

SAI CHRONICLE



NEW YEAR ISSUE - 2016

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Editor's Desk

Shri Shirdi Sai Baba first appeared in Shirdi as a 16-year old boy. He was found sitting under a neem tree, meditating. People living in Shirdi during that time used to wonder who this boy is, meditating at such a young age.

After living in Shirdi for almost three years, He disappeared for some time. Shri Sai again came back to Shirdi along with a marriage procession (baraat) of a relative of Chand Patil. Information about how Chand Bhai Patil met Shri Sai in Dhup Gaon (Maharashtra) is quite interesting. We request our readers to read Shri Sai Satcharitra to learn more about the meeting between Shri Sai and Chand Patil.

Baba lived in Shirdi for 60 years in dilapidated mosque which He used to fondly called Dwarkamayee. Even then, nobody knew if He was a Hindu or a Muslim. Some people asked Him, even did some investigation about His background, including who His parents were. However, there is no certainty about the background of Shri Sai.

It's mentioned in Shri Sai Satcharitra that both Ramnavami (an important festival for Hindus) and Sandal Procession (festival of Muslims) were celebrated in Shirdi. Gradually the number of persons attending these events increased from a few hundreds to 75,000. Still there are no reports of any religion-based problems.

Shri Shirdi Sai Baba always used to say - God is one (Sab ka Malik Ek). During the time He lived in Shirdi there were devotees belonging to different faiths who used to come to Him. If there were Kakasaheb Dixit, Nanasaheb Chandorkar, Mhalsapati who were dear to Him, there was also Abdul, who used to spend a lot of time with Him.

It is estimated that more than sixty thousand devotees visit Shirdi every day. These devotees belong to different religions, regions and countries.

Our group has been spreading the teachings of Shri Sai in different parts of Europe. We organize Sai Sandhya (where we sing devotional bhajans, read Shri Sai Satcharitra). Gradually our group is becoming bigger. We believe we are all part of the same family - Sai Family, and treat each other as family members. Our family is also very multicultural - people from different parts of India, different religions, different nationalities, are there. All bound by the common thread - love for our Baba.

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As a new year has started, let's learn from His life, and spread the humanistic principles of universal love and brotherhood.

I am grateful to all the devotees for contributing to our magazine and also for playing an important role in spreading the teachings of Shri Shirdi Sai. Last but not the least; I thank Ankur, for his continued support with the flyers for the various events and the formatting and styling of his magazine.

Om Sai Shri Sai Jai Jai Sai

Abhijit Narayan, Germany



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New Year Message

HUMAN RIGHTS - MODERN AND HINDU PERSPECTIVES

Today, Human Rights is a global issue. It is being addressed from the legal, social, ethical, religious, social perspectives and many other contexts. A very large number of organizations, from the level of the United Nations to the small-town NGOs, are associated with this movement. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th December 1948 at Paris. However, it is observed that many people are not aware about the exact meaning of human rights.

Human rights are moral principles or norms or a code of conduct. These are based on a particular philosophy, religion, culture, values, customs and traditions. They represent what people think they should do. The citizens of one nation are entitled to such Human Rights in another country.

Human rights are inherent (inborn, inbuilt, natural) rights of each human being regardless of nation, location, language, religion, ethnic group or any other consideration. These rights cannot be taken away under any circumstances. These are applicable everywhere and at all times. They are universal and egalitarian in nature. Each human being deserves to be a beneficiary of human rights. He has a duty to respect the human rights of others. It emphasizes on human dignity. The judicially enforceable Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution include all seminal civil and political rights and some of the rights of the minorities as enshrined in part 3 of the Constitution (articles 12 to 35). According to Justice Subba Rao in *Golaknath V. State of Punjab* "Fundamental rights are the modern name for what have been traditionally known as natural rights." However, the Vedic and post Vedic Hindu culture of India had prescribed and extolled the enforcement of certain inherent rights not only for human beings but for other species as well.

Our Vedas declare:

"Ajyesthaaso Akanisthaasa Yete

Sam Bhraataro Vaarudhuh Soubhagaya "

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(Rig Veda, Mandala-5, Sukta-60, Mantra-5).

It says "No one is superior or inferior; all are brothers; all should strive for the interest of all and progress collectively." As one enters the Parliament Building in Delhi one sees a Sanskrit verse at the entrance:

"Ayam Nijah Paroveti Ganana Laghu Chetasaam

Udaara Chaitaanaam tu Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"

It says, "Small and narrow-minded people look at the reality in terms of 'this is yours and this is mine'; for those of higher consciousness the whole world is a family."

&

another prayer in the Sikshavalli (Chapter on Education) in the Taittareya Upanishad is also very significant:

Om Sahana Vavatu

Saha Nau Bhunaktu

Saha Viryam Karavavahai

Tejaswi Nava Dhitam Astu

Ma Vidvishavahai

Om Shantih Shantih Shantih

It says, "May He protect us together

May He nourish us together

May we work together with greater energy

May our study be vigorous and effective

May we not hate each other

Let there be peace all over."

As an essential prerequisite for the Right to Happiness, the Rig Veda unequivocally declares that all human beings are equal. The Atharva Veda goes further and talks about various Rights and obligations of human beings:

"Samani Prapa Saha Vo Annabhagah

Samane Yoktre Saha Vo Yunajmi

Aaraah Nabhimiva Abhitah."

It says, "All have equal right to articles of food and water. The yoke of the chariot of life is placed equally on the shoulders of all. All should live together in harmony supporting one another like the spokes of a wheel of the chariot connecting its rim and hub".

— (Atharva Veda - Samjnana Sukta)

In the post Vedic period Buddhism and particularly Jainism were against killing of animals and inflicting torture on other species. Emperor Ashoka (304-232 BCE) championed, secured and protected human rights like rights to equality, liberty, happiness and security of life. Torture and inhuman treatment of prisoners was prohibited in his kingdom. Our Vedas also preached about the protection of animals as a spiritual conduct, e.g.,

"You must not use your God-given body for killing God's creatures, whether they are human, animal or whatever."

--Yajur Veda 12.32

'&

"Those noble souls who practice meditation and other yogic ways, who are ever careful about all beings, who protect all animals, are the ones who are actually serious about spiritual practices."

--Atharva Veda 19.48.5

Given this backdrop the recent court judgments on the issue of the fundamental rights of the birds are welcome decisions. The Hon High Court of Delhi --in the case of People for Animals vs. Md Mohazzim, have declared that birds have the fundamental right to "live with dignity" and fly in the sky without being kept in cages or subjected to cruelty. Running their trade was a "violation of their rights". Justice Manmohan Singh expressed anguish that instead of being allowed to fly free, they were "exported illegally to foreign countries without availability of proper food, water or medical aid". "I am clear in mind that all the birds have fundamental rights to fly in the sky and all human beings have no right to keep them in small cages for the purpose of their business or otherwise," the judge said. Further "...This court is of the view that running the trade of birds is in violation of the rights of the birds. They deserve sympathy. Nobody is caring as to whether they have been inflicted cruelty or not despite a settled law that birds have a fundamental right to fly and cannot be caged and will have to be set free in the sky." "Birds have fundamental rights including the right to live with dignity and they cannot be subjected to cruelty by anyone including claim made by the respondent (Mohazzim)."

The Hon Supreme Court of India -- A bench headed by Chief Justice H.L. Dattu agreed to examine the validity of the Gujarat high court order holding that birds have fundamental rights to fly. The bench issued a notice to the Gujarat government on the appeal filed against the Gujarat High Court order. The High Court had said: "

"it is the fundamental right of birds to live freely in the open sky ,and it is the duty of every citizen to see that there is no unnecessary pain of suffering to animal or bird."

The saints and realized souls like Shirdi Sai Baba not only believed in Humanism "Manav Vada" but also in the equal protection of other species "Prani Vada". The realized souls believed in a cosmic whole. According to them the human race cannot be happy without the proper protection, growth and sustenance of other species. Besides it will dis-balance nature and create ecological problems. The ecological problem is very much there for all us to experience. It is not too late to learn from our forefathers.

Dr. C. B. Satpathy, New Delhi

Shirdi Sai Movement in Europe

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

(i) First Sai Sandhya in Barcelona, Spain (December 19, 2015)



(ii) First Sai Sandhya in Valencia, Spain (December 23, 2015)



(iii) *First Sai Sandhya in Malaga, Spain (December 27, 2015)*



(iv) First Sai Sandhya in Lisbon, Portugal (December 29, 2015)



Portugal was the 9th country in Europe, where, with the blessings of Shri Sai, we have been able to organize an event last year.

(v) On 24th October 2015, Dussehra was celebrated in Frankfurt, Germany. Some pictures are below -



(vi) On 25th October, 2015, Dussehra was also celebrated in Helsinki, Finland. Some photos are below -



(vii) Ram Navami will also be celebrated in Frankfurt, Germany (April 16, 2016)

Charitable activities

In addition to organizing Sai Sandhya in different parts of Europe, we also encourage the devotees to undertake charitable activities. In 2015, we took a small step in this direction and did the following things:

(a) Donation was collected and sent to Nepal to provide aid to the people affected by the earthquake.

(b) Visited the home for old age women and handicapped children in Valencia (Spain) on the eve of Christmas and provided them chocolates, bread, fruits and things of daily use like toothbrush, toothpaste.

(c) We are currently collecting donations for providing help to those affected by the earthquake in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (India).

DEVOTEES' EXPERIENCES

Baba's blessings through dream

For Baba's devotees, having His darshan in a dream is a great blessing and I am no exception to that. I am a very young Baba devotee. I always feel that if Baba had taken me earlier under His wings, my life would have been completely different. But as they say "Better late than Never", I feel blessed to be accepted as His daughter. Life is no doubt more beautiful and peaceful than before but being a wife and a mother I always have some fears and wishes that I want my Baba to fulfil at earliest (human nature). I used to read in experiences of other devotees that Baba blessed them in dream and showed them path or blessed them by fulfilling their desired wishes. There were also devotees who were praying since years and requesting Baba to bless them in their dreams. We find some instances in Sai Satcharitra too, where Baba came in dreams of His devotees before and after His mahasamadhi to bless them.

So, being an impatient, doubtful (whether I am good enough to be a Baba devotee) daughter of His, I always prayed Him (still doing that) to bless me in my dreams and show me the right path. I would like to mention here that I saw Baba first time in my dreams 5-6 months after I surrendered myself under His Holy feet. That made me feel so blessed. Till now, I have seen Baba 3-4 times in my dreams but always in form of a picture (I saw His huge calendar in my home temple in front of all other God's pictures and statues), or as an Idol (I was in a shop buying toys when I saw a small statue with its back towards me. I went there to see what it was and when I reached to the front side of the statue, it became alive. It was Baba and He was eating something as if He was very hungry. He looked at me as if I caught Him red handed) or in the form of a message. The dream I am going to narrate is the recent one and shows Baba can even change your fate. It is difficult to express thousand of emotions I am going through right now but I will try my best to narrate this Life changing dream of mine. I request Baba to help me in writing this thrilling experience. I had this dream a week or two before Navratri. It goes like this:

I saw myself in Samadhi mandir. It was fully decorated from inside and outside with Beautiful flowers of different colours. The atmosphere was filled with the scent of fine flowers and incense. Inside Samadhi mandir there was a huge gathering. People were sitting wherever they found a place. I saw myself sitting in front of Baba's Samadhi. Music instruments of different types were being played and everyone was singing bhajans with complete devotion. I don't know why but I was not singing any bhajan and was continuously staring at Baba. Yes, Baba!! There was no Idol and no Samadhi but Baba Himself!! He was sitting where today statue is and was listening to the bhajans. After some time the singing of bhajans stopped and all the devotees

left the mandir to get some Prasad. Before leaving, one of the devotees announced that after this break, the function will resume again. I did not leave the mandir and kept sitting at my place and starrng at Baba. sindoor and a packet of bindis. Then He said "Beta people always come to me asking for one or other thing and when they are not able to visit, they send me these letters". He smiled and pointed at a huge mountain of letters. He asked me: "do you want to have some of them?" and I replied: "No, I have many problems of my own and I cannot take anymore". I was really sad and angry with Baba as I was expecting Him to solve or give advice on my current problems. Instead He handed over something completely irrelevant and on the top of it asked me have some more problems. After my reply, He went back to His place (where Samadhi is), yawned (He looked really tired) and slept like a Baby (at the exact spot where His holy body is kept).

Soon after the dream I woke up. I was really happy and excited that I saw Baba and had a conversation with Him. I tried to analyse my dream. I also discussed it with my husband. He was of the opinion that may be Baba was asking us to offer bindi, bangles, sindoor in a temple (actually it was our routine to visit temple during every Navratri (Chaitra and Sharad) and offer this to Maa Durga. But we were lately so engrossed in our problems, that it just got stopped somehow, not to mention that the temple is about 100 km away from our home which compounded the things at times). So we went to the temple and did the same and forgot about the dream.

Here comes Baba's leela:

One day, 4-5 weeks after the dream my husband came back from work. The kindergarten of my kids is near his office. So he picks up kids and then the three come home together. That day, like any other day they came back. I was working in the kitchen when he came to me and said "today would have been the last day when you said bye to all three of us". The look on his face was completely different. I got confused and scared at the same time. Then he narrated me how our car escaped a near fatal accident. He was very confused as there was no chance of escape; still they all were safe without even a scratch on our car and the kids didn't even realized anything. He narrated that when he was trying merge in a road (driving speed on this road is 70 Kmph), he saw a car coming. Because the speed limit was 70 Kmph and the car was still reasonably far, he entered the road (which he has been doing for more than 3 years, often more than twice a day). But in less than fraction of a second he saw the other car just besides his. Both the cars stopped just touching each other. It seems that the driver of other car (18-19 years young lad) must have been travelling with a speed above 120 Kmph. My husband said: "I do not know what happened or what I did to stop the car. It is unbelievable that we are safe and even the car is fine. The other driver seemed confused too and had a terrible shaken look on his face". At this point

I suddenly remembered my dream; Baba blessing me with bindi, bangles and sindoor. I rushed to our temple, bowed in front of Him and thanked Him from the bottom of my heart for His blessings. Without His blessing I would have lost my family. The moments of joy, laughter and happiness would not have been there if Baba had not shown His blessing on us. Thank you Baba for your precious gift.

Dear fellow devotees, at times we may feel alone, lost or neglected (I feel the same). But Baba has His own plans. He knows where we are in our lives and what is good for us. I feel blessed to be His devotee but that does not mean that I get everything in my life. I got some of the saddest and worst news of my life on Thursdays (Baba's Day). But it is the faith and patience that causes the miracles to happen. This faith and believe in Him keeps me going. I thank Him from the bottom of my heart for his blessings and care and pray that all His devotees live in peace and happiness. Let us follow His teachings and worship Him with all our love and devotion.

Om Sai Ram!!

Anonymous, Germany

Sai Sandhya in Europe - the journey so far

I think it was around February 2015 when I connected with the Sai Baba Group (started by Abhijit Narayan) on Facebook and was one of the early members of this group. Abhijit and I exchanged many thoughts/experiences about Sadguru Sainath. One day I got an invitation in Facebook from this Group that there is a Sai Sandhya planned 7th March, 2015, in Frankfurt at a devotee's house.

I still remember the date because I was on an official trip to Malaysia and landed in Frankfurt on 7th March, and on the same day, Sai Sandhya was planned at 3 pm. My wife and I decided to go there, participate in this Sandhya, and meet other devotees and that is how we started with Sai Sandhya.

We read Shri Sai Satcharithra, sang bhajans (devotional songs) and performed evening aarti. We also decided to have Sai Sandhya once every month. But the issue was where we would organize this event. I was sure that Baba will take care of this as we are doing His work and He will remove all the obstacles from our way.

The first 3-4 months we organized Sai Sandhya at different devotees' houses. Thereafter, we found a community centre where we now do our Sai Sandhya. But still this is not a real solution for us as our dream is to build a Sai Temple in Germany and create a space for the devotees who can pray to Baba without any interruptions.

When we met for the first time in Frankfurt, the group was very small and within a short span of time, Sai Sandhyas started happening in different cities in Germany and also in different countries in Europe. Moreover, not only in Europe, it is expanding to other continents like South America, Africa etc. I am sure that we will expand to all over the world with His blessings.

In Sai Sandhya, we started reading Shri Sai Satcharithra and then singing Bhajans. This is our normal procedure. Recently we started reading a Chapter from Sai Satcharithra and explain to others why we read this chapter/extract. Is there any connection to it? This helps us to know more about Him and His leela with other devotees. I personally felt very happy when we started this in December 2015 and would like to continue like this.

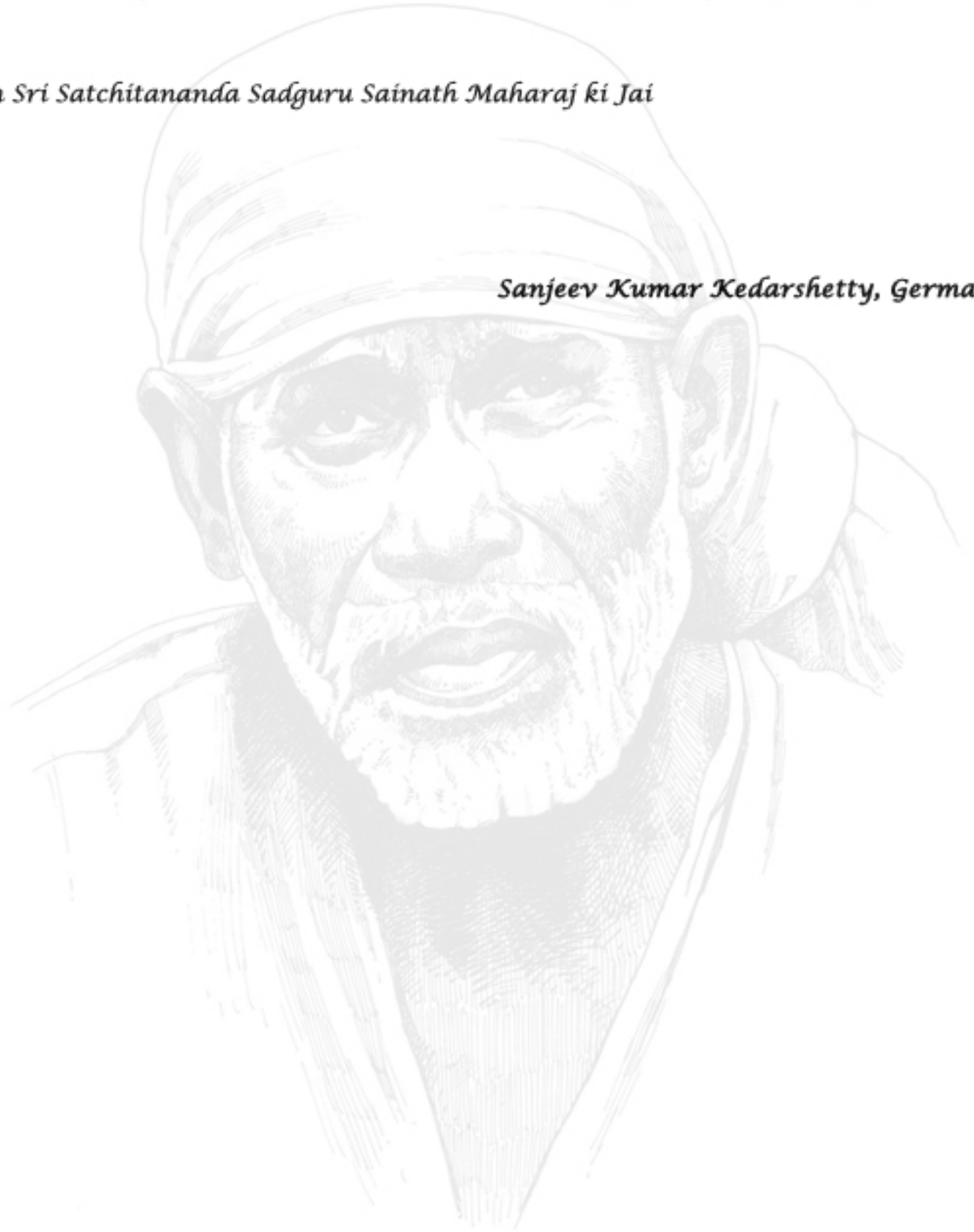
I think it was sometime in last summer when a devotee suggested that we should do celebrate Dussehra festival. Everyone immediately agreed and started the preparations for the auspicious event. A large number of devotees attended and with His blessings, everything happened smoothly. We have now started preparing for Ram

Navami, which we will celebrate in April this year.

The devotees of Shri Shirdi Sai are spread across Europe and other parts of the world. Even then, we feel connected to each other as one big Family. Sai Family !!!

Om Sri Satchitananda Sadguru Sainath Maharaj ki Jai

Sanjeev Kumar Kedarshetty, Germany



POEMS

Take me away with you!

*I was sleeping,
Until like the gentle wind
Kissing the tips of leaves
On a pleasant spring evening,
You softly whispered
Into my ears,
Stirring my soul
With your divine
Reverberations*

*I was helplessly trapped
In the rigmarole of life
But, when you looked into my eyes,
Touched my head with your holy Feet
You awakened 'me'
Rekindling the timeless
Indefinite, pure,
Love we share
And I realized
I came from you,
In you
I must merge*

*And now,
I am not sleeping any more
Dazzled,
Wide eyed,
Like an excited child*

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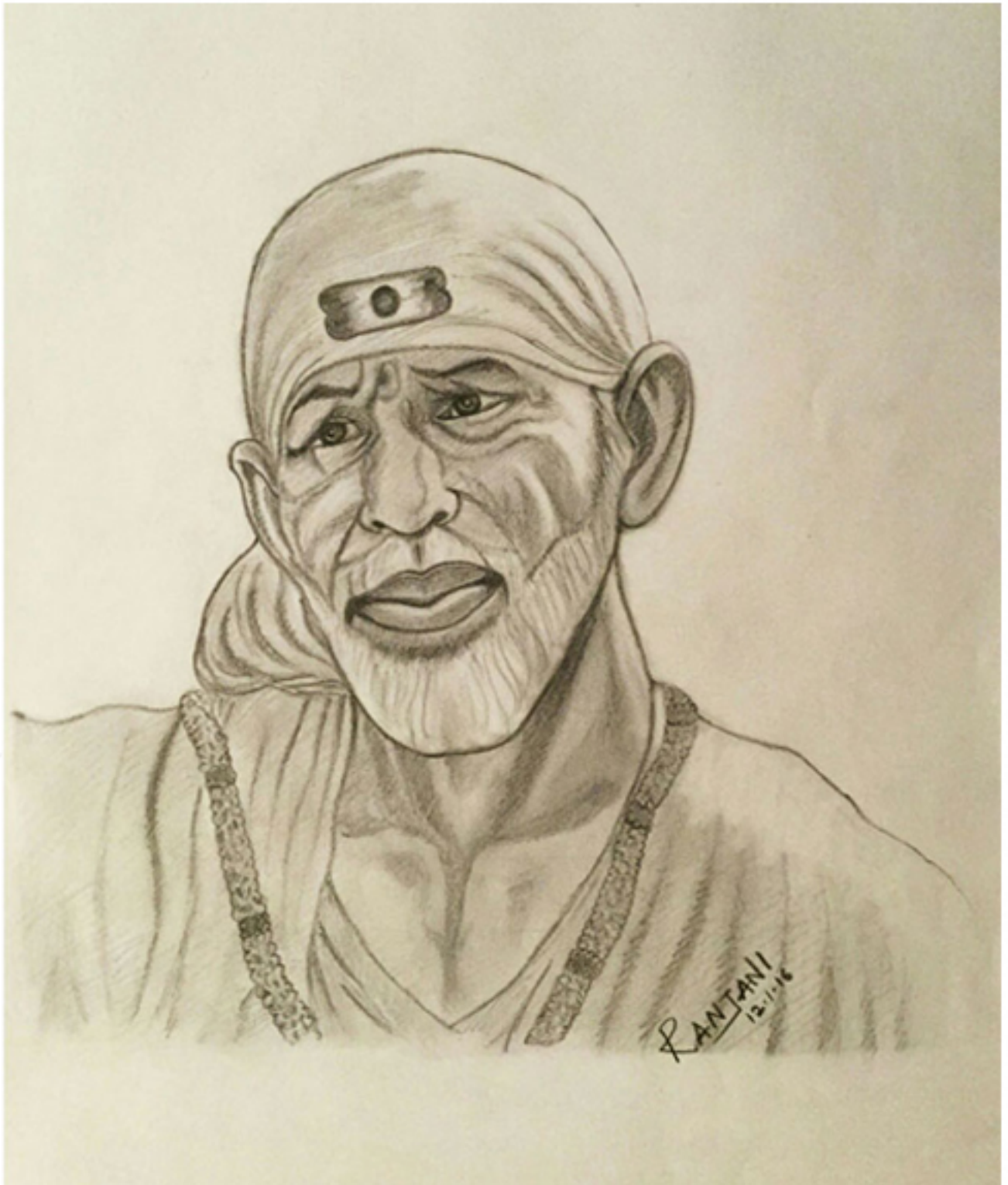
*When I first saw
Thy glorious self,
Bright
As the brightest of stars
An aura,
Expansive like the limitless water
Of the deep blue ocean*

*Come,
Take me away with you
I no longer
Can bear the pain
Of my separation
From you*

*There is only one question
Which bothers me,
Always,
Did you really
Create me
To stay away
From me?*

Abhijit Narayan, Germany

SKETCHES



Ranjani, Germany

Om Sai Ram



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Vidhya Rakesh, Belgium

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जय साई रास

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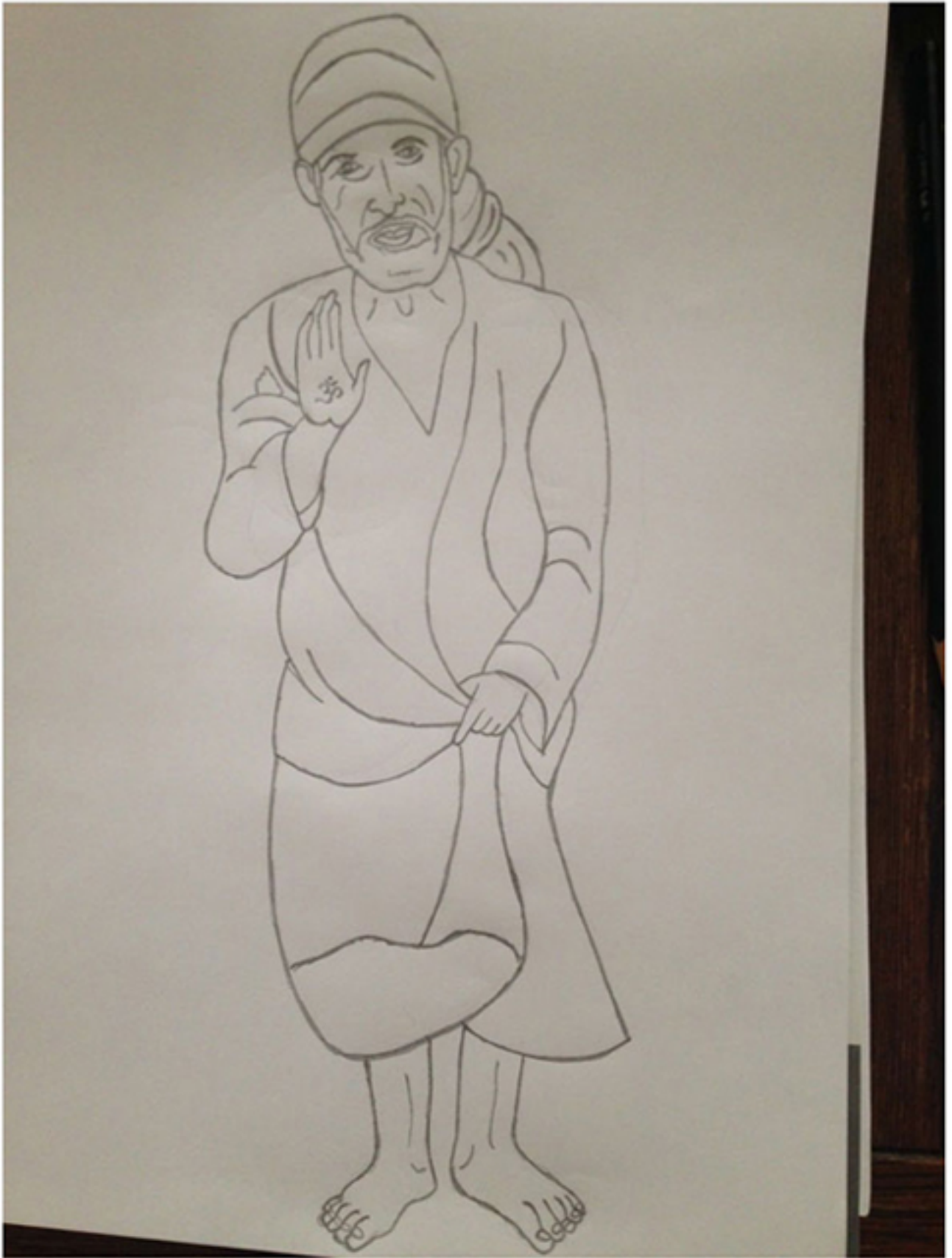
श्रद्धा
Faith

सबूरी
Patience



Love lives
by giving
and
forgiving..

Saina



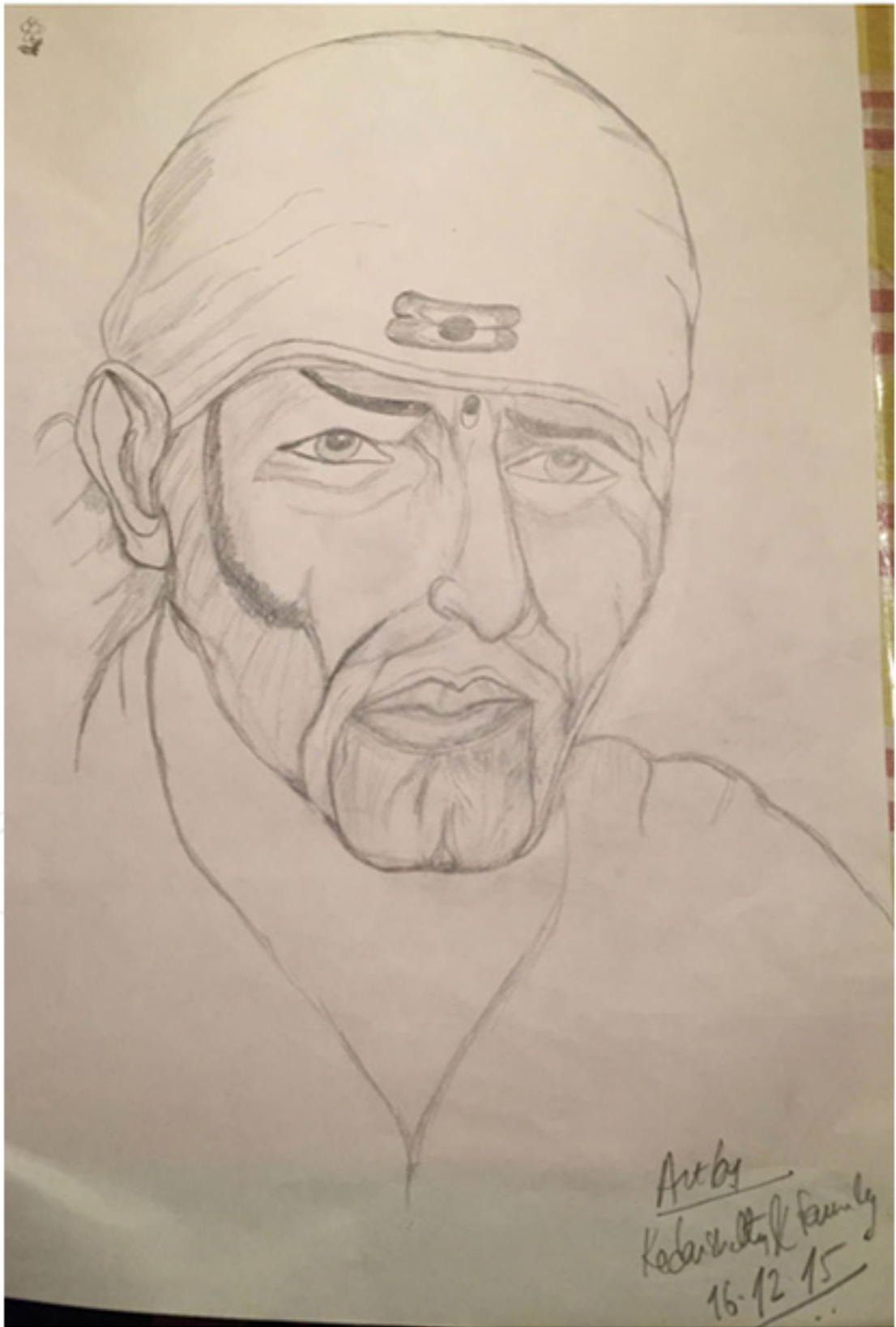
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Jaisree Venkatesan, Germany



— Dharsi Reddy
Frankfurt

Dharsi Reddy, Germany



Kedarshetty Family, Germany

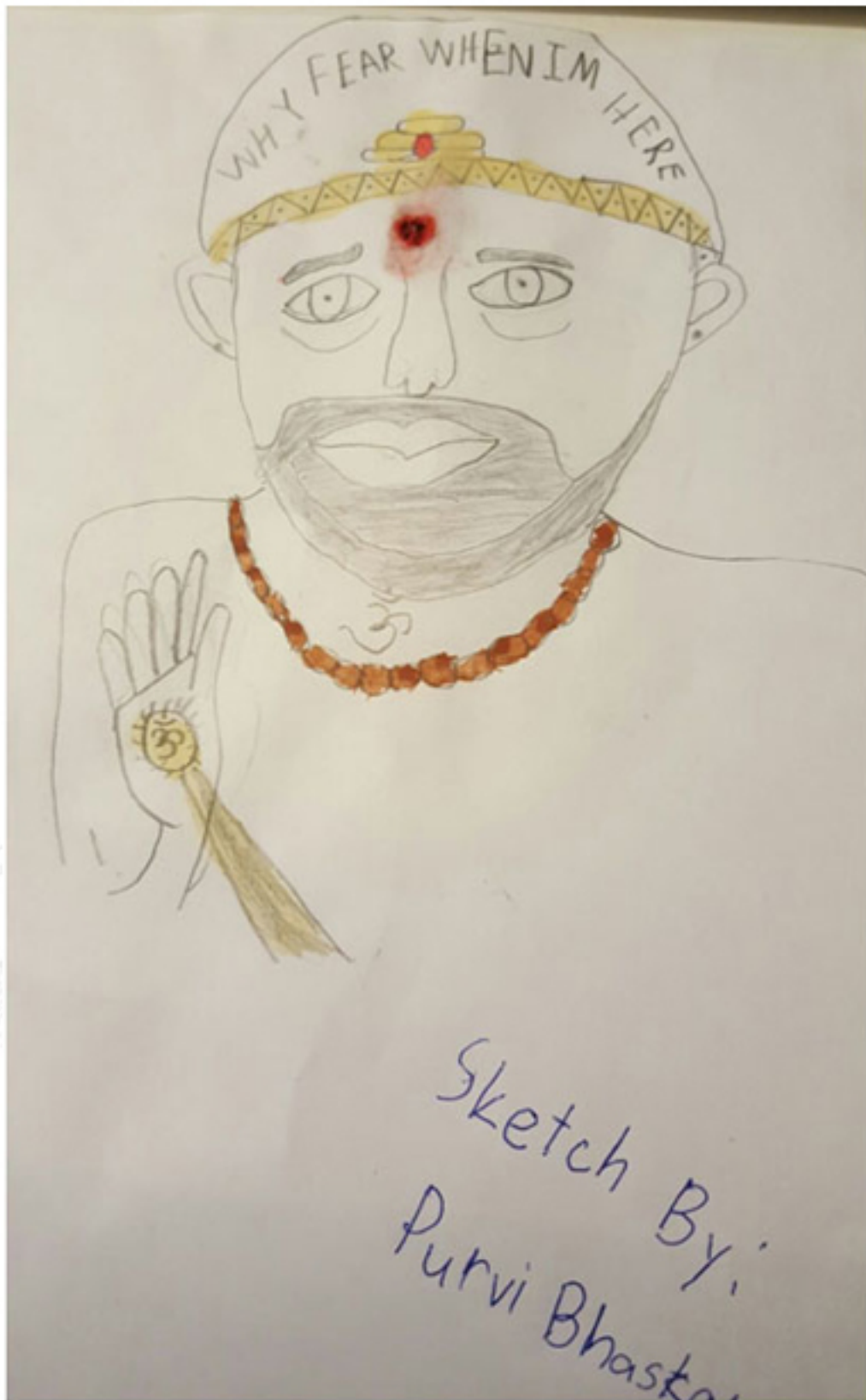


Dhevi Priya, Germany

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Ria Kanungo, France (Age - 6 years)



Purvi Bhaskar, Finland (Age-10 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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