



## MAHA SAMADHI MESSAGE 2012

Before Maha Samadhi, Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi had spent a few decades at Shirdi serving His devotees in two ways. First, He tried to evolve them spiritually by putting them through a process of mental and physical control. This He did by encouraging and emphasizing on the reading of scriptures like Bhagwad Gita, Ramayana, Jñaneshwari and Eknathi Bhagwat etc. and understanding of its essence. He even prescribed specific books for specific devotees. He encouraged prayers, personally by devotees and also in groups as also the continuous remembrance of God.

Secondly He carried on with His humanitarian and philanthropic activities like providing food, cloth and at times shelter to the poor and destitute and health care to the sick. He used to help some people financially as well. Thus the kind Master gave both spiritual and temporal benefits to a very large number of His devotees.

Presently, there are over a thousand temples dedicated to Baba in India and some in other countries as well. These temples are carrying on with ritualistic worship, poor feeding and health care through dispensaries etc. It comes to my mind that Baba's temples can expand the scope of their philanthropic and charitable activities in the field of medicare and education, particularly to the physically challenged groups of the society. Each temple, within its capacity, can think of undertaking bigger and more expansive programmes pertaining to humanitarian activities. They can think of cutting down on avoidable and unnecessary ritualistic activities and concentrate on rendering help to the poor, needy and the sick. Opening educational institutions at various levels of education, setting up of dispensaries and hospitals for medicare, inclusive educational institutions for persons with disabilities (PWD), old age homes and good libraries are a few examples of such activities.

Shirdi Sai Baba, besides being the Spiritual Master, was a great philanthropist and humanitarian. He even took care of animals. Therefore His devotees will do well to continue with such activities. May Shri Sai bless us all.

Shri C. B. Satpathy  
New Delhi