

Sri Amrutha Sai Narayana Sarveswaralaya

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ANNOUNCEMENT!

TEMPLE REOPENS ON THE 13TH OF APRIL 2021!

We are very happy to inform all that our temple will be opening for darshan starting from Ugadi festival, i.e., on Tuesday, April 13th, 2021.

It will be open for public from 7 AM - 12.30 PM, and again from 6.30 PM - 8.30 PM.

Devotees MUST adhere to Covid-19 Safety Requirements for entering the temple. Please [click here](#) for additional information. Sairam.

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Upcoming Events

- *****
- ◆ 04/04/2021
Ashtami
 - ◆ 4/07/2021 & 4/23/2021
Ekadasi
 - ◆ 4/9/2021 & 4/24/2021
Pradosham
 - ◆ 04/11/2021
Amavasya
 - ◆ 04/18/2021
Shasti
 - ◆ 04/30/2021
Sankashtahara Chaturthi
 - ◆ 04/27/2021
Pournami & Hanuman Jayanthi
& Tamil Chitra Pournami
 - ◆ 04/14/2021
Karthigai
 - ◆ 04/10/2021
Masa Sivarathri

April Festivals

- *****
- ◆ 04/13/2021
Ugadi
 - ◆ 04/14/2021
Tamil New Year
 - ◆ 04/24/2021
Shani Trayodasi
 - ◆ 04/29/2021
Rama Navami

Sai Amrutha Jyothi

SRIDHARAMRUTHAM

IN CASE YOU WANT TO CORRECT SOMETHING, LOOK AT THE MISTAKE AS MISTAKE. NOT 'MY MISTAKE' OR 'HIS/HER MISTAKE'.

'MY' BRINGS GUILT.

'HIS/HER' BRINGS ANGER.

ONLY THEN CORRECTION IS POSSIBLE.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN YOU ARE ALONE.

&

TAKE CARE OF YOUR WORDS WHEN YOU ARE WITH PEOPLE

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIE TO DO CHARITY. ON DEATH BED, EVEN IF CHARITY IS DONE, IT IS NOT GOING TO GUARANTEE YOU A VISA TO HEAVEN. SO, DO CHARITY AS YOU LIVE LIFE.

CHARACTER IS WHAT YOU ARE.

REPUTATION IS WHAT PEOPLE THINK ABOUT YOU.

IT IS VERY FUNNY TO SEE PEOPLE CRAVING FOR REPUTATION THAN CHARACTER.

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR MOTHER HAPPY, TALK TO HER.

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR FATHER HAPPY, LISTEN TO HIM.

~~~~His Holiness Sri V.V. Sridhar Guruji

## KRISHNA IN MAHABHARATA

*Why Lord allowed so many things to happen?*

*Why Kauravas and Pandavas right from their younger age should be in animosity?*

*Why they should have been invited for a game of dice?*

*Why is it Shakuni alone could win?*

*Why Draupadi should be allowed or attempted to be disrobed?*

*Why they were banished to exile?*

*Why they did not accept Krishna's offer for mediation?*

*Why a war at Kurushetra finally?*

*The answer is simple....*

*Lord Krishna did not ask the Pandavas to fight with the Kauravas for the sake of getting back their due share of kingdom or to avenge the dishonour that happened to Draupadi....*

*For long Lord Krishna was planning for a combat between the good and the evil.... So he had a bigger job of collecting the good on one side and the evil on the other side.... People who were individually good but supported the evil were considered evil...people who were evil but supported the good were considered good....*

*So it's just to assemble the good on one side and evil on the other side and make them to wage a war, Lord decided Mahabharata at Kurukshetra.....*

*So all events happened sequentially for this big event...Lord supervised and advised the good without taking part in the war directly....*



~~~~His Holiness Sri V.V. Sridhar Guruji

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The Bangles on the Hand!

Uddalaka, a contemporary of *Caitanya*, chose to worship the Lord as the Manifested, as *Prakriti*. He chose to worship the Creator through his Creation. He adored the Container for the thing contained. In short, he adored *Râdhâ*, or *Dhara* in reverse, the *Prakriti* aspect, the feminine principle, as *Krishna*, the *Purusha*, the inseparable Other! His yearning was so moving, his *tapas* was so compelling that one day the Lord played a beautiful Leela.

A bangle-seller was trudging along the bank of the *Sarasvatî* river by the side of the village. He found a damsel washing clothes in the bathing ghat. She called him near and selected many pairs of bangles, she wore them all. At last, when he asked for the cash, she said: "Oh, I forgot all about the money that is due to you, please go to the house of *Uddalaka* in the village; anyone will point it out to you. Ask him, tell him that his daughter purchased them and he will surely pay. Or, wait, you may tell him that he will find the cash behind the picture of *Râdhâ* in his shrine room".

The man took her at her word and hurried to the village and the house of her parents. *Uddalaka* was amazed at the tale for he had no children. In fact, he was not even married. But the bangle seller insisted him to look behind the picture of *Râdhâ* because he said the girl was incapable of deceit. *Uddalaka* denied having ever placed any cash there. How could he use that space of all places for keeping cash? But just to satisfy the bangle seller, he peeped there and, lo, he got a knotted piece of cloth containing just the cash needed to pay for the bangles. Then, in a flash, he realised that it must have been *Râdhâ* Herself who had sent the man and he fell at the feet of the pedlar and ran with him to the bathing ghat, overcome with joy and thankfulness. For an instant he saw a glorious vision above the waters; the right arm of *Râdhâ*, with the bangles scintillating in the morning sun. He knew the arm was raised to bless him. He felt it was calling him and flew out of the mortal coil into Her lap.

(Swami says : The Lord is as anxious to assuage your pain as you are anxious to secure His grace to get rid of it. You may not know this but I know, for I feel it.)

WHO IS SAI BABA

The life of this Saint (Sai) is naturally sweet. His various doings, eating, walking and His natural sayings are also sweet. His life is Bliss incarnate. Sai gave bliss to His devotees as a means of remembrance. He gave them various stories of duty and action, which ultimately led them to true religion. His object maybe, that people should live happily in this world but they should be ever cautious, and achieve the object of their life, viz. self-realization. We get human body as a result of merits in past births, and it is worth-while that, with its aid, we should attain devotion and liberation in this life. So, we should never be lazy but always be on the alert to gain our goal of life.

Baba asking for Dakshina

It is well known that Baba always asked for Dakshina from people who went to see Him. Then the question raises, “If Baba was a fakir and perfectly non-attached, why should He ask for Dakshina and care for money?” We shall consider this question broadly, now. First, for a long-time, Baba did not take anything, He stored burnt matches and filled His pocket with them. He never asked anybody for anything, whether he be a devotee or otherwise. If anybody placed before Him a paisa or two, He purchased oil or tobacco. He was fond of tobacco, for He always smoked a Bidi or Chillim (an earthen pipe). Then people thought they should not visit a Saint empty handed and therefore, placed some copper coins before Baba. If a paise was placed before Him, He used to pocket it, if it was a two paise coin it was returned immediately. As Baba’s fame had spread far and wide, people began to flock in numbers and Baba began to ask Dakshina from them. It is said in Shruti (Vedas) that puja of the God’s is not complete unless a golden coin was offered. If a coin was necessary in the puja of Gods, why should it not be so in the Puja of the saints also? According to Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, Lord Prajapati advised that Men should practice Dana. Also, the teacher in Taittiriya Upanishad directs his pupil to practice charity and other virtues. He says, do charity, ‘give with faith, or even without it give with magnanimity, i.e., liberally, give with modesty, awe and sympathy’. In order to teach people about charity and to remove their attachment to money and thus, to purify their minds, Baba extracted Dakshina from them but there was this peculiarity, as Baba said that He had to give back hundred times more of what He received as Dakshina. There were also secondary meanings of Dakshina. In many cases, Baba did not want any pecuniary amount.

— continued in the next page

WHO IS SAI BABA

He asked some people to read some books and take the contents of the readings to their hearts, where Baba resides. Basically, asking the devotee to follow and practice the principles read. In some other cases, He asked devotee to get rid of or offer their vices as Dakshina, so the devotee can become a better person. Baba did not ask Dakshina of all. If some gave Dakshina unasked, He sometimes accepted it and at other times refused it. He asked it of certain devotees only. He never demanded it from other devotees, who thought in their minds that Baba should ask for it and then they should pay it. If anybody offered it against His wish, He never touched it and if he kept it there, He asked him to take it away. He asked for small or big amounts from devotees, according to their wish, devotion, and convenience. He asked it, even of women and children. He never asked of all the rich for it, nor of all the poor. Although Baba collected a lot of money by Dakshina, He would distribute the whole amount the same day and the next morning He would become a poor Fakir as usual. At the time of His samadhi He had only a few rupees in His possession.

— Based on experts from *Shri Sai Satcharita*, compiled by Babu Jammi.

A PEN IN DEVOTION

Should I.....?

Should I practice silence, now or this weekend?
Such frequent communication, a compulsive send.
Attention without intent, a boon in my mind's bend.
Now, remain silent until you have to fend.

Should I do my sadhana, until I die?
Every morning and evening a mandatory tie.
Sadhana with devotion, and gratitude multiply
Now, offer your kriya and with stillness unify.

Should I drop my limitations, here or at Kasi?
I am dragged by many dislikes and I like filter coffee.
Just do what is needed and there's little karmic fee.
And right when you are ready, Sadhguru will set you free.

Crossing the river of the world.

Once some men were crossing the river Ganges in a boat. A learned man among them, bragging about his knowledge, announced loudly that he was a master in several scriptures including the Vedas, having studied them thoroughly. He proceeded to ask a fellow passenger if he too had studied Vedanta, Samkhya, Patanjala and other philosophies. The passenger humbly replied, "No, revered sir. I am not educated in any of the scriptures." In a little while, while the pundit was still bragging, a huge storm arose, and the boat was about to sink. The passenger asked the pundit, "Sir, can you swim?" The pundit said he did not know how to swim. The passenger replied, "Sir, I do not know Samkhya or the Patanjala, but I can swim."

What will a man gain by knowing many scriptures? The one thing needful is to know how to cross the river of the world.

The Mind of a True Jnani.

Once there was a farmer who had a son late in life. The child was brought up with love and affection and grew to be the light of his parents' lives. One fateful day, the farmer, while working in the fields, came to know that his son had suddenly fallen ill. He rushed home, only to find his beloved son dead.

The farmer's wife and all the others around wept bitterly for the untimely death of a loved child, but the farmer himself remained dry-eyed and calm. When his wife accused him of being heartless, he replied, "Last night I had a dream in which I was a king and had seven sons. My seven princes were handsome and virtuous. They acquired tremendous knowledge and wisdom through their study of various art forms. Then suddenly I woke up; my dream was gone, and so were my seven princes. Now I am wondering whether to weep for losing those sons in the dream, or for this one boy."

For the true Jnani, the waking state is as unreal as the dream state.

Source: Tales and Parables of Sri Ramakrishna. Sri Ramakrishna Math. Mylapore, Chennai.

Patanjali Yoga Sutra – “Samadhi Pada”

(continuation from March issue)

At a highest level, Sage Patanjali gives us two ways to control the mind fluctuations: Practice, and Detachment.

First, he talks about Practice. What is practice? Practice is nothing but a continuous effort in achieving something. We learn so many different things. We learn singing, dance, photography, playing an instrument, skating, etc. Anything we learn, the words the teacher always says, “If you want to get good at it, you must practice!” Same thing applies here. Here the goal is to get good at controlling the mind fluctuations. For that, the Sage says, we must practice.

Okay, so we practice. But what kind of practice is a good practice that will yield the results? Sage Patanjali answers that as well. He gives three qualifications for practice. He says, practice must be done 1) for long time, 2) continuously, and 3) with sincerity.

We do not have time to do anything these days. Everything we do, we want it to be really quick and we want to enjoy the result instantaneously as well. Patience is becoming a rare commodity. Sage here says that the practice must be done for a long time, but he does not say how long. One must keep at it until he/she achieves the results.

Not only that, it must be done continuously, which means without a break. Whenever we do something, we always expect to have a break. Should I exercise all seven days, or can I skip a day? Mind can be very tricky like that. It is very good at finding reasons for us to not to do something. It is very good at coming up with convincing excuses. We should continue to do what we set out to do, without listening to it.

Above all, Sage Patanjali tells us that the practice must be done sincerely. What does that mean? One should keep doing it no matter what, no matter how long it takes, no matter how difficult it is, one should have faith and patience, and continue to do the practice.

In fact, Sri Sai says the same two words over and over again, that we must have “Faith and Patience”.

(To be continued...)

Reference: “The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali” by Swami Sachidananda.

NEVER TRY TO INQUIRE ABOUT SAINTS' PAST LIFE!

Just as Lord Krishna said in Bhagavad Gita, that He re-incarnates time and time again to protect Dharma and eradicate the evils, so many saints have descended this earth for the same purpose. Our Lord Sai Maharaj is also one such avatar. He appeared in Shirdi on the banks of river Godavari and due to His presence, Shirdi became a holy kshetra. He displayed so many characteristics behaving like a man but in essence, He was a great Gyaani. One 95 year old Goulibuva, who was a regular visitor to Pandharpur, proclaimed that SaiBaba was none other than Pandharinath Vithal.

SaiBaba was very fond of reciting God's name. Once, Baba told Das Ganu Maharaj to recite the Lord of Pandharpur's name continuously with earnestness and devotion for 7 days and promised that Vithal will give darshan to him. At its completion, Vithal did manifest in Shirdi! While Kakasaheb Dixit, another devotee of Lord Sai was in meditation, he had a vision of Vithal. Baba asked him if he saw Vithal and told him to catch Him immediately or else He would escape if he be even a little inattentive. That evening a vendor came to Shirdi selling pictures of Lord Vithal! Similarly, once when the son of His devotee [Late] Bhagwantrao Kshirsagar came to see Him, Baba accepted his offerings and told that he pulled him to Shirdi as the son forgot his duty of offering annual ceremony to his father!

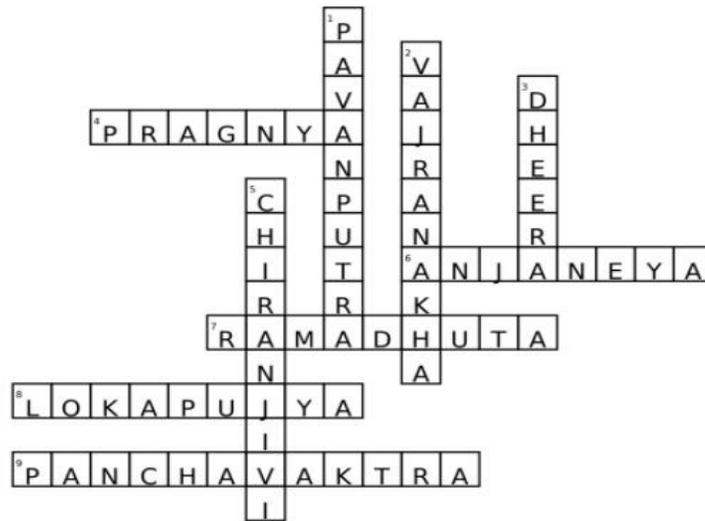
Once, when Das Ganu sought Baba's permission to visit Prayag to dip in the holy waters, Baba told him that He would bring Prayag here in Shirdi itself and outflowed Holy Ganges water from His two great toes! No one knew where SaiBaba was born. He just manifested Himself under a neem tree one day! Nana Chopdar's mom describes his beautiful young face she saw. He just sat there; demanded nothing from anyone. One day, Lord Khandoba came onto a man and asked the people to dig at a particular place, where they found a cellar with steps. Therein lights were burning. Baba told the people that it was His guru's place and asked them to close it back.

Devotees still worship that neem tree and the cellar site. Three wadas were built over a course of time to shelter the devotees who thronged to Shirdi, Sathe Wada, Dixit Wada and Booty Wada, which is the present resting place of SaiBaba. More leelas will be told in the next chapter.

Bow to Shri Sai – Peace be to all

Just for Fun – Tejaswi Dasari

Crossword puzzle solution



Down:

1. Son of Wind God
2. The messenger of Rama
3. Courageous one
5. The immortal one

Across:

4. The great scholar
6. The son of Anjana
7. The messenger of Rama
8. The five faced one
9. The five faced one

Muggulu/Kolams for Beginners – Sangeetha Sridhar

Do you want to know how to make this beautiful Kolam in the picture?

You can watch the process of making this Kolam on our Youtube page Sai Amrutha Jyothi or you can use this following link:

<https://youtu.be/9ekWcIzFW4E>

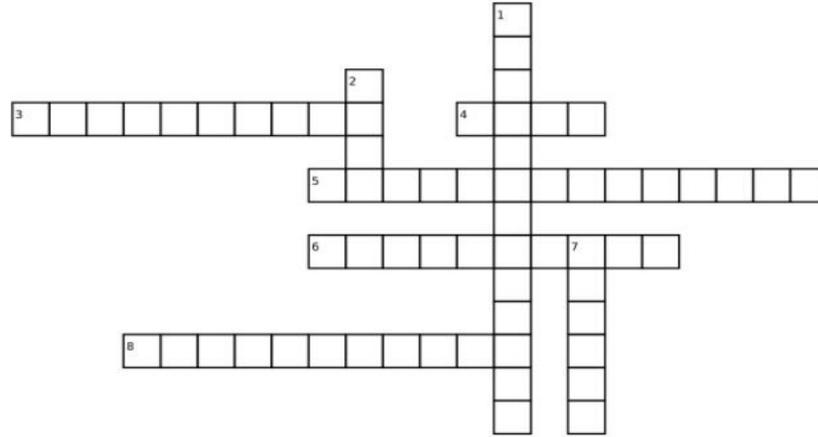
Please like, share and subscribe to our Youtube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvcLCGOv_5IAUYxA2vA4eqQ



Just for Fun – Tejaswi Dasari

GOD & DEMONS



Down:

1. Lord Varaha's Demon
2. Lord Kalki's Demon
7. Lord Rama's Demon

Across:

3. Lord Krishna's Demon
4. Lord Vamana's Demon
5. Lord Nrusimha's Demon
6. Lord Rama's Demon
8. Lord Balarama's Demon

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Spot 5 differences between the 2 pictures

