



RAMNAVAMI MESSAGE 1997

Ramnavami is celebrated at Shirdi and by the devotees of Shirdi Sai as the birthday of Sri Shirdi Sai. The exact date of birth of Baba is shrouded in mystery. However, the life, the personality and the deeds of Shirdi Sai, when He was in His mortal body, were so universal and magnanimous that He was acclaimed by all who came in His contact as a Perfect Master. A Perfect Master at first is a perfect man that is a *Purushottam* - an epithet used for Sri Ram.

Sri Sai often used to advice the devotees to read Ramayana, to chant *Ram-naam* and also *Ram taraka mantra*. Avatars have always shown two prominent traits in their personality. One is that of a perfect man, which would mean a perfect father, perfect husband and perfect friend, all put into one. The other is the vast and unfathomable power of divinity, they at times display when it is needed. In the first role they function as *Sadgurus* showing examples of a perfect human life to be emulated by others. Through their mighty divine power they help the devotees out of distress and bring about big changes in the society, many times through wars, for which they had taken the human form. Sri Sainath's life displays both these attributes. Therefore, celebration of Baba's birthday on the Ramnavami day is appropriate.

Except God no one and nothing in this world is perfect. All the imperfect beings and things in the world which include all species get birth because they are imperfect. Life after life they go on perfecting themselves little by little. The meaning of life is an endeavour to become perfect. Self-analysis, self-study, self-oriented actions towards that goal and prayer to Sadguru to lead us in that path is the only way to progress meaningfully in life. We pray to Sadguru Sri Sainath to lead us towards perfection.