

Shri Shirdi Sai Sathya Vrata Puja

Relevance of Sai Baba's Chant

It is going to be a century since Baba attained Samadhi. As Baba divined and blessed that Shirdi would ultimately become a great pilgrimage center, so did it, attracting devotees in droves every day. This is in spite of the fact that science keeps advancing and technological innovations continue to impact our lives. Moreover, the majority of the devotees are those who seek spiritual enlightenment and Shirdi itself is improving rapidly, complete with tall buildings and transport infrastructure, typical of and rivaling mega cities. The sole driving factor behind Shirdi's prominence is that, as one of His sayings goes, Baba showers his grace the moment a devotee sets foot on Shirdi soil. He becomes your guru, god, and mother and is there for you to protect you on all sides. He blessed Shirdi by setting foot on it Himself and made it his abode. He never left Shirdi thereafter and never will. Till date, nobody knows his origins, a distinctive godly trait.

After choosing Shirdi as his abode, he sat under a neem tree in yogic trance for several days. People in Shirdi realized that he possessed supernatural powers. One day he simply disappeared, and people felt dejected by his absence.

Three years later, He reappeared in Shirdi as one of the members of a marriage party. Bhagat Mahalsapathy sighted the young fakir and in ecstasy cried "**Aavo Sai!**" Since then he came to be called '**Sai Baba.**'

He was christened by his devotee. All His relations were those who lived in Shirdi. Baba lived the life of an ascetic by begging his food every day. In the process, Shirdi became a great pilgrimage center.

He was made to stay in a dilapidated mosque, which Baba named '**Dwarakamai**'. This is proof enough that Sai Baba is an incarnation of Lord Krishna.

It was Baba's custom to light mud pots around Dwarakamai. He used to collect oil from the grocery shops in Shirdi to light the lamps. Tired of giving away free oil to Baba, the merchants all one day decided to turn back Baba empty handed. As if this insult was not enough, they wanted to test Baba's divine powers. They hid near the Dwarakamai and wanted to see what Baba was going to do to light the lamps. To their wonder, Baba poured plain water and lighted the pots. The lamps all started burning as brightly as ever. The merchants all fell at His feet and sought His forgiveness. Baba blessed them and advised them to be honest and true in the future.

Baba had great control over all five elements of nature. He ordained that it stopped raining and so did it stop raining. He bade the storm to stop, and so did the storm.

He banished cholera from Shirdi that was raging on in Shirdi and some parts of the country. He performed numerous miracles but there is one that I consider most personal to me. Once Baba lay his head on Mahalsapathy's lap and said He was going to leave this world for other worlds. He told Mahalsapathy to take care of His mortal coil so He can enter it again after three days. Baba lay motionless for the three days and everyone thought that Baba must be laid to rest including the Collector of Ahmed Nagar district. But Mahalsapathy remained fully faithful in Baba's promise and did not budge for the next 72 hours. He was praying and chanting Sai Nama all along. Eventually, to everyone's delight, Baba rose from the dead like Jesus Christ.

Only divine incarnations can perform such a miracle. However, Baba's miracle is a shade superior to Jesus' in that Jesus performed the miracle during the final moments of his life, whereas Baba performed it in the middle of his life. He lived on thereafter for several decades.

Shri Shirdi Sai Sathya Vratha Puja Kalpam

As Baba promised, He will continue to be alive and active for his devotees for as long as this universe exists.

For some devotees, Baba's grace will materialize very soon. For others, there may be a slight delay in reaping the fruits of their devotion. The reason is that their bad deeds in their past birth may outweigh their good deeds in this birth. But this Sai Satya Vratha Puja can cancel out their bad deeds and help speed up Baba's grace.

Bimaji Patil, an ardent devotee of Sai Baba, was once afflicted with TB. He turned to Baba's miracle and was cured of his disease. In gratitude, Bimaji Patil wanted to initiate a Puja like Sathya Narayana Puja. He sought the help of Dasganu, who narrated five anecdotes of Sai Baba to form part of this Puja. The first Puja was performed in the year 1909, meaning it started being performed during the time Baba was alive. Needless to say, the Puja had Baba's total blessing. Since then scores of devotees have performed this Puja and received Baba's grace.

This Puja can be best performed on birthdays, Thursdays, full moon days, Ekadasi, or Vijayadasami to have your prayer fulfilled.

Things Required for the Puja

1. Shri Sai Baba statue or picture
2. Turmeric, kumkum, beetle leaves, flowers, panchamirtham, camphor, sandal, and jawwad
3. One plate, sombu(kalasam), and panchapathra uthrani
4. Coconut – 5 nos.; rava laddu – 10 nos; square jaggery – 2 nos; milk kova; butter; sakkara pongal or kesari
5. Nine grains

After the Puja, deposit the two rupee coin in Baba's temple and prostrate before Baba with utmost reverence.

Shri Shirdi Sai Sathya vradha pooja procedure

Shri Shirdi Sai Sathya Vradham prayer:

Brahmaanandam Paramasukhadham
Kevalam Gnana moorthim
Dwandatheetham Gagana chathursham
Tattvamasyaadhi lakshyam

Ekam nithyam vimala machalam
Sarvadhi saakshi bhootham
Shri Sai naadham thrigunarahitham
Sadhgurum tham namami

Baba moola manthram

Namasthey Sai Naathaaya
Moha tanthra vinaasiney
Gurave bhuddhi bhodhaaya
Bodha maathra swaroopine

Shri Gurubhyo namaha

Vinayagar Pooja :

Shukhlam baradharam Vishnum
shasivarnam chathurbhujam
prasanna vadhanam dhyaayeth
sarva vignopa shaanthaye

(Make Pillaiyar using turmeric and invoke Maha Ganapathy)

Om bhu,Om bhuva,Om suvaha,Om maha,Om jana,Om tapa,
Om satyam,
Om tat savithur varenyam,bhargo devasya dheemahi,

dhiyo yonaha prachodayath,Omaapo,jyotirasa,amrutham Brahma,
Bhurbuvasuvarom thadeva lagnam suthitham thadeva
thaara balam chandra balam thadeva,vidya balam deiva balam
thadeva lakshmiathe angriyugam smarami.

Mamopaaththa samastha thuridha shayadhwara Shri
Parameshwara preethyartham,karishyamaanasya karmanaha:
avignyena parisamaapthyartham, aadhau maha ganapathy
poojam karishye.

(Do sankalpam as mentioned above)

Om Ganaa naam tva ganapadhikum havamahe
Kavim kaveenam upamasravastamam
Jyeshtharajam brahmanam brahmanaspatha
Aana : shrunvan oodhipihi seedhasadanam
Asmin harith rabimbe sumukham mahaganapathim dhyayami

Aavahayaami (offer akshadhais,flowers)
Aasanam samarpayaami
Paadhyam samarpayaami (put theertham using uddharini)
Argyam samarpayaami (put theertham using uddharini)
Aasameeyam samarpayaami (put theertham using uddharini)

Snaanam samarpayaami (put theertham using uddharini)
Snanaa nandaram samarpayaami
(put theertham using uddharini)
Vasthartham akshadhaan samarpayaami
(put theertham using uddharini)
Aabaranaartham akshadhaan samarpayaami
(put theertham using uddharini)

Gandhaan dhaarayaami (sprinkle chandan)
Haridhra choornam samarpayaami (apply kungumam)

Akshadhaan samarpayaami (Offer akshadhai)
Pushpaani samarpayaami (Offer flowers)

Archanai using flowers

Om sumugaaya namaha
Om ekadhanthaaya namaha
Om kapilaaya namaha
Om gajakarnaaya namaha

Om lambodharaaya namaha
Om vikadaaya namaha
Om vigna raajaaya namaha
Om ganadhibhaaya namaha

Om dhoomakedhave namaha
Om ganaadhyakshaaya namaha
Om baalachandraaya namaha
Om gajaananaaya namaha

Om vakrathundaaya namaha
Om soorpakarnaaya namaha
Om Heyrambaaya namaha
Om skanda poorvajaaya namaha

Om Maha ganapathaye namaha

nanavidha parimala pathra pushpaani samarpayaami,

dhoopadeepartham akshadhaan samarpayaami
(Offer akshadhai)

Naivedhyam (offer bananas)

Om bhurbhuvasuvaha sathyam dwadena parishinjaami,
amrutho basthranabasi
(perform pariseshanam using uddharini water)

Om praanaaya swaaha,
Om apaanaaya swaha,
Om vyaanaaya swaaha,
Om udhaanaaya swaaha,
Om samaanaaya swaaha,
Om brahmane swaaha

Maha ganapathaye namaha kadhali balam nivedhayaami
(Like this do nivedhanam)

Naivedhyanandharam aasamaneeyam samarpayaami
(Offer water with uddharini)

Thaamboolam samarpayaami.Sarvopachaaraan samarpayaami
(Offer akshadhai).

Then joining hands chant.....

Vakrathunda mahaakaya kotisoorya samapraba

avignam kurume deva sarva kaaryeshu sarvadha

And offer prayer.

Do Pradhakshinam & Offer namaskars.

Chant

ganapathy prasadam sirasa gruhnaami
and put the archana prasadam on the head.

Sankalpam

Shuklaambaradharam vishnum sashivarnam chathurbhujam
prasanna vadhanam dhyaayeth sarva vignopa shaanthaye.

Mamopaatha samastha thuritha shayathwaara shri
parameshwara preethyartham,subesobha nemuhurthe

aathyabrahmanaha dwithiya paraarthe,swedha varaaha kalpe,
vaivasvadha manvanthare,ashtaa vimsathidhame,
kaliyuge prathame paadhe,jamboothveebe,bhaaratha
varshe,bharatha kande,

mero,dakshine paarsve,sagapthe,asmin varthamaane,vyaava
khaarike prabavathi shashtisam vatsaraalum madhye-
namasamvathsre - ayane- rudena - mase - pakshe -
subhanakshatra subhayoga subhakarana evanguna viseshena
visishtaayaam subadhithou mama

(asya yajama nasya) sa kakudumbasya shema sthairya
veerya,vijaya,aayur aarogya
ishwaryaanaam,amivruddhayartham,raajathvaare
sarvaanukoolya sithyartham
navagraha poojaam,
Shri Sai sathyavradha poojaam karishye,
thathangam kalasa poojaamsa karishye

(Marked area to be filled appropriate month,day and year).

Kalasa pooja

Cover kalasam by right hand decorated with
chandan,flowers,mango leaves etc.

Chant

kalasasya mukhe Vishnu kande rudrah: samasrithaha
mooletathrasthitho Brahma madhye maathru ganaas mruthathaa
ha
kushouthu saaraha sarve sapththathveeba vasundhara
rigvedho yajurvedaha saama vedho atharvanaha
angaissa yahitaha sarve kalasaambu samaasrithaha
aayandhu deva poojaartham thurithashaya kaaragaha
gangesa yamune saiva godhaavari saraswathi
narmade sindhu kaaveri theerthesmin sannidham guru

(Saying like this one should sprinkle sacred water theertha on the pooja materials and self)

Navagraha pooja

1. Mercury (Budhan) (Green gram)

Asmin mandaley adhi devathaa prathyathi devadhaa sahitham,
budha graham thyayaami,
Aavaaha yaami.

2. Venus (sukran) (Green beans)

Asmin mandale adhi devatha prathyathi devadhaa sahitham,
sukra graham thyayaami,
Aavaaha yaami.

3. Moon (Chandran)(paddy grain)

Asmin mandale adhi devatha prathyathi devadhaa sahitham,
soma graham thyayaami,
Aavaaha yaami.

4. Jupiter (Guru) (groundnut)

Asmin mandale adhi devatha prathyathi devadhaa sahitham,
bruhaspathi graham thyayaami,
Aavaaha yaami.

5. Sun (Sooryan) (wheat)

Asmin mandale adhi devatha prathyathi devadhaa sahitham,
aadithya graham thyayaami,
Aavaaha yaami.

6. Mars (angaragan/sevvai) (yellow lentil dal)

Asmin mandale adhi devatha prathyathi devadhaa sahitham,
angaraha graham thyayaami,

Aavaaha yaami.

7. Kethu (Uranus) (horse gram)

Asmin mandale adhi devatha prathyathi devadhaasahitham,
kethu graham thyayaami,
Aavaaha yaami.

8. Saturn (Sani) (sesame)

Asmin mandale adhi devatha prathyathi devadhaasahitham,
sanaisara graham thyayaami,
Aavaaha yaami.

9. Rahu (Neptune) (black gram)

Asmin mandale adhi devatha prathyathi devadhaasahitham,
raahu graham thyayaami,
Aavaaha yaami.

Aadithyadi navagraha devadhaabhyo namaha

Aasanam samarpayaami,
paadhyam samarpayaami,
Aachamaneeyam samarpayaami,
vasthraartham akshadhaan samarpayaami,
yajnobaveertham,uththariyaartham,
aabharanaartham-cha-akshadhaan samarpayaami,
gandhaandhaarayaami,akshadhaan samarpayaami.

Archanai by Flowers

Om Aadithyaaya namaha
Om angaragaaya namaha
Om sukraaya namaha
Om somaaya namaha
Om budhaaya namaha

Om bruhaspathaye namaha
Om sanaischaraaya namaha
Om raahave namaha
Om kedhave namaha

naanaavidha parimala pathrapushpani samarpayaami,
Aadithyadhi,navagraha devadhaabhyo namaha
dhoopamaakrabhayaami,
deepam darshyaami,
mahaanaivedyam nivedayami,
thaamboolam samarpayaami,
karpoora neeraanjanam darshyaami,
anantha kodi pradakshina namaskaaran samarpayaami,
Aadithyadi navagraha devadhaabhyo namaha yadhaasthaanam
pradishtaabayaami
(Saying this offer akshadhai).
Aadithyadi navagraha devadhaaprasaadha siddhi rasthu !

Shri Shirdi Sai Sathya vratha pooja

Dhyanam

Adham Shri Shirdi Sai sathya vratha arambham

Om kesavaya swaha,Om Narayanaya swaha,
Om madhavaraya swaha,Govinda,Vishnu,Madhusoodhana,
Trivikrama,vaamana,shridhara,rishikhesa,padmanaabha,
damodhara,sankarshana,Vasudeva,prajyumna,aniruddha,
Purushottama,adhokshaja,Narasimha,achchutha,janaardhana,
upendhra,
Shri Krishnaya namaha.

Bhu-shuddhi

Utthisthanthu,bhoodha,pisaasa yadhe bhoomi paaraga yathesha
mavirodhena

Brahma-karma samaaraye

Shri Sai naathar aavahanam

Om Shri Shirdi naatha aavahayami

Aasanam samarpayaami (offer flowers)

Anga pooja

Om Teerthapaadhaya namaha	padhow poojayaami
Om balaya namaha	jange poojayaami
Om Aadhara bhoothaaya namaha	jaanuni poojayaami
Om vishva prabhoojithaaya namaha	ooru poojayaami
Om jithendhiriyaaya namaha	huhayam poojayaami
Om stitha pragnyaaya namaha	kadim poojayaami
Om mithaasavaaya namaha	udharam poojayami
Om visaalavakshaase namaha	vakshthasvam poojayaami
Om sukthahrudhayaaya namaha	hrudhayam poojayaami
Om sishya vathsavaraya namaha	skandho poojayaami
Om Aathmoththaarakaaya namaha	bhujam poojayaami
Om dhaana hasthaaya namaha	hasthaan poojayaami
Om kambukandyai namaha	kanttam poojayaami
Om prasannavadhanaayai namaha	mugam pujayamai
Om mrudhu baashanaayai namaha	jeehyam poojayaami
Om karunaavidhaye namaha	nethre poojayaami
Om saashtranu paarine namaha	siras poojayaami
Om sarvagnyaanaaya namaha	sarvaangaani poojayaami

Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Ashtothira namavali

1. Om Shri Sainaathaya namaha
2. Om Lakshmi Narayanaaya namaha

3. Om Krishna Rama Siva maruthyaadhi roopaaya namaha
4. Om sesha saayine namaha
5. Om Godhavari thada shirdi vaasine namaha
6. Om bhaktha hrudhaalayaaya namaha
7. Om sarva hrudhvaasine namaha
8. Om bhoothaavaasaaya namaha
9. Om bhootha bavishyath bhaava varjithaaya namaha
10. Om kaalaatheethaaya namaha
11. Om kaalaaya namaha
12. Om kaala kaalaaya namaha
13. Om kaala darpadhamanaaya namaha
14. Om mruthyunjayaaya namaha
15. Om amarthyayaaya namaha
16. Om marthyaabhayapradhaaya namaha
17. Om jeevaadhaaraaya namaha
18. Om sarvaadhaaraaya namaha
19. Om bhakthaavana samarthaaya namaha
20. Om bhakthaavana prathignyaaya namaha
21. Om anna vasthraaya namaha

22. Om aarogya shemadhaaya namaha
23. Om dhanamaangalya pradhaaya namaha
24. Om riddhi siddhi dhaaya namaha
25. Om puthra mithra kalathra bandhudhaaya namaha
26. Om yogashemavahaaya namaha
27. Om aapathbandhavaaya namaha
28. Om maarga bhandhave namaha
29. Om bhukthi mukthi svargaa bhavargadhaaya namaha
30. Om priyaaya namaha
31. Om preethivardhanaaya namaha
32. Om antharyaamine namaha
33. Om sachchidhaathmane namaha
34. Om aanandhaaya namaha
35. Om anandha dhaaya namaha
36. Om Parameshwaraaya namaha
37. Om Parabrahmane namaha
38. Om Paramaathmane namaha
39. Om Gnyaanaswaroopine namaha
40. Om jagadha(ha) pithre namaha

41. Om bhakthaanaam maathrudhaathru pitaamahaaya namaha
42. Om bhakthaa bhayapradhaaya namaha
(bhakthaabhayapradhaaya)
43. Om bhaktha paraadheenaaya namaha
44. Om bhakthaanugraha kaadharaaya namaha
45. Om sharanaagathavathsalaaya namaha
46. Om bhakthi shakthi pradhaaya namaha
47. Om gnyaana vairaagyadhaaya namaha
48. Om premapradhaaya namaha
49. Om samsayahrudhaya daurbalya papakarmavaasana
shayakaraaya namaha
50. Om hrudhayagranthibedhakaaya namaha
51. Om karmadhwamsine namaha
52. Om shuddha sath vasthithaaya namaha
53. Om gunatheetha gunaathmane namaha
54. Om anantha kalyaana gunaaya namaha
55. Om amitha paraakramaaya namaha
56. Om jayine namaha
57. Om durdharshaa shobyaaya namaha
58. Om aparaajithaaya namaha

59. Om thrilokeshu askhandhidhagadhaye namaha
60. Om asakyarahithaaya namaha
61. Om sarva shakthi moorthaye namaha
62. Om swaroopasundaraaya namaha
63. Om sulochanaaya namaha
64. Om bahuroopa vishwamoorthaye namaha
65. Om aroopaavyakthaaya namaha
66. Om achinthhyaaya namaha
67. Om sookshmaaya namaha
68. Om sarvaantharyaamine namaha
69. Om manovaagatheethaaya namaha
70. Om premamoorthaye namaha
71. Om sulabhadurlabhaaya namaha
72. Om asahaaya sahaayaaya namaha
73. Om anaatha naatha deena baandhave namaha
74. Om sarva bhaarabruthe namaha
75. Om akarmaneka karma sukarmine namaha
76. Om punyashravana keerthanaaya namaha
77. Om theerthaaya namaha

78. Om Vaasudevaaya namaha
79. Om sathaamgathaye namaha
80. Om sathparaayanaaya namaha
81. Om lokanaathaaya namaha
82. Om paavanaanaghaaya namaha
83. Om amruthaamsave namaha
84. Om bhaaskara prabhaaya namaha
85. Om brahmascharya thapascharyaadhisuvrathaaya namaha
86. Om sathya dharma paraayanaaya namaha
87. Om Siddheshwaraaya namaha
88. Om Siddha sankalpaaya namaha
89. Om Yogeshwaraaya namaha
90. Om bhagavathe namahe
91. Om bhakthavathsalaaya namaha
92. Om sathpurushaaya namaha
93. Om Purushottamaaya namaha
94. Om sathya tathva bodhakaaya namaha
95. Om kamaadhi sarva agnyaana dhvamsine namaha
96. Om abhedhaanandha anubhavapradhaaya namaha

97. Om sama sarvamadha sammadhaaya namaha
98. Om Dakshinaamoorthaye namaha
99. Om Venkatesaramanaaya namaha
100. Om adhpudhaanandacharyaaya namaha
101. Om prapannarthiharaaya namaha
102. Om samsaara sarvadukkha shayakaraaya namaha
103. Om sarvavith sarvatho mukhaaya namaha
104. Om sarva anthar bahistithaaya namaha
105. Om sarva mangalakaraaya namaha
106. Om sarvaa beeshtapradhaaya namaha
107. Om samarasa sanmaarga sthaapanaaya namaha
108. Om Shri Samartha Sadguru Sai naathaaya namaha

After chanting Ashtothiram, offer dhoopam, deepam, offer milk kova sweet,

Lit and wave camphor and then start reading stories.

At the end of each story, break a coconut and offer rava laddu as naivedya.

Introduction

The Bhagvad Gita promises that God incarnates himself every yuga to conquer evil (adharma) and reinforce righteousness (dharma). After the incarnation of God as Lord Krishna, in the age of Kali, saints and sages were born and performed rigorous penance and rituals such as homas and yagnyas to spread dharma. But their efforts went in vain as people continued to go down the path of adharma and were in pursuit of carnal and materialistic pleasures. Earlier, there used to be only one demon in every age whom God used to slay in His incarnation. But in this age of Kali, there exist numerous Narakasuras, countless Kamsas, and re-emergent Ravana. In spite of this unholy situation, saints' efforts to guide people toward the path of dharma were of little avail.

Therefore, the saints en masse prayed to Lord Shiva, who assuaged them in a kind tone as follows: "I quite see what you have been languishing over. Cast off your worry! Very soon, an incarnation shall occur, who will embody Myself, Vishnu and Brahma in what is going to be a reincarnation of Dhattatreya, Anjaneya, Goddess Kali, Jesus Christ and Allah. He may reveal himself as an unassuming Fakir, but deep down he will blaze like myself at the end of the world, shower His grace like Karna, and rain wealth like Goddess Lakshmi. He will appear in the village of Shirdi at the age of 16 and come to be hailed as Sai. After which, people will be drawn to Him like a magnet attracting iron nails and adharma will slowly disappear." On hearing this, the saints were ecstatic and sang in praise of the Lord.

Chant "Om Sai Sri Sai Jai Jai Sai" and read out Story 1.

Story 1 - The Young Saint

On the Godavari river basin, in the state of Maharashtra, district of Ahmed Nagar, taluk of Goper Kaun, village of Shirdi, in the year 1855, on one sunny day, under the neem tree, there appeared a young fakir. He was clad in a long robe and his matted hair was bundled in a tuft and covered using a towel. He was carrying on one hand a long forceps-like iron rod (chatka) and a small aluminum vessel on the other to collect food offered by residents. He didn't seem to be in possession of other

materials than these. He always remained reclusive and in trance. The children of the village made fun of him by hurling stones at and taunting him. But the yogi was unmindful of the insult and never left the place. The smile on his face never receded. His eyes radiated light.

One day, a leper happened to come by that place. The young saint took pity on the leper and washed and dressed his wounds all along his body. To everyone's surprise, the leper was instantly cured of his disease and ran to the village to announce the miracle. On hearing this account, the villagers swelled to worship the young saint. There was a blind person in the crowd who was at great pains to come near the fakir. But he could not reach the fakir and was pushed to the ground. The fakir took pity on the blind man and rolled his right palm on both his eyes as he said, "Alla accha karega". Lo and behold, the blind man could now see the world for the first time.

As the news spread of the miracles that this yogi performed, people were in more and more awe of the yogi and thronged more and more to worship him. In spite of his fame, the yogi continued to make the neem tree his abode, in a display of utmost modesty. Whatever the people offered him, he would partake only a very little and distribute the rest among the devotees. Despite their closeness to him, nobody could determine his origins.

Since people grew in numbers to worship him, his meditation was often interrupted. One day he disappeared and nobody knew where he could be found.

Divination by the God-Possessed Priest at Kandoba Temple

One day the priest at the Kandoba Temple in Shirdi was possessed of supernatural powers. People usually ask several questions during the spell to find a cure or other remedy, financial or material. This time, people asked about the vanished fakir. The priest told them to dig the earth near the neem tree inside the temple. There they saw steps leading down to a small hall. In it, many a lamp was glowing brightly. Seeing this, the people quickly realized that it must be a holy place and quickly closed it. The priest told them that it is in this very place that the

young saint meditated for twelve long years and that he disappeared because people gave him trouble and interrupted his penance. But the young saint promised that he would return to Shirdi at a later time.

Miracle Experienced by Santh Patil

In 1858, a wealthy Muslim named Santh Patil was wandering about looking for his horse. The saddle of his horse hung over his shoulder. There he caught sight of a yogi with long hair and smoking through a cylindrical pot (silim) and holding a chatka. The fakir said to Santh Patil, "You look tired. Come, smoke silim." Patil consented and sat down to smoke. To prepare silim, one requires fire and water. The fakir struck the earth with his chatka and water sprung from within. He doused a piece of cloth. Then he struck the earth with the chatka and there came fire from within. He lighted the silim, puffed, and passed the silim to Santh Patil. Santh Patil was wonderstruck seeing the feats of the fakir and concluded that he must be a great saint indeed. Then the fakir asked, "Why are you loitering about with your horse's saddle slung on the shoulder?" Santh Patil replied that his horse had gone missing and he had been searching for it. To which the fakir said smilingly, "Your horse has not gone missing. Go find it only a short distance away." The fakir nodded his head towards a certain direction and Santh Patil saw a flood of light. Beyond the wall of light stood his horse grazing on the grass. Santh Patil at once ran towards his horse and embraced it with affection. Although Santh Patil was in a very great hurry to return to his hometown, he wanted to meet the fakir again and thank him. He hailed the fakir as a greatest yogi and invited the fakir to his home to be his guest (athithi). Sometime later, the engagement of Santh Patil's nephew took place. The bride hailed from nowhere else than Shirdi. So the marriage party traveled all the way to Shirdi by bullock cart. On reaching the outskirts of Shirdi, they alighted at the Kandoba temple. The priest, Bhagat Mahalsapathy, was watching as the family members alighted one after another. To his delight, he saw the young fakir who once disappeared also alight. He was overcome by wonder and devotion and cried, "Aavo Sai". People in Shirdi soon came to know about the return of the great saint, and felt ecstatic. Christened by Mahalsapathy as Sai, the Lord incarnated Himself as Sai Baba and embarked on his mission to spread dharma and bless His true followers.

Chant "Sri Samartha Sathguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai" and break a coconut in two and offer the halves to Baba

Story 2 – Initial Struggles of Baba and Mahalsapathy

Every one of us has to face the many challenges, obstacles, and trials and tribulations and God is no exception to this universal dharma in his incarnations. Sugriva was convinced of Lord Rama's omnipotence only after the slaying of Vali even though Rama had performed great feats such as slaying Thataka, Maricha and countless demons, delivering Akalya of her curse, subduing Parasurama, and agreeing to go on exile. Similarly, despite everyone realizing that Sri Rama was none other than Lord Narayana, Ravana denied Rama's godliness. Ravana's reluctance to accept Rama as god was the result of the sole objective of Rama's incarnation to conquer Ravana and evil. Even though Duryodhana was fully aware that Sri Krishna was the incarnation of Lord Narayana, he disrespected Krishna due to the misguidance of Sakuni.

Likewise, some sections of the crowd did not recognize Baba as Hindu. It is customary for sages and saints to stay in Siva temples. But Baba was not allowed to occupy any Siva temple in and around Shirdi solely because he looked like a Muslim fakir. After the great effort of Mahalsapathy and other devotees, Baba finally could find a place to stay, a dilapidated mosque on the outskirts of Shirdi. Baba named the mosque "Dwarakamai." Shri Krishna is the king of Dwarka. Sai Baba is the king of Dwarakamai. Around Dwarakamai, Baba grew many trees. It was his routine to light mud pot lamps around Dwarakamai. Some time later, he consecrated Dwarakamai by creating an ever-glowing fire (Dhuni) for worship. By making sure the fire rages everyday, he revealed himself as a Brahman who must perform fire worship (Agnihotri) as laid down in Hindu holy scriptures.

Baba had a dual appearance. He appeared a Hindu saint because he was performing Agnihotram, worshipping the Tulsi plant, and lighting lamps. He appeared a Muslim fakir because of his attire: kufni and head turban. Therefore, he was worshipped by both Muslims and Hindus. When Hindus went to Dwarakamai to worship Baba, the Muslims took revenge and attacked them because Hindus did not allow Baba to enter

the Kandoba Temple earlier. When Mahalsapathy tried to enter the Dwarakamai, he was also attacked. But what a wonder! When he cried "Sai Baba," Mahalsapathy never got hurt as Baba Himself bore the pain. The Muslims did not mend their ways even after this miracle. So, Baba disappeared from the Dwarakamai to teach them a lesson. Then both Muslims and Hindus repented for their conduct and prayed to Baba for His forgiveness. Pleased with their refined mindset, Baba reappeared and blessed them. People realized that God does not discriminate between mosque and temple and He is the life in each being, so hurting one being is hurting Him.

Creating Water Under a Boulder in the Mountain

On one hot sunny day, one of Baba's chief disciples Nana Chandorkar was on an official trip to a place called Harichandra Kute. He had to cross a jungle and felt thirsty. He did not carry water, so he looked around. The place looked dry. His attendants did not know a way to help their master. Nana cried "Baba, I'm thirsty. Please help" and fainted. At the same time, Baba stepped out of the mosque as he said, "What is the matter, Nana?" and returned.

Just then a tribesman came over and said to Nana, "Is it water that you want? Lift the boulder under your head and you'll find enough water to drink." Nana did as instructed and after quenching his thirst he raised his head to thank the tribesman, he was no longer there to be seen.

Then Nana paid a visit to Shirdi to thank Baba for saving his life. Baba blessed Nana with great warmth and grace and scolded him, saying "What is the use of your education if it does not give you worldly knowledge? How dare you undertake a trip to a place like Harichandra Kute on a hot day without carrying water? I heard your prayer and came there over as a tribesman to quench your thirst." Sai Baba is one who rushes to wherever His devotees need Him and assuages their distress.

Chant "Sri Samartha Sathguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai" and break a coconut in two and offer the halves to Baba

Story 3 – Baba Is a Sarvavyaabi (Omnipresent)

For those devotees who are destined to undergo their karma, Baba will take it upon Himself and undergo their sufferings on their behalf. That's what the true hallmark of a selfless saint is. In this respect, there is no equal for Baba. Read on this story to understand this fact. In Amaravatipattinam, there was a lawyer named Dada Saheb Kapardia. All his family members were staunch devotees of Sai Baba. When they came to Shirdi to worship Baba, Kapardia's child took ill. There were boils all over the child's person. When taken to the doctor, the child was diagnosed with plague. Overcome with fear, the mother came running to Sai Baba. Baba consoled her saying, "Do you think your child is stricken with plague?" Then Baba showed her his back and waist. The mother found much bigger boils on Baba. He was also having a very high fever. Smiling, Baba said to the mother, "Oh mother! If this is not plague, then what else is? Go play with your child and chant my name. He will be alright soon." Miraculously, when the mother went back to her room, she saw the child playing around. Baba suffered from plague so as to save the child.

Baba's Mercy on Saving a Falling Child into the Furnace

On one Deepavali day, Baba was as usual feeding the Dhuni with sandal logs. Suddenly instead of placing a log, he placed his arm in the fire. The devotees gathered at that time were all shocked to see this and retrieved Baba's hand. When asked why Baba placed his hand in the fire, Baba smiled and said, "It doesn't matter that my hand got burnt. I did so to save the life of a child. Do you think I'm a mere mortal of 5 foot and 3 inch tall physique existing only in Shirdi? I prevail in the three worlds. Whoever chants my name, poor or rich, I don't discriminate and rush to help them. Do you know what happened now? There is a potter who lives 300 miles from Shirdi, who is my staunch devotee. His wife is also equally devoted to me. The poor couple have one young child. The wife was cooking holding her sleeping child on her lap. Her husband called her and when she got up, the child rolled down and fell in the fire. So, I placed my hand in the fire to save the child from the flame. I don't care about my arm."

But initially the devotees were a bit reluctant to believe what Baba said. Sometime later, the couple came to Shirdi to thank Baba for saving their child. The devotees who doubted what Baba said now realized his omnipotence and omnipresence and felt ecstatic.

Lord Narayana came to save Gajendra all the way from Vaikuntam only after the elephant cried the Lord's name. On the contrary, Sai Baba saved his devotees' child from Shirdi itself and without even being called for help. Isn't this truly a distinctive quality of Sai Baba?

Chant "Sri Samartha Sathguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai" and break a coconut in two and offer the halves to Baba

Story 4 – Examples of Supreme Faith: Rattanji Wadia and Sevde Rattanji Wadia

Rattanji Wadia hailed from Nanded in the kingdom of Nizam. He was very rich. He had several servants, acres of agricultural land, a palatial house, and other riches. But his heart was unfulfilled because he had not been blessed for a very long time with a child to inherit his wealth. There was no medical treatment that he did not seek and no astrologer that he did not consult. Most of the most prominent astrologers declared that he would go childless in this birth of his. Rattanji Wadia was also called Rustum Wadia.

One day, he happened to meet with Baba's most ardent devotee, Dasganu Maharaj. Wadia shared his despair with Dasganu, who suggested that Wadia go at once to Shirdi where God in his new incarnation lived in human form. He further said that Baba was capable of altering fate.

Rattanji lost no time in visiting Shirdi along with his wife. They fell at his feet and offered mangoes. Baba then asked Rattanji to give him five rupees as dakshina. When Rattanji took out five rupees, Baba said that Rattanji had already given him three and three-fourth ($3\frac{3}{4}$) rupees. So, Rattanji gave Baba only one and a quarter ($1\frac{1}{4}$) rupees.

Then Baba took out four mangoes from the fruit basket and blessed him touching his head and saying, "You will have four children."

After the darshan, he and Dasganu took leave of Baba. Rattanji was both ecstatic and confused. Ecstatic because Baba blessed him with four children. Confused because this being the first visit to Shirdi, how come he could have already given Baba 3^{3/4} rupees? Dasganu encouraged Rattanji to find out the reason himself. Rattanji did as told. Suddenly he realized that just before he left for Shirdi, he hosted a feast in honour of a muslim fakir named Mouli Saheb. The feast cost him exactly a total of 3^{3/4} rupees. He at once realized that Sai Baba is none other than omnipresent God.

Four children were born to Rattanji one after another as blessed by Sai Baba. Rattanji became ever more loyal to Baba and the Rustum Wada building in Shirdi bears testimony to his unwavering loyalty to Baba.

Sevde

Sevde was an ardent devotee of Sai Baba. He was aspiring to become an advocate and was preparing hard to take the exam. In spite of his best preparations, he was harboring doubt over his ability to pass the exam. Just before the exam, he visited Shirdi and sought Baba's blessings. Baba dispelled his self-doubt, saying, "Why do you fear when I'm here and near. Go take the exam knowing my blessings are there with you. You'll surely become an advocate." No need even to mention how confidently Sevde returned home.

On the day Sevde sat for the exam, he applied udhi on his forehead and took the exam very confidently. When asked by his friends how he did in the exam, Sevde gave an account of all answers he had written. His friends said that all were incorrect answers. Sevde said, "Whether or not all my answers are correct, Baba and his udhi will bless me with success." His friends taunted him saying, "Who is this Baba whom you're talking up so high of? Your performance, not his grace, alone will get you a pass. Aren't you a fool to believe such imposters in this modern time?" But Sevde remained loyal and hopeful.

Results came out. Sevde passed in first class and became an advocate as he dreamed and as blessed by Baba. This story shows that Baba's grace will be several times more than our trust in Him.

Chant "Sri Samartha Sathguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai" and break a coconut in two and offer the halves to Baba

Story 5 - Origin of the Shirdi Temple and Sai Satya Vrada Puja

Sai Baba---who is worshipped, loved, and sought after by all, who fulfills his devotees' wishes and showers his grace like the celestial tree Kalpatharu, who feeds the spiritually and bodily hungry devotees like the celestial cow Kamadhenu, who equals God Dakshinamurthy in knowledge---shed his mortal coil in the Hindu Salivahana year 1840, universal year 1917 AD, on October 15, on the day of Vijaya Dasami at 2.40 PM. He was surrounded by his devotees when he breathed his last. Grief-stricken, they asked, "Oh God, who is there to take care of us after your departure?"

A smiling Baba said, "Do you think I'm a mere mortal of 5 foot and 3 inch tall physique existing only in Shirdi? I prevail in the three worlds. In any incarnation, God must also abide by the very rules that govern human beings. I shall continue to communicate with my devotees after even shedding my mortal coil and shoulder your burden that you cast on me. Even my mortal coil will bless you from my tomb. Whenever you think of me, I shall at once come to your help. I vow to bless my devotees in more ways than they expect. As long as this world exists, I shall strive for a community free from religious and caste differences and discrimination. My devotees must never leave the path of righteousness and live a just life." Sai Baba breathed his last thus saying. Dwarakamai became his tomb and his tomb became Sai Temple, in which his mortal coil is enshrined. Shirdi came to become one of the most prominent pilgrimage centers.

Dhamu Anna Kaizer, a staunch devotee of Sai Baba once asked Baba, "Day after day, millions of devotees flock to Shirdi to worship you. Do all your devotees come down to worship with complete faith?" Baba said, "A mango tree may produce many flowers. Not all flowers become raw

mangoes. Not all raw mangoes ripen into fruits. I expect my devotees to have faith (saburi) and patience (shraddha) and I view each such devotee as a raw mango that ripens into a fruit. I give what my devotee seeks. My devotee accepts what I give.” Damu became convinced.

Miracle at Nevaskar’s Ceremony

Balaji Patil Nevaskar was a staunch devotee of Baba. A farmer by profession, every year he would take the harvest to Shirdi to offer to Baba. Even after his time, his son carried on with the tradition. And even after Sai Baba’s Samadhi, Nevaskar’s son would carry the harvest to the Samadhi Mandir for His blessings.

During one death anniversary ceremony of Balaji Patil (tithi), the guests turned out in a huge number. Food prepared looked hardly enough and there was hardly any time to prepare food again. Mother-in-law said to daughter-in-law, “Don’t panic. It’s because of Sai’s grace (krupa), we do things and things happen. Drop udhi into all food items and close the lid so as to have just enough room for a ladle to take out the items to serve.” Miraculously, food prepared for just 10 people was enough for 25 people. The family members thanked Baba for saving them from shame.

Miracle at Feast Organized by P A Sakla

P A Sakla was a sub-judge. In 1943, in the town of Karthotti, he performed Sai Sathsagam in a very grand manner. At the end of the function, he had organized free food distribution (annadhanam) for approximately 1000 devotees. Before the annadhanam started, he was informed that around 6000 devotees had come to attend the saphthagam. Sakla was shocked to hear this and he became dejected. He ran to Baba temple and said in prayer, “Hey Sainatha, I can’t take responsibility for this; if somebody is responsible for this dire situation, it is but you yourself. The annadhanam was planned to follow the saphthagam with your grace and out of our trust, loyalty, and devotion to you. So you must ensure that the annadhanam goes through without any hassle. If I end up in a delicate situation, I have no other choice than committing suicide at your lotus feet.” He heard a celestial voice saying, “Don’t panic my child. Sprinkle udhi on all food items and serve without closing the lid.” Sakla was overwhelmed with joy. Suddenly udhi fell in his palm.

Sakla with great devotion took the udhi and held it on his eyes. Then he served the udhi sprinkled food to all those who had assembled, including the cooks and their attendants. Finally, Sakla and his family members wondered whether there would be food still left for them. What a miracle! There was food still left even after Sakla and family members ate. Then they all sang songs in praise of Baba's grace. Everyone must understand how deep Sakla's devotion was for this miracle to occur. We may not know how strong our devotion is. Only Baba knows. The following story explains this.

Kaka Saheb's Doubt and Ananth Rao's Dream

Sometime after Baba's Samadhi, Kaka Saheb performed 'Ek Nath Parayanam' in his house in Mumbai. Shama was listening to the purana among the many devotees. The purana is about nine types of devotees. Kaka on hearing this felt that he could never show those kinds of devotion. Shama tried to console him saying, "Don't you know that service to the guru is the best form of devotion?" Kaka felt restless in spite of this. Anand Rao started the second day of the parayana holding a silk dhoti. He said, "I was deep in the sea. There I saw Sai Baba seated in a ruby-studded throne. I also saw Shama standing next to Baba." The following is the conversation between Shama and Anand Rao:

Shama: "Why do you worry? Surrender at Baba's lotus feet."

Anand Rao: "But how can I touch Baba's feet when they are underwater?"

Anand Rao continued, "Then Shama requested Baba to show his feet from the water. I then placed my head at his feet. Baba said, 'Don't fear! No misfortune shall come to you. Give Shama one free silk dhoti tomorrow. You'll get success.'"

Then Shama turned to Kaka and said, "Do you see how strong our devotion is to Baba? Baba knows very well how much we need his acquaintance and grace. He will at once rush to our help even from the deep sea. So, don't have any self-doubt about our devotion to Baba. Anand Rao thought that showing his devotion to Baba is his only duty

and rested assured that Baba's grace will take care of the rest. So, you must also cast your doubt and worship Baba in earnest."

Bimaji Patil

In the district of Pune, taluk of Junnar, village of Narayana, there lived a person named Bimaji Patil. He suffered from chest pain in the year 1909, and later from TB. He vomited blood every 5 minutes. Unable to find a cure, he lost hope in life and expected his end every moment. He spent his days thinking about God, hoping to attain salvation. Through his good deeds in his past birth, he happened to meet Nana Chandorkar. Nana said, "God lives in human form in Shirdi. If you surrender to him, he'll cure you of not only TB but all other killer diseases."

Bimaji Patil went to Shirdi with Nana and worshipped Baba. He said, "Hey Sainath! You're my only savior. I came here after hearing your miracles. It's your choice to cure me of my disease or hasten my death." Baba took pity on Bimaji and assured, "Don't fear! All your sufferings will come to an end. If we who is suffering the worst sets foot on this mosque is sure to find relief. Fakir is the greatest benefactor." Before seeing Baba, Bimaji was vomiting blood every 5 minutes. But after Baba's grace, he completely stopped vomiting. Baba asked him to stay in Bima Bai's house. One day, Bimaji Patil had a dream. In it, he is being punished by a teacher for not doing homework. After this dream, his disease started subsiding slowly. Then he had another dream. In it, Baba took a big boulder and rolled it up and down and left to right over his chest. Bimaji went through great pain in the dream and woke up with a great cry. He saw nobody. After the second dream, his cure from the disease quickened. Finally, he completely recovered from his illness and lived for a long time healthily.

In gratitude, not only he often visited Shirdi, but he also started to perform a special pooja called "Sai Sathya Vratha Puja." The central theme of this puja is to read Baba's miracles in the form of the above five stories.

A distinctive feature of this puja is that it was blessed by none other than Baba Himself and put into practice during His days itself.

Wherever this puja was performed, Baba blessed that family and will continue to bless whoever performs it at anytime in the future.

Chant "Sri Samartha Sathguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai" and break a coconut in two and offer the halves to Baba

Mangalam:

*Swaami Sai naathaaya divya mangalam
Shirdi Kshetra vaasaaya divya mangalam
Maamagaa bheestathaaya magida mangalam (2)*

*Loka Naathaaya Sai divya mangalam
Bhaktha loka samrakshakaaya Nithya mangalam
Naaga loga sthuthyaaya navya mangalam*

*Bhaktha brundha vandhithaaya brahma swaroopaaya
Mukthi maarga bodhakaaya poojya mangalam*

*Sathya thathva bodhagaaya saadhaveshaayadhe
Mangalaprathaaya Nithya mangalam*

|| Shri Satchidhaanandha Sathguru Saainaath Maharaj ki Jai ||