



NEW YEAR MESSAGE 2001

Sadguru Shri Sainath Maharaj is in the highest divine state of God with the divine attributes of unlimited power, knowledge, happiness and existence. That is why He is addressed verily as Parambrahma and Sachidananda. Since the entire creation emanates from God the Almighty and ends in Him, He is the only permanent and universal reality. The primordial consciousness evolves out of him, Ney, He is the primordial consciousness.

This consciousness manifests in millions and millions of forms, both living and non-living. Whether a stone, a plant, an ant, a tiger or a human being - all have come out of that primordial consciousness. They again merge in Him as all the rivers merge in a sea. The sea is the confluence of all rivers as God is the confluence of the entire conscious of the universe including human souls. Similarly the Sadguru is the confluence of all his devotees.

Hindus call the confluence place of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati at Allahabad as Sangam. In the path of spiritual science the confluence of the three powers i.e. Brahma, Vishnoo and Mahesh - the Tri-deva together form the confluence or Sangam of the divine creative energy. Similarly, the combination of knowledge (Gyan), Devotion (Bhakti) and Duty (Karma) is also a Sangam. The yogis concentrate at a point in the forehead between the eye brows known as Trikuta, Triputa, Triveni where the three important Nadis (Nerves) called Ida, Pingala and Sushmna join. Once a man has realised God his power of will (Ichcha Shakti), power of knowledge (Gyan Shakti) and power of action (Kriya Shakti) get focused. Thus the word Sangam has many connotations in the spiritual world of the Hindus.

During our time, in the form of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba, had taken place the biggest confluence of all spiritual paths, all religious groups, all cultures and devotees, not withstanding their wide-ranging variations. The Hindus, Parsees, Muslims and followers of other religions used to come to Him both for temporal and spiritual benefit and got it. The high and low, the young and old, men and women, beggars and rulers all took shelter in Him. He was the kind father to all - the great equalizer of His time. He was a spiritual revolutionary and the greatest social

reformer. At Shirdi, He ushered in an epoch of universality and mutual tolerance by meting out equal treatment to all who came - no matter to what religion, social or economic status they belonged to. There was no differentiation between male and female before Shri Sai. Thus, Bayaji Maa, Radhakrishna Bai and Laxmi Bai - all became important characters during the time of Sai. The richest man of Nagpur named Buti was there side-by-side with a devotee like Mhalsapati, who could hardly eek out his livelihood. Dasganu, the police constable was treated at par with Nana Saheb Chandorkar, who was the Magistrate. Megha, the cook of Raybahadur Sathe was as important as the master. Kaka Saheb Dixit, one of the greatest solicitors of Maharashtra used to beg for Baba at Shirdi, when Baba was sick. Abdul, the Muslim used to look after Baba's personal needs, as much as Shyama, the high caste Brahmin. Saints and Faquirs used to meet Him for spiritual guidance as also the lesser mortals. Even the birds and animals had a place in Him. In Shirdi one can see the tomb of a horse and a tiger as also the tombs of Saints like Nanavali, Kumbhar, Bhaw, etc. Ramnavami and Shri Krishna Janma were celebrated by Baba as also Id-ulfitr. Baba introduced group dinner, group celebration and even group smocking from Chillum. Under the divine umbrella of Shri Sai all devotees forgot their pettiness of caste, religion and creed and mirthfully lived together. Important people like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Kaka Saheb Dixit, Buti and many high level officials used to visit Him. Magistrates, Judges, Businessmen, Merchants, Teachers, Police personnel as also beggars, destitute and the poorest of the poor used to visit Him for solace and support.

This was certainly no easy task to perform in a society ridden by religious, social and caste differentiation in the late 19th and early 20th Century. Shri Sai, the son of God not only achieved this with easiness but set a futuristic standard for the emancipation of human souls out of these bondages, where human souls meet purely in a divine plane that place becomes the heaven on earth. For the devotees of Baba, Shirdi was the heaven on earth. Whereto they ran whenever the call came from the Master as they do today. In this month of Makara Sankranti, when the Kumbha Mela is taking place at Sangam we pray Shri Sainath to bring about a creative and loving confluence among his devotees and all the living beings on earth.