



"Your forefathers achieved prosperity, peace and joy and succeeded in attaining their goals only through faith. If you lose faith, you are certain to fall. For, faith is the very breath of life. When there is no breath, one becomes a shavam (corpse). With the breath of faith, you become Shivam (Divine), the same as the Lord Himself. Faith can endow you with all forms of power and render you full and complete (poorna). For, Atma, by its very nature, is self-sufficient and full. No other Sadhana (spiritual exercise) is needed to realise that state. Purity and self-sufficiency (paripoornatha) is also your true nature. Impurity and insufficiency are alien to mankind. You should not ignore or forget this fact. Real education must arouse this faith and infuse the awareness of this fullness in every activity. This is the essential aim, the core of the right type of education" - Sri Sathya Sai Baba

An Evening with Janet Bock



An Evening with Janet Bock (wife of Late Richard Bock)

[Read More below....](#)

From Shirdi Sai to Sathya Sai



Read the unique story of Mr M S Dixit and how he saw both Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai!

[Read More below....](#)

AVATAR DECLARATION DAY



20th October should be significant date to be remembered by all Sai devotees. Do you know the full story?

[Read More below....](#)

Youth Symposium



The theme is Youth & Service.... "Don't wait for an opportunity, Create one!"

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Dear Love & Light Readers,
Sai Ram !

This month we have the great honour and privilege of welcoming to the United Kingdom a very special devotee that has helped bring Swami into the homes of countless people. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Janet Bock from USA. Janet Bock and her late husband Richard Bock were among the first devotees to film Swami using an 8mm Camera. These movies are incredibly rare and their fame has spread far and wide. At a time pre-Video, Internet and U-tube for many this was the only glimpse of the Lord.



These films included Aura of Divinity, The Universal Teacher, His Life Is His Message, The Message I Bring, Celebration, Advent of the Avatar, The Early Years, The Endless Stream of Shirdi Sai & Sathya Sai to the Lost Years of Jesus. Thanks to these films many people were able to find Swami. It could be said that these films were the key that opened the hearts of many devotees.

I will never forget, going as a young lad, with Raman Solanki, my Centre Chair of Brixton Sai Centre to a village hall showing these films on a projector with 8mm film. Lucas Ralli, the then National Chair, used to travel the length and breadth of the country holding public meetings in church halls nestled in beautiful idyllic villages. Many times he used to ask Raman Solanki to accompany him.



These films used to evoke a lot of interest in Swami and subsequently many people found the one that they had been seeking for so long. Here, I would like to pay homage to these pioneers such as Lucas Ralli who brought so many people to Swami (details on the evening is in the newsletter).

Swami's Birthday is fast approaching and I am sure you are all thinking, what we can offer the Lord for His 85th Birthday. Around the world devotees will be celebrating this milestone event in their own way from Individual to Centre level, from Regional level to National level. 85 hours of Bhajan singing, Service activities and Vedam will be conducted from now onwards.

When pondering the question what should we give the Lord for his 85th Birthday. I would be grateful if you could all spare some time in asking yourselves what Swami would like instead of what we would like for Swami. Let us contemplate on His mission, let us ponder on his words and let us reflect on his actions over the past 85 years. Then we will truly be giving Him what he has come to give us.

Lovingly

Shitu Chudasama
National Chairperson



AN EVENING WITH JANET BOCK

We are pleased to invite you to an evening with Janet Bock (wife of late Richard Bock). Janet will be stopping over for a day on route to Prashanti.

Janet has been an ardent devotee of Bhagawan since the 1960s. In fact together they opened the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Hollywood in 1969 with Indra Devi. They are best known and loved for the countless movies which they have made on Swami from Aura of Divinity, The Universal Teacher, His Life Is His Message, The Message I Bring, Celebration, Advent of the Avatar, The Early Years, The Endless Stream of Shirdi Sai & Sathya Sai to the Lost Years of Jesus. Swami has kept them both very close and has allowed them to travel with him and film him at close quarters during the early years. Richard Bock used to take movie films in Super-8, and Janet used to take still photographs. Janet has lovingly agreed to share her experiences and show us some of these intimate photo's that she has taken over the years. This is an evening not to be missed by anyone!



Date: Thursday 28th October

Time: 8.00pm – 10.30pm

Venue: Sai Mandir, 131-133 Effra Road Wimbledon, London SW19 8PU United Kingdom

For further information please email Shitu: ritashitu@hotmail.com

AVATAR DECLARATION DAY : 20th October 2010



'A planet orbiting the Sun is like the moon or a NASA satellite orbiting Earth. Now why does a planet orbit the Sun and not the Sun orbit the planet? The lighter object orbits the heavier one, and the Sun is, by far, the heaviest object in the solar system. The Sun is 1000 times heavier than the largest planet...'

Dr Marc archives, www.spaceplace.nasa.gov

Before Swami's 85th birthday it is Avatar Declaration Day. On 20 10, 2010, it is 70 years since Swami threw away his school books to give us the Avatar we have been in orbit around ever since. It is 70 years since we learnt the game of being in orbit and improving our orbit in the same way we would improve our golf handicap. Every pilgrimage is an opportunity to get that elusive hole-in-one. Every year of service in the Sai organisations and institutions is a chance to win this trophy or be part of that event that has a place in our history. It all takes us into closer orbit.

Orbits are sticky however. Try changing your orbit once you have one. Once in 'one's place', that is where we often stay. These last couple of decades, people have their place much more than before. There are people who have their place in the Kulwant Hall and their place in the Ashram. There are people who have their place in the scheme of things or they have a post of some sort. We are the lucky ones who have somehow found our way into an orbiting life. We revolve around Him not Him around us. Once some kind of orbiting life sets in for us we are 'saved', saved from

all things forlorn, fickle and flimsy in ourselves, saved from orbiting our own ego self.

It all starts with creating a story. This has happened before, the story of Jesus, the stories of Krishna and Rama, the stories of Buddha, Moses and Mohammed. When we are children we revolve around stories. Oddly, when we grow up we may not realise how much we still revolve around the stories that have been strong enough for us to come into orbit around. We revolve around the story of our own family or our own country. Sai devotees have been revolving around the stories of Shirdi Sai Baba and Sathya Sai Baba and we are still part of the unfolding story and are waiting in joyful anticipation for the story of Prema Sai. It is so good to belong to a story of this strength and magnitude in the making.

I am writing this on the third day of the Pope's visit to Britain. What stories we have in our history making this so momentous. What a wonderful story each Pope has created with the quality and stature of his own life lived. Now is the time for us to dive deep into our own beloved story again as we approach Avatar Declaration Day this month. What a wonderful story our Swami has created with the quality and stature of his own life lived. The more we dive into our story the more we ensure our continued orbiting life.

Avatar Declaration Day from: www.srisathyasai.org.in

'20th October every year is celebrated as the Avatar Declaration Day. It is on this historically significant day in the year 1940 that the young lad Sathyanarayana Raju revealed to the world His Divine identity and the glorious mission on which He has come. The following lines capture the events on that epochal day:

Sathyanarayana started for school as usual. However, within a few minutes, He returned to the house. Standing on the outer doorstep, He cast aside the books He was carrying and called out, "I am no longer your Sathya. I am Sai." The sister-in-law came from the kitchen, only to be blinded by the splendour of the halo around Baba's head! He addressed her, "I am going; I don't belong to you; Maya (delusion) has gone; My Bhaktas (devotees) are calling Me; I have My Work; I can't stay here any longer." When the brother hurried home on hearing all this, Baba only told him, "Give up all your efforts to 'cure' Me. I am Sai; I do not consider Myself related to you".

In spite of repeated pleas, Sathya would not step into that building again. He moved in into the garden of the Excise Inspector Sri Anjaneyulu's bungalow, and sat on a rock in the midst of the trees. People came into the garden from all directions bringing flowers, fruits, incense and camphor to worship Him. The garden resonated with the voices of hundreds singing bhajans (devotional singing) and following the lines of the first prayer that Sri Sathya Sai taught them.

"Manasa Bhajare Gurucharanam Dusthara Bhava Sagara Tharanam "

(O Mind! Meditate on the Feet of the Guru, which will take you across the wearisome sea of Samsara or worldly existence.)

To celebrate this landmark event in Baba's life, the Avatar Declaration Day is celebrated every year with devotion and gratitude.'

Sarah Edwards, Chair, Shrewsbury Sai Group, Region 4

The Revelation

Sri Sathya Sai Baba's discourse at the First World Conference: 17 May 1968



Since at this place those who have devotion are gathered and people of all nations have come, I cannot but tell you one fact. World conferences dedicated to religion or spiritual problems have no doubt been held before; also, conferences of followers of particular faiths. But these have been held only after the demise of the founders and divine inspirers. This is the very first time that a World Conference is held, of persons devoted, while the incarnation is present before every one, with the body assumed for the purpose, bearing the name that is chosen for it by Itself. I must tell you this fact, because ninety-nine persons out of hundred among you do not know my Reality. You have come here drawn by diverse needs, a taste for spiritual matters, eagerness to develop the institutions to which you are attached, admiration or affection, love or reverence or a spurt of enthusiasm to join others and share with others your own exultation.

In truth, you cannot understand the nature of my Reality either today or even after a thousand years of steady austerity or ardent inquiry even if all mankind joins in that effort. But, in a short time, you will become cognizant of the bliss showered by the divine Principle, which has taken upon itself this sacred body and this sacred name. Your good fortune which will provide you this chance is greater than what was available for anchorites, monks, sages, saints and even personalities embodying facets of divine Glory!

Since I move about with you, eat like you, and talk with you, you are deluded into the belief that this is but an instance of common humanity. Be warned against this mistake. I am also deluding you by my singing with you, talking with you, and engaging myself in activities with you. But, [at] any moment, my Divinity may be revealed to you; you have to be ready, prepared for that moment. Since Divinity is enveloped by humanness you must endeavor to overcome the maya (delusion) that hides it from your eyes.

This is a human form in which every divine entity, every divine principle, that is to say, all the names and forms ascribed by man to God, are manifest. ... Do not allow doubt to distract you; if you only install, in the altar of your heart, steady faith in my Divinity, you can win a vision of my Reality. Instead, if you swing like the pendulum of a clock, one moment devotion, another moment disbelief, you can never succeed in comprehending the truth and win that bliss. You are very fortunate that you have a chance to experience the bliss of the vision of the Sarvadaivathwa swaroopam (the form that is all forms of the Gods) now, in this life itself.

Let me draw your attention to another fact. On previous occasions when God incarnated on earth, the bliss of recognizing Him in the incarnation was vouchsafed only after the physical embodiment had left the world, in spite of plenty of evidence of his grace. And the loyalty and devotion they commanded from men arose through fear and awe at their superhuman powers and skills or at their imperial and penal authority. But ponder a moment on this Sathya Sai Manifestation; in this age of rampant materialism, aggressive disbelief and irreverence, what is it that brings to it the adoration of millions from all over the world? You will be convinced that the basic reason for this is the supra-worldly Divinity in human form.

Again how fortunate you are that you can witness all the countries of the world paying homage to India (Bharatha); you can hear adoration of Sathya Sai's name reverberating throughout the world, even while this body is existing --not at some future date but when it is with you, before you. And again, you can witness very soon the restoration of the Ancient and Eternal Religion (Sanathana Dharma) to its genuine and natural status, the righteousness (dharma) laid down in the Vedas for the good of all the peoples of the world. The revival of vedic dharma is the Sai sankalpa (the resolve that Sai has) not only drawing people toward me, attracting them by the manifestation of my shakti (power) and samarthya (capacity). This is not a bhramathathwam (phenomenon of delusion). This phenomenon will sustain truth, it will uproot untruth, and in that victory make all of you exult in ecstasy. This is the Sai sankalpa (will).

Some persons, even those who have reached a certain stage of leadership and authority, have started exchanging the Vedic formulae and the principles of Indian (Bharathiya) culture for lucre, selling them, in fact; and westerners too are inclined to purchase them! These truths and discoveries are not merchandise to be sold and bought. Therefore, I am going to western countries soon, in order to apprise them of their real worth and put a stop to this bargaining. Already, the authorities of universities in the United States of America and the leaders of the students of those universities have written that they are eager to welcome me and they have drawn up programs for me. It was only yesterday that passports for my visit to Africa have been brought, praying that I may visit those countries soon; I am proceeding to Africa before the month of June.

So utilize the chance of association with me as much as possible, and endeavor as quickly and as best as you can to follow the directions that I have been giving. Obeying my instructions is enough; it will benefit you more than the most rigorous asceticism. Practice sathya, dharma, santhi and prema, which are dear to me; resolve to keep those ideals before you ever, in all your thoughts, words and deeds. That can confer on you the summum bonum of mergence in the supreme substance of Divinity.

Region 3 SSE School - Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations



The start of the 10th academic year of the Region 3 SSE School was aptly marked with the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi which happened

to fall on that very first day back to school, 11th September 2010. The morning started with energising Ganesh bhajans. The children then learnt the Vedic prayer, the Ganapathi Prarthana which would now be the first prayer sung each week as part of a full set of multi-faith prayers. This was followed by a Ganesh puja in which each family brought their own Ganesh idols from home and conducted an abhishek on them under the able guidance of Vickneswaren Krishnan. The divine vibrations were maintained by continuous chanting during this process. The 108 names of Ganesh were followed by the 108 names of Bhagavan and the morning concluded with a short talk on the significance of the festival and the symbolism of Ganesh, referring in particular to the qualities of Ganesh.

What a difference a year makes!

As a member of the Sri Sathya Sai Charitable Trust I was invited, along with all the other Trust members to join 'friends and educationists' and attend a day at the Sathya Sai School in Leicester, on Friday 9th July this year from 10am to 3pm.

The school had very kindly postponed its morning assembly so that all the visitors could attend it. After the collective peace of the guided 'Light Meditation', we were treated to a short presentation from each year. These presentations were put together in just a few days, after all the exams had finished and there was more free time.

They ranged from playlets to singing – and they all had one thing in common: They were all enchanting! Each presentation contained one Human Value as its theme – or a range of Values in the English SSEHV songs.

The children were confident, bright and very magnetic in their performances. Some classes used IT support very ably.

They opened proceedings by illustrating the cultural diversity of Leicester. This was crisp, informative and very witty too! We were told that, in a national survey, Leicester has been shown to have no particular 'ethnic minority' but does have an evenly balanced range of backgrounds in its population, making it an exceptional city of cross-pollinating cultures, interfaith collaboration and a strongly enriching variety of positive differences.

Based upon a January 2010 article in The Guardian, we were informed that the school's 86 pupils live in what will soon be the first British city with a non-white majority. In 2007 only 44% of pupils were ethnically white. By 2015 the adult population will be less than half white.

In a very humorous way indeed, we were shown that a walk down Narborough Road would allow our eyes to feast on exotic specialities from Indian, Caribbean, Polish, African, Kurdish, Turkish, Lithuanian and English food stores!

And, based upon figures from the same article, the children demonstrated that Leicester is the most religious city in Britain. Apparently, "...as much as 25% of the city's population participates in religious life. In Leicester one can find mosques opposite churches,



Hindu Mandirs, a Buddhist temple and the only Jain temple in Europe. ...It seems that in Leicester, there is a genuine and widespread belief in tolerance."

What a perfect setting for a school that

espouses Universality and permeates the five Human Values through its curriculum.

Later we were each assigned a pupil to show us around. I was lucky enough to have two bright young chaps taking me round all the classrooms and openly chatting about school life! They love it! They love coming to school and they are so proud of their new home. In a country where reports of truancy and apathy abound, it is a real joy to hear excitement from children talking about school, lessons, classrooms, equipment, their teachers and doing various sports at a nearby sports field, etc.

Of the 86 pupils currently in the school: 25 are in secondary education there. Also, there are 12 children in the 3-yr olds section of the Nursery class and there are 12 children aged four in the Reception class. On the staffing side: There are 15 teachers of which, 8 are full-time teachers, 5 are part-time teachers, there is one volunteer, and the Head Teacher. Other employees are: A secretary, a caretaker and a kitchen assistant.

One year and two days on, I could feel the sense of order, routine, discipline and activity that begin to saturate a good educational environment. As I walked around, I felt extremely proud of this school that has sailed on rough waters in a small boat for some time and never capsized. Proud, too, that this good 'Vessel of the Values' has found calm waters and a safe harbour.

This is all thanks to the care, devotion and love of devotees from all around the SSSSO in the United Kingdom and the day-to-day input and cherishing of the UK Centre by local Leicester devotees and centres.

Reverend Rosemary Perry, Trustee, SSSC Trust UK and Interfaith Minister

Region 2 Youth Symposium 2010

"Don't wait for an Opportunity, Create one!"

On the 31st of October 2010 The Youth of Region 2 will be making a humble offering in the form of a Youth Symposium. The theme is Youth & Service.... "Don't wait for an opportunity, Create one!". The primary objective of this Symposium is to inspire Youth to take a more active role within their respected centres; Youth must come forward and become leaders as they are the future of tomorrow.

Sunday 31st of October 2010 Time: 2pm – 7pm

Oxhey Wood Primary School, Oxhey Drive, South Oxhey, Watford, Herts WD19 7SL



At the event you will see Youth in action, there will be a number of items including:-Vedam Chanting – Bhajans - Guest Speakers -OHP Presentation 'Youth in Service' Stage Drama - Interactive Study Circle - Musical Offering

We request that all youth register via the link below so numbers can be confirmed:

<http://www.saiyouth.org.uk/R2YouthSymposium>

Please encourage your youth to participate and attend from your regions



From Shirdi Sai to Sathya Sai

Bhagawan invariably refers to Shirdi Sai Baba as 'my previous body' when He speaks about Him; He often describes to His devotees how He, 'in His previous body' dealt with people and situations, what illustrations He gave to clarify a certain point, what questions were asked, etc. While telling people about Shirdi Baba, He may be heard saying, "Just as you have seen me do now" or, "Just as I do while in trance," to make the point clear. When some one asks Him a question today, He starts His reply sometimes with the remark, "The same doubt was raised by a man who had come to Shirdi" and He will continue the conversation with the reply He gave that other man long ago in Maharashtra!

He recognises all devotees of Shirdi Baba as His own; in fact, He tells them, "I have known you since ten years," or, "Though this is the first time you see this Sariram (body) I have seen you twenty years ago, when you came to Shirdi." And, the person will find that he has been to Shirdi exactly twenty years previously! Here are some instances where devotees have had experiences that have convinced them of the identity of the two Sais.

The Cure and the Confirmation

How Baba proved to Mr. Dixit that He is same Shirdi Sai come again

Mr. M S Dixit had the unique privilege of seeing Shirdi Sai Baba when he visited Shirdi in 1909 as a young lad and later Sri Sathya Sai Baba in 1961 when he was past sixty. Here's how he realised that both the Sais are in fact the same. This story was related by Howard Murphet in his book, "Sai Baba: Man of Miracles".

M S Dixit was born in 1897 to Sadashiv Dixit, an advocate who was at one time Diwan (Prime Minister) of the royal state of Kutch. Sadashiv's eldest brother, Hari S. Dixit, was a solicitor in Bombay and a member of the Legislative Council. Hari Dixit became a close devotee of Shirdi Baba. In the company of his uncle Hari, M. S. Dixit told me, he made his earliest visits to Shirdi; first in the year 1909, and again in 1912. Before this second visit he had been suffering what he called "half-headaches". At sunrise half his head would start to ache agonisingly; then a little before sunset it would stop. This would go on each day for about two months at a stretch; it was very distressing. His uncle took him to Shirdi Sai Baba hoping for a cure of the strange headaches. Mr. Dixit recalls vividly how he was sitting near Sai Baba one day when Baba suddenly said to him: "Why are you sitting here - go home!". Young Dixit replied that he had a bad headache and the heat of the fire near which he was sitting brought him some relief. But Baba insisted that he must go. It was the custom when leaving to take some ash from the fireplace and put it in Baba's hand, so that He might with it give His parting blessing.

The fourteen-year-old boy did this. Shirdi Baba held the udhi for a moment and then applied it to the lad's forehead with some force. Young Dixit felt that he had been slapped on the head as well as ordered to go away, so he told his uncle that he would not visit Baba anymore. Hari Dixit replied: "Are you a fool? The slap means that your headache will not recur."

This turned out to be true. The strange and terrible headaches never came back after that day, and young Dixit understood that Baba had been in His enigmatic way ordering, not the boy, but the headache to go away.

Six years later, in July 1918, M. S. Dixit found himself ill again, this time with bad haemorrhoids. The medical men of Bombay where he was living said he must undergo an operation, but he felt very nervous about having surgery and did not want it. Yet he was suffering a lot and there was much bleeding. He felt very miserable about his condition. At one of the regular Thursday evening gatherings of Shirdi Baba's Bombay devotees, M.S. Dixit was somehow overcome by the devotional atmosphere combined with his own misery. Although a young man of twenty, he broke down and cried like a child. That night he had a dream in which Shirdi Baba came to him and chided him for "weeping like a girl". Then the old saint told him what to use as a cure for his ailment. After waking, Dixit could remember everything except the name of the medicine that Baba had prescribed. He was very distressed about this and decided to go to Shirdi as soon as possible and get the name from Baba's lips. But before he could go he heard the news Baba had passed away. "Now" he thought gloomily, "I shall never know the medicine's name and must go on suffering."

The next Thursday evening meeting, following the news of Baba's passing, he found himself again overwhelmed with sorrow for himself, and wept once more. The same night brought him another vivid dream. In this Baba stood before him again, still in the old Shirdi form. He said, "What! Crying like a girl again." Then he told the young man to "take seven seeds of pepper, crush them to powder, and each day take a pinch of the powder mixed with udhi. All devotees, incidentally, kept some of Baba's udhi in their homes. M. S. Dixit remembered these instructions clearly next morning and carried them out. On the third day of treatment the pain stopped; on the seventh the bleeding stopped. A complete cure took place and the complaint never returned. The years passed and the pages of Dixit's life turned over: he was in business; he got married; he was a major and Brigade Education Officer in the army during the Second World War and for some years afterwards. The year 1959 found him back in commercial life in the west-coast city of Mangalore.



During his leisure time he would read the 'Guru Charitra'. It is said that if this book is read through completely within seven days, great spiritual benefits will ensue. On the evening of the sixth day of the reading he had a dream. In the dream, he was walking along a broad avenue of trees, and felt that someone was following him. He looked back. There was a man, very distinctive looking, close behind him. Dixit asked: "Who are you and why are you following me?". But there was no reply. The figure just continued to follow silently. After a few minutes Dixit looked back again and saw the man still following him. Neither said anything. Soon the footsteps drew closer, and Dixit felt that something was being poured over his head from behind. He realised that it was ash... That was the entire dream he could remember on waking, but very clear in his mind remained the striking, unique figure and face of the man who followed him.

Some months afterwards - through an odd set of circumstances he heard that there was a reincarnation of Shirdi Baba but did not believe it. Then later on he heard the same story again from another quarter and was shown a photograph of Sathya Sai Baba. It was the man who had followed him in the dream. Now his interest was really aroused. He remembered his uncle's story that Shirdi Baba had once told him: "I will appear again as a boy of eight years."

Was this the boy, now grown to manhood? He decided to go as soon as possible to Puttaparti and find out all he could. It was early in 1961 when he managed to get there, as one of a party of about thirty people. The ashram was choked with the thousands who had arrived for the Shivaratri festival, and Dixit stood among them waiting for a view of Sathya Sai Baba on the high balcony. When the little red-robed, dome-haired figure with the sweet, lovable face appeared, Dixit knew for certain that it was the figure of his strange dream. Yet, he thought, how can this be the old saint of Shirdi? With His coloured silks, hair like a woman and the big crowds around Him, this man is more like a film star. Shirdi Baba was rugged, homespun, simple: how can this possibly be the same man?, he pondered. Suddenly he wanted to go home.

But he stayed to watch Sathya Sai pour huge quantities of sacred ash from a small bowl over the statue of Shirdi Sai, and the same evening take nine lingams from his mouth. Then during a public discourse next day Baba said: "Some who have come here think I am too much like a film star; they object to my bright-coloured robes and the style of my hair..." With consternation, Dixit heard all of his own unspoken critical thoughts being repeated from the platform. Then Baba went on to explain the reasons - good reasons Dixit felt - for the striking attire, the unique hairstyle and the other features of this incarnation. Well, Dixit decided, He is certainly something very special. There is no doubt about His paranormal powers, but.... He is so different from old Shirdi Baba. Can it really be the same soul?

On his second visit to Prashanti Nilayam three months later, he was called into a room with a group of half-a-dozen people for an interview. Baba came in, spoke to a few people, and then went up to M. S. Dixit who was holding a small photo of his uncle, H. S. Dixit, in his hand. Baba took the photo from him, looked at it, and said: **"That's H. S. Dixit, your uncle, your father's elder brother, and my old devotee at Shirdi. Now have you any more doubts?"**

His doubts were fewer because all that Baba had just said was true. And Dixit had told no one his name at the ashram. He was there incognito - just an unknown member of a crowd of visitors. But Baba had recognised the face of his uncle in the photo at first sight. After that Dixit often made trips to the ashram and, through the years, enjoyed the wealth of Sai Baba's miraculous powers, great compassion and spiritual teachings.

Once, speaking of Shirdi Baba's remark to his uncle Hari about coming back to earth "as a boy of eight years", Baba told Dixit that what he had really said was he would return as a boy in eight years, that is, eight years after his death - which he in fact did.

Sathya Sai Baba added that H. S. Dixit must have misunderstood him. But it was, the many, many little things, more than these big ones that finally, convinced him that the two Sais were one, Dixit told me.

He went on to describe these important little things: the similarities in the siddhis (powers), the parallels in the teachings and manner of instruction, the subtle echoes from the past in gesture, phrase and attitude. "Sometimes I even see on his face the same old smile that I saw long ago on the face of Shirdi Baba," he said.

Of course, the differences which he felt so sharply at first are indeed there, he admits. But there, is, after all, a different body, a different setting, a different period in time - a different environment for the Sai mission. And therefore the mission, while in spirit the same, cannot be precisely the same in form and style, and it is to be expected that the outer personality through which the message comes to the world will also be different.

Sathya Sai Baba himself commented that He is not as hard or angry now as he was in the earlier manifestation. He is more tolerant and gentle. He explains the difference by means of a simile: **"The mother is usually hard when the children enter the kitchen and disturbs the cooking; but while serving the food she is all smiles and patience. I am now serving the dishes cooked then. Wherever you may be, if you are hungry and if your plate is ready, I shall serve you the dishes and feed, you to your heart's content."**

At another time, concerning the controversy about whether He is the same Baba or not, He said: **"When there are two pieces of candy, one square, another circular, one yellow and the other purple in colour, unless one has eaten and realised the taste of both pieces one cannot, believe that both are the same. Tasting, experiencing - that's the crucial thing for knowing the identity."**



Diary Dates 2010

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
October	1	Simchat Torah (Jewish): 9th day of Sukkot. This festival marks the completion of the annual cycle of reading from the Torah.
	4	St Francis Day (Christian)
	17	Dasera. 10th day of the Navaratri festival marking the culmination of all the worship offered to divine mother form. Day that Durga killed Mahisasur.
	20	Avatarhood Declaration Day
	24	Pavarana/Sangha Day (Buddhist) : Celebration of friendship. Buddhists come together to celebrate their worldwide community, the Sangha.
	28	An Evening with Janet Bock
	30	SSLTP Assessment Day
November	05	Diwali
	13/14	Akanda Bhajans
	20-21	9th World Conference in Prashanti Nilayam
	23	Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday
December	25	Christmas



Websites

www.srisathyasai.org.uk	Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation (UK)
www.srisathyasaibookcentre.org.uk	Sathya Sai Bookshop (UK)
www.BISSE.org.uk	BISSE(British Institute of Sathya Sai Education)
www.sathyasai.org	International Sai Organisation
www.sathyasaischool.org.uk	Sathya Sai School Independent Nursery, Primary and Secondary school Sathya Sai Centre, Bede Island, Narborough Road, Leicester LE3 0BT Tel: 0116 254 0235, Email: info@sathyasaischool.org.uk

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