



SCRIPTURE PEEK  
WITH SHOBHA

# KRISHNA THE COWHERD BOY

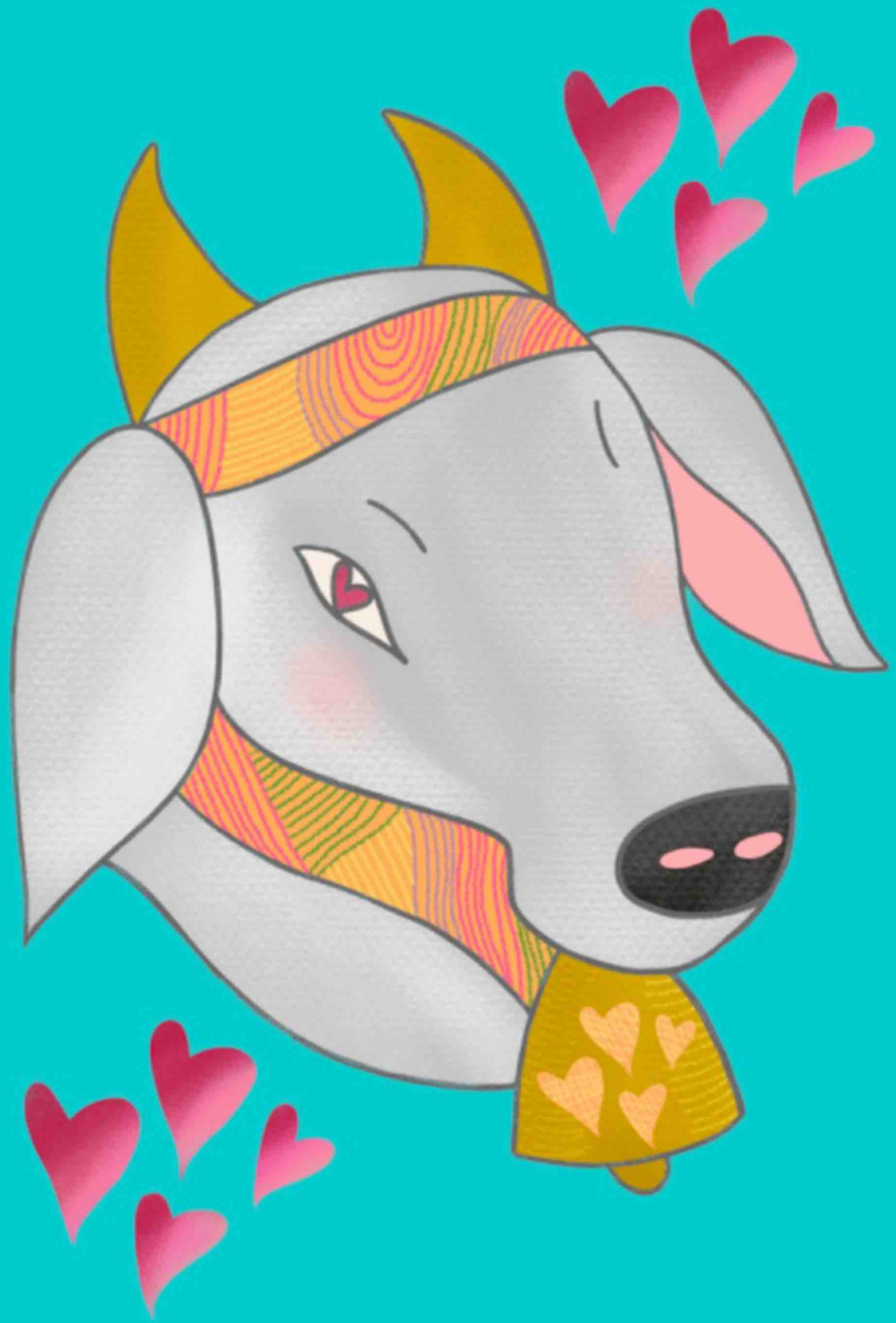
GOPAALA VIMSHATI BY  
SRI VEDANTA DESIKA

SHOBHA CHAR  
GURU YAMUNA RAMAPRIYA'S  
GIRINAGAR ANDAL GHOSHTI



Sincere Thanks to (Dr.) Sri V.Sadagopan Swami for kindly hosting this  
book in his website :

[www.sadagopan.org](http://www.sadagopan.org)





# **GOPAALA VIMSHATI**

By

**SRIVEDANTA DESIKA**

This is a 13th century Sanskrit stothram or prayer of 20 shlokas and hence the title, as 'Vimshati' means twenty.

Lord Krishna is one of the popular avatars of Lord Vishnu or Lord Narayana. His childhood in Gokulam and Brindavan in North India is much celebrated. He was a very mischievous but adorable child who was extremely fond of milk, butter, ghee and curds. He was the foster son of the cowherds chief Nandagopala and his wife Yashoda and was hence given the name Gopaala\*. There are innumerable stories of his playful deeds. As a young man he was the favourite of the cowherd girls (also called Gopikas). They loved him and had great fun times dancing together on the banks of river Yamuna to the melodious music from his flute. This was a great place for the Gopikas to hang out with Gopaala Krishna singing, dancing and playing water games.

Sri Vedanta Desika gives us a glimpse into Gopaala Krishna's childhood and youth in 'Gopaala Vimshathi'. His mischievous pranks and fun times with Gopikas on the banks of the river Yamuna are experienced with great emotion by Desika. He considers it a blessing that he is able to visualise it all as though it happened in front of his eyes, although he and Krishna lived in different eras.

Sri Vedanta Desika (1268-1369) is a celebrated Sri Vaishnava Acharya\* who was called the lion among poets. A respected philosopher, poet, debater, an expert in logic, mathematics, food science, linguistics, arts and sculpture, he had multiple talents. He was a child prodigy and his maternal uncle Kidambi Apullar was his Acharya. He composed over a hundred scholarly works in Sanskrit, Tamil, Prakrit and Manipravala (mix of Sanskrit and Tamil). He chose to live a very simple and humble life with support from his wife. He was a great influencer in his times.

Gopaala Vimshati is one of his lighter stothrams and easy to understand by all. See if you can spot the cow/cows Gopaala cared for in each of the illustrations!

*\*spiritual teacher*





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA I

### SALUTATIONS BY SRI VEDANTA DESIKA TO GOPAALA

I salute the 'Jyothi'\*

-Who roamed the forest of Brindavana and bestowed his care and love to the cows and calves grazing there.

-Who was very dear to the Gopikas in Gokulam and Brindavana. The Gopikas' love for him gave them the power to bestow blessings.

-Who was born on the auspicious Sri Jayanthi\* day and was assured of victories.

-Who wore bright orange and yellow Vyjayanthi flowers strung with fragrant Tulasi leaves and other wild flowers of the forest.

Note: Commentator\* of this ancient scripture points out the poetic style of Sri Vedanta Desika where the name of Lord Krishna or Gopaala is not stated in this shloka. Instead, he is described by his attributes (Vaatsalya: loving and caring, Sousheelya: dear to the Gopikas, Soulabhyam: accessible, Swamythvam: displaying Lordship by wearing ornaments from nature in the forest.)

\*Jyothi: divine light.

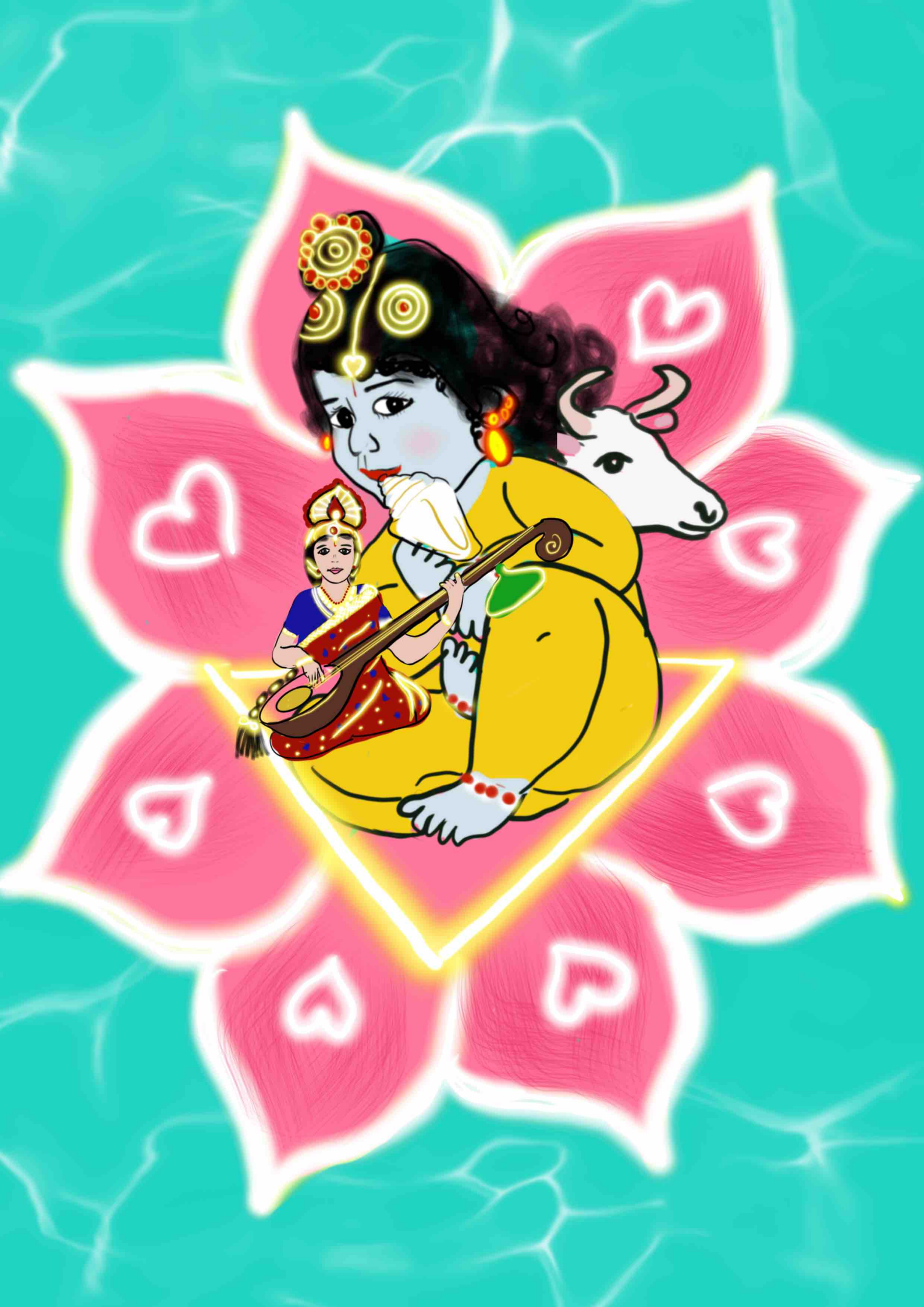
Sri Jayanthi: The latter half of the year called Krishna paksha, in the month of Avani when the 8th day ashtami and the star Rohini co-incide.

Commentator: Sri Sadagopan of Oppiliappan divyadesam temple in Kumbakonam.

*vande brndāvanacaram̐ vallav̐janavallabham̐  
jayantīsam̐bhavam̐ dhāma vaijayantīvibhūṣaṇam̐ || 1 ||*

ವಂದೇ ಬೃಂದಾವನಚರಂ ವಲ್ಲವೀಜನವಲ್ಲಭಂ |  
ಜಯಂತೀಸಂಭವಂ ಧಾಮ ವೈಜಯಂತೀವಿಭೂಷಣಂ || ೧ ||

ವந்தೇ ಬ್ರೂಂತಾವನಶರಮ್ ವಲ್ಲವೀಜನವಲ್ಲಭಮ್ |  
ಜಯಂತೀಸಂಭವಮ್ ತಾಮ ವೈಜಯಂತೀವಿಭೂಷಣಮ್ || 1 ||



# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 2

### THE SOUND OF VEDAS FROM GOPAALA'S CONCH

Little Gopaala Krishna is sitting in the soft eight-petaled pink lotus. Inside the lotus is a protective triangular yantra\* upon which he is resting. Saraswathi, the Goddess of Learning is seated on his lap. He holds a conch that produces the 'Pranava'\* sound, which symbolizes the essence of Vedas. Devotees enjoy his beauty and meditate upon him.

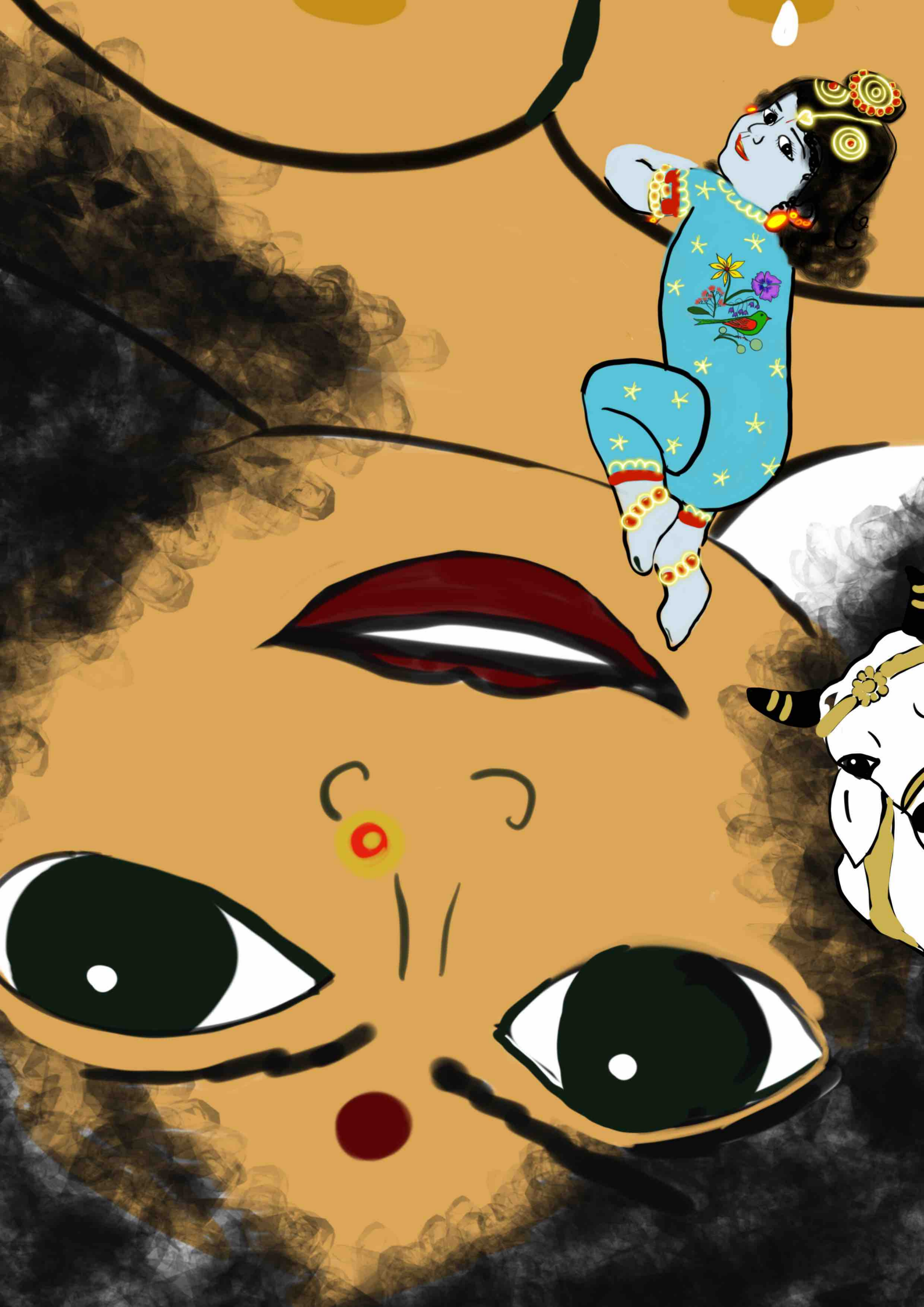
\*yantra: a protective shield  
Pranava: the sound of AUM

*vācamṇ nijāṅkarasikāṇ prasamīkṣamāṇo  
vaktrāravindaviniveśitapāñcajanyaḥ |  
varṇatrikoṇarucire varapuṇḍarīke  
baddhāsano jayati vallavacakravartī || 2 ||*

வாசம் நிஜாங்கரஸிகாம் ப்ரஸமீக்ஷமாளோ  
வக்ತ್ರாரவிந்தவிநிவேஸிதபாஞ்சஜந்யஃ |  
வரணத்ரிகோணருசிரே வரபுண்டரீகே  
பத்தாஸனோ ஜயதி வல்லவசக்ரவர்த்தீ || 2 ||

வாசம் நிஜாங்கரஸிகாம் ப்ரஸமீக்ஷமாளோ  
வக்ತ್ರாரவிந்தவிநிவேஸிதபாஞ்சஜந்யஃ |  
வரணத்ரிகோணருசிரே வரபுண்டரீகே  
பத்தாஸனோ ஜயதி வல்லவசக்ரவர்த்தீ || 2 ||







# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 3

### GOPAALA AND OGRESS PUTHANA

I visualise Lord Vishnu born as the divine child and brought up as the cowherd Gopaala. He pretends to be afraid when the ogress Puthana comes to feed him poisoned milk. He cries and smiles in spells. His mouth quivers as he cries, producing the sweet sound of the Vedas. He breaks into a smile thinking of his planned action - he will not only suck the milk, but also the life out of this wicked ogress.

*Note: The ogress Puthana was sent by Gopaala Krishna's evil uncle Kamsa to kill Him. By Gopaala's divine touch Puthana was blessed and attained moksha or freedom from rebirth.*

*āmnāyagandhiruditāsphuritādharoṣṭham  
āsrāvilekṣaṇamanukṣaṇamandahāsam |  
gopāladimbhavapuṣaṃ kuhanājananyāḥ  
prāṇastanandhayamavaimi paraṃ pumāṃsam || 3 ||*

ಆವ್ಯಯಗಂಧಿರುದಿತಸ್ಪುರಿತಾಧರೋಷ್ಯಂ  
ಆಸ್ರಾವಿಲೇಕ್ಷಣಮನುಕ್ಷಣಮಂದಹಾಸಂ |  
ಗೋಪಾಲಡಿಂಭವಪುಷಂ ಕುಹನಾಜನನ್ಯಾಃ  
ಪ್ರಾಣಸ್ತನಂಧಯಮವೈಮಿ ಪರಂ ಪುಮಾಂಸಂ || ೩ ||

ಆಮ್ನನಾಯಕಂತಿ ರುತಿತಸ್ಪುರಿತಾತರೋಷ್ಠಮ್  
ಆಸ್ರಾವಿಲೇಕ್ಷಣಮನುಕ್ಷಣಮಂತಹಾಸಮ್ |  
ಕೋಪಾಲಡಿಂಭವಪುಷಮ್ ಕುಹನಾಜನನ್ಯಾಃ  
ಪ್ರಾಣಸ್ತನಂಧಯಮವೈಮಿ ಪರಮ್ ಪುಮಾಂಸಮ್ || 3 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 4

### BUTTER DANCE

Little Lord Gopaala Krishna wants to amuse his mother Yashoda so that she will part with some fresh butter that she is churning. He dances in sync with the sound of the churning rod. He places one foot firmly on the ground and turns around swiftly in different directions. His necklaces, jewelry and anklets sway and produce delightful musical sounds that match well with the sounds emanating from the churning of butter. May this delightful Navaneeta Natya\* appear before my eyes!

\*butter dance

*āvīrbhavatvanibhṛtābharāṇaṃ purastāt  
ākūñcitaikacaraṇaṃ nibhṛtānyapādam |  
dadhnā nimanthamukhareṇa nibaddhatālam  
nāthasya nandabhavane navanītanāṭyam || 4 ||*

அவிர்ஹவத்வநிப்ருதாபரணம் புரஸ்தாத்  
அகூஞ்சிதேகசரணம் நிப்ருதாந்யபாதம் |  
தத்நா நிமந்தமுகரேண நிபத்ததாளம்  
நாதஸ்ய நந்தபவநே நவநீதநாட்யம் || 4 ||

ஆவிர்பவத்வநிப்ருதாபரணம் புரஸ்தாத்  
ஆகுஞ்சிதைகசரணம் நிப்ருதாந்யபாதம் |  
தத்நா நிமந்தமுகரேண நிபத்ததாளம்  
நாதஸ்ய நந்தபவநே நவநீதநாட்யம் || 4 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 5

### YASHODA CATCHES KRISHNA BUTTER-HANDED

Little Gopaala does not get the fresh butter he wants despite amusing Yashoda with his butter-dance. Butter is business and livelihood for the gopis, and perhaps Yashoda is also concerned that Krishna has already eaten too much butter. The butter is usually stored in shallow pots but Yashoda hides the butter in the deep water pots this time to save it from Krishna. Mischievous Krishna is aware of this and when his mother steps out for a bit, he makes his way to the deep water pot and steals the butter, gobbling up handfuls of it. Yashoda chases after Krishna with a rope to tie him. Bewildered, Krishna closes his eyes.

I love this beautiful scene of the Lord of the Universe, Krishna, playing the role of an ordinary cow herd boy caught in the act of stealing butter!

*hartuṃ kumbhe vinihitakaraḥ svādu haiyaṅgavīnaṃ  
dr̥ṣṭvā dāmagrahaṇacaṭulāṃ mātaraṃ jātaroṣāṃ |  
pāyādīṣat pracalitapado nāpagacchan na tiṣṭhan  
mithyāgopah sapadi nayane mīlayan viśvagoṣṭā || 5 ||*

ಹರ್ತುಂ ಕುಂಬೇ ವಿನಿಹಿತಕರಃ ಸ್ವಾದು ಹೈಯಂಗವೀನಂ  
ದೃಷ್ಟ್ವಾ ದಾಮಗ್ರಹಣಚಟುಲಾಂ ಮಾತರಂ ಜಾತರೋಷಾಂ |  
ಪಾಯಾದೀಷತ್ ಪ್ರಚಲಿತಪದೋ ನಾಪಗಚ್ಛ್ಯ ನ ತಿಷ್ಠತ್  
ಮಿಥ್ಯಾಗೋಪಃ ಸಪದಿ ನಯನೇ ಮೀಲಯನ್ ವಿಶ್ವಗೋಷ್ಠಾ || ೫ ||

ಛರತ್ತುಮ್ ಕುಂಬೇ ವಿನಿಹಿತಕರಃ ಸ್ವಾವಾತು ಛಾಯಾಂಕವೀನಂ  
ತ್ರುಷ್ಠ್ವಾ ದಾಮಗ್ರಹಣಚಟುಲಾಂ ಮಾತರಂ ಜಾತರೋಷಾಂ |  
ಪಾಯಾದೀಷತ್ ಪ್ರಚಲಿತಪದೋ ನಾಪಗಚ್ಛನ್ ನ ತಿಷ್ಠನ್  
ಮಿಥ್ಯಾಗೋಪಃ ಸಪದಿ ನಯನೇ ಮೀಲಯನ್ ವಿಶ್ವಗೋಷ್ಠಾ || 5 ||



GOKULAM

MATHURA



# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 6

### DEVAKI'S SON, MATHURA'S PRIDE, GIFT TO YASHODA AND GOKULAM

Born to Devaki and Vasudeva in his uncle's prison, Lord Krishna was the most beautiful kid ever. He is the pride of Mathura where he was born. However, Yashoda and Nandagopala, the Chief of Cowherds in Gokulam were blessed to raise him. Even sages who have given up the worldly life, enjoy his mischievous acts. The young girls of Gokulam look at adorable Gopaala Krishna with great affection, and they enjoy playing together.

*vrajayoṣidapāṅgavedhanīyaṃ  
madhurābhāgyamananyabhogyamīde |  
vasudevavadhūstanandhayam tat  
kimapi brahma kiśorabhāvadrśyam || 6 ||*

ವ್ರಜಯೋಷಿದಪಾಂಗವೇಧನೀಯಂ  
ಮಧುರಾಭಾಗ್ಯಮನಸ್ಯಭೋಗ್ಯಮೀಡೇ |  
ವಸುದೇವವಧೂಸ್ತನಂದಯಂ ತತ್  
ಕಿಮಪಿ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ಕಿಶೋರಭಾವದೃಶ್ಯಂ || ೬ ||

ವ್ರಜಯೋಷಿತಪಾಂಗವೇಧನೀಯಂ  
ಮಧುರಾಭಾಗ್ಯಮನಸ್ಯಭೋಗ್ಯಮೀಡೇ |  
ವಸುದೇವವಧೂಸ್ತನಂದಯಂ ತತ್  
ಕಿಮಪಿ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ಕಿಶೋರಭಾವದೃಶ್ಯಂ || ೬ ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 7

### GOPAALA SAVES KUBERA'S SONS FROM A CURSE

Mischievous Gopaala is tied to the grinding stone by mother Yashoda as a way of punishing him for stealing butter. When she goes out of sight, Gopaala walks into the garden, dragging the heavy stone mortar behind him. He walks in between two Arjuna trees and the impact of the mortar he is dragging brings down the two trees. From these emerge Nalakubera and Manigreeva, the sons of Kubera\* who had been cursed to be trees. I worship the blessed child who saved them from the curse!

\*God of wealth

*parivartitakandharam bhayena  
smitaphullādharaṇḍāpallavaṇḍā smarāmi |  
viṭapitvanirāsakaṇḍā kayościt  
vipulolūkhalakarṣakaṇḍā kumāram || 7 ||*

ಪರಿವರ್ತಿತಕಂಧರಂ ಭಯೇನ  
ಸ್ಮಿತಫುಲ್ಲಾಧರಪಲ್ಲವಂ ಸ್ಮರಾಮಿ |  
ವಿಟಪಿತ್ವನಿರಾಸಕಂ ಕಯೋಶ್ಚಿತ್  
ವಿಪುಲೋಲೂಖಲಕರ್ಷಕಂ ಕುಮಾರಂ || ೭ ||

ಪರಿವರ್ತ್ತಿತಿತಕಂಧರಂ ಪಯೇನ  
ಸ್ಮಿತಿಪುಲ್ಲಲಾಧರಪಲ್ಲವಂ ಸ್ಮರಾಮಿ |  
ವಿಡಪಿತ್ವನಿರಾಸಕಂ ಕಯೋಶ್ಚಿತ್  
ವಿಪುಲೋಲೂಖಲಕರ್ಷಕಂ ಕುಮಾರಂ || ೭ ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 8

### RIVER YAMUNA AND THE PLAYFUL DEEDS OF GOPAALA

Kubera's sons who were saved from their curse did not rush back home, as they enjoyed watching the playful deeds of Lord Gopaala. Someone who was very lucky and got to witness many of the Lord's engaging acts was the daughter of Surya, River Yamuna. When newborn Gopaala Krishna was brought to safety by his father Vasudeva from Mathura to Gokulam, they crossed the River Yamuna. She got to enjoy Gopaala's childhood and youthful dances with the Gopikas on the sands of her river bank. She was blessed. As am I, to have been able to always see Gopaala beside me.

*Note: Thiruvahindrapuram is a sacred temple in South India where Sri Vedanta Desika spent many years of his life in service to Lord Vishnu as Deivanayaka and Goddess Hemabjavalli. So he feels he has been blessed says commentator Sri Sadagopan.*

*nikaṭeṣu niśāmayāmi nityaṃ  
nigamāntairadhunā'pi mṛgyamāṇam |  
yamalārjunadr̥ṣṭabālakeliṃ  
yamunāsākṣikayauvanam yuvānam || 8 ||*

நிகடீஸு நிசாமயாமி நித்யம்  
நிகமாதீரதூநாஃபி ம்ருக்யமாணம் |  
யமலாஜுநத்ருஷ்டபாலகேளிம்  
யமுநாஸாக்ஷிகயௌவனம் யுவானம் || 8 ||

நிகடேஷு நிஸாமயாமி நித்யம்  
நிகமாந்தைரதுநாஃபி ம்ருக்யமாணம் |  
யமளார்ஜுநத்ருஷ்டபாலகேளிம்  
யமுநாஸாக்ஷிகயௌவனம் யுவானம் || 8 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 9

### VENUGOPAALA

I worship Gopaala who is the Lord of the Universe- the creator, protector and destroyer. He taught us the easy way to 'moksha' or breaking the cycle of rebirth through surrendering ourselves to him. Total faith in him makes our sojourn on earth easier. He is the rejuvenating rain-bearing cloud that bestowed prosperity on Brindavan and ensured the well-being of the people. The flute that rests on his red lips appears so happy. I salute the merciful Venugopaala.\*

\*Krishna with flute

*padavīmadavīyasīṃ vimukteh  
aṭavīsamṣpadamambuvāhayantīm |  
aruṇādharasābhilāṣavamśām  
karuṇām kāraṇamānuṣīṃ bhajāmi || 9 ||*

ಪದವೀಮದವೀಯಸೀಂ ವಿಮುಕ್ತೇಃ  
ಅಟವೀಸಂಪದಮಂಬುವಾಹಯಂತೀಂ |  
ಅರುಣಾಧರಸಾಭಿಲಾಷವಂಶಾಂ  
ಕರುಣಾಂ ಕಾರಣಮಾನುಷೀಂ ಭಜಾಮಿ || ೯ ||

ಪದವೀಮದವೀಯಸೀಂ ವಿಮುಕ್ತೇಃ  
ಅಡವೀಸಂಪದಮಂಪುವಾಹಯಂತೀಂ |  
ಅರುಣಾಧರಸಾಭಿಲಾಷವಂಶಾಂ  
ಕರುಣಾಂ ಕಾರಣಮಾನುಷೀಂ ಭಜಾಮಿ || 9 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKAS IO AND II

### ENCHANTING YOUTH VENUGOPAALA

The incomparable beauty of youthful Gopaala makes me not want to even blink my eyes. The 'eyes' in the colourful peacock feathers that adorn his tresses seem to be competing for attention with his youthful beauty. Gopaala's playful deeds in his childhood and youth are so endearing. May this overpowering sense of him remain in my mind forever.

Witnessing the melodious music of his flute along with his enchanting smile and friendly glance is blissful. His eyes are cool and welcoming, like the freshly bloomed lotus petals in the river of his mercy. May this youthful Venugopaala protect me!

*animeshaniṣevanīyamakṣṇoḥ  
ajahadyauvanamāvīrastu citte |  
kalahāyitakuntalam kalāpaiḥ  
karaṇamādakavibhramam mahō me || 10 ||*

*anuyāyimanōjñavamśanālaiḥ  
avatu sparśitavallavīmohaiḥ |  
anaghasmitaśītalairasau mām  
anukampāsaridambujairapāṅgaiḥ || 11 ||*

ಅನಿಮೇಷನಿಷೇವನೀಯಮಕ್ಷಣಃ  
ಅಜಹದ್ಯೌವನಮಾವಿರಸ್ತು ಚಿತ್ತೇ |  
ಕಲಹಾಯಿತಕುಂತಳಂ ಕಲಾಪೈಃ  
ಕರಣೋನ್ಮಾದಕವಿಭ್ರಮಂ ಮಹೋ ಮೇ || ೧೦ ||

ಅನುಯಾಯಿಮನೋಜ್ಞವಂಶನಾಳೈಃ  
ಅವತು ಸ್ಪರ್ಶಿತವಲ್ಲವೀವಿಮೋಹೈಃ |  
ಅನಘಸ್ಮಿತಶೀತಲೈರಸೌ ಮಾಂ  
ಅನುಕಂಪಾಸರಿದಂಬುಜೈರಪಾಂಗೈಃ || ೧೧ ||

ಅನಿಮೇಷನಿಷೇವನೀಯಮಕ್ಷಣೋಃ  
ಅಜಹದ್ಯೌವನಮಾವಿರಸ್ತು ಚಿತ್ತೇ |  
ಕಲಹಾಯಿತಕುಂತಳಂ ಕಲಾಪೈಃ  
ಕರಣೋನ್ಮಾದಕವಿಭ್ರಮಂ ಮಹೋ ಮೇ || 10 ||

ಅನುಯಾಯಿಮನೋಜ್ಞವಂಶನಾಳೈಃ  
ಅವತು ಸ್ಪರ್ಶಿತವಲ್ಲವೀವಿಮೋಹೈಃ |  
ಅನಘಸ್ಮಿತಶೀತಲೈರಸೌ ಮಾಂ  
ಅನುಕಂಪಾಸರಿದಂಬುಜೈರಪಾಂಗೈಃ || 11 ||



# GOPAALA VIMSHATHI

## SHLOKA 12

### ANTIMA SMRITHI\*

In my last moments I would love to see this vision: the youthful blue-hued, lotus-eyed, peacock-feather adorned Lord Venugopaala Krishna, his beautiful red lips lightly resting on the enviable flute, creating enchanting, melodious music.

*\*Last thought before leaving the world*

*adharāhitacāruvaṃśanālāḥ  
makutālabhimayūrapin̄chamālāḥ |  
harinīlāsīlāvibhaṅganīlāḥ  
pratibhāḥ santu mamāntimaprayāṇe || 12 ||*

ಅಧರಾಹಿತಚಾರುವಂಶನಾಳಾಃ

ಮಕುಟಾಲಂಬಿಮಯೂರಪಿಂಚಮಾಲಾಃ |

ಹರಿನೀಲಶಿಲಾವಿಭಂಗನೀಲಾಃ

ಪ್ರತಿಭಾಃ ಸಂತು ಮಮಾಂತಿಮಪ್ರಯಾಣೇ || ೧೨ ||

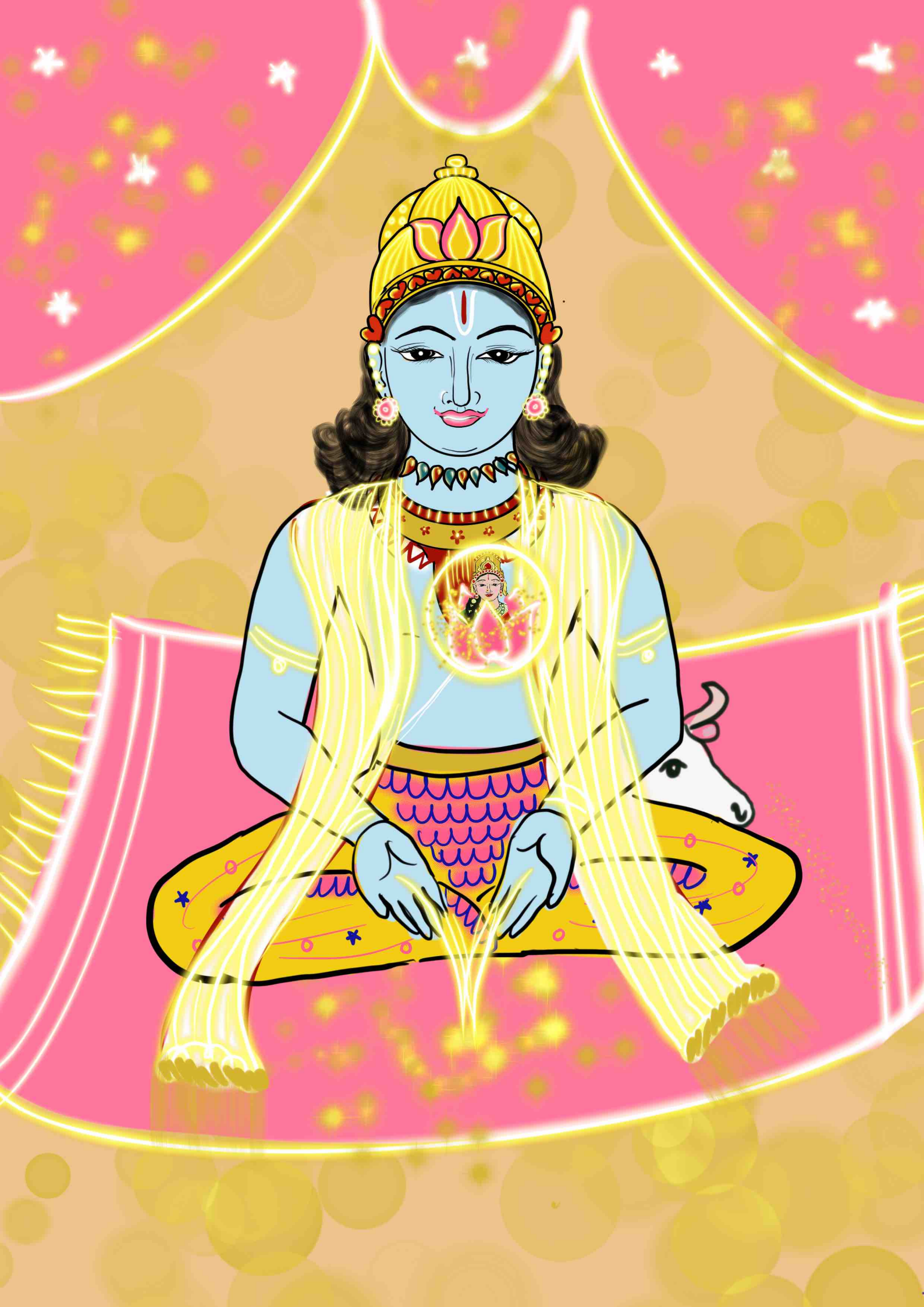
ಅತರಾಠಿತಿಶಾರುವಂಶನಾಳಾಃ

ಮಕುಟಾಲಂಬಿಮಯೂರಪಿಂಚಮಾಲಾಃ |

ಠರಿನೀಲಶಿಲಾವಿಭಂಗನೀಲಾಃ

ಪ್ರತಿಭಾಃ ಸಂತು ಮಮಾಂತಿಮಪ್ರಯಾಣೇ || 12 ||







# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 13

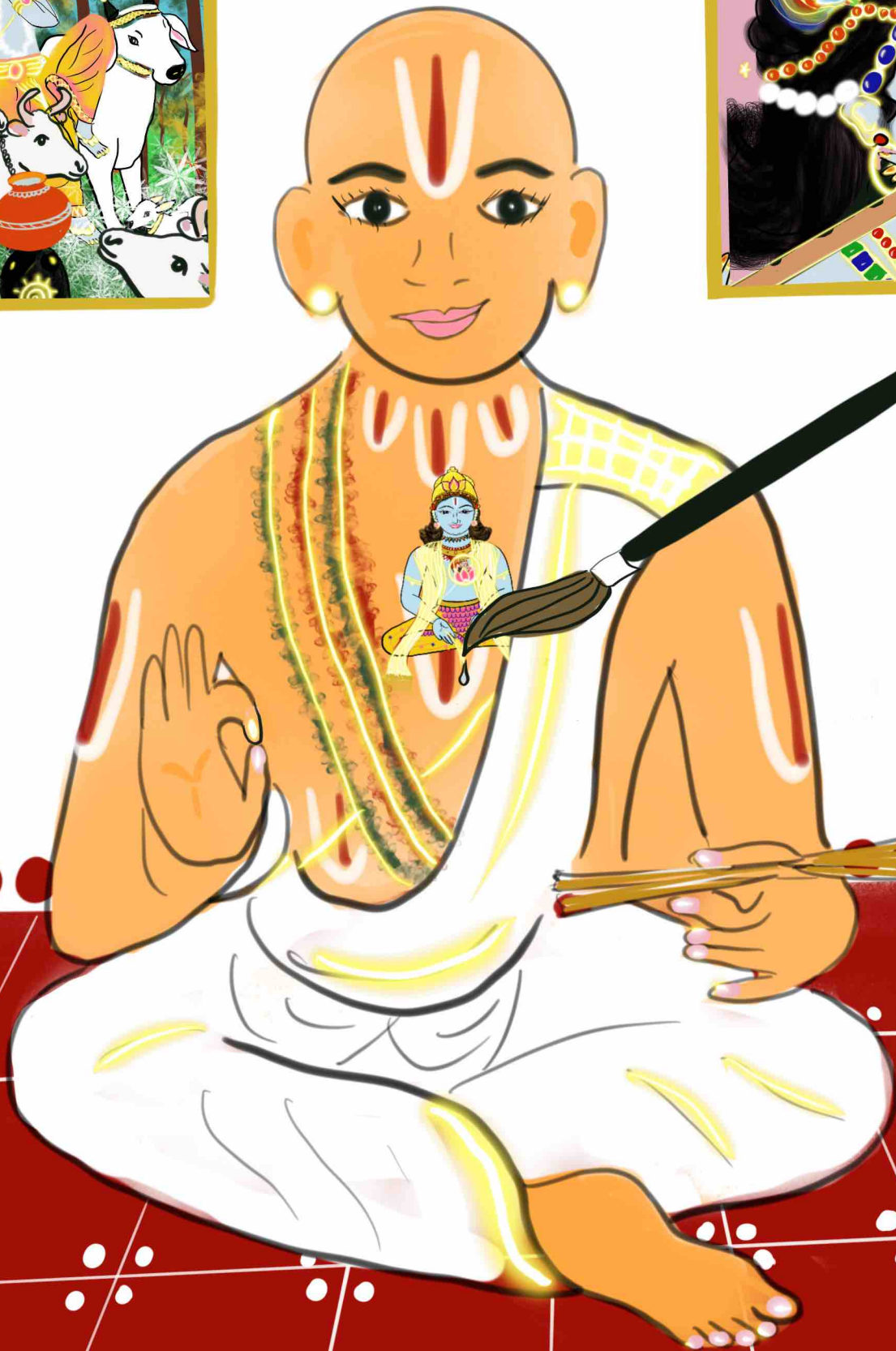
### INSEPARABLE FROM SRIDEVI

It's so charming to see Venugopaala reserve a permanent place on his chest for his consort Sridevi. They are inseparable and she is always with Him. I can not describe His incomparable beauty. I am blessed to see Him everywhere and anytime!

*akhilānavalokayāmi kālān  
mahilādhīnabhujāntarasya yūnaḥ |  
abhilāṣapadaṃ vrajāṅganānām  
abhilāpakramadūramābhirūpyam || 13 ||*

அಖிலாவலோகயாமி காலாந்  
மஹிளாதீநபுஜாந்தரஸ்ய யூநஃ |  
அபிலாஷபதம் வ்ரஜாங்கநாநாம்  
அபிலாபக்ரமதூரமாபிரூப்யம் || 13 ||

அகிலாநவலோகயாமி காலாந்  
மஹிளாதீநபுஜாந்தரஸ்ய யூநஃ |  
அபிலாஷபதம் வ்ரஜாங்கநாநாம்  
அபிலாபக்ரமதூரமாபிரூப்யம் || 13 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 14

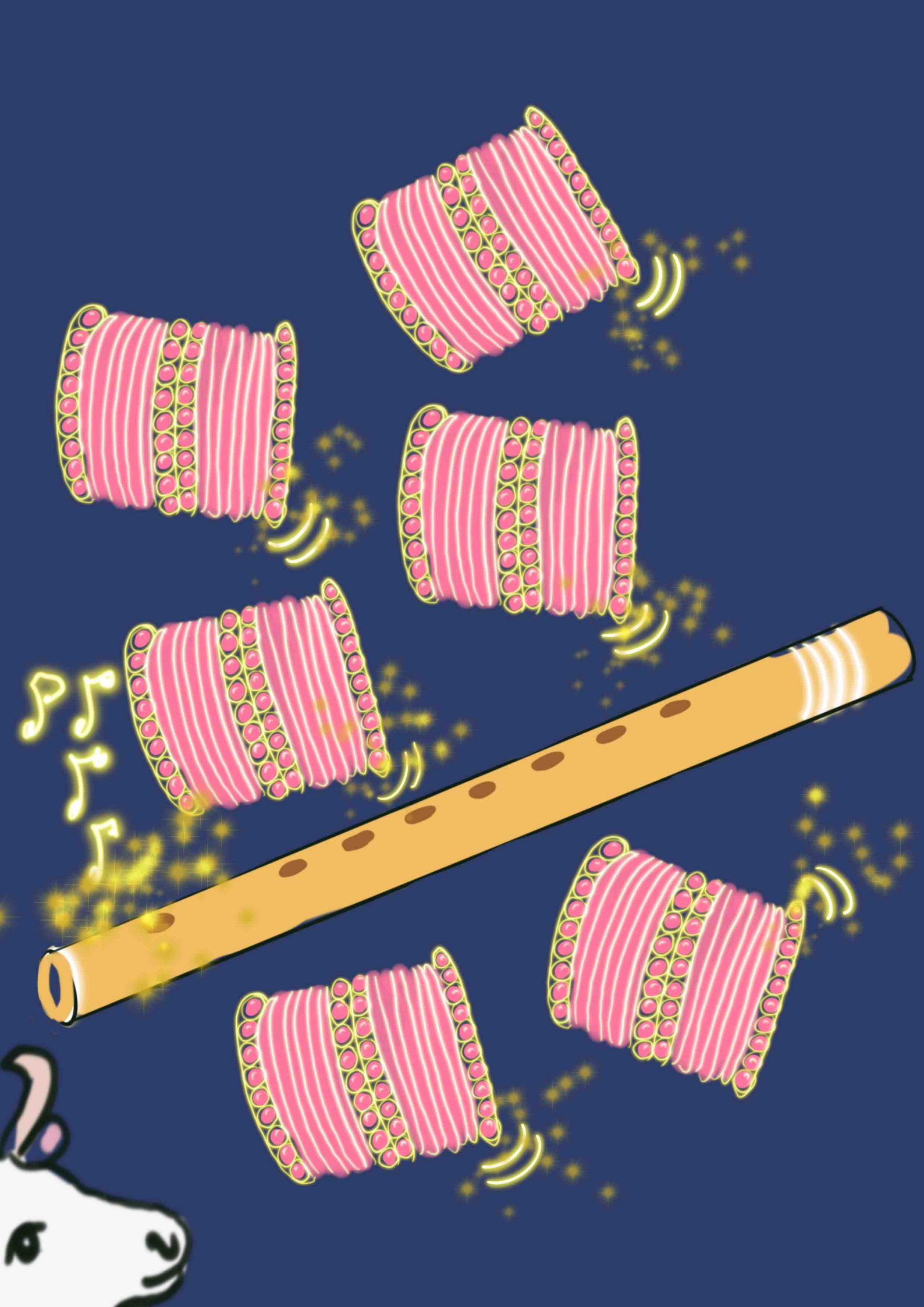
### GOPALA IN MY HEART

I wonder which bold artist drew this picture of incomparable beauty, Gopaala in my heart! I simply love it. Who painted him to look like the happy morning sun to the blossoming lotus-like Gopikas? I am grateful to this artist.

*hṛdi mugdhasīkhaṇḍamaṇḍano  
likhitah kena mamaṅṣa śilpinā |  
madanāturavallavāṅganā-  
vadanāmbhojadivākaro yuvā || 14 ||*

ಹೃದಿ ಮುಗ್ಧಶಿಖಂಡಮಂಡನೋ  
ಲಿಖಿತಃ ಕೇನ ಮಮೈಷ ಶಿಲ್ಪಿನಾ |  
ಮದನಾತುರವಲ್ಲವಾಂಗನಾ-  
ವದನಾಂಭೋಜದಿವಾಕರೋ ಯುವಾ || ೧೪ ||

ಹೃದಿ ಮುಗ್ಧಶಿಖಂಡಮಂಡನೋ  
ಲಿಖಿತಃ ಕೇನ ಮಮೈಷ ಶಿಲ್ಪಿನಾ |  
ಮದನಾತುರವಲ್ಲವಾಂಗನಾ-  
ವದನಾಂಭೋಜದಿವಾಕರೋ ಯುವಾ || 14 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 15

### FLUTE AND BANGLES

I put my hands together and bend my head in salutation to Venugopaala. His flute fills the air with divine music as if in conversation with the rhythmic beat caused by the jingling bangles of the Gopikas.

*mahase mahitāya maulinā  
vinatenāñjalimañjanatviṣe |  
kalayāmi vimugdhavallavī-  
valayābhāṣitamāñjuveṇave || 15 ||*

ಮಹಸೇ ಮಹಿತಾಯ ಮೌಳಿನಾ  
ವಿನತೇನಾಂಜಲಿಮಂಜನತ್ವಿಷೇ |  
ಕಲಯಾಮಿ ವಿಮುಗ್ಧವಲ್ಲವೀ-  
ವಲಯಾಭಾಷಿತಮಂಜುವೇಣವೇ || ೧೫ ||

ಮಹಸೇ ಮಹಿತಾಯ ಮೌಳಿನಾ  
ವಿನತೇನಾಂಜಲಿಮಂಜನತ್ವಿಷೇ |  
ಕಲಯಾಮಿ ವಿಮುಗ್ಧವಲ್ಲವೀ-  
ವಲಯಾಭಾಷಿತಮಂಜುವೇಣವೇ || 15 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 16

### RAASA KREEDA DANCE AND MUSIC

How nice that the Lord of the universe took the avatar of a humble cowherd to offer protection to the people. Not only does he bring protection, but also joy and fun. As he plays his flute on moonlit nights on the banks of river Yamuna, the Gopikas join him and dance, clapping their hands together with the rhythmic jingling of bangles as beats. It's as though they are teaching his flute to respond to their feeling- an intimate interaction of melody and emotion.

*jayati lalitavṛttim śikṣito vallavīnām  
śithilavalayaśiñjāsītairhastatālah |  
akhilabhuvanarakṣāgopaveśasya viṣṇoḥ  
adharamaṇisudhāyāmaṇśavān vaṇśanālah || 16 ||*

ಜಯತಿ ಲಲಿತವೃತ್ತಿಂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಿತೋ ವಲ್ಲವೀನಾಂ  
ಶಿಥಿಲವಲಯಶಿಂಜಾಶೀತಳೈಹೃಸ್ತತಾಳೈಃ |  
ಅಖಿಲಭುವನರಕ್ಷಾಗೋಪವೇಷಸ್ಯ ವಿಷ್ಣೋಃ  
ಅಧರಮಣಿಸುಧಾಯಾಮಂಶವಾನ್ ವಂಶನಾಲಃ || ೧೬ ||

ಜಯತಿ ಲಲಿತವೃತ್ತಿಂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಿತೋ ವಲ್ಲವೀನಾಂ  
ಶಿಥಿಲವಲಯಶಿಂಜಾಶೀತಳೈಹೃಸ್ತತಾಳೈಃ |  
ಅಖಿಲಭುವನರಕ್ಷಾಗೋಪವೇಷಸ್ಯ ವಿಷ್ಣೋಃ  
ಅಧರಮಣಿಸುಧಾಯಾಮಂಶವಾನ್ ವಂಶನಾಲಃ || 16 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 17

### ENCHANTING VENUGOPAALA

Venugopaala, wears only unique natural ornaments which he gets from the forest, which is enchanting to the Gopikas. The coconut flowers called Laangali are his earrings, and his deep black tresses gathered in a bun are adorned with beautiful peacock feathers and stunning red hibiscus flowers. Strings of red kunrumani seeds decorate his chest as necklaces. What a sight!

*citrākālpaḥ śravasi kalayan lāṅgalīkarṇapūraṃ  
barhottamsasphuritacikuro bandhujīvaṃ dadhānaḥ |  
guñjābaddhāmurasī lalitāṃ dhārayan hārayaṣṭim  
gopastrīṇāṃ jayati kitavaḥ ko'pi kaumārahārī || 17 ||*

சித்ராஃல்ப: ஸ்ரவஸி கலயந் லாங்கலீகர்ணபூரம்  
பர்ஹோத்தம்ஸஸ்புரிதசிகுரோ பந்துஜீவம் ததாந: |  
குஞ்ஜாபத்தாமுரஸி லளிதாம் தாரயந் ஹாரயஷ்டிம்  
கோபஸ்த்ரீணாம் ஜயதி கிதவ: கோ஽பி கௌமாரஹாரீ || 17 ||

சித்ராஃல்ப: ஸ்ரவஸி கலயந் லாங்கலீகர்ணபூரம்  
பர்ஹோத்தம்ஸஸ்புரிதசிகுரோ பந்துஜீவம் ததாந: |  
குஞ்ஜாபத்தாமுரஸி லளிதாம் தாரயந் ஹாரயஷ்டிம்  
கோபஸ்த்ரீணாம் ஜயதி கிதவ: கோ஽பி கௌமாரஹாரீ || 17 ||







# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 18

### CHARMING GOPAALA

Gopaala Krishna rests his right hand upon the shepherd's stick as his left reaches around the shoulder of blushing Gopika Nappinai\*. His dark tresses are held together by attractive red kunramani seeds strung together. With His flute tucked in his waist belt, the dark-hued Lord is almost reminiscent of the rain-bearing clouds in the sky. This and his approachable nature is enough to enchant the Gopikas.

\*As commentator Sri Sadagopan has indicated.

*līlāyaṣṭim karakisalaye dakṣiṇe nyasya dhanyām  
amṣe devyāḥ pulakarucire sanniviṣṭānyabāhuḥ |  
meghaśyāmo jayati lalīto mekhalādattaveṇuḥ  
guṇjāpīḍasphuritaḥ kuro gopakanyābhujāṅgaḥ || 18 ||*

ಲೀಲಾಯಾಷ್ಟಿಂ ಕರಕಿಸಲಯೇ ದಕ್ಷಿಣೇ ನ್ಯಸ್ಯ ಧನ್ಯಾಂ  
ಅಂಸೇ ದೇವ್ಯಾಃ ಪುಳಕರುಚಿರೇ ಸನ್ನಿವಿಷ್ಟಾನ್ಯಬಾಹುಃ |  
ಮೇಘಶ್ಯಾಮೋ ಜಯತಿ ಲಲಿತೋ ಮೇಖಲಾದತ್ತವೇಣುಃ  
ಗುಂಜಾಪೀಡಸ್ಫುರಿತಚಿಕುರೋ ಗೋಪಕನ್ಯಾಭುಜಂಗಃ || ೧೮ ||

ಲೀಲಾಯಾಷ್ಟಿಂ ಕರಕಿಸಲಯೇ ತಕ್ಷಿಣೇ ನ್ಯಸ್ಯ ತನ್ಯಾಂ  
ಅಮ್ಸೇ ತೇವ್ಯಾಃ ಪುಲಕರುಸಿರೇ ಸನ್ನಿವಿಷ್ಟಾನ್ಯಬಾಹುಃ |  
ಮೇಕಲ್ಯಾಮೋ ಜಯತಿ ಲಲಿತೋ ಮೇಕಲಾದತ್ತವೇಣುಃ  
ಗುಂಜಾಪೀಡಸ್ಫುರಿತಚಿಕುರೋ ಗೋಪಕನ್ಯಾಭುಜಂಗಃ || 18 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 19

### JALA KREEDA WATER SPORTS

In preparation for the water play Jala Kreeda, Gopaala tucks his outfit and picks up the water pistol. He approaches a Gopika who is about to step into the water and takes her by surprise. He holds her tight to break her fall and her eyes close. She half opens her eyes and they exchange loving glances. May this Gopaala who plays with the Gopikas and is looked upon by them with love, protect us. He is the medicine for our wordly woes.

*pratyālīdhasthitimadhigatām prāptagādhāṅkapālīm  
paścādīṣanmilitanayanām preyasīm prekṣamāṇaḥ |  
bhastrāyantrapraṇihitakaro bhaktajīvāturavyāt  
vārikṛīḍānibīḍavasano vallavīvallabho naḥ || 19 ||*

ಪ್ರತ್ಯಾಲೀಢಸ್ಥಿತಮಧಿಗತಾಂ ಪ್ರಾಪ್ತಗಾಢಾಂಕಪಾಲಿಂ  
ಪಾಶ್ಚಾದೀಷನ್ಮಿಲಿತನಯನಾಂ ಪ್ರೇಯಸೀಂ ಪ್ರೇಕ್ಷಮಾಣಃ |  
ಭಾಸ್ತ್ರಾಯಂತ್ರಪ್ರಣಿಹಿತಕರೋ ಭಕ್ತಜೀವಾತುರವ್ಯಾತ್  
ವಾರಿಕ್ರೀಡಾನಿಬಿಡವಸನೋ ವಲ್ಲವೀವಲ್ಲಭೋ ನಃ || ೧೯ ||

ಬ್ರತ್ಯಾಲೀಡಸ್ಥಿತಿಮತಿಕತಾಂ ಬ್ರಾಪ್ತಕಾಡಾಂಗಕಪಾಲಿಂ  
ಬಸ್ಕಾಕೀಷನ್ಮಿಲಿತನಯನಾಂ ಬ್ರೇಯಸೀಂ ಬ್ರೇಕ್ಷಮಾಣಃ |  
ಬಸ್ತ್ರಾಯಂತ್ರಪ್ರಣಿಹಿತಕರೋ ಬಕ್ತಜೀವಾತುರವ್ಯಾತ್  
ವಾರಿಕ್ರೀಡಾನಿಬಿಡವಸನೋ ವಲ್ಲವೀವಲ್ಲಭೋ ನಃ || 19 ||





# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 20

### GOPAALA KRISHNA'S PRANK WITH GOPIKAS CLOTHING

Gopaala Krishna is seated high on a Kuntha tree on the banks of river Yamuna. He has caught the gopis breaking the rules and bathing in the river without clothing. So he plays a prank on them and collects their clothes which he places up the tree, inaccessible to them. The gopikas are so involved in their fun in the water that they realise the missing clothes only much later. They spot their clothes on the tree and ask Krishna with folded hands to give them back. Krishna has had his fun and obliges them. May this playful Krishna always be victorious.

*vāso hṛtvā dinakarasutāsannidhau vallavīnām  
līlāsmero jayati lalitāmāsthitaḥ kundaśākhām |  
savrīḍābhistadanu vasane tābhirabhyarthyamāne  
kāmī kaścit karakamalayorañjaliṃ yācamānaḥ || 20 ||*

வாஸோ ஹ்ருத்வா தினகரசுதாஸந்நிதௌ வல்லவீநாம்  
லீலாஸ்மேரோ ஜயதி லலிதாமாஸ்தித: குந்தஸாகாம் |  
ஸவ்ரீடாபிஸ்ததநு வஸநே தாபிரப்யர்த்த்யமானே  
காமீ கச்சித் கரகமலயோரஞ்ஜலிம் யாசமாந: || 20 ||

வாலோ ஹ்ருத்வா தினகரஸுதாஸந்நிதௌ வல்லவீநாம்  
லீலாஸ்மேரோ ஜயதி லலிதாமாஸ்தித: குந்தஸாகாம் |  
ஸவ்ரீடாபிஸ்ததநு வஸநே தாபிரப்யர்த்த்யமானே  
காமீ கச்சித் கரகமலயோரஞ்ஜலிம் யாசமாந: || 20 ||

# GOPAALA VIMSHATI

## SHLOKA 21

### PHALASHRUTHI

This is the phalashruthi shloka that outlines the benefits of reciting this 20-verses stothram. This stothram is composed by Venkatesha\* who knows no other God but Lord Narayana or Krishna. Those who recite this will have the blessings and darshan\* of the Lord of incomparable beauty.

\*Venkatesha: the first name of Sri Vedanta Desika who composed 'Gopaala Vimshati'. He was given this name as he is believed to be the incarnation of the temple bell of Lord Venkateshwara in Thirupathi  
darshan: visual view

*ityananyamanasā vinirmītāṃ  
veṅkaṭeśakavinā stutiṃ paṭhan |  
divyaveṇurasikaṃ samīkṣate  
daivatam kimapi yauvatapriyam || 21 ||*

ಇತ್ಯನನ್ಯಮನಸಾ ವಿನಿರ್ಮಿತಾಂ  
ವೇಂಕಟೇಶಕವಿನಾ ಸ್ತುತಿಂ ಪಠನ್ |  
ದಿವ್ಯವೇಣುರಸಿಕಂ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷತೇ  
ದೈವತಂ ಕಿಮಪಿ ಯೌವತಪ್ರಿಯಂ || ೨೧ ||

ಇತ್ಯನನ್ಯಮನಸಾ ವಿನಿರ್ಮಿತಾಂ  
ವೇಂಕಟೇಶಕವಿನಾ ಸ್ತುತಿಂ ಪಠನ್ |  
ದಿವ್ಯವೇಣುರಸಿಕಂ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷತೇ  
ದೈವತಂ ಕಿಮಪಿ ಯೌವತಪ್ರಿಯಂ || ೨೧ ||



# AUTHOR'S NOTE

My sincere salutations to my ancient scriptures teacher, Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.

This is my seventh book in 'The Scripture Peek with Shobha' series. It has been my passion project to bring out @scripturepeek, a series of illustrations by me accompanied by meanings of some of my favourite excerpts from the scriptures I study.

I have spent 30 years post my PhD, working in the field of molecular biology across the USA, UK and India, and have always been very immersed in my work life. But one of the most enjoyable pursuits that I engaged in after I retired was to begin to understand our ancient scriptures and the saints who wrote them. If there is one defining thing about myself, it is that I have made many different places my home during my life: my childhood in Africa and India, my young adulthood in Europe and North America. This has given me a unique perspective on the way I view my own culture, and how others do as well.

I am immensely grateful to my daughter Madhuvanathi Mohan (an illustrator who founded @somethingsketchy and also runs an illustrators' group called @thesketchup) for making this dream come true. She took it upon herself to equip me with all that was required to translate my thoughts into visual and copy: self confidence, an iPad, focused tutorials on using creative apps and hand-holding when needed. She 'transformed' me, taking me up a sharp learning curve to let me take the quantum leap from paper to digital. She designs the beautiful cover pages and is the Editor of my books ensuring that the language and illustrations are appropriate for the new generation.

I am thankful for all of the information available by scholars such as Sri Sadagopan of Oppiliappan Temple and Sri Sarathy Thothathri of koyil.org on the internet and applaud the efforts of the creators of prapatti.com from where I have sourced the shlokas in different languages.

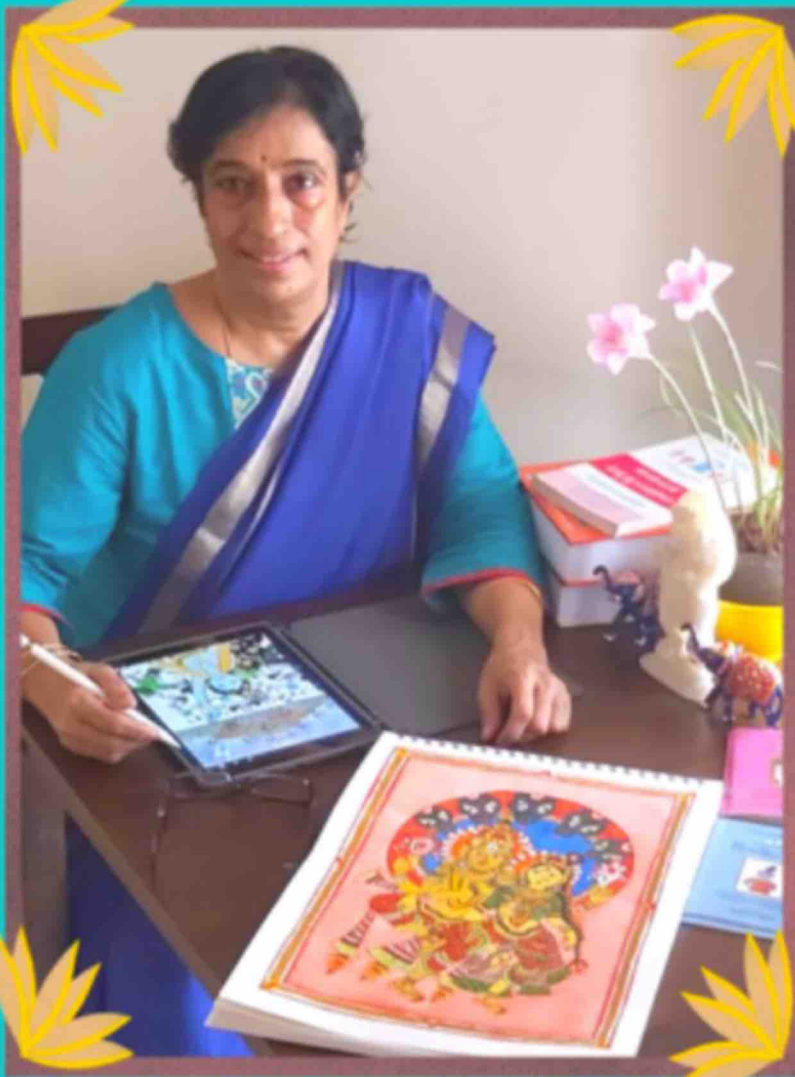
Hope you enjoyed reading the book and spotted a cow in every illustration.

Shobha Char

Fb/insta: @scripturepeek

# HAS SCRIPTURE PEEK MADE YOU A SCRIPTURE FREAK?

CHECK OUT THE OTHER BOOKS IN THE SERIES.



1. THOUSAND ELEPHANTS  
(VAARANAM AYIRAM)- ANDAL

2. GEM ROCK (MANIKKAM KATTI)-  
PERIYALWAR

3. THE SOUNDS OF VICTORY  
(AZHIYEZHA)- NAMMALWAR

4. FLOWERS FOR LITTLE KRISHNA (ANIRAI  
POOSHOTAL)- PERIYALWAR

5. I MISS YOU, KRISHNA  
(KARKKODAL POOKKAL)- ANDAL

6. KRISHNA BECKONS THE MOON (THAN  
MUGATHTHU-AMBULIPARUVAM)-  
PERIYALWAR

7. KRISHNA THE COWHERD BOY (GOPAALA  
VIMSHATI) - SRI VEDANTA DESHIKA

## STAY IN TOUCH!

INSTA/FB @SCRIPTUREPEEK  
SHOBHAVCHAR@GMAIL.COM





The background is a vibrant teal color, decorated with numerous colorful thread spools in shades of pink, purple, yellow, and green, and clusters of pink hearts. A central white box with a black border contains the main text. The text is arranged in two paragraphs, with the first paragraph in a larger font size than the second. The title 'SCRIPTURE PEEK WITH SHOBHA' is written in a stylized font inside a speech bubble shape at the top center.

SCRIPTURE PEEK  
WITH SHOBHA

THIS BOOK FEATURES 20 BEAUTIFUL  
SHLOKAS COMPOSED BY  
SRI VEDANTA DESIKA IN THE  
STOTHRAM  
GOPAALA VIMSHATI.

THIS IS ACCOMPANIED BY MEANINGS  
AND UNIQUE ILLUSTRATIONS CREATED  
BY SHOBHA CHAR.