



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

# BALA SAPTHAGIRI

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

MARCH 2020

## Sapthagiri Supplement



Taking the lotus-like foot in His lotus-like hand  
Little Krishna thrusts it in his lotus-like mouth to suck  
And reclines in bliss on the Banyan Leaf in the Great Deluge  
I recollect Little Krishna in this posture with all my heart ॥



A group of young boys, likely from Tirumala Tirupati, are dressed in traditional white attire, including white shirts, white dhotis, and white turbans. They are adorned with yellow garlands and red beaded necklaces. The boys are holding small brass bells (shankha) and are walking in a procession. The background shows a large, ornate structure, possibly a temple gopuram, with many tiers. The text "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams" is overlaid on the image.

**Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams**

**Child Artistes in Brahmotsavams...**

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

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'Sapthagiri' Supplement

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Vol.1

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## CONTENTS

|                            |   |    |
|----------------------------|---|----|
| <b>Hindu Gods</b>          | <b>Restoration of Vedas</b>                     |    |
| .....                      | - Smt. Namagiri Lakshmi                         | 04 |
| <b>Alwars</b>              | <b>Poigai Alwar</b>                             |    |
| .....                      | - Sri R. Kannan                                 | 06 |
| <b>Kannada Haridasa</b>    | <b>Purandaradasa</b>                            |    |
| .....                      | - D.K. Mythili                                  | 08 |
| <b>Picture Story</b>       | <b>Beloved to the Lord</b>                      |    |
|                            | Story in Telugu : Sri Srinivasa Dikshitulu      |    |
|                            | Pictures : Kalaratna Deviji                     |    |
|                            | Translated by : Smt. J.C. Gnanaprasuna          | 10 |
| <b>Moral Story</b>         | <b>Let us follow...</b>                         |    |
|                            | Telugu Original by : Dr. Samudrala Lakshmanaiah |    |
|                            | Translated by : Dr. M. Krishna Kumar            | 14 |
| <b>Distinguished Child</b> |   | 16 |
| <b>Quiz</b>                | - Smt. J.C. Gnanaprasuna                        | 17 |
| <b>Drawing</b>             |   | 18 |

Front Cover : Sri Vatapathrasayee

Back Cover : Sri Venkateswaraswami

Let us know the details of  
**HINDU GODS** in Every Issue....

**Hindu  
Gods**

## **RESTORATION OF VEDAS**

- Smt. Namagiri Lakshmi

During the time of Sveta VarahaKalpa, Lord Brahma was very serious in creation. Suddenly, he felt very tired and sleepy. He snored a little bit and there came a Demon named Hayagriva. Before Brahma could realize, Hayagriva absorbed the four Vedas. Brahma opened his eyes and found that Vedas were stolen. He searched and became worried. He prayed to Lord Vishnu.

Lord Vishnu – Dear Brahma, why are you so unhappy?

Lord Brahma – Oh Supreme, I am so sorry that I lost the Vedas.

Lord Vishnu - Very Unfortunate, how did you lose it?

Lord Brahma – I was very tired and slept, meantime, a demon must have taken it.

Lord Vishnu – Don't worry, let me find out and restore it.

Lord Brahma – Thank you my Lord. If not restored, then it will be difficult to create the world again.

Lord Vishnu – As the preserver of the world, I am responsible for restoring it also. I will take the Avatar and do the needful.

Having said that, Lord knew that Demon Hayagriva had hidden the Vedas inside deep Ocean. So, he decided to take the form of Giant Fish and deep dived into the Ocean by playing an act with King Manu.

Demon Hayagriva – What a big fish, which is very strange in this Ocean?

Lord Matsya Murthy – Oh! Demon Hayagriva!



Demon Hayagriva was very much surprised to see the fish talking.

Demon Hayagriva – Who are you? How did you know my name?

Lord Hayagriva – I am Lord Vishnu who had come to save the Vedas.

Demon Hayagriva – Ha HaHa! You are now a mere fish, you cannot do anything.

Lord Hayagriva –Come on my boy! Fight with me!

It was a futile fight and finally the Asura got killed.

Lord Hayagriva, then took the Vedas and then handed back to Brahma.

Lord Vishnu showed the divine form of Half man (upper part) and Half Fish (lower part) with four hands holding Shankh (Conch) and Chakra (Discus).

Lord Brahma – Hail Lord Matsya Murthy! Please bless me and the creatures of the world.

Lord Matsya Murthy blessed Brahma and the creatures of the world and started to rejuvenate the world again.

The Avatara of Matsya reveals that - Lord will take any form to save the World and his devotees. Lord is omnipotent as whatever small forms he takes, he will be able to bring happiness to the world and uplift Dharma.



**Alvars are great Devotees of Lord Vishnu. They are 12 in Number. Among them, Poigai Alwar is the First Alwar.**

**Alvars**

## **POIGAI ALWAR**

**- Sri. R. Kannan**

Sri Vaishnavism is a sect of the Hindu religion, the main deity of which worshipped is Lord Sri Vishnu. Sri Vaishnavism has been developed and propagated by great saints and acharyas. Among the saints, Alvars twelve in number had done yeoman service to it. Among them the first three Alvars are called Mudal Alvars. Among the three, the first one is known as Poigai Alwar.

Alwar means the one deeply immersed in the devotion of the Lord, particularly in His countless auspicious qualities and splendour. The Devotional works of all the Twelve Alvars, comprising of about 4000 hymns, have come to be known as Nalayira Divya Prabandham. The first 100 verses of this great work is that of Poigai Alwar, being the first among the Twelve. These verses are regularly recited in Vishnu Temples and Vaishnavite homes even today, being part of daily worship.

The Mudal Alvars were not born as normal human beings,



i.e., not born out of the womb of a mother. They are known as Ayonija-s. They appeared as super human beings at different places and grew up as ascetics as ordained by the Lord.

Poigai Alwar, the first Alwar is said to be the incarnation of Sri Panchajanya, the sacred Conch of the Lord and made his advent to this world in holy tank (poigai), in the temple premises of the Yatoktakari Temple in Kancheepuram, near Chennai, in the Tamil month of Aippasi (Oct-Nov) with the star Sravanam (Tiruvonam).

Here is a small story happened between Mudal Alwars and how the first Divya Desam arise - Once Poigai Alwar, was going on a pilgrimage to Tirukovalur. It was raining and very dark at night. He then went to the hermitage of Mrigandu Maharishi, a very small place to protect himself from rain. After some time the second of the Mudal Alwars Bhutatt Alwar also came there for protection from rain. Then the third Alwar PeyAlwar also came and stood with the other two Alwars. The space could only accommodate only three of them. Suddenly they felt someone else was pressing them. In order to see the fourth invisible person, Poigai Alwar lit a light in the form of a prabandham, starting with “Vaiyam Thagalia”. The second Alwar lit another light with his prabandham starting with “Anbe Thagaliya”. The third Alwar witnessed the Lord with His Divine consort in all Splendour and recited his prabandham starting with “Tirukkanden”. Thus Tirukovalur became the first Divya Desam, where the Mudal Alwars were personally present to praise the Lord and the Nalayira Divya Prabandham had its origin there.

The Prabandham composed by Poigai Alwar has come to be known as Mudal Tiru antadi, containing 100 verses (Antadi means that the following verse starts with the ending word of the previous verse).

The Divya Desams which have come to be in place in Mudal Antadi are said to be six in number. Sri Rangam (Tiruvarangam); Tirukovalur; Tirupparamapadam; Tirupparkadal; Tiruvehka (Yatoktakari); and Tiruvengadam (Tirumala).

Let us invoke the blessings of the Alwars and get upliftment in our life.



**Purandara Dasa is revered as the one who laid the foundations of Carnatic music.**

**Kannada  
Haridasa**

## **PURANDARADASA**

**- D.K. Mythili**

PurandaraDasa's Tambura woke up hearing footsteps. It was his master (Purandaradasa) on his way to the riverbank for his morning prayers. The past few weeks had been filled with joy – their travels had brought them to Tirumala where they had spent some time singing the praises of the Lord. PurandaraDasa had sung about Lord Venkateswara in many ways.



Purandara dasa had described not only the Lord of Tirumala but also the place and the other devotees who throng there. His voice had painted a picture of every detail including the Lord's arrival at Tirumala, the food offered, the decorations, his compassion, the forests of Tirumala and even the places the devotees come from. The pinnacle of bhakti which the Tambura wanted him to repeat again and again.

The Tambura reflected on PurandaraDasa's journey as a bhakta and went further back in the past. He remembered a story narrated by the nose-stud of PurandaraDasa's wife Saraswati. PurandaraDasa had once been Srinivasa Nayak, a wealthy but miserly merchant. One day, a brahmin was struggling to raise some money for his son's sacred thread ceremony. By then, Srinivasa's reputation as a wealthy person had spread far and wide – indeed, he was known as 'Navakoti Narayana' since his wealth was worth nine crores. But no matter how many times the





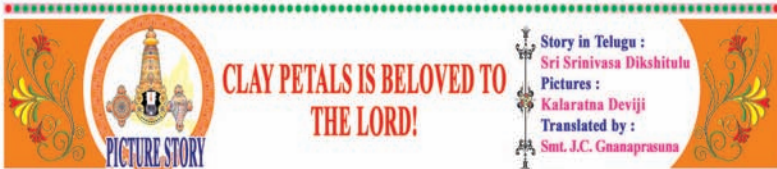
brahmin had asked, Srinivasa had refused to help him. In despair, the brahmin had approached Saraswati, and she being a devout and generous person had given him her nose-stud. The brahmin had taken the ornament to Srinivasa's shop to try to use it to raise money. The merchant had recognised the ornament as his wife's, locked it in his safe and returned home to ask Saraswati where her nose-stud was. Not knowing how to explain, she had turned to her jewel box silently praying, and the nose-stud had appeared there. Seeing it, Srinivasa had rushed back to his shop only to find the ornament missing from his safe. This miracle had transformed SrinivasaNayak completely and he became a devotee thereafter. "How strange", the Tambura thought "that such a pious man was once a miser. Only the Lord himself could have brought about such a transformation!" More scenes from the past came back vividly –how Srinivasa gave away all his wealth, became Vyasatirtha's student and eventually became the wandering devotee known as PurandaraDasa, travelling far and wide singing the praises of the Lord.

The Tambura's favourite moments were when he was with the composer accompanying whichever song he was singing. While PurandaraDasa sang the praises of the Lord, the Tambura in his hands would also hum along in prayer. Sometimes he prayed that the composer's songs and bhakti would be remembered forever and that the Dasa tradition would retain its importance in the years to come.

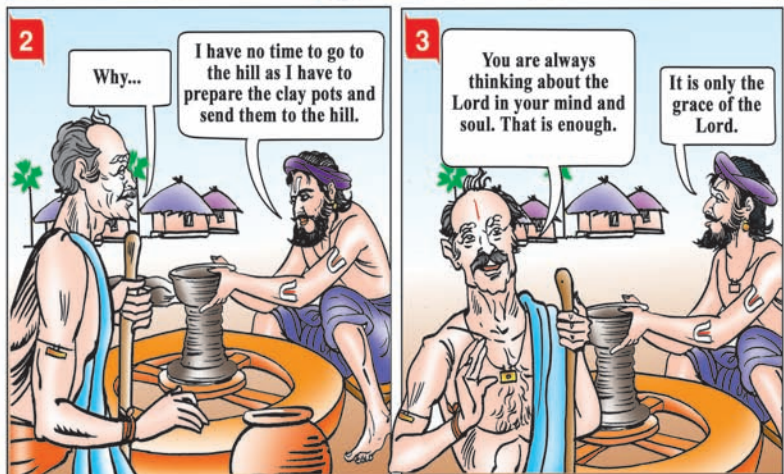
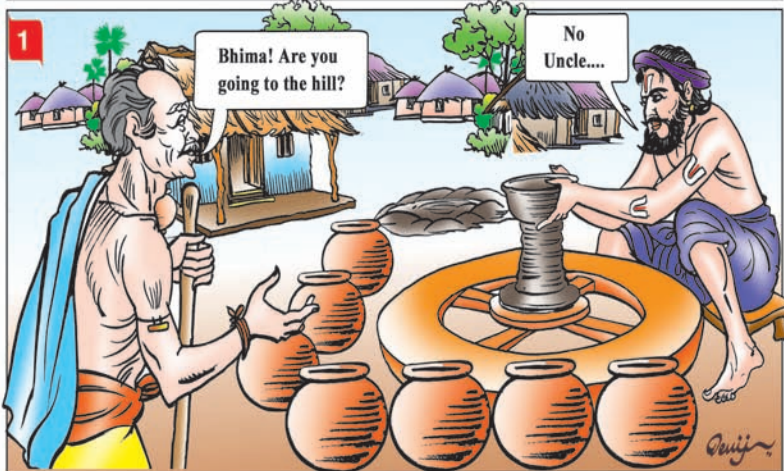
Before his thoughts could wander further, he heard footsteps once again. The composer had returned and it was time for the day to begin. PurandaraDasa picked up his Tambura with a smile, thinking how fortunate he was to be spending his life singing the Lord's praises. He didn't know the thoughts of the instrument in his hands but suddenly felt a strange sense of gratitude. He decided to share with everybody the bond between himself and his Tambura and the eternal bond between himself and the Lord made firm by the nada-yoga of music led by the tuned strings of the tambura.

The PurandaraDasaAradhana – is held annually in Tirupati - Tirumala where he sang so many songs in praise of the Lord of Tirumala after whom he was originally named.

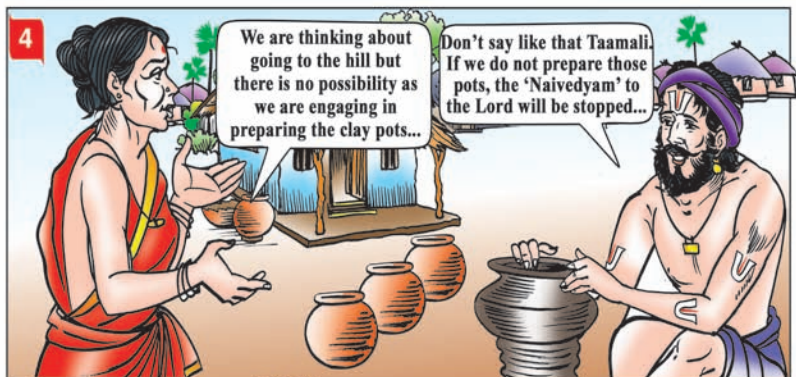




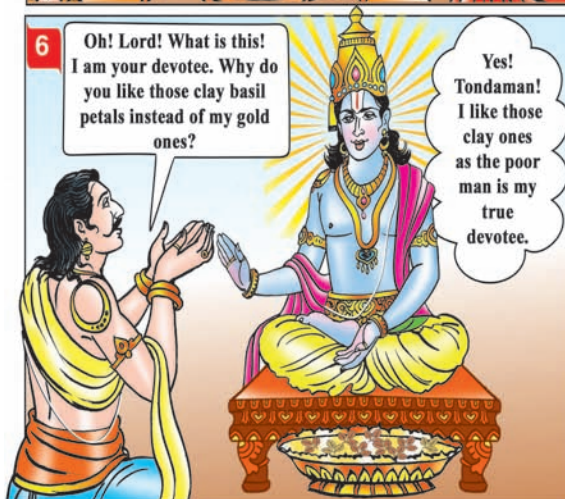
There was a small village called Kuruvapuram towards the northern side of Seshachalam. There was a poor potter by name Bhima in the village. His regular duty is to prepare clay pots and send them to the hill for the purpose of cooking food for offering it to Lord Venkateswara Swamy. One day...



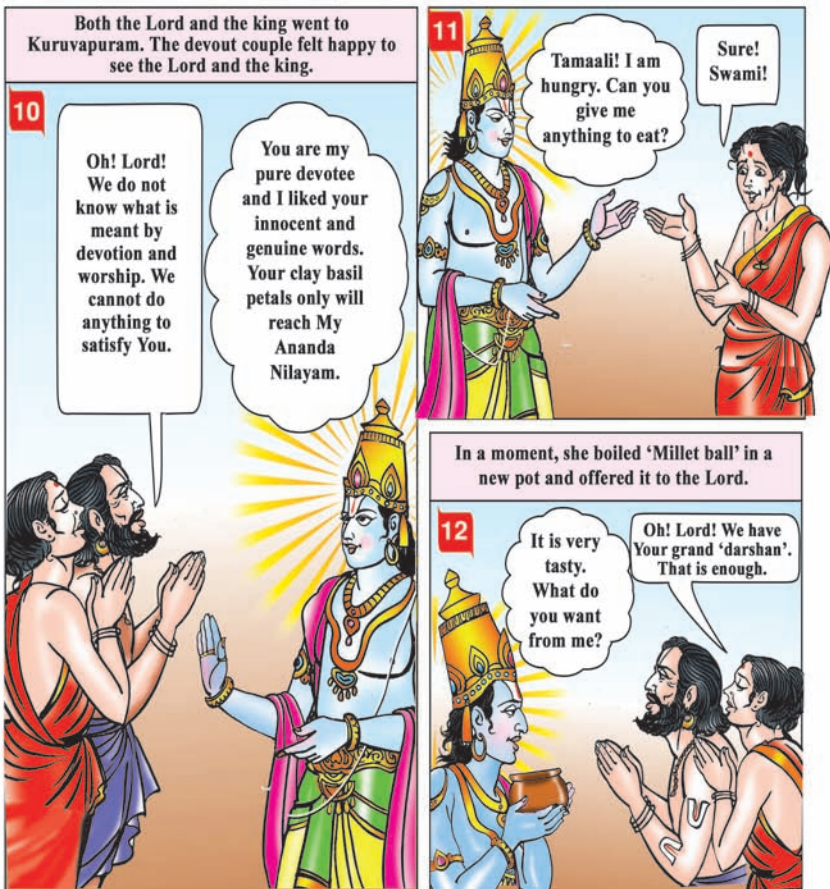
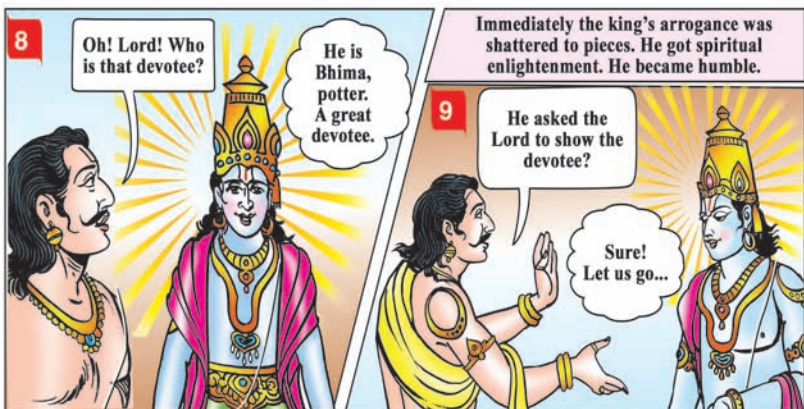
Unable to go to the hill, Bhima prepared the clay idol of Lord Venkateswara and clay basil petals with the help of Taamali, his wife and used to worship the Lord with those petals with utmost devotion. He was preparing the clay pots without taking any leisure.



The emperor Tondaman was ruling the region at that time. He was a great devotee of Lord Venkateswara. He used to worship the Lord with gold basil petals daily to possess the grace of the Lord of Ananda Nilayam. One day the gold basil petals offered by the king were turned out and the clay basil petals were coming in their place. The king was amazed...

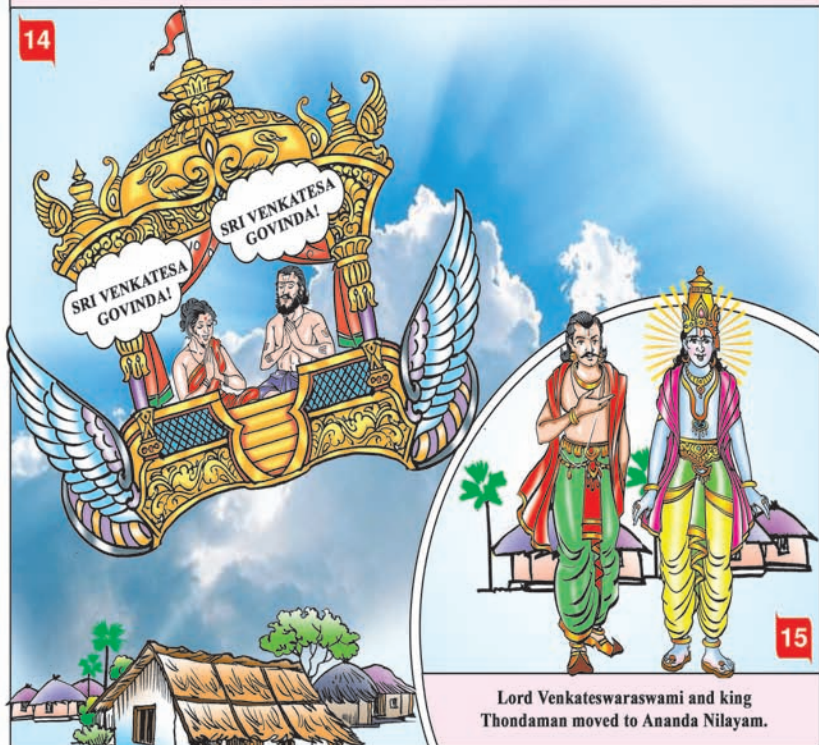








Bhima renowned as 'Kummaridasa'. After offering salutations to Lord Venkateswara Swami, they went to the Vaikuntam in a Vimanam (divine plane).



Lord Venkateswaraswami and king  
Thondaman moved to Ananda Nilayam.



In the next issue, let us know another divine story on  
Lord Venkateswara and be blessed!

The End

**Today's Children are Tomorrow's Citizens. Children should inculcate moral values from childhood itself. Hope you may go through this Moral Story and have the Essence...**

**Moral  
Story**

## **LET US FOLLOW OUR GREAT PERSONALITIES!**

**Telugu Original by : Dr. Samudrala Lakshmanaiah  
Translated by : Dr. M. Krishna Kumar**

Neechasrayo Na Karthavyaha  
Karthavyo Mahadasrayaha  
Esasrayo Maha Nagaha  
Prapacha Garudam Sukham ||

A man cannot lead his life without trials and tribulations in all contexts by himself. If troublesome situations arise in his life, he will depend on some other person who is greater than himself. He will come out of those crises by taking help from him. This is the tendency in the world.

The sloka teaches that the man should seek the assistance from a person who is greater than himself.

There is a snake residing on a hill. Once it was roaming on the hill. Suddenly, the king Garuda approached as he was doing the 'Gagana Vihara.'

If it is an ordinary snake, it would go into a hole and take its self-protection. But the snake did not do like that. On seeing Garuda, it asked him -

'Oh! My friend!

Are you safe?'

Garuda answered him in a positive way.

He said to the snake,





‘I am safe’.

How are you?

They talked to each other in a friendly manner and left that place in different directions. It is a matter of great amazement for us. The following is the real implication.

The hill is the Kailash of Lord Shiva.

The snake is the ornamental garland around His neck.

It came there as a course of his excursion. Garuda was unable to do any harm because he took refuge in Lord Shiva.

### MORAL

**One should take refuge in great and noble personalities but not in ignoble persons.**



### DISTINGUISHED CHILD

With his smooth and eloquent singing of *Bhagavad Gita* shlokas, Master Hema Venkat Narayana, son of Sri P. Nageshwar Rao and Padmavathi, is amazing everyone, even the spiritual scholars. He is marching ahead with his recital of Vishnu Sahasra Namas at a stretch. He has received a number of prestigious awards for his merit.

### AWARDS TO HIS CREDIT

- ◆ First Prize in the Wordsworth International—Spell-B competitions in 2012.
- ◆ Prasara Bharati recorded his *Vishnu Sahasra Naama* recital and broadcast it in 2012 which won him a lot of appreciation.
- ◆ First Prize in the *Bhagavad Gita* Shloka recital competition conducted by Vedic University in 2012.
- ◆ First Prize in the Memorising *Bhagavad Gita* Shlokas' competition conducted by Samskruta Bharati in 2013.
- ◆ Second Prize in the *Bhagavad Gita* Shloka recital competition conducted by Sri Venkateswara Vedic University in 2013 as part of Sanskrit Day Celebrations.
- ◆ First Prize in the Drawing Competitions conducted by ISKCON in connection with Sri Krishna Janmaashtami in 2013.
- ◆ Exhibited his merit in Rajahmundry in Ghantasala Aradhana Utsavas of 2016.
- ◆ First Prize in the Competitions conducted by ISKCON in connection with Sri Krishna Janmaashtami and Gita Jayanti Programmes between 2014 and 2018.
- ◆ Gita Utsavas were conducted under the joint auspices of H.D.P.P., T.T.D. & ISKCON on 7-12-2019. The boy received a prize from Secretary, H.D.P.P.
- ◆ He attained eligibility for State level Chinmaya Mission from the District level on 7-12-2019.

To Enrich the spiritual thinking in the Children, We are giving some questions in the form of 'QUIZ'. Hope you can enjoy the essence of spirituality.

## Quiz

- Smt. J.C. Gnanaprasuna

### 1. Vahanam of Lord Vishnu?

- a) Garuda                      b) Elephant
- c) Crocodile                d) Jatayu

### 2. Vahanam of Lord Shiva?

- a) Snake                      b) Cow
- c) Nandi                      d) Buffalo

### 3. Vahanam of Lord Ganesh?

- a) Cat                        b) Rat
- c) Rabbit                    d) Snake

### 4. Vahanam of Lord Subrahmanya?

- a) Parrot                    b) Pigeon
- c) Crow                     d) Peacock

### 5. Vahanam of Goddess Saraswati?

- a) Swan                      b) Duck
- c) Owl                        d) Crane

### 6. Vahanam of Goddess Ganga Devi?

- a) Fish                        b) Crocodile
- c) Shark                      d) Frog

### 7. Vahanam of Lord Sani(Saturn)?

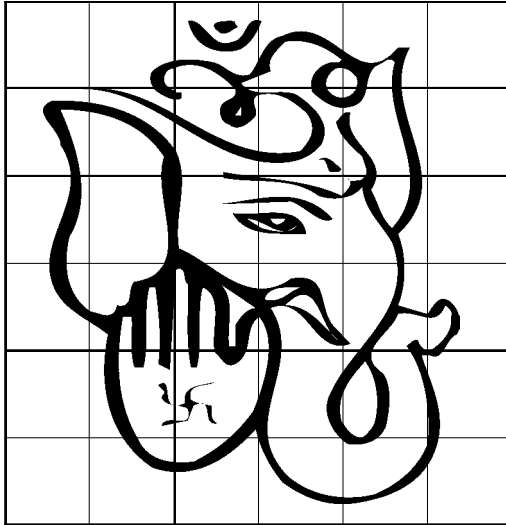
- a) Owl                        b) Crow
- c) Koel                        d) Goose

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

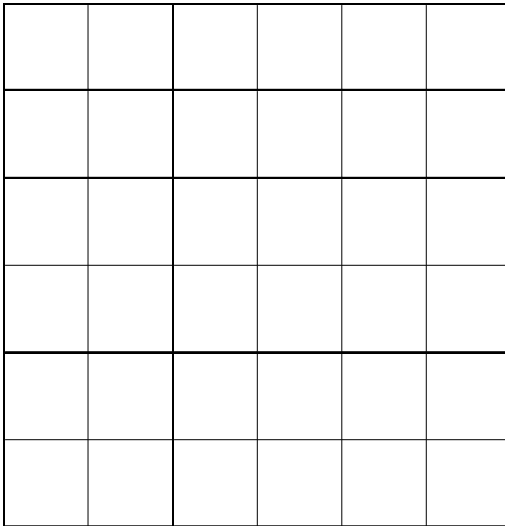


## DRAWING

Colour the Picture



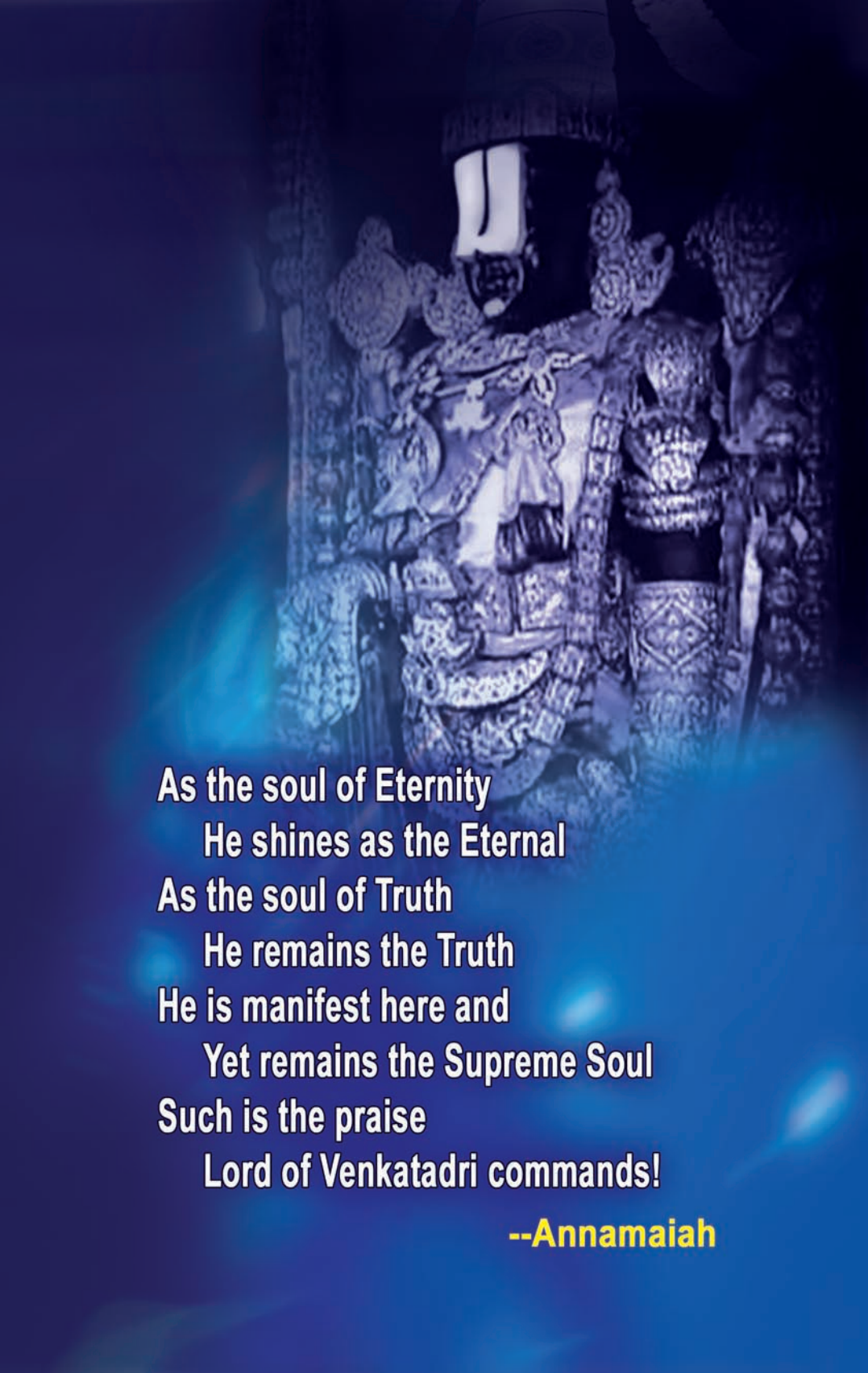
Draw the Picture as given in the above





**Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams**

**Child Devotee...**



As the soul of Eternity  
He shines as the Eternal  
As the soul of Truth  
He remains the Truth  
He is manifest here and  
Yet remains the Supreme Soul  
Such is the praise  
Lord of Venkatadri commands!

**--Annamaiah**