

REFUTING ALLEGATIONS ON SHIRDI SAI BABA



HIS HOLINESS SHRI. DATTA SWAMI



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अवजानन्ति मां मूढा मानुषीं तनुमाश्रितम्।

परं भावमजानन्तो मम भूतमहेश्वरम् ॥ ९-११ ॥

avajananti mam mudha manushim tanumashritam |
param bhavamajananto mama bhutamaheshvaram || 9-11||

**Ignorant people disregard Me when I descend in the human form.
They do not know My Supreme Nature as the Lord of all beings.**

-Shrimad Bhagavad Gita IX, 11

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Chapter 1

UNITY IN THE GOALS IS SAME GOD**Unity in Cultures is the Same Effort to Achieve Grace of that Single God****O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**

[July 12, 2014 Guru Purnima] **Several devotees asked:** “Jagadguru Shri Swami Swaroopanand Saraswatiji, the Shankaracharya of Dwaraka peetham, is giving bitter comments about Shri Shirdi Saibaba by which the hearts of several devotees of Saibaba, the human incarnation of Lord Dattatreya are severely wounded. Please give a strong reply to his strong comments.”

Swami replied: *Today is Guru Purnima, which has become famous only due to Shri Shirdi Saibaba.* Thus, today is the fittest day for such topic. Swamiji (Swarupananda Saraswati) has made such comments without sharp and deep analysis. His comments are contradicting not only to himself but also his original preacher, the Aadi Shankara. He himself is a follower of the path called Smaarta, which is a mixture of different religious cultures within Hinduism. Let us consider two famous paths. One path is the famous Shaivism and the other path is the famous Vaishnavism. Both these paths are quite different and contradicting each other not only in the philosophies but also in the external cultures. In the first path, a horizontal mark is put and in the second path, a vertical mark is put on the forehead. The contradiction is so pungent that if you see the history, there were even mutual killings. The goals of both the paths are also different and in any path, the goal of that path is considered as the master of the goal of the other path. The devotee of the first path says that Lord Shiva is the ultimate and Lord Vishnu, the goal of the second path is a servant of Lord Shiva. The devotees of the other path are also of the same vigor with vice-versa policy. Smaarta is the third path, which has emerged to compromise first and second paths. Aadi Shankara and the present Swamiji belong to this third path only. The mark on the forehead of Swamiji is horizontal representing the first path and any Shankaracharya ends his message with the name of Narayana, the God of the second path.

This Smaarta path finds not only the unity in the ultimate goals by saying that Shiva and Vishnu are one and the same God with different external forms but also finds unity in the cultures of these two paths since

both these paths are essentially the same effort aiming at the same goal. ***A follower of Smaarta worships Shiva and Vishnu equally in the corresponding festivals.*** The unity in the cultures of the two paths is because of the same effort to achieve the grace of the same God. When Swamiji is following such Smaarta path, it is ridiculous that Swamiji is criticizing Saibaba, who is following the cultures of two different paths called Hinduism and Islam. Just like the same God exists in Shiva and Vishnu having different external cultures, the same God existing in Shiva and Vishnu exists in Allah with a different culture. Aadi Shankara is the founder of the Smaarta path, which tries to bring unity and harmony in the goals and in the paths also. When the goal is same and the effort of achieving the same goal is also same in different paths, there cannot be difference in the paths also. The different paths to achieve the same city (goal) on the earth may not be one and the same, but the paths in spirituality are one and the same because here the path means only the effort and not a particular direction on the earth. The difference between the horizontal and vertical marks on the forehead is completely meaningless and negligible since Shiva and Vishnu are one and the same God and also the corresponding paths are also one and the same since both the paths are an effort only.

Aadi Shankara tried throughout His life to bring unity in the goals and also in the paths within Hinduism. Hinduism is a mini world representing the big universe. The various sub-religions in Hinduism represent the various religions in the universe. Thus, the various religions in the universe are also sub-religions in the universal religion in which one God is the goal and the different religions are also one and the same since every religion is only a sincere effort made to achieve the grace of the one ultimate goal. The external differences like language, form, dress habits, food habits etc., become negligible in view of the inner essence, which is the ultimate single God and also the same effort. We say that God is unimaginable and Advaita philosophy says that God is awareness. This difference is not at all standing in the way in the present context because whether God is unimaginable or the awareness, God is not touched by the external cultural differences or differences in the forms or differences in names or languages etc. Aadi Shankara has brought the unity in the various sub-religions of Hinduism based on the concept that language or name (naama) and form (rupa) are non-existent (Mithya) and the inner God (Brahman) is one and the same, who is beyond all the names and forms. Why Swamiji is not applying the same concept in the case of the different religions like Hinduism, Islam, Christianity etc? You cannot apply one type of logic in the sub-religions of Hinduism and the other type of logic in the religions of universal religion.

The same logic should be extended whether it is Hinduism in India or universal religion in the world. Aadi Shankara united the sub-religions of Hinduism by breaking the differences between these sub-religions. It is just like breaking the walls between the rooms of a single house and making the entire house as one big hall. Saibaba broke the walls between the houses and made all the houses to become one biggest hall. In every religion such effort was made. In Islam also, before the arrival of the Prophet Mohammed, there were several sub-religions. The Prophet Mohammed broke all the differences in Islam and established one God called Allah. What Aadi Shankara did in Hinduism, Mohammed did the same in Islam. Hinduism became one big hall and Islam became another big hall by the efforts of both these Divine personalities. Now, Saibaba broke the wall between these two big halls and made a bigger hall. Swami Vivekananda broke the walls between all such big halls (religions) in the world to make one biggest hall. How can you find any difference between Aadi Shankara, Saibaba and Swami Vivekananda? Even the Guru of Swami Vivekananda, Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa practiced the different cultures of various religions like Hinduism, Islam, Christianity etc., and experienced oneness not only in the goals but also in the cultures. *The unity in the goals is the same God and the unity in the cultures is the same effort to achieve the grace of that single God.* All this analysis stands as the main answer to the main argument given by Swamiji that the cultures of various religions or paths should not be mixed and should be followed independently. If he finds fault with Saibaba in this point, he should find fault with Aadi Shankara also for the same point.

Unification Through Powerful Logic

Swami Vivekananda tried to appeal all the citizens of the world to bring unity in the religions of the world. Shri Datta Swami (present Swami) applied powerful logic to bring such unity since every human being gets convinced by the logic, which is the activity of the ultimate faculty called intelligence (Buddhi Yoga) existing in the human body. This powerful logic is: Swamiji belongs to Hinduism. India is the place of Hinduism. The God of Hinduism (Brahman) created this entire universe and hence, all the foreign countries apart from India existing on the earth must have been created by the same Brahman. Very rich spiritual knowledge was showered in India by various Divine incarnations for the benefit of Hindus in India. But, this rich spiritual knowledge was not extended to foreign countries immediately as soon as it was given to India. India was discovered by foreign countries in 17th century only. Till 17th century, several human generations have passed away in the foreign countries without any touch with such precious spiritual knowledge.

All the human beings are the children of the same God (Brahman). Why God showed such irrational partiality to India only till 17th century? God should have created all the human beings on the earth with one language as their mother tongue like Sanskrit. God should have connected all the countries of the world in the beginning of the creation itself so that the rich spiritual knowledge showered in Sanskrit in India should have been extended to all the countries in the world immediately so that there is no trace of partiality on the side of the universal Father or God. The only answer for this can be that God came in all the foreign countries from the beginning of the creation in various forms and delivered the same spiritual knowledge in different languages in different levels suitable to the grasping level of the receivers. This only answer proves that there is only one God in all the Divine incarnations and there is only one religion, which is the effort to attain the grace of one God. If this is not accepted, Swamiji should give the reply to avoid the irrational partiality of the universal God (Brahman).

Vegetarianism and God

If Swamiji says that Saibaba was a non-vegetarian, Shri Rama was also a non-vegetarian. On this basis, Swamiji cannot say that the devotees worshipping Saibaba should not worship Shri Rama. The food habits belong to the external culture. God follows the line of external culture of a particular sect of people so that He can become friendly to them and slowly introduce the spiritual knowledge to them to bring them out of the sin of violence in the non-vegetarian path. A person standing outside wishing to bring out the drowning person in mud pond can drag him out by jumping into the same mud pond. Mud will stick to his body also. A running bull can be controlled by you after some steps only in which you have to also run along with the bull. ***Hence, God in human form has to follow the path of ignorance for some time to become friendly with ignorant people before bringing them out of the ignorance.*** Thus, the non-vegetarian habit of Jesus can be also viewed as in the case of Shri Rama. However, the remark on Shri Saibaba that He was a non-vegetarian is not correct. He only supplied the non-vegetarian food to the non-vegetarians and slowly preached about the non-violence to stop the habit of non-vegetarian food. The remark that Saibaba killed a goat is also wrong. He ordered a Brahmin to kill the goat to test the faith of that devotee in Him. Then, the devotee became ready to kill the goat. He stopped the devotee telling that He Himself will kill the goat. In fact, the goat died immediately without killing from anybody. This shows that God in Saibaba was speaking all this denoting that the death of any living being is on the will of the God only.

Sai Baba Was a Hindu

The remark that Saibaba tried to bring the Muslim culture is also totally wrong. Saibaba was a Brahmin born in Hinduism. He always worshipped Hindu Gods and encouraged the worship of Hindu devotees. When the rain was falling, He sat on the lower step facing the rain because the statue of Hanuman was on the higher step. Devotees asked Him to sit on the higher step to avoid the rain. But, *He replied that Hanuman is the master and He is the servant and the servant should not sit along with the master in the same level.* When a Muslim got child on His blessing, the Muslim came and thanked Saibaba. He asked the Muslim to go and distribute sweets in the temple of Hanuman saying that once Hanuman won in the fight with Allah. This shows His superior devotion on Hindu gods. He showed the holes on His ears indicating that the thread marriage was performed to Him since He was a Brahmin of Hinduism. Just one year before His last day (Dussehra), He came very furious and naked shouting that people should examine Him to confirm the Suntis of Islam in His body to prove whether He was Hindu or Muslim. All these incidents show that He was basically Hindu, but, followed certain cultural habits of Islam only to bring unity between Hinduism and Islam. In His next incarnation as Shri Satya Saibaba, He tried to bring the unity between Hinduism and Christianity. The dress habits of both these incarnations indicate the two different efforts.

Sai Baba Had a Guru

The remark that Saibaba has no tradition of preachers (Guru Parampara) is also meaningless. He was the disciple of Shri Venkusa, who was disciple of Lord Venkateshwara. The same tradition can be seen in the sect of Shankaracharyas also. Swami Chandrasekhara was a disciple of Aadi Shankara, who was disciple of Lord Shiva. Saibaba kept a brick along with Him, which was given by Shri Venkusa as a gift of His grace.

The Number of God's Incarnations

The remark that Saibaba was not mentioned in the 22 incarnations that appear in this age of Kali is also meaningless. Aadi Shankara is considered to be the incarnation of God mentioned even in the Veda. The Veda says that the God will come with shaved head (*vyupta keshaya cha*). Aadi Shankara is not mentioned in those 22 incarnations as mentioned in the Bhagavatam. The Veda is more superior authority than the Bhagavatam (*shrutireva gariyasi*). The Gita says that God will incarnate whenever there is a necessity (*yadaa yadaa hi*). The number cannot be a controlling factor of God. Such number

is not mentioned in the Veda. Will Shri Swamiji say that Aadi Shankara is also not a human incarnation of God just like Saibaba based on the number 22?

Ban on Bathing in the Ganga

The remark that the devotees of Saibaba should not take bath in Ganga River shows the extensively solidified ignorance of Swamiji. The nature of any river is to contain the water, which is a chemical compound of Hydrogen and Oxygen in 2:1 ratio. Along with the water, several pollutants and minerals are associated. As far as the water is concerned, there is no difference between any two rivers. ***At present, the pollutants representing the bad qualities of ignorance are highest in number in the river Ganga.*** This really represents the polluted mind of Swamiji also. Hence, the meaning of his warning to the devotees of Saibaba indicates that they should not dip in ignorance. However, now, there is a proposal to purify the water of Ganga River just like My present message to clean the remarks of Swamiji. There are other rivers born in Himalayas and end in the ocean. When other rivers are exempted from restriction to bath, why not the Ganga river also? In the Mahimnah Stotram, which is considered to be the best of all prayers (*Mahimno naapara stutih*), it is said that just like all rivers travelling in straight or curved paths reach the same ocean finally, all the religions with different straight or curved cultures reach the same final goal, the same one God (*payasaamarnava iva*).

Chapter 2

DO NOT ATTRIBUTE SIN TO INCARNATION OF GOD**O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,**

[October 18, 2014] **Dr. Nikhil asked:** “Swami Swaroopanand says that Sai Baba ate meat and hence, cannot be pious. He also says that Dattatreya is only the second son of sage Atri while the first son was Chandra or Moon and the third son was sage Durvasa. Hence, Saibaba as the incarnation of Dattatreya has no significance and calling Him as God is not correct.”

Swami replied: The first point was already answered by Me. Non-vegetarian food is certainly not justified since a co-living being is killed for that purpose. But, God follows the wrong culture also to become friendly with wrong people before diverting them from wrong path. The person, who jumps into the mud pond to uplift the people drowning in it, is also painted with mud. To stop a running bull, you have to catch it and put some steps along with it before controlling it. You should not attribute any intention of such sin to the human incarnation of God entering this human world to save the humanity. There is nobody before us to say that he has seen Sai Baba while eating the meat. Even the audio visual cassette recording such event does not exist. It is only based on the statements of certain people, who often create stories. This story also might have been created by a fan of non-vegetarian food and the psychology in such creation is to establish that there is no sin in the non-vegetarian food, since even Saibaba took it. In fact, there is no sin in the non-vegetarian food because the vegetarian and non-vegetarian foods are one and the same since both contain the same constituents. The actual sin lies in killing a living being for the sake of such food. Even though someone else kills it, you are a share holder of the sin since the killer kills based on the demand of consumer only. The straight question in this topic is that why Saibaba, a non-vegetarian, is not God while Rama, a non-vegetarian is God? Swamiji must answer this simple and straight question.

God Enters This World to Save Humanity

The second comment is also not correct. It is mentioned in the Bhagavatam that sage Atri did lot of penance to find out the one single God, who alone is doing creation, maintenance and destruction of the world in contrary to the concept that Brahma, the Creator; Vishnu, the Ruler and

Shiva, the Destroyer are separate personalities doing these three works independently. Atri did not accept these three separate personalities and hence, all the three were united to appear as the original single God. This single God was born as the three sons of Atri indicating that one single God appeared as the three divine personalities separately. The story says further that the Moon gave His divinity of Brahma and Durvasa gave His divinity of Shiva to Dattatreya and went away. Since then, Dattatreya is treated as the single personality in whom all the three personalities co-exist. Now, the definition of God given by the Veda is fulfilled since one God only is doing all these three works (*Yatova imaani bhutaani*) and the God is not divided into three but remains as one single God only (*Ekamevaadvitiam...*). This means that same one unimaginable God is appearing as three separate Gods by entering the three different visible energetic forms. Appearance as three does not break the unity as said in the Gita (*Avibhaktam Vibhaktheshu*). All this is the deep explanation to clarify the doubt of Atri, who represents every Vedic scholar. If you take this as external story only without analysing the inner divine essence, by tomorrow, Swamiji will also say that Aadi Shankara is just a young scholar hailing from the family of Nambudri Brahmins staying in Kerala. You can realize Him as the incarnation of Lord Shiva, only if you view His life and commentaries through inner sense.

Chapter 3

SHANKARA CORRELATED ALL SUB-RELIGIONS OF HINDUISM

Soul Falls in Liquid Fire of Hell Forever if Opposes Divine Unification Program

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

[August 24, 2016] Recently some ardent devotees of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba approached Swami expressing their pain about the criticism of Baba from Shri Swamiji (Shri Swaroopanand ji), the head of Dwarakaapeeth. Swami gave the following message to them.

Swami Replied: I shall answer all the criticism of Shri Sai Baba that came from Shri Swamiji, the head of Shankara Peetha of Dwaraka. I can't tolerate this attack and this is the issue of prestige of My ancestral dynasty, the precious chain starting from Lord Dattatreya, whose human incarnations like Shri Padavallabha, Shri Narasimha Saraswati, Shri Maanikya Prabhu, Shri Akkalkot Maharaj, Shri Shirdi Sai Baba, Shri Satya Sai Baba etc., who are the diamonds.

1) Union of Religions:

Shri Swamiji differentiates Hinduism and Islam opposing the trials of Shri Sai Baba for the correlation of the two religions, which is totally unfair. Religion means the path of efforts to please the God having a specific name and form particularly concerned to a specific religion. The philosophy of any religion is the analysis of the details of its specific path and details of its specific form of God. There are several religions like Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism etc. If you take Islam religion, the specific representation of God is Allah and its philosophy is about the formless aspect of God, opposes the concept of human incarnation etc. Its language is called Urdu and Muslim habits about dress, food etc., are called as Islam culture. ***Religion is concerned to the spiritual aspect whereas culture is concerned about external aspect.*** The cultures can't be one, but the religions are always one because God in all the forms is one only and the essence of the paths of the religions is only the effort to please God. We mistake culture for religion and get divided within us.

Just like you have different religions in this world, you had different sub-religions (Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Shakteyism etc.,) in the religion

called as Hinduism. Thus, Hinduism is a micro world or a reflection of the macro world (Universe) in small scale. Adi Shankara proved that all the sub-religions in Hinduism are one and the same. He broke the walls between the rooms (sub-religions) and made the house (Hinduism) as one hall. The same work was done by Prophet Mohammad in Islam by uniting hundreds of sub-religions existing before Islam and made Islam as one single hall. Shri Sai Baba broke the wall between these two halls and made a big hall. What is the difference between Shri Shankara, Prophet Mohammad and Shri Sai Baba? Shri Swamiji is a follower of Adi Shankara! This is the greatest tragedy!!

Shri Satya Sai Baba united Hinduism and Christianity in similar way. The dress of Shri Shirdi Sai Baba is Islamic whereas the dress of Shri Satya Sai Baba (long gown) is of Christianity. Shri Swami Vivekananda united all world religions as one biggest hall. His preacher, Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa became the follower of each religion for some time and finally declared that He experienced oneness in all the religions. If Shri Swamiji criticized Shri Shirdi Sai Baba, he simultaneously criticized Adi Shankara, his founder preacher also. ***Shri Shankara brought union between Shaivism*** (having horizontal marks on forehead using Rudraaksha garlands) ***and Vaishnavism*** (having vertical marks on forehead using Tulasi garlands) ***with different cultures***. Here the difference in the external cultures couldn't stop the union of the two sub-religions. Applying the same, how the difference in the external cultures of Hinduism and Islam can stop the union of Hinduism and Islam religions? The union of Shaivism with Vaishnavism is called as Smaarta-sub-religion, the founder of which is Shankara and Shri Swamiji naturally belongs to this unified religious path (Smaarta)! The follower of Smaarta worships all festivals of Shiva and Vishnu, worshipping both Shiva and Vishnu as one God. Following the same logic followed by Shankara in uniting all sub-religions in Hinduism, we can extend it to all religions of the world and unite Jehovah of Christianity and Allah of Islam to the united single God of Shiva and Vishnu. If you oppose one type of logic in one place, you must not support that same logic in another place. If you do so, it is your self-contradiction.

Shri Swamiji criticizes Shri Shirdi Sai Baba as a Muslim. He was in the dress of Muslim and stayed in old Masjid (since He was not allowed into temple), but, proved Himself as the greatest Hindu. He was prepared to sit on the lower step in rain refusing to move to the upper step on which the statue of God Hanuman existed! In such situation, any one of our Hindus will certainly jump to the higher step to sit along with the statue!! Once, a Muslim blessed by Baba with child came to Baba with sweets. Baba told him to go to the temple of Hanuman and distribute sweets there saying "once Hanuman

and Allah were boxing with each other and Allah was defeated”. He was constantly chanting that Allah is the master (Allah Malik) and such saying is only to remove ignorant-conservative view of one’s own religion!

All religions appear to be different due to their externally observed cultures. But, God and path to please God (both these together are called as religion) are one and the same in all religions. The different paths ending in the same centre are taken as the simile for different religions. Here, this simile is applied since religion is mistaken as external culture. ***If the religion is taken as the path and goal together, there can’t be any difference between religions since goals or paths of all religions are one and the same.*** God Shiva is said to be the deity of knowledge (*Jnaanam Maheshwaraat...*), and both Shankara and Shri Sai Baba are the two incarnations of Lord Shiva came for scholars (as Shankara) and for common people (as Shri Sai Baba).

Actually, the original God is unimaginable, but, the three divine preachers took God as awareness. Actually, God is said to be unimaginable mediated in awareness. Whether God is unimaginable or the awareness, the factors of external culture like name, form, language of scripture, external living habits etc., can’t touch the actual unimaginable God even as per the philosophy of Shankara (*name and form are myth— Shankara*).

2) **Union of Religions through Sharp Snalysis:**

Shri Swami Vivekananda tried His level best to unite all regions of world. This Swami (Shri Datta Swami) feels that such union can be brought only by deep analysis coming from the faculty of intelligence in brain and not by emotion of mind coming from heart. Now, only brains exist and hearts have disappeared long back! If the logic of intelligence, the highest faculty in human body, gets convinced, no need to convince anyone more in this world! Union of all religions (Sarvamata Samanvaya) is achieved by the following logical argument projected by **Shri Datta Swami:**

India, the place of Hindu religion, was invented in 1700 AD and till then there was no connection between India and other countries. Till then, neither preaching of Krishna went out nor preaching of Jesus entered in. Each religion says that the disbeliever of their specific God (Krishna or Jesus) will go to hell! Our ancestors before 1700 AD went to hell as per Christianity and ancestors of outer countries before 1700 AD went to hell as per Hinduism! Each religion says that their God is the creator of this one earth and this one entire humanity. This becomes impossible if Gods and religions are different. Essentially one God or essentially one religion exists. That one God alone created this one earth and this one humanity. If one specific God of one specific religion alone exists, such God gave gospel in a specific region without spreading it immediately all over the world, some generations of

outer country missed the opportunity of gospel and went to hell for their no fault! This is extreme partiality of God! This blame will not appear in our concept of oneness of all religions.

Our Concept is: From the beginning of this creation, the one God, who created this one earth and this one humanity on this one earth, came in different forms with different names till now and gave the same subject of one gospel in different languages. Since subject of all gospels is one and the same, there is no danger of any generation of any region missing this gospel of other region on this earth. One, who follows the subject of gospel of his religion in his region, he/she followed all gospels of all religions in all regions. *The follower, anywhere, at any time, goes to God and the disbeliever goes to hell.* There is no possibility of partiality of God to any religion of any region.

3) Non-vegetarian Food:

Shri Swamiji says that Sai Baba is not God since He was a non-vegetarian. If so Shri Rama was also non-vegetarian as per the proof from Valmiki Ramayanam. It is 8th wonder of the world that Shri Swamiji says Shri Rama as God and simultaneously denies Shri Sai Baba as God! I agree that non-vegetarian food is a sin since it provokes killing of innocent living beings. Actually, Shri Sai Baba only distributed non-vegetarian food to non-vegetarians and never ate the non-vegetarian food. He was always claiming as Hindu Brahmin showing ears with holes as proof for the thread marriage happened. Shri Satya Sai Baba also told in message of one Guru Purnima that Shri Shirdi Sai Baba was born in Brahmin family- Bharadwaja Gotram. He told that Lord Shiva and Shakti gave boon to sage Bharadwaja that both of them will be born in His Gotram for three times. Lord Shiva was born as Shri Shirdi Sai Baba. Shiva and Shakti were born as Shri Satya Sai Baba. *Shakti will be born as Prema Sai Baba in Karnataka in future.* Both these points mutually support with each other.

God comes as human incarnation to rectify all points of humanity. In one coming, He neglects some points stressing on other points. In the subsequent visit, the neglected points are stressed again. All points should not be stressed each time by which human psychology refuses rectification of any point! The human incarnation also follows the neglected points to become friendly with human beings. A person has to jump into mud pond to lift the fallen and the person is also painted by mud. When a person wishes to stop the running strong bull, he catches its neck-rope first, runs along with it for some distance and then only stops it. Similarly, God in human form follows the culture for some time along with the human beings and then only analyses the background to expose the truth. Do you think that Shri Rama,

who wept seeing the wounded bird (Jataayu) and Jesus, who pressed the lamb on His heart, are fond of killing living beings for food?

Shri Swamiji says that Baba killed a goat! Nowhere in His life history, such incident was reported. Of course, I don't know whether Shri Swamiji has taken series of CDs of the entire life of Sai Baba, in which, what he reported might have existed!! The actual incident happened is that Baba asked a devotee, who was a traditional Hindu Brahman, to kill a goat on the day of pious Ekaadashi. The devotee became ready! Baba stopped him and told that He will kill the goat (perhaps Shri Swamiji misunderstood this sentence). The goat, immediately fell down by itself (for God's sake don't misinterpret this that Baba killed it and hence it fell down!) and died. This shows the omniscience of Baba. Actually, Baba tested the devotee about his total surrender to Him, in which, devotee votes for God against even justice (*sarvadharmaan... Gita*).

4) Traditional Chain of Preachers (Guruparampara):

Shri Swamiji criticizes that Baba has no Guruparampara like that of Shankara as Narayana-Shankaraachaarya-Chandrasekhara Saraswati. Similarly, Baba has Guruparampara: Lord Venkateshwara-Venkusaa Avadhuta-Baba. Baba was keeping very carefully the brick given by His Guru-Venkusaa throughout His life.

5) Bath in Ganga River:

Shri Swamiji says that the devotees of Baba should not take bath in pious Ganga river. I feel that he is correct in this point at least. His reason must have been: since the devotees of Baba are very pure and since the water of Ganga is very impure (highest pollution reported), a pure item should not be dipped in impure water!

6) Authority of the Vedas:

Shri Swamiji says that Baba's preaching has no mention of the Vedic authority. Fantastic! Even Shri Krishna didn't quote the Vedic authority anywhere in the Gita to prove that what He said has sanction from the Veda. Does this mean that Shri Swamiji is saying that the Gita is also not valid! Even Shankara wrote certain poems in which the Vedic authority was not given while introducing concepts. All those verses of Shankara are invalid! Shankara quoted the Veda in commentaries since scholars have the nature of getting convinced on seeing the authority from the Veda only. Shankara fulfilled this inevitable requirement. ***When God says something, it is as good as the Veda since the Veda was composed by Him only.*** His statement (Veda) can't be authority for His own statement given elsewhere (as preaching). The Veda means knowledge and not merely a specific statement. ***If the same concept is in the Veda, the Veda is quoted, even though that***

specific the Vedic statement is not quoted. A scholar quotes the Veda and gives its misinterpretation. Do you accept that misinterpretation since the Vedic statement is quoted as it is? The preaching of any human incarnation can be found in the Veda or in any scripture of other religion also since every human incarnation is God, who is the author of the scriptures of all religions. Scholars being human beings, being other than God, have to quote the Veda to support their concept since authority is always from outside and never from one's own self.

Incarnations of God Are Infinite in Number

7) Number of Incarnations:

Shri Swamiji says that the Bhagavatam mentions only 22 incarnations and Baba is not in the list. O God! What is the time of composition of the Bhagavatam and what is the time of life of Baba! How the name of Baba can come in the Bhagavatam, which was written long ago? Is there the name of Shankara in that list, whom you worship as incarnation of God Shiva! Shankara was also born later than the Bhagavatam like Baba. I fear, you may even say that Shankara is not incarnation!! Shankara is incarnation from the authority of the Veda, about which only, you are shouting all this time! The Veda says that Lord Shiva is in the form of shaved headed (*vyuptakeshaaya...*), which means that Shiva was saint Shankara (saint shaves head). The Veda is more authoritative than the Bhagavatam (*Shrutireva gariiyasii*).

My dear innocent Swamiji! you quote Bhagavatam for the number of incarnations of God. Did you not see the next verse in the same Bhagavatam that incarnations of God are infinite in number (*Avataaraa hyasamkhyeyaah...*). Some important incarnations of God, which came up to that time of composing the Bhagavatam were only mentioned as 22. Fearing for the incarnations like you, the Bhagavatam says the next verse also!

8) Idol Worship:

Shri Swamiji says that the idol of Baba in His temple is not fit for worship since the idols of God in other temples are initiated with life (ritual called Praanapratishtaa). Eureka! The statues in the other temples initiated with life are moving and talking, whereas the statue of Baba is inert since this ritual was not done to it! Life initiation is not bringing even a trace of life into any statue so that it is not moving even half inch! You say that the name of Baba is not in the Vedic hymn of the ritual. Then, since names of other Gods are mentioned in the Vedic hymn and the ritual is meaningful as per your version, life must appear in those statues! But, life is not appearing in those statues as well as in these statues of Baba and so the point is uniform

in all cases. In such case, criticism has no place at all due to equality of concept (inert nature) in all statues irrespective of ritual. Even in the statues of Shankara established in your asylums (maths) through this ritual, same common point of inert nature in statue exists. Is there any hymn in the Veda mentioning the name of Shankaraachaarya, who is the latest person like Baba? In fact, no Vedic hymn mentions the name of any deity in this ritual since only initiation of life is mentioned without any name (*iha praanah...*).

My most beloved Swamiji also says that three requirements must exist in the ritual of life-initiation: 1) Truth (Satyam) 2) Awareness (chetanaa) and 3) deservingness (yogyataa). Swamiji says that the Veda is the final authority, if I remember correctly. Can Swamiji give the Vedic quotation in support of this concept? Please. You must understand the actual intention of this ritual. If life enters the inert statue, it becomes alive human body (since most of divine statues are in human form only). This does not mean that the inert statue becomes alive human body by the ritual performed by just a human priest! The ritual does not introduce life into inert statue. It only says that this inert statue associated with life (by will of God and not by ritual) becomes the human body, which alone is the perfect medium for the entry of the God to become human incarnation for the sake of preaching the humanity (*Maanushiim tanu maashritam... Gita*). The Veda says that God will never enter inert statue (*Natasya pratimaa...*). Of course, inert statue can be worshipped by beginners as representation of God (*Pratimaa hyalpa buddhiinaam...*). The three words of Shri Swamiji can be interpreted in the following way to appreciate him at least in one point. If the inert statue (inert human body) becomes really (truth) alive human body by the will of God (not by ritual), such alive (awareness) human body only deserves (deservingness) to become human incarnation. Victory to Shri Swamiji for giving a good concept!

You should not argue that God entered even the inert pillar while killing demon Hiranyakashipu. If it is so, did the pillar became alive, moved and killed the demon? God entered into alive body of Narasimha (specially created for specific requirement to kill the demon) and came out of the inert pillar to kill the demon. He entered the pillar and also all the objects since Prahlada told that He is everywhere. Hence, this example is not going to affect our concept in anyway.

9) Baba is Human Incarnation of Datta:

Shri Swamiji has gone to such high level to say that Datta is only a sage born to sage Atri and incarnation of Datta can't be God. This is the climax of innocence! You take the Bhagavatam as authority in deciding the incarnations of God. Same Bhagavatam says that Atri and Anasuya did lot

of penance on Ruksha Mountain for the clarification of a serious Vedic doubt. The Veda says that the only Brahman is creator, ruler and destroyer of the world (*yato vaa imaani...*). But, Brahma as creator, Vishnu as ruler and Shiva as destroyer of this world are existing separately. This brings contradiction to the Vedic definition of God (Brahman). Then, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva appeared to whom Atri posed his doubt. All the three were united as one form with three heads fulfilling the Vedic definition. Later on, the couple got three sons: Brahma as Chandra, Vishnu as Datta and Shiva as Durvaasa. Both Chandra and Durvaasa gave their divine essence to Datta and from then Datta is one only appearing with three divine powers. This is one appearing as three forms and the union of three forms to become original one again. This is not simply the history of a sage. You are underestimating the sage. Sage is the highest spiritual soul in the entire humanity. Hence, the absolute highest God selected sage, the highest soul for His human incarnation as Lord Dattatreya. Is this appearing to you as history of sage and not as the highest spiritual knowledge of highest God?

Shri Baba appeared as Lord Dattatreya to devotees. Shri Satya Sai Baba also appeared as God Dattatreya when a photo was taken. Lord Dattatreya is very famous in doing miracles to answer atheists. Had human incarnations of God Datta like Sai Baba been absent, by this time, almost all human beings must have become atheists and Shri Swamiji will not find even a place to stand. Thus, Swamiji is cutting the branch of tree on which he is sitting.

10) Your Stand Damages Peace of World:

My dear Swamiji! If you turn over pages of history of Hinduism itself in this country, you can find mutual killings of devotees of Shaivism and Vaishnavism. It is the total credit of Shankara, whose correlation between all the sub-religions of Hinduism established that the same one God appears in different forms with different names in different religions. Similarly, the credit of unification of religions of world goes to the first personality called as Shri Shirdi Sai Baba. Later on, the credit goes to Swami Vivekananda, Shri Satya Sai Baba etc. The inter religious conflicts are provoked by people like you, which turn to be wild flames of fire of final dissolution of humanity in the name of terrorism etc., as we hear blasts of bombs and firing of guns on innocent human beings. God comes in various human forms to arrest this and bring unity in the humanity for the peaceful balance of the world. Shri Shankara was really the first incarnation of God, who came for this purpose in Hinduism. A Kaapaalika tried to kill Shankara for doing such wonderful work by performing black magic causing 'Bhagandara' disease! If one helps such divine programme of God, such person shall be blessed by God. If one opposes this program, such soul will fall in the liquid fire of the hell forever.

Shri Datta Swami

Sri Datta Jnana Prachara Parishat

{Shri Swami told that those devotees propagating this message by E-mails or even hard copies (if necessary translating in to mother tongue), such souls shall receive the divine blessings of Lord Dattatreya through Shri Shirdi Sai Baba.}

Chapter 4

TOMB OF HUMAN INCARNATION OF GOD MOST SACRED PLACE OF WORSHIP

O Learned and Devoted Servants of God,

[October 29, 2016] **Shri Pavan asked:** Recently, again Shri Shankaracharya (Shri Swaroopanand ji) criticized Shri Shirdi Sai Baba on the following points:

1) People are worshipping the ghost (Baba) since the tomb (Samadhi containing His dead body) is being worshipped. People going to Shirdi temple are going to the burial ground only since tombs are present in burial ground only.

2) How can you say that Baba is the incarnation of Dattatreya? There is no power in chanting the name of Sai. Do not add the word Ram to Sai and call Him as Sai Ram?

Swami replied: 1) This Shankaracharya belongs to the tradition of Adi Shankara. There is the sacred tomb of Adi Shankara near Himalaya Mountain. People go and worship the tomb of Adi Shankara. Now, will this Shankaracharya say that the worship of the tomb of Adi Shankara is worship of a ghost? If he says so, he should not continue as Shankaracharya anymore. If he does not say this, he is making his own self-contradiction! For any saint, tomb is essential after death as per the tradition of Hindu scriptures. In future, when this Shankaracharya also leaves his body, will he allow his tomb to be visited by his fans? If he does not allow, he is against the Hindu scripture. If he allows, he should object his fans to visit his tomb to pay respects to him. Does he say that people visiting the tomb of Adi Shankara are also going to burial ground? Burial ground contains tombs. But, every tomb need not be in burial ground only. All gentlemen are men, but, all men need not be gentlemen! *The tomb of the human incarnation of God is the most sacred place of worship and can never be treated as the unholy burial ground.*

2) This Shankaracharya says that there is no proof that Baba is incarnation of Lord Dattatreya. Baba appeared as Lord Dattatreya to devotees. This point is based on the authority of experience (Anubhava Pramaana) of devotees. Hindu scriptures say that among the four authorities

of knowledge (Shruti, Smruti, Yukti and Anubhava), experience or anubhava is the final authority. If he says that the experience of scholars (vidvadanubhava) alone is the authority, there should be an authority to decide who the scholar is. A person seeing two moons in the sky due to his eye-defect says that he is the scholar. Another person, who sees single moon in the sky due to lack of eye-defect says that he is the scholar. Between these two, who decides that the first person alone has eye-defect? Only majority of people decides since majority is not having eye-defect. Now, majority of people says that Baba is the incarnation of Lord Dattatreya. This Shankaracharya alone is the only person seen now saying that Baba is not human incarnation of God Datta. Therefore, this Shankaracharya alone has the eye-defect claiming himself as the scholar! Several devotees experienced the same divinity in Rama and Baba. This person alone is seen, who contradicts such experience of majority. This person says that the name of Sai is not having any divine power. Several people have practically experienced the divine power of the name of Sai and such people alone can be the authority in such point. Several people have tasted a sweet and tell that it is sweet in taste. This person did not taste that sweet and says that it is not sweet in taste! You neither taste the sweet nor agree to the experience of people, who have tasted the sweet! If you also utter the name of Sai for some time and still do not get the divine experience, we can think a little about your case. Even then, we cannot give weightage to your experience because you are a rare case whereas others are many. Your case does not come under this category also because you never tasted the sweet. A person having defect in the eyes may see two moons in the sky. You cannot be compared to that person having the eye-defect since you are not seeing the moon at all. You are a blind person saying that there are two moons in the sky! The person having eye-defect saying so can be excused a little because at least he is seeing the moon in the sky. In your case, you are not seeing the moon at all being totally blind and no trace of excuse can be given to you.

I don't have words even to criticize this Shankaracharya because on one side he is accepting Rama, Krishna, Adi Shankara, etc., as human incarnations of God and on the other side, he is criticising Baba since Baba is in human form (because he called Baba as ghost as in the case of all the ordinary human beings, which become ghosts after death). If you say that there is difference between Adi Shankara and Baba, you must show the reasons for your argument. Human incarnation of God is mainly for preaching the spiritual knowledge to humanity because God is mainly characterized by spiritual knowledge as His identity mark (*Prajnaanam*

Brahma, Satyam Jnaanam Anantam Brahma – Veda). Shankara preached the true spiritual knowledge to scholars in the scholastic language whereas Baba preached the same spiritual knowledge to ordinary human beings in their ordinary language. Both have done the same work and both are human incarnations of the same God Shiva. God being the Divine Father (*Aham bijapradah pitaa – Gita*) of all the souls, He is interested to uplift all the souls. Do you want that scholars alone should be uplifted and not other ordinary people? Do you insist that every human being should become scholar to get salvation? If so, how the uneducated Gopikas got the salvation? Knowledge is, no doubt, required as the first step. But, the second step is the practice of such knowledge that alone gives the salvation. If somebody enters directly into practice, there is no necessity of the knowledge since such person attained the true knowledge in the previous birth itself and hence, entered into practice straight in this birth. Gopikas were sages in the previous birth and attained perfect spiritual knowledge already. Hence, in this birth, they entered straight into the practice. Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa says that once you have purchased the items from the shop (practice or karma yoga), there is no need of the list containing the names of those items (knowledge or jnana yoga). Let us take the case of Adi Shankara Himself. He never studied anything from anybody. He became the saint straight in the childhood itself and entered into practice, which is propagation of the spiritual knowledge throughout His life.