

Dashavatar – Lord Krishna

(Sri Krishna Tulabaram)



Rukmini Kalyanam

The king of Vidarbha was Bhisma. He had five sons and one daughter, Rukmini. The eldest son Rukmi hated Krishna and wanted to give his lovely sister in marriage to his friend, Sisupala, the prince of Chedi, who hated Krishna even more. But the king and all the other members of the royal family wanted Rukmini to marry Krishna. Rukmini had heard stories of Krishna's divinity from her childhood and she had her heart set on marrying him. When she heard that Rukmi had chosen Sisupala for her, she did not despair. She called for her trusted aid Sunanda, and with a message, sent him to the Lord of her heart.

Sunanda was well received by Krishna in Dwaraka, and asked him the purpose of his visit. Sunanda narrated the complete situation in Vidarbha and said, "Rukmini asked me to say that she has set her heart on you, that she would rather die than marry anybody else. She has implored you to save her from the Sisupala. The princess would have you come to Vidarbha during the days of the marriage festivities, and carry her off. On the wedding day she will go to Goddess Parvati temple for worship. She has vowed to lay down her life by fasting if she does not see you then."

Krishna knew of Rukmini's devotion and accepted it graciously. Krishna was the incarnation of Lord Vishnu, and Rukmini was the incarnation of His divine Consort, Lakshmi. So it was natural that they should be life partners on earth too. Krishna laughed heartily when he heard Rukmini's message, and said, "I too am determined to marry Rukmini, and am coming to Vidarbha." Krishna went to Vidarbha first and Balrama followed with the army.

The wedding arrangements of Rukmini and Sisupala were in full swing at Vidarbha. Sisupala's father brought Salva, Jarasandha, and all his other friends along. They were the enemies of Krishna. In the royal palace, Rukmini was getting extremely anxious as there was no sign yet of either Krishna or the messenger she had sent. It was now the eve of her wedding day, and she left the palace to have Goddess Parvati's darshan with a heavy heart.

When Rukmini was leaving the temple after darshan, she looked at the surroundings for Krishna, and did not find him. As she was about to enter her chariot and leave, she felt someone hold her from behind. It was her Lord. Krishna lifted her into His chariot, and drove away towards Dwaraka. Jarasandha, who was Kamsa's father-in-law, was furious, and rallied all his men and ordered them to chase Krishna. Jarasandha's men followed Krishna but were ambushed by Balrama and his army on the outskirts of the city. Now Rukmi managed to go through Balrama's army and catch up with Krishna and Rukmini. He swore that he would not return to his city without his sister. Rukmi fired an arrow at Krishna, but it did not even make a dent in Krishna's divine armour. Krishna then fired multiple arrows, which killed Rukmi's horses, shattered his chariot, and Rukmi's bow. Rukmi now mad with rage picked up his sword and ran towards Krishna. But, Krishna soon had Rukmi in his power and was about to cut off his head. But Rukmini fell at his feet begged his to spare her brother's life. Krishna spared Rukmi's life but cut half the hair on his head and half the moustache on his face, the worst insult a warrior could face, and then let him go.

Krishna returned to Dwarka triumphantly with Rukmini, and married her with due pomp and ceremony, amid great rejoicing in the city.

Samanthakamani

There was a Yadava noble man in Dwaraka, whose name was Satrajit. He was a great devotee of the Surya, the Sun God. The Surya Bhagavan was very happy with Satrajit's great devotion, and gifted him a gem of matchless brilliancy. It was called Samanthakamani. It used to give many pounds of gold every day. Lord Sri Krishna asked Satrajit to give that mani to Him to serve the people, but Satrajit refused.

One day, Satrajit's brother, Prasenajit, wore that mani, and went into the forest for hunting. He was attacked by a lion who killed him and his horse, and took away the Samanthakamani assuming it was a piece of precious meat. But the lion in its turn was attacked by the Jambavan, the bear-chief, and killed him. Jambavan took the mani and gave it to his daughter, Jambavati. Here Satrajit missed his brother and spread a rumor that Krishna had killed him in order to secure the gem for himself.

In order to prove His innocence, and get rid of the blame, Krishna went in search of Prasenajit with his men. In the forest they found Prasenajit's remains and also the dead horse and the dead lion. Then, following Jambavan's footprints, they reached his cave. When Krishna entered the cave, He was obstructed by Jambavan and they were engaged in furious fight for 28 days. Jambavan gradually became weak, and realized that Krishna is none other than his Lord Rama. He prostrated before Krishna, and begged His forgiveness for having not recognized him earlier. Krishna explained to him that He wanted the gem only to prove his innocence. Jambavan gladly gave it Krishna, and requested that he marry his daughter Jambavati also.

Krishna now returned to Dwaraka and gave the Samanthakamani to Satrajit. Satrajit felt truly sorry for having spread such false rumors about Krishna. He caught Krishna's feet and asked to be forgiven. And to show his repentance, he presented Krishna with the mani, and his beautiful and talented daughter, Satyabhama. Krishna accepted Satyabhama as his wife.

Sri Krishna Tulabharam

Krishna had many wives, and it is said because he was God, he could multiply Himself and live in a separate palace with each! His city of Dwaraka prospered. Krishna had two main wives. Rukmini was his first wife, and Satyabhama his second. Satyabhama had pure love for Krishna, but she was a little proud and jealous of Rukmini.

One day the celestial Rishi Narada came for a visit to Satyabhama. He wanted to help her get over her jealousy and haughtiness. Rishi Narada liked to stir up mischief. On the way to see Krishna he met Satyabhama. He walked up to her, and with a voice of absolute innocence asked her, "Rani Satyabhama, don't doubt my intentions, but is it my old age or is it really true that Krishna loves Rukmini more than you?" Satyabhama was thoroughly shaken and stood still, gaping at Narada. "You are far more beautiful and charming than her. You are the younger queen. Don't you think you deserve more attention?" prodded Narada again. Pulling herself together, Satyabhama looked inquisitively at Narada, "Tell me divine sage, what should I do to gain his undivided attention? You are my only hope now", she pleaded to him.

Narada, ever eager to cause confusion told her, "That is my whole point of visit, mother. I have a plan all hatched up to bring Krishna back to you." He told her to take a vow to give Narada Krishna as his slave.

Then Narada would let Satyabhama buy Krishna back with gold and jewels. Krishna would be put on a scale, and once she matched Krishna's weight in gold and jewels, she would get him back. "This will show Krishna that you mean more to him than even gold and jewels!" said the Rishi. "The only hitch is that I do not know if your wealth will suffice to balance out Krishna's weight", Narada asked skeptically.

Proud as ever, Satyabhama flared up, "I am the daughter of Satrajit. My wealth is limitless. I am sure that I have enough to balance Krishna. We will carry on with this plan of yours." And that was exactly what Narada wanted. Satyabhama rushed to Krishna and hurriedly told him about her unfortunate vow to Narada Krishna patiently listened to her and very meekly nodded his head. Satyabhama then commanded one of the servants to bring out the large scales used to weigh grains and groceries. She also sent the Caretaker of the Coffers to bring out all her jewels and gold to the grand court room. And gently leading Krishna, she went to the Courtroom. All the ministers stared at the scales that had been placed at the center of the court. Their mouths further fell when they saw box after box of gold being carried inside. Krishna was silent throughout the entire time. So great was the uproar of surprise at the court that Krishna's other queens too hurried from their palaces to the main court.

Amidst all the courtiers and with Krishna himself as the witness, Satyabhama gave away Krishna in dana (donation) to Narada. The other wives of Krishna were shocked at this, but being ever dutiful, they did not speak out in front of the assembled court. Narada then gave her the option of taking back Krishna but instead presenting him with an equivalent weight of riches. Amidst loud sighs of relief, Satyabhama agreed to it. She then placed Krishna on one plate of the Scales and with a smirk on her face started piling up the gold, jewels and gemstones on the other plate. She kept adding more and more of her wealth, but the pan with Krishna did not even budge. To top it all, Narada kept giving her ominous warnings, "Remember Devi, if you fail to supply me with sufficient wealth, Krishna will forever be a slave to me. I can even bid him out to anyone I want." Satyabhama became very anxious! Swallowing her pride, begged the other wives of Krishna to give her their jewels so that they could retain Krishna. Out of their devotion to their lord, the wives removed every gold ornament on their body until they were wearing only the Mangalsutra. But the scale showed no signs of motion.

Krishna, always the sly cowherd, "Look Satyabhama, because of your stupid vow, I have to be a slave to this Rishi. Oh! I hate this", he complained. Satyabhama was at a loss for words when Krishna continued, "Why don't you ask Rukmini? She must be able to get us out of this predicament", he suggested coyly. Satyabhama was in such a state that all her ill will towards Rukmini flew out of the window. Rushing to Rukmini's private chambers, she poured out the dire state of matters. Rukmini, ever calm, didn't panic and came along with Satyabhama. On the way she passed the sacred Tulasi Kota, and plucking a single leaf of Tulasi (sacred Basil), she continued her way to the hall. She very quietly walked towards the balance and praying to Krishna, placed the single Tulasi leaf on all the piled up wealth. Lo and Behold! The pan containing Krishna flew up and remained underbalanced. Shocked at this, Satyabhama looked to Krishna for explanation. "Try removing your riches, Satyabhama," Krishna told her, all smiles.

With a very skeptical expression on her face, she removed all her riches until nothing but the single Tulasi leaf sat on the pan. And yet, it weighed more than Krishna. She was stunned and humbled. Krishna jumped down from his high hanging pan and came to her, "Satyabhama, you gave all your riches to me, but there was no devotion in that offering, just the feeling of possessiveness. When you made

your offerings with such a thought in your mind, they lost their value and became mundane things. On the other hand Rukmini offered just a single tulasi leaf. But her intentions were noble. She made the offering with utmost love, humility, and devotion towards me. And that single leaf was sufficient to please me beyond expectations. Remember it is not the offering that matters, but the love and devotion with which you do it, that does.” Then leaving Satyabhama standing stunned in the court, Krishna returned to his chambers with his other wives. Turning to Narada, her eyes now shining bright with tears, Satyabhama said, “Devarishi, thank you for teaching me this hard learnt lesson today. I will never ever underestimate the power of devotion and love towards the Lord.” Narada nodded and then he was gone.

Let us all remember, that it is not so much as the value of the offerings that matter, as the love with which you offer it to the god almighty. After all, Love 'IS' God.

Questions:

- Who was Rukmini supposed to marry?
- How did she get out of that marriage?
- What did Krishna do to Rukmini’s brother? Why?
- Who was Rukmini and incarnation of?
- What was the stone called that produced gold? Why did Krishna want it?
- Why did Satrajit spread a false rumor about Krishna?
- Why did Krishna try and find the stone?
- Who was the bear he fought to recover the stone?
- What other incarnation of God did that bear know?
- Why did Rishi Narada visit with Satyabhama?
- What were the good and bad points about Satyabhama?
- What did she do with Krishna?
- How did she try and buy Krishna? Was her gold enough?
- What tipped the scales for Krishna? Why?
- What is better, wealth or humility?

Lingashtakam

Brahma Murari surarchita Lingam; Nirmala bhasita sobhita Lingam
Janmaja dukha vinasaka Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (1)

Devamuni pravararchita Lingam; Kamadahana karunakara Lingam
Ravana darpa vinasaka Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (2)

Sarva sugandhi sulepita Lingam; Buddhi vivardhana karana Lingam
Siddha surasura vandita Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (3)

Kanaka maha mani bhushita Lingam; Paniphati veshtitha shobhita Lingam
Dakshasu yajna vinashana Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (4)

Kumkuma chandana lepita Lingam; Pankaja hara sushobhita Lingam
Sanchita papa vinashana Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (5)

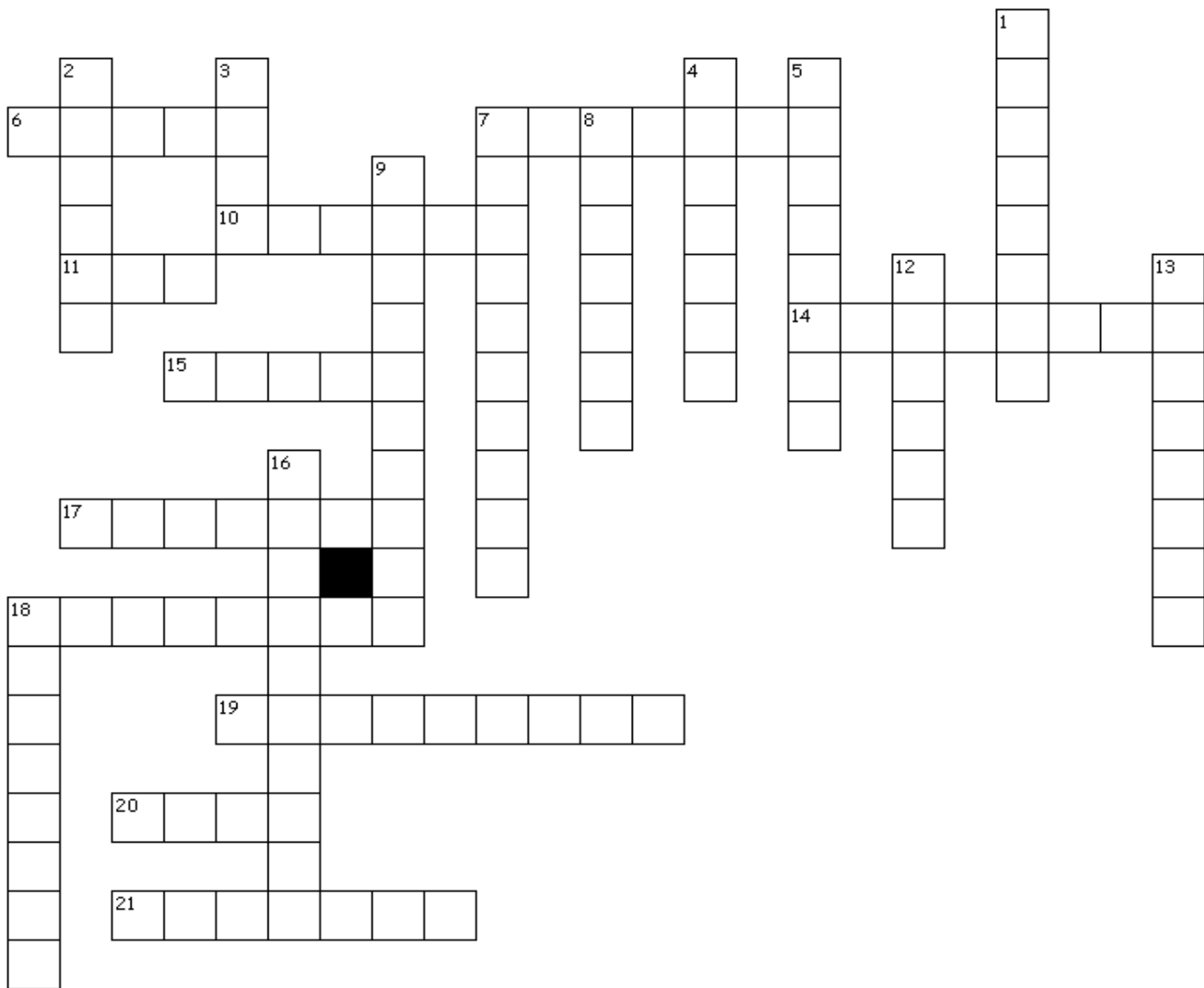
**Devaganarchita sevita Lingam
Bhavair bhaktibhi revacha Lingam
Dinakarakoti prabhakara Lingam
Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (6)**

**Ashtadalo pariveshtia Lingam
Sarva samudbhava karana Lingam
Ashtadaridra vinashana Lingam
Tatpranamami Sadashiva Lingam (7)**

**Suraguru suravara pujita Lingam
Suravana pushpa sadarchita Lingam
Paratparam paramatmaka Lingam
Tatpranamami Sadashiva Lingam (8)**

**Lingashtakamidam punyam
Yat Pathet Shivasannidhau
Shivalokamavapnoti
Shivena saha modate (9)**

CROSSWORD PUZZLE – Based on this lesson



Across

- 6. Rukmini's brother
- 7. The temple Rukmini before wedding
- 10. The celestial Rishi
- 11. Number of children Bhismka had
- 14. Rukmini's father
- 15. The Sun God
- 17. Krishna's kingdom
- 18. Rukmi's friend
- 19. Krishna's other wife
- 20. What metal Samanthakamani gives daily
- 21. Rukmini's trusted aid

Down

- 1. Krishna's brother
- 2. What leaf Rukmini put in the scale
- 3. who killed Satrajit's brother?
- 4. Rukmini is an incarnation of
- 5. Bhismaka's kingdom
- 7. Satrajit's brother
- 8. Lord Krishna's first wife
- 9. One who gave Krishna in Dana to Narada
- 12. Krishna is an incarnation of
- 13. One who fought Krishna for 28 days
- 16. Kamsa's father-in-law
- 18. Satyabhama's father

Coloring exercise

