

Shri Shirdi Sai Baba

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

Dusherra
October 1995

Vijaya Dashmi is celebrated by the Hindus to commemorate the victory of the benevolent forces of nature, mythologically depicted in the form of Goddess “Durga” against the evil forces of nature depicted in the form of demon “Mahishasura”. This day is celebrated mirthfully because it gives us the assurance that ultimately good prevails over evil and, therefore, there is a meaning to our existence.

For the devotees of Sri Sainath of Shirdi it is a day of greater significance because Baba left His gross body on this day falling on the 15th October in the year 1918. On the Dussehra day of 1916 Baba had clearly indicated that two years later He would leave His gross body. Surprisingly, the 15th October 1918 also happened to be the day of Moharram. The departure of Baba on such a day was symbolic of His universal approach to human problems cutting across all religions, nationalities, castes, social differentiation and all such man-made barriers.

Dussehra also used to be celebrated as the day of “*Seema Ullanghan*” meaning the day of crossing of the borders. The Kings used to cross the physical boundaries of their kingdoms and celebrate victory. In 1916 on Dussehra day Baba told a group of devotees that he would undertake His ‘*Seema Ullanghan*’ two year later. Exactly two years later Baba crossed His bodily existence and entered into His permanent abode of *Sat-Chit- Anand*. At His stage of divinity He only consciously changed a state of existence as per His own will. In the path of spiritualism “*Seema Ullanghan*” does not mean only a state of physical change but it means ‘transcendence’. We often hear of words like ‘transcendental meditation’ and ‘transcendental yoga’.

Transcendence of what? Transcendence of the fetters of body and mind. This can only be achieved by controlling the compulsions of body like hunger, lust, and the mental compulsions of mind like greed, jealousy, anger, hatred etc. (the six limitations). When one by one the mental fetters fall off, two elements of mind like ‘desire’ and ‘feeling’ pertaining to those compulsions also vanish. The soul slowly but imperceptibly then enters into a state of pure consciousness. At this stage he goes beyond all bodily fetters, including birth and death. He also crosses the barriers

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of time and space. The progress in the path of spirituality is the march of the divine consciousness from its primordial state to the original divine self.

Through various acts, advises and examples, Baba advised His children to follow the path of *dharma*, which means transgressing the limitations of our small 'ego'. On this day, keeping in mind Baba's advice we may all strive to undertake "*Seema Ullanghar*" of the limitations of our mind and body, so that we can forge ahead to plant better tomorrow for the posterity.

Om Shri Sai

C. B. Satpathy