

Sri Sri Satyanarayana Mahotsava and Mahapuja by G. T. Kamdar

The celebration of Sri Sri Satyanarayana Mahotsava commenced at Somnath Hall in Calcutta on October 3, 1973. It was attended by distinguished persons of Calcutta such as Chief Justice of Calcutta High court Mr S.P. Mitra and the Editor of *The Statesman*. Prominent people such as Sri Parmanand Babu and Sri B. L. Azad of Bihar, Chief Justice Mr Verma and Mr Shukla of Uttar Pradesh attended and many others came from Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa and Bombay.



Dada with Mr G. T. Kamdar (known as the “Salt King” of India 1973

On that auspicious day Puja Dadaji (Puja means respectable, venerable) arrived at Somnath Hall at 10 am and the Mahotsava (Great Illumination of Truth; occasion when Sri Satyanarayan manifests as Light) ceremony commenced with singing of Kirtans and Bhajans. The Bal Bhog was to be offered to Sri Sri Satyanarayan in the early morning of the next day, October 4th. Bal Bhog preparations were Bundi, Jelabi, both sweets and bun. Puja Dadaji came to Somnath Hall at 2 am on that day. He entered the Puja room at 4 am for offering the Bal Bhog. Immediately the devotees started singing of Kirtans.



After about half an hour when Dadaji came out of the room it was found to be full of divine fragrance, the floor of the room was sprinkled with Ganga water and honeylike Nectar was flowing in droplets down the portrait of Sri Sri Satyanarayan. It also appeared that some portion of the Bal Bhog had been partaken from each dish and some water imbibed from the vessel by Sri Sri Satyanarayan.

Puja Dadaji thereafter declared that Maji (Mrs G.T. Kamdar) would herself cook the Mahabhog which had to be offered to Sri Sri Satyanarayan at noon on that very day, October 4th, and she would sit in the Puja room. As advised Maji prepared the various items of Mahabhog Prasad and they were offered to Sri Sri Satyanarayan. Puja Dadaji entered the Puja room at 12 noon. Five minutes after that he called Maji inside and advised her to take a seat. He came out of the room and closed the door. He went upstairs with me. The singing of Kirtans started in the large hall outside the Puja room. Usually when Puja is in progress Puja Dadaji assumes a position lying on a cot, but on that day, instead of doing so he remained seated on the cot and went on discussing with

me matters regarding the Mahotsava. During the conversation Dadaji started laughing vigorously. As this was unusual I out of curiosity asked Dadaji to tell me why he was laughing so much. Dadaji replied, "Kamdari I can clearly see that Thakur is eating the Mahabhog down below in the Puja room."



Mr & Mrs G.T. Kamdar

Satyanarayan. Then I heard tinkling sounds. I saw clearly the idol of Sri Sri Satyanarayan (small white marble statue) which had recently been installed in the Sri Sri Satyanarayan Bhavan at Bhavnagar and also saw Pujya Dadaji standing by its side. I saw flashes of light coming out of the idol. I felt a shower of Ganga water falling on me and then somebody passing by in front of me and helping himself to the Mahabhog. I became weightless. All this time the tinkling sound continued uninterrupted and I continued with the recitation of Mahanam. Thereafter Dadaji entered the room and blessed me. He asked me to open my eyes and see whether Sri Sri Satyanarayan had enjoyed the Prasad or not. On opening my eyes I saw that Sri Sri Satyanarayan had partaken of the Prasad in good measure. I prostrated before the portrait of Sri Sri Satyanarayan and then before Dadaji who was standing beside me. Then I came out of the



Somnath Hall

After half an hour Dadaji stood up and went down to the ground floor and entered the Puja room. He blessed Maji and opened the room so that the devotees could have Darshan. The room was found to be overflowing with divine fragrance and the floor was found wet with fragrant Ganga water. It was also noticed that a portion of the Prasad had been consumed by Sri Sri Satyanarayan from each dish and some quantity of water from the jug had been drunk. Dadaji desired Maji to narrate her experience while in the Puja room during the Puja.

Maji related her experience to me saying, "Puja Dadaji called me inside the Puja room and desired me to take my seat on the Assan (small prayer rug). He lighted a gee lamp and went out of the room and closed the door. I closed my eyes, prayed to Sri Sri Satyanarayan and started reciting Mahanam. No sooner had I started recitation of the Mahanam, when I opened my eyes I saw the divine aroma started flowing like nectar out of the portrait of Sri Sri Satyanarayan. The devotees waiting outside eagerly rushed into the Puja room to have Darshan." Later on according to the wishes of Pujya Dadaji the Prasad was mixed with the main Mahabhog items and distributed to the devotees present

On the afternoon of October 4th a meeting was held under the auspices of the Dadaji Brotherhood. The meeting started with the usual Nam Kirtans. After the Kirtans were sung the Guest-in-Chief, the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Sri Sanker Prasad Mitra, delivered a speech. Thereafter the prominent personalities of Orissa narrated their personal experiences with Dadaji. When the program ended at 9 pm an announcement was made that the Mahapuja would be performed again at Somnath Hall the next day, October 5th at 6:30 pm and everyone was invited to take part.

On Friday, October 5th, at 6 pm people started gathering in Somnath Hall for the Mahapuja and exactly at 6:30 pm Puja Dadaji went upstairs with me and asked if I would sit in the Puja. I replied that it was as he wished. Dadaji then told me that it was he would sit in the Puja room that day. He asked me to take off my Kurta and go downstairs with him for the Puja. Accordingly I did as Dadaji requested. Pujya Dadaji went inside the Puja room first; after five minutes he called me in and asked me to take a seat on the Assan. Dadaji lighted the ghee lamp, told me to prostrate myself before the portrait of Sri Sri Satyanarayan, to close my eyes, and begin reciting Mahanam. Dadaji left the room and closed the door. Kirtans

commenced outside the room. I will relate my experience whilst in the Puja room. No sooner had I begun reciting the Mahanam, I opened my eyes and saw the divine fragrance started flowing from the portrait of Sri Sri Satyanarayan. Though my eyes were then closed, I could see two big flashes of divine lights. I also saw two big light balls which were of various colors. I felt a lot of pressure exerted on me to open my eyes, as a result my eyes slightly opened and I saw streaks of divine lights of different colors coming toward me. This went on for about five minutes. Then I felt as if somebody had opened the door and entered the room; although afterward I came to know that the door was closed all the time and nobody had entered.

I heard the sound of a Tabour (Damaru) being played and a heavy shower of Ganga water fell on my head emitting divine fragrance and I became completely drenched. Small streams of Ganga water with divine fragrance started flowing around the Assan on which I was sitting. Until that day I had had several prior opportunities to have Darshan of Mahapujas, but I had never seen the presence of such a huge quantity of Ganga water inside the Puja rooms.

I continued to recite Mahanam. I felt as if someone had passed very close to me behind my back and placed his hands on me. At that time I was praying to Sri Sri Satyanarayan for His Grace. Then I saw a powerful divine light and I felt as if somebody had passed by in front of me. I heard a sound suggesting that somebody had been enjoying the Prasad. After five minutes Puja Dadaji opened the door and came in. He put his hand on my head and blessed me, asking, "Kamdarji, have you any doubt still left in your mind? If there is any let me know so that the same could be removed." To that I humbly replied to Dadaji that I had no doubt at all.



Then Dadaji opened the door and called my son Arvind and the Editor of *The Statesman* to come in to the room for Darshan. I stood up and then prostrated before the portrait of Sri Sri Satyanarayan. At that time I noticed that honey-like Nectar was flowing all the way down the entire glass of the portrait. I prostrated before Pujya Dadaji. My son Arvind who was present there at the time noticed that on my back at two places there was Nectar emitting divine fragrance flowing in two streamlets and that there were imprints of a palm in red color, one on each side of the lower portion of my back.

Arvind told Dadaji, "Dadaji please look at these imprints. What are these things?" Dadaji replied that there was no necessity for him to see, but that Arvind should show them to the people who had gathered there. So much Ganga water had been showered upon me that I was completely wet. With wet dhoti on I came out and went into the large Hall. The devotees saw the two streamlets of Nectar and the imprints of palms on both sides of my lower back.

In the meantime Mrs Kamdar and Arvind were showing those gathered in the Puja room the vessels that had been placed before the Sri Sri Satyanarayan portrait prior to my going inside with Dadaji. They showed everyone that fresh water had turned into coconut water, the coconut water had changed into divine Khir, and in the vessels containing Prasad some portion had been consumed by Sri Sri Satyanarayan. While they were showing these things my wife and son observed that one bottle which had not been in the room prior to the commencement of Puja had appeared from nowhere. On opening the stopper of the bottle it was found that it contained milk and that some cream was sticking to the sides of the bottle as well as on the inside portion of the stopper. The bottle was party empty so it was felt that Sri Sri Satyanarayan had tasted milk from the bottle leaving the rest for Prasad.

The porridge which was found to taste like divine Nectar, the coconut water which was originally plain water and the Prasad which was offered and from which small quantity was partaken of by Sri Sri Satyanarayan was then distributed to the people gathered there that day. They accepted the Prasad with much love and felt uniquely fortunate to have it. By the time the Puja was over not only was Somnath Hall packed with people, but the open spaces outside

around the Hall and the footpath also were crowded with people who were eagerly awaiting Darshan and Prasad. Everyone had the Darshan of Sri Sri Satyanarayan with deep reverence and received Prasad, then dispersed after paying their respects to Pujya Dadaji.



Dadaji, Arvind Kamdar, G.T. Kamdar at Utsav in Calcutta

Later when I was with sitting with some people who had been into see the Puja room, my son Arvind said, "Father when you were in the Puja room, Dadaji took me upstairs and narrated to me in detail all that was happening down below in the Puja room. Dadaji told me this time during Puja unique happenings were talking place. Sri Sri Satyanarayan had entered your body and huge quantity of Ganga water was falling over your body. Damaru was being placed vigorously. This time Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva had performed the Puja. No other God and Goddesses had been able to get entry into the Puja room and they were having Darshan of Puja from outside only."

Dadaji while sitting upstairs with my son thus narrated the happenings taking place inside the Puja room to Arvind. During Mahapuja by the Grace of Sri Sri Satyanarayan and the Grace and Blessings of Pujya Dadaji, both I and my wife had unique experiences and also divine realization which we are unable to explain fully in words. We offer millions and millions of prostrations to Sri Sri Satyanarayan and Pujya Sri Dadaji.

