



A child enacting the role of Annamayya during Brahmotsavam



Girls performing Dance in Brahmotsavam



Vol.1

# **AUGUST 2020**

No.6

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# LORD KRISHNA

- Dr. V.K.Bhaskara Rao

Lord Krishna, one of the most loved Gods of Hindus is said to have spent his childhood in Gokul, a historic town in Madhura district of Uttar Pradesh. The stories of little Krishna will always enthrall the aged and children as well. Krishna performed many miracles during his childhood which attracted innumerable devotees, killed many demons, helped and guided Pandavas. He is the God of compassion, love, kind hearted and is one of the most popular Divinities. Lord Krishna is usually depicted with a flute in his hand and a peacock on his head. The narratives of Lord Krishna's life are generally titled as 'Krishna Leelaa'. Leela literally means a light hearted journey. Every episode of his childhood reveals some divine aspect or the other. Lord Krishna performed many divine leelaas during his childhood. Some of them are: Putana killing, Butter stealing, Eating Mud, Sakatasura Arishtasura and Keshi (Horse) killing, Stealing of Gopika's clothes, Wooden Morter (Rolu) Bhandhan by Yashoda, Kaliya Mardanam and Govardhana Giri leela and many more. Govardhana Giri leela is briefly illustrated hereunder.

**GOVARDHANGIRI LEELA**: Each year the villagers of Brindavan would make elaborate offerings to Lord Indra through performing worship to appease him for getting good rains. Krishna saw this and questioned the practice being followed by the villagers. He argued that the Govardhan Giri (Mountain) had a larger role to play in the life of villagers than the Lord Indra as the Govardhan provides sufficient fodder for their cattle. Reluctantly, the villagers agreed and stopped the annual festival. Lord Indra in his vanity, was furious and sent torrential rains and floods to Brindavan. Then,



all the villagers out of fear and threat, approached Krishna and prayed him to rescue them since it was because of him that Indra was angry.

Krishna then grew in his size and picked up Govardhan Giri with his little finger of his left hand making a Giant Umbrella under which all villagers and cattle could take refuge. For seven days and seven nights, the rains did not abate. Finally, Lord Indra realized his mistake and requested Krishna to be excused and accepted his unconditional defeat. With this leela, Yashoda, Nandaraja and villagers have clearly understood that they were standing in the company of no ordinary mortal but a God himself with divine qualities. With this miracle, Krishna secured the title of Govinda along with many other names he obtained at different occasions of his life. Lord Krishna's birthday is celebrated every year on Krishna Janmashtami which falls in late August or early September of every year.



# SRI KULASEKHAR ALWAR

- Sri K. Vamanan Nampoothiri

Sri Kulasekhara Perumal (Kulasekhara Alwar) is one of the very famous among twelve Alwars. Alwars are considered as supreme devotees of Lord Maha Vishnu. With humble devotion to the mysteriously omnipresent, omniscient One, Lord Mahavishnu, they were blessed with unmatched poetic majesty. Their poetry was attractive with impassioned and philosophical



words. Traveling from temple to temple, they composed exceedingly beautiful hymns.

The collection of their hymns is known as DivyaPrabandha. They praised the "DivyaDesams", 108 "Divine Abodes" (temples).

Kulasekhara Alwar contributed to one of the works in the DivyaPrabhandham, namely PerumalThirumozhi.

Sri Kulasekhara Alwar is believed to be the incarnation of Sri Mahavishnu's "Koustubha Mani" (Gem). Kulasekhara Alwar, a great king at first and was transformed as an ardent follower of Lord Mahavishnu.

It is said that Kulasekhara Alwar had a special devotion towards Lord of the Seven Hills. He express his desire to be born on Tirumala Hills as a bird or a beast, a fish in the holy tank or a tree, or be a stream or stone, a post or a statue in preference to all earthly riches and kingdoms, so that he can stay much closer to Lord Venkateswara Swami in Tirumala.

He prayed to get at least to be in the form of a stone-step in front of the temple. In Tirumala temple, the final step leading to the Sanctum Sanctorum is called "KulasekharaPadi" (Kulasekhara's step).

There is a hall called Kulashekhara Alwar Mandapam where, according to some legends, he composed the "Mukunda Mala" Stotra, inside Sri Ananta Padmanabha temple complex, ThiruAnanthaPuram, Kerala. This devotional lyric, in Sanskrit known as a "garland of poems" describes the misery of the soul trapped in this world and exhorts that Lord Vishnu is the only means of salvation.

He started pilgrimage to various holy places. He made his base in Sri Rangam where he spent so many years of his life in loving service of Sri Ranganatha swami. He also went on pilgrimage to other holy places such as Ayodhya, and Chitrakuta and many more.

The teachings of our great Alwars should be the beacon lights in all our endeavours.





## SRI KANAKA DASA

- Smt. A. Geetha Veera Raghavan

Sri Kanaka Dasa was born to Beerappa Nayaka and Bachamma. He was born by the grace of Sri Venkateswara of Tirumala. As such he was named as Thimmappa Nayaka.

He grew up to be a very bright child and his father taught him all vidyas. Thimmappa was very dedicated, polite and brilliant and learnt everything very fast. He lost his father at an early age. He took over all the duties of his father and improved his

village with the help of Vijayanagara King. One day in his village when he was digging his land, he got great treasures full of gold and silver. He distributed that among the poor people. Then people very happily called him Kanaka Nayaka (Kanaka means Gold). With the remaining treasure he built a temple for Lord Adikeshava at Kaginele and with the blessings of the Lord, he became 'Haridasa'.



Kanakadasa went in search of a Guru and met Sri Vyasatheertha Swamy. Sri Vyasatheertha Swamy accepted him as sishya. Sri Vyasatheertha Swamy came to know that, god will appear before Kanakadasa whenever he prayed. He requested Kanakadasa to get him a darshan of the God. Kanakadasa agreed and prayed God. Next day when many devotees were there with Sri Vyasaraya theertha, God came there as a Dog. Not realising the dog itself as God, devotees threw stones and chased the Dog away. Kanakadasa felt bad and requested God to come in a sacred form. The very Next day, God came in the form a Snake. Devotees got scared and ran away, Sri Vyasatheertha took the snake in a silver plate and worshipped with milk in great devotion.

Once, Kanakadasa was invited in his dream to Tirumala by Lord Srinivasa himself. He went to Tirumala and overwhelmed himself in devotion and composed number of divine songs on the Lord.

Kanakadasa went to Udupi longing for Lord Krishna's Darshan. The orthodox devotees did not allow him inside. With this, he became sad and went to the back side of the temple and started singing and making a hole to have Lord's darshan. Suddenly there was a big sound, wall cracked and a hole was formed. Sri Krishna turned towards Kanakadasa to give darshan. Probably God more longed for Kanaka's darshan. Even today everybody will have Sri Krishna's darshan in Udupi only through "Kanaka's kindi" (the window only).

This is the highly touching life of Sri Kanaka Dasa, great devotee, a great composer and singer of Bhakti literature.

## **KUMARADHARA TEERTHAM**

Original Story in Telugu by : Sri D. Srinivasa Deekshitulu

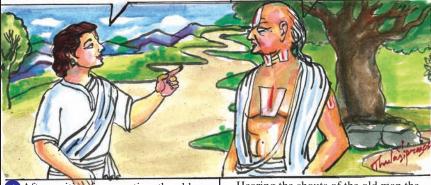
Pictures: Sri K. Thulasi Prasad Translated by: Sri K. Damodar Rao

Once, a brahmin who was old and blind built a hermitage over Sri Venkatachala and was living in it. One day he was wandering around with his son Kaundinya and went far away from their abode.

2 "Father, you must be tired. Take rest for a while in the shade of this tree. I'll return quickly."

**PICTURE STORY...** 

3 "Yes dear! Come back quick."



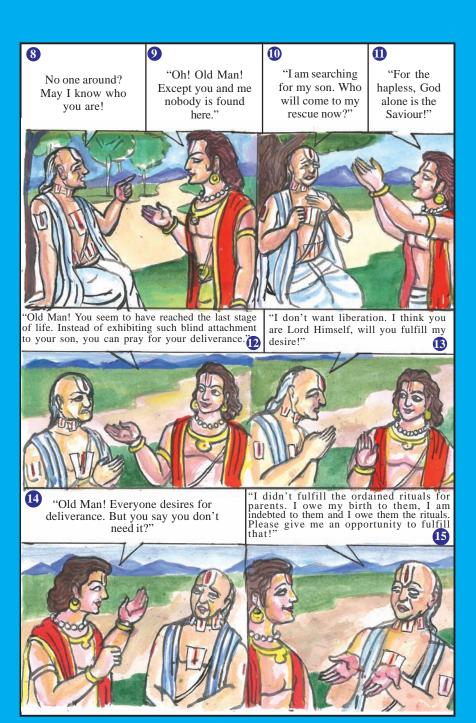
4 After waiting for sometime the old brahmin began to shout loudly.

Hearing the shouts of the old man the Lord came near him.

5 "Oh! Son! Kaundinya! Where have you gone? Come quickly! Come, my dear!"

"Old man! For whom are you searching? Nobody is found in the vicinity."







"Then do as I say, Old Man!"



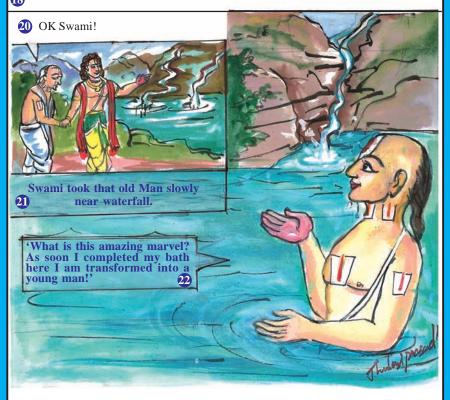
"As you say, Swami!"

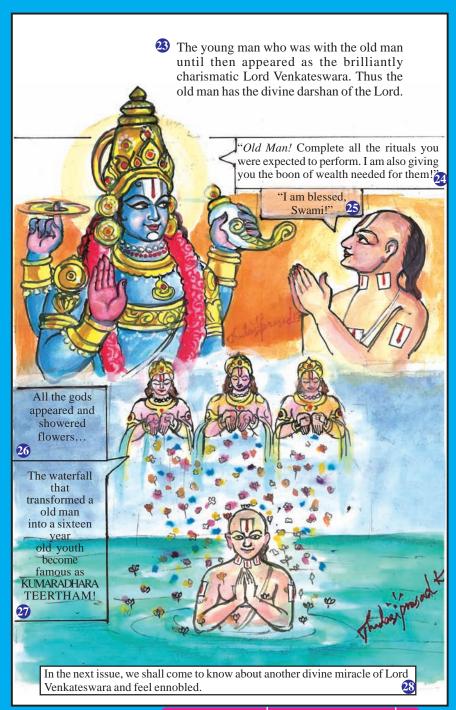


"Old Man! Take bath under this waterfall!"



With the help of Swami the old brahmin comfortably took his bath under the waterfall.







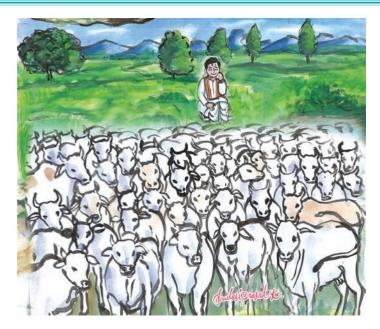
# AS YOU SOW, SO YOU REAP

- Kum. D.K.Mythili

nce, there was a young boy called Kumar. He lived in a village with his mother. Kumar used to work for a farmer and take his cattle to graze every day. He had to walk a long distance on his own to take the cattle to the best grazing areas. He never complained about this because he liked taking them through the forests and the mountains.

One day, as he was walking back with the cattle, he decided to sing a song. While he was singing, he heard many voices. Kumar thought there were many other boys around him. He stopped singing looked around wondering who they were. He shouted "Who are you?" and the voices repeated the same "Who are you? Who are you?" Then Kumar shouted "Where are you hiding?" and again, the voices repeated it! Kumar didn't realise that the voices were just echoes. He thought there were other boys who were hiding and making fun of him. He got angry and shouted "I will find you and beat you!" Of course, the echoes repeated what he said but this time Kumar got scared and sat silently thinking over it. Then, he ran all the way home to his mother.

Seeing Kumar look so frightened, his mother asked him what happened. He slowly told her the whole story about the voices. When he said that the voices repeated whatever he said, she immediately realised that the voices were actually just echoes of Kumar's own voice. But instead of explaining the echoes, she told him that the other boys were actually friendly. She asked him to call out "Hello, let us be friends" to them when he took the cattle to graze again.



Kumar went to the forest the next day, and soon reached the place where he had heard the voices. He suddenly remembered what his mother had said. He shouted "Hello, let us be friends!" and of course, the echo repeated "Hello, let us be friends!" When he heard this, Kumar became happy and was no longer afraid. He shouted nice greetings whenever he took the cattle to graze, and always received nice greetings in return.

When Kumar grew up, he realised that everything in life is just like the echo in the mountains. We always get back whatever we give. When we are nice to other people, they are usually nice to us. When we are rude to other people, they are usually rude to us! So it is always good to be nice to everyone.

**Moral of the story**: We should treat other people in the same way that we want them to treat us.

### A DISTINGUISHED CHILD



Name : A. Charmitha Simha

Class : 6<sup>th</sup> Standard DOB : 17-1-2010

School : Silver Oaks the School

Bhavani Nagar

Tirupati.

Mother : Smt. A. Seethalakshmi Father : Sri A. Narasimha Babu Achievement: Academically Brilliant

(Bharathanatyam)

#### AWARDS TO HER CREDIT

- 1. Awarded first prize in her 6<sup>th</sup> Class.
- 2. School Head Girl of Primary Wing.
- 3. Learnt 'Bharathanatyam' from Guru Kesavi Bagedalli (Vasavi Kala Kendra) and became expert in Bharathanatyam.
- 4. Skilled in 'Bharathanatyam' and became Academically Brilliant.
- 5. Entered into Guinness Book of Records 3 times for the Dance performances - 2018 in Chennai & Twice in 2019 (Hyderabad and Bangalore) for group performance.
- Nathyakalabinethri 'Bharathiya Award' Srilalithakalanruthya Nikethan, Rajamahendravaram in 2019.
- b. 'Nathyasankalpa Award' Sri Ganapathi Nruthyotsavam, Kanipakam in 2019.
- c. 'Dynamic Talent Award' Silparamam, Tirupati in 2019.
- 'Nathyasri Award' Sikharam Art Theatres, Hyderabad in 2020.



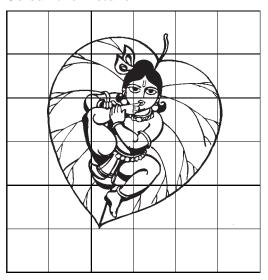
#### - Kum. V. Anagha

- 1) Who is popularly known as Geethaacharya?
  - a) Lord Rama
  - b) Lord Krishna
  - c) Lord Narasimha
- 2) Birth place of Saint Ramanuja?
  - a) Sri Perumbudur
  - b) Srirangam
  - c) Kanchipuram
- 3) What is other name of Garuda?
  - a) Vasuki
  - b) Aruna
  - c) Suparna
- 4) Which hymn was composed by Sri Andal?
  - a) Thiruppavai
  - b) Thirupallandu
  - c) Thirumaalai
- 5) How many chapters are there in Bhagavat Gita?
  - a) 16
  - b) 18
  - c) 20
- 6) Who is known as Vipra Narayana?
  - a) Thondaradippodi Alwar
  - b) Thiruppan Alwar
  - c) Kulasekhar Alwar
- 7) Who is the brother of Kunti?
  - a) Kamsa
  - b) Vasudeva
  - c) Jarasandha

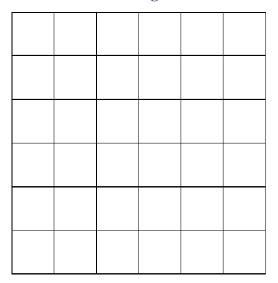
Answers: 1) b 2) a 3) c 4) a 5) b 6) a 7) b

# **DRAWING**

### **Colour the Picture**



## Draw the Picture as given in the above





The folkloristic performance of boys in Brahmotsavam



Children performing Kolatam at Brahmotsavam



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Tids little cillid, a cute little cillid Can we ever see such a mesmerizing cillid.... -Annanayya

> **Cokulashtami** 12+08+2020