

# Srinivasa Kalyanam



- 4000 years ago, the *rishis* lead by Kasyapa began to perform a sacrifice. Sage Narada asked them who would be pleased by it.



- Not being able to answer, the *rishis* approached Sage Bhrugu. To reach a solution, Sage Bhrugu first went to Lord Brahma.



- Lord Brahma did not notice Bhṛgu. Concluding that Lord Brahma was unfit for worship, Bhṛgu left for Lord Shiva.



- Lord Siva was furious at Bhrugu's intrusion of his time with Parvathi. The sage cursed Lord Siva and left for Lord Vishnu.



- Finding that Lord Vishnu also did not notice him, the sage kicked the Lord on His chest, the place of Mahalakshmi.



- Lord Vishnu apologized to the sage and pressed his feet. In doing so the Lord removed the eye in his foot. Bhrugu declared to sages that Lord Vishnu is the supreme to worship.



- Lakshmi was upset with Vishnu and left for Bhulokam.





- Lord Mahavishnu left Vaikuntham in search of Lakshmi and reached Venkata Hill and settled in penance. There formed an ant hill over Him.



- To continue the mission of Lord Vishnu, Brahma and Shiva decided to assume the forms of a cow and its calf to serve Him.



- Surya, the Sun God informed Mahalakshmi of this and requested her to assume the form of a cowherdess and sell the cow and calf to the king of the Chola country.



- The king of the Chola bought the cow and its calf and sent them to graze on the Venkata Hill. Discovering Lord Vishnu inside the ant-hill, the cow, Brahma, provided milk, and thus fed the Lord.



- Meanwhile, at the palace, the cow was not yielding any milk, for which the Chola Queen chastised the cowherd severely.



- To find out the cause of lack of milk, the cowherd followed the cow, and discovered the cow emptying her udder over the ant-hill.

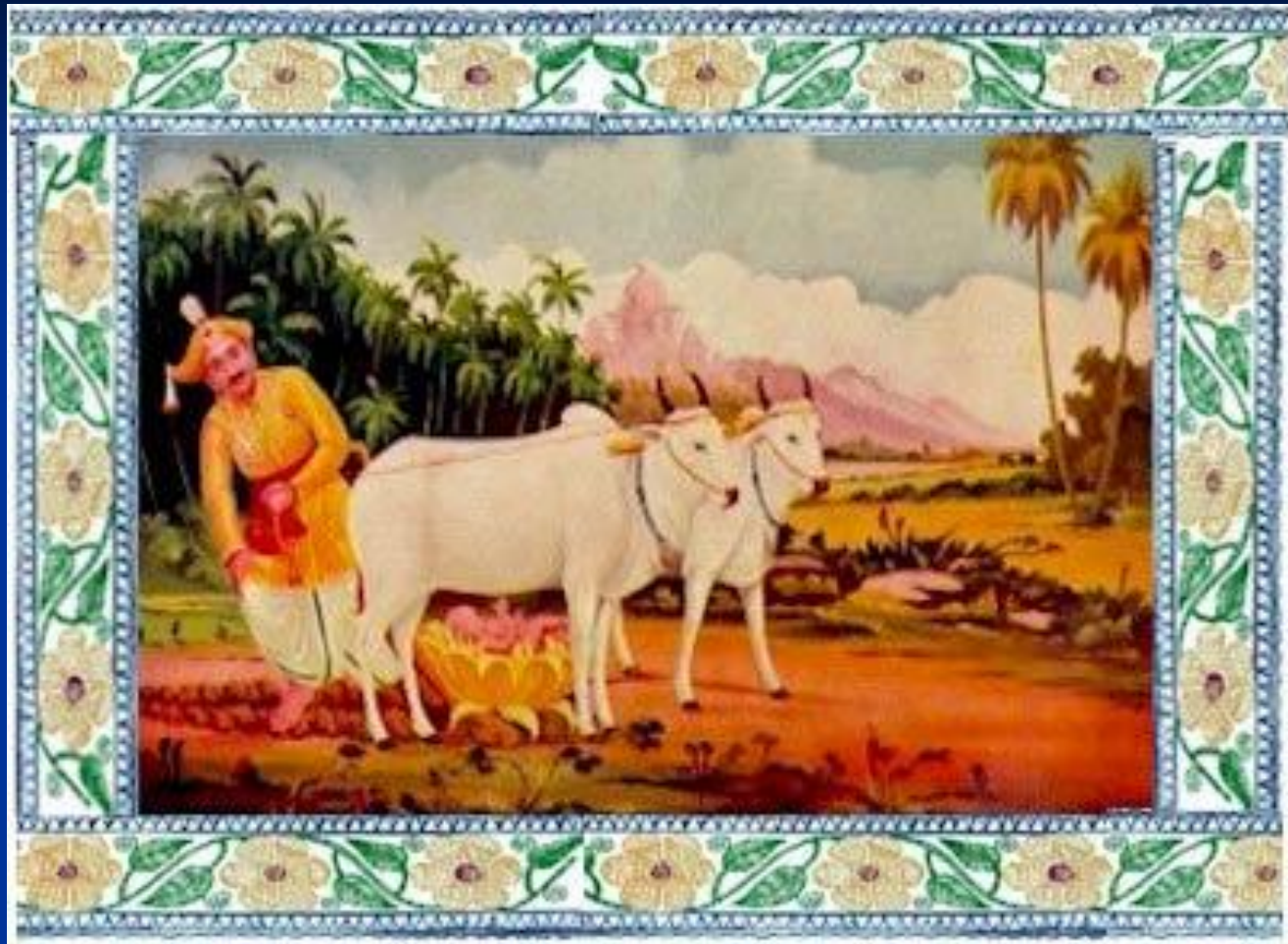


- Incensed over the conduct of the cow, the cowherd aimed a blow with his axe. Lord Vishnu rose from the ant-hill to receive the blow and save the cow. When the cowherd saw the Lord bleed, he fell down and died of shock.

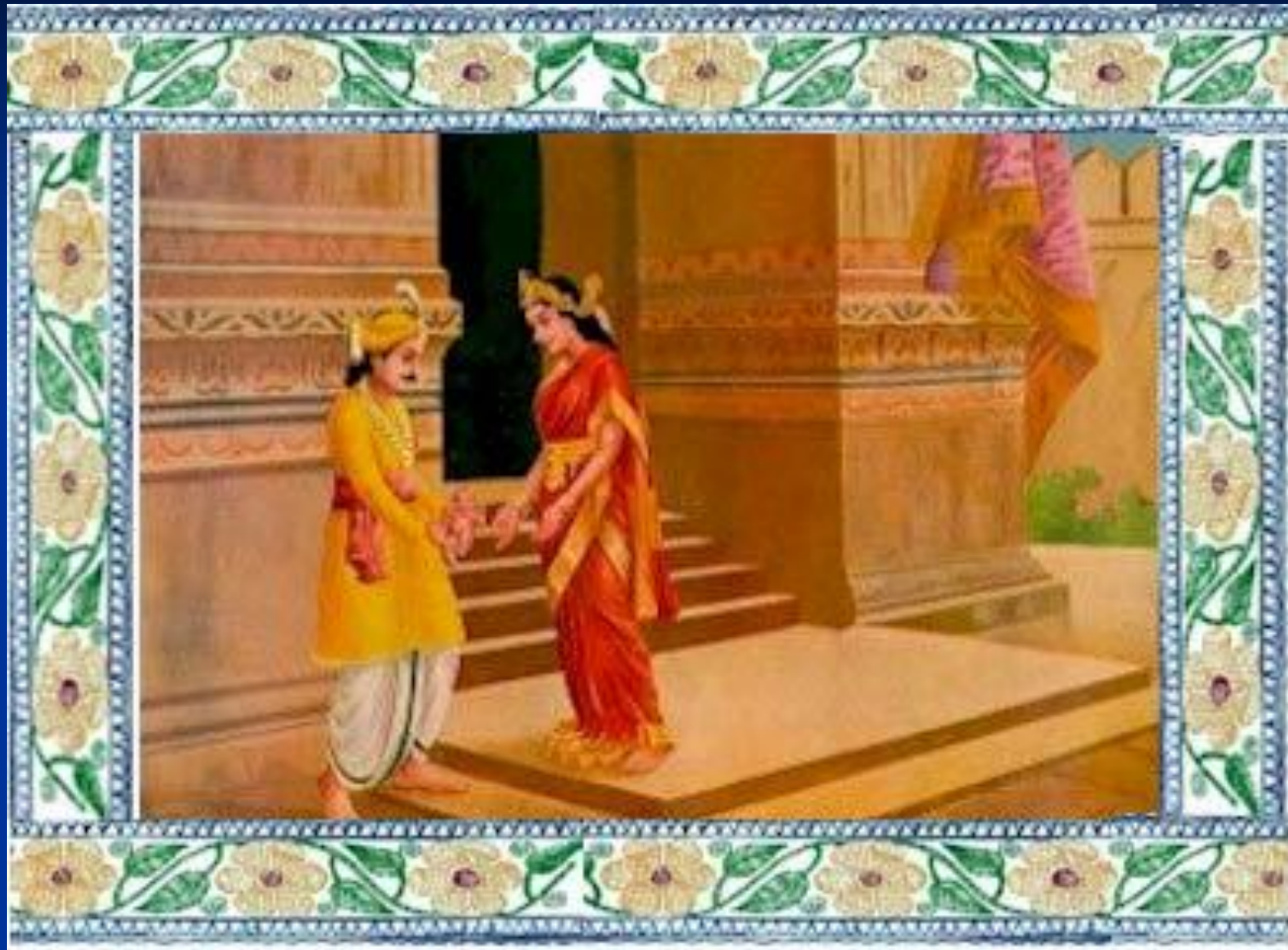


- While the king stood wondering how it had happened, Lord Vishnu rose from the ant-hill and cursed the King saying that he would become an *Asura* because of the fault of his servant.





- A King named Akasa Raja was ruling Thondamandalam. Akasa Raja had no heirs, he wanted to perform a sacrifice. As part of the sacrifice, he was ploughing the fields when his plough turned up a lotus in the ground. The King found a female child in the lotus.



- Akasa Raja was happy to find the child. He gave it to his Queen. As the child was found in a lotus, the king named her Padmavati.



- Princess Padmavati grew up into a beautiful maiden. One day, while she was spending her time in a garden, Sage Narada approached her. He foretold that she was destined to be the spouse of Lord Vishnu himself.



- At this time, Lord Srinivasa, chased a wild elephant in the forests surrounding the hills. In the pursuit, the Lord was led into a garden, where Princess Padmavati and her maids were picking flowers. The sight of the elephant frightened the Princess and her maids.



- But the elephant immediately turned around, saluted the Lord and disappeared into the forest. Lord Srinivasa, who was following on horse back, and saw the frightened maidens, who accosted Him with queries.



- Lord Srinivasa gave the maids details about his birth and parentage. He, in turn, enquired after their princess, her birth and parentage. Then the maids returned with their queen.



- When Lord Srinivasa returned, Vakuladevi, His caretaker, found him lying on his bed, pining for his love. The Lord informed her that unless he married Princess Padmavati, he would never be well again.



- Vakuladevi offered to go to Akasa Raja and his Queen and arrange for the marriage. On the way she met the maid-servants of Padmavati. She learnt from them that Padmavati was also pining for Srinivasa. Vakuladevi went along with the maidservants to the Queen.





- Akasa Raja and his queen Dharanidevi were anxious about the health of their daughter. They learnt about Padmavathi's love for Srinivasa. Akasa Raja consulted Brihaspati about the propriety of the marriage and was informed that the marriage was in the best interest of both the parties.



- After the departure of Vakuladevi, Srinivasa could not rest in peace. He assumed the form of a fortune-teller and entered the streets of the capital telling fortunes. Padmavathi's maids saw her and invited her to the presence of their Queen.



- The fortune-teller told the Queen about the cause of Padmavati's indisposition. She advised the Queen to give Padmavati in marriage to Lord Srinivasa.



- After fortune-teller, Vakuladevi arrived at the palace. She informed the Queen that she had come on behalf Lord Srinivasa to request the hand of Padmavati in marriage.



- Having consulted Brihaspati and heard from his Queen about the prediction of the fortune-teller and the arrival of the Vakuladvi, Akasa Raja decided to hand his daughter in marriage to Srinivasa.



- Akasa Raja informed his ministers and other officials of his plans. Immediately, a letter was drafted requesting Srinivasa to come and marry the Princess.



- Akasa Raja entrusted the delivery of the letter to Sukamahamunin. He presented the *patrika* to Lord Srinivasa, who was very happy. The Lord sent his garland for Padmavati through Suka.



- Immediately, Lord Srinivasa called for a conference of the Gods to win their consent for His marriage to Princess Padmavati.





- Kubera lent 1.4 millions of gold coins to Lord Srinivasa to meet the expenses of the marriage.



- Lord Srinivasa, along with Lord Brahma and Lord Siva started the journey to the residence of Akasa Raja with his vehicle Garuda.



- At the palace entrance, Lord Srinivasa was received by Akasa Raja with full honors and taken in procession on a mounted elephant to the palace for the marriage.



- In the presence of all the Devas, Lord Srinivasa wed Princess Padmavati, thus blessing Akasa Raja.

# Acknowledgements

The pictures on [www.tirumala.org](http://www.tirumala.org) were used for the presentation