surgery, my wife was relaxing in a chair one morning when a saintly looking person came and asked, 'how is Mother's health?' He then added, 'she came out of a big problem safely. She promised to come to Baba but did not.' We asked him to take food in our house. He did not agree. Please take this money and have food at a hotel; we gave him Rs. 21. He did not take. However, he took the one rupee note from the money offered and crumpled it. 'Take this', he said. We stretched our hands. What he dropped in our palms was not the one rupee note, but jaggery! And, it was sweet, of course."

Later, we went to Shirdi. My wife put the mudupu (money tied in new clothes) in the hundi.' -- Mr. V.Ramakrishna Rao

Source:

<http://www.vedamu.org/forum/ExperienceoftheDivinityofBhagavan/MrVRamakrishnaRao.asp>

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

**Sai Ram Children,**

One day Chandbhai Patil, who was the head of the village, lost his horse. He searched for the horse for a week but could not find it. One afternoon while he was still searching for the horse, he saw a young boy sitting on the roadside.

The boy asked him "Patil, what are you looking for?" Chandbhai replied, "I have lost my horse and I have been searching for a week."



The boy pointing to the bushes replied "Don't go any further, the horse is grazing behind the bushes." When Chandbhai went to the bushes, he saw the horse grazing quietly.

Chandbhai was surprised. He thought "how did this boy know my name and the whereabouts of the horse?" He felt that the boy was not an ordinary person. Chandbhai told this story to all his relatives and friends. People of the village began visiting the boy. This young boy was none other than our Baba Sai.



A few months later, a marriage procession went from the village to Shirdi, and Baba Sai accompanied the group. From then



onwards, Baba lived in Shirdi.

Source:

[http://www.shirdibaba.org/children/story1\\_c.htm](http://www.shirdibaba.org/children/story1_c.htm)

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

For more information, please write to: [saisandesh@omsaimandir.org](mailto:saisandesh@omsaimandir.org)

### 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:

<http://www.omsaimandir.org>

Once there, submit your email address. It takes less than a minute to sign-up.

## TEMPLE'S 2005 FESTIVAL CALENDAR

### January

Saturday, Jan. 01: New Year's Day Celebrations  
 Thursday, Jan. 13: Lodhi  
 Friday, Jan. 14: Makara Sankranti  
 Wednesday, Jan. 26: India's Republic Day

### February

Monday, Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

### March

Tuesday, Mar. 08: Mahashivarathri  
 Friday, Mar. 25: Holi Festival

### April

Saturday, Apr. 09: Ugadi/Gudi Padva  
 Wednesday, Apr. 13: Baisakhi  
 Thursday, Apr. 14:  
 1. Tamil New Year  
 2. Vishu (Malayali New Year)  
 Monday, Apr. 18: Sri Rama Navami

### May

Friday, May. 06: Eshwaramma Day  
 Sunday, May. 08: Mother's day

### June

Wednesday, Jun. 01: Hanuman Jayanti  
 Sunday, Jun. 19: Father's Day

### July

Monday, Jul. 04: American Independence Day  
 Thursday, Jul. 21: Guru Poornima/Vyasa Poornima

### August

Friday, Aug. 19: Raksha Bandhan  
 Monday, Aug. 15: India Independence Day  
 Saturday, Aug. 27: Sri Krishna Janmashtami

### September

Wednesday, Sept. 07: Ganesh Chaturthi/Vinayaka Chowthi  
 Sunday, Sept. 18: Onam  
 Tuesday, Sept. 27: Shirdi Sai Baba Jayanthi

### October

Monday, Oct. 03: Devi Navarathri begins  
 Tuesday, Oct. 11: Durgashtami  
 Wednesday, Oct. 12: Vijaya Dashami/Dussera  
 Thursday, Oct. 20: Karva Chowth  
 Sunday, Oct. 30: Dhanteras

### November

Tuesday, Nov. 01: Deepavali  
 Thursday, Nov. 03: Bhai Duj  
 Saturday, Nov. 12, 6pm to Sunday, Nov.13, 6pm: Akhanda Bhajans (for world peace)  
 Tuesday, Nov. 15: Guru Nanakji's Jayanthi  
 Saturday, Nov. 19: Ladies' Day Celebrations  
 Wednesday, Nov. 23: Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday

### December

Thursday, Dec. 15: Datta Jayanthi  
 Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve  
 Sunday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Celebrations  
 Saturday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Celebrations

**Despite our best attempts, events may sometimes not proceed as planned. It is advisable to reconfirm with the temple before scheduling your plans**

## 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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