



**SUNADA**  
**MUSIC, MUSIC THERAPY & MORE...**

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***From the Editor's Desk***

Sorry for disappearing for a few months. Sunada is happy to reach back its readers after long sojourn. Happy reading...

KS Vasantha Lakshmi,

Founder & Editor, [www.sunadavinodini.com](http://www.sunadavinodini.com)

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**NECTAR TO THE MIND**  
**CHITTABODHAMRUTAM**

By

Late Bhavaraju Bapiraju

This book of poems written in chaste Telugu has been liked by the educated and erudite of Andhra Pradesh. Not only is the author my grandfather, but he also served in the British Government before India got independence. This is just a very humble attempt to translate this great work so that it reaches a larger audience.

Translated by Kalipatnam Sita Vasantha Lakshmi,  
(Nee Bhavaraju)

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Creating life on the earth, making it prosper  
Following the order of Brahma and Shankara ever,  
Oh kind one, showing light to the world forever,  
Worship such an one steadily oh my wandering mind!

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## WHO IS RADHA?

Whenever one thinks of love, the names that come to one's mind are those of Radha and Krishna. It is always Radha-Krishna and not vice-versa. So popular are they as the eternal lovers that eternal love itself has come to be synonymous with their names. Radha's birthday is celebrated exactly after a month of Shri Krishna Janmashtami.

In Krishna's life, Radha was to be the recipient of this supreme and unbounded love. This is the love that was yet untouched by responsibilities, cares and the several fights and machinations that Krishna was to indulge in His later life. It is not possible to talk of Krishna without his innumerable love affairs and his final marriage to the eight princesses. Of all his eight queens, only two merit a mention here. One is Rukmini, who was His Consort and the other is Satyabhama who demanded His love and undivided attention. The attempt however, is to describe the type of love Krishna enjoyed and cherished from Radha whose love stands-out in its perfect form.

There is no mention of Radha in the Sanskrit Bhagavata, except probably being hinted at as a favourite Gopi of Krishna. It is generally believed that Radha lived in the same village, where Nanda, Krishna's foster-father lived. All the villagers of this place were cowherds. Nanda was their Chief. In his Krishnavatara Volume I, (The Magic Flute), Kulpati M. Munshi, Radha is introduced to the reader when Krishna is at the age of around seven or eight. He met her for the first time when he is tied down to a stone which he drags between two trees Yamal and Arjuna and fells both of them. Radha was one of the two girls who appear on this scene. One was of the same age as Krishna and the other is Radha, who is slightly older. According to Munshi, she belonged to Barsana. She was supposed to have "beautiful hair, with flowers in it and wonderful eyes – large and bright and mischievous. She walked with an easy grace in her supple limbs as if she were dancing and her anklets jingled rhythmically". She "had a fine voice. It sounded like a bird's trill". When she sees what Krishna had done she addresses him as the "mean Chief Nanda's son Kanha? How strange?" Their acquaintance takes-off from this to evolve later into an inseparable legend of love. Radha is the personification

of kindness, giving and forgiving. But then that is what it exactly is. Radha loved Krishna and expected nothing in return except a few moments of time spent together. She did not mind his innumerable love affairs. But this is not to say that she was not jealous. What is love if there is no jealousy? The green-eyed monster is the very indication of the ever-green love that Radha had for Krishna. “Her smile was like a flower opening out.” Krishna loved her teeth and “they were like the seeds of a pomegranate, reddish and shapely and small’.

Radha seems to have lent her support to Krishna all the time, unconditionally, in everything he did. She always covered up for him. Krishna always told her that she was the Soul of the Rasa. He would never join it without her. Whenever she heard Krishna play the flute her heart would thump like a hammer. She knew that she was His joy and He was her life, her Lord and her God. The only person who did not approve of all this was her eldest stepmother, Kapila. She had always expressed her displeasure against the way her husband pampered Radha. She thought that Radha was old enough to be married off as was wont in those times. She never really approved of the way in which Radha idolised the son of Nanda. Radha had already been betrothed to a soldier by the name Aiyan, who went to fight the wars for Kamsa. On his return, Radha was to be married to him. She could never accept this stranger as her husband. Radha was helpless in this scheme of Fate. The wedding was to take place at the time of Uttarayana, by which time she would be twenty years old. “And she was not to meet Krishna any more. He was now fifteen”. The story goes that she was kept locked up. But she could never forget the vivid pictures of the times she had with Krishna. She knew in her mind that Krishna’s flute played only for her. But as she was locked up, she had to endure bouts of jealousy. When Krishna played his Magic flute all the Gopis would gather around him and dance and sing through the night. And the worst part of the whole thing was that she would have no part in it any more. For it was Radha who brought the carefree ways of Barsana to Brindavan. In her village, she enjoyed the freedom to do whatever she liked. She was the trend-setter in Brindavan for a new kind of freedom which allowed all the girls to gather on the banks of Yamuna and spend a lot of time singing and dancing. Radha was not a shy girl like the others. She was more like a tomboy, good at swimming, racing and mischievous.

According to Kulpatiji’s Magic Flute, Krishna tries gallantly to convince his parents to allow him to marry Radha, but in vain. He requests his mother to

do the needful, so he can be married to Radha. The age difference does not seem to bother him at all. Naturally, Yashoda is outraged with the very idea, as Radha, along with being older than Krishna, also belongs to a lower caste. She goes on to describe Radha as, “a forward, daring girl. The whole village talks about her forwardness. Such a daughter-in-law is worth losing”.

The same incident, when narrated to Nanda by Krishna, evokes nothing but laughter, as if it is a big wild joke. And Krishna is told by his father that he is destined “to marry a princess”. He was, for that matter, not to marry any Gopi. Many a time, the question of Krishna not having done justice to Radha’s love is raised by many. The following incident should rest all those doubts to rest. When Krishna ventured to ask Gargacharya why he cannot marry Radha, he was told, “Marriage, my son, is not a matter of mere desire. That is a wicked way of mating. Men, who do not know the laws of Dharma, follow in that way. But looks and temperaments, age and family, upbringing and the future, all have to be taken into account. Marriage is a solemn act, in which man and wife become one and pledge themselves to Dharma”.

Thus, were the lovers separated and Radha married the groom selected by her parents. When Krishna left for Mathura, it was Krishna’s turn to explain to Radha, why she cannot accompany him. He tells her that he is no longer a child and a great change in his personality is in the offing. Although Radha was the joy of his heart, she could never be the lovely flower that she once was. “You were born to be kissed by the rising sun and to spread the fragrance of joy”. He even goes to the extent of telling her that should she never ever leave Brindavan, as it would never be the same again without her. With her there, it would be shrine and that she would be worshipped as a Goddess. He promises that his flute will remain with her and that he will never play it for anyone else in his life. Thus Radha indeed reigned supreme in the heart of Krishna.

Even today, legend has it, that Raasleela takes place in Briandavan every night with Krishna and Radha and the Gopis. Whenever someone dares to venture into these gardens while the Raas is in progress, the Aura and light are so bright that these ordinary mortals get blinded by the light and really become blind. Whether or not this is true, the fact remains that Radha is Love incarnate indeed.

Although Radha’s love is unrequited, she married another man as ordained by her parents and is never mentioned again in Krishna’s life. But whenever

**eternal love is thought of the first person that comes to one's mind is none other than Radha. She is the real embodiment of Love.**



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## Therapeutic Value of Carnatic Music in Education in Schools

By 'Surmani' Ks Vasantha Lakshmi,

The role of Carnatic music in the general education in schools has been a subject of discussion. But As Prof. N.Y. Bryusova of USSR says, “art in school is a must first of all be a method of upbringing and music is an art that is a certain phenomenon in the world created by man and not a discipline to be taught and learned.” A child can be helped through art to gain a deeper understanding of thoughts and feelings, think clearer and feel more deeply. The children can be helped to turn knowledge about themselves into a means of understanding others. The main aim of introducing Carnatic music in general education is so much the teaching of music for its own sake as influencing through music the inner world, self discipline and above all the moral character. There is no doubt of course, that concentration on the child as an individual is of vital importance in music. The therapeutic value of Carnatic music can be enumerated in the following manner. Firstly, it shows the child the way to understand music. Secondly, it prepares them to find their bearing in the world of music that will surround them later in their lives. Thirdly, it introduces them to the world of art in its own right and to form a basis of a general culture that embraces the entire population. Fourthly, it will produce intelligent listeners with an ear for good music. Last but not the least, it will inculcate in them an ability to listen to any music and imbibe all its therapeutic effects and also spread the same to the entire world.

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## WHAT YOU THINK.....



Thank you. Read your magazine. Very nice. Wish you all the best and a bright future. Hope we can collaborate musically in the future.

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Dear Sunada, Enjoyed reading it. Thank you for sharing

Regards,  
Rahim Zullah...

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Thank you very much for sending in the latest copy of Sunada. It is very interesting.

Regards.

Elchuri Muralidharrao

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Interesting issue, vasantha...thumbs up!

Neelima Mathur, Sport Films, Naukuchiyatal

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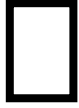
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