

SRI KRISHNA VRATAM

Blessed by Lord Sri KRISHNA BHAGAWAN Himself



VISWAPATHI

(T.V.R.K. MURTHY)



OM DEVAKI NANDANAYA VIDMAHE
VASUDEVAAYA DHEEMAHİ
TANNAH KRISHNA PRACHODAYATH

Srirastu

Subhamastu

Avighnamastu

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श्रीं

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(Timmaraju Viswapathi Ramakrishnamurthy)

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NIVEDANA

Vasudeva Sutam Devam, Kamsa Chanura Mardanam
Devaki Paramanandam, Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Lord Sri Krishna is the kindest of all. He has great love for His devotees. He takes care of His devotees who surrender themselves completely to Him. If you call out Govinda, Gopala, Gokulanandana even once fervently, He will help you surmount any difficulty and resolve your problems. Your prayers will be answered at once.

I have done my M.Tech in Electrical Engineering from Regional Engineering College, Warangal, in 1983. I worked in industry for five years and later was in teaching for ten years until 1998. I have also drawn cartoons for Indian Express between 1984-1990. I started designing logos for business organizations in 1993 by applying Vedic principles under the name 'Shri Designs.' I select company name, brand name, design logos based on the birth details of the promoters. I have so far designed logos for more than 6000 companies across the world. It is absolutely the grace of LORD SRINIVASA that all these organisations are running prosperously.

I have so far written 25 devotional books of which 15 are on Lord Sri Venkatesawara Swamy alone. All these are being distributed free to the devotees across the world. Devotees are experiencing miracles in their lives after reading these books. It is absolutely the grace of Lord Srinivasa and nothing else that I could write these books.

Many of my friends have been asking me to write a book on SRI KRISHNA for the last few years. My strong belief is that, one can not write a book on GOD unless it is divinely ordained. It has been my personal experience while writing my earlier books. One can perhaps write a novel easily, but to write a devotional book is something else altogether.

Lord Sri Krishna, the most benevolent, appeared in my dream one night and blessed me with this wonderful Vratam. I began to pen down the Vratam by the Lord's grace. After completing the first two stories, I faced some hurdles. One day, the Lord, in the form of Bala Krishna, with a flute in His hand, manifested in the place I was seated and started running and playing around the sofa where I was seated. He asked me when I would complete writing the remaining stories. My joy knew no bounds, and, I soon completed writing the remaining Vrata Kathas by His grace.

But, I could not get the DTP work done soon. I became pending because I became extremely busy with some function in the house. After few days, once normal routine resumed, I wanted to start getting the transcribing done. On looking for the manuscript, I could not find it where I kept it in the almirah. Panicking, I searched here and there, ransacked the whole house , to no avail. To my utter dismay, I realized that I had lost it. I felt that Bala Krishna ran out of my house because I had neglected Him; I had unwittingly, prioritised my personal work over the Lord's and now facing the consequence. This was the first time such a thing happened ; thus far I had written 25 books and it never happened for any of the books.

Both my wife and I felt utterly dejected and sorry about it. We prayed fervently to the Lord to forgive us our wrongs and asked Him for His grace. Lord Sri Krishna, benevolent and merciful that He is, answered our prayers. He gave me a wonderful divine darsan in my dream and blessed Rukmini and I. We were overwhelmed with joy. The Vratha Kathas were revealed to me... seemed to flow into my being and everything came back to me. I penned down stories on the morning.

Sri Krishna is the most benevolent. We strogly believe that it is only because of our good deeds in several previous births, that we have been so blessed by the Lord. Or else, how is it possible for an ordinary mortal like me to write such a sacred vratham.

Sri Krishna Vratham, blessed by the Lord Himself, is easy to perform. Anyone can perform the Vratham on any day. There is no need to observe any stringent rules . Lord Sri Krishna said He would play the flute and dance around wherever the Vratham was being performed. All those who perform the Vratham themselves, or even listen to the stories , will receive the Lord's grace in abundance.

I pray to Lord Sri Krishna to shower His blessings on all those who helped me directly or indirectly in bringing out this book.

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How to perform Sri Krishna Vratam?

Anyone, irrespective of their caste, creed, gender and age can read SRI KRISHNA VRATHAM. One can perform the Vratam on any day that is convenient for him. It is auspicious to read it on EKADASI or Purnima days of the lunar calendar or on the stars ROHINI, SWATHI or SRAVAN days. It is very beneficial to read it on Wednesdays. It is not necessary to observe a fast on the day of performing Sri Krishna Vratam. If somebody, for any reason, cannot perform the Vratam, they can simply read the stories... even listening to the stories, bestows equal blessings. All hurdles will be removed after reading the Vratam. One will gain prosperity and be able to lead a peaceful life.

Performing the Vratam or just reading the stories on auspicious days like Sri Janmashtami, Phalgun Purnima, Sravana Purnima, Vaikuntha Ekadasi etc., the blessings showered are manifold. Vratam can be done in your house, or rented house or in any temple or on the shores of any river in any sacred religious place. It will be highly beneficial to perform it in the places associated with Lord Krishna such as Mathura, Dwaraka, Udupi, Guruvayoor, Pooari, Srirangam and Tirumala.

It is very easy to perform Sri Krishna Vratam. You should start the Vratam by offering prayers to Lord Ganesha, Navagraha Devathas, and Ashta Dikpalakas. Then, make Sankalp with your Gothra, name and the names of your family members. Then, perform the Athanga Pooja, Ashtotharams and the five stories. Then offer some fruits as Naivedyam to Lord Krishna.

It is not mandatory that a couple should do the Vratam together. Husband and wife can perform independently too as per their convenience. Both can perform together whenever possible.

The Vratam can be performed by widows or widowers also without any reservations whatsoever. They will find peace and tranquility after performing the Vratam. Women can abstain from doing the Vratam during the days of their monthly menstrual cycle and continue it later.

Childless couples will be blessed with children on performing the Vratham for seven Wednesdays. Those who are facing financial difficulties will find relief after performing the Vratham for seven weeks. Mental tensions of any kind will be relieved by the grace of Sri Krishna on performing this Vratham. It is highly beneficial to do the Vratham on Sri Krishna Janmashtami Day.

Unmarried boys or girls will find a good match and settle well in matrimony on performing Sri Krishna Vratham. Hurdles at workplace also can be overcome by performing this Vratham.

Sri Krishna Vratham can be performed before a marriage in the household or Gruhsapravesh to ensure that everything goes off smoothly.

You can perform the Sri Krishna Vratham in the complete form by having a priest and doing Kalasa Sthapana, doing the Mantapa Pooja by invoking the Ashta Dikpalakas, Navagraha Devathas , Pancha Lokapalakas etc.

Another important thing to note is that Lord Sri Krishna is the most benevolent. The Lord Himself has stated that He will dance in the place where Sri Krishna Vratham is being performed. We can hear the tinkling of His anklets or the music from His Divine Flute . Sri Krishna Bhagawan Himself blessed that one can see the footprints of Bala Krishna and that He would play with utmost joy in that place. All that is needed is absolute faith and devotion and abject surrender at the Lotus Feet of Sri Krishna Bhagawan.

One can perform the Vratham on any day, in any form and have the Divine Grace and blessings of Sri Krishna Bhagawan.

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SRI KRISHNA VRATAM

SRI GANESH PRARDHANA

Suklambharadharam Vishnum
Sasivarnam chaturbhujam
Prasannavadanam dhyeth
SarvaVighnopa santhaye

NAVAGRAHA PRARDHANA

Om Aditya,Somaya,Mangalaya,Budhayacha
Guru,Sukra,Sanibhyascha,Rahave,Kethave namaha

ASHTA DIKPALAKA PRARDHANA

Om Kuberayana maha	Om Esanayanamaha
Om Yamayanamaha	Om Agnidevayanamaha
Om Indrayanamaha	Om Vayudevayanamaha
Om Varunayanamaha	Om Niruthenamaha

SRI KRISHNA ADHANGA PUJA

- Om Sri Krishnaya Namah | Padau Pujayami
Om Rajivalochanaya Namah | Gulphau Pujayami
Om Vachaspataye Namah | Janghe Pujayami
Om Narakantakaya Namah | Januni Pujayam
Om Viswarupaya Namah | Urun Pujayami
Om Balabhadranujaya Namah | Guhyam Pujayami
Om Viswamurtaye Namah | Jaghanam Pujayami
Om Gopijana Priyaya Namah | Katim Pujayami
Om Paramatmane Namah | Udaram Pujayami
Om Srikantaya Namah | Hrudayam Pujayami
Om Yaajnine Namah | Parshvau Pujayami
Om Trivikramaya Namah | Prushthadeham Pujayami
Om Padmanabhaya Namah | Skandau Pujayami
Om Sarvastradharine Namah | Bahun Pujayami
Om Kamalanathaya Namah | Hastan Pujayami
Om Vaasudevaya Namah | Kantham Pujayami
Om Sanatanaya Namah | Vadanam Pujayami
Om Vasudevatmajaya Namah | Nasikam Pujayami
Om Punyaya Namah | Srotre Pujayami
Om Srisaya Namah | Netrani Pujayami
Om Nandagogapriyaya Namah | Bhurvau Pujayami
Om Devakinandanaya Namah | Bhrumadhyam Pujayami
Om Sakatasuramardanaya Namah | Lalatam Pujayami
Om Sri Krishnaya Namah | Sirah Pujayami
Sri Bala Krishnaya Namaha | Sarvangani Pujayami

SRI KRISHNA ASHTTOTHARA SATHANAMAVALI

Om shri krishnaya namah	Om shuka vagamrtabdhindave namah
Om kamalanathaya namah	Om govindaya namah
Om vasudevaya namah	Om yoginam pataye namah
Om sanatanaya namah	Om vatsavata karaya namah
Om vasudevatmajaya namah	Om anantaya namah
Om punyaya namah	Om dhenukasura bhanjanaya namah
Om lila manusha vigrahaya namah	Om trunikruta trunavartaya namah
Om shrivatsa kaustubha dharaya namah	Om yamalarjuna bhanjanaya namah
Om yashoda vatsalaya namah	Om uttalottala bhetre namah
Om haraye namah	Om thamala syamalakruthaye namah
Om chaturbhujatta chakrasi gada shankhadyayudhaya namah	Om gopa gopishvaraya namah
Om devaki nandanaya namah	Om yogine namah
Om shrishaya namah	Om kotisurya samaprabhaya namah
Om nandagopa priyatmajaya namah	Om ilapataye namah
Om yamunavega samharine namah	Om paramjyotishe namah
Om balabhadra priyanujaya namah	Om yadavendraya namah
Om putana jivitapaharaya namah	Om yadudvahaya namah
Om shakatasura bhanjanaya namah	Om vanamaline namah
Om nanda vraja jananandine namah	Om pitavasine namah
Om sachidananda vigrahaya namah	Om parijatapaharakaya namah
Om navanita viliptangaya namah	Om govardhanachalodhdhartre namah
Om navanita varaya namah	Om gopalaya namah
Om anaghaya namah	Om sarva palakaya namah
Om navanita navaharine namah	Om ajaya namah
Om muchukunda prasadakaya namah	Om niranjanaya namah
Om shodasha stri sahasreshaya namah	Om kamajanakaya namah
Om tribhagine namah	Om kanja lochanaya namah
Om madhurakrtaye namah	Om madhughne namah

Om mathura nathaya namah
Om dvaraka nayakaya namah
Om baline namah
Om vrundavananta sancharine namah
Om tulasidaama bhushanaya namah
Om syamantaka mani hartre namah
Om nara narayanatmakaya namah
Om kubja krushnambara dharaya namah
Om mayine namah
Om parama purushaya namah
Om mushtikasura chanura-malla yuddha
visharadaya namah
Om samsara vairine namah
Om kamsaraye namah
Om muraraye namah
Om narakantakaya namah
Om anadibrahmcharine namah
Om krshna vyasana karshakaya namah
Om shishupala shirash chetre namah
Om duryodhana kulantakaya namah
Om vidurakrura varadaya namah
Om viswarupa pradarshakaya namah
Om satyavache namah
Om satya sankalpaya namah
Om satyabhama rataya namah
Om jayine namah
Om subhadra purvajaya namah
Om vishnave namah
Om jishnave namah
Om bhishma muktupradayakaya namah

Om jagadgurave
Om jagannathaya namah
Om venunada visharadaya namah
Om vrushabhasura vidhvamsine
namah
Om banasura-balanthakruthe namah
Om yudhishthira pratishtatre namah
Om barhi barhavatamsakaya namah
Om partha sarathaye namah
Om avyaktaya namah
Om gitamruta mahodadhiye namah
Om kaliya phani manikya ranjita
shripadambujaya namah
Om damodaraya namah
Om yajna bhoktre namah
Om danavendra vinashakaya namah
Om narayanaya namah
Om parabrahmane namah
Om pannagashana vahanaya namah
Om jalakrida samasakta gopi
vastrapaharkaya namah
Om punya shlokaya namah
Om tirthakruthe namah
Om veda vedyaya namah
Om daya nidhaye namah
Om sarva tirthatmakaya namah
Om sarvagraha rupine namah
Om paratparaya namah

SRI KRISHNA PRARDHANA

Kararavindena padaaravindam
mukhaaravinde vinivesa yantham
Vatasya putrasya pute sayaanam
Balam mukundam manasaa smaraami

Kasthuri tilakam lalata phalake vakshasthale kousthubham
Nasaagra nava moukthikam karathale venum kare kankanam
Sarvange hari chandanancha kalayan kanthecha mukthaavaleem
Gopastree pariveshtitho vijayathe gopala choodamaneem

SRI KRISHNA VRATAM

First Chapter

LORD SRI KRISHNA BHAGAWAN'S GRACE

Lord Sri Krishna is the embodiment of love and affection. Lord Sri Krishna is most beautiful. Lord is called Sri Krishna because He attracts the whole universe towards Him by His divine beauty. Lord Sri Krishna spreads divya ananda, the divine happiness across the Universe. He loves His devotees. He takes care of those devotees who pray Him with utmost sincerity.

One does not need to do big rituals like Yagnas or Yagas to get Lord Sri Krishna's blessings. If we call out to Him with utmost fervor and sincerity, Govinda! Gopala! Gokulanadha! He will instantly answer our prayers and bless us. Lord Krishna is wonderful epitome of supreme love. Lord Sri Krishna, the most affectionate, appeared on an auspicious day in a divine dream to a devotee Viswapathi and blessed the couple Viswapathi and Rukmini with a divine Vrath kadtha. Lord Sri Krishna, the most merciful knows all our limitations and shortcomings in this Kaliyug. So He blessed us all through this couple with SRI KRISHNA VRATH KATHA, a simple vratha katha to relieve us all from our miseries and mitigate our sufferings in this Kaliyug.

Lord Sri Krishna, the merciful, gave swapna darsan in a divine dream to Viswapathi and Himself narrated SRI KRISHNA VRATH KATHA, a simple vrath kadha to the couple Viswapathi and Rukmini . Oh! Dear loving couple! I have lot of love and affection for you. I am now blessing you with a simple yet most powerful vratha .This Vratha shall be known as SRI KRISHNA VRATAM and will become very popular in Bhoolaka through you. The vratham is very simple to perform. Anyone irrespective of their caste, creed, gender or age can perform it on any day. It is very auspicious to perform this vrath on Ekadasi or Poornima in any month of the year. It is also very auspicious to do it on the day of stars

Rohini, Swathi and Sravana, irrespective of lunar thithi of that day. It will give immense prosperity to the devotees if it is performed on auspicious days like Sri Janmashtami, Phalguna Poornima, Sravana Poornima, Vaikuntha Ekadasi etc. In fact ,a devotee can perform this powerful vrath on any day and can get my blessings

You can perform Sri Krishna vrath in your own house or rented house or in any temple, be it mine or of any other deity, or on the shores of a river or in any religious place. It is highly beneficial to perform it in holy places of pilgrimage such as Mathura, Dwaraka, Poori, Guruvayur, Udupi, Tirumala, Srirangam etc.

Lord Sri Krishna continued further...'Dear loved ones, Sri Krishna vrath is very easy to perform. It can be performed by anyone, irrespective of their caste, creed, gender or age. After completing your morning works, you can go the pooja room and sit in front of either a photo or murthi of mine in your puja room. A couple can do the vratham either together or individually whenever it is convenient to each. It can be read by widows and widowers too. Your wishes will be granted immediately after you perform it. Those yet to be married will soon find a suitable spouse after doing Sri Krishna vrath. Those suffering from any illness will get immediate relief after performing it. Those who read it every month will lead a healthy and prosperous life. They will get success in everything they do. I will bless them with great prosperity and happiness. You will equally be blessed even by just listening to the vrath kadha and taking Prasad with utmost devotion.

A devotee should pray Lord Sri Ganeshji, Ashtadikpalakas, Navagraha devathas before starting the vrath. Then the Ashtotharas are to be read, followed by reading the five stories with devotion and serene mind. Recite Govinda! Gopala! Gokulanandana at the end of each chapter. After completing the Vrath you can offer either fruits, milk, butter or cheese or all of these according to your convenience. You can also offer rice payasam or any freshly cooked prasadam. I am highly pleased if one offers Tulasi leaves to me in the puja. You should take Prasad and distribute it to your friends and relatives after reading the five stories.

I would love to hear any stotras and bhajans by you after the puja. You can also play instrumental music. Sri Krishna vrath is very dear to me. I dance in the form of Balakrishna playing flute in the place where this vrath is being performed. In fact you can even hear my flute if you meditate upon me. Those who perform Sri Krishna vrath with utmost devotion can see my foot prints too. I will stay there and listen to vrath kadha in invisible form, but, you can certainly feel my presence. I love Sri Krishna vrath so much that I wander around the place and dance with utmost joy all through the day.

Lord Sri Krishna Himself thus narrated Krishna Vrath kadha to the blessed couple Viswapathi and Rukmini. Sri Krishna Bhagawan Himself says that performing Sri Krishna vrath is the simplest and easiest way to get His grace in this Kaliyug . We should perform this vrath kadha regularly and lead a healthy and prosperous life. We shall be able to overcome any problem of however great magnitude by reading it. We all should perform Sri Krishna vrath ordained by Lord Sri Krishna Bhagwan Himself and be blessed by His grace.

End of first chapter

Govinda! Gopala! Gokulanandana!

SRI KRISHNA VRATAM

Second Chapter

VALLABHADASA'S STORY

In the olden days, there lived a devotee of Lord Sri Krishna by name Vallabhadas in Mathura. He had utmost devotion for Lord Sri Krishna. He used to recite Krishna's name all day whatever work he was engaged in. For Vallabhadas, Krishna is everything. He used to share all his feelings with the Lord. At times, he felt as though he was conversing with Sri Krishna Himself. People around Vallabhadas, were moved by his utmost devotion towards Lord Sri Krishna.

Vallabhadas used to visit Sri Krishna mandir everyday for having the Lord's darsan .He was mesmerized by the eternal beauty of the Lord. Lord Krishna is most beautiful. He resides in all beautiful things in this universe. The mere thought of Sri Krishna causes a feeling of eternal joy in us...the beautiful peacock feather in His head, the divine melody of His flute, His most charming smile...the divine smile that is the saviour of this universe...The mere utterance of Krishna's name causes cosmic energy to flow through our body. Vallabhadas sometimes spent the whole day sitting in the temple itself.

Every day, in the temple, some devotee or other used to play the flute while naivedyam was offered to Sri Krishna in the morning. Vallabhadas used to get transported to a different plane altogether listening to most melodious songs on flute. All the devotees present in the temple were awed by the devotion of Vallabhadas to Sri Krishna.

One night, Vallabhadas was stricken by a high fever. Even though the fever came down a bit by morning, he was feeling very weak. He was feeling very sad as he was unable to go to the temple for his Krishna's darsan that morning. He felt quite disappointed that he would also be missing the flute during morning naivedyam. As he was thus feeling dejected, he heard the sound of anklets. A little boy ran in to his house with a wonderful smile on his lips. He came near Vallabhadas and said to

him, what grandpa, why are you looking so sad ? Vallabhadas asked the boy his name and where he lived because the boy did not seem like a familiar neighbourhood boy .The little boy, replied with a mischievous smile, that the whole town was his abode. He handed Vallabhadas a little bit of cheese that he brought along and told him to eat it. He told Vallabhadas that he brought it from Sri Krishna Mandir. Vallabhadas put it in his mouth with great reverence. The moment it touched his tongue, Vallabhadas felt great energy sweeping through his body. The little boy then played the flute he brought along with him. Vallabhadas was enraptured by the divinely melodious notes of the boy's flute, and he went into a trance and soon fell into deep sleep.

Vallabhadas woke up after an hour and looked around for the little boy. But he was no where to be found . Keshobhai, his neighbor, came just then to Vallabhadas's house asked him why he had not come to Sri Krishna Mandir that morning. Vallabhadas told him he had fever last night and had been feeling very weak and hence he could not go to the temple in the morning. Suddenly Keshobhai noticed a beautiful flute lying on one side of the cot. Immediately he recognized it as the Lord Sri Krishna's flute in the temple! Keshobhai told Vallabhadas that Lord's flute was not seen since morning and everyone was worried as to how it had disappeared. Vallabhadas told him that a small boy had come to his house in the morning and played flute very melodiously. As he had been feeling very weak, he could not recognize the flute. Keshobhai realized that the little boy who had come here and played the flute in the morning was none other than Lord Sri Krishna Himself. Vallabhadas's joy knew no bounds. Keshobhai too was very happy and praised Vallabhadas for his utmost devotion to Lord Sri Krishna.

Vallabhadas and Keshobhai both went to the temple taking Lord Sri Krishna's flute with them. They told everyone present there how Lord Sri Krishna came to Vallabhadas's house as a little boy and played the flute. Everyone felt very happy on knowing Krishna's grace on Vallabhadas. They all felt very happy that such a pious and blessed soul was living among them in Mathura. They were all moved by Lord Krishna's love and affection towards His devotees.

Lord Sri Krishna is most kind hearted. He always takes care of those devotees who surrender completely to Him. Lord Krishna will run to you and help you in any difficult situation the moment you call out Govinda to Him even once with abject surrender. Such is the love and affection of Lord Sri Krishna towards His devotees.

End of second chapter

Govinda! Gopala! Gokulanandana!

SRI KRISHNA VRATAM

Third Chapter

STORY OF KRISHNAN COUPLE

Lord Krishna loves all His devotees. His enchanting form ,with flute in hand, captivates the heart of every creature in this universe. He is the embodiment of love and mercy. He completely takes care of everyone all the time. He may forgive someone who abuses Him, but will not forgive anyone who puts His devotees to suffering . Such is His affection towards His sincere devotees. He is waiting with His outstretched hands ready to embrace those devotees who have surrendered to Him completely.

In the olden days, there lived a couple Krishnan and Radha in Guruvayur. They lived on the other side of the lake. Both of them were ardent devotees of Lord Sri Krishna. Especially Radha was so devoted to the Lord, that whatever work she was engaged in , she was inwardly chanting the Lord's name she would not spend even a minute without thinking of Him. She was always immersed in the thoughts of Lord Krishna . It is the blending of Jeevathma (individual soul) with the Paramathma (the divine soul).The couple went to the temple everyday in the morning. Their day began only after having divine darsan of Lord Sri Krishna. Even though they led a pious life in this birth, yet, they were childless as a consequence of sins committed in their previous births. But, they never worried about it and treated every child in the neighbourhood as their own children. They often used to buy sweets and toys for them. Years passed by in this manner and Krishnan attained sixty years of age.

Every year Radha looked forward to Sri Krishnashtami festival. Every year on that day, she would choose a boy from the neighborhood, invite him to her house, and dress him like Little Krishna, offer him food with wonderful delicacies. She then gave the boy lot of gifts too. Everyone in the neighbouring houses were quite happy the way Radha adored the boy as Balakrishna Himself. Radha started the preparations a week in advance. She cleaned the house and decorated it with beautiful flowers,

marigolds, mango leaves and coconut leaves. She prepared many sweets and delicacies and offered them to all children in the neighbourhood.

Radha started her preparations this year too just like every other year. Soon, it was the day before Krishnashtami. This time around, Radha picked on a boy Mukundan from one of the neighbouring houses. She asked his mother to send him tomorrow morning to the Krishnans' house. Radha woke up early next morning, the day of Sri Krishnashtami. She prepared many dishes. She had butter, curds, milk and puffed rice too which she had offered to the Lord. She also brought many fruits from the local market. Mukundan came to Radha's house by 8 A.M. playing joyfully. Radha dressed him in wonderful new clothes and gave him some sweets to eat. After playing for a while, Mukundan said he was hungry. Radha made him sit on a colourful mat and served him food. The little boy started eating happily. Radha was immersed in joy, seeing Mukunda dressed up as Balakrishna, eating slowly with cute little hands. Krishnan felt very happy to see both of them.

Suddenly, Mukundan raised his head and asked Radha for mangoes. Radha said to him, dear kanna, I brought sweet bananas and guavas, will you eat some of those? No maa, I want mangoes only, insisted Mukundan. Then Radha told him...dear kanna, there are no mangoes in the market, this is not the season for mangoes...summer is far behind us... eat these fruits and enjoy their taste. Mukundan again said, no..no..no.. you have mangoes in the fruit basket...you are telling lies... I wish to eat mangoes only... go and see in your fruit basket. As he was so insistent, Radha went to the fruit basket again, if only to appease him. She thought she would get the basket and show him that it contained only bananas and guavas and no mangoes...what she found there astonished her...she found two mangos above the bananas...she took them in her hands and gave them to Mukundan. Mukundan ate those mangoes with relish, with a mischievous smile on his face. After he ate his lunch, he played there for a while before he left for his house.

It was 4 p.m. in the afternoon. Radha got up to answer a knock on their door. On opening the door, Radha found Mukundan's mother standing there. As Radha was about to tell her about mangoes Mukundan's mother said...I know...I know...how bad you would have

felt...I am really so sorry...I could not send Mukundan in the morning as he has had fever since last night...Kindly excuse me for disappointing you. I could not even send word to you in the morning; I am extremely sorry about that . Radha was so shocked on hearing her that she did not know what to make of this. She told Mukundan's mother all that had happened in the morning... how Mukundan came and enjoyed the lunch, his insistence about mangoes, how she eventually found them in the basket and gave them to Mukundan etc., both ladies could not at first understand how this could be . And, then, realization struck them! It was none other than Balakrishna Himself who had come to Krishnan's house in the form of Mukundan ! Their joy knew no bounds. Mukundan's mother too felt very happy to learn about the grace of Sri Krishna shown on this couple . All of them went to the temple in the evening.

When they entered the temple, they saw all the devotees discussing something ,with anxiety on their faces. They were all wondering about the smell of mangoes coming from the Sanctum Sanctorum of the temple. Everyone was perplexed because it being well past the summer, there were no mangoes anywhere that could have been offered to the Lord. On hearing this, tears rolled down the eyes of Krishnan and Radha. They told everyone what happened that morning in their house. Devotees now understood why mango smell was emanating from the Sanctum Sanctorum...it was because Krishna ate mangoes in Krishnan's house. Everyone felt blessed to hear about this 'Krishnaleela' and were all praise for the couple's devotion.

Sri Krishna's love towards His devotees is simply too great to comprehend. If one lets go of his ego and completely surrenders at the lotus feet of the Lord, He showers immense grace. All that we need to do is fully leave our ego and surrender completely to His lotus feet. He simply takes care of us like a parent. Everything goes auspiciously to us if we surrender completely to Him and pray with utmost sincerity through our hearts.

End of Third chapter

Govinda! Gopala! Gokulanandana!

SRI KRISHNA VRATAM

Fourth Chapter

STORY OF RANGADASA

Lord Sri Krishna is divine love personified. He is omnipresent. Every creature is His form only. Those who see Lord in every living being are blessed. If we utter His name Govinda , even once, He instantly answers our prayers. Our problems are solved and He blesses us with His grace.

In the olden days, there lived a devotee of Lord Sri Krishna by the name Rangadasa. Lord Sri Krishna is everything to Him. Not even a minute passed by without his thinking of the Lord. He went to the Sri Krishna Mandir every day to have the Lord's darsan. His wife Vasudha was also a staunch devotee of Sri Krishna. She too recited the Lord's name throughout the day as she went about her household chores. The couple used to see the Lord in everyone around them.

Rangadasa and Vasudha had a wonderful statue of Lord in their house. It was a statue of Bala Krishna with a benevolent smile on His face and the divine flute in His hand. The couple sang bhajans and offered curds, butter and cheese to Bala Krishna. They sang Kirtans in the night to and offered warm milk etc as naivedyam.

One night, as usual, after nivedana and Ekantha Seva, the couple also went to bed. They were jolted awake suddenly by a huge sound. A thief had broken into their house, and was now standing over them with a menacing look on his face. Rangadasa and Vasudha were terrified and pleaded with the thief , telling him that they were very poor and had no valuables of any kind in their house.

The thief was not moved. He became angrier when he learnt that he was not going to get any valuables. He said that he would kill them both before leaving. Rangadasa and Vasudha were scared but they started praying to the Lord they worshipped every day, chanting His names.... Govinda, Gopala, Gokulanandana with utmost fervour. You are the only

saviour! Kindly save us O Lord! At that instant, miraculously, a gust of wind blew through the window and uplifted the statue of Lord Krishna. The statue struck down the thief who fell unconscious. The weather had been calm and pleasant until then and suddenly it turned windy. Rangadasa and Vasudha started screaming loudly. Their neighbours, rose from their sleep, hearing their cries, rushed into their house and came upon the scene. All were dumbstruck on seeing what had happened. And, Balakrishna's statue was intact! It did not suffer any damage despite falling down from such a height ! What a miracle! Rangadasa, Vasudha and all the others who were present realized that the Lord Himself had come to their rescue. They reverentially placed the Lord's statue back in its place. The whole town came to know of this miracle the next day.

Lord Krishna is the embodiment of supreme love! He takes care of all those who surrender themselves to Him totally . All Gods in this universe are nothing but His different forms. Whomsoever we may pray to, the prayer ultimately reaches Lord Sri Krishna only. Let us all pray to Lord Sri Krishna and lead happy and peaceful lives.

End of Fourth Chapter

Govinda! Gopala! Gokulanandana!

SRI KRISHNA VRATAM

Fifth Chapter

STORY OF MADHAVA

Lord Sri Krishna is the embodiment love and grace. When an individual has absolute faith and totally surrenders to Sri Krishna, he is taken care of completely by the Lord. There is no need to perform any yagnas or yagas to please Him. Sincere prayer and offering a single tulasi leaf is enough to beget His grace.

In the olden days, there lived a devotee by the name Madhav in Govindapuram. He had utmost devotion for Lord Sri Krishna. There was a beautiful temple of Lord Sri Krishna in Govindapuram. The beautiful murthis of Krishna and Radha in the sanctum sanctorum drew numerous devotees to the temple from far and wide. But, the admission into the temple was restricted to the upper castes only. As Madhav belonged to lower caste, he was not allowed inside the temple. But this did not deter him from praying to Lord Krishna.

He used to go to the temple every day and sit outside and observe the sculptures of Lord Sri Krishna and Radha on the outer side of the gopuram. Madhav was so immersed in the beauty of Lord Krishna, and looked up at them with great reverence. He was totally oblivious to his surroundings at such times. Many devotees were quite moved by Madhav's bhakthi. Infact, some of them tried to take him inside the temple so that he could have a darsan of his beloved Swamy. But, the temple officials, would not allow them. Once, Madhav was struck by a peculiar skin disease. It soon spread to his whole body and caused him severe distress. Any number of medicines failed to bring him relief. A time came when Madhav was unable to go to the temple. He felt deprived but was devotedly praying to Krishna and Radha in his home itself. He was very sad that he could not go and stand outside the temple as he earlier would, but he prayed to the Lord with unflinching devotion. He asked the Lord's forgiveness for the sins he may have committed in the earlier births and begged Him to cure him of this disease.

The annual festival/ utsavam of the temple used to be held on a grand scale, every year. for three days. On the third and final day, the

Utsava Murthis of Sri Krishna and Radha Devi were taken around the streets of Govindapuram in a grand procession. Sri Krishna and Radha were decorated in their full splendour, and it was a feast to the eyes of the devotees. The peacock's feather in the crown of Sri Krishna was a sight to behold. No person in Govindapuram would miss this if they could.

That year also, the procession was going through the various streets on its regular route and eventually reached the street where Madhav lived. The procession was moving slowly, and when it came in front of Madhav's house, he started praying fervently to the Lord. Just then, a miracle occurred. The peacock feather from Lord Sri Krishna's crown was blown away by a sudden gust of wind and it flew and fell on Madhav. The moment it touched Madhav's body, his skin disease simply vanished without a trace. He became normal. Tears rolled down Madhav's eyes on seeing the grace of Lord Krishna.

Everyone in the procession and in the streets witnessed this miracle and were dumbstruck ! the realization now dawned upon the towns people and also the temple priests and officials that Madhav was indeed a great devotee and a blessed soul. They garlanded Madhav , took him along with the procession and inside the temple. Madhav had darsan of the Lord for the first time. His joy knew no bounds on seeing the wonderful ever charming murthis of Lord Sri Krishna and Radha. The temple management then realized that caste was no bar to obtain Lord's grace. They removed all restrictions for entry into the temple. Everyone could have darsan of the Lord .

Lord Sri Krishna loves His devotees. He has utmost affection for His sincere devotees. The easiest way to get His grace in Kaliyuga is to perform Sri Krishna Vratam with utmost devotion. Let us all perform this Vratam regularly and lead a happy and peaceful life with the blessings of Lord Sri Krishna.

End of Fifth Chapter

Govinda ! Gopala ! Gokulanandana !

Om Namo Bhagavathe Vasudevaya !

Etathphalam Sri Krishnarpanamasthu !

End of Sri Krishna Vratam

SRI KRISHNASHTAKAM

Vasudeva Sutam Devam Kansa Chanura Mardanam
Devaki Paramanandam Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Atasi Pushpa Sankasham Hara Nupura Shobhitam
Ratna Kankana Keyuram Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Kutilalaka Samyuktam Purnachandra Nibhananam
Vilasat Kundaladharam Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Mandara Gandha Samyuktam Charuhasam Chaturbhujam
Barhi Pinchhava Chudangam Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Utphulla Padmapatraksham Nila Jimuta Sannibham
Yadavanam Shiroratham Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Rukmini Keli Samyuktam Pitambara Sushobhitam
Avapta Tulasi Gandham Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Gopikanam Kuchadvandva Kumkumankita Vakshasam
Shriniketam Maheshvasam Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Shrivatsankam Mahoraskam Vanamala Virajitam
Shankhachakradharam Devam Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum

Krishnashtaka Midam Punyam Pratarutthaya Yah Pathet
Kotijanma Kritam Papam Smaranena Vinashyati

MADHURASHTAKAM

Adharam Madhuram, Vadanam Madhuram.
Nayanam Madhuram, Hasitam Madhuram |
Hridayam Madhuram, Gamanam Madhuram.
Madhura-Adhipater-Akhilam Madhuram ||1||

Vachanam Madhuram, Charitam Madhuram.
Vasanam Madhuram, Valitam Madhuram |
Chalitam Madhuram, Bhramitam Madhuram.
Madhura-Adhipater-Akhilam Madhuram ||2||

Venur-Madhuro Renur-Madhurah
Paanir-Madhurah Paadau Madhurah |
Nrtyam Madhuram, Sakhyam Madhuram
Madhura-Adhipater-Akhilam Madhuram ||3||

Gitam Madhuram, Pitam Madhuram
Bhuktam Madhuram, Suptam Madhuram |
Rupam Madhuram, Tilakam Madhuram
Madhura-Adhipater-Akhilam Madhuram ||4||

Karanam Madhuram, Taranam Madhuram
Haranam Madhuram, Ramanam Madhuram |
Pamitam Madhuram, Shamitam Madhuram
Madhura-Adhipater-Akhilam Madhuram ||5||

Gunjaa Madhuraa, Maalaa Madhuraa
Yamunaa Madhuraa, Veechee Madhuraa |
Salilam Madhuram Kamalam Madhuram
Madhura-Adhipaterakhilam Madhuram ||6||

Gopii Madhuraa, Leelaa Madhuraa
Yuktam Madhuram Muktam Madhuram |
Drushttam Madhuram, Shissttam Madhuram
Madhura-Adhipaterakhilam Madhuram ||7||

Gopaa Madhuraa, Gaavo Madhuraa
Yashsttir-Madhuraa, Srishttir-Madhuraa |
Dalitam Madhuram, Phalitam Madhuram
Madhura-Adhipaterakhilam Madhuram ||8||



ADHARAM MADHURAM, VADANAM MADHURAM
NAYANAM MADHURAM, HASITAM MADHURAM |
HRDAYAM MADHURAM, GAMANAM MADHURAM
MADHURA-ADHIPATER-AKHILAM MADHURAM ||



**VASUDEVA SUTAM DEVAM, KAMSA CHANURA MARDANAM
DEVAKI PARAMANANDAM, KRISHNAM VANDE JAGADGURUM**