

# SAI CHRONICLE



Guru Poornima Issue 2016



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## EDITOR'S DESK

In today's fast changing world, a person has to deal with expectations arising out of different relationships – family, friends, work-related. For many who believe in Shri Sai, there is also a relationship of Guru and disciple. Shri Sai never prescribed a particular form of worship. Even today, when the number of His devotees based in India and many other parts of the world is increasing, everyone has their own way of connecting with Baba. In one of the articles in this magazine, there is a devotee who has affectionately referred to Shri Sai as his 'friend'. There are also many who consider Shri Sai to be their Guru, the beacon of light, which guides them through the ups and downs of life.

Shri Sai had once said – There will never be any dearth or scarcity, regarding food and clothes, in any devotees' homes. It is my special characteristic, that I always look to, and provide, for the welfare of those devotees, who worship Me whole-heartedly with their minds ever fixed on Me. Lord Krishna has also said the same in the Gita. Therefore, strive not much for food and clothes. If you want anything, beg of the Lord, leave worldly honours, try to get Lord's grace and blessings, and be honored in His Court. Do not be deluded by worldly honor. The form of the Deity should be firmly fixed in the mind. Let all the senses and mind be ever devoted to the worship of the Lord, let there be no attraction for any other thing; fix the mind in remembering Me always, so that it will not wander else- where, towards body, wealth and home. Then it will be calm, peaceful and care-free. This is the sign of the mind, being well engaged in good company. If the mind is vagrant, it cannot be called well-merged. (Chapter VI, Shri Sai Satcharitra).

Our best wishes to all the devotees on the auspicious occasion of Guru Pournima, which will be celebrated in different parts of the world. Let's pray to the Master to remove the darkness of ignorance from our minds and show us the path which towards Him. In addition to the various Sai Sandhya, celebrations of festivals, events, being organized, let's also work together for community service, something which Shri Sai emphasized and practised during His stay in Shirdi.

I would like to thank all the devotees for sending articles, sharing their experiences, making beautiful paintings, writing poems for this magazine. In particular, it's very nice to see the involvement of children in various activities – plays based on Shri Sai, sketches, singing and dancing. We must continue to encourage them to do so.

May Shri Sai bless us all.

Abhijit Narayan, London

# GURU POORNIMA MESSAGE

## THE SPACE

There are certain questions that spontaneously provoke the mind of all human beings - the innocent children as well as the mature persons alike. If we delve into the history of human civilization, we will come to realise that human beings, at different points of time and at different places on earth, have been fascinated by the concept of 'SPACE'. Be it the Hindu mythology or the Vedic literature or the Greek mythology, the queries about space, the sky and the inhabiting orbs can be found everywhere.

For example, in Brihadaraanyaka Upanishada<sup>1</sup> there is a dialogue between Gargi<sup>2</sup> and Yagnavalkya<sup>3</sup> on this subject. Gargi asks "Oh Yagnavalkya, which they say is above Heaven and beneath the Earth and which is between these two? Which is that the people call the past, the present and the future, which is woven across the space like the warp and woof"? In short, she asks 'which is above the heaven and earth and which the people call the past, present and future woven across the space like warp and woof.' The Vedic seers were concerned with the concepts of cosmos, universe, space, sky and time. Such queries, originating in human mind as an intellectual process, gradually resulted in the origin and growth of philosophy, metaphysics and science. The space science of today, may be said to be the emanation of the thoughts of the ancient seers and modern age scientists.

In the same Upanishada, Gargi further asks Yagyavalka, if everything is 'Ota-Prota' which means intermingled, like water with air and air with Antariksha<sup>4</sup>. The Vedic Sanskrit word, 'Ota-Prota' can be interpreted as 'covered with' or 'filled with'. Be as it may be, my purport of referring to Vedic literature is to state that the Vedic seers, over thousands of years, carried on serious research on space and time. For the understanding of this magnificent Vedic concept in a simpler manner, mythological characters were introduced through various Puranas<sup>5</sup> like Brahma Purana<sup>6</sup> and others.

From the point of view of Hindu mythology, it is stated in Bhagavata Gita 7.4 that Space is one of Krishna's energies:



“bhumir apo nalo vayuh

Kham mano buddhir eva cha

Ahankara itiyam me

Bhinna prakrutir ashtadha”

Meaning: “Earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence and false ego – all together these eight constitute My separated material energies.” Other Sanskrit terms for this energy are akasha and nabhah, all three terms can be translated as ‘space’, ‘sky’, or ‘outer space’.....”

In Atharva Veda<sup>7</sup> and in some of the Puranas one finds the mention of fourteen lokas or worlds. The seven higher lokas or worlds are called – Bhu-loka<sup>8</sup>, Bhuvan-loka<sup>9</sup>, Svar-loka<sup>10</sup>, Mahar-loka<sup>11</sup>, Jana-loka<sup>12</sup>, Tapa-loka<sup>13</sup> and Satya-loka<sup>14</sup>. The Lokas, inter-alia, have a spatial notion. They also have significant spiritual connotations. The word Trailokya - the three worlds consisting of the earth, atmosphere or sky and the heaven - makes up the universe. The Abrahamic religions like Judaism, Christianity and Islam, also refer to the concept of seven heavens and seven earths. Some such worlds are said to be inhabited by subtle beings.

Today, after the landing of spaceship on the surface of Moon and Mars, the technology-empowered human beings are planning to promote extra-terrestrial real estate ventures in future.

A few websites on the internet advertise for the purchase of extra-terrestrial real estate. “Lunar Embassy was showered with Internet awards and an overwhelming press attention worldwide, which is continuing today. Reportedly, it has been planned that by the year 2023, astronauts would enter the planet Mars.”

Thus, the Vedic seers’ research on space and sky is relevant in today’s context for understanding the origin of such thoughts at a time when space science has made unimaginable progress.

Dr. C.B. Satpathy, Gurugram

## ENDNOTES

**1 Brihadaaranyaka Upanishada:** The Brihadaranyaka Upanishad is a treatise on Ātman (Soul, Self), includes passages on metaphysics, ethics.

**2 Gargi:** Gargi Vachaknavi, the daughter of sage Vachaknu in the lineage of sage Garga (800-500 BCE) was named after her father as Gargi Vachaknavi. Born in about 700 BC, she was an ancient Indian philosopher. In Vedic Literature, she is honored as a great natural philosopher, renowned expounder of the Vedas, and known as Brahmavadini, a person with knowledge of Brahma Vidya.

**3 Yagynavalkya:** Yajnavalkya of Videha (fl. c. 7th century BCE[1]) was a sage and philosopher of Vedic India. He was one of the first philosophers in recorded history. In the court of King Janaka of Mithila, he was renowned for his expertise in Vedic rituals and his unrivalled talent in theological debate.

**4 Antariksha:** In the Vedas, antariksha is the middle or second of three lokas (spheres) usually enumerated as bhur, bhuvar, and svar. It is the mid-region; the firmament or space between earth and heaven, the abode of apsaras (nymphs), gandharvas (celestial musicians), and yakshas (nature spirits of many types) along with themythical wish-granting cow of plenty, Kamadhenu.

**5 Puranas:** The word Puranas literally means 'ancient, old', and it is a vast genre of Indian literature about a wide range of topics, particularly myths, legends and other traditional lore.

**6 Brahma Purana:** It is a Sanskrit-text and listed as the first among the eighteen major Puranas. It is also called Adi Purana. The surviving manuscript carries 245 chapters.

**7 Atharva Veda:** The Atharva Veda is composed in Vedic Sanskrit, and it is a collection of 730 hymns with about 6,000 mantras, divided into 20 books. Atharva Veda originated from 'atharvānas' and Veda means 'knowledge'. It is the knowledge storehouse of atharvānas, the procedures for everyday life. The text is the fourth Veda, but has been a late addition to the Vedic scriptures of Hinduism.

**8 Bhu-loka:** It literally means 'the earth-world' which is considered as a 'loka,' a place for doing karma or actions and enjoy their fruits.

**9 Bhuvar-loka:** Means 'Plane of atmosphere'. The second of the seven upper worlds, realm of svadhishtana chakra, consisting of the two astral regions closest to the physical plane: pitriloka, world of ancestors, and pretaloka, 'world of the departed'.



**10 Svar-loka:** In Sanskrit, it means 'Celestial or bright plane'. The third of the seven upper worlds, the midastral region (equated in some texts with Svarga), realm of Manipura Chakra

**11 Mahar-loka:** In Sanskrit it means 'Plane of greatness', originated from mahas, "greatness, might, power, glory." Also called the Devaloka, this fourth highest of the seven upper worlds is the mental plane, realm of anahata chakra.

**12 Jana-loka:** In Sanskrit, it means 'Plane of creativity', or of liberated mortals. The third highest of the seven upper worlds, realm of Vishuddha Chakra.

**13 Tapa-loka:** Abode of tapas or of other deities. Ayohnija devadas live here.

**14 Satya-loka:** In Sanskrit, it means 'Plane of reality, truth', also called brahmaloka; the realm of sahasrara chakra. It is the highest of the seven upper worlds.

## SHIRDI SAI MOVEMENT IN EUROPE

With the blessings of Shri Sai, Sai Sandhya and other events are being organized in different parts of Europe. This year, in addition to the monthly Sai Sandhya in Germany, Finland, Sweden, France and other countries, events have also been organized in some new cities across Europe. Please see below information about these events:

### (i) Sai Sandhya in Berlin, Germany (January 2016)



### (ii) First Sai Sandhya in Mannheim, Germany (January 2016)





(iii) Sai Sandhya in Dusseldorf, Germany (January 2016)



(iv) Sai Sandhya in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (February 2016)





(v) First Sai Sandhya in Luxembourg (February 2016)



(vi) Sai Sandhya in London (May 2016)



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(vii) Sai Sandhya in Edinburgh, Scotland (June 2016)

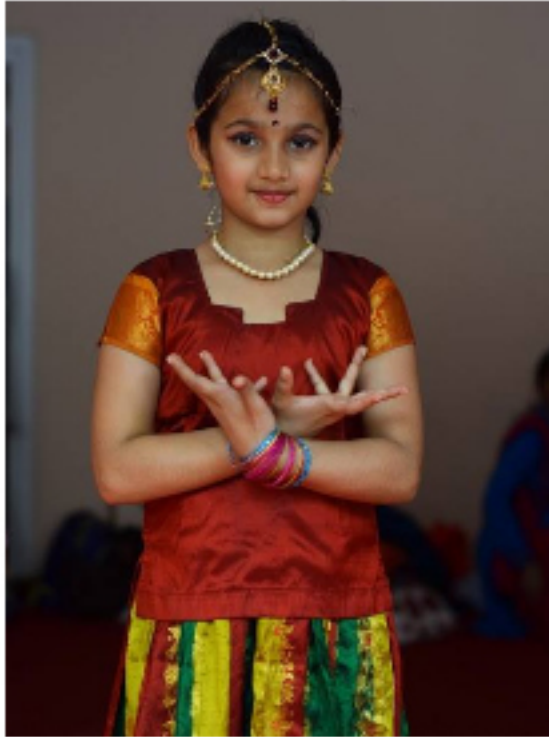


(viii) On 16th April 2016, Ram Navami was celebrated in Frankfurt, Germany. Some pictures are below –





(x) Guru Poornima will be celebrated in London, the United Kingdom (July 19, 2016) and Helsinki (July 31, 2016).



Ram Navami was also celebrated in Helsinki, Finland.

# SHRI SAI SATCHARITA PARAYAN

## OM SHRI SAI NATHAYE NAMAH

It was in May 2016, we (Germany Sai Family) started our first Sai Satcharita Parayan. I was very excited. I do Sai Satcharita Parayan very often at home, but this experience was really very different and nice. All of us were doing Sai Satcharita Parayan on the same day in different place (different cities of Germany, different timings). Everyone was allotted with chapters from Shri Sai Satcharitra. After completing my chapters, I had very positive vibrations, which was such a nice and divine feeling, which I am not able to express them in words.

I had a few questions and was searching for the answers for 2-3 weeks, on reading the chapters I felt like I got the answers through these chapters. I have been allotted with my chapters after completing my reading I felt like those chapters were written only for me and for my situation (at that time).

While reading my Chapters I have read some lines, which were written about Shri Sai Baba which are as follows:

There are many Saints, who leaving their houses, stay in forest, caves or hermitages and remain in solitude, trying to get liberation or salvation for themselves. They do not care for other people though, and are sort of self-absorbed. Sai Baba was not of such a type. He had no home, no wife, nor any relations, near or distant. Still, He lived here(society)feeding on the bread He got begging from four or five houses, always lived at the foot of the (Neem) tree, carried on worldly dealings, and taught all the people how to act and behave in this world. Rare are the Sadhus and Saints who, after attaining God-vision, strive for the welfare of the people.Sai Baba was the foremost of them.

Like a loving mother forcing bitter - medicines down the throats of her children for the sake of their health, Sai Baba imparted spiritual instructions to His devotees for their better living. His method was neither veiled nor a secret, but was quite open. The devotees who followed His instructions got their substance of life. Sad-gurus like Sai Baba open our eyes (eyes of the intellect) and show us the divine beauties of the Self, and fulfill our tender longings of devotion.When this is done, our desire for sense of objects vanishes, twin fruits of Viveka (discrimination) and Vairagya (dispassion or non-attachment) come to our hands; and knowledge sprouts even without our consciousness. All this we get when we come in contact with Saints (Sad-guru), serve them and secure their love. The Lord, who fulfills the desires of His devotees, comes



to our aid, removes our troubles and sufferings, and makes us happy and this progress or development is entirely due to the help of the Sad-guru, who is regarded as the Lord Himself.

Therefore, we should always accept the Sad-guru, hear His preaching, fall at His Feet and serve Him.

Here I want to share my experience which I have also read somewhere about our happenings of life. In order to have faith in God and spiritualism, we must understand the cause of happening of different incidents in life in an objective and comprehensive manner. Whatever happens within or around us, has to be understood in a wider perspective, spreading over multiple lives. We must try to understand the basic reasons behind all the happenings in life in a holistic manner and not as individual and incidents creating happiness and unhappiness. Strong faith or belief cannot survive without such an understanding and this understanding cannot grow without strong faith or belief in God and Guru. Therefore, both these things are interdependent. Many times, human beings experience that an incident, which seemed to be adverse at the beginning, later turned out to be favorable and an incident which apparently seemed to be good becomes disastrous later. Therefore, we should try not to be completely shaken in adversity and become overexcited when something good happens in life.

I would like to share my experience of how Sai influences and helps me in my life. Whenever I am depressed or in a position where I am not able to decide and need guidance I rely on Sai. I sit in front of Sai and open the book on Sai "Book Name". I just open the book in random and start reading the chapter. As I read the chapter I start getting a feeling that the chapter has more connection to my situation or question and that I am getting the answer to my question or situation through the chapter. This has happened and helped me in several occasions. I truly feel relieved after reading the chapter and feel as if Baba himself is giving me the solution and guiding me through the chapter. Here, the key belief is Baba has covered everything in all the chapters, so even reading one chapter gives us the coherence. This might sound Incredible to many, but please do understand that reading the teachings of Baba would really help reduce your anxiety and give you a solution, whatever maybe the situation.

I also would want to thank from the bottom of my heart, my Guru Bhai, Abhijit Narayan, who has brought me once again close to my Guru My Sai.

# FIRST SAI SANDHYA IN MANNHEIM, GERMANY

OM SAI RAM

It's a great pleasure for me to put down my feelings regarding Sai Satsang at Mannheim. In the year 2012, along with friend's family, who is also a devotee of Sai Baba had a plan of having a small temple in Mannheim. But due to certain reasons we could not go further with our plans. We had strong feeling to start with something and just waited for right time.

I always remember the words said by Shri Sai to Hemadpanth before he started writing Sai Satcharita.

"Let him make a collection of stories and experiences, keep notes and memos; I will help him. He is only an outward instrument. I should write Myself My autobiography and satisfy the wishes of My devotees."

These made me think that he will show the way and will decide himself when and how to start. Last year in (2015) I was invited for Sai Satsang at Sanjeev's house and was blessed to attend for the first time at his place (Lampertheim). That's the occasion helped in laying the path to start Sai Satsang in Mannheim.

When we thought of doing in Mannheim, the big issue was where to do, as you need sufficient room for performing our activities. We were in search of adequate place, with Baba's grace and of course with help of some humble people we got a room with enough space and peace to perform monthly Sai Satsang. It gives us immense pleasure while organizing and performing every month. With Baba's grace we have been able to reserve this place for the whole year and a lot of people have an opportunity to get blessings from Baba while singing His leelas, sharing His experiences, reading Shri Sai Satcharitra.

We can compare this with the situation when Baba came in the dreams of Bapusaheb Buti and said: This Wada (Building) we will use for our purpose, we will sing bhajans, kids will play in the center of the wada and we will live here.

The same feeling I do get when do Sai Satsang in Mannheim and a lot of Devotees are pleased to have such feelings.

We started on 07.01.2016 and going on with it successfully every month with many devotees, without any interruption (of course with Shri Sai blessings).



With my personal life, Baba is always with me. I knew about baba from my childhood as there was temple near my house but never made an attempt to visit Baba or believe in him. In the year 1999, I was staying at hostel in Hyderabad. One of my friends was asking me always to accompany to Baba Temple. I always refused to go and one fine day she forced me to come. I went along with only the condition that I will not enter the temple.

We went to the temple, washed my legs and stood outside. Don't know how my senses made me to go inside the temple and it was the first time saw the divine face of Baba which attracted me and felt like He was calling me and smiling at me. It was Thursday and till today every Thursday is very significant to me. It's now 17 years started enjoying in believing the almighty from where my entire life changed.

### **IMPORTANCE OF READING SAI SATCHARITA:**

Even though I started believing him I never read Sai Satcharita. Once there was very critical situation (personal) in my life. My roommate who was an ardent devotee of Sai Baba advised me to read. I just started reading the book just to test whether I will get solution to my problem. But the almighty answered me (irrespective of not reading with Shradha and Saburi) and that's how started my journey of reading Sai Satcharita. I feel it's a Holy book filled with all His teachings and blessings which is salvation for life.

We wish to have a big community very soon and have a plenty of things to do which will spread His teachings and leelas.

Om Sai Ram Jai Jai Sai.

Sarita Chowdary, Germany.

# DEVOTEES' EXPERIENCES

## SHRI SAI IN MY LIFE

### OM SAI RAM

First of all let me offer my special thanks to my beloved Baba and our brother Abhijit for giving me an opportunity to share my one experience of the many blessings bestowed on me and my family by the Supreme Lord, Guru, my everything...."Shri Sai Nath Maharaj"!Baba came in dreams of His devotees before and after His mahasamadhi to bless them.

I am a very recent devotee of Sai Ram, though my grandmother was a staunch devotee of her since years! In 2014, my grandmother (she was 89) was admitted to hospital as she was having respiratory infections and also urinary infections. She was there on treatment for some days and we saw no improvement. And then on scan they found a cyst on her uterus which they doubted to be cancerous.

The doctors were telling that if it's cancerous, it's going to be a difficult time for her as she was too old for the treatment. I was in Finland at that time and I just didn't know what to do!! All I did was to cry. Suddenly on Wednesday I got a thought that "why don't we pray to My grandmother's favourite god "Shri Sai" and ask for help and I promised at that moment that I will start taking the vrat or fasting my grandmother was taking for years from the coming Thursday".I should say that the divine picture of Sai which I have now. I don't exactly remember where and why I brought it with me this time when I came from India to Finland!

How true are His words "However distant My people may be, I draw them to me just as we pull a bird to us with a string tied to its foot" So from that Thursday I started the vrat (fast) and praying to my dearest Sai Ram regarding my grandmother and on the coming Saturday she took her last breath and I believe she has dissolved in His holy feet! Thus started my divine journey and from that moment, I place my everything on His lotus feet and my life is blessed with His divine grace! I don't have anything more to ask for! He is my everything ...my beginning and the end"

Thank You.

Deepa Sathyan, Finland



## OUR NEW HOME

"Tumhaare aashirwaad se Baba Jaan mera sab kaam ho raha he, karte toh sab kuch tum ho, bas yun hii naam mera ho raha he"

Baba is the entire world for us. He has endowed us with all those we never ever imagined. I cannot think of my life without Baba's blessings. There are a lot of miracles which Baba has done in our life and sometimes I realize His presence even if I am in smallest of the troubles and remember Him whole-heartedly.

Today, I would like to share one of His many miracles. With Baba's grace and blessings, we got the possession of our flat in December 2015 which we bought in 2013 in Bangalore. As we (both my husband and I) are settled in Germany, so before the possession, the builder wanted us to visit and complete the final formalities. So we decided to visit India for getting things done for the final possession and in the meantime we also planned to do a house-warming ceremony of our new flat. As we did not have much holidays, we decided to finalize the date of house-warming ceremony from Germany only and planned accordingly to visit India. We contacted Pandit jee in India for giving us a date for Puja and to our utter surprise he gave a date which was Thursday (Baba's day). That time I completely understood my Baba is with us and everything will go smooth.

Then we reached India on 30th Nov 2015 and got everything (like interiors, registration of the house etc.) done before the House-warming puja. I always wanted to have Baba's picture in our new apartment as the home belongs to Baba only. We cannot even imagine having a flat in Bangalore without Baba's blessings. So, we ordered online a custom-made name plate with Baba's picture on it. We ordered many other house stuffs also online. For house-hold stuffs the delivery date was within a week only however the delivery date for Baba's picture name plate was not clearly mentioned on the website. So, we ordered and then we were waiting for it.

On a day or two before our House-warming Puja, we went to Sai Baba temple in Malleshwaram, Bangalore, and with all faith I asked that Baba, you have to come anyhow, in any form to our new home on the House-warming Puja day and have to give your love and blessings. On the day of Puja, I was thinking that how will Baba come to the new home as it is practically not possible and then I thought it's a stupid demand that I have asked from Baba. But somewhere deep within my heart, I had full hope that Baba will surely come in any form. Then, at the given time on Puja day, Pandit jee came and started making all the preparations. I was thinking that whether Baba will come or not and to my utmost surprise we got a call on our intercom, where security asked that there is a courier guy with parcel and we have to collect it.

As we were on Puja, so we asked one of our cousins to go down and pick up the parcel. My husband told that might be the fan has come which was supposed to come that day as per its delivery date, but deep within, I was thinking, it must be Baba's picture and was eagerly waiting with all positive hopes. When my cousin brought the parcel up and we asked him to open, I went into a state of ecstasy after seeing Baba's picture with a broad smile on his face inside the parcel.

My joy knew no bounds and I thanked Baba from the bottom of my heart. That day I completely understood that Baba can go up to any extent for fulfilling the demands of his devotees.

In any difficult situation, I know completely, that Baba is with me and I feel the difficulties getting solved very smoothly. I want no other abode than Baba's heart; I cannot walk a single step without Baba's blessings.

Have full faith in Baba Jaan, he will do what nobody can expect. Tumko koti koti dhan-yawaad mere Baba Jaan. Bas itna aashirwaad dena ki main zindagi bhar tumhaari sewa kar paaun Baba.

Attached is Baba's Picture which we received on the day of House-warming ceremony.



Neha Verma, Germany



## HELP WITH MY JOB

### OM SAI RAM

My name is Chinmaya Sadangi, and currently, I live in Marburg, Germany. This story goes back to the time when I was staying in Berlin. After my graduation from Uppsala University, Sweden, I moved to Berlin for a research assistant position. Everything was going well when things started to turn ugly with the post-doc in the laboratory. And after some time I had to resign from the position. I was very upset and depressed. I liked the position, and I liked my job, but things didn't work out, so I had to leave.

Then my father who is Sai bhakt suggested me to read the Sai Satcharitra and finish it in 11 days. I did that but then he realized his mistake and again asked me to finish it within seven days. I again read it and this time I felt a connection with Baba. I started reading a chapter daily from Sai Satcharitra, which gave me immense pleasure and happiness. On every Thursday, I started offering Naivedya. Sometimes, I used to cook mitha bhat (sweet rice), sometimes Rajma and some Thursday's I used to offer only fruits. Every day, I applied udi on my forehead, mixed some udi in water and drank it. My day started by praying to Baba and ended with remembering Him. I also started donating a small amount of money to poor people, offer food and clothes to the needy.

I made a vow to give up my favorite food (which at that time was rice) until I find a new position and also promised that I will come to Shirdi the next time I go to India. And with His blessings, I found another job in two months in Austria. At the same time, my father came to Frankfurt and I went to meet him. I found that somewhere in Frankfurt there is a Sai Baba's temple at someone's home. I went there with my father, offered my namskaram to him, sought his blessing and then took the first grain of rice. When I visited India (after four months), I went to Shirdi as per my vow.

Baba came even in my dream and advised me on some matters. I saw myself sitting beside His legs and reading Sai Satcharitra.

Every day, I make it a point to read a chapter or a paragraph of Sai Satcharitra, apply Udi on my forehead before going to work, offer Naivedya every Thursday. Just want to say one thing to the readers - never lose your faith in Him, when the time comes He will give you what you want and He will make sure you never have any trouble.

## SHRI SAI, MY FRIEND

### OM SAI RAM

Oh my friend Sai ! Om Sai Ram ! Om Sai Sri Sai Jai Jai Sai

I can't even imagine to start anything without reciting the most wonderful words in all the life. I would like to thank Shri Sai Baba for giving me this great opportunity of life to share some of my personal experiences with all the Sai Baba Devotees.

I was may be 5 or 6 years old when we used to stay in Hyderabad, near Dilsukhnagar which is famous for Sai Baba Temple. My parents took me to the Temple a few times along with many other temples which included a long list obviously. I was just going to all the temples just because my mother wants me. We were here for a very less time and we had to move to other place as my father got a transfer.

It was in 1995, when I was around 10 years old, I met with a machine accident where I lost my left hand 4 fingers. My parents and family were worried and tensed and they took me to Hyderabad from my home town which is around 6 hours journey and immediately I was rushed to hospital and they took me into operation theatre. I still remember my parents saying that first operation was for around 14 hours but the only thing which I remember was Sai Baba was telling me stories, playing with me and consoling me. Even now when I close my eyes I can remember exactly what Sai Baba was saying to me when I was getting operated.

Sai Baba was saying "Vikas, Why you are worried, leave all your worries to me. It's my duty not yours. Everything will be all right and you will be happy again. Everything happens for a reason. I know you will ask me "When I am here to take care of you why in first place did you met with an accident" But you know this accident will change your life, it will change your perspective. It will make us more closer than ever" And we were playing lots of games. The first thing when I opened my eyes after operation was "Where is Sai" My mother asked who is Sai and I said Sai Baba and fainted.

This is how I met Sai Baba for the first time in my life truly. I actually couldn't believe whatever was happening and I couldn't sleep that day as I wanted Sai Baba back. Then my Father quickly went to Dilsukhnagar Temple and got me Sai Baba Idol and Vibhuthi. After seeing the Idol I realized he is God Sai Baba where I used to go few years back when we were in Hyderabad with my parents. Until that time I was under impression that he is my friend who wanted to take care of me.



## 2ND DAY AFTER MY OPERATION:

I was just sleeping with Idol with me in my hands close to my heart and again Sai Baba came to me and was scolding me. He was throwing stones at me. He was angry that I called Him God and not His friend who took care of me. He said "I may be anyone to anyone but to you am always your friend who will take care of you at each and every step. A friend who is there for you whenever you need. A friend who knows you completely and what you want. Just close your eyes and I will come to you every time"

Years went by. I was recovering well. Actually I became mentally strong, I became very confident and I began to live life with a vision and dream. That accident actually changed my life, due to that I had to undergo many operations which forced my father to take transfer back to Hyderabad as a result, I could become an engineer from an elite college of India. I was always thinking of Sai Baba. I just used to say "Om Sai Ram" and "Om Sai Sri Sai Jai Jai Sai" every time. There is no fixed time to say this or think. I just do it as many times I feel like doing and at any time I wanted to do it. But I didn't get a chance to visit Sai Baba temple all these years.

It was in 2000 when we moved to Nallakunta for only one reason as it was close to Rammaiah Institute which is famous for making future IITians. I was preparing hard for Rammaiah Entrance Exam along with 3 others (these 4 institutes were famous for making future IITians in Hyderabad). On one fine day I got information that Sai Baba Temple was very near by my home and rushed to the temple. When I was entering temple one old man was coming out of the temple and said to me "Where were you these days, I was waiting for you for such a long time" and left. I actually didn't think much about those words as I was in a hurry to see Sai Baba eagerly. To my surprise the moment I went into the temple, actually I could see that old man's face on Sai Baba throne and then immediately rushed out of the temple and searched every where but couldn't find him. I again went back to temple cried a lot on Sai Baba feet asking to forgive me for not recognizing Sai Baba. I kept on going to temple every day but could never saw Baba again. I felt very desperate and lonely but never stopped going to temple. I was always just reciting Om Sai Sri Sai Jai Jai Sai.

Months passed by and it was rainy season and Thursday as usual I went to temple, and was making sure that queue is fine and everything else is fine and after giving Aarathi to Sai Baba, I took Prasadam and left the temple to home in rain. On the way just opposite to me far away I saw one old person standing and asking me to come to him. I quickly recognized this time and I went running to him. The moment i was almost there he went again to a far distance and looking at me and waiving his hands asking me to come to him. Again i went running to him and he appeared in opposite direction.

He was playing with me and i was running after him.This was happening in similar manner for around 1 hour or even more and i was just running on streets like a mad person. My parents were worried and they started to look for me and found me running and caught hold of me and asked me what happened and tried to take me back to home and then Sai Baba came near me smiled and said bye and disappeared. All in front of me but no one could actually see it.

In 2001, it was time for my 4 entrance tests and I went to Sai Baba every time before going to write examinations and seek His blessings. The last entrance exam which I had to take was for Rammiah (the best institute in Hyderabad those days) and when I went to Sai Baba Temple, I did Shastanga Namaskar to Sai Baba Feet and when I was getting up, my head hit Sai Baba leg. I couldn't understand what it meant until when I was writing exam. In the exam almost for 70% of questions the initial answer which I thought was actually wrong when I looked into the questions once again. I immediately recognized what Sai Baba meant. He actually warned me to look steps (in this case look again at my answers). Finally all exams got over and I was happily in temple almost all the time and became active member of the Sai Seva Samithi in the temple wherein my duty was to clean Sai Baba Temple, to make sure everything goes well and no devotees face any issues on Thursday as number of devotees visiting on Thursday is huge. Days passed by and results of exams was declared. I was not selected to 3 institutes. I was very sad and I was angry. I at once went to Sai Baba temple and said 'Oh Sai My friend why you are doing this to me, why you are testing me again. All my hard work is waste as I couldn't get selected to last 3 of entrance exams which means definitely I will not be selected in the top institute also which has very huge competition.' I went back home and was very sad and felt tomorrow shouldn't come as tomorrow is the day when I will get the result for the last exam.Thinking of the failure I slept and then Sai Baba came to me He said "Vikas, you called me?What happened? Why are you worried? Leave all worries to me and sleep happily. You will get what you need and what you deserve" I asked Sai where were you when I failed in first I asked you why? When I failed in second I questioned why? Now I failed in 3rd and I will fail in last one also and now you are coming and asking what happened?to which Sai Baba smiled and said "You asked Sai Baba, You questioned Sai Baba but this time you asked your friend and so I came running to you. But you are not losing anything my friend. Sleep well you will be tired tomorrow"

Morning results came and I got selected to finest Institute and I could now understand what Sai Baba was actually making me. He made sure that I get the best and he also made me know about failure and the pain by carefully choosing the least important ones to fail and the bigger ones to succeed.



From then I always called him my friend Sai.

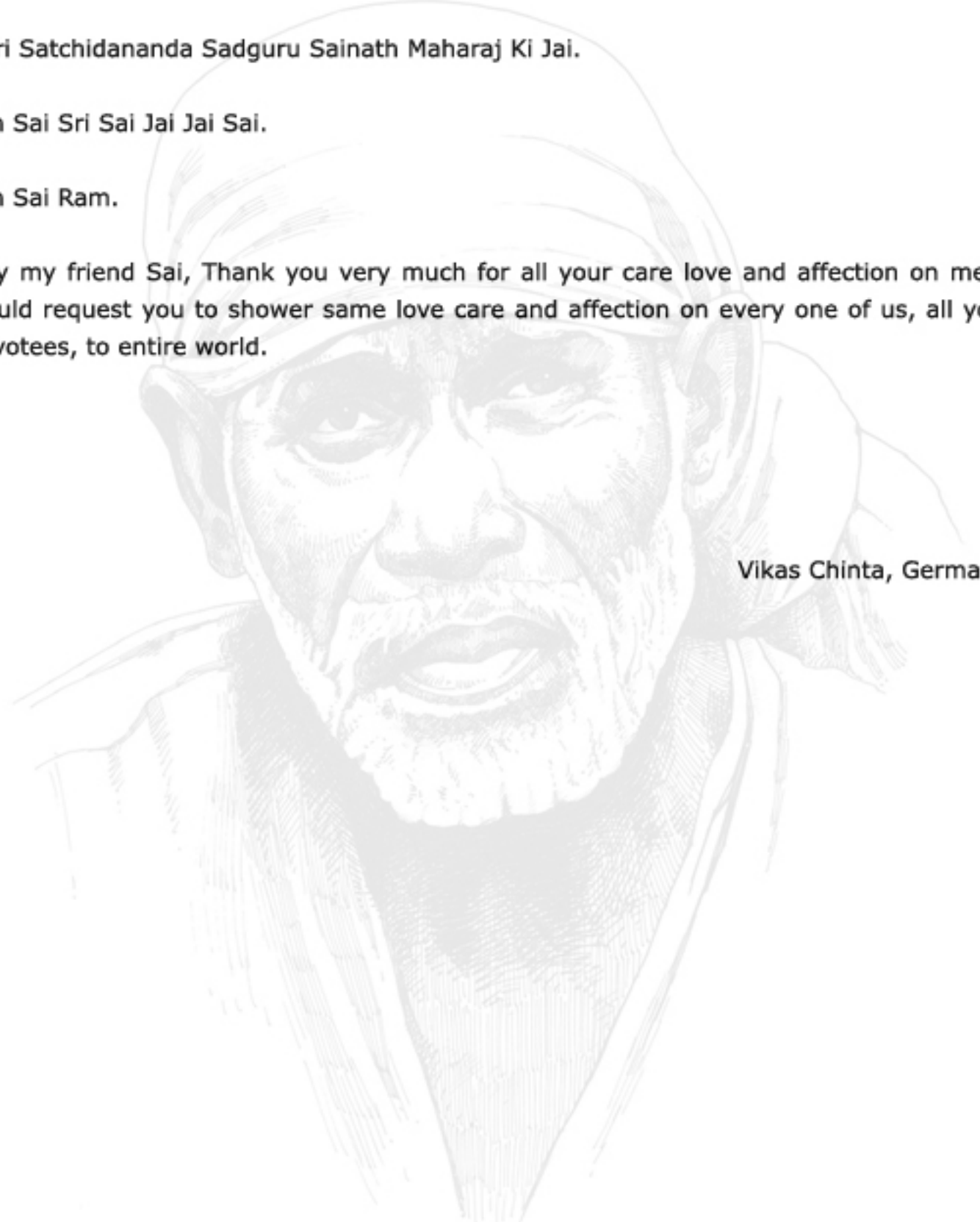
These were some of my first experiences with my friend Sai and the way Sai looked after us always.

Shri Satchidananda Sadguru Sainath Maharaj Ki Jai.

Om Sai Sri Sai Jai Jai Sai.

Om Sai Ram.

Hey my friend Sai, Thank you very much for all your care love and affection on me. I would request you to shower same love care and affection on every one of us, all your devotees, to entire world.



Vikas Chinta, Germany.

## POEMS

'At peace'

The pain of separation from you,  
Rips apart my heart,  
And yet,  
Not a drop of blood oozes out,  
Frozen as if it were  
In the time wrap  
Of emotions  
Woven beautifully  
Like a colourful mosaic.

I wander,  
Searching ever so frantically for you,  
Hiding my emotions,  
Behind the veil of my smile.

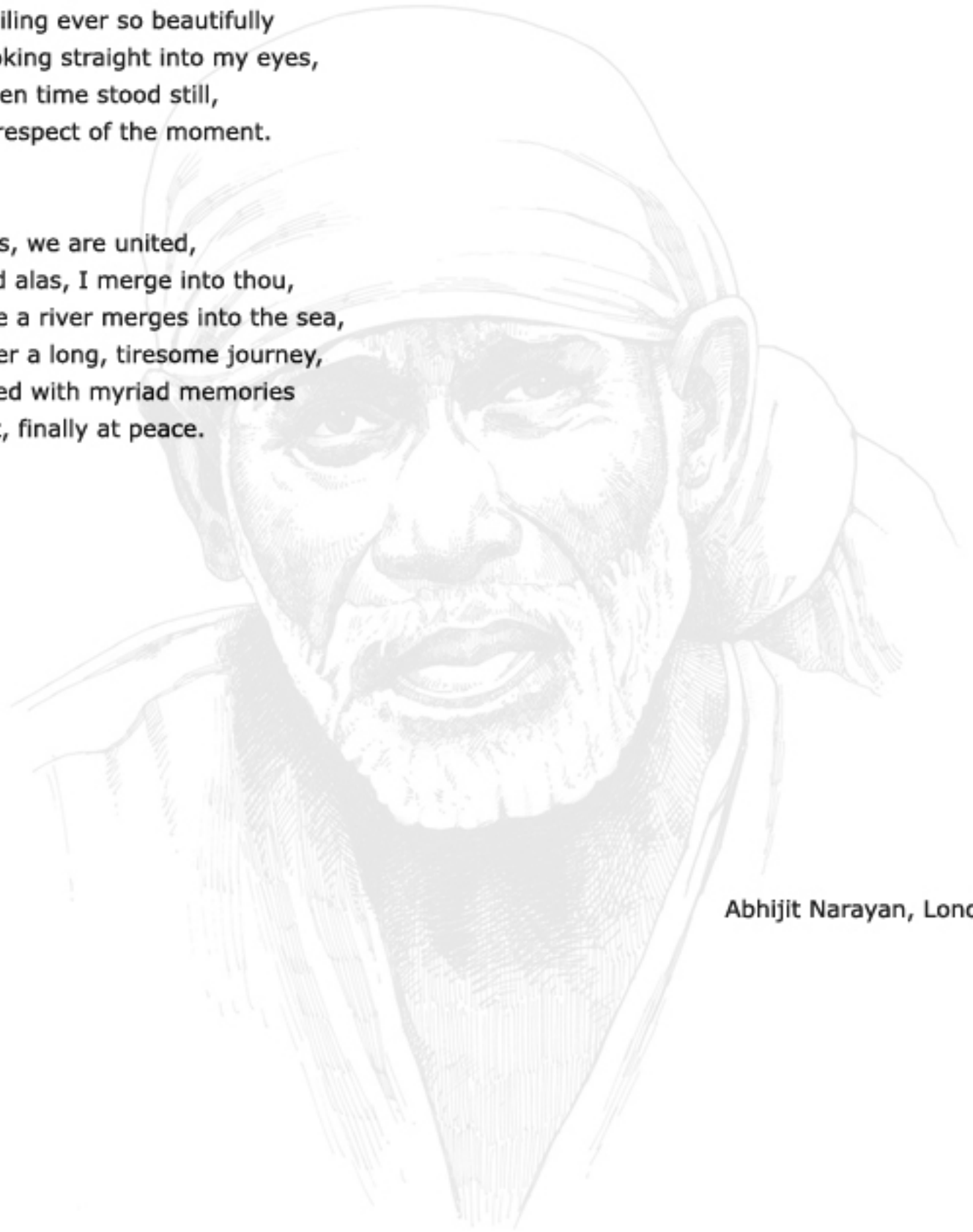
And then,  
You connected me  
With thy devotees.

I see a reflection of you  
In their hearts  
Filled to the brim  
With pure love,  
Devotion  
And emotions,  
Which words fail so miserably  
In describing.



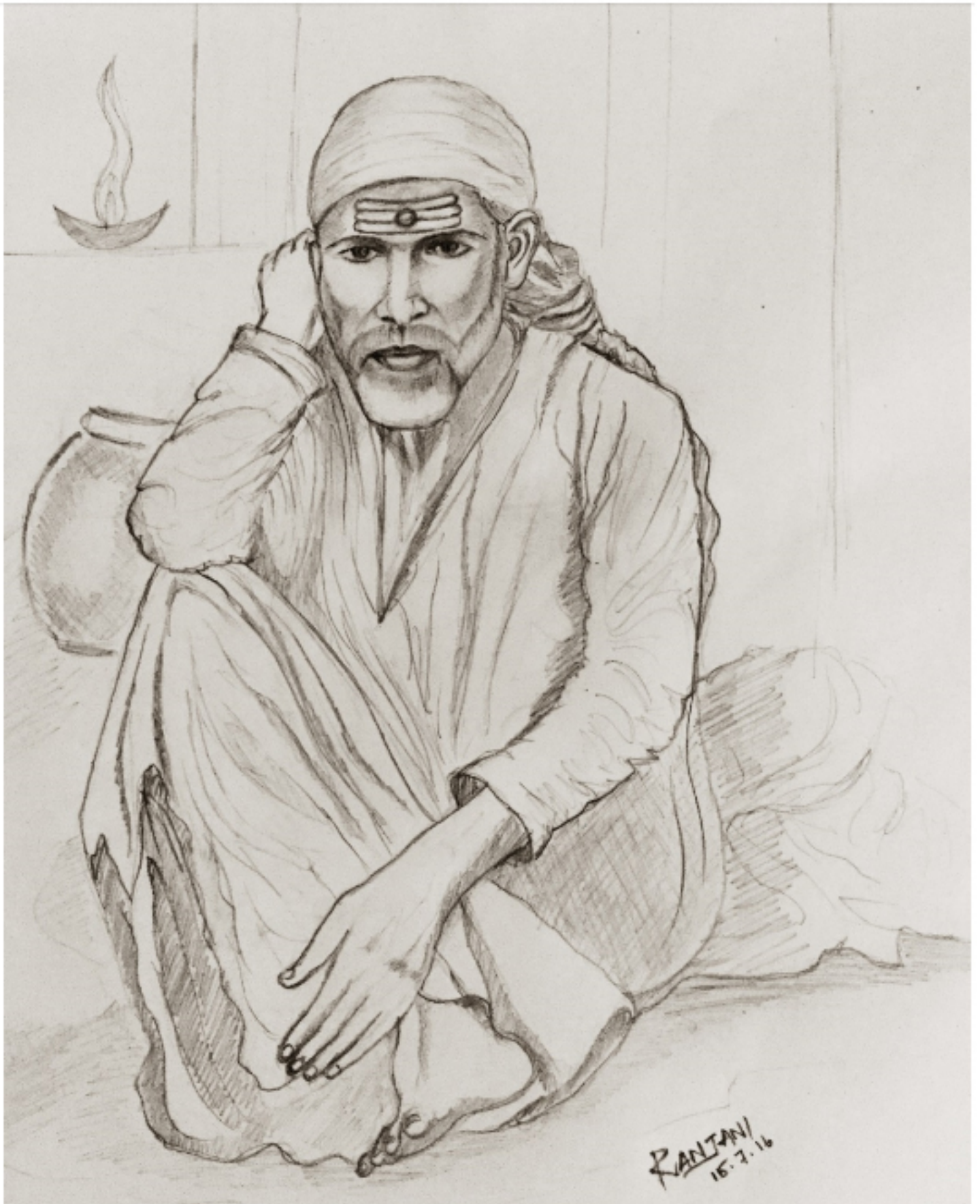
In them,  
I see You.  
In my heart,  
I see you,  
Smiling ever so beautifully  
Looking straight into my eyes,  
When time stood still,  
In respect of the moment.

Alas, we are united,  
And alas, I merge into thou,  
Like a river merges into the sea,  
After a long, tiresome journey,  
Filled with myriad memories  
But, finally at peace.



Abhijit Narayan, London

## SKETCHES



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Ranjani, Germany





Jaisree, Germany

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श्रद्धा

ॐ साई राम

सवुरी  
सवुरी



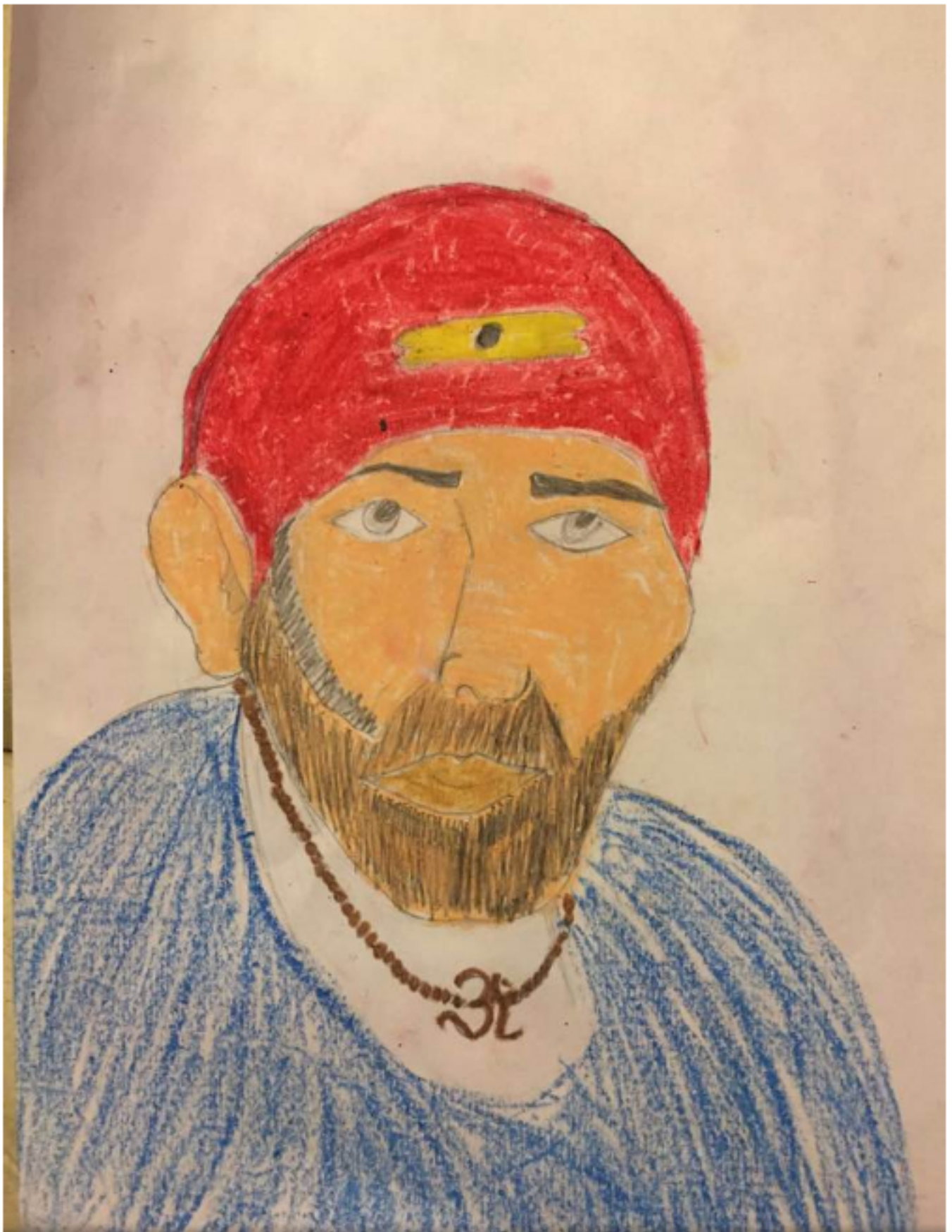
साई राम

Saina Luthra, Germany

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CHILDREN'S CORNER



© Mohit Suneja 2008

Ria Kanungo, France, Age – 6 years

## ELEVEN SAYINGS OF SHRI SAI BABA

1. Whoever puts his feet on Shirdi soil, his sufferings would come to an end.
2. The wretched and miserable would rise into plenty of joy and happiness, as soon as they climb the steps of My Samadhi.
3. I shall be ever active and vigorous even after leaving this earthly Body.
4. My tomb shall bless and speak to the needs of My devotees.
5. I shall be active and vigorous even from the tomb.
6. My mortal remains would speak from the tomb.
7. I am ever living to help and guide all who come to Me, who surrender to Me and who seek refuge in Me.
8. If you look to Me - I look to you.
9. If you cast your burden on Me, I shall surely bear it.
10. If you seek My advice and help, it shall be given to you at once.
11. There shall be no want in the house of My devotees.





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