

Srinivasa Bala Bharati - 128  
(Children Series)

# DHRUVA

- S. Radha Krishna Moorthy

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*Telugu Version*

**D. Nagasiddha Reddy**

*English Translation*

**S. Radha Krishna Moorthy**



**Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams  
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Telugu Version

**D. Nagasiddha Reddy**

English Translation

**S. Radha Krishna Murthy**

Editor-in-Chief

**Prof. Ravva Sri Hari**

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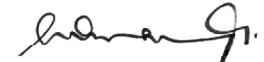
## **FOREWORD**

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 in Telugu for children under Srinivasa Bala Bharathi 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 SRINIVASA BALA 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 at tender age apt acquaintance with the life-histories of celebrated persons 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 tenants 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. Raghunathacharyulu under "Balabharati Series". The response over 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 with English and Hindi rendering 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 generally intended 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**  
Cheif Editor



## **DHRUVA**

If you want to achieve something, big or small, firmness of purpose is necessary. Without firmness and effort it is impossible for anyone to rise in life. When we look at the sky in dark nights we see the twinkling stars. If we turn and look up in the northern sky, we can see a star outshining the others. That indeed is the star called Dhruva. Do you know who that Dhruva was?

### **Birth**

Long time ago there was a king called Uttanapada. He had two wives. The elder wife was called Suniti. Suruchi was the younger wife. Suniti, true to her name, was of good conduct. Suruchi was beautiful and arrogant. Suniti had a son by name Dhruva. And Suruchi's son was called Uttama. Dhruva was a little elder to Uttama. The brothers were friendly with each other. And they never quarrelled with each other.

### **Suruchi-Suniti**

If a man marries another woman while the first wife is alive, it is natural for people to think that the man does not love the first wife much and so married another. The king's love for Suruchi is much. He does not love Suniti so much. Suruchi is a tough woman. With her words and actions, she ruled over her husband and deprived Suniti of her husband's love. The king allowed himself to be ruled by Suruchi and treated his

first wife worse than a slave. His affection for Dhruva, his elder son, also grew less. Suruchi is a person like Kaika. She wished that the kingdom should not pass on to Dhruva. She wanted her son to be king after his father, somehow or other. And she hated Dhruva so much that she could not even bear his sight. Dhruva, a five-year old boy, was so young and so innocent that he was unaware of his step-mother's jealousy, and his father's indifference towards him and his mother. For, a good person sees only good in everyone. Suniti also did not want the innocent child's mind to be polluted with negative thoughts. And she did not let her son know about her pitiable condition.

### **You have no right**

One day king Uttanapada was holding court, with his son Uttama sitting in his lap. Suruchi was also sitting by the king. At that time, Dhruva entered the court. He saw his younger brother sitting in his father's lap. He too wanted to sit by his brother. He walked fast to his father. The king did not draw him near. He remained indifferent to his child approaching him with outstretched hands. The king did not dare to displease Suruchi. Suruchi did not at all like Dhruva approaching the king to sit in his lap. She shouted at the child: 'Stop there!'. Dhruva was shocked at her harshness, and stood motionless like a doll.

'Dhruva! you have no right to sit in the king's lap. My son alone has that right. You have lost that right by

being born to Suniti. If you wish to sit in your father's lap, go and do penance and pray God that you may be born to me. God may grant you your wish. Then you may sit happily in the king's lap. You may even share the throne with him,' she said and pushed him away with contempt. While Suruchi was speaking harshly to Dhruva, the king did not utter a word and was watching as though it did not concern him. Suruchi was able to speak thus, because she was young and made the king a puppet in her hands. The ministers and the subordinate princes present in the court follow the feelings of the king. She has control over the king and the kingdom. And this power got to her head. Her son in fact was holding the court.

The stepmother's words pained Dhruva like needles. Like a snake hit with a stick, he sighed and cried loudly. He understood that his stepmother was jealous of him and his mother, and that she hated them. He understood the indifference of the king. The king was not touched even by the child's weeping. He was all the more stunned that none in that assembly showed sympathy for him. He stood there for a moment and weeping he went to his mother.

### **Don't I deserve ?**

Suniti saw her son standing before her, sobbing. She drew him near lovingly and asked him: 'What, child' Why are you crying? Has anyone beaten you? Oh, what is this injury on your knee? Has anyone

pushed you down? Or have you fallen? You are always a happy boy. Why this weeping now?' She asked him for the reason, again and again. But Dhruva could not speak of his humiliation by his stepmother and father. He was so sad and agitated. His sobbing came in the way of words. Suniti's maid told her all that had happened in the court in detail.

Then Dhruva said, his lips shivering: 'Mother, don't I have the right to sit in my father's lap? Am I an outsider? Am I not his son, like Uttama? why don't I have the right that my younger brother has? And, why should my aunt speak like that? I have given her greater respect than I gave you. Uttama and I have been friends. Why should my aunt have such grudge against me? She has unspeakable anger against you too. She tells me that to be born as your son is my fault. You have always spoken well of her. Why should she, then, have hatred for you? She tells me that I should do penance, die and be born to her. Why should she speak like that? Why should I die? Even if I die, why should I be born as her son? You are the elder wife of the king. You should be sharing the throne with him. How has my aunt taken your place, snatching it away from you? And my father, instead of rebuking my aunt for humiliating me, he remained silent. I cannot understand the meaning of his silence. This rejection is burning me. Dhruva's sorrow was uncontrollable and he cried loudly. Suniti, her eyes filled with tears, drew her son

near and kissed him. She could not speak for a while. She was greatly distressed.

### **Suniti consoles**

She felt very sad. She said to herself: 'Alas! How can I console my child who spoke out his pain so pitifully? What can I say to him? Shall I speak of my pitiable condition to him and cause him more distress? How I wish I was born a tree or a mound?' She felt like a jasmine creeper in the forest caught in the wild fire.

She controlled herself soon, and spoke, wiping her tears: 'Child, I am very much pained at your humiliation. What Suruchi said is true. It is a fault that you are born a son to me. You would have been very happy if you had been born to her. There would have been no reasons for distress and humiliation. I am extremely unfortunate. You are also unfortunate for being my son. This is God's will. Who can we blame? What if I am the elder wife of the king, and the crowned queen? I am here looked down upon and I am worse than a slave. A woman ignored by her husband is looked down upon by the world. I do not know how to console you. Trust God, and meditate on Him. The mind will be peaceful. Disturbing thoughts will be destroyed. Bad times do not last for ever. Day will certainly follow night. Those who have humiliated you today, will one day respect you. It is certain to happen. Don't feel sad and don't worry about it. Patience is

necessary. We must bear every blame and hurt with patience. Don't take them to heart. In bad times a stick stings like a serpent. Child, a person who treats pain and pleasure alike is at peace. We should wait patiently until time turns favourable to us. Now, meditation on God is our only resort. Things like this humiliation happen as a result of our deeds in our past lives. When the force of those deeds is finished, our problems also pass. Don't take to heart the wrongs others do to you. Those who cause grief to others will at the end come to grief themselves.' Thus, Suniti, in a soft tone, consoled Dhruva.

### **Tender mind turned tough**

Dhruva listened in silence all that his mother was saying. In the sea of his mind thought-waves were rising. He nodded as though he had come to a decision. He said: 'Mother, if I want to sit in my father's lap, I am told I have to do penance and be born a son to my aunt. Penance for being born to her as son? And for sitting in my father's lap, winning his favour? What do I lose if I don't sit in his lap? Is it the throne of the king of gods? I wanted to sit in my father's lap when I saw my younger brother sitting in his lap. That is all. I need not be born to my aunt for this great honour.

But, this incident has made me take a resolution. As queen Suruchi has said, I will do penance. But not for a place in my father's lap. I will earn a higher place,

higher than anyone in the world has ever won. My aunt may be afraid that I will deprive my younger brother, Uttama, of the kingdom. Why should I want this kingdom which one day will perish. I want a high place which will not perish. For that I will do the hardest penance. I have decided to go to a forest for that. I only need your blessings. Haven't you said that if one has firmness of purpose one can achieve anything, however difficult it may be. So, bless me, mother, and bid me farewell.' He requested her permission with a child's love.

### **Is penance an easy thing ?**

Suniti was stunned at her child's decision. A five-year old boy going to a forest, to do penance there? She did not at all like it. She said: 'Child, you are not fully five. What is this idea of doing penance? Such things are possible for great sages alone. It is not possible for ordinary persons. You are a prince, used to a soft life-style. In the forest you don't get good food. You have to withstand hunger and thirst. You are used to sleeping on soft mattresses in the palace. There you will have to lie down on hard ground, under the trees. The forest is full of wild beasts like lions and tigers. They will pounce upon men the moment they see them. Demons, goblins and ghosts won't allow men to live. One shudders to think of those forests. How can I live if you go away to a forest? She tried hard to convince him not to go to the forest.

### **Unshaken firmness**

Dhruva did not in the least like his mother's words to discourage him. On the other hand, his resolve grew stronger. He said: 'Why are you creating fear in me, saying that there are wild beasts in the forests, and that it is impossible for people like me to do penance? I am not so timid as to fear wild animals and demons. Are not sages living in their forest hermitages? Did you not tell me that in those hermitages wild animals move about like domestic animals; that cows lick the tigers with affection and that the tigers enjoy that, their eyes half-closed; that deer try to suck milk from tigers; that mice and cats play together? Even wild animals do not harm ascetics. They know very well who harms them and who doesn't. As to hunger and thirst, he who is willing to bear them is prepared to do penance. He who can't bear them does not think of penance. You used to tell me that one should withstand any amount of hardship in order to make an impossible thing possible, and that they who are firm in their resolve can do any work however hard it might be. Why do you now try to make me lose courage? I have well considered the pleasure and pain in my task and made the decision to go to the forest for doing penance. Heavens may fall on my head, but I won't change my decision. I will come back after my wish is fulfilled. Don't say a word more. Bless me and bid me farewell. You don't need to worry at all about me. I am going with faith in God and He will protect me'.

Dhruva thus spoke to her convincingly and sought his mother's blessings. Suniti knew how firm Dhruva was. She understood that it would be useless to try to dissuade him. She took courage and said to him: 'Child, take refuge at the feet of Srimannarayana with concentration of mind. By his grace you will attain the highest place which you desire. SriHari alone can remove your distress. Your courage is your protection. May you go safely, and return with success.' Thus did she bless him lovingly. Dhruva was very happy with his mother's blessings. He left the royal palace and the capital without being noticed by anyone and took the path to the forest.

### **Can you ?**

While Dhruva was on his way the great sage Narada happened to meet him. The sage moves about not only in the three worlds but also in the three times-past, present and future. He knows everything that happened, is happening and will happen. He knew why Dhruva left home, where he was going, and why. However he pretended not to know anything. He said to Dhruva: 'Child, you are a boy of tender years. Where are you going all alone? And why? I pity you. Tell me in detail what the matter is. Let me see if I can help you in any way.' Dhruva did not know that it was Narada speaking to him, the sage who knew past, present and future. He took him to be an ordinary monk who was kind-hearted and was enquiring about him. Dhruva opened out his heart and told him everything in detail.





Then Narada said: ‘Oh, so you are the great king Uttanapada’s son! I know him very well. He is a very good person. It is surprising that he was indifferent to you. After all, it is not his fault. It is only very rarely that women have affection for step-children. Your father must have remained silent when Suruchi was speaking thus to you because he did not want to displease her. But, you are but a child. What is respect or humiliation for you? Don’t take your step mother’s words seriously. I wonder if you know me. I am Narada. I will be moving about in the three worlds, and I help people as far as it is possible for me. Still, people blame me saying that I love quarrels and disputes. Am I to blame if people quarrel among themselves? They quarrel because of their deeds in the past lives. I don’t sink in depression because people blame me. Also, I have not given up helping people. Being such a sage I ignore praise or blame. You are a mere child. Why should you take them to heart so seriously. People suffer as a result of their past deeds. It is wisdom to regard whatever befalls us as the will of God. You are hurt by your stepmother’s words, and you want to win God’s grace. But to do penance and win God’s grace is not as easy as you imagine.

God does not reveal himself even to great people who have renounced all attachments and performed the severest penances. Do you think living in a forest is like living with your mother in the queen’s quarters of the palace? Heed my words and go back to your

home. A time will come when your wish to attain a high place will be fulfilled. Wait till then and then try. Already your father must be feeling sad because of your sudden disappearance. He must be feeling sorry for his indifference to you. Your aunt too must be thinking: 'Alas, it was wrong for me to have abused the child. Poor boy, what hardships he must be undergoing!'. Thus she must be feeling sad too. And, no need to speak of your mother's anguish.' Thus, Narada tried to discourage him very much.

### **Show the way**

Dhruva bowed to Narada with folded hands and said: 'Great sage, I am blessed by meeting you. While wondering how to do penance, to my great fortune I have met you. Your advice is good. I don't deny. But my heart is hurt with my stepmother's sharp needle-like words. Sage, you are god Brahma's son. You move about in the three worlds. My desire and my decision to attain the highest place never reached before by my ancestors or anyone else will never change. I started only after obtaining the blessings of my mother. I need your grace. Kindly tell me where and how I should do penance. I will follow what you say.' Thus the boy begged Narada to show him the way.

### **Strive and gain success**

Narada was very happy with Dhruva's resoluteness. He patted the boy's head affectionately and said:

'Child, I am glad that you are firm in your determination. I am sure you will win God's grace. There is a holy forest called Madhuvan on the banks of the river Yamuna. Go there, take bath in the river three times in a day, perform your daily rituals, sit cross-legged steadily. Keep your senses in your control through breath control and recite this most secret mantra, 'Om Namoh Bhagavate Vasudevaya.' If you worship God with devotion, with a pure mind, pure speech and pure body, He will certainly grant you your wish.

One more thing, the king of Gods, Indra, always tries in every way to disrupt penance being performed by anyone. He is afraid that when the penance is successfully performed, God may appear before that person, and may even grant the kingship of Gods to him. In order to disrupt penance, Indra may even create what look like animals and send them to frighten you. Gods may come in disguise to distract you with their ill-intentioned words. Don't be misled by their words. Don't be frightened at the animals. Don't succumb to any guiles. Do penance with resoluteness and that will do you good. After thus instructing him how to perform penance and initiating him with Vasudeva mantra, Narada went away. And Dhruva started with great happiness for Madhuvan.

### **Uttanapada's grief**

Uttanapada who was watching Dhruva leave the court abruptly after being humiliated by Suruchi,

realised his fault. He was very much disturbed. Immediately he went away to his palace. He spent the whole day without speaking to anyone, remaining alone. He could not sleep the whole night. And the next morning news reached him from the chambers of Suniti that Dhruva did not return home after he had gone out the day before. On hearing this, the king was alarmed and distressed. Did the boy harm himself in any way? He sent his servants in all directions to find the boy. The servants returned and reported that the boy could not be found anywhere. The king was very upset.

### **No need to worry**

Meanwhile sage Narada came to the king. Uttanapada welcomed the sage most respectfully and offered him a high seat. Narada saw that the king was sad. Although he knew everything, he pretended ignorance and said: 'Oh king, why are you so sad?' The king was aware that the sage wandered in the three worlds, and might be knowing the whereabouts of Dhruva. So, he narrated to Narada all that had happened. Narada pretended to reflect on the matter a little, and said, 'King, there is no need to worry. Your child is safe. He is not anywhere near. He is doing penance in a distant forest. There is no need for you to worry about him. I know Dhruva's resoluteness. He won't return without achieving what he wanted.' Thus removing the king's anxiety the sage went away.

### **Hard penance in the dense forest**

Dhruva went to Madhuvan as directed by Narada. And he practised what the sage had told him about the discipline of penance. He lived under a tree and spent his days reciting the 'Dvadasakshari Mantra' ('Om Namoh Bhagavate Vasudevaya') with steadfastness. He used to get up early in the morning, finished his morning calls, took bath and started penance. Fruits that fell of themselves from trees and roots were his food. For a month, he ate wild berries and wood-apples once in three days. After that he lived for some days on nothing but grass and leaves once in six days. From the fifth month he stood on one leg, arresting the inward and the outward breath, and meditated on SriHari. As this five-year old tender boy was doing penance with unflinching resoluteness, the three worlds shook with the heat of his penance. As was told by Narada, Indra, the king of gods sent some gods and some apparitions of animals with the purpose of frightening and thus disrupting his penance.

### **Indra humbled**

Wild animals like lions and tigers were now familiar company for Dhruva. He saw them everyday. And they didn't mean any harm to him. But these apparitions of animals sent by Indra were making fearful noises and rushing towards him. Dhruva understood their real nature and remained bold. They vanished. The gods sent by Indra threatened Dhruva in the form of ghosts



and goblins. Still the boy was unperturbed and lost himself in meditation. Indra realised that threats were of no use. He decided to weaken his will through soft means.

One day he sent to Dhruva a god in the form of Suniti in tears. The god in disguise spoke to Dhruva: 'Child, since you left home I have had no food and no sleep. My eyes are swollen with sobbing continuously. If you don't give up your penance and return home, I won't live. If you want your mother, come home immediately.' Dhruva understood that this was part of the plan of gods. He did not as much as look at her. After a few days another god approached him in the form of Suruchi and pleaded: 'Son, Dhruva, I said something which should not have been said in a fit of emotion. It was a mistake. Pardon me for my wrong. It causes me great pain that you should come away leaving home and do severe penance on account of me. The whole world blames me. Your younger brother, Uttama, misses you so much that he has given up eating and drinking. Your father is filled with repentance and has confined himself to bed, starving and sleepless. Child, come away for my sake.' But Dhruva remained steadfast. Thus all the efforts of Devendra proved futile.

### **The Lord revealed Himself**

In this manner, Dhruva continued his penance meditating upon Srimannarayana with unshaken faith. In summer, he did not feel the sun and the heat waves.

In rains that poured down in torrents with thunders, he did not move from his place. The biting cold in severe snowing too did not shake him. While he was thus persistent in his penance, Lord Sri Mahavishnu of four arms, holding conch, wheel, mace, and sword, seated on Garuda, revealed Himself to Dhruva and blessed him. Dhruva's joy knew no bounds. He was beside himself with joy and prostrated before him. He imagined he was touching, kissing, embracing that blessed divine figure. He got up and stood before the Lord with folded hands.

Dhruva desired intensely to praise the Lord. But being a five-year old boy he did not know how to praise. Lord Vishnu touched the boy's cheeks with His conch, Panchajanya. A divine voice poured out of Dhruva. 'Lord, I bow to you who are the basis and source of all powers. You put life into my limbs and made them active. This whole world is born in you and merges in you. You are the primal cause of this entire universe. You are above creation, sustenance and dissolution. Like an ace actor, you appear in different forms with different names. You come to the rescue of all, prince or pauper. You have no beginning, no middle, and no end.' Thus Dhruva poured out praises for the Lord.

### **Everlasting elevation**

The Lord was greatly pleased with the boy's faith, perseverance and resoluteness. He said, 'Beloved, I

am very much pleased with your penance. I know what you desire. So, I am not going to ask you, 'What boon do you want?'. The highest position you wish for is a very rarely obtainable one. Still I would grant it to you. I will bestow on you a position never granted to anyone before you. I will grant you a world, named after you. Planets and stars revolve around your world. When all the worlds are destroyed in a final deluge, your world would remain untouched. Not merely stars and planets, but Lord Yama, Kasyapa, Indra and the region of the seven Rishis will revolve around your world. But you will have to wait for that. Now, go back to your father. Succeed him as king when the time comes and enjoy all the pleasures of a kingdom. And when you are old, hand over the kingdom to your son. Pray to me then. And you will reach My divine everlasting elevated state.' With these words, the Lord left the place and disappeared.

### **Happy reunion**

All the people in Madhuvan came to know of Sri MahaVishnu's revelation of Himself to Dhruva. Everyone congratulated him. King Uttanapada's servants who were in search of the missing prince also came to know about it. They carried the news immediately to their king. The news that Dhruva was returning acted like oil for a dying flame. The king who was sunk in the sea of sorrow did not at first believe the news. He never thought that the boy who had left

home long time ago would still be living. But then, he remembered the words of Narada. The word of great sages would never be vain. So, he believed the news brought by his servants. He soon got up, mounted a golden chariot driven by the best horses, and started to receive Dhruva on his way. Ministers, priests and princes followed him. Suniti and Suruchi too accompanied him.

It was the king who first saw Dhruva. Uttanapada jumped out of the chariot crying. 'Child, Dhruva!', and rushed to Dhruva with his hands outstretched. Seeing his father Dhruva too rushed to him. Tears of joy rolled down the cheeks of the father. He kissed the child's head, stroked his cheeks again and again. He failed to find words. It is difficult to describe how excited the old soul was. Dhruva bowed to Suniti and Suruchi. Dhruva embraced Uttama. The brothers were delighted. The ministers, priests and princes who were present hailed Dhruva. They all went back to the royal palace.

### **King Dhruva**

Dhruva came of age. And his father, Uttanapada, grew old. He lost interest in kingship. He handed over the kingdom to Dhruva and retired to a forest to lead the rest of his life. Dhruva ruled the kingdom and kept his people happy. He married Bhrami, the daughter of Prajapati. Simsumara. They had two sons called Kalpa

and Vatsara. Dhruva also married Ila, the daughter of God Vayu, and through her he had a son called Utkala. He also had a daughter through Ila.

### **Uttama was killed by Yakshas**

Once Uttama went for hunting to a forest. The forest is far away from the capital in the distant Himalayas. That was the habitat of Yakshas. There was a fight between Uttama and the Yakshas. In that fight the Yakshas killed Uttama. The news of his brother's death caused great grief to Dhruva. The Lord had foretold him long time ago that this was going to happen. Who can avert destiny?

### **Suruchi died in a forest fire**

On hearing the news of her son's death, Suruchi collapsed. Uttama was not married. She did not have the solace of living for a grandson. Unable to bear the loss of her son, she sought peace of mind in the forests where she wanted to spend the rest of her life in solitude. Unfortunately, there she was caught in a forest fire and died.

### **Massacre of the Yakshas**

With the unnatural deaths of his brother and aunt, Dhruva was grief-stricken. But he was also very angry with the Yakshas who killed his brother. He was determined to see their end. Dhruva, who was determination personified, set out for a battle. He went all alone, in a chariot, arming himself with weapons,

The Yakshas confronted Dhruva. The weapons employed by Dhruva were so powerful that the Yakshas fell like stalks of sugarcane. None of the Yakshas that fought with Dhruva returned home alive. Everyone feared that if the battle continued like this for some more time, no Yaksha will survive. The Yakshas employed a number of guiles. All those were blown away like pieces of cotton in wind.

### **Give up anger**

Dhruva's grandfather Swayambhuva Manu witnessed this massacre of the Yakshas. He was sorry for them. He came to Dhruva and said: 'Child, such anger is not good. Some Yakshas killed your brother, and for that you are destroying the whole race of Yakshas. Tolerance towards elders, compassion for the weaker, friendliness towards equals, and sameness of spirit towards all creatures-these in a person win the grace of God. Beings are bound by their past deeds, and in accordance with those deeds God grants their life-time or cuts it short. You made God reveal Himself to you at a tender age. To such a person like you there should be no friends or foes. Take the medicine of my words and cure your anger. You are killing Yakshas. They are the followers of Kubera. And Kubera is friend to Parameswara. Both Kubera and Isvara would be angry with you for what you are doing. That is not good for you. Try to please Kubera with praises.' Dhruva heeded the words of Manu and gave up fighting.

At the same time Kubera too came there. Dhruva bowed his head to him and saluted.

### **Kubera's advice**

Kubera said to Dhruva: 'Child, you are very wise. You heeded the words of your grandfather and gave up fighting. I am very happy. Don't be angry with the Yakshas because they have killed your brother. None can avert fate. He died thus because it was destined to be the end of his life. We are but instruments in the hands of destiny. Men see 'I' and 'you' with a sense of difference because they identify themselves with their bodies. Give up this sense of division and look upon all creatures with a sameness of spirit. May God bless you.'

After that, Dhruva returned to his city, his mind at peace with itself. He ruled for a very long time, treating the people of his kingdom as his own children. When his son Utkala came of age, he crowned him king, and with disinterest in worldly life, retired to Badarikasrama. He took bath in the river Visala there, and meditated on the Lord with a steady mind.

### **High place**

Pleased with Dhruva's practice of meditation and his devotion, SriHari sent an aeroplane for him. Dhruva saw it shining like a moon on a full-moon night in the sky. Two messengers got down from the aeroplane, saluted Dhruva and asked him to board the plane as has been ordained by Srimannarayana. Dhruva was

extremely happy. He bowed to all the sages of the Badarikasrama, took their blessings, and boarded the plane.

### **Where is mother ?**

When the plane was about to take off, Dhruva thought of his mother. 'I am going alone leaving my mother behind,' he regretted. The messengers of Vishnu understood what passed in Dhruva's mind. They said: 'Sir, you need not worry about Sunitidevi. She is going in a plane to heaven ahead of you. Look, and they pointed to the plane flying in front of them. Dhruva saw his mother there and felt very happy.

### **The place of Dhruva**

Dhruva's aeroplane flew in the skies at great speed, passing by the region of the seven Rishis. It reached the highest place. By the grace of God, Dhruva took the form of a star, and remained there everlastingly. That region was named after Dhruva and became famous as the region of Dhruva. All planets revolve in accordance with that Dhruva star. The Earth moves too in accordance with it.

The story of Dhruva is exemplary. It tells us that with resoluteness and effort, anything, however hard it might be, could be achieved. If we keep Dhruva as our ideal, Lord Vishnu will protect us with long life, health and wealth. There is no doubt about it.

