

# MANIKANTAN

The Legend of Swami Ayyappa



Ravi Shankar  
Gujjarappa BG



Copyright indiatales 2006-07

## **indiatales**

(a project of Rukmini Hariharan Foundation)  
G5B, Block A, Himagiri Enclave, Kaggadasapura  
Bangalore-560093 India  
[www.indiatales.com](http://www.indiatales.com)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted without the prior permission of the publishers.

First Edition 2006  
Price: Rs. 100/-

To the memory of  
**Sri VR Harihara Iyer**  
my grandfather and rolemodel

Ravi Shankar



Our story happened hundreds of years ago in Pandalam – a big and prosperous kingdom in the southern tip of India. The people of Pandalam were honest and hard working. And their king, Rajasekara, was a good ruler and a powerful warrior. There was peace and happiness everywhere. Everything looked almost perfect.

But there was one thing that was worrying the king and his queen. It was the worry that they had no children. The pious king was a great devotee of Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva was the destroyer of evil and a patron god to the kingdom. Every day, he and his queen would pray at the big temple of Shiva near the palace.

“Hear our prayers, Oh Merciful One!” they prayed, “Grant us an heir to rule Pandalam.”

Lord Shiva was pleased with their devotion. The king’s prayers would be answered soon. After all, this was all part of a divine plan.



Meanwhile, not far away, in the forests around Pandalam, a fierce she-demon was praying to Lord Brahma. Her name was Mahishi. She wanted to wreck vengeance on the Devas – the divine angels of heavens, for plotting to kill her brother. Brahma is the creator of the Universe and could never deny a prayer. Mahishi knew this and wanted to get a boon from Brahma that would make her invincible. After long penances, Lord Brahma appeared before Mahishi and granted her the boon that she prayed for – that no one except a child born out of the union of a man and man could kill her!

Armed with the boon, Mahishi entered heaven and drove away the Devas. Not even the powerful chief of Devas, Indra, could defeat Mahishi. The terrified Devas decided to seek the help of Lord Vishnu. After all, Vishnu was the protector of the Universe.

Led by Indra, they ran to Vaikuntum, the abode of Lord Vishnu.

“Save us from Mahishi,” they pleaded.

A smile appeared on the Lord’s face.

Vishnu assured them that the day would soon come when the evil one would meet her end at the hands of the child of Hari-Haran (Vishnu and Shiva).







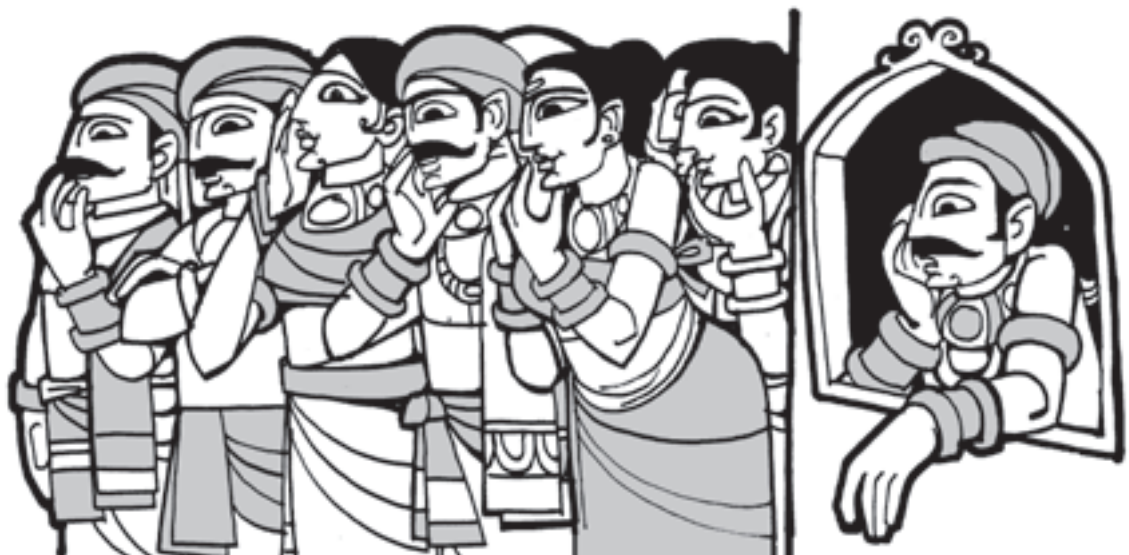


Years passed. Back on earth, king Rajasekara was riding to the palace after a long day of hunting. The deep silence of the forests was broken by the cry of a newborn. Surprised, he set off in the direction from where the cry came from and found an abandoned baby boy! The baby was radiant in the evening sun and had a shining golden bell tied around its neck. The baby was none other than the child of Lord Shiva and Mohini, the female form of Lord Vishnu.

A holy sage appeared before the king, “This baby is a gift from the gods. The little one will bring you and your kingdom great glory. Bring him up as your own son,” he said and disappeared.

The king was overjoyed and returned to the kingdom with the child. Rajasekara decided to call the child, Mani-kantan (the one with a bell around his neck). When Rajasekara brought the baby home and told his queen about his adventure, the queen could not believe her luck.

Soon the news spread and there was celebration everywhere. But there was one person who was not happy at this new turn of events. It was the king’s prime minister. He was dreaming of ascending the throne after Rajasekara and the arrival of the new heir upset all his dreams.





## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

