



TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS

BALA

SAPTHAGIRI

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY
OCTOBER 2020

Sapthagiri Supplement



**Hail Victory to the
Lord of Seven Hills !**



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

BALA SAPTHAGIRI

'Sapthagiri' Supplement

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Front Cover : Anandanilayam

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LORD VENKATESWARA & ANANDANILAYAM

- Smt. J.C. Gnanaprasuna

Let us know some of the details of Lord Venkateswara, His Ananda Nilayam and obtain His divine grace.

Lord Vishnu descended from Vaikuntam for the welfare of His devotees and manifested Himself as Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala. He has been worshipped by the devotees who resided in the Ananda Nilayam which was built by Thondaman Chakravarthi as the devotees strongly believe that Lord Venkateswara Swami will fulfil their aspirations. It is a famous mythological and wonderful spot that constantly attracts innumerable devotees.



After passing through the Silver Threshold, the devotees can see the resplendent and radiating abode 'Ananda Nilayam' glittering with gold for their 'Vimana Pradakshinam'. It is the sacred place where 'Kaliyuga Prathyaksha Daivam', Lord Venkateswara manifests in the Ananda Nilayam as the Supreme God in Tirumala receiving 'Nithya Kainkaryas' in a splendid manner.

Ananda Nilayam literally means the Abode of Happiness. Here it is the Abode of Spiritual Bliss. It is the glittering gold-plated 'Gopuram' of the sanctum sanctorum of Lord Venkateswara. Lord Venkateswara Swami is the Grand Protector who fulfills the desires of His devotees who visits the shrine.

It is named as Anandachalam for the hill Venkatadri where the devotees get spiritual satisfaction. The Ananda Nilayam is situated at the top and the Lord who resides in the golden canopy is named as 'Anandanilaya' which is the most renowned name though there are many other names to the Lord. It is a great pleasure for devotees to have a pilgrimage to Tirumala.

As it is the golden hill of the cosmic order, it is a divine pleasure to visit the blissful abode surrounded by the Seven Hills. A series of divine pleasures occurs to every devotee who visits Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala.



**Twelve
Alvars**

SRI THONDARADIPPODIALWAR

- Kum.V. Anagha

In Sri Vaishnava Philosophy, there are twelve Alvars (Vaishnavite saints) who immersed themselves in the path of bhakti towards Sriman Narayana. They surrendered themselves at the lotus feet of Lord Narayana and composed “Nalayira Divya Prabandham”. The temples and shrines that were visited and sung by Alvars are called “108 Divya Deshams”.

Sri Thondaraipodi Alvar is one among twelve Alvars. He was born in Thiru Mandangudi near Kumbakonam in Tamilnadu as Vipra Narayana. He is believed to be an incarnation of Vijayanthi maala of Lord Vishnu. He is popularly known as “Bhakthaangri Renu”.



One day, Vipra Narayana left Thiru Madangudi and decided to visit Divya Deshams, he started with Sri Rangam. After worshipping Lord Sri Ranganatha, he did not want to leave Sri Rangam. He purchased land and created a

beautiful Nandavanam (flower garden) in Sri Rangam. He used to spend his whole time in the garden. He would collect the flowers and make a huge garland and offer it to Lord Ranganatha every day.

Thondaradippodi Alwar's two famous compositions are Thirupalliyeluchi and Thirumaalai. Thirupalliyeluchi consists of 10 verses and it is sung as Suprabatham to awaken Lord Ranganatha even today. Thirumaalai consists of 45 verses. It is the essence of Vishnu Dharmam. There is a saying in Tamil as Thirumaalai Ariyaadhaar Thirumaalai Ariyamaatar. It means the one who does not know Thirumaalai cannot know Lord Vishnu.

Vipra Narayana considered the dust from the devotees of Lord Ranganatha as the most precious and called himself Thondaradippodi and Bhakthaangri Renu (Thondar, Bhaktha means servant of Lord; Adi, Aangri means feet; Podi, Renu means dust). According to him, Sri Rangam is the only Divya Desham and Lord Sri Ranganatha is the only Deity. So he composed hymns in praise of Lord Sri Ranganatha Swami alone.

Dear children... In Kaliyuga, the best way of pleasing the God is chanting Hari naama. We should do services to the Lord by offering flowers; fruits, keeping the premises of the temple clean and neat. By reciting the hymns of Gods and visiting the Temples periodically, we can enrich our culture and tradition.

Let us indulge ourselves in the way of Alwar by doing Kainkaryam (services) to the Lord.



SRI GOPALADASA

- Smt. A. Geetha Veera Raghavan

Sri Gopaladasa lived in 17th century. He was the son of Sri Murari Raya and Smt. Venkamma. Parents named him as Bhaganna. He belonged to a village Mosaru Kalleballe, Devadurga Taluk in Raichur district.

He lost his father at an early age. He and his mother lived in utter poverty. His family deity Lord Srinivasa's temple was in a place called Uttamore. From his childhood he would go to that temple and dance in great devotion. With the pen name "Venkata Krishna" he was composing many devotional poems on Lord Sinivasa. From his childhood he was reciting "Gayatri Mantra" repeatedly. That recital of Gayatri Mantra blessed him with extra ordinarily rich poetic talent and wealth.

In due course he came in contact with Sri Vijaya Dasa and he took Haridasa Deeksha.

Then he strongly followed the path of Sri Hari Bhakti and composed hundreds of highly emotional and devotional dasa keerthanas.

Sri Vijayadasa called him "Gopala



Vittala” and from then he started composing in the name of Gopala Vittala. Sri Vijayadasa and Gopaladasa work together and popularised Haridasa Keerthanas among common people. It was a golden period in the history of Haridasa literature. Gopala Dasa’s literature is highly mature, philosophical and very special. He has discussed about God giving certain duties and liberties to human beings. He prays God utterly to relive him of all selfishness.

Among his disciples Sri Jagannatadasa is prominent. His three younger brothers took Haridas Deeksha from him.

Once Jagannatadasa ill-treated Vijayadasa as he was writing in Kannada. Jagannatadasa had rich sanskrit knowledge and he did not care much Kannada. Knowing this Sri Gopaladasa felt very sad and stopped taking any food. That time Jagannatadasa suffered from terrible peculiar stomach ache. He came and appologised Gopaladasa. Then Gopaladasa excused him and that time Jagannatadasa took Haridasa Deeksha. After Gopaladasa, Jagannadasa continued his literary works.

Haridasa’s lives set example for Bhakti (devotion). Gopaladasa is one such Haridasa. The recital of sacred mantras provides human beings extra ordinary energy and wealth. Gopaladasa’s life is an example for it. By reciting repeatedly the Gayatri Mantra he gained rich poetic talent and also wealth. So, children take examples of the great personalities in your lives also and walk in their pathway.





SALVATION OF THUMBIMAANKONDI

Original Story in Telugu by : **Sri D. Srinivasa Deekshitulu**

Pictures : **Sri K. Dwarakanath**

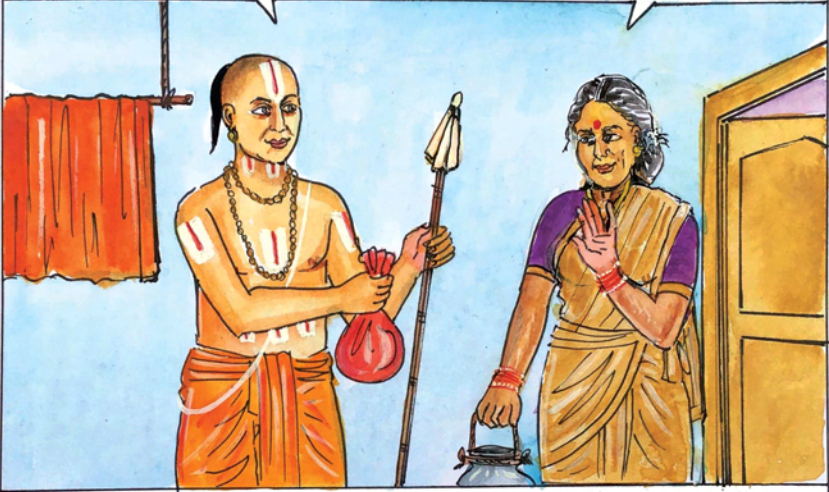
Translated by : **Dr. A. Savitri**

PICTURE STORY...

When Sri Ramanujacharya stayed in Tirupati for one year, milk, curd and Ghee was supplied by a lady called Thumbimaankondi. Sri Ramanujacharya called her to his place to pay her the sufficient amount for giving milk and ghee the whole year.

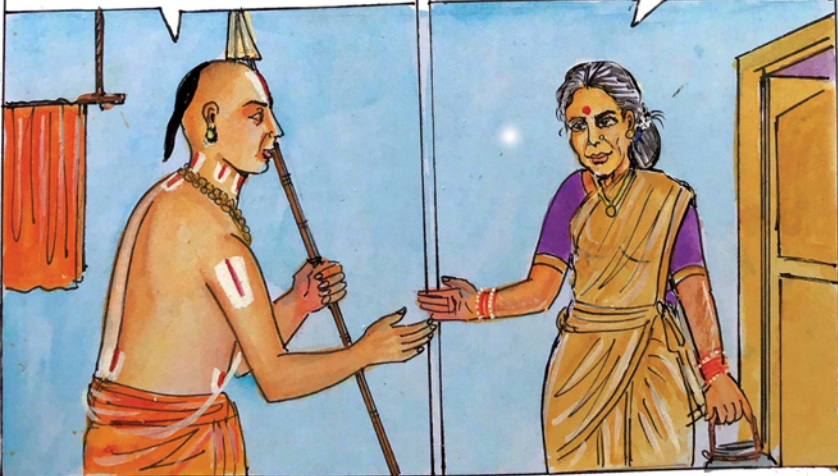
Mother! Take money for supplying milk, curd and ghee the whole year.

Swami! I do not want money.



Then what kind of money do you want?

I want salvation.



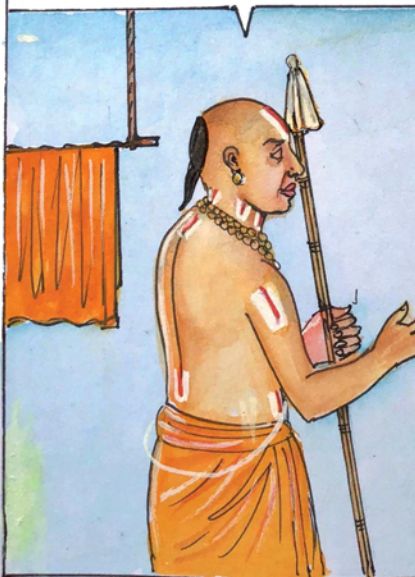
Who said to you that I can give it to you?



If you write on paper recommending me for salvation, God Srinivasa will give me.



What shall I write?

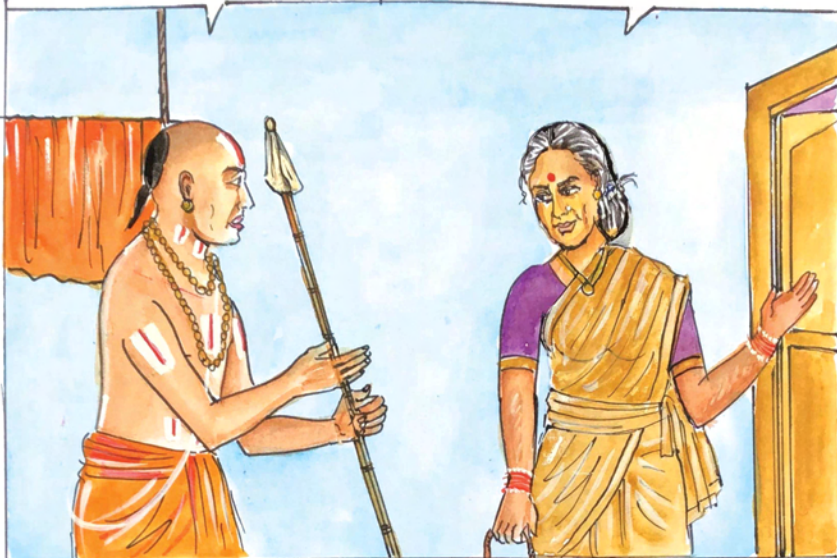


Write powerfully that I should be given Salvation.



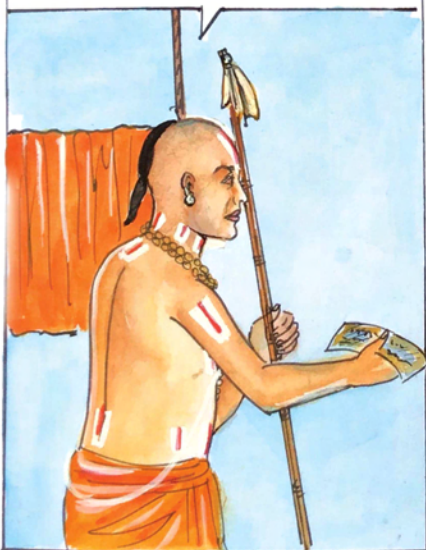
Ok, I write it to you. What do you do with that piece of paper?

I climb the hill and show that piece of paper to Lord Srinivasa. He will provide me salvation.



Ramanuja felt happy on looking at her confidence

Ok! I write it to you.



Thumbimaankondi had done selfless service to God. So I request you to give her Salvation. Ramanujacharya wrote these words on the paper and gave it to her.

Thanks a lot to you swami.



Thumbimaankondi took that paper, climbed the hill and sat there itself forgetting the food and sleep. Her health completely deteriorated..

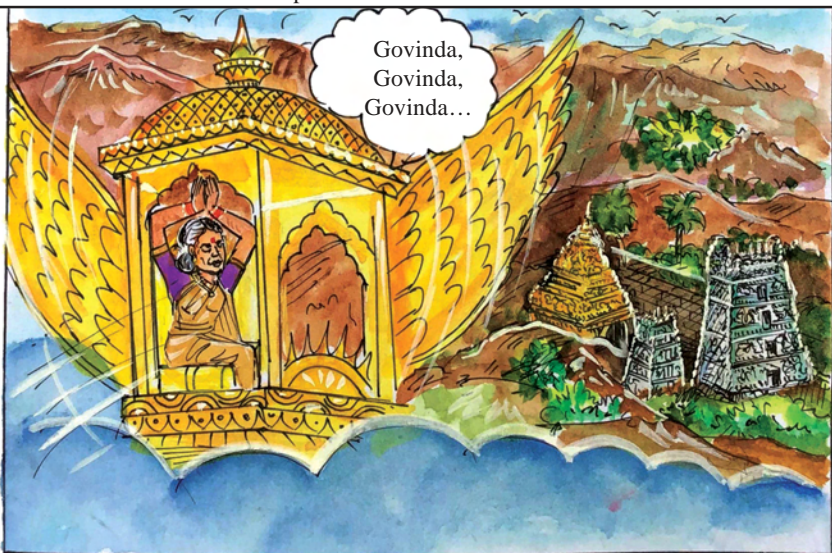
Swami! Give me moksha.



I am impressed with your selfless service and devotion. I am blessing you with moksha. See the pious plane. Be seated in it.



Chanting the name of Govinda, Thumbimaankondi climbed the plane and sat in it. The plane reached Sri Vaikuntam.



In the next edition, we know about one more story of Swami's greatness.

End



**Moral
Story**

IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE!

- Prof. B. Gayathri

Sometimes, we don't even try to do things which are right, because it feels impossible. But, we often forget that it is the Lord, who decides what should be done and vice-versa. That is, sometimes we can't even do the things that we usually do and sometimes we can even do certain things which are considered impossible, due to His grace.

But for the divine intervention to happen, we should take the first step and try our best. The rest should be left in God's hands. So, let's see a story about how a small bird made the impossible, to possible.

Once, there lived a small bird, which had laid it's eggs on a tree near to a seashore. But, the sea had taken away the eggs in its waves. The dejected bird pleaded to the sea to return it's eggs, but the sea didn't seem to listen. Finally, the small bird warned the sea, that if it didn't return its eggs, it would empty its water.

The sea laughed at the bird and asked her to try her best. Without losing heart, the little bird began to fill its beak with sea water and spit it on land. All the birds, passing by, would either advice it or make fun of it. But the little bird, without losing hope, continued its work.



Soon, the word spread and reached Lord Garuda, the mount of Lord Vishnu. Impressed with the birds efforts and courage, Lord Garuda came to see the little birds efforts and consoled her saying, that he himself would help her in her task.

Lord Garuda called the sea and said, ‘if you don’t return the little birds eggs, then I will have to talk up her job’. The scared sea returned the little birds eggs, receiving which, she was extremely happy and thanked Lord Garuda.

Thus, the all merciful Lord definitely comes to the help of those, who, with all hope and faith do their duty with all sincerity, and thus will help them turn even the impossible into possible!!!



A DISTINGUISHED CHILD



Name : T.M. Parvatha Vardhini
Class : 9th Standard
DOB : 12-05-2006
School : Springdale Public School,
Karakambadi Road , Tirupati.
Mother : Smt. T. Bhavani
Father : Sri T.S. Mahendra Kumar

AWARDS TO HER CREDIT

1. Second prize in Bhagavadgita Competition in 2017-2018
2. First prize in Spell-B Competition in 2017-2018
3. First prize in Bhagavadgita Competition in 2018-2019
4. First prize in Pronunciation Contests in 2018-2019
5. First prize in Maths Marathon in 2018-2019
6. First prize in Hand writing Competitions 2018-2019
7. First prize in Different Question based programme 2018-2019
8. Second prize in Bhagavadgita Competition in 2019-2020
9. First prize in pronunciation contests in 2019-2020
10. First prize in elocution competition conducted by ISKCON in 2019-2020
11. Second prize in Drawing Competition in 2019-2020
12. Third prize in Speaking Telugu in 2019-2020
13. First prize in Talent based writing in 2019-2020
14. First prize in Running race (Sports) in 2019-2020
15. First prize in Rock, Paper and Scissors (Games) in 2019-2020.

SPECIAL AWARDS IN DANCE

1. Dance performance in Kalikadurga Temple at Bangalore
2. Dance performance in Silparamam at Tirupati.
3. Dance performance during Karthika Deepotsavam at Tirupati.
4. Dance performance in Children's Day conducted by Tirupati Municipal Corporation.

Quiz

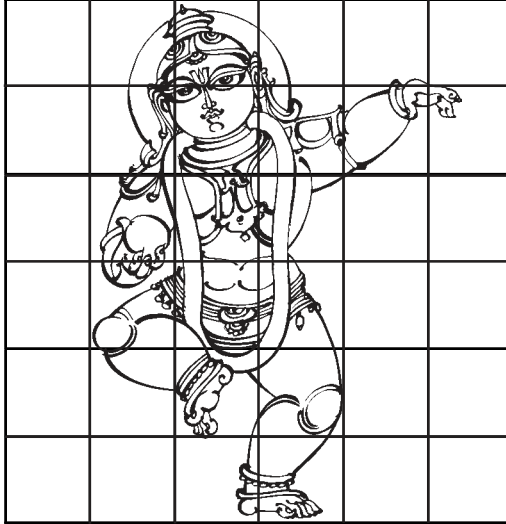
- Smt. J.C. Gnanaprasuna

- 1) When do we perform Navaratri festival?
a) September-October b) April-May
c) June-July d) January-February
- 2) Navaratri is also known as
a) Diwali b) Dasara
c) Pongal d) Varalakshmivratam
- 3) Name the final day among Navaratri
a) Ashtami b) Navami
c) Vijayadasami d) Pournami
- 4) Day 8 in Navarathri is known as
a) Vijayadasami b) Maharnavami
c) Ekadasi d) Durgashtami
- 5) Name the Brahmotsavam that performs in extra { Adikamasam } month in Tirumala
a) Annual Brahmotsavam b) Arjitha Brahmotsavam
c) Navaahnika Brahmotsavam d) Navaratri Brahmotsavam
- 6) The Special Abhishekam held in the last day during Brahmotsavam at Tirumala is known as
a) Ankurarpanam b) Chakrasnanam
c) Vasanhotsavam d) Dolotsavam
- 7) One of the Seven hills among Tirumala hills is named after-
a) Garuda b) Mahati
c) Kalavathi d) Tambura

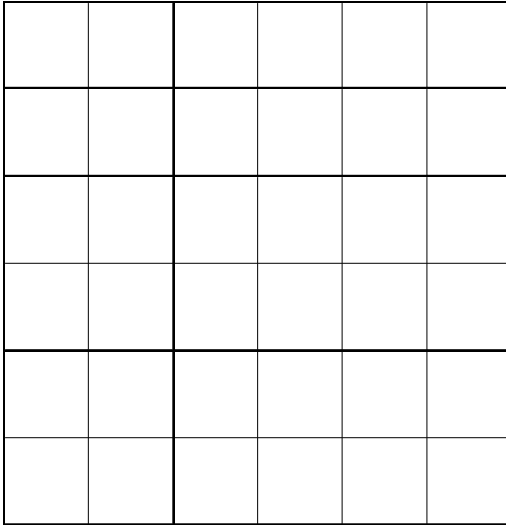
Answers: 1) a 2) b 3) c 4) d 5) d 6) b 7) a

DRAWING

Colour the Picture



Draw the Picture as given in the above





Children enacting the roles of Goddesses



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**Sri Padmavathi Devi
in the decoration of
Goddess Saraswathi**