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Srinivasa Bala Bharati

ANNAMACHARYA

English Translation

A. Krishna



**Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams,
Tirupati**

Srinivasa Bala Bharati - 156
(Children Series)

ANNAMACHARYA

Telugu Version
Dr. K. S. Ramamurthi

English Translation
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Prof. Ravva Sri Hari

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FOREWORD

If a beautiful garden is to be raised, one needs to take proper care of tender flower plants. In the same way in order to create a good society, great care needs to be taken of young children who are going to be future citizens of India. All their intellectual attainments will be futile if they fail to learn of their culture and its greatness. They need to be told of great men and women of this country so that they are inspired by their ideals. The essentials of our culture should be given to them in the form of simple and charming stories. They will cherish these ideals and be guided by them. They will promote good and they will love the society they live in. They make their families proud and bring great prestige to their country when they grow up into good citizens.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams have brought out these booklets for children in Telugu under Srinivasa Bala Bharati Series. Although meant for children, they are useful to the elderly too. They have found place in the book shelves of every family. The stories of legendary men and women are narrated in a simple way. We hope that more and more children will read them and profit by them.

I congratulate Dr. R. Sri Hari, Editor-in-Chief, TTD for his efforts in bringing out the English translations of SRINIVASABALA BHARATI SERIES so well. We have received co-operation of many learned men and women in our efforts to popularize this series. I am thankful to them.

In the Service of the Lord



Executive Officer,

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.
Tirupati.

FOREWORD

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens. They need apt acquaintance with the life-histories of celebrated persons at tender so that they get opportunity to lead their lives in an exemplary way. They will come to know that great things such as Indian culture, basic tenets of life and moral teachings are abundantly available in the life-experiences of great men. It is observed that there is no scope to teach such subjects in school curriculum.

Observing such circumstances the Publication Division of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has published about hundred booklets in Telugu about the lives of famous sages and great men written by various authors under the editorship of Dr.S.B. Raghunathacharya under "Bala Bharati Series". The response to these books is tremendous and it has given impetus to publish them in other languages also. To begin with, some of the books are now brought out in English and Hindi by T.T.D. for the benefit of boys and girls and the interested public.

These booklets, primarily intended to the growing children and also to the elders to study and narrate the stories to their children, will go a long way to sublimate the aspirations of the children to greater heights.

R. SRI HARI
Editor-In-Chief
T.T.D.

Welcome To Srinivasa Balabharati Series

The series is the outcome of abundant grace of Lord Sri Venkateswara.

This will be an unfailing source of inspiration to the young.

It enshrines the best of Bharatiya tradition. May this noble endeavour be successful.

India has been known for its culture and civilization, its ethical and dharmic way of life from time immemorial. India has marched ahead with its commitment to dharma, its resistance to adharma, its espousal of life-affirming values and its humane attitude to life as a journey towards God realization. Those who embodied these values in their life have been a beacon of light to us. Their impact is deep on the life we lead. Young boys and girls will find them exemplary and feel proud of their invaluable heritage. They will love their motherland and dedicate themselves to its service.

It is therefore necessary that the young learn about these great men and women so that they will realize their indebtedness to them for their selfless contribution to the enrichment of life. This should indeed be a chief component of true education which ensures the perennial continuity of Indian culture and civilization. SRINIVASA BALABHARATI SERIES has come into existence to acquaint the young boys and girls with right perspective of Indian life and values through a series of booklets written exclusively for this purpose describing in brief the lives of great men and women.

We welcome you to share our joy in launching these booklets.

S.B. Raghunathacharya

Chief Editor





ANNAMACHARYA

Look there! Telugu Mother is singing a song while feeding the child with the morsels of food

**"Chandamama Ravo, Jabilli Ravo, Manchi
Kundanampu Paidikora Vennapalu Tevo"**



Do you know who wrote this song? The writer was Tallapaka Annamacharya He was a great devotee of Lord Venkateswara and a great poet. He was the first Vaggeyakara in Telugu. Vaggeyakara means one who composes and sings songs. Venkateswara was waking from sleep while Annamayya was singing the wake - up song. Again he wouldn't go to sleep unless He heard a lullaby from him. Not only swami but even the goddess Mangatayaru was fond of his songs. She

was dancing with delight while he was singing. Let us know the story of such a great devotee.

This story happened six hundred years ago.

Tallapaka :

Tallapaka is a small village in Rajampet Taluka of Kadapa district. There are two temples. One is Chennakesava Swamy temple, the other Siddheswara swamy temple. The idol of Chennakesava swamy was installed by Janamejaya Maharaj in Dwaparayuga. Even to-day the angels, sages, and siddhas come and worship Him. Certain brahmin families were dependant on this temple of Chennakesava swamy for their livelihood. Of these brahmins Narayanayya was a famous one. There was one Narayanayya in the fourth generation of his family. With the story of Narayanayya the story of our Annamayya begins.

Why for this ghastly act!

Narayanayya did not get education in his boyhood though tried. His father made hectic efforts to educate him but in vain. As there was no advantage of educating him under his guidance, he sent his son to Utukur and kept him in his relative's house. There the teachers tried their best to educate him but words did not come out from his mouth except the tears from his eyes. They were greatly vexed with him and made him undergo several punishments like kodandam, kolagaggera. The



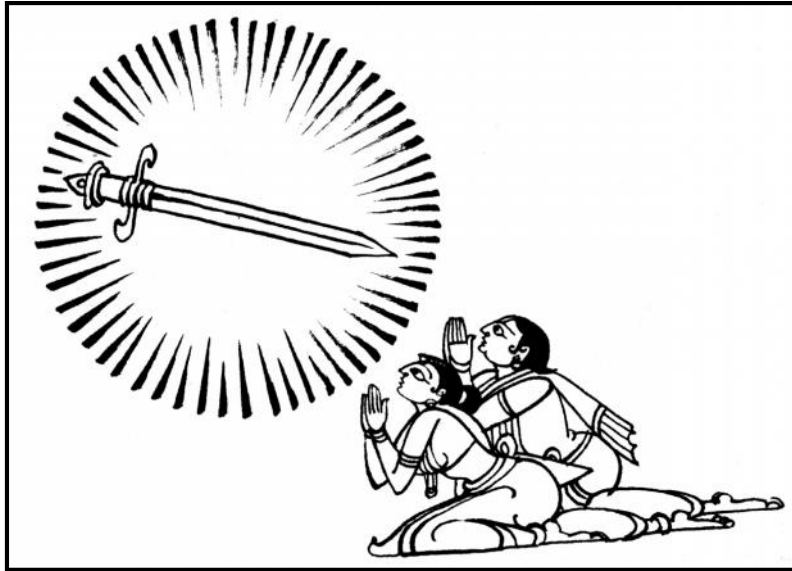
tender heart of Narayanayya was hurt. All mocked at him. With shame and insult he felt humiliated. He thought "Death is better than this insult".

He overheard from somebody that there was a snake in the ant-hill in the temple of Chintamma on the outskirts of the village. He went alone to the temple and kept his hand in the ant-hill, the snake did not bite him but the Goddess Chintamma appeared before him. He fell upon Her feet weeping. Chintamma kept him in Her lap and comforted, "Why for this ghastly act? In the third generation of yours will be born a great devotee of Hari. With him your dynasty will be glorified. Don't you get education ? It 's a wonder go to Tallpaka Chennakesava swamy. He will present you every thing" disappeared warding off his worry. As

per mother's word Narayanayya got all kinds of education by the grace of Chennakesava swamy - Narayanasuri was his son.

Pilgrimage to Tirumala :

Narayana Suri was a great poet and scholar. His wife was Lakkamamba, a great devotee and a sweet singer. Her native village was Madupur. There Chennakesava swamy used to speak to her directly. There was no ritual that was not performed by this couple for the sake of children. There was no god that they had not worshipped, "swamy / Lord! Present us a good son" they worshipped Lord Venkateswara. They made the things vowed. On one auspicious day they started for the Darshan / visit of Venkateswara Swamy.



Lakkamamba and Narayana Suri reached Tirumala and entered the temple. They prostrated before the flagstaff / may-pole. They felt as if they had got intoxicated. Lord Venkateswara in the form of dazzling light appeared and presented His glittering dagger Nandakam to the pious couple. Their joy knew no bounds. They visited and eulogized Venkatapathi. With so much of delight they came back to Tallapaka.'

Birth :

Lakkamamba became pregnant. A male child was born to her in an auspicious Lagnam / moment in the month of Vaisakha. When the three planets with the star Visakha were in the as ascendant houses. That was the year 1408 A.D. As the child was born in the Harinandakamsam, he was named Annamacharya. He pleased all with his gentle smiles. Again and again he was offering salutations to Venkatappa. He was taking milk only when heard the name of Venkanna. He would not go to sleep unless a lullaby on Venkatapathi was sung. When his mother was singing devotional songs, he was simply nodding his head as if he had understood them. When his father was explaining the meaning of Poetical works, he was giving utterance attentively.

Boyhood :

Annamayya came to the age of five. He was a precocious child. The teachers were greatly surprised

when the boy soon reproduced the lessons that they had taught. They came to know that there was nothing that should be taught to Annamayya. Whatever he played was heard as a sweet poetry and whatever he sang was heard as a divine music. He used to go to the temple of Chennakesava and call him "Little Kesava". Lord Chennakesava used to exhale smiles for the dove like accents of Annamayya. Annamayya was deeply engrossed in playing games and singing songs. He was in tune with the birds that were singing on the trees of the tankbund. He was very much pleased for the sound of gentle winds. He was leaping at seeing the flowers swinging on the waves of the tank. He was heckling the girls who were singing the songs of Jajara on the moon-lit nights. He was demonstrating how to sing 'Ragam' and how to play 'Talam'. He was mocking at them "you don't know anything, go away". He was in tune with the folk songs of kalupu, kapila sung by Janapadas. The villagers were very much pleased with the word and song of Annamayya.

Who attends to domestic chores ?

Narayana suri's was a large family. The little quarrels are inevitable in united families / undivided families. Their angers and hatreds are meaningless. They quarrel at one moment and mingle the next moment. One day all the members of the family attacked Annamayya. He did not know what to do. "Is it good on your part to

keep Tambura on your shoulders and sing mad songs? who looks after the domestic chores ? Stop your songs, go and get grass for the cattle". They poked at him. His father too followed the suit. But his mother looked at him with pity. Annamayya gave no response. With the sickle fastening to his shoulder he started for the forest.



Who is to whom ?

Annamayya had no habit of going to the forest. He sat under a tree. Tambura was in his hand. Adjusting the strings he tried to sing. Beside him was a sickle. When he saw the sickle, his duty struck to his mind. He got up and looked around. At one place there was thick grass. There he started cutting off the grass. All of a sudden he cried, 'Ma'. His little finger was out and the blood was shedding drop by drop. He felt dazed when he saw the blood. He simply groaned. "Who is

the cause for my plight? "Once he recollected his relatives and parents. "All is false. There is nobody for me. I have no work with the mundane affairs" said to himself. At a distance he saw a group of pilgrims. They were going by playing and singing. He threw away the sickle from his hand. With Tambura in hand he joined the band.



Annamayya reached Tirupati :

The pilgrims were none other than the great devotees like Sanaka. Their dress was very strange and amusing. They wore the crowns made of deer skin. They wore the clothes made of leaves and abrakam. They smeared the forehead with upright marks. They had the imprints of conch, disc. They had brass anklets on their feet and arrows in their hands. Striking the strings of Tambura, tinkling the little

Cymbals, beating the drums, singing and dancing ecstatically, and saying slogans 'Govinda, Govinda' they were going. Annamayya joined them and reached Tirupati.

Look, look there!

Soon after reaching Tirupati he went to the temple of Gangamma. He offered salutation to the village deity and reached Alipiri. There he saluted Narasimha swamy. The Alipiri hill has another name called 'Chukkala Parvatam, This is the first step to reach the Almighty. Here there is Taleru boulder. On this boulder is the statue of Anjaneyaswamy." He offered salutations to this boulder. Thinking that this boulder has many great powers the devotees climbing up the hill would touch the boulder with their head and with their knee. It's their belief that they wouldnot have headache and kneepains. He looked at the top of the hills spreading far and wide. They looked like the hoods of Adisesha. With delight he began dancing and singing.

(Adivo Alladivo Harivasamu)

"Look, look there, that's the abode of Hari

That's full of ten thousand hoods of Adiseshu

That's Venkatachala the highest of all mountains

That's the rare gift of Brahma and others

That's the eternal abode of all saints

Look there and worship delightfully
 That's the hill of granting salvation
 That's the abode of riches for Lord Venkatapathy
 Look that's the form of all Prosperity
 That's the most sacred of all sacred places"
 Adishesha stood as a playground for the stroll of
 Venkateswara Swami.

Annamayya tired !

Annamayya, the boy devotee was climbing the hill. He was approaching the tower of Alipiri. There the hill is some- what slope. That's called 'Pedda yekkudu'. With so much of enthusiasm he climbed the hill and reached the tower. At a distance there is a canal of camphor. From there were coming the sweet fragrances. Looking at the trees, bushes crept thickly and the cataracts flowing with affected gait he reached Mokalla konda (knee hill). By that time it became noon. The boy knew no scorching sun. As he was just eight years, he was tired and felt fainting out of hunger. Under the thick bamboo bushes he fell down with the shoes in his fast. The wind passing through the bamboo sticks sang a lullaby for him.

Grace of Alivelu Mangamma :

Whether anybody observed or not, Alivelu Mangamma observed his tiredness and hunger and



pitied him. She approached him like a big woman. She took him in her lap and said strokingly, "get up, boy, get up and see" Annamayya thought that it was his mother's call, and got up calling 'Mother'. But he could not see anything. He felt the soft touch and sweet words of his Mother. He didnot know what to do. Annamayya said piteously, "Mother, I am unable to see with my eyes "The mother Alivelu Mangamma said comforting him." My dear son, this hill is full of salagramams. Take off your shoes and see. "He took off the shoes. At once the whole hill looked resplendent. In every tree he saw the saints. In all the animals he saw the angels. He saw the ten incarnations of Sri Hari, gradually and heard the reverberating sound of Vedas. With surprise and delight he offered salutations to the sacred hill. Alamelu Mangamma drew him near and fed him with consecrated food. The element of Saraswati

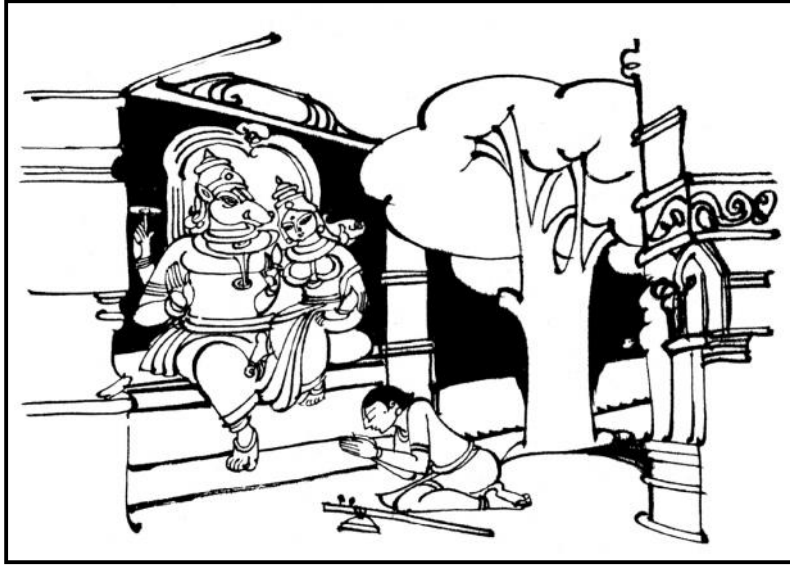
(Goddess of Learning) entered Annamayya. Unaware of himself Poetry welled up from him. With great emotion he spontaneously said one satakam and dedicated it to her. In it there were only champakamala, utpalamala verses i.e lilies and lotuses. He worshipped the feet of Mangamma born in the flower with flower like verses. Alamelu Manga means the woman standing on the flower. Venkateswara, the great Tallapaka Annamacharya said hundred verses of flowers in praise of Alivelu Mangamma with all the love and affection. Receive them and feel happy several aeons and brahmakalpas.

Bath in Pushkarini :

Annamayya went straightaway to Pushkarini. This is called Swami Pushkarini. It is the king of all sarovaras. In this Pushkarini join the waters from thousands of rivers. Who ever takes bath in this Pushkarini will he washed off his sins. He took bath in the sacred waters of Pushkarini.

Varaha kshetram :

Was Annamacharya very much tired after climbing the hill: with his bath in Pushkarini his pains were relieved. His mind was pure and perfect. He straightaway visited Varahaswamy. Tirumala is also called Varaha kshetra. There Adi Varahaswamy was living and he himself accorded permission to Venkateswara swamy to stay on there. In gratitude to



it Venkateswara Swamy made an agreement that the devotees should first visit Varahaswamy and later Venkateswara Swamy. Even to-day the first worship and offering is only for Varahaswamy.

Annamayya's entry into the temple :

After visiting Varahaswamy Annamayya went to Venkateswara Swamy 'kovela'. He saw the tall tower with surprise. There was a tamarind tree there. He worshipped it. He fell prostrate before the flag-staff that fulfills the desires. He paced round the flagstaff adorned with gold flowers. He visited vimana Venkateswara Swamy. He worshipped Ramanuja, Yoga Narasimha Swamy and Janardhan Murthy. He also worshipped Vakula mata installed in the kitchen room.

He visited yagasala and Kalyana Mantapam. He worshipped the vehicles of Aswa, Garuda, and Adishesha that stood in the mandapam. The civet brought from Goa. Pinned to the golden rods was being melted. The pilgrims in groups were pacing round the flagstaff saying "Govinda, Mukunda and Timmappa." There were green parrots in golden cages." Worship Venkatapathy, offer gifts and salutations to the Lord of Hills. Your desires will be fulfilled" were saying the Parrots in their accent. Annamayya saw wardrobe of swamy full of silken clothes. He took out the coin preserved carefully in the knot of his frills. Saluted to the charity box and submitted it to swamy.

Visit of the glorious statue :

Annamayya stood in front of the golden doors of swami and had His darshan. Some overwhelming joy crept all over his body. He was looking at swamy with all the attention a disc in one hand, conch in the other, gem and surya katari in the navel, anklets on the feet, silken clothes one hand on the waist, the other boon bestowing hand, the earrings shining in splendour, the face exhaling all the arts, the upright mark with pearls, the dazzling crown with gems, the body besmeared with civet, the garland of lilies hanging down on either side of the crown, vanamala, srivatsam, kaustubham, invaluable ornaments - He went on looking at the glorious statue of Lord Venkateswara in all its

splendour. The heart of Annamayya welled up with overwhelming joy. The romantic verses in waves started coming out from his throat.

("Podagantimayya Srinivasuda")

"O Purushottama we have seen thee

Don't forsake us koneti Rayuda

O household deity, Choose us to rule our lives

You're the treasure given to us by our elders

You're the timely cloud the showers and quenches
our thirst

You're the Srinivas dwelt in our hearts."

The Priests were enchanted at the songs of Annamayya. Drawing the boy to their side they offered consecrated water and food, and kept sathakopam on his head. That day Annamayya took shelter in one mandapam.

Bath with the sacred waters :

That day was Ekadasi (11th Day). He went to see the sacred places on the hill. He visited 'Kumaradhara Teertha' (kumara swamy had killed Tarakasura. That's why the sin of murdering a brahmin had clung to him. To ward off his sin kumara swamy did penance here). From here Annamayya reached Amarteertham. Three crores of angels daily take bath in this teertham. He visited 'Akasaganga'. Here Anjanadevi made penance

for twelve years. Annamayya took bath in 'Papavinasanam' that would wipe out the sins and grant punyam. While taking bath in these teerthas he was performing a magic. After taking bath he was putting his clothes for drying. Before drying his clothes he was delivering a satakam spontaneously.

Fall of Necklace :

One day after completing ablutions Annamayya went to visit Lord Venkateswara. But the doors were closed and locked. He was very much disappointed. With so much of anguish he sang a song. The locks at once were broken down and the doors were opened. The priests were frightened. Saying 'guilty, guilty' they took him into the temple. Visiting Garudalvar, Vishwakshena, Sugreeva, Hanumanta, he stood in front of Venkateswara Swamy. The Priest was worshipping swami like Lord Venkateswara. At this juncture Annamayya felt emotional. At once he delivered one satakam in praise of Swami. Immediately the necklace from the neck of Swami fell down. The priests in wonder admired the boy's greatness. Looking at Annamayya the priest said, "This boy is not an ordinary boy. He is the gift of Koneti Raya." Giving him sandal, consecrated water and food he blessed the boy wholeheartedly. Sitting on the banks of Pushkarini, taking Prasadam (consecrated food) recalling Swami's greatness, he took shelter in the temple of Varahaswamy.

The dream of Ghanavishnu :

In those days there was a vaishnavayati called Ghanavishnu in Tirumala. He was a great devotee. Serving the Lord he was teaching Vishnutattva to all men. He submitted his rest of life to the service of Seshadri Nilaya. That day was Dwadasi (twelfth day). That night Venkatapathy appeared in his dream and said, " Tomorrow a devotee called Tallapaka Annamacharya will come to you. He is black and beautiful (handsome). He always sings songs on me. From his ears are hanging down Maddi fruit. With the silken frills of Tambura on his shoulders he is always striking its strings. You invest him Mudradharana. These are my imprints." and gave them to him.

Panchasamskara Deeksha

The next day early in the morning after completing his ablutions, Ghanavishnu stood at yajnasala in the temple of Swami. In his hands were the marks / imprints of conch and disc given to him by swami. Annamayya got up early in the morning, took bath in Pushkarini and visited Varahaswami. He went round the compound wall of Venkateswara Swami and came to yajnasala singing of Harinama samkeertan. Ghanavishnu looked at that boy, saw the marks as described by swami. Slowly he approached the boy.

"Boy. What's your name?"



"Annamayya" said he and prostrated before his
feet

Yati's eyes shone with delight

Do you agree for the Mudradharana?

Annamayya looked at his face and found in him
Lord Venkateswara.

He replied, " I will agree with pleasure"

As per Vedas Ghanavishnu performed Annamayya Panchasamskaras. All the matters were revealed to other Vaishnavaites. They were very much pleased. Annamayya took his meal along with them. With this invitation Annamayya became Annamacharya.

In search of their son :

Without informing anybody Annamacharya went to Tirumala. Here at Tallapaka his parents made hectic

efforts in searching for him. As he was not found, they were very much disappointed. Lakkamamba did not come out from the temple of Chennakesava. She was dreaming of her son 'Anna, Anna', Narayanayya became almost mad.

That day was Dwadasi (twelfth day of the month). All the villagers conducted special worships in the temple for the sake of Annamayya. While going on performing Bhajan Lakkamamba fainted. She was whispering something in her sub conscious state.

"Tirumalappa, Tirumalappa, Annamayya, Annamayya," heard Narayanayya. Something struck to his mind. The next day he started for Tirumala with his wife.

Loss of treasure recovered :

Annamacharya was learning the qualities of Vishnu from Ghanavishnu at Tirumala. He was looked after by his teacher with all love and affection. He was singing songs ruminating the words of his teacher. That day sitting in the Mantapam Annamacharya was singing in a mood of ecstasy. The devotees in large numbers were listening with rapt attention. Hearing the song, Lakkamamba and Narayana suri recognised it to be the voice of their son. Their joy knew no bounds. Lakkamamba ran towards him calling 'Anna'. Hearing the call of his mother he stopped his song. Saying 'Mother' he fell into his mother's lap. Narayanayya took

his son towards him with pride and delight. He noticed the change brought about in Annamacharya and said, "Swami Venkateswara, this boy is your gift. You yourself save this boy." Ghana vishnu took them to his Mantapam / matham.



Don't hurt mother's heart :

That night Lakkamamba beseeched Annamacharya to come to Tallapaka." I am alright here. How can I come leaving Perumallu. Excuse me and bless me mother", said Annamacharya. But his mother insisted on his coming to Tallapaka. Annamacharya did not know what to do. He could say 'no' to his mother nor could leave Venkatappa. Thinking like this he fell asleep and had a dream. In his dream appeared a resplendent light. "Anna, Don't hurt mother's heart. Go back to

Tallapaka. You will be blessed in all respects. Stop worldly thoughts. Know Paratattva," heard he a message. He did not know anything. "This is swami's order" understood he from the message. He went back to Tallapaka with his parents.

Domestic life

Annamacharya completed 16 years. His parents started marriage proposals. Nobody came forward to give their daughter in marriage to Annamayya who was always singing songs. His world was different. He was reaching home untimely after visiting the temples and towers. At times he was not at all coming home. His world, his attitude was different. Under strange circumstances he happened to marry Timmakka, Akkamma. Leading domestic life he was totally absorbed in the service of the Almighty.

Lapsed a few days

The year was Krodhi, the month Vaisakha, the star Visakha. That was his birth day. On the day of his birth in 1424 he went to Tirumala. After visiting Swami he took shelter in the mantapam of Varahaswamy that night. He could not get sleep for so long a time. Immediately adjusting the strings of Tambura he started singing in some raga. He was feeling strange experience. In his heart some commotion started. Some pictures were unclearly moving in his concept. He was listening to the notes of Narada, the song of Tumbura. All of a

sudden some strange song came out from his throat.

("Brahmakadigina PadamuParama
Padamu Nee Padamu.")

"That's thy foot washed by Brahma

That's thy foot becoming Brahma

That's thy foot worshipped by goddess Earth

That's thy foot kept on the head of Bali

That's thy foot touched the immovable sky

That's thy foot saved the king of Bali

That's thy foot washed off the sins of Ahalya

That's thy foot kept on the hood of serpent

That's thy foot being pressed by Laxmi with all
love

That's thy foot kept on the head of the serpent

That's thy foot granted boons to the great Yogis in
different kinds

That's thy foot shown on the divine path by Tiru
Venkatagiri"

The divine feet of Srinivasa remained in his heart
(the feet always washed by Brahma, the feet measured
the Earth and sky on the occasion of Trivikramavatara,
the feet that pressed down Bali to the lower world, the
feet that washed off the sins of Ahalya, the feet that



pressed down the hoods of kalinga, the feet that offer eternal delight warding off the worldly sorrows, this Tirumala hill is permanent. The feet that indicate that I am Brahma.) He sang this song again and again.

One sankeertana a day :

Venkateswara swamy appeared before Annamacharya who was swimming in the ocean of thoughts. He fell down at the feet of swami. "Acharya" you are lucky, good verse comes out from your throat. You make it concrete by giving Pallavi and charanam. You are the father of word poetry. From today onwards

you perform samkeertan yajnam without forgetting. I want to hear atleast one song a day from your throat. I don't listen to the songs other than yours. This is my oath. This is your Vratam." Saying thus disappeared Venkateswara Swamy.

Wandering / Peregrination :

Following the directions of swamy Annamacharya was performing samkeertan yajnam. He was singing songs moving from place to place from street to street. He was going to the temples, singing songs on Swamy to be listened to the people assembled there. They were pleased for the lucid Telugu words used in songs and delighted at knowing the meaning of those words.

While wandering thus Annamacharya happened to hear about Sathakopayati. Sathakopayati was a great Tapasvi. Narasimhaswami at Ahobilam appeared in the form of yati and bestowed on him sanyasaramam (Life of renunciation). Hearing the greatness of yati Annamacharya went to Ahobilam for the darsan of yati. On the way he visited Chokkanatha swami at Nandalur, Raghu Ramudu at omtimitta, Lord Venkateswara at kadapa. He sang so many songs on them.

Ahobila kshetram

Ahobilam has another name called Ahobalam. This is the important sacred place for Vaishnavaites. Here Hiranyakasipu ruled and hurt his own son Prahlada.

To save his own devotee Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of a lion in ugrasthambham (strong pillar). On the banks of Bhavanasi Narasimhaswamy flourished in nine forms. This sacred place is in Nallamala forests. This Nallamala forest is well known for leopards and lions. In these forests Annamacharya walked fearlessly. Here there is upper Ahobilam and lower Ahobilam. At the lower Ahobilam Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy is in the name of Prahlada Varada. At the upper Ahobilam Narasimhaswamy tearing the belly of Hiranya kasipu is in fierce form in a cage. Annamacharya eulogized these divine Murthis.

Service of Sathakopa yati :

On the banks of Bhavanasini river Sathakopayati sat in a mantapam like Aparasimhaswamy. Annamacharya fell down at the feet of Sathakopayati. With delight and emotion he eulogized yati. As a disciple he served yati for twelve years and learnt Vaishnava Agamas. He understood the essence of vaishnava like this - Vishnu is all merciful. All living beings are eligible to reach Vishnu. There is no bar for the race, religion, colour or class. Only the recital of saranagati Mantra is enough. The Almighty will yield." His master's teachings attracted him. He was prepared to preach and propagate that message.

Tandanana Ahi Tandanana Pure

Tandanana Bhala Tandanana

There is only one brahma - only one Para brahma
 one brahma only one Parabrahma
 There is no highness or lowness in it
 For all Sri Hari is heart and soul
 For all animals too only one
 For all Sri Hari is heart and soul
 The sleep of the king and that of the servant is the
 same
 The land of Brahmin and that of chandala is the
 same
 The sun on the elephant and on the dog is the
 same
 For the good and the bad the name of Sri Venkateswara
 is one.

Glory :

The samskara of Annamacharya was great. His master and god were easily accessible to a devotee like him. For the welfare and well - being of humanity Annamacharya propagated vaishnavism in the form of songs and his songs spread far and wide. Salva Narasingaraya, the ruler of Tangutur heard about Annamacharya and his songs. To visit Annamacharya he went to Tallapaka with all the Paraphernalia of money, gold, materials and vehicles.

Priesthood to Narasingaraya :

Salva Narasingaraya was the commander-in chief of Tangutur nearby Tallapaka. He was a great warrior. His name was Narasingaraya 'Salva' is his title. In course of time the title became his house name. Salvanarasingaraya regarded Annamacharya as his master. Without the permission of his master he was not at all doing any work. With the blessings of his master and with his valour he became the king of Penugonda. He invited his master, honoured and asked him to stay on with him. Annamacharya said that as long as there was no obstacle to his sankeertan, he would stay on. The king made all the arrangements for his master's stay. Acharya agreed that the king's Patron would help him in spreading Vaishnavism. Making the temples as centres he started spreading the religion of Visistadwaita.

One day the king invited his master to the court. There were ministers, feudatories, generals/ commandants and chamber maids in the court. Rayalu requested his master to sing a melodious sankeertan. Acharya sang a melodious romantic song thus.

"Emoko kadugada"

Why is the civet filled on the lips ?

Is it not a love letter written to her lover?

Don't the maids think otherwise

If the side glance become red pearls
or is it not the blood that stuck

If plucked the side glances planted on the lover"

Annamayya in prison :

Hearing that song the king and the courtiers enjoyed themselves. The king honored him greatly/grandly. With greediness the king asked his master, "sing this kind of song on me". Annamayya closed his two ears tightly. Getting up from his seat he said, "Oh king, what a horrible word you uttered. How can I eulogize the others with the tongue that is used to singing of the Almighty. Good-bye to you and to your court" and made exit from the court. When Annamayya refused, the king felt insulted. He called the soldiers and asked them to imprison him at once. The fetters were tied to his hands and legs and thrown him into the prison. Annamacharya sang a song pitiably on Venkateswara Swamy.

"Do you see the insults of your devotees
What shall you see, shall I remind you of
We have submitted our grievances
Like the helpless angels pray to you
While you were lying on the ocean of milk
Why do you sleep! why don't you come to our
rescue

devotees of Hari. Insulting the devotee is greater than insulting the Almighty. In kaliyuga the Lord feels satisfied with the samkeertan. The king is equivalent to Vishnu. You protect Dharma", directing like this Annamacharya went to Tirumala thinking it would not be good for him to take the patron of the king.

Annamayya's Appeal :

In 15th century there were full of religious and political feuds in Andhradesham. The Mohemmadans destructed our Hindu temples, killed the cows and raped the ladies. In these circumstances Annamacharya started his pilgrimage to Tirupati. One day on the way he rested in the temple of Anjaneyaswamy. Meanwhile a few turaka soldiers came on horses and demolished the temple. They threatened the people staying there and robbed of their bag and baggage. Annamacharya did not know what to do. His property was only the idol of Venkateswara Swamy. He could not protect the idol. Just opposite to him there was the idol of Anjaneyaswamy the demolished temple walls and the homeless people like him sorrow welled up from him. He sang a song appealingly.

"Now it is time to worship Indira Ramana

Please get and give me

O son of Anjana you punished Myravana

and brought Rama home

O Garuda! you showed mercy by
Killing the fierce serpents
O Murthy of sesha on the hill of Venkateswara
Countless services for Sri Vallabha
O Kartaveeryarjuna, go and get me
The idol of Venkateswara stolen by the soldiers"
and fell down tired.

Grace of Anjaneya :

The Turkish soldiers robbed of their property and were enjoying themselves in their tents. Meanwhile a monkey entered in their midst. It grew to the size of tent in their presence. It crushed the tent and took away the bag containing the idols of Annamacharya.



Annamayya felt as if somebody had patted and got him up. When he opened his eyes, the idols were before him. He felt utmost happy. Then he eulogized Venkateswara swamy, "Swamy, this is all your kindness."

Annamacharya reached Tirumala. He wanted to spend all his life in the presence of Swami. He used to participate in the ceremonies and processions. He used to sing so many songs. From Suprabhata seva to Ekantaseva he used to sing songs to be heard by Swamy. He wrote a poetical work called 'Sringara Manjari' in couplet. He sang the romantic samkeertans that denote Madhura Bhakti. Lord Sreenivasa was listening to them directly.

Sprout of youth :

One day Swami heard one romantic song sung by Annamacharya and said, "Anna, your sweet romantic songs are inculcating the new youth in me. Now there is no renunciation that has been hitherto. "Annamacharya did not know what kind reply should be given to swamiji staggering slowly he said, "Swamy, the Vedas speak of thee, the Jnanis are eulogizing thee. All the angels are singing of thy glory. What am I" I am mere a doll of skin..... you are my father who fed me with milk. You are making me sing the songs on my tongue. Thou art Madhava, I am thy servant" hearing his songs Swami exhaled gentle smiles.

What untoward act :

Annamacharya was a great devotee. His words turned out to be true. His heart was pure, his attitude was for the well-being of all the people. His penance was samkeertan yajnam. Who was equal to that great man? One day he submitted Swamy cashew fruit as an offering. After offering the fruit to Perumall, the fruit he took was sour. This pained him very much. "Alas! I have submitted sour cashews to swami. What untoward act." He touched the tree of cashew and prayed," Let the fruit of this tree become sweet." At once the cashew fruit became sweet. Like this Annamacharya's miracles spread all over the world.

Blessings of Annamayya :

One poor brahmin visited Annamacharya and requested him to give money for his marriage. With the blessings of Annamacharya one king called the brahmin, did marriage to him and gave him all paraphernalia. If heard the songs of Annamacharya the deadly diseases will be cured. The possession of devils and demons will disappear. They are not songs. They are the divine incantations of Venkateswara swamy.

Annamayya, Purandaradasu :

Hearing Annamayya's miracles and samkeertans Purandardas came to Tirumala. He was a great devotional poet belonging to kannada desha and a great singer. He had the title of the father of Karnataka Music.



He went to meet Annamacharya. Annamacharya like Venkateswara Swamy sat striking his Tambura with one hand and explaining the meaning of his concept with the other hand and was singing song. All the devotees were singing in chorus.

"Surrender to thee the lord of Angels Indra,
surrender to thee the husband of Lakshmi

Surrender to thee who annihilated the pride of
Rakshas.

Surrender to thee o Venkata Nayaka

Vishnu, sun, moon and Brahma are waiting to
worship thee

Angels, saints, rulers of directions / quarters
(Dikpalakulu)

Kinnaras, siddhas, courtesans like Rambha are
waiting for thee

The chosen persons like Prahlada came to worship
thee

Listen to our Plea o Tirupati Venkatachala Nayaka",
Purandar das forgot himself by seeing such an
incident.

Without effort he sang a similar song.

Surrender, surrender to the Lord of angels surrender
to serve Sripati

Surrender to the son of Parvati, Maruti surrender
to Siddhi Vinayak

Thou art the son of Siva Parvati and the darling of
Nagabhushana

Thou dost have soft body and the wearer of
earrings

Thou art the necklace of Pearls

Thou art the great Lambodara and the conqueror
of Manmadha

Thou art the Purandara Vitthala going on Garuda.

Seeing the youngman singing a song,
Annamacharya becoined him with eyes out of delight.
Purandara said, "Swamy, I have heard about your
miracles and samkeertans. They are not songs. They

are the great incantations. My life is purified. You are not ordinary man. You are the very incarnation of Lord Venkateswara" and eulogized him. Annamacharya became old by that time. Embracing this young boy he said, " Are you an ordinary man? You have won the grace of Ranga vitthala. you are a fortunate one in getting the water by swamy for your Sandhya. Your songs are the first lessons for Karnatic music" and blessed him.

Writings :

The writings of Annamacharya disappeared in the abyss of time. His writings were written on copper plates too. They were all preserved in the library in the temple of Tirumala. But we lost them because of our inattention, foolishness and greediness. The people who did not know the value of copper plates melted them. If Annamacharya wrote 32,000 samkeertans, only 12,000 are available now. If he wrote 12 satakas only one was found. We lost his dvipada Ramayanam, Venkatachala Mahatyam, Samkeertan Lakshanam, and the Prabhandhas written in many languages.

The services of Tallapaka poets :

Annamayya's son was Pedda Tirumalaiah, his grandson Chinna Tirumalaih. Chinnanna and others were above great poets and singers. They were all called Tallapaka poets. The service rendered by these Tallapaka poets was great. They wrote Samkeertanas,

Dvipadas (Couplets) Udaharanalu, Dandakas, Satakas, Commentaries Lakshana writings, Ragadalu. The eldest wife of Annamacharya Timmakka was the first Poet in Telugu. Her son was Narasinganna a great poet.

These Tallapaka poets wrote not only poetical works but also constructed temples and renovated the ruined temples. They made arrangements to sing samkeertans in Vaishnavaites temples. They introduced so many ceremonies and processions. They rendered so many services for Tirumala Temple. They built mantapas. They laid the steps for Pushkarini. They introduced Kalyanotsavam and Brahmotsavams. The inscriptions indicating the services rendered by them about sixty in number and are standing in letters on the stones in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

End of Avatar :

Annamacharya died in the year 1503 A.D. That day was Phalguna Bahula dwadasi in the Telugu Year Dundubhi. When he died, his age was 95 years. He called his son Pedda Tirumalah, in low voice and spoke secretly, "Timmappa, To-day My samkeertan yajnam comes to an end. Now it is your responsibility to compose at least one samkeertan a day on Srinivasa. You have to carry on this yajnam." Annamacharya gave his son his Tambura and chirutalu. His eyes were filled with tears. Stroking the head of his son Annamacharya said unclearly, that might be Venkateswara Mantram."

Chinna Tirumalaiah was conducting Tiruvaradhana
for his grand -father.

Supplement

O maids! offer milk to my little son Sri Krishna
Though denies by putting his hand across
Don't swing his cradle swiftly
The fourteen worlds inside his stomach may
move

This is hot milk. Don't give hot milk
He can not tolerate
Don't give kunckles on his head,
for being so lovely
Don't press my child
Leave him aside
Don't fly my child into the sky and Don't make
him tired

Keep him in the cradle
Without rebuking this Timmanna
Swing my child o maids

