

# Shri Shirdi Sai Baba

Guruji Shri C. B. Satpathy Message on the occasion of

**RAMNAVAMI**

*April 1996*

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**A**lthough, no one knows for sure about the day on which Sri Sainath was born, but as per Shirdi traditions Ramnavami (ninth day of the bright half of Chaitra month in Hindu Calendar i.e. March-April) is celebrated as Baba's birthday. Sri Ram epitomized moral excellence as against Ravan, who displayed moral degradation. Through millenniums, it is these beings that have used their soul-forces either for excellence i.e., good to others or for degradation i.e., evil to others. No other species can culminate to such heights, either way. Therefore, the saying goes that 'God build human beings in His own image'.

Sri Sainath had reached a state of consciousness, which was beyond the control of the space/time dynamics. He is universal, eternal and reflects the quintessence of human virtues like Sri Rama. Hence, this logical correlation comes up between His birthday and the birthday of Sri Ram by the devotees. But, what is the method preached and practiced by Sri Sainath for reaching such a height of human evolution. Baba used to take the name of Sri Ram frequently and used to advise His devotees to read books like Ram Vijai, Ramayan, etc. Precisely, He wanted the devotees to imbibe, to the extent possible, the qualities of Sri Ram.

'Navami' means the ninth day from the moon. It is a point in an almanac time schedule. We will better understand the spiritual significance of Ramnavami by interpreting 'Navami' as *Navadha*. '*Navadha Bhakti*' then is the key word to bring about excellence in us, which is synonym with spiritual progress. *Navadha Bhakti* means nine-fold devotional approach to God or *Sadguru* i.e., *Bhajan, Smaran, Dhyana* etc. Baba during His departure from the mortal body had given nine rupees to His ardent devotee Laxmi as a symbol of *Navadha Bhakti* to be practiced by the followers. This was His last gesture and we must follow its significance.

Om Shri Sai

C. B. Satpathy

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