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TALES OF SAI BABA





SAI BABA SAVES A CHILD FROM FIRE

SAI BABA WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL YOGI. HE HAD ACHIEVED GREAT PROWESS IN VARIOUS YOGIC ACTIONS RIGHT IN HIS CHILDHOOD. EXACTLY HOW MUCH EXCELLENCE HE HAD ATTAINED NO ONE KNEW. HE USED TO CURE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS AILMENTS AND YET HE NEVER ACCEPTED ANY PAYMENTS IN RETURN. PEOPLE CAME TO HIM FROM FAR CORNERS OF THE COUNTRY FOR THESE YOGIC CURES. POOR PEOPLE WHO WERE SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS AILMENTS AND WHO HAD HEARD OF HIS MIRACULOUS CURATIVE POWERS USED TO COME TO BABA AND GET CURED. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIS ABILITY TO TAKE UPON HIMSELF THE PAIN AND SUFFERINGS OF OTHERS HE FACED TREMENDOUS DIFFICULTIES AND SUFFERED UNIMAGINABLE PAIN. ONE PARTICULAR INSTANCE IS CITED IN SAI SATCHARITRA AS EVIDENCE OF THIS ASPECT OF BABA'S LOVE FOR HUMANITY. ONCE ON DEEPAWALI BABA WAS SITTING BESIDE HIS DHUNI AND WHILE ENJOYING THE WARMTH OF THE BONFIRE HE WAS FEEDING THE DHUNI WITH FIREWOOD.



THE FLAMES WERE GETTING BIGGER AND BRIGHTER. SUDDENLY BABA PUT HIS HAND IN THE FIRE INSTEAD OF FIREWOOD. HIS HAND WAS BADLY SCORCHED. MADHAV THE SERVANT AND MADHAV RAO DESHPANDE WHEN THEY REALIZED WHAT BABA WAS DOING RAN TO BABA AND FORCIBLY PULLED HIM AWAY FROM THE FIRE. MADHAV RAO ASKED BABA, "DEVA, WHY DID YOU DO THIS?" BABA REPLIED

"A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE A BLACKSMITH'S WIFE WAS BUSILY WORKING THE BELLOWS AT THE SMITHY WHEN HER HUSBAND CALLED OUT TO HER. SHE QUICKLY RAN TO HER HUSBAND LEAVING THE BABY NEAR THE FIRE. WHEN SHE WAS AWAY ACCIDENTALLY THE BABY FELL INTO THE FIRE. PROMPTLY I PUT MY HAND INTO THE FIRE AND RESCUED THE BABY. I AM NOT SORRY THAT MY HAND IS BURNT BUT I AM VERY HAPPY THAT I SAVED THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT BABY."

WHEN NANA SAHEB CHANDORKAR LEARNT THAT BABA HAD BURNT HIS HAND HE IMMEDIATELY SENT DR. PARMANAND WITH NECESSARY MEDICINES. DR. PARMANAND REQUESTED BABA TO PERMIT HIM TO DRESS HIS WOUND BUT BABA REFUSED. BHAGOJI SHINDE - A DEVOTEE WHO WAS SUFFERING FROM LEPROSY WAS ALLOWED TO DRESS BABA'S BURNT HAND.

EVERYDAY, BHAGOJI WOULD RUB GHEE ON THE WOUND, PLACE A LEAF ON IT AND THEN TIE A TIGHT BANDAGE. CHANDORKAR REPEATEDLY BEGGED BABA TO GET THE BURN EXAMINED BY DOCTORS AND TAKE PROPER TREATMENT BUT BABA WOULD NOT AGREE. WHEN DR. PARMANAND BEGGED HIM TO LET HIM TREAT THE WOUND BABA BRUSHED HIM ASIDE SAYING "ALLAH ALONE IS MY DOCTOR". BHAGOJI CONTINUED TO NURSE THE HAND TILL BABA TOOK SAMADHI. IN TRUTH BABA DID NOT REQUIRE THIS NURSING BUT HE LET BHAGOJI SERVE HIM - SUCH WAS BABA'S LOVE AND SUCH HIS WAY OF GRANTING GRACE TO HIS DEVOTEES.



BABA USED TO PERFORM WONDROUS 'LEELAS'. THERE IS A SPECIALLY ENDEARING ONE ABOUT BABY KHAPARDE. DADA SAHEB KHAPARDE (OF AMRAYATI) WIFE HAD BEEN STAYING AT SHIRDI WITH HER YOUNGER SON. THE CHILD HAD CAUGHT PLAGUE, WAS RUNNING HIGH FEVER AND HAD SWOLLEN GLANDS. MRS. KHAPARDE WAS EXTREMELY WORRIED AND DECIDED TO GO BACK TO AMRAYATI. THAT EVENING WHEN BABA WAS PASSING BY 'VADA' (NOW SAMADHI MANDIR), IN THE COURSE OF HIS EVENING WALK MRS. KHAPARDE WENT TO BABA AND SAID IN A TREMULOUS VOICE, "BABA MY SON IS SUFFERING FROM PLAGUE HENCE I WANT TO GO BACK HOME". BABA, IN A VERY AFFECTIONATE TONE SAID TO HER "THE SKY IS OVERCAST, WHEN THE CLOUDS DISPERSE THERE WILL BE LIGHT AGAIN", SAYING THIS TO MRS. KHAPARDE HE LIFTED HIS KAFANI AND ALL PRESENT SAW THE FOUR EGG SIZE SWOLLEN GLANDS. BABA SAID, "SEE HOW I SUFFER FOR MY DEVOTEES! THEIR SUFFERINGS ARE MINE".

BABA'S HEART WAS FULL OF COMPASSION FOR HIS DEVOTEES. HE LOVED THEM AS HIS OWN CHILDREN AND TOOK THEIR PAIN AND SUFFERINGS UPON HIMSELF.

SAI BABA AND THE LOST HORSE

IN MAHARASHTRA, THERE IS A DISTRICT NAMED AURANGABAD, IN WHICH THERE IS A VILLAGE NAMED DHOOPKHED. CHANDBHAI WAS THE PATEL OF THAT VILLAGE.

ONCE HE LOST HIS HORSE. CHANDBHAI SEARCHED AND SEARCHED, BUT TO NO AVAIL. A WEEK AFTER, WHILE HE WAS ON THE SEARCH, HE NOTICED BY THE ROADSIDE A YOUNG LAD OF SIXTEEN, HAVING SEDATE LOOKS AND WEARING THE GARB OF A FAKIR.

THIS BEAUTIFUL BOY WITH LUSTROUS EYES AT ONCE CAPTURED CHANDBHAI'S HEART. READING, AS IF THE ONLOOKER'S MIND, THE FAKIR BECKONED CHANDBHAI AND ASKED,

WHAT ARE
YOU
LOOKING
FOR,
PATEL?



"I HAVE LOST MY HORSE. FOR THIS WHOLE WEEK, I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM," SAID CHAND, APPROACHING THE FAKIR, WITH FOLDED HANDS.

THEN WHY GO FURTHER? YOUR ANIMAL IS GRAZING BEYOND THAT HEDGE, THERE, LOOK



TOLD THE FAKIR, WITH A GENTLE SMILE, POINTING TO A THICK HEDGE BEYOND WHICH NOTHING COULD REALLY BE SEEN. CHANDBHAI WENT AND SAW, AND LO! THE HORSE WAS FOUND QUIETLY GRAZING THERE.

CHANDBHAI WAS AWE-STRUCK. HOW DID THIS FAKIR RECOGNIZE HIM AS THE PATEL, HOW DID THE BOY KNOW THAT THERE WAS A HORSE BEYOND THE HEDGE AND THAT IT BELONGED TO HIM – ALL THIS STRUCK HIM WITH WONDER. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE BOY HAD A SPARK OF DIVINITY IN HIM. AS CHANDBHAI RELATED THIS INCIDENT AMONG HIS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, THE BOY'S FAME SPREAD LIKE A DROP OF OIL ON THE SURFACE OF WATER.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, A MARRIAGE PROCESSION WENT FROM DHOOPKHED TO SHIRDI. THE BOY-FAKIR ALSO ACCOMPANIED IT.

WHEN THE PROCESSION REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF SHIRDI, IT STOPPED TO PAY HOMAGE TO GOD KHANDOBA. MHALSAPATI, THE PRIEST OF KHANDOBA TEMPLE, EYED THE FAKIR, AND, OUT OF SPONTANEOUS ADMIRATION, EXCLAIMED, "WELCOME, YE SAI BABA". IT WAS AS IF THE DIVINE WILL THAT HAD GIVEN THE BOY THIS NAME, FOR THAT VERY NAME STUCK TO HIM ALL HIS LIFE. FROM THAT DAY (1854), THE BOY STAYED IN SHIRDI.

CHILDREN TO THE CHILDRENESS

RUTTONJI SHAPURJI WADIA, A PARSİ MILL CONTRACTOR, LIVED IN NANDED, IN THE ERSTWHILE NIZAM'S STATE. HE WAS A RICH AND PROSPEROUS MAN, POSSESSING ENORMOUS WEALTH AND PROPERTY. ALTHOUGH HE APPEARED TO BE HAPPY, HE WAS UNHAPPY AND MISERABLE WITHIN, AS HE DID NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN. ONE DAY, ON THE ADVICE OF DAS GANU, AN ARDENT DEVOTEE OF SAI BABA, HE WENT TO SHIRDI FOR DARSHAN AND THE BLESSINGS OF BABA. RUTTONJI HAD DARSHAN OF BABA AND OFFERED FLOWERS AND FRUITS. HE FELL AT HIS FEET AND PRAYED FOR A SON, SAYING, "MANY PERSONS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS COME TO YOU AND YOU RELIEVE THEM IMMEDIATELY. HEARING THIS, I HAVE ANXIOUSLY SOUGHT YOUR FEET. PLEASE DO NOT DISAPPOINT ME." MOVED BY HIS DEVOTION, BABA TOLD HIM THAT HIS BAD DAYS WERE OVER, AND GIVING HIM UDI , PLACED HIS DIVINE HAND ON RUTTONJI'S HEAD, AND BLESSED HIM, SAYING ALLAH (GOD) WOULD FULFILL HIS DESIRE. THUS BLESSED BY BABA, RUTTONJI RETURNED TO NANDED, AND IN DUE COURSE, WAS BLESSED WITH A SON, AND LATER HAD SEVERAL CHILDREN.

SIMILARLY, BABA ALSO BLESSED MRS. AURANGABADKAR, A LADY FROM SOLAPUR, WHO WAS CHILDLESS FOR 27 YEARS. MRS. AURANGABADKAR, THE WIFE OF SHAKHARM AURANGABADKAR, CAME TO SHIRDI AS A LAST RESORT, TO PRAY TO BABA FOR A CHILD.

WHEN SHE BOWED AND PRESENTED A COCONUT TO BABA, SHAMA PRAYED TO BABA ON HER BEHALF. BABA BLESSED HER AND SAID,



ACCORDING TO BABA'S WORDS, SHE DELIVERED A SON IN ONE YEAR'S TIME.