THE WONDERFUL LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF SHRI SAI BABA



Adapted from the original Marathi Book

SHRI SAI SATCHARITA

By

Govind Raghunath Dabholkar alias 'Hemadpant'

In English

By

NAGESH VASUDEV GUNAJI

This Book is available for sale at the following places :

- (1) Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi P.O. Shirdi 423 109, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar (Maharashtra).
- (2) Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi 'Sai Niketan', 804-B, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Mumbai - 800 014.

Copyright reserved by the Sansthan

Published by :

Chairman, Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi At Post : Shirdi 423 109, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)

Printed by :

DEDICATION

"Whosoever offers to Me, with love or devotion, a leaf, a flower, a fruit or water, that offering of love of the pure and self-controlled man is willingly and readily accepted by Me."

— Lord Shri Krishna

in Bhagwad Gita, IX-26

ТО

SHRI SAI BABA THE ANTARYAMI

This work with myself



Life of Shri N.V. Gunaji

(1876 - 1963)

Shri N.V. Gunaji was an eminent scholar who wrote over twenty eight books on various people and issues. He was avidly interested in the spiritual teachings of Sai Baba, Sri Ramana Maharshi and Sri

Ramkrishna Paramhansa. He wrote and translated the Bhagwad Gita, the Bhagwat, etc. He has written the life of Sri Paramhans Ramakrishna as well as that of Sri Ramana Maharshi in Marathi and several books on the teaching of Swami Ramtirth. He also translated Booker T. Washington's biography which he called "Atmoddhar".

Born in Belgaum in July 1873 in a Saraswat Brahmin family he did his school education in Belgaum, in Sardar High School and later graduated from Mumbai's Wilson College. He studied in the Government Law College in Mumbai and passed his LLB examination. Soon after, he returned to Belgaum to take up the practice of law. After practising law for several years Shri N.V. Gunaji also joined the Belgaum Municipality as Chief Executive Officer. Throughout his life he was an avid reader and translated several books in English or Marathi. Shri Gunaji was also keenly interested in naturopathy and published two books on "Scientific and Efficient Breathing" and "Anti T.B. & Anti Heart Failure". He would treat patients through naturopathy and scientific massage. He also had the good fortune of treating Mahatma Gandhi by his scientific massage techniques when Gandhiji visited Belgaum several times. Shri Gunaji also treated Sri Ramana Maharshi when he visited the spiritual leader in Arunachalam.

Shri N.V. Gunaji adapted and translated Shri Hemand Pant Dabholkar's "Sri Sai Satcharita" into English and donated the entire proceeds to the Sai Sansthan Trust. The book has reached out to thousands of devotees and people over the last forty five years who have read it and have had their faith and Shraddha in Baba reinforced. Many devotees use this book to read it as a 'Saptah'. Shri N.V. Gunaji passed away in 1963, a few months before his ninetieth year.

SHRI SAI SATCHARITA

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
1.	The wondrous Saint grinding wheat – Obeisances – The story of grinding wheat and its philosophical significance	1
2.	Object of writing the work – Incapacity and boldness in the undertaking – Hot discussion – Conferring significant and prophetic title of 'Hemadpant' – Necessity of a Guru	5
3.	Sai Baba's sanction and promise – Assignment of work to the devotees – Baba's stories as beacon-light – His motherly love – Rohila's story – His sweet and nectar like words	11
4.	Mission of the saints – Shirdi a Holy Tirth – Personality of Sai Baba – Dictum of Goulibua – Appearance of Vitthal – Kshirsagar's story – Das Ganu's bath in Prayag – Immaculate conception of Sai Baba and His first advent in Shirdi – Three Wadas	16
5.	Baba's return with Chand Patil's marriage party – Welcomed and addressed as "Sai" – Contact with other saints – His attire and daily routine – The story of the Padukas – Wrestling bout with Mohiddin and change in life – Turning water into oil – The Pseudo-Guru Javhar Ali	23
6.	Efficacy of the touch of the Guru's hand – Ram Navami Festival – Its origin, transformation etc. – Repairs to the Masjid	31
7.	Wonderful Incarnation – Behaviour of Sai Baba – His yogic practices – His all-pervasiveness and mercy – Leper devotee's service – Master Khaparde's plague case – Going to Pandharpur	39
8.	Importance of human birth – Sai Baba begging food – Baijabai's service – Sai Baba's dormitory – His affection for Khushalchand	46
9.	Effect of compliance and non-compliance with Baba's orders at the time of taking leave – A few instances – Mendicancy and its necessity – Devotees' (Tarkhad family's) experiences	

Chapter		Page
	– Baba fed sumptuously	51
10.	Sai Baba's mode of life – His sleeping plank – His stay in Shirdi – His teachings – His humility – Nanavali The easiest path	57
11.	Sai as Sagun Brahma – Dr. Pandit's worship – Haji Siddik Falke – Control over the elements	63
12.	Sai Leelas – Experiences of (1) Kaka Mahajani (2) Dhumal Pleader (3) Mrs. Nimonkar (4) Mule Shastri (5) A Doctor	67
13.	More Sai Leelas – Diseases cured (1) Bhimaji Patil (2) Bala Shimpi (3) Bapusaheb Buti (4) Alandi Swami (5) Kaka Mahajani (6) Dattopant of Harda	72
14.	Ratanji Wadia of Nanded – Saint Moulisaheb – Dakshina 	77
15.	Naradiya Kirtan Paddhati – Mr. Cholkar's Sugarless tea – Two Lizards	83
16-17.	Quick Brahma Gnyan	87
18-19.	How Hemadpant was accepted and blessed – Stories of Mr. Sathe and Mrs. Deshmukh – Encouraging good thoughts to fruition – Variety in Upadesh – Teachings regarding slander and remuneration for labour	93
20.	Das Ganu's problem solved by Kaka's maid-servant	105
21.	Stories of (1) V.H. Thakur (2) Anantrao Patankar and (3) Pandharpur pleader	110
22.	Rescues from serpent-bites (1) Balasaheb Mirikar (2) Bapusaheb Buti (3) Amir Shakkar (4) Hemadpant – Baba's opinion regarding killing of serpents	115
23.	Yoga and onion – Shama cured of snake-bite – Cholera ordinances broken – Ordeal of Guru-bhakti	120
24.	Baba's wit and humour – Chana Leela – (1) Hemadpant (2) Sudama (3) Anna Chinchanikar <i>vs.</i> Maushibai	125

Chap	oter
------	------

Pa	ge
----	----

25.	Damu Anna Kasar of Ahmednagar (1) Speculations (2) Amraleela	130
26.	Stories of (1) Bhakta Pant (2) Harishchandra Pitale (3) Gopal Ambadekar	135
27.	Favour shown by giving Bhagwat and Vishnu Sahastranaam – Dixit's Vitthal vision – Geeta-Rahasya – Khapardes	140
28.	Sparrows drawn to Shirdi (1) Lakhshmichand (2) Burhanpore lady (3) Megha	146
29.	Stories of (1) Chennai's Bhajani Mela (2) Tendulkars (father and son) (3) Dr. Captain Hate (4) Waman Narvekar	153
30.	Drawn to Shirdi (1) Kakaji Vaidya of Vani (2) Ramlal Punjabi of Mumbai	159
31.	The passing away in Baba's presence of (1) Sanyaasi Vijayanand (2) Balaram Mankar (3) Noolkar (4) Megha (5) Tiger	164
32.	In quest of Guru and God – Fasting disapproved	169
33.	Greatness of Udi – Scorpion-sting and plague cases cured – Jamner miracle – Narayan Rao's sickness – Balabua Sutar – Appasaheb Kulkarni – Haribhau Karnik	175
34.	Greatness of Udi (continued) – Doctor's nephew – Dr. Pilley – Shama's sister-in-law – Irani girl – Harda gentlemen – Mumbai lady	182
35.	Tested and found not wanting – Kaka Mahajani's friend and master – Bandra insomnia case – Bala Patil Newaskar	187
36.	Wonderful stories of (1) Two Goa gentlemen (2) Mrs. Aurangabadkar	192
37.	Chavadi procession	197
38.	Baba's Handi – Disrespect of shrine – Cup of butter milk	201

Chapter

39.	Baba's knowledge of Sanskrit – His interpretation of a verse from Gita – Construction of the Samadhi Mandir		
40.	Stories of Baba (1) Attending Mrs. Dev ceremony as Sanyaasi with two others (2) H house in the form of His picture	's Udyapan Iemadpant's 	212
41.	Story of the picture – Stealing the rags and Dnyaneshwari	d reading of	216
42.	Baba's passing away – Previous indication – Av of Ramchandra Dada Patil and Tatya Kote Pa of Laxmibai Shinde – Last moment		220
43-44.	Baba's passing away (continued) – preparatio Mandir – Breaking of the brick – 72 hours' San Sanyaas – Baba's nectar-like words		225
45.	Kakasaheb's doubt and Anandrao's vision – W – Baba's bed-stead and not Bhagat's	ooden plank	231
46.	Baba's Gaya trip - Story of the two goats		235
47.	Baba's reminiscences – Story of Veerbha Chenbasappa (snake and frog)	drappa and 	239
48.	Warding off devotee's calamities – Stories Shevade (2) Sapatnekar	s of (1) Mr.	244
49.	Stories of (1) Hari Kanoba (2) Somac (3) Nanasaheb Chandorkar	lev Swami 	249
50.	Stories of (1) Kakasaheb Dixit (2) Shri Te (3) Balaram Dhurandhar	mbe Swami 	253
	EPILOGUE		258
	AARTI		260