

Sri Siddharudha
Kathamrita

Sri Ganeshaya Namah | Sri
Sadguru Siddharudhayanamah ||

Chapter 46
**A great Sharana surrendered to
the Lotus-like feet of Sadguru**

Attained his *swarupa* for the good
of the people.

He took the great Guru in the grand
procession.

He fed lakhs of devotees just
before this enemy of *Bhava*.

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O Universal Master, the moment one thinks of You, come immediately and stay here itself. Hence human birth will be fruitful. Sorrows of mundane affairs will be destroyed through Your grace and the devotees lead a quite contented life. One should worship the Master to the best of one's power. This is the only remedy to be happy in life. All sins will be destroyed by doing so. He himself acts in the form of many saints and leads the devotees on the path of self-realization. Thus, the great master up lifts the mundane people.

There lived a saint called Sharanappa Akkalakot who was an intimate devotee of Siddharudha. He used to give philosophical discourses and was famous in describing the fame of Sadguru. He used to come to Hubballi during the Shivaratri and the Shravan festivals regularly. He was well known for his simplicity. He travelled throughout Karnataka and Maharashtra in order to spread the name and glory of his Sadguru. He was very proud of the Veerashaiva religion and interested in Ishtalinga Puja. He always thought of Guru-bhakti (devotion to Guru) and welfare of the world. Later, he gave up the rituals of Veerashaiva community and embraced the principle of oneness. He established a number of Sanskrit patha-shalas (schools) for the students. He used to give food and clothes to the poor during the famine. 'I would have served Basavanna, if I had lived in his time' When he thought

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like this, Mallikarjun Guruji, said,
'The same person, in the name of
Siddharudha is living in Hubballi'
Hearing these words, he came to
Hubballi and took darshan of
Siddharudha. He felt delighted. He
had studied yoga for a long time
but he was not firm in the
knowledge of his real nature
(Swaroopa). He attained the
knowledge of self by the Grace of
Sadguru. Sharanappa came to know
the greatness of Siddharudha and
he became a great devotee of
Sadguru. He began to travel
various places with a purpose to
spread the glory of Siddharudha
among the devotees. He went from
village to village, from town to
town, gathered all the devotees and
preached them that Sadguru
Himself was Ishwar incarnate. He
gained Bliss Eternal while singing
the name of Siddha and narrating
the fame of his Guru, The listeners
were shedding the tears of joy
when they listened to his Kirtan. It
was something as if Tukaram was
doing Kirtan. Thus, he spread the
Sadguru bhakti among the people
and they wished to have darshan of
Sadguru. Having called them all,
Sharanappa made the devotees visit
Sadguru. While coming to the
festivals, Sharanappa brought
thousands of devotees with him,
having placed them at the Lotus-
like feet of Sadguru, he felt that he
was verily blessed. If anybody
came to Sadguru, for the first time,
he would never leave the Feet of
Sadguru. The greatness of

Gururaya is like this. Some people asked Sharanappa, 'We've no children, if we possess children, which God should we worship? Then Sharanappa said to them, 'Sadguru, Siddharudha, residing in Hubballi. He is Shiva incarnate. His festivals take place during the months of Shravana and Magha. If you take His darshan

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regularly at that time you'll have children.' Believing these words, many people would come to Siddhashram and touch His feet. Their desires would be fulfilled without fail and they continued visiting Sadguru until their death. Thus, they gained all kinds of pleasures. All this is because of the darshan of Siddharudha.

There was a village called Unakall near Hubballi in Dharwad district. The people of that village came to Sharanappa and said, 'O Swami, if you do kirtan in our village for a month, we'll certainly be blessed.' Hearing their humble prayer, he said, 'Well, having come to your village, 'I'll do kirtan provided you dedicate cart-loads of food to

Siddhashrama during the Shravan Monday. If you do such service, I'll come to your village and do kirtan. Hearing this all the villagers danced with joy and said, 'We are blessed by your company.' They promised to do as Sharanappa wished. They also kept their words. Then Sharanappa did kirtan before thousands of devotees. The devotees heard the glory of Siddharudha from Sharanappa. They found his kirtan interesting, illustrative and immersed in listening to the kirtan, they would forget their bodies. Two men, troubled by ghosts had sat to listen to the kirtan. On hearing the name of Siddha, the ghosts ran away by producing the sound of a conch. Seeing this all were surprised. They said, 'The company of Sharanappa is beneficial' Then, Sharanappa told them to begin the function of the festival. Thousands of people doing bhajan, holding small cymbals in their hands, playing them and repeating the *Naam* of Siddharudha went out of the

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village. Behind them decorated married women, each of them holding arati in her hands, singing arati to Sadguru followed the men folk. Behind these women went sixty carts decorated with sprouts and loaded with different varieties of food-rice, vegetables etc. The sky was filled with the roar of *Naam* and loud sound of musical instruments. The distance between Unakalla and Siddhashram was one haradari (about five Kilomeetres). The devotees walked all that distance by repeating the *Naam* of Siddharudha and doing bhajan. Here, at Siddhashrama, Sadguru was waiting for His devotees. Huge number of people gathered at Siddhashrama. Afternoon, the *partavalis* (leaves used as eating plates) were kept and ten thousand people sat to have their lunch. They began to serve sweets. When they were eating by repeating *Naam*, Siddharudha was observing them carefully. He was greatly pleased to see His devotees enjoying the food. Six rows, each comprising ten thousand people- thus sixty thousand people ate the food. Sharanappa felt very, very happy. After the dinner was over, he did kirtan in holy presence of Siddha Sadguru by praising the glory of Siddharudha for two hours. While the people were going to their places, Sharanappa said to them, 'If you take Siddharudha to Unakalla and worship Him there, you will be graced. They said to Sharanappa, 'It is learnt that Sadguru won't leave Hubballi and go anywhere. If He yields to your prayer to come over there, we will worship Him lovingly. Having gone to Siddharudha, Sharanappa said, 'Gurunatha, the devotees of Unakalla have decided to worship You in their place and they have

made every preparation for that'
Hearing Sharanappa's words, the
devotees of Hubballi

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said, `Sharanappa, our Swami does not leave Hubballi. Don't take Him and we can't leave Him' He said to them humbly, `If you don't live without Swami, I'll give you all invitation right now. My humble prayer is - you all together bring Swamini to Unakall, take your meals there. After that having seen the mantap puja you all reach Swamiji to Siddhashrama.' Hearing this, all the devotees were delighted. Sadguru told Sharanappa to fulfil his wish. When all the preparations were made, one fine day, the devotees went to Siddhashrama to take Siddharudha to Unakall. They gave invitations to thousands of devotees of Hubballi. Having made Sadguru sit in the palanquin, a huge number of

devotees marched in procession to Unakalla. As they went they did bhajan and played musical instruments. Their sounds filled sky. The appearance of Sadguru in the palanquin looked beautiful. Thus, the procession reached Unakalla at a certain time. Having made Sadguru descend from the palanquin, they made Him sit on the throne. Mass-feeding began soon in the afternoon. On the bank of a lake, in the open area, one lakh people sat for meals (bhojan). Greatly delighted Sharanappa, holding Siddharudha by hand, took Him to a top place and showed Him the ocean of people. As the swans sat on the bank of Manas lake, so it (the ocean of people) looked. Sadguru felt happy and asked Sharanappa. 'How did you organize this great festival?' Sharanappa replied. 'I was telling Your greatness in my kirtan. Your fame impressed the devotees. I was praising Your fame before the devotees while doing kirtan. Having got their mind purified, by mere hearing they did this work' After the mass feeding was over, having

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made Sadguru sit in the mantap (pandal), they worshiped Him gloriously. Their happiness knew no bounds. After the puja was finished, the devotees sent Sadguru in the palanquin to Siddhashram. Thus, all the efforts made by Sharnappa would get accomplished by Sadguru.

Once Sharanappa had to go to Hubballi via Gokak during the month of Shravan (a month in Hindu calendar regarded as auspicious). He had to cross the river, Ghataprabha but it was in spate. Standing on the bank of the Ghataprabha, he promised to himself that he would not eat without taking the darshan of Siddharudha. The boat which should have been there, had been swept away by the flood. There were some people who wanted to cross the river but they found no chance of crossing the river and they returned home but Sharanappa stood there repeating the *Naam* of Sadguru. Some said to him, 'Why are you standing here unnecessarily? Let's go tomorrow, let's go back.' But Sharanappa said, 'I won't eat without meeting Sadguru.' So, having left him there, they went back home. It was getting darker and darker. Sharanappa stood there itself and prayed humbly. 'O Merciful Sadguru, if You don't help me at this time, I'll miss the chance of doing kirtan (a sermon mixed with songs) at the festival. You can cross the devotees from the river of bhava (bondage a cycle of births and deaths). Hence, why do you worry to cross me from this silly river? Hurry up to cross me and take me for your worship (puja). If you don't come with a view to see my determination, I will show it to

you? What he did was- He jumped into the river

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immediately, while the flood was carrying him, he shouted `O Siddharudha' Siddharudha came in a boat. Taking him in His boat, He crossed him from the river. As soon as they reached the other bank, Sadguru and the boat disappeared from the scene. He praised. `O Sadguru, You Yourself came and crossed me. Now you disappear.' He reached Hubballi and told Sadguru about what had happened. Hearing this Sri. Guru said, `When jiva goes in the flood of attachment it is only Sadguru who saves him'

Sharanappa made a number of efforts for the welfare of the world and for the spread of the greatness of Siddharudha among the people. Some of them are: He established

free boarding houses in order to serve Sadguru during the festivals of Shravan and Shivaratri. He fed thousands of devotees and while doing kirtan, he always described Siddharudha's greatness itself. He purchased a land where he first took the darshan of Siddharudha considering it sacred. He got constructed a chaultry (for food) for the saints and sages and a hall for doing bhajan. Thus he arranged to do bhajan day and night. In this way, he arranged to do continuous day and night bhajan in four villages. He made the people celebrate the festivals of Siddharudha and read his story. (charit). He visited palaces in order to spread the greatness of Siddharudha and advised the people to chant the *panchakshari mantra* (a five lettered hymn). He gave each disciple a holy-book, Siddhacharit and a photo of Sadguru. Thus, he made every effort to uplift the devotees. He had brought Pannalal Maharaj and Maharajas of Yadalli and Chimmada to Siddharudha. Having made Siddharudha sit in Rudraksha Mantap (pendal),

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he would worship Sadguru with great reverence. This Sharanappa Swami is verily blessed. He always thought of the welfare of the people and obtained the love and affection of Siddharudha who was like *Paramatma*. One's desires will be fulfilled by mere chanting the *Naam* of Sadguru. He removes the bondage of bhava (a cycle of births

and deaths) by mere thinking of Him. Here Shivadas dedicates the forty sixth chapter of 'Sri Siddharudha Kathamrita' at the Lotus feet of Sri Siddharudha, which burns all the sins by just hearing.

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Chapter 47