

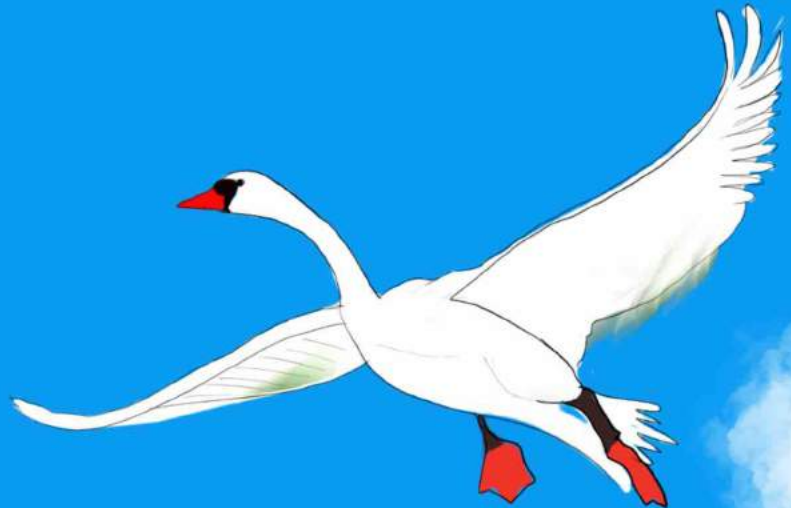
SCRIPTURE PEEK  
WITH SHOBHA



**THE SWAN MESSENGER**

**HAMSA SANDESHA**  
**VOLUME I**  
**BY**  
**SRI VEDANTA DESIKA**

SHOBHA CHAR  
GURU SMT YAMUNA RAMAPRIYA'S  
GIRINAGAR ANDAL GHOSHTI  
MENTOR: SWAMY DR V SADAGOPAN



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Oppiliappan Koil Sri Varadachari Sadagopan Swamy  
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# THE SWAN MESSENGER

## HAMSA SANDESHA VOLUME I

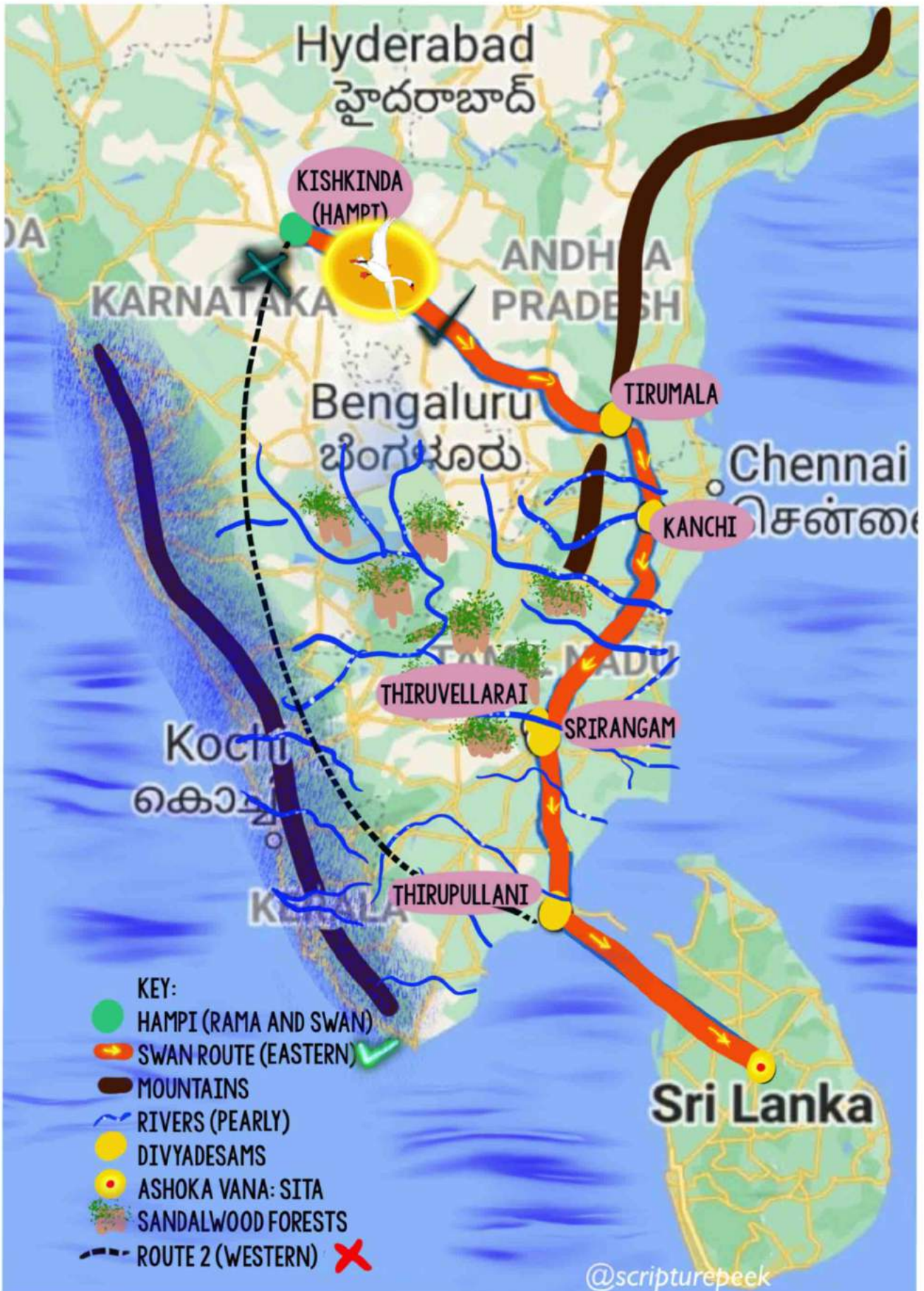
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# HAMSA SANDESHA

VOLUME I



# HAMSA SANDESHA

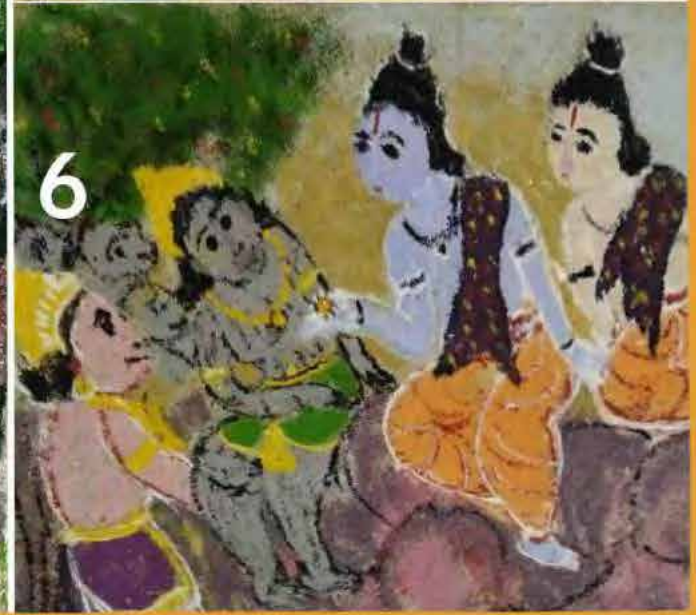
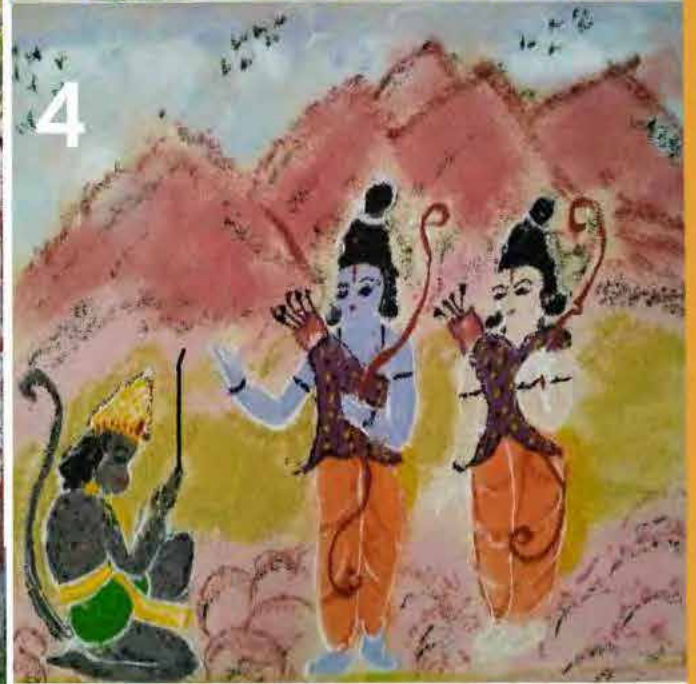
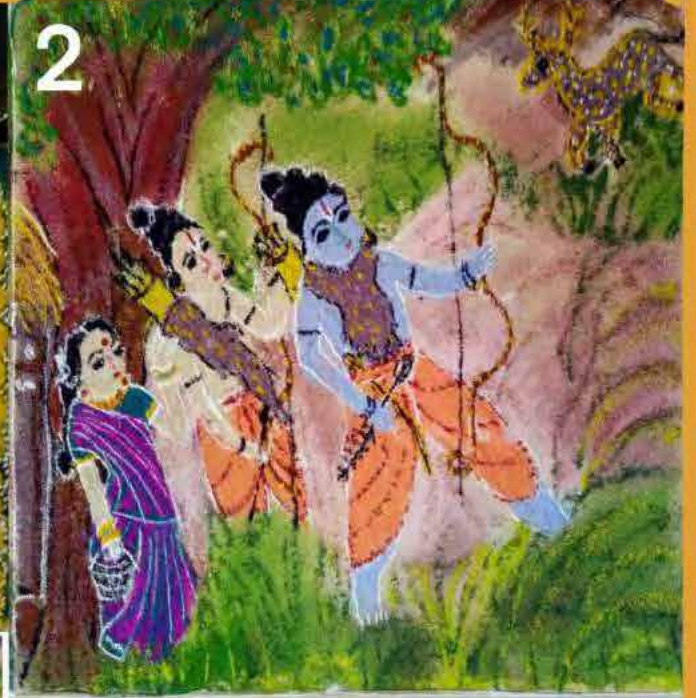
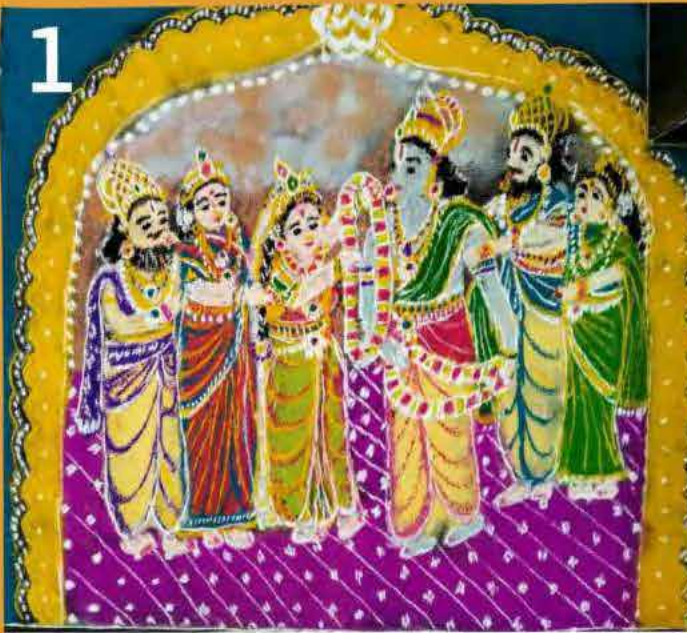
Hamsa Sandesha is a 13th century Sanskrit Kavyam or poem of 110 shlokas in two volumes of 60 and 50 shlokas. The Kavyam is a side story of the epic Ramayana as imagined by the author Sri Vedanta Desika. Rama is distraught at being unable to unite with his beloved Sita soon enough to end her anguish. The sight of an energetic swan Rajahamsa offers him an opportunity to send a few words of love and comfort to her through the swan messenger. In volume 1 of this Kavyam, Rama enlists the help of Rajahamsa and explains to him the detailed route (illustration on previous page), landmarks, safety precautions, temples to visit and comfort stops from Kishkinda to Lanka. In volume 2 Rajahamsa successfully completes his mission by delivering Rama's message to Sita.

Sri Vedanta Desika (1268-1369 CE) is a celebrated Sri Vaishnava Acharya or spiritual teacher, who is called the lion among poets. A respected philosopher, poet, debater, an expert in logic, mathematics, food science, linguistics, geography, 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 (a mix of Sanskrit and Tamil). He chose to live a very simple and humble life with his wife. He was a great influencer in his times.

I learnt this Kavyam from Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya. You can see her beautiful rangoli art of the Lord in some of the illustrations. I enjoyed reading Oppiliappan Koil Dr Varadachari Sadagopan's nectarine commentary in three volumes, multiple times. This treasure is available in [Sadagopan.org](http://Sadagopan.org).

Hope you enjoy this book which is an easy read of this great work told in my style with illustrations.

*Salutations to my Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya, Swamy Dr V. Sadagopan, Swamy Sri Vedanta Desika, Acharyas, Alwars and Lord Sri Man Narayana*



# HAMSA SANDESHA

## Volume I SHLOKA I

The Lord incarnated as Sri Rama, a prince, who adhered to all the human dharmas. He married Sita (panel 1) and exiled to the forest with her and brother Lakshmana for 14 years to honour his father's promise to stepmother Kaikeyi (panel 2). The demon King Ravana abducted Sita from the forest and took her away to his Kingdom Lanka (panel 3). Rama sent capable messenger Hanuman, to search for Sita (panel 4). Hanuman found Sita in Asokavana and comforted her with Rama's message (panel 5). Hanuman returned to convey the good news to Rama (panel 6). Upon hearing the news, Rama is very eager to be united with Sita and spends a long sleepless night thinking of her.

*Note: The six panels of color rangoli art in this illustration is part of a 20-panel 'Ramayana in Rangoli' created by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*

*vamSe jAta: savitu: anaghe mAnayan mAnushatvam deva:  
SrlmAn janaka tanaya anveshaNe jAgarUka: I  
pratyAyAte pavanatanaye niScit Artha: sa kAml  
kalpAkArAm kathamapi niSAm AvibhAtam vishehe ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume 1

## SHLOKA 2 & 3

Heavy hearted Rama wakes up early, having decided to lead Sugriva's monkey-army to Lanka and rescue Sita as soon as possible. At the lotus pond near his camp, he spots a beautiful swan, Rajahamsa. The joyous gait of the swan and his brightness like that of a full moon reminds him of Sita. He was love-struck, perhaps the fish-flag bearing God of love Manmatha must have passed by! As the sweet voice of the swan fills the air, Rama thinks of the jingling bells on Sita's anklets. Oh, he truly misses her!

*kAlye senAm kapikulapate: tUrNam udyojayishyan  
dUrbhAvAt janakaduhitu: dUyamAnA antarATmA |  
krIDAkhelam kamalasarasi kvApi kAlopay Atam  
rAKA candra dyuti sahacaram rAjahamsam dadarSa ||*

*tasmin sltAgatim anugate tAddukulAnkamUrtau  
tat manjlra pratima ninade nyasta nishpanda drsh Ti: |  
vlra: cetovilayam agamat tanmay AtmA muhUrtam  
Sanke tlvrAm bhavati samaye Sasonam mlnaketa: ||*



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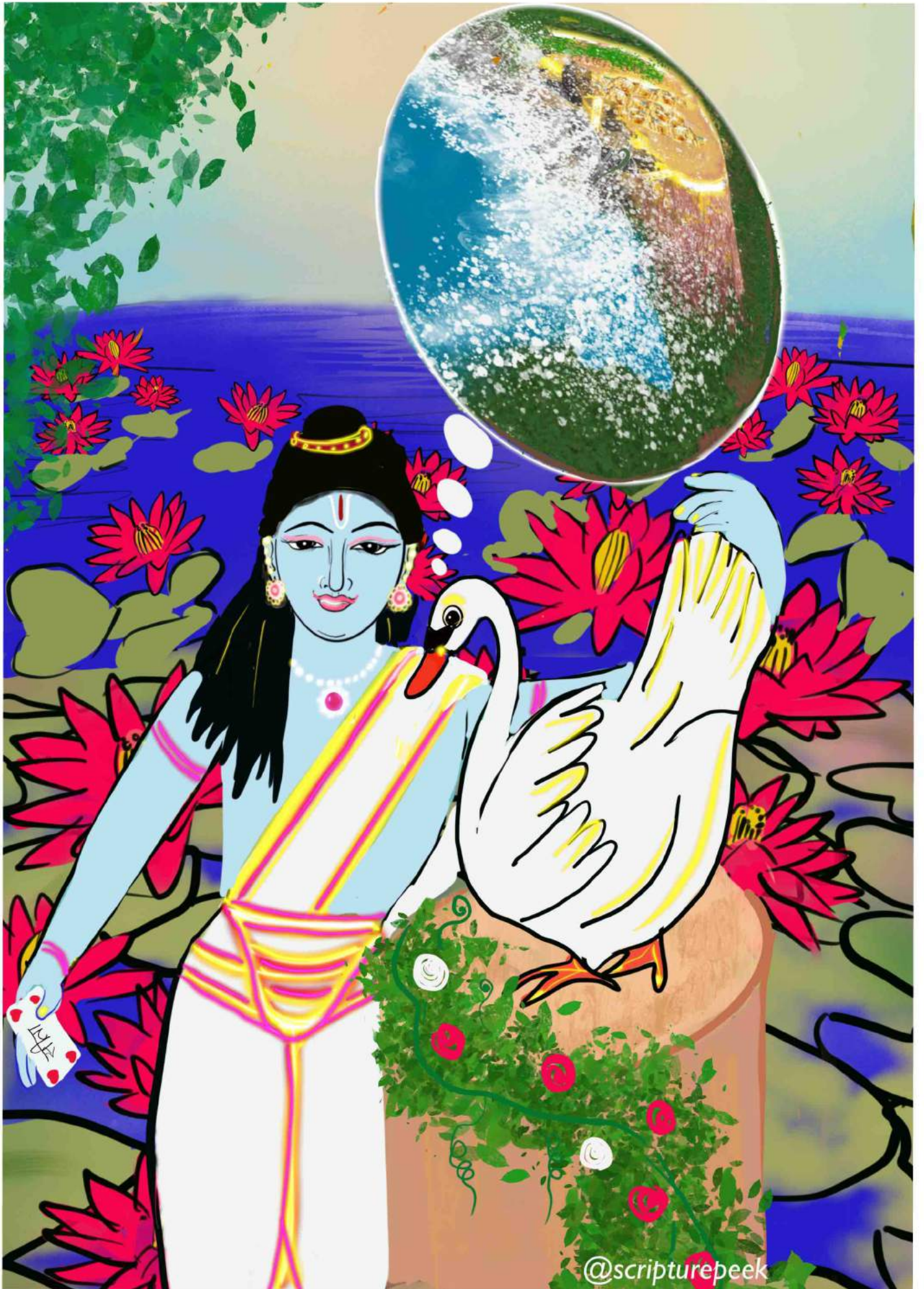
# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKAS 4, 5 & 6

Lakshmana consoles Rama. Love-struck Rama sees an opportunity to send his message of love, hope and comfort to Sita with Rajahamsa. For one in love, even inanimate clouds, mountains or trees appear as suitable messengers. Rama offers his praises to Rajahamsa, 'Oh Swan you are very special! The sages hold you in high reverence as you are the chosen transport of creator Brahma who enjoys an exalted position on the lotus emerging from the Lord's navel. In addition, Brahma's divine consort Saraswathi has imparted her melodious voice and pure white blemishless hue to you. You are bestowed with the privilege of being born in the divine Hamsa\* lineage as the Lord chose Hamsa avataram\* to impart the knowledge of the Vedas to Brahma. You are truly a blessed soul! \*hamsa: swan, avataram: incarnation.

*labdhASvAsa kathamapi tadA lakshmaNasya agrajanmA  
sande Sena praNayamahat A maithillm jlvayishyan |  
cakre tasmai sarasijadalai: sopacArAm saparyAm  
kAntA ASleshAt adhikasubhaga: kAminAm dUtalAbha: ||  
krtvA tasmin bahumatimasau bhUyaslm Anjaney At  
gADha unmAda praNaya padavim prApa vArtA anabhij-ne: |  
viSlesheNa kshupitamanasAm meghaSailadruma Adau  
yAc-nA dainyam bahavti kimuta kvA api samvedanArhe ||  
veda udanvat vibhajana vida: vamSajam viSvamUrte:  
Ahu: siddhA: kamalavasate: aupavAhyam bhavantam |  
labdham yena praguNa gatinA tatpriyAyA: sa AK  
tat sAvarNyam SravaNa rasanA AsvAda yogyA sudhA ca ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKAS 7& 8

Rama requests Rajahamsa to be his messenger and briefs him about what it entails. 'Oh Rajahamsa, you are lucky to have a divine birth such as a swan rather than an ordinary human. Didn't the creator of the universe, Brahma, offer his help to Shiva as his charioteer during 'Tripura Samharam'\* in spite of his lofty position? I belong to the prestigious 'ikshvaku' lineage of Kings who were valorous and transformed anything inauspicious to auspicious by the power bestowed upon them. Knowing my state at this juncture, I know you will help take this message to my wife Sita in Lanka. Lanka is situated on the top of the three-peak Trikutam mountain and is in the middle of the ocean. You may miss it during high tide as the waves may hide it from you. Lanka is very well defended and can only be breached by you, Rajahamsa, as you can navigate both the ocean and sky!

\*vanquishing three evil beings

*madhye kecit vayam iha sakhel kevalam mAnushANAm  
vyakta utkarsha: mahati bhuvane vyomagAnAm patistvam |  
sthAne dutyam tadapi bhavata samSrita trANa heto:  
viSvasrash TA vidhi: api yata: sArathitvena tasthau |  
icchAmAtrAt jagat aparadhA samvidhAtum kshamANAm  
ikshvAKUNAm prakrti mahat Am IdrSlm prekshya velAm |  
lakshy Alakshye jaladhi payas A labdha samsthAm triku Te  
lankAm gantum tava samucitam rAkshaslm rAjodhAnlm ||*



# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 9

Rama tells Rajahamsa that his southward flight route to Lanka is beautiful and filled with divine divyadesams where he could stop, pray and refresh. There are many fragrant sandalwood forests enroute and the gentle breeze would make his flight pleasant. The lakes and rivers are filled with shiny fresh water pearls. Rama requests Hamsa to kindly put up with the only negative aspect that Lanka is the land of demons or rakshasas.

*sthAnai: divyai: upacita guNAm candana araNya ramyAm  
mukt AsUtim malayamarutAm mAtaram dakshiNASAm |  
asmat prltyai janaka tanayA jlvat Artham ca gacchan  
ekam raksha: padam iti sakhel doshale Sam sahethA: ||*





# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 10

Rama draws attention to some amusing incidents that Rajahamsa might witness enroute. The peacocks have a screechy call. In the absence of the melodious calls from swans that migrate northwards to Manasa Sarovar, the peacocks strut about screeching like ignorant poets ruling the roost. Upon return of the swans or learned poets, the peacocks recede and remain quiet.

*vAcAIAnAm iva jabadhiyAm satkavau d'Ura yAte  
kailAsAya tvayi gatavati kshlbat Am ASritAnAm |  
sammodaste pathi pariNamet candrakai: ujjitAnAm  
meghApAye vipina SikhinAm vlkshya vAcamyamatvam ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA II

Rama says 'Rajahamsa, the wind has assured us of his best service to make your long flight pleasant. He will collect the fresh nectar from the bed of beautiful red lotuses in ponds below and playfully swirl around the night blooming flowers collecting their fragrance and coolness. The wind will then enter the forests, shed the pollen packs on the mada-jalam'\* of the wild elephants, collect that moisture and bring this refreshing breeze to you. With the various components in the breeze competing with each other to spread their goodness, you will feel very energised'.

*\*liquid exuded from the temples of a sexually excited elephant.*

*AraktAnAm navamadhu Sanair Apiban padminInAm  
kAlonnidre kuvalayavane ghUrNam Ana: sallam |  
svinno dAnair vipina kariNAm saumya sevishyate tvAm  
AmodAnAm ahamahmikAm Adi San gandhavAha: ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 12

Rama says 'Rajahamsa, be prepared to enjoy the experience of a change in your looks. As you fly over the hibiscus groves you will see the bright red flowers that are blooming in unison and great abundance. The red dust from the flowers will color your pure white feathers and make you look like the crescent moon on Shiva's head. The red color from Parvathi's feet, as he rests on her lap, mixes with the white foam of the rapidly flowing river Ganges. So the crescent moon on his head glows like the full moon with a mix of red and white. Enjoy the change as you fly over this part of the South. What a great sight!'

*ṡary Aptam te ṡavanacalita: angarAgam ṡar Agai:  
sthAne kuryu: samasamuday At bandhavo bandhujlVA: |  
yena anveshyasi acalatanayA ṡAdal Aksha anushaktam.  
cUDAcandram ṡuravijayina: svarNadl phenapUrNam ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 13

Rama continues 'Rajahamsa, the wind will create yet another enjoyable experience for you. As you fly through the clouds, the wind will push the summer clouds behind you. The clouds will form an umbrella over you and the sun beams piercing through the clouds will look like spokes of the umbrella. Light summer showers passing by will cool you and reduce your fatigue. They will also create cute bright colorful rainbow tassels dangling at the ends of the cloud umbrella spokes. What a beautiful sight!'

*sUkshma AkArai: dina karakarai: kalpit Anta: SaAKA:  
SAropAntA: Satamakha dhanu: Sesha citra amSukena |  
UDhA: paScAt ucitagatinA vAyunA rAjahamsa:  
chatrAyeran nabhasi bhavata: SARadA vArivAhA: ||*





# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 14

Rama says 'Rajahamsa, after the long flight with new experiences, comfort stops and visits to divine places you will reach Lanka and meet Sita. You will like meeting her as she is kind and friendly. She is a special person as she was found by King Janaka when he was consecrating the land with a plough for a sacred ritual. Right now she is very sad but holding on to life with the hope of uniting with me soon. You will surely be blessed to see a pativrataï\* like her.

\*loyal wife

*drakshyasi evam priyasakha sukham langhitAdhvA sakhIm te  
sltAm kshetre janakanrpate: utthitAm slrakesh Te |  
gopAyantI tanumapi nijAm yA kathancit madartham  
bhUmau loke vahati mahatIm ekapatnI samAkhyAm ||*



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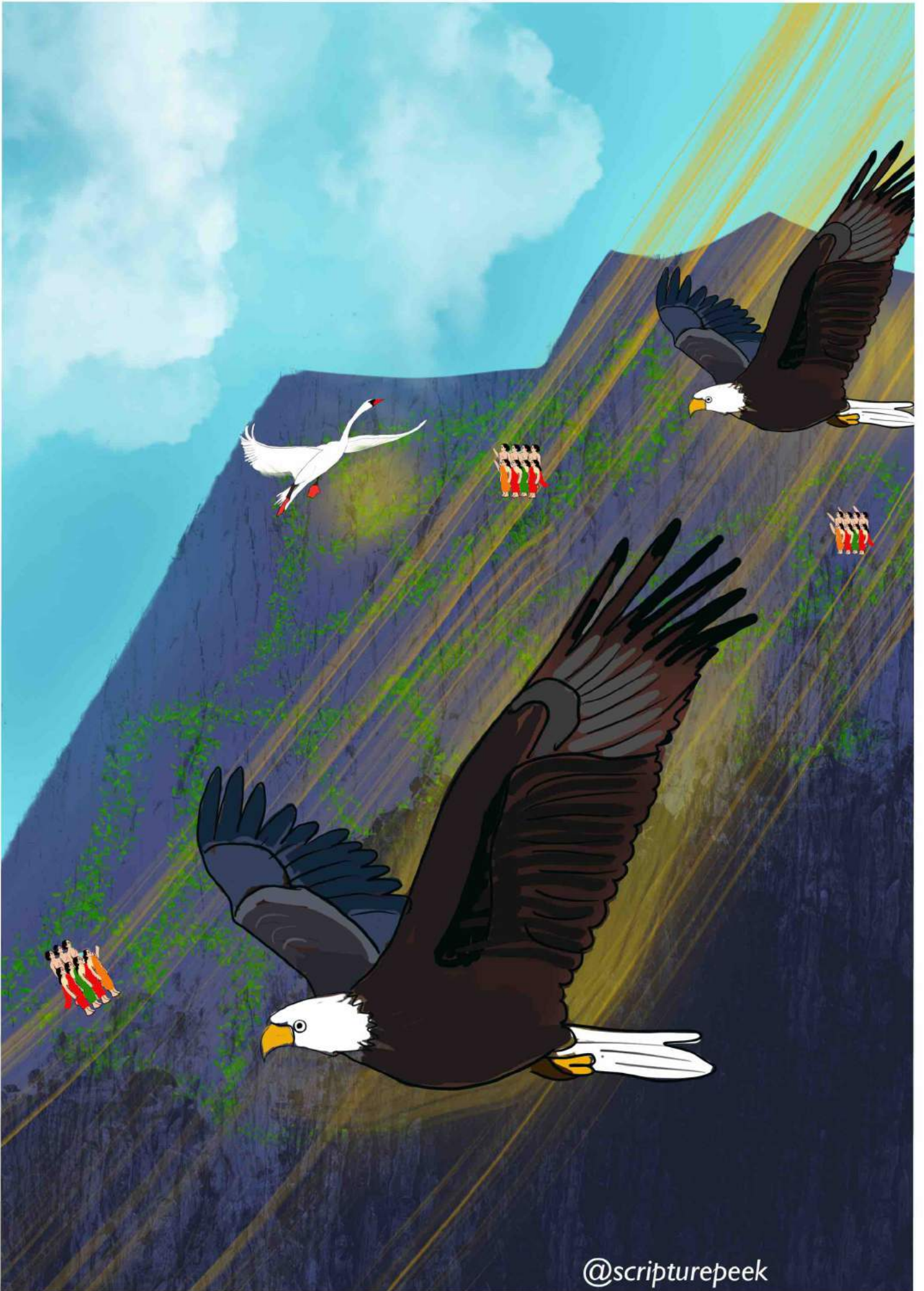
# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 15

Rama says 'Rajahamsa, I know you will have concerns as this task will take you away from your loved one, the Lotus. You have just returned from far away Manasa Sarovar after a long separation during our rainy season here. Please go and take her permission to go on this mission. You can explain to her the situation, the suffering of Sita and assure her of a quick return. She will respond to you in the voice of the bee which will be music to our ears. I think she will respond positively as Sita is her good friend and they enjoy a feeling of sisterhood. They are noble women and care for each other's happiness'.

*prakshINAm tvat virahasamaye jAtaharshAm idAnIm  
pratyAyAsyan anunaya Sanai: padminIm svAduvACA |  
sA te tantri svanasubhagayA syAt iti iha abhyanuj-nAm  
manye kuryAt madhukaragira maithill saurdena ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 16

Having sought his beloved's permission, Rajahamsa takes off from the lotus pond, on the first part of his mission to reach Lanka. He sees many mountains which is home to the hunters tribe. As they see him fly across during the day, they mistake him for the moon and come out to check. Rajahamsa is careful not to get distracted by them. He thinks of safety first and keeps a low profile. When there are strong-winged and bigger birds on his path he gives way to them.' Rama had cautioned him to do so.

*sArdham kAntai: Sabara sudrSAm adri kunceshu rAgAt  
AsInAnAm kshaNam asamaye drSya candrodayaSri: |  
uDDIyethA: sarasijavanAt dakshiNA ASA anusAri  
paSyAn dUrAt prabalagarutAm pakshiNAM dattavartmA ||*



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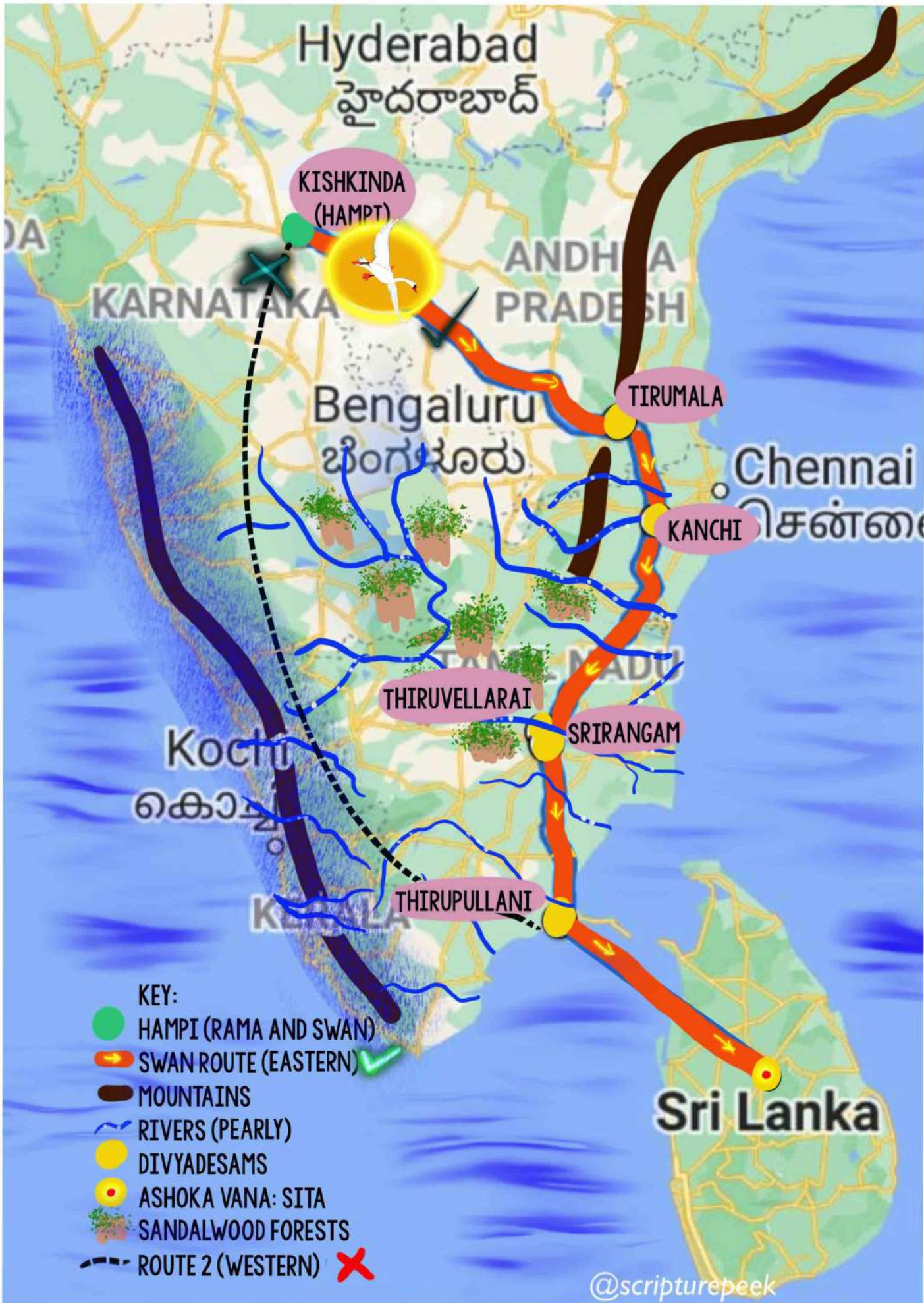
# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 17

Rajahamsa is now flying over the very famous blue mountain Maalyavaan. He looks far more attractive than the moon who resembles him. You can see that from his stunning image cast on the sapphire-studded blue mountain as he joyously glides in the sky. It is said that the moon was born from the mind of Lord Narayana. Rajahamsa's stunning image on the gem-studded mountain that looks like Lord Narayana would seem to depict this.

*angl kurvan amrtarucirAm utpatishNo: sallam  
chAyAm antastava maNimaya: mAlyavAn esha Saila: |  
SobhAm vakshyati adhika lalitAm SobhamAnAm atlindo:  
devasyA Ade: upajanayato mAnasAi indu bimbam ||*





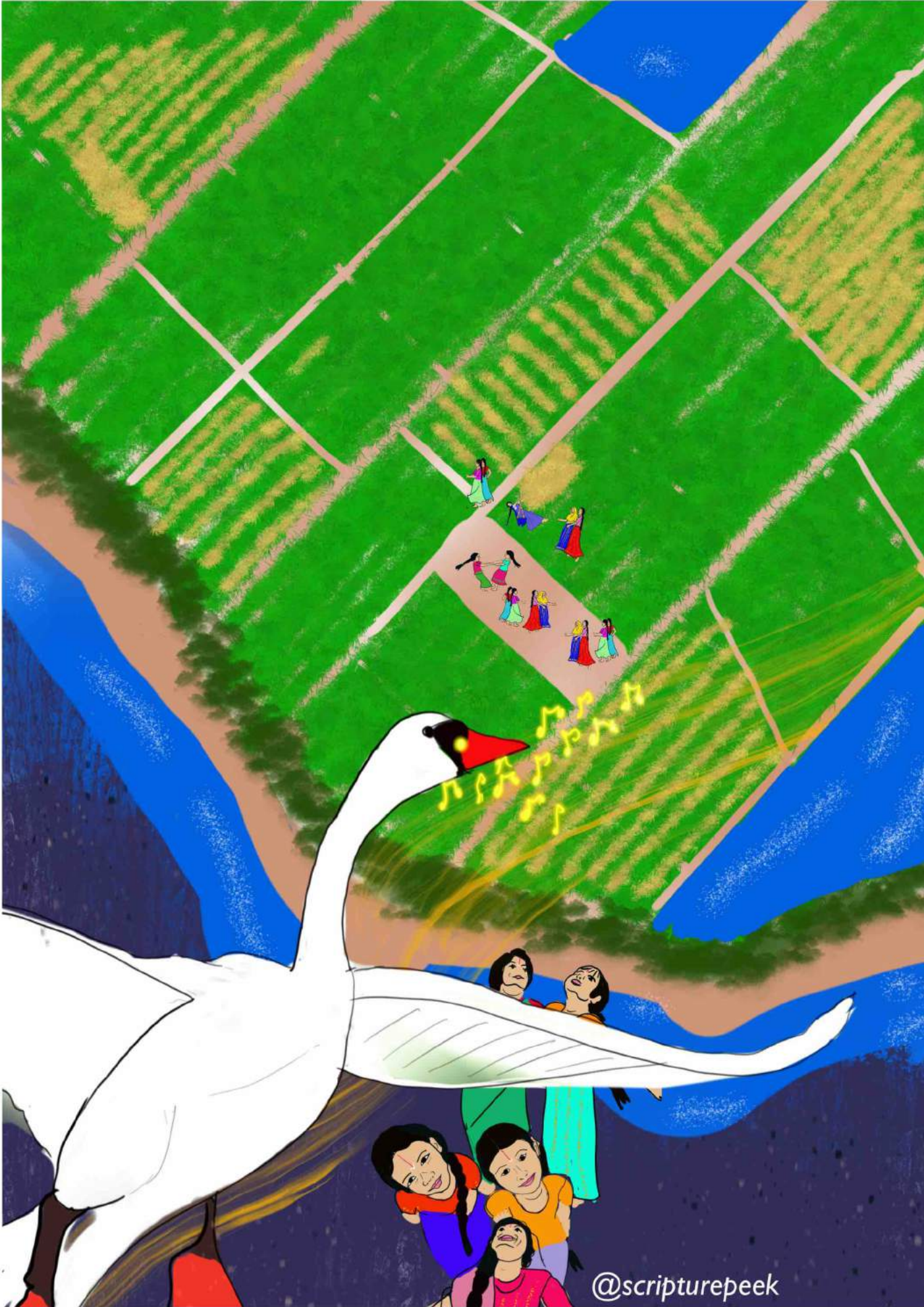
# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 18

Rajahamsa recollects Rama's words to him 'Rajahamsa, Hanuman who has flown to Lanka before has told me about two routes: the western route and the eastern route. The western route is beautiful to experience and is shorter but that region is full of rains and not appropriate for your flight. Hanuman recommends the eastern route. There are many wondrous things to see on this route and easy to be distracted. So will need to exercise caution and stop only at some prime places and of course to rest and recharge, my dear.' So Rajahamsa is on the eastern route.

*mArgau samyak mama hanumataA varNitau dvau tayoste  
sahyAsanna: api anati subhaga: paScimonyavarsha: |  
prAcIne tu pratijanapadam samhatau adbhutAnAm  
magnA drshTi: kathamapi sakhe matkrte te nivAryA ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKAS 19 & 20

Rajahamsa, witnesses amusing scenes on his flight that keeps him in a pleasant state of mind. Rajahamsa loves singing when he flies and he has a melodious voice. So young curious children rush out to see the bearer of the sweet voice. Rajahamsa enjoys seeing their expression of excitement when they see him in the sky. As he passes the border of Karnataka and Andhra he sees beautiful and bountiful stretches of sugarcane fields. Young girls in the region are usually assigned the task of tending to the field and he sees them resting on beds of leaves and excitedly chatting in a strange mix of two languages Kannada and Telugu. Quite often their talk centres around their love-life.'

*SrutvA Sabdam SravaNamadhuram tAvakam pAmarINAm  
pratyAsannAt sapadi bhavanAt sAdaram nirgatAnAm |  
abhrUbhange api adhikasubhagai: niScitAnga: kaTAKshai:  
deSAn etAn vanagiri nadI samvibhaktAn vyatlyA: ||*

*ikshucchAye kisalayamayam talpam AtasthushINAm  
sallApai: tai: mudita manasAm SAlI samrakshikANAm |  
karNATa Andhra vyatikara vaSAt karbure gItibhede  
muhyantInAm madanakalusham maugdhyam AsvAdayethA: ||*



Govinda!  
Govinda!

THIRUMALA

# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 21 & 22

As Rajahamsa continues his flight southwards after crossing the border region, a beautiful hill Thirumala comes into view. It is also called Seshadri Giri as it is believed to be Adisesha himself. Adisesha is a hooded snake with gems on his heads and is the trusted help of Lord Narayana who resides on the hill. Lord Narayana has a huge following and is called by many names Govinda, Balaji, Srinivasa, Venkateshwara, Thiruvengada mudaiyan and so on. His reputation as a quick granter of boons make his devotees throng here. Humans climb up the hill to worship Him. Celestials descend down from Sri Vaikuntam to offer their services. Once here, everybody loses their *rajo* and *tamo gunas*\* and their *saattvika*\* *guna* takes over. Everyone is considered equal and those of high and low status mingle together in a single ghoshti or group. They offer prayers or service, *yatha shakti*, or in tune with their capabilities. Rajahamsa joins them and offers his prayers to Srinivasa.'

\**rajo* and *tamo gunas*: undesirable traits, *saattvika guna*: desirable trait

*vishNor-vAsAt avanivahanAt baddharatnai: Sirobhi:  
Sesha: sAkshAt ayam iti janai: samyak unnlyamAna: |  
Abhrai: yukta: laghubhi: acirAnmukta nirmoka kalpai:  
agre bhAvI tadanu nayane ranjayan anjanAdri: ||  
tatrArUDhai: mahati manujai: svargibhi: ca avatIrNai:  
satvonmeshAt vyapagatamitha: tAratamyAdi bhedai: |  
sAdhAraNyAt phalapariNate: sanghaSo badhyamAnam  
SaktyA kAmam madhuvijayina: tvam ca kuryA: saparyAm ||*

Note: Lord Srinivasa color rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 23

Very close to Thirumala is a river called Kanaka or Swarna mukhari. As it's summer the water in the river dries up leaving tiny sand islands that look inviting to rest on. Rajahamsa decides to freshen up and rest here for a while. He watches the busy waves gather flowers from the groves on the bank and hand it to Shiva who loves to offer flowers to Lord Srinivasa.

*Stoka unmagna sphuritapuLinAm tvat nivAsa icchayA iva  
drakshyasyi ArAt kanakamukharIm dakshiNAM anjanAdre: |  
AsannAnAm vanaviTapinAm vlchastai: prasUnAni  
arcAheto: upaharati yA nUnam ardha indu mauLe: ||*

*Note: Lord Srinivasa color rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*





# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 24 & 25

Rama says 'Rajahamsa, as you wing your way southwards please donot sing as you may attract the attention of hunters or people who may want to have you as a pet. Keep cruising over cloud cover and head towards Satya Vrata Kshetram. This is sacred land and you must spend some time in the Kshetram. The Lord played the role of a dam to hold back and calm the raging Vegavati/Saraswathi river who was expressing her anger over her husband Brahma. He was all set to perform a sacred ritual in Hastigiri even after she refused to join him.'

*nirviSyanAm nibhrtam-anabhivyakta-manju-praNAda:  
mandAdhUta: puLina pavanai: vanjuLa Amodagarbhai: |  
avyAsanga: sapadi padavIm samSrayAnyai: alanghya:  
bandIkuryus-taTa vasatayo mA bhavantam kirAtA: ||*

*tuNDIrAkhyam tadanu mahitam maNDalam vlkshamANa:  
kshetram yAyA: kshapita duritam tatra satyavratAkhyAm |  
patyau roshAt salila vapusho yatra vAgdevatAyA:  
setu: jag~ne sakala jagatAm ekasetu: sa deva: ||*



# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 26

Rajahamsa is in Satya Vrata Kshetram and is headed to a city called Kanchi which is like a shining jewel of Mother Earth. It's a city where divine music can be heard all day. The city is under the caring eyes of Lord Varadaraja or Perarulalan whose abode is on top of the sacred Hastigiri hill. He is untouched by hunger-thirst, sorrow-delusion, old age-death and is the protector of Kanchi and the entire universe. Rajahamsa is all set to enjoy spending time in this divine city.

*nAnAratnai: upacita guNAm nitya sanglta nAdAm  
bhUme: drakshyasi ucita vibhavam bhUshaNam tatra kAnclm |  
yasyAm nityam nihita nayana: hastiSailAdhivAsl  
dvandvAtlta: sa khalu purusho drSyate satyakAma: ||*



# HAMSA SANDESHA

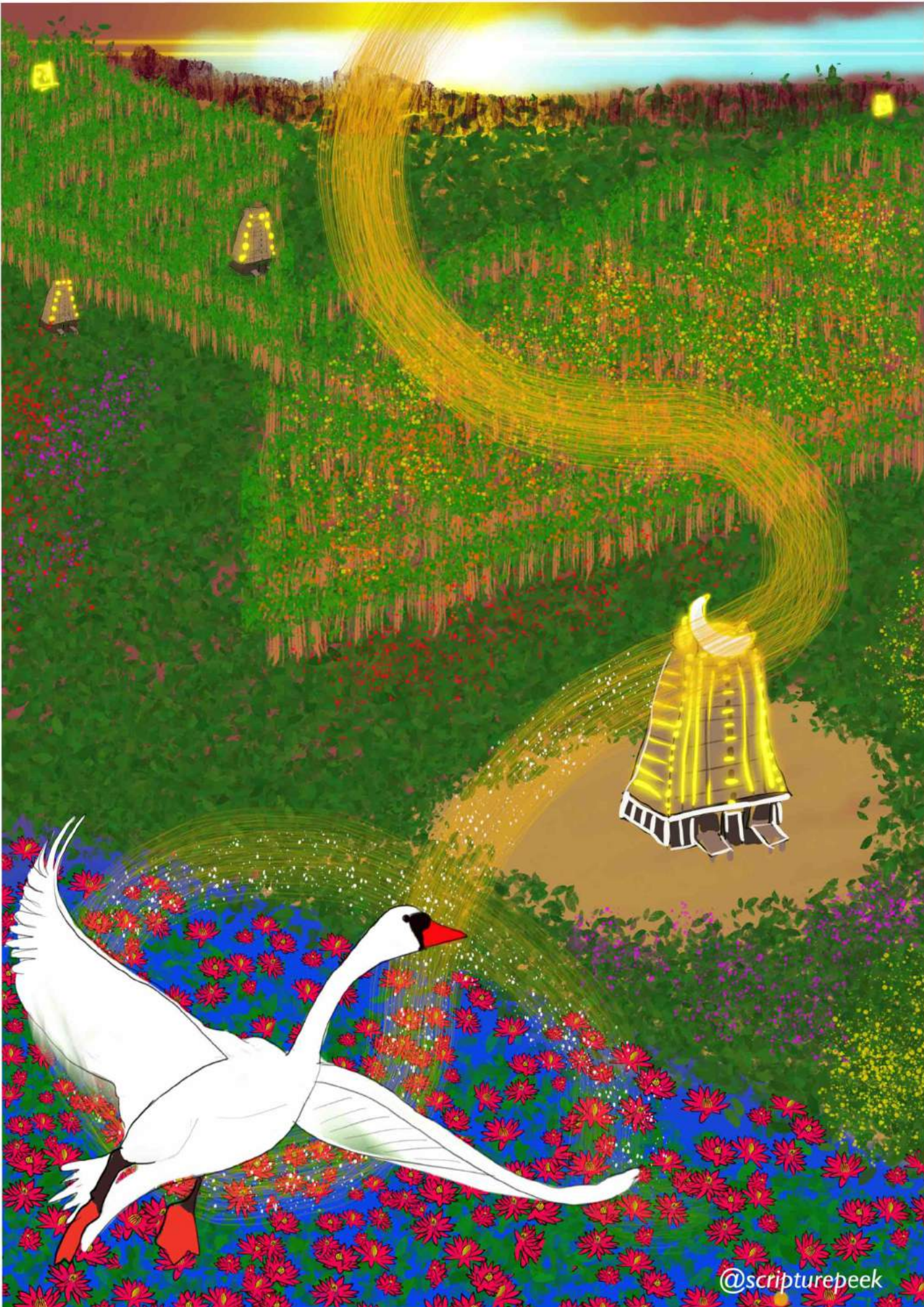
Volume I

## SHLOKA 27

The city of Kanchi was envisaged by Brahma and constructed in ancient times by the celestial architect Visvakarma. Lord Varadaraja travels on the beautiful wide streets of this city in one of his many vehicles: eagle Garuda, horse or his favourite serpent Adishesha. He blesses the people of the city and the celestials. They bend their heads in reverence and consider the dust raised by his vehicle as sacred. Rajahamsa too offers his obeisances to the Lord and seeks his blessings.

*tAmAsIdan praNama nagarIm bhakti namreNa mUrdhna  
jAtAmAdau krtayugamukhe dhAtu: icchA vaSena |  
yat vlthInAm karigiripate: vAhavegAvadhUtAn  
dhanyAn reNUn tridaSapataya: dhArayanti uttamAngai: ||*

*Note: The Lord Varadaraja rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*



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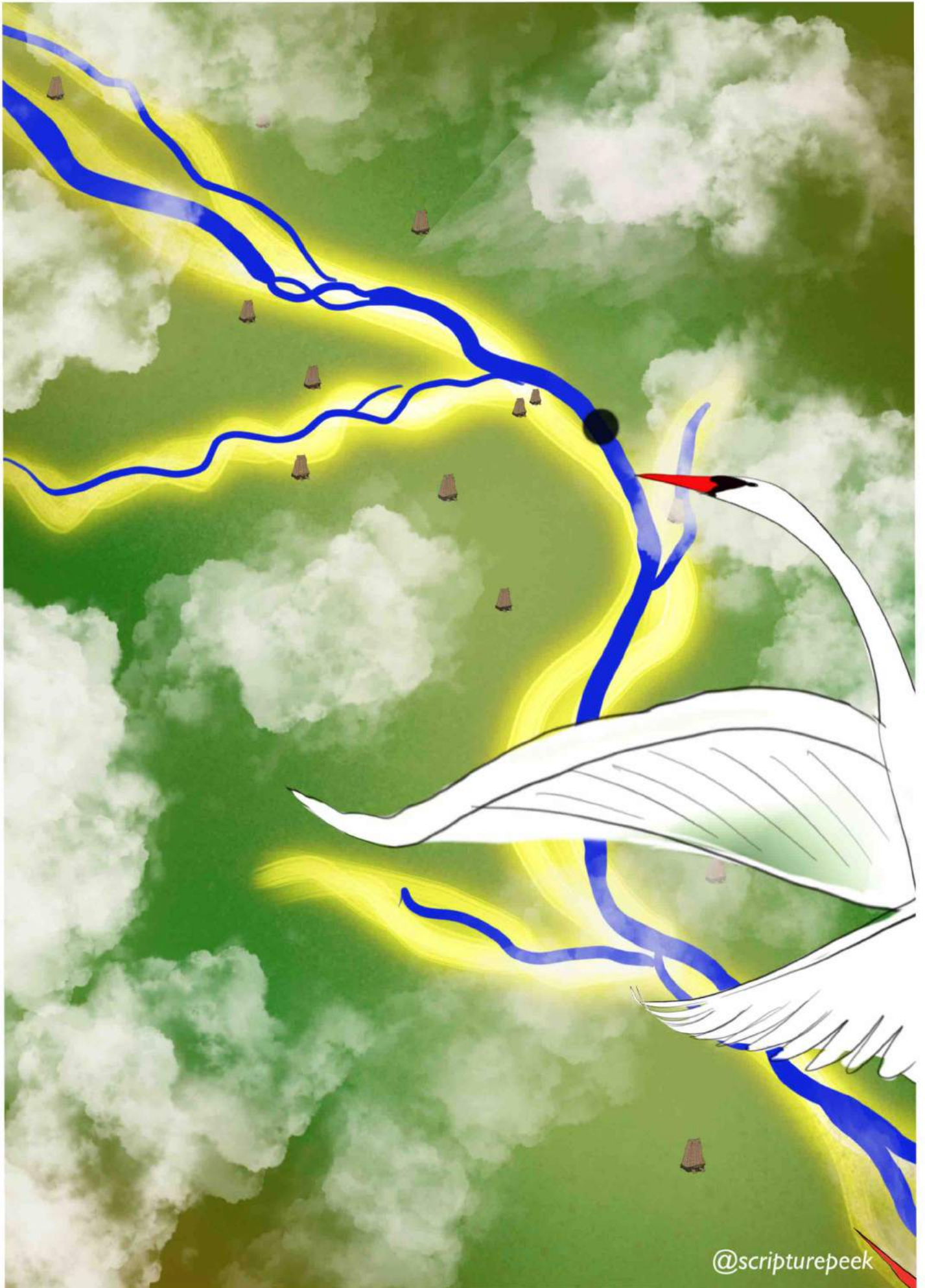
# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 28

While in Kanchi, Rajahamsa is visited by a long lost friend, the breeze! Breeze carries the fragrance of mango from the nearby groves. It is cool as it gathers snow while blowing over the crescent moon on Shivas head at Ekambareswarar temple. It also has the sweet scent of the lotus flowers in Kampai river. Rajahamsa enjoys meeting this friend.

*mandAdhUtAt tadanu mahito nissrta: cUta shaNDAt  
pArSve tasyA: paSupati SiraScandra nlhAravAhl |  
dUrAt prAptam priyasakhamiva tvAm upaishyati avaSyam  
kampApAtha: kamalavanika kAmuko gandhavAha: ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 29

Rajahamsa has heard about the glories of river Vegavati and goes there. The flow of Vegavati is pleasant to watch and the water is sweet to taste. The Divya desam temples on either side of her banks rever her for the benefits she offers. Vegavati is Brahma's consort Saraswathi. She takes various forms. As a river she is the queen of all beings that reside in water and that includes Rajahamsa! As goddess of learning she is the queen of poets. As the goddess of speech she is the seven divisions of the Sanskrit alphabets. She is indeed great.

*varNastomai: iva pariNatA saptabhedai: mahA oghai:  
mAnyA madhye nagaram abhita: sevita devatAbhi: |  
svaccha svAdu prasara subhaga svAminI va: kavInAm  
vegAsamj~nAm vahati mahatIm vallabhA padmayone: ||*



@scripturepeek

# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 30

River Vegavati is very sacred and washes off the sins of anyone who bathes in it. Even sinless sages have a bath in this river as it removes undesirable traits such as ego and purifies the mind. Rajahamsa too has a bath in Vegavati and experiences an internal and external glow! His mind feels light and clear too. Rajahamsa is happy that he did not miss this wonderful opportunity to cleanse himself.

*tlrthe pumsAm Samita-kalushe tatra sArasvata Akhye  
snAtvA sArdham munibhi: anaghai: samyak ullAsita anga: |  
viSvam citte vigatarajasi vyanjayantIm aSesham  
vakshyasi antarbahirapi parAm Suddhim akshepaNlyAm ||*



**SRIVAIKUNTAM**



**HASTIGIRI  
TO  
SRIVAIKUNTAM**

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# HAMSA SANDESHA

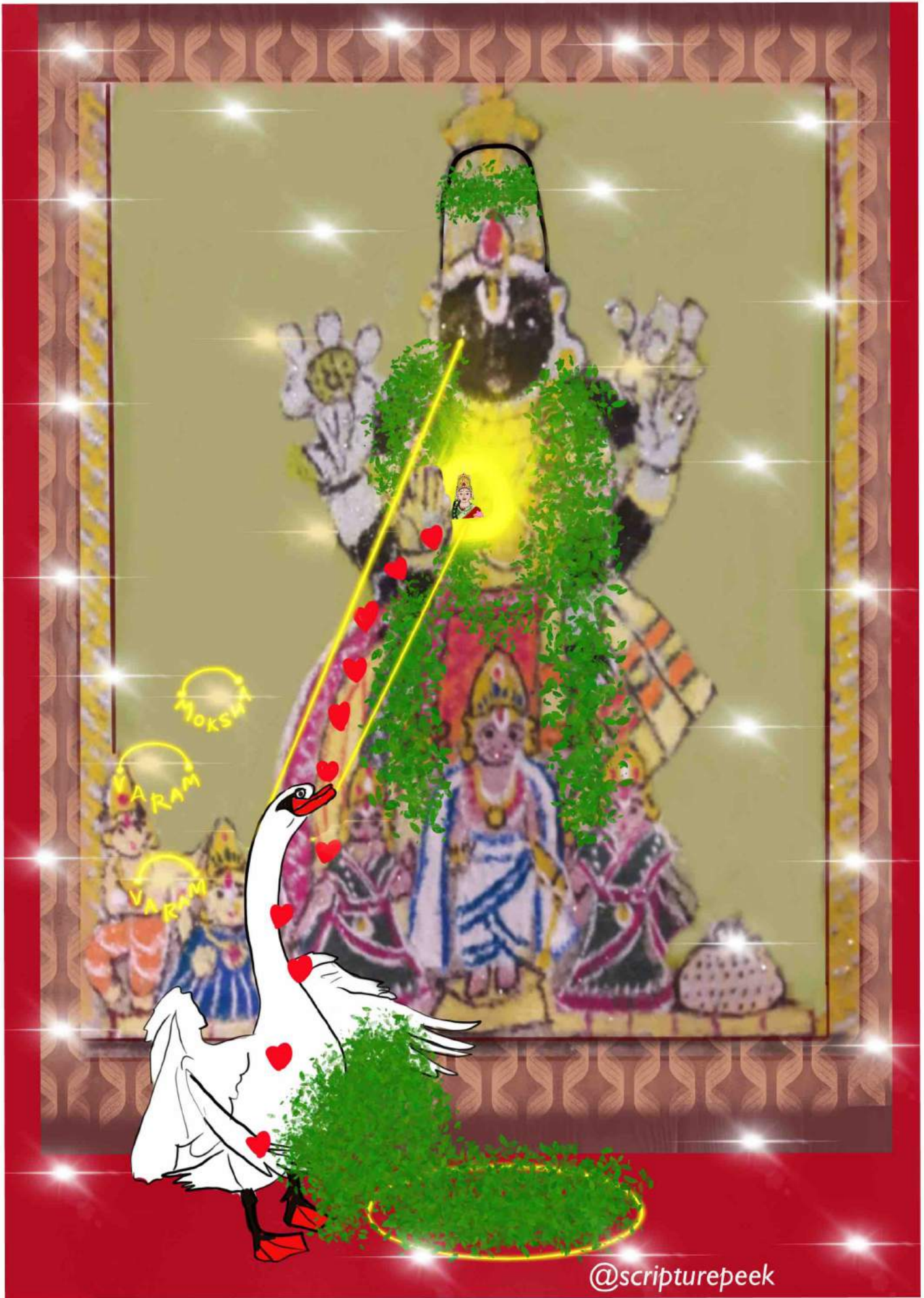
*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 3I

Rajahamsa knows that he is blessed to be in sacred Hastigiri. People who live in Hastigiri and it's vicinity are very fortunate. They develop a mindset that sets them on the divine path of reaching Sri Vaikunta easily. They find an eternal place in blissful Sri Vaikuntam. This is due to the auspiciousness conferred upon them by Lord Varadaraja.

*tasyA: tIre sarasijabhuvA: saumya vaiAnavedi:  
divyam kurvan dramida vishayam drSyate hastiSaila: |  
yasyA upAnte krta vasataya: yApayitvA SarIram  
vartishyante vitamasi pade vAsudevasya dhanyA: ||*

*Note: SriVaikuntam color rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 32

The glory of Hastigiri is because of the Supreme Lord Varadaraja who is kindness personified. He grants moksha\* and varams\*. He looks like fire-god as he is dark-hued and is very radiant. He wears the fragrant Tulasi leaves' garlands. He blesses everyone along with his dear consort Perundevi who resides on his chest. Rajahamsa is fortunate to receive blessings from the divine couple'.

*\*moksha: freedom from rebirth, varams: boons*

*sancinvAnA taruNa tuLasI dAmabhi: svAm abhikhyAm  
tasyAm vedyAm anuvidadhatI SyAmALam havYavAham |  
bhoga: aiSvarya priya sahaCara: kA api lakshmi kaTAKshai:  
bhuya: SyAmA bhuvana jananI devatA sannidhatte ||*

*Note: Lord Varadaraja color rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*





# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 33

While in Kanchi, Rajahamsa passes by the ritual ground on Hastigiri hill. He recollects Rama saying 'Rajahamsa, you will see a huge big dark cloud there. Don't be afraid as this cloud is not a rain-bearing one. It's Lord Varadaraja himself in the form of a cloud that is filled with grace and kindness. The lightning-like brightness that you see in the cloud is his dear consort Perundevi who is compassionate and is our well-wisher. The celestial swans are aware of this and seek the blessings of the divine couple. You too can enjoy the kindness of the divine couple'.

*lakshmi vidyut lalita vapusham tatra kAruNyapUrNam  
mA bhaishI: tvam marakata SilA mecam vIkshya megham |  
Suddhai: nityam paricita pada: tvA drSai: deva hamsai:  
hamsIbhUta sa khalu bhavatAm anvavAya agrajanmA ||*



VEDAS

# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 34

Rajahamsa is blessed to have the opportunity to see Lord Varadaraja. He is the eye of the universe and of the Vedas. When Brahma offered him the havis\*, he joyously accepted it. He is caring towards his devotees. When people prostrate before him he blesses them with auspiciousness and grants them what they desire. Rajahamsa felt a flow of nectar through him when he was blessed. He experiences the joy of being accepted by him.

*\*sacrifice offered through fire.*

*sAra AsvAdI savana havishAm svAmina: te sa deva:  
Suddham cakshu: Sruti parishadAm cakshushAm bhAgadheyam |  
angIkuryAt vinatam amrta-AsAra-samvAdibhi: tvAm  
Avirmodai: abhimata varasthUla lakshai: kaTAkshai: ||*

*Note: Lord Varadaraja color rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*



# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 35

Rajahamsa plans to offer fan service to Lord Varadaraja. The Lord takes a walk in the evenings in the garden behind his consort's residence. As he holds her left hand it becomes moist with sweat like lotus dipped in honey. He offers her a lotus in her right hand. Rajahamsa flies over the divine couple and offer them fan service with his wings. As he is a bird he causes no embarrassment and the cool breeze he offers diminishes their fatigue. Rajahamsa is pleased to have a chance to serve the divine couple in return for their kindness showered upon him.

*madhu Asaktam sarasijam iva svinnam AlambamAna:  
devyA hastam tat itara karanyasta IIIA aravinda: |  
deva: SrimAn sa: yadi viharet svairam ArAma bhUmau  
vyakta: vAlavyajana vapushA vljaye: tam tvam eva ||*



CHOLA NADU

# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 36

After an enjoyable time in Thondai Nadu, Rajahamsa heads to Chola Nadu known for its wealth of waters. The thick groves of arecanut trees makes the terrain look dark green. The flow of Cauvery seems to stall with the abundance of fish in it.

*jAtaprti: janapadam atho madhyamam langhayitvA  
dUrAt lakshya kramuka nivaha: SyAmaLAn yAhi coLAn |  
pratyut gacchat makaravalana stambhitai: sahyajAyA:  
sroto bhedai: vividha gatibhi: samvibhakta avakASan ||*





# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 37

Rajahamsa meets up with the beautiful and fun-loving young girls of Chola Nadu. The girls with lovely lotus-like eyes and wearing white flowers on their long dark tresses look like moons in the evening skies. They are full of energy and engaged in giggly chats about their love-life while enjoying themselves on the swing. Rajahamsa doesn't understand much of their talk but feels rejuvenated amidst them.

*sandhyArAgam surabhi rajanI sambhavai: angarAgai:  
keSai: jyotsnA kalahi timiram pALikA ApIDa garbhai: |  
AbibhrANA: sarasija drSa hamsa dola adhirohAt  
AdhAsyante madakalagira: teshu netra utsavam te ||*

**VARSHAM**  
Chola Nadu



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

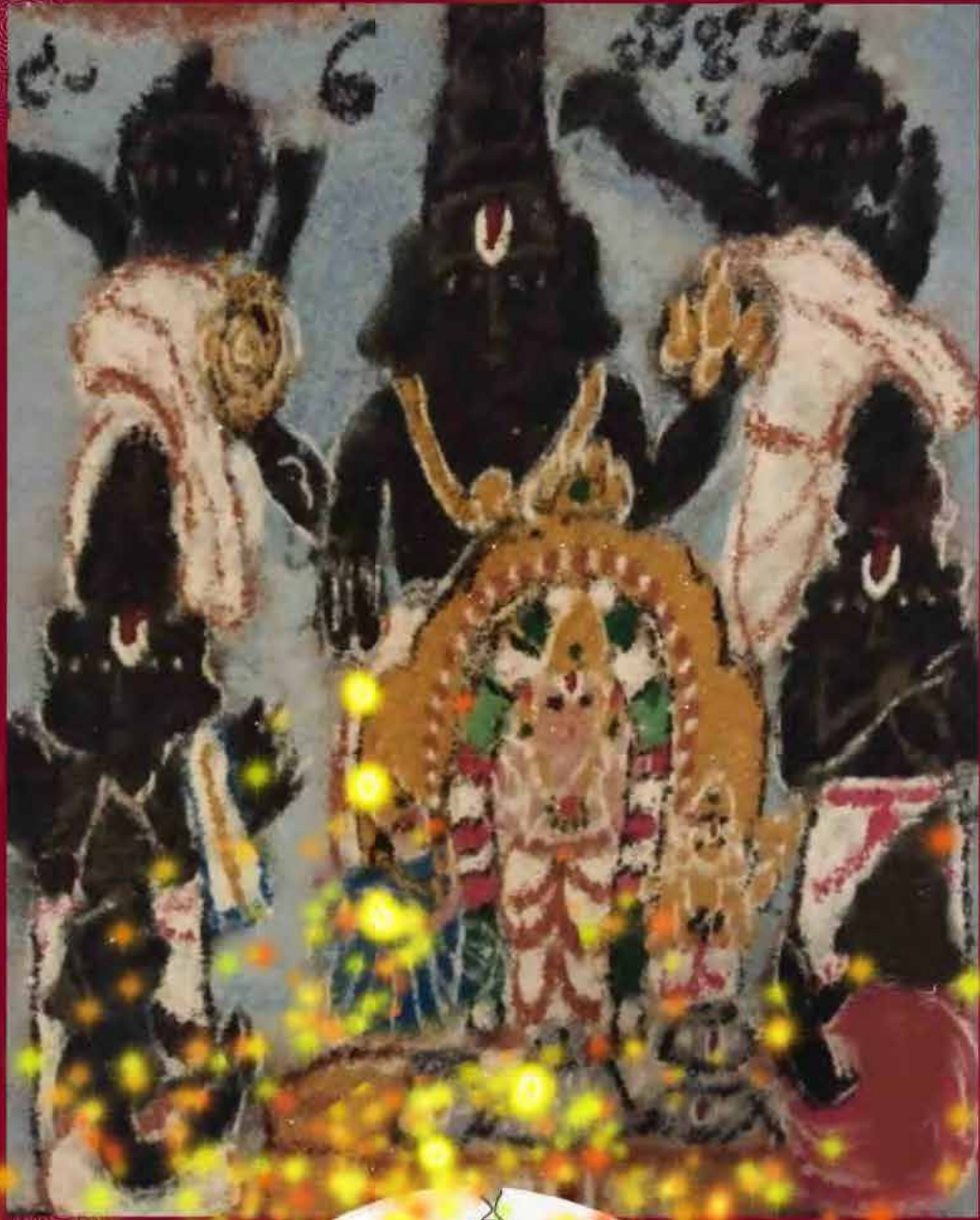
*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 38

As Rajahamsa flies into Chola Nadu from the western side, he sees a very fertile region called Varsham\* that is compared to the tilakam\* on Mother Earth. Hamsa knows that in this region the water for the fields comes through irrigation channels rather than directly by rain. He then spots the beautiful white mountain almost hidden from view. It looks like the snow clad peak of Mount Kailasa in the North. It also appears like the Lord's favourite serpent Adishesha rising above while holding earth. An intriguing sight indeed. Wonder what's here?

*\*varsham: rain, tilakam: the red line or dot on the forehead*

*prthvI IIIA tilaka subhagam paScimam bhAgam eshAm  
nAmnA varsham jala cara nadI mAtrkam gAhamAna: |  
drakshyasi ArAt parimitatayA magna kailAsa drSyam  
Svetam Sailam phaNipatimiva kshMAtalAt ujjihAnam ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 39

The Lord at Thiruvellarai, Pundareekaksha, shines like a lamp. His unique divine qualities form the wick of the lamp, his friendly nature the oil, and the bright light emitted chases away darkness. Rajahamsa prostrates before the Supreme Lord and receives his blessings in the form of wealth and auspiciousness.

*sphArAloka praSamita tama: sancayam tatra pumsAm  
pratyak rUpam praguNa vibhavam prArthanlyam budhAnAm |  
nedlyAmsam kuSala nivaham nantu:AdhAsyate te  
divyam tejo jaladhitanayA sneha nityAnushaktam ||*

*Lord Pundareekaksha color rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*

NEELI  
VANAM



# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 40 & 41

As Rajahamsa leaves Thiruvellarai he spots the beautiful forest called Neeli Vanam\* because of the dark hue of the thick areca palm trees. It is said that a demoness Neeli is in charge of this beautiful forest garden and it's in ship shape. Even the celestial ladies come here to enjoy the refreshing atmosphere. Rajahamsa witnesses the service that wind offers to the God of Love Manmatha in this garden. The wind creates a colorful canopy for Manmatha with pollen from the abundant flowers in the garden. The wind sways gently and assists the kamuka flowers that serve Manmatha as fans. When Manmatha goes for a walk the wind blows hard and the flowers fall to the ground creating a soft floral carpet for him to walk upon. Lucky Manmatha!

\*blue forest

*snigdhaAcchAyam tadanu vitatam tasya dhAmeva nllam  
nllrakshA niyata lalitam kAnanam samviclyA: |  
drshTe tasmin animisha vadhU nitya nirveSya yogye  
svarga udyAna Sriyam api laghum mamSyate mAnasam te ||*

*kurvan nAnA kusuma rajasA yatra citram vitAnam  
pUgA araNye mrdu vicalayan pALikA cAmarANi |  
pAdanyAsa kshamam avakiran kshamAtalam pushpajAlai:  
prAya: vAyu: parijana vidhim pancabANasya dhatte ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

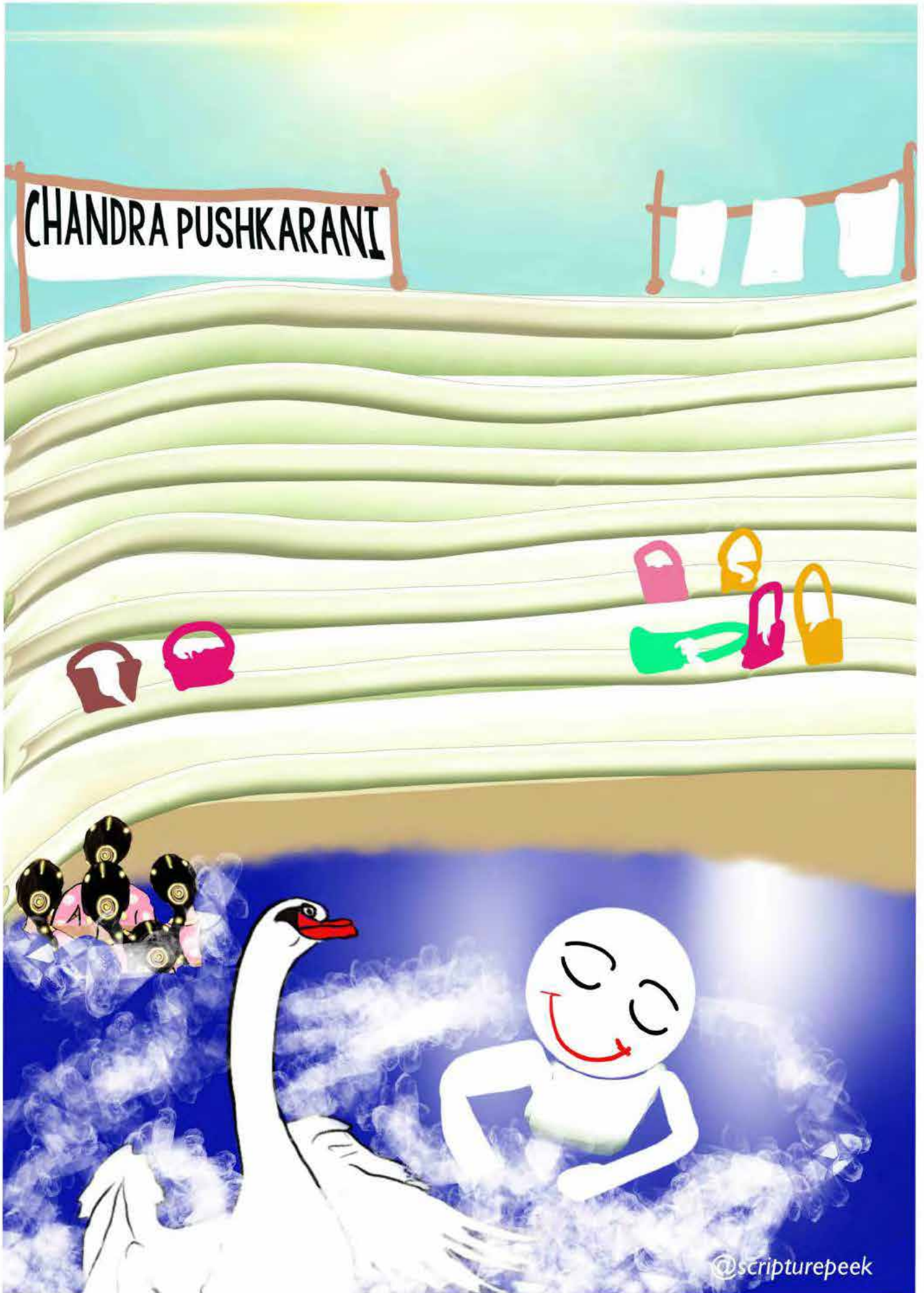
Volume I

## SHLOKA 42 & 43

Rajahamsa cruises in the sky over Chola Nadu. He follows the course of the beautiful river Cauvery that seems to divide the land below into two just like the parting of the hair divides it into two. The dense sugarcane plants have grown tall and shed a pearl-like substance that has formed attractive looking mounds of white sand on the banks of the river. The groves of Areca trees have shed their white flowers decorating Cauvery. The sweet fragrance of Areca flowers fill the air and rise up to Rajahamsa, which adds to his wondrous flight experience. The grandeur of Cauvery seems to surpass that of the Ganges!

*srota: vegAt atha janapadam saumya smantayanti  
pratyadeSa: vibudha sarita: syandate sahyakanya |  
kAle kAle pariNati vaSAt parvabheda avakIrNai:  
puNDrekshUNAm puLina viSadai: gadgadA mauktika oghai: ||*

*sahya utsangAt sapadi marutA sAgaram nlyamAnAm  
bhadra AlApai: vihita kuSalAm tvAdrSAnAm dvijAnAm |  
yAm askannA: sarasakuhaLI patrapAtai: niSante  
manda smerAm madhuparimaLai: vAsayanti iva puGha: ||*



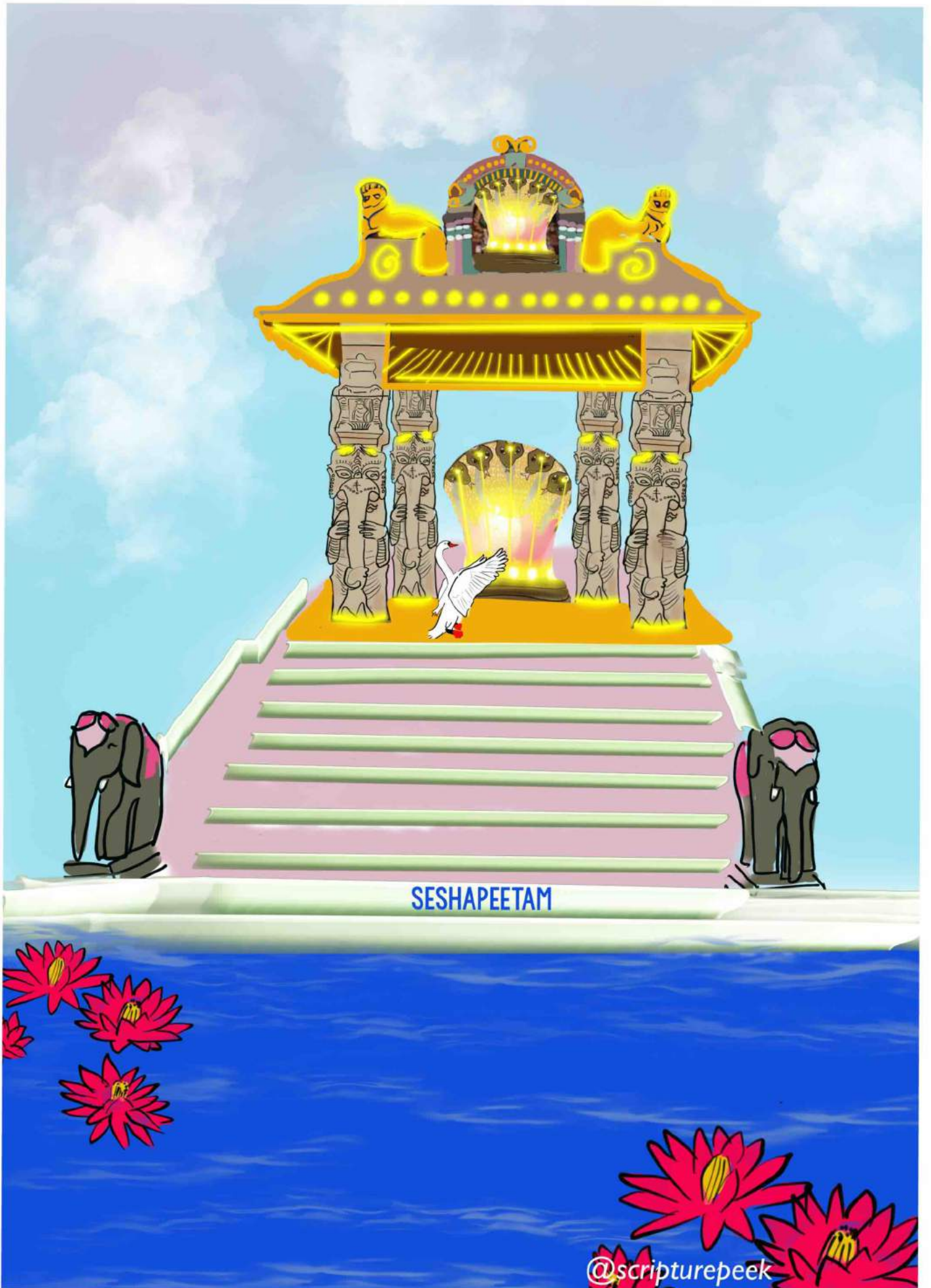
# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 44

‘Oh what’s that water body that looks far more inviting than the pristine Manosarovar lake?’ wonders Rajahamsa as he continues his pleasant flight over Cauvery. The sign reads ‘Chandra Pushkarani’. There are celestial ladies having a bath here. The other ladies representing other rivers wait to cleanse themselves of sins accumulated by sinners bathing in them. This is where Chandra or Moon regained his luster lost due to a curse. Rajahamsa makes a quick decision and lands on the lake to have a cleansing bath. He feels like he is glowing inside and outside. What a refreshing lake the Chandra Pushkarani is!

*tasmin drakshyasi amara mahiLA mauLi gandhai: avandhyAm  
AtanvAnAm vyapagatarasam mAnase mAnasam va: |  
tIrthai: anyai: api parigatAm Suddhiheto: samantAt  
candra ullAsa prathita yaSasa: sampadam pushkariNyA: ||*



SESHAPEETAM

# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 45

Rajahamsa spots a very attractive looking foundation structure on the banks of Chandra Pushkarani. Pious sages seem to be paying their homage here. Rajahamsa too goes up to this sacred structure and sees serpent Adishesha doubling up as a bed on the structure waiting for Lord Sri Ranganatha. Soon the Lord will be moving from Ayodhya in the North to Srirangam and here in the South. In a trance, Rajahamsa lowers his limbs in faith and prostrates in front of the Sesha peetam\*.

*\*the serpent bed on the foundation structure*

*tlre tasyA viracitapadam sAdhubhi: sevyamAnam  
SraddhAyogAt vinamita tanu: Sesha pITham bhajethA: |  
yasmin asmat kula dhanatayA saumya sAketabhAja:  
sthAnam bhAvyam munibhi: uditam Srlmata: rangadhAmna: ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

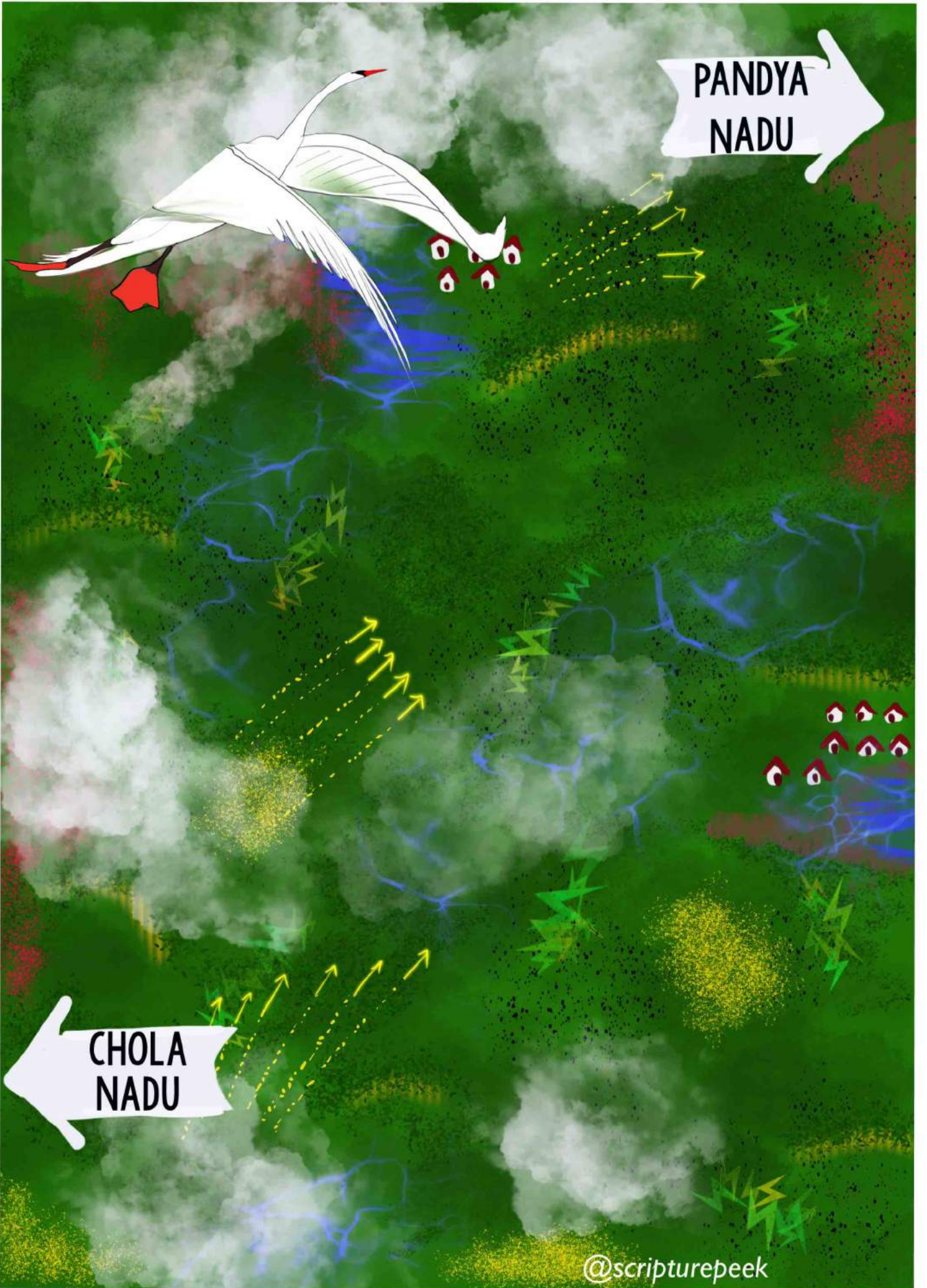
*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 46

Rajahamsa recollects Rama describing Lord Sri Ranganatha as a shining emerald gem in a jewel box. His thoughts focus first on the Lords right hand folded as a pillow, then on to his kind eyes, then on Sridevi residing on his chest and finally on to his handsome smiling face. Rajahamsa enjoys the picture in his mind while in a trance at Seshapeetam.

*satve divye svayam udayata: tasya dhAmna: prasangAt  
manjUshAyAm marakatam iva bhrAjamAnam tat anta: |  
ceta: dhAvati upahita bhujam Sesha bhoge SayAnam  
dlrghApAngam jaladhi tanayA jlvitam devamAdyam ||*

*Note: Lord SriRanganatha color rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*



PANDYA  
NADU

CHOLA  
NADU



# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 47

Rajahamsa is on his way towards Pandya Nadu. As he flies over the forest area between Chola Nadu and Pandya Nadu, he recollects Rama's cautionary words against singing. 'Superior poets do not sing their exquisite poems before roughnecks'. It turns out there are thieves who way lay travellers in the forest. Also the crickets are in plenty in this forest and create an unpleasant loud racket. Rajahamsa keeps a low profile and exits this area safely.

*corAkrAntam tadanu vipinam coLa-pANDya antarastham*

*jhillnAda SravaNa parusham Slghrameva vyatlyA: |*

*tlrNe tasmin prakaTaya sakhe SltalAn te ninAdAn SabdAyante na  
khalu kavaya: sannidhau durjanAnAm ||*



PANDYA NADU

# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 48

Rajahamsa enters beautiful Pandya Nadu and is so joyous he begins to sing in his sweet voice. Lo and behold a whole lot of beautiful lotus-eyed youngsters rush out from their homes to see the owner of the melodious voice. They crane their necks and look upwards. As they do so the flowers on their braids swing from side to side in synchrony with the attractive earrings. The powdered Pearl-tilakam on their foreheads look beautiful. As they stand in a circle glancing upwards, Hamsa feels a surge of happiness as they look like a beautiful garland welcoming him.

*srastA ApIDam pracalat aLakam vyakta tATanka ratnam  
muktAcUrNa sphurita tilakam vaktram uttAnayantya: |  
deSe tasmin kuvalaya drSa: jAta kautUhalA: tvAm  
mAlAdlrghai: madhura virutam mAnayishyanti apAngai: ||*



THIRUMALIRUNCHOLAI  
VRISHABHA GIRI NUPURA GANGA

# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 49

Happy Rajahamsa continues flying and sees a beautiful hill called Vrushabha Giri that is the abode of the handsome Lord of Thirumalirunsholai. He has strong shoulders and is called Sundarabahu Perumal. Rajahamsa is very fortunate to receive the blessings of the Lord here. On the west side of the hill is a brook Nupura Ganga that is considered holier than the Ganges. Unlike snow-fed rivers, Nupura Ganga arose from the kamandalu of Lord Brahma as he worshipped the foot of the Lord. The water from the kamandala falls over the anklet of the Lord and then onto the hair of Shiva before winding its way down to devotees who consider the water very sacred indeed.

*nityAvAsam vrshabham acalam sundarAkhyasya vishNo:  
pratyAsIdan sapadi vinamat bhAgadheyam nata: syA: |  
yasya utsange balivijayina: tasya manjlravAntam  
pAtha: divyam paSupati jaTAsparSa SUnyam vibhAti ||*

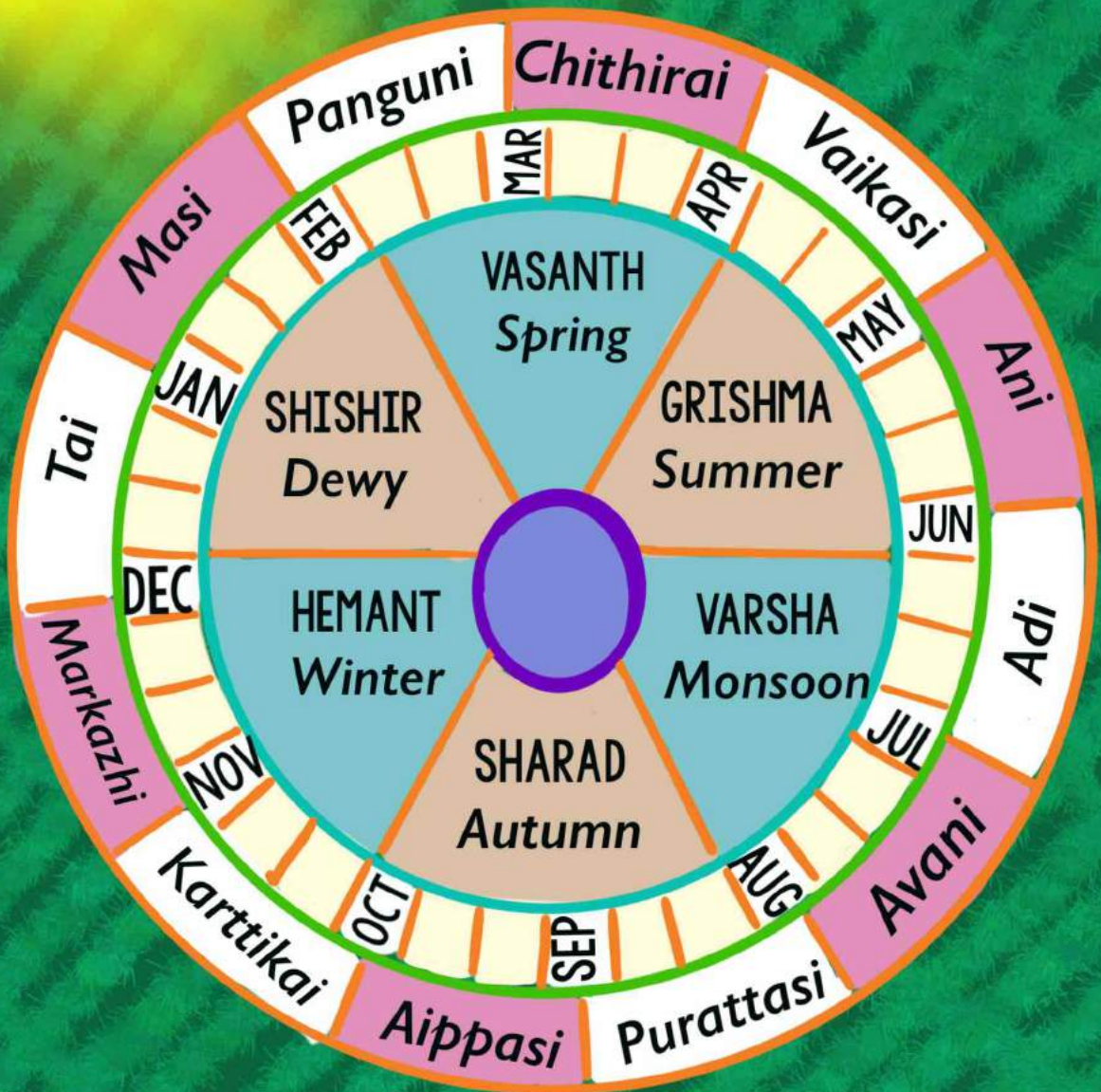
*Note: Lord Sundarabahu color rangoli art is by Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya.*



# FERTILE PANDYA NADU

## Annual Weather Forecast

*Rains thrice a month as per agreement  
between Rain-clouds and Pandya Kings*



# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 50

Rajahamsa enjoys the sight of green fertile fields in Pandya Nadu. The Pandya kings were powerful and the rain clouds did not want to be in their bad books. So this region had very predictable thrice-a-month rainfall leading to good harvests. It is said that the villages and cities of Pandya Nadu are on the same level of wealth as Alakapuri, the capital of God of wealth Kubera. The visible prosperity of Pandya Nadu is a feast to Rajahamsa's eyes.

*ISAt astrANi adhigatavatAm kshatriyANAm prabhAvAt  
kArA AvAsa smaraNa cakitai: sikta sasyAn payodai: |  
paSyan yAyA: param aLakayA spardhamAnai: ajasram  
puNya AvAsai: purajana padai: maNDitAn pANDyadeSAn ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 51

Rajahamsa is now approaching the pristine Tamraparani river in Pandya Nadu. There's an abundance of pearl-producing oysters here. The pearls fall out of the shells and collect in great numbers as mounds on the sandy banks. They look like the shining stars in the sky. The great sage Agastya lives here. He is known for his capacity to hold the ocean in a sip. The pristine waters of Tamraparani is believed to be a positive influence of the proximity of sage Agastya. A dip in river Tamraparani is known to remove all blemishes and disease and give the bather a glow. Rajahamsa enjoys a refreshing swim and bath in river Tamaraparani and emerges out with a glow.

*muktA jAlai: janita puLinAm Sukti santAnamuktai:  
tArA pUrNA m divam iva tata: tAmraparNIm bhajethA: |  
pratyAsattyA niyata viSadam plta sindho: maharshe:  
pAnlyam te pariNamayitA tatra muktA mayatvam ||*



# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 52

Rajahamsa now follows Rama's instructions and rests on the banks of river Tamaraparani. Rajahamsa's last leg of flight to reach Lanka is due now and he needs all the resources he has to sustain the long flight over sea and possibly no resting place. The lotus blossoming on the river reminds him of his lady love and he feels a sense of delight. A light and happy conversation with lotus as the waves lap on the bank adds to the happiness of the moment. The fragrant breeze from the sandalwood groves is rejuvenating and blows away his fatigue. He feels rested and charged.

*tasyA: svairam sarasija mukha AsvAda samprlta cetA:*

*StibhUta: taraLa laharI bAhu samSleshaNena |*

*adhyAsIna: puLinam alinai: vljita: candanAdre:*

*SrAntim SAntim gamayatu bhavAn sAgaram langhayishyan ||*



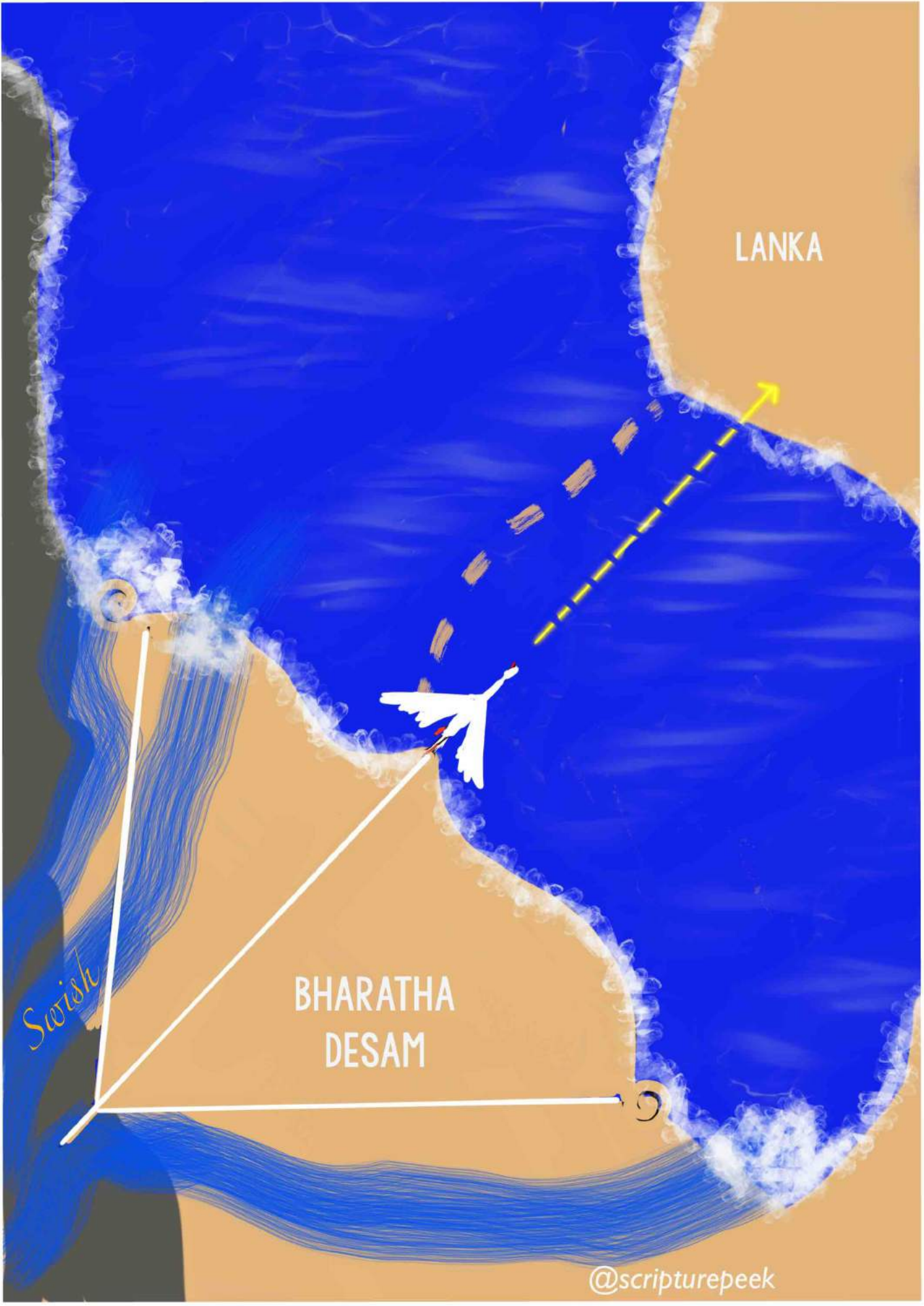
# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 53

Rajahamsa begins his flight to Lanka. He sees the long stretch of blue sea and the coast to his left. There are rows of palm trees lining the sea shore. There are many dark green tamala trees emitting the cinnamon fragrance of bay leaves. There are scores of birds near the sea shore enjoying the sea breeze and chirping happily. The ceaseless waves bring pearls from the ocean and deposit them as white sandy dunes. The wind creates mounds of pollen dust from the areca palms. A soothing sight indeed.

*savyam tasyA: kiyadiva gata: SyAmatAll tamAlAm  
tvat prAyANAm taruNa vayasAm cetasa: nandayitrlm |  
velAm abdhe: vividha laharl datta muktA abhirAmAm  
drakshayasi ArAt dviguNa puLinAm ketakInAm parAgai: ||*



LANKA

BHARATHA  
DESAM

*Swish*

@scripturepeek

# HAMSA SANDESHA

*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 54

As Rajahamsa reaches the lands end he shoots off like an arrow at high speed from the sea-shore bow to the sound of the waterfalls giving the 'twang' sound of the arrow release. He is over the seas with no land to see beneath and the colour of blue stretching to the horizon.

*sthitvA tatra kshaNam ubhayata: Saila SrungAvatIrNai:  
srota: bhedai: adhigataguNam cAru vishphAra ghoshai: |  
lakshlKurvan daSamukhapurIm saumya patraprkrshTa:  
velAcApam Sara iva sakhe vegata: tvam vyatlyA: ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

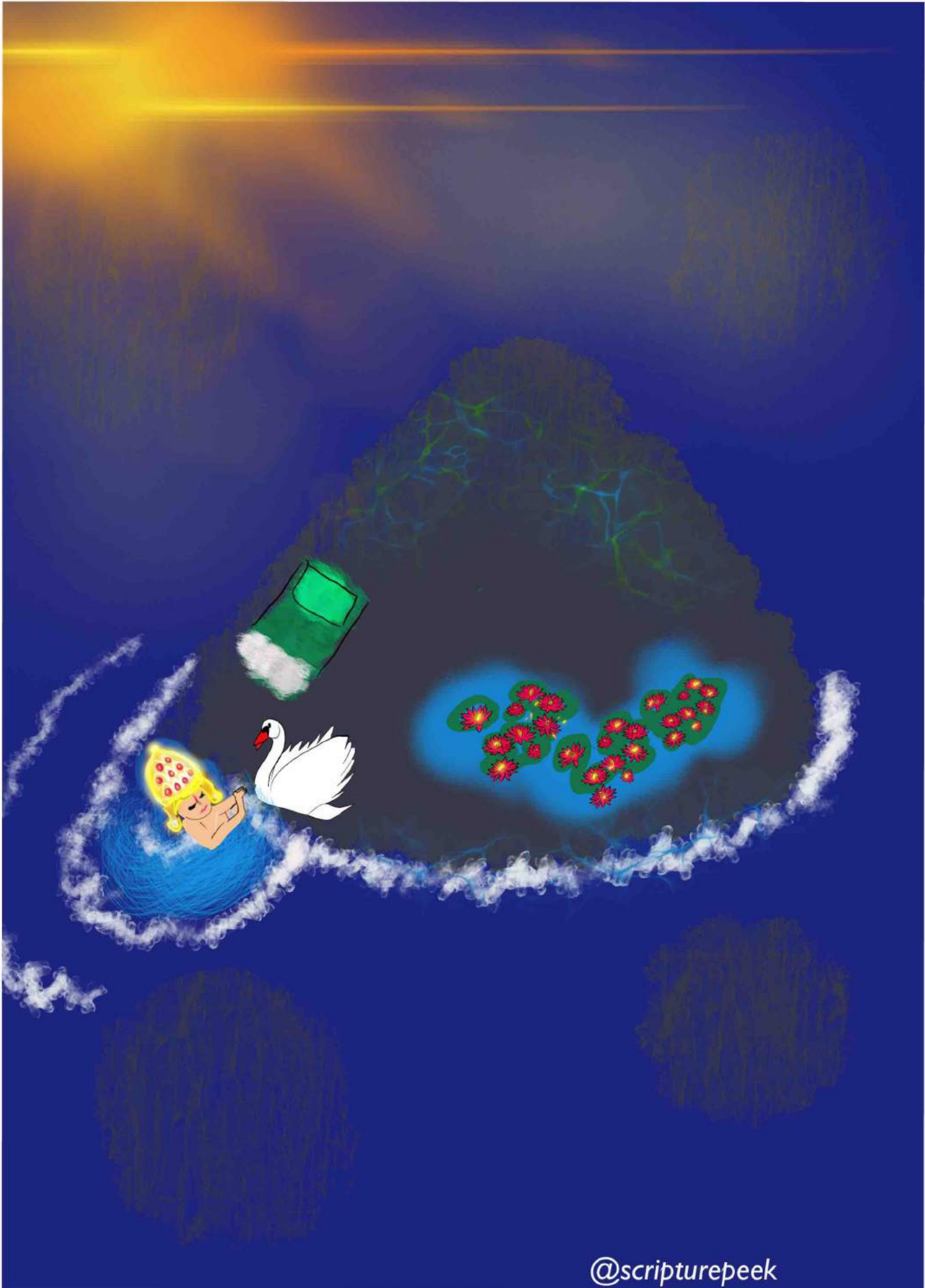
*Volume I*

## SHLOKA 55

Rajahamsa notices huge red patches of corals in the shallow breaking the monotony of the blue sea. These red patches look like dark forests on fire with red flames, the sunset, an elephant with sindhooram\*, the dark-hued Lord with a red garment, a dark cloud housing a bright lightning or the union of a red female with a dark-hued male.

*\*the red line or dot applied on the forehead*

*dAvAsaktam vanam iva nabha: sandhyayA anuviddham  
sindUrAnkam dvipam iva harim sva ambareNa iva jushTam |  
vidyut bhinnam ghanam iva sakhe vidruma AraNya yogAt  
dehena ekam mithunam iva ca drakshyasi tvam payodhim ||*



# HAMSA SANDESHA

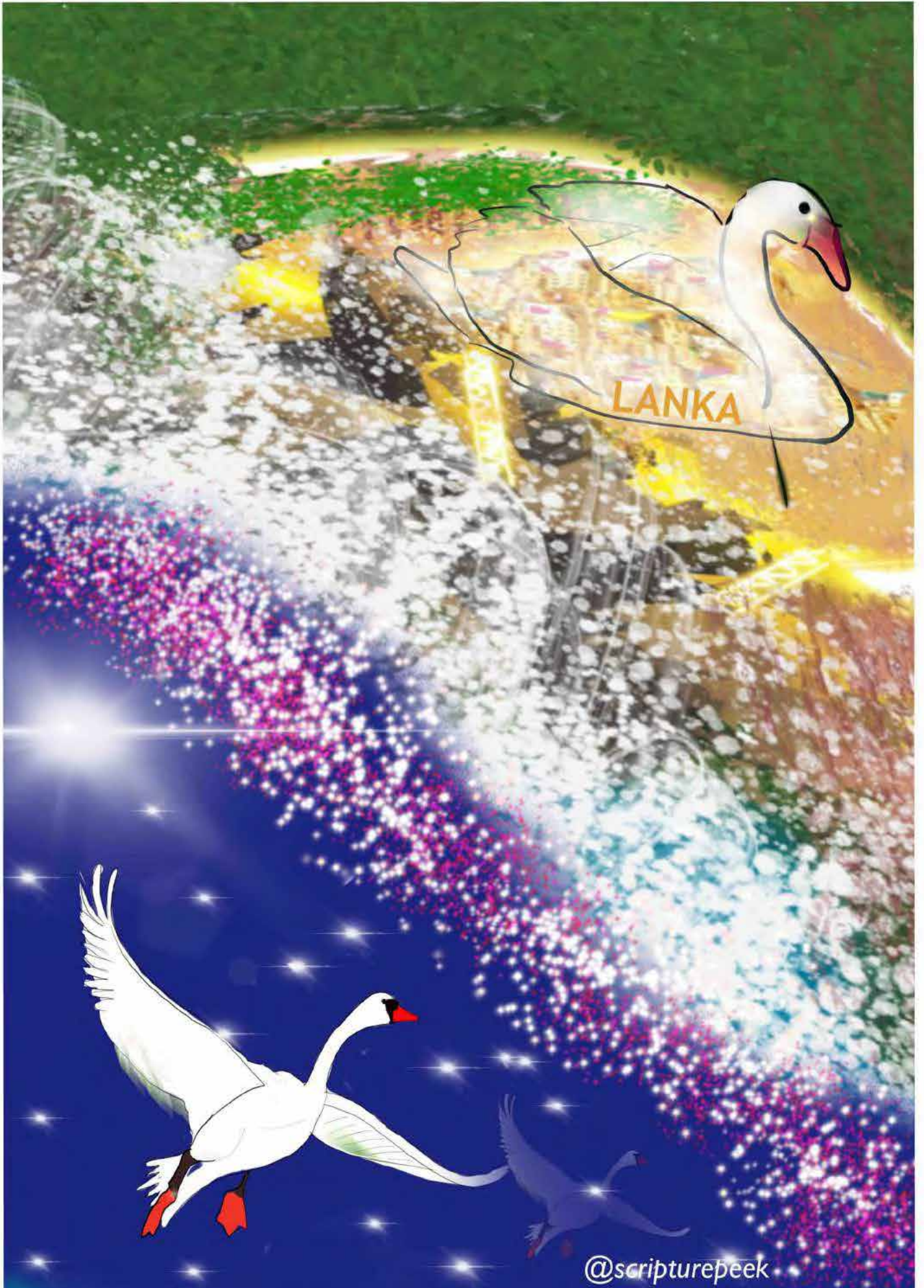
Volume I

## SHLOKA 56 & 57

Rama had told Rajahamsa the story of one of his ancestors King Sagara who performed Ashwamedha yagna. Indra deva stole the horse and disappeared to Patalaloka below. The sons of King Sagara were enraged and dug deep to find Indra. The big ditch they dug up became the sea later. There are mountains hidden under the sea. As the sea King is aware that Rajahamsa is on a mission to help Rama, he may bring one of the mountains up above the sea for Rajahamsa to rest and refresh. Rama requested Rajahamsa to take up this offer even if he isn't tired and rest a bit and drink honey from the lotus flowers in the mountain pond.

*asmat pUrvai: surapati hrtam drashTukAmai: turangam  
bhitvA kshoNIm agaNita balai: sAgara: varddhita AtmA |  
satkArArtham tava yadi giriN AdideSAAt gupta pakshAn  
aSrAnta: api praNayam ucitam na eva bandho: vihanyA: ||*

*tatra AsIna: kvacana sarasi smere hema aravinde  
labdha AsvAda: madhubhi: amitai: samvinIta adhva kheda: |  
drakshyasi agre laghutaragati: Sesham ullanghya sindho:  
toyAghAtAt masrNita SilAramya velam suvelam ||*



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# HAMSA SANDESHA

Volume I

## SHLOKA 58 TO 60

After a short rest in the middle of the sea atop a mountain, Rajahamsa continues on his flight and is all excited as he is very close to his destination Lanka. He spots the Suvela mountain and the city of Lanka on top that surprisingly looks like a swan. The tall white buildings with the flags waving give that impression. The red corals at the foothill of Suvela, the heaps of pearls washed ashore and Rajahamsa's own reflection in the deep blue sea in evening light looks like a starry night sky with the moon. The fragrance of mandara flowers fill the air and adds to the magic. What a pleasant landing for Rajahamsa. As he lands in Lanka the melodious music from the white buildings and the white flags swaying seems like a very grand welcome to Rajahamsa.

*yasyAsanne payasi jaladhe: tvat praticchanda candrA:  
paksha ccheda ksharita rudhira stoma sandarSanlyA: |  
vlci prAptai: vishamita ruca: mauktikai: tAraka Abhai:  
sandhyAm anyAm niyatam avanau darSayanti pravALA: ||*

*yatra araNyam varuNa vasate: vlci vega apanltai:  
muktAratna stabaka Sabalai: vidrumai: utpravALam |  
raksha: bhltai: svayam animishai: Ahrta sthApitAnAm  
mandArANAm madhu parimaLai: vAsitam mauLi daghnai: ||*

*tasmin drSyA tadanu bhavata: cAru saudha avadAtA  
lankA sindho: mahati puLine rAjahamsi iva lInA |  
tvAm AyAntam pavanataraLai: yA patakA apadeSai:  
pakshai: abhyujji gamishu: iva sthAsyati SrAvya nAdA ||*

# AUTHOR'S NOTE

This is the ninth book in the '@scripturepeek with Shobha' series. It has been my passion project to bring out a series of my illustrations accompanied by meanings of some 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 feel immensely blessed to be enveloped in an atmosphere of divine encouragement, devotion and purpose as part of Sri Hayagreeva Likhita Kaimkarya Ghoshti led by Dr Swamy Varadachari Sadagopan of sadagopan.org fame. I remain grateful to him for motivating me to learn, create and share. I am thankful for all of the information available on sadagopan.org.

My sincere salutations to my ancient scriptures teacher, Guru Smt Yamuna Ramapriya. Her unique style of expression through her words, tone, gestures and beautiful rangolis is very enjoyable.

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.

Hope you enjoyed reading the book!

Shobha Char fb/insta: @scripturepeek

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THIS BOOK FEATURES  
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