

# **The Glory of Gowrivakkam Shri Sai Baba Temple**

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## **PREFACE**

The book that you are now reading is actually a translated and printed version of what was published in the internet about the Sai Baba temple at Gowrivakkam.

The specialty of this temple cannot be described in just one Book. With the grace of Baba and his blessings Mrs Sivasankari Thyagarajan and Mrs Ashalatha Rajasekar have made a successful attempt in describing the greatness of this temple. Actually there is a miracle even in the way these devotees collected information about this temple. When they started collecting information they planned to do so about the Mylapore temple of Sri Sai Baba. But without the knowledge of each other they were inadvertently collecting information about Gowrivakkam temple. Is this itself not a leela of Sri Sai Baba? They have recorded this information in their own articles.

Volunteers working for the temple duties of Gowrivakkam temple were selected by Baba himself and that itself is an expression of His Greatness and superb examples of His Leelas. How He appointed them is beyond the comprehension of our knowledge and understanding. If a particular person is needed for a specific work in the temple who else can show the right person except Baba Himself? Baba had appointed many people like this in this temple and it can be construed as one of His leelas. We can recall one of the latest leelas as an example.

Recently need arose for a person who would assist the pujari and also to carry on sundry and miscellaneous work in the temple. One Mr Raj was appointed for this job. A man ideally suited for this job you cannot think of a better person for him for this job. Not only he, his wife Mrs Muthu and their two sons all of them have engaged themselves in the service of Baba. It would be interesting to note how Mr Raju was selected and blessed by Baba for this job.

Just a couple of days before his appointment he was under treatment in a hospital. To visit him in the hospital his wife Mrs Muthu and their eldest son were waiting in the bus stop. At that time right opposite to them an auto came and stopped and an old man got down from the auto and caught hold of Mrs Muthu's son as support. He did not leave his hand even after stabilizing himself; on the contrary he held his hand tight and started telling something about Himself. Around that time the bus that Mrs Muthu and her son had to board came there and they got into the bus. The old man also got into the bus along with them. Later the old man told them that he does not have money to buy tickets and sat in a corner of the bus. So Mrs Muthu's son bought the ticket for the old man also. He also got down at the same stop they got down. He looked at the ring with Baba's photo on it which was worn Mrs Muthu and asked her about it and how she got it for which she replied that she had purchased it at the Gowrivakkam temple. Immediately he responded "here after you go there" and gave the ring back to her. At that

time they never had even given a thought about working in Gowrivakkam temple. Mrs Muthu's son wanted to give some money to the old man but Mrs Muthu felt that the old man might mistake if they gave money because he did not look like a beggar. Still her son gave him some money and after taking it he just vanished in the thin air. Nobody could find out how and where he disappeared. Later they realized that Baba himself had come and taken dakshinas and blessed them. Only after they were appointed to work at the Gowrivakkam temple they realized that the old man's prophecy "you go there" was actually a command and blessing from Baba Himself.

If Baba blesses people who offer services in the temple then we can imagine how he would bless the person who built the temple. True, the man who sold his properties to construct a temple for Baba had been blessed by Baba and this article makes a brief mention about this. This book tells you how Pujyasri Kulasekara Perumal who is affectionately called "appa" by Sai devotees was blessed by Baba.

The word "Baba" actually means father. As far as we are concerned Baba is Appa and Appa is Baba. He is like Baba in not only in word and meaning but also in his deeds. In treating all the devotees rich and poor alike, in express solicitude towards all devotees, in seeking Baba's blessings on behalf of all devotees irrespective of their financial status 'Appa' is like Baba Himself. In Baba's durbar every devotee felt that he was treated specially by Baba. Such was the nature of love that Baba showered on

his devotees. With Appa we feel more or less the same type of feeling.

Appa had the good fortune of being a childhood friend of Puttaparthi Sri Sathya Sai Baba. When the time came for him to part with his company Sathya Sai Baba had said “Do not forget me” for which appa had replied “How can I forget you Baba?”. To this Sathya Sai Baba replied “You will catch hold of my previous birth that is Shirdi Sai Baba and will even construct a temple for Shirdi Sai Baba. Till that time this Vinayaga idol will be with you” and gave him a Vinayaga idol. True to his sayings the temple of Shirdi Sai Baba was constructed after which the Vinayaga idol vanished.

Kulasekara Perumal is one among the Alwars who spoke the “words of God”. True to his name Appa, 'Kulasekara Perumal' also acts as an intermediary between Baba devotees and Baba Himself. He prays on behalf of devotees to Baba and communicates Baba’s sayings to them. That way he is true to his name for doing the “*Perumal Thirumozhi*” which means translating God’s words. To seek Baba’s blessings through Appa many devotees throng this temple. To seek Appa’s blessings and Baba’s blessings on behalf of all Baba devotees we welcome all people to this temple.

-Baba Devotees.

## **History of Sai Baba Temple and Sri. Perumal became Baba's child.**

**This temple was constructed by Thiru. Kulasekara Perumal. First let me share with you how BABA pulled this sparrow towards him and made him construct a temple.**

**Mrs Kulasekara Perumal was a strong devotee of SAI. Mr Perumal was not a Sai devotee then. Perumalji was working as an Assistant Accounts officer in Electricity Board, and retd., in the yr., 1986. Around his age of 30, when Mr Perumal got a chance to travel to Mumbai on an official trip, his wife requested him to visit Shirdi. Mr Perumal after completing his office works, on one early morning at 4 AM went to Mumbai station and enquired for tickets to Shirdi. The person at counter guided him by informing that he should take a train from Victoria terminus to Manmad and then another train from Manmad to Kopergaon to reach Shirdi.**

**To take Manmad train, first Mr Perumal has to take a local train to reach Victoria terminus. But he could hear an announcement that local trains are late by 30 minutes. Now he had only 20 mins left to take Manmad express. He immediately prayed BABA to help him. Unexpectedly a stranger asked "Where do you want to go?" When Mr Perumal explained his situation, the stranger asked Mr Perumal to follow him. He took Mr Perumal out of the platform, took a taxi and instructed driver to drive fast to Victoria terminus.**

In 15 mins they reached the terminus. Then the stranger told Mr Perumal "Only 5 minutes is left for train. Please rush from this place immediately." Saying this, the stranger moved away from the spot and disappeared. It was then Mr Perumal realised it is none other than BABA.

Mr Perumal reached the train. There was lot of crowd, not able to get into the train. A guard came to him and asked "Where are you going". On hearing the answer as Shirdi, the guard hugged Mr Perumal and got him a seat in the train. When Mr Perumal got down in Manmad, the same guard guided him to the platform to take Kopergaon train. After boarding the Kopergaon train, Mr Perumal had a thought in his mind like "If there is anybody to accompany me, it will be a more HAPPY DARSHAN for me".

In next few minutes, a 15 years old boy came and sat next to Mr Perumal. \* Mr Perumal asked him in English, "Where are you going?" The Boy replied as "to Shirdi" in Marati. But Mr Perumal could feel as he was speaking in Tamil. On reaching Kopergaon, this boy informed that Bus stand is 3 miles away from there and they have to go by tonga. The boy made Mr Perumal to sit in a tonga and he also sat with Perumal. After reaching the bus stand, he told Mr Perumal "You are hungry. Have two teas because you do not like any other". It was true, after leaving Chennai Mr Perumal did not have proper food as he did not like the taste.

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\* See Appendix



**This boy helped Mr Perumal in getting a single room accommodation. He arranged for easy darshan. He left Mr Perumal inside Samadhi Mandir and asked him to enjoy nice darshan. In the meantime, the boy arranged for the South Indian breakfast for Perumal. After one hour, he took Mr Perumal for breakfast and made him enjoy his food. He arranged for Lunch & Dinner too.**

**This boy helped Mr Perumal to have darshan during all aarthis. The next day he took Mr Perumal early in the morning to perform Milk Abhishekam to Sai. After completion of abhishekam he informed Perumal, "There is bus to Manmad at 8 AM, please leave this place soon as your office friends are waiting for you". All his behaviours & speech were wonders to Mr Perumal. Mr Perumal never mentioned anything about his friends, then how come he knows? The boy made Mr Perumal to take bus to Manmad.**

**At Manmad, he took Mr Perumal to station and showed him the ticket counter asking him to buy a ticket to Mumbai soon. When Mr Perumal was back from counter, he could not see that boy anywhere. It was a shock to Mr Perumal. He realised the boy again is "SAI". Mr Perumal started crying. People around him thought that he had lost his money or luggage. But no one knows the fact.**

**It took more than 20 minutes to realise himself. Since then the trust and devotion towards Sai increased within Perumal. Before this trip, he was praying different**

**GOD in different forms, but after realising Sai, he surrendered him only to Sai.**

**After this trip, Mr Perumal daily visited Baba temple at Mylapore, Chennai. When he retired in 1986, he spent most of his time in temple. Because of his true devotion, he was asked to perform dressing and abhishek to Sai by temple officials. Later he was given additional responsibility of taking care of Naivaithiya, Annadhan and other pooja tasks too. In this way he got an opportunity to serve Sai for 13 years.**

**Due to some reason he had to leave that temple after 13 years. He was not able to spend his time without offering his services to Sai even just for 2 days. On 3rd day, the priest got a blissful dream Sai appeared in his dream and placed his divine hand on the head of Perumalji and said, "Leave out your ego and submit yourself to me, I shall help you to construct a mandir and you will be an instrument for the same." "BUILD MY TEMPLE FOR YOURSELF".** He really felt as though a thunder landed on his head and he was literally sweating when he got up, he was so happy and was in a total bliss he started to weep that he did not use the opportunity to touch the lotus feet of our Saima.

**When Mr Perumal said "I don't have enough money", Sai replied "NO EGO, BE A TOOL, TAKE EFFORTS". From that day, every night BABA instructed Perumal what he had to do next day. Following all HIS instructions, Mr Perumal was able to construct this temple. The Kumbabishekam of temple was performed on 27th August 2000.**

The priest also adds that for the mandir right from the color of paint, the kind of brick/tile everything is purely the choice of Sai, he tells that he did not see any Vastu for constructing the temple as it is the home of our divine mother. He never faced any financial problems while constructing the mandir as the fund inflow was also taken care by Sai.

He tells that his wife is his guru. She had been a very staunch devotee of Sai and she had a small pratima of Sai, she got the pratima from her father ,it is very unique and she used to do her pooja to her Lord. The pratima is black and is not seen one of that kind. The priest used to even make fun of his wife's devotion until he was blessed by Sai, he did not realize who Sai is? And now he just resides in the temple and gets all the divine blessings from Sai.

This BABA mandir does so many leelas as all other BABA Mandirs.

The most significant part of this temple is our eternal father resides here in the form of goddess. Yes, Sai is dressed up like a goddess with all kind of ornaments right from stud, maattal (a small chain around the ears fixing with the stud), necklace, long chain with pendant, kumkum, aaram, anklet, silk saree. Our Sai is a Maharani (a Queen).





## **Baba and his conversation with priest**

The priest had a habit of telling the ladies not to use “Udi” on the forbidden days. (He keeps telling them not to touch for 5 days). One day Saima, asked him “Why da? (Da -a term used with love, shows the closeness)

**WHY DO YOU TELL LADIES NOT TO USE “UDI” ON THOSE FORBIDDEN DAYS”?? WHEN I AM A MOTHER AND UNDERGOING ALL THAT UPADRAV- problems (this word was used by Sai)! Priest said, “ok ma I will let them keep your udi and will not let them circumbulate temple on those days, Sai was just smiling at him and went away.**

The priest realized that, “Oh my Sai, is not with me as my eternal father, but he is my mother to me, this incident brought a transformation in his mind and he started to dress up SAI MAHARAJ AS SAIMAHARANI.

After this incident a devotee by named Ramesh (cement dealer) came to the priest and said, “Appa, I made this single padam-namam out of gold. (Lord Balaji’s wife - Goddess Alamelu she wears on her forehead a single vertical line with trishnum-a red powder like kumkum). The priest was wondering what to do with that?

He was not ready to accept it. But the devotee was pressurizing the priest to keep it with himself, so half minded the priest accepted the same. Saima, told the priest,

**“WHY DA, WHY ARE YOU REFUSING IT, TAKE IT FROM THE DEVOTEE, I TOLD YOU I AM GODDESS, YOU ARE BEAUTIFYING ME WITH STUD WHY DON’T YOU KEEP THE SINGLE PADAM(vertical line)-NAMAM ON MY FOREHEAD ON SATURDAYS”.**

(Saturdays is considered to be more auspicious for Lord Balaji). From then the priest kept “three horizontal lines – UDI on saima’s forehead on all the days of the week and only on Saturday he keeps Single vertical line –namam on the forehead of saima.

### **Miracles of Sai in the Neem tree in Gurusthan**

One part of the neem tree in Gurusthan started to get a oval shape and slowly devotees could see a right leg in folded form (like the way our Sai sits on the throne) after few days they could see the left leg balancing the right leg and then one can see the face of our Saimaharaj. Now we can see the whole form of Sai in the neem tree.



## **Miracle in getting a Garland**

During the early days after the construction of the mandir it was very difficult to get garland for our Sai Maharaj as the mandir is in a remote area. One day it was really a testing time that Perumalji could not get a



garland in spite of searching here and there and was so upset and felt Oh, my Sai, how will I find a garland today, “Just then a devotee came to the mandir with a beautiful garland.” He said, “ I go to Enjambakkam (sea shore) Baba mandir everyday in the morning with a garland, and I heard from friends that there is a new Sai temple in this area, and thought why not have a glimpse of this mandir today, and seeing Sai I am so happy and I thought today let me offer garland to this mandir itself, after listening to the priest, the devotee said,” from today I will bring garland for Saima everyday” and he is doing this service till date.

### **The priest's recent and heart touching miracle**

With great difficulty he had accumulated some cash and bought a “Pancharati”- arati with 5wick in silver for our Sainath. He was shocked to understand that the “Pancharati” was missing. He was disturbed and he cried to Sai, Sai, like a squirrel I saved little money here and there and I am buying things for you. Whereas now it got lost, why is it happening like this?

Sai said “- Why da, Why are you crying for this, how much is going to be the value of it,

Priest – Sai, it costs Rs. 15,000/-.

Sai- Oh you are just crying for this amount, leave it, a child of mine will bring that money to you.

Priest was puzzled, what is this, who is going to bring this huge amount? Just then a family came to take darshan of Sai, immediately the priest asked the permission of Sai whether he can approach the couple as they both were doctors they must be able to give this amount, but Sai said no....

Priest was in a fix, Sai,” they are little well off and you are not letting me to approach them, now I don’t know what to do”? Just then a lady by named Koushalya came there and she called the priest, and said appa, (father) I just want to talk to you for a minute, and she had a box in her hand. She opened the box and said there is 5 lakhs in this box, this money had been saved by me and I just withdrew the same and so please take how much ever you want for Sai.

Priest was shocked he was like what is this? You have brought such a huge amount and you are saying take how much ever I need for Sai, I don’t know what to say?

She said, “please do not hesitate and take whatever money you feel Sai needs”. (Devotees likes to call him as appa-father, he is kind and a good listener and everyone feels that anything conveyed to him will be passed on to Sai)

The priest narrated the whole incident and said may be Sai was talking about her – “a child will come and give the money”. She happily gave Rs.15000. and the priest also felt so happy about the way Sai had helped to buy ”Pancharati”.

I have attached the various photos of temples. Also the photo of Mr. Kulasekara Perumal (who is in his 80's now) is attached.



## Temple Structure Details



**The Sai Statue made up of brass placed, next to the main Marble Statue of Sai Nath.**



**The structure of this Sai temple, as we enter in there is small hall. In the right of the hall is the Main Sai Statue. Straight opposite to entrance there is a small Vinayak idol.**



In the right side of Main Sai Statue, there is room like Dwarkamai, where Sai is in the sitting posture.



In the same room there is a big Sai Photo & a lamp.





Next to that room there is one more Sai Statue.



**In the next chamber, we can see Pujya Shri Narasimha Swamiji's beautiful and majestic posture.**



Behind the Main Statue there is way out to the hall again. In that place there is Gurusthan and a Neem tree.



## **Other Details**

**SHIRDI SAI MANDIR -  
GOWRIVAKKAM, CHENNAI.**

**(Constructed in the yr-2000)**

**Founder- Kulasekara perumalji**

**GODDESS - SAIMA (SAI IN THE FORM OF  
GODDESS)**

### **Direction of Temple:**

**This temple is located in the South Chennai in  
Medavakkam-Tambaram Main Road .**

### **Sai Temple Address :**

**"No 9 Saibaba temple street,  
Gowrivakkam, Chennai 600073**

**Telephone : Ph: 044 22780195**

**Trust: Shirdi Sri Saibaba Trust**

## **Festivals Celebrated:**

- New Year
- SriRamanavami
- Sai Punnyathithi
- Gurupoornima
- Foundation Day/pooja for kuthuvilakku (lamp pooja done by ladies)-31st Jan every year
- MahaShivaratri

## **Mandir seva:**

Annadhanam is provided to all the Sai devotees on daily basis.

Website will be ready in couple of months.

## **Information collected by :**

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And Ashalatha USA (sister)

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