



Basava Journal

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Should I say that the Sea is great ?
The earth holds it !
Should I say that the earth is great ?
The jewel in the Snake-god's hood
Hold that !
Should I say that the Snake-gods great ?
He is contained within the signet-ring
On the small finger of Parvati !
Is then Parvati great ? She is
Parameshwara's better half !
Is this Parameshwara great, then ? He's
contained within the Point of points
of our Kudala Sanga's Sarana's
Minds !

—Basavanna



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EDITORIAL

MYTH TURNED INTO TRUTH

LEGEND has it that the great Salivahana made soldiers and warriors of clay and at his bidding these men of clay were transformed into real warriors of exceptional bravery and fortitude and marched to the north to stem the tide of invaders.

If taken literally, this will certainly sound supernatural or superstitions to the modern mind, but if we put an allegorical interpretation on this mythic story it will no longer remain supernatural or unreal. Men of clay do not necessarily mean men made of clay. They represent demoralized beings bereft of the will to live, the will to strive and the will to aspire for higher values of life. If some superman succeeds in putting new vitality and faith into their sinking spirits, the myth of men of clay becoming men of heroism is turned into truth.

Did we not see with our own eyes the incontrovertible though unbelievable phenomenon of a frail figure of Sevagram putting into millions and millions of men and women in this country rendered as lifeless as real men of clay by grinding poverty and abject slavery the vibrations of a resurgent nation that reverberated from one end of India to the other under his unique leadership? He had no military might under his command; he had no staggering heaps of gold at his disposal; and he had no secret weapons that could wipe out huge cities in the twinkling of an eye! But still, at his bidding, a prostrate nation rose from its slumber of centuries like one man

and waged a war of non-violence and truth against the mightiest empire of the day. Is it not turning an old myth into truth.

Basava did this same thing centuries before Bapuji by elevating the Fallen, forsaken and forlorn, the exploited and the downtrodden to the status of saranas. The full story of this great and glorious movement of Basava is yet to be told. Here is a virgin field for researchers and a gold mine for scholars.

SIDDAYYA PURANIK
Chief Editor

Meditations of Allama Prabhu

Maya - Vilasa - Vidambana - Sthala

(DENUNCIATION OF PLAYFUL ILLUSION)

Translated by : Dr. Siddayya Puranik

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Transliteration : Bhoomiya Kathinavanu, akashada
Mruduvanu
tiliva gamanavalliye nindittu.
Udakadolage huttida trishne Udakava-
narasittalla |
Va'age sattu horage aduttade !
Guheshwara beragagi alliye nindanu !

Translation : The process of understanding the earth's
toughness
and sky's softness stopped there only :
What is this—thirst born in water searched
for water !
It dies withi and sports outside !
Guheshwara tarried there only in wonder !

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Transliteration : Brahma Pasha, Vishnu Mayeyemba baleya
beesi,
honnu-hennu-mannu tori
Mukkannanadida benteya.
Asheyemba Kutukanikki
hesade Kondeyalla—Guheshwara.

Translation :

Hurling slings of Brahma and
Snare of Vishnu,
Displaying Wealth-Woman and land
the Three-eyed One is hunting up !
Offering Morsels of desire
you slayed sans mercy, Guheshwara !

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Transliteration : Brahma ghanavembene,
Brahmana nungittu Maye !
Vishnu ghanavembene,
Vishnuva nungittu Maye !
Rudra ghanavembene,
Rudrana nungittu Maye !
Ta ghanavembene,
tanna nungittu Maye !
Sarvavu ninna Maye,
Obbaranolakonditte, hela,
Guheshwara.

Translation :

Shall I say Brahma is great ?
Maya swallowed Brahma !
Shall I say Vishnu is great ?
Maya swallowed Vishnu !
Shall I say Rudra is great ?
Maya swallowed Rudra !
Shall I say self is great ?
Maya swallowed self also !
All is Thy Maya !
Tell me, Guheshwara, has it
accommodated any ?

Transliteration: Ayitte Udayamana, Hoyitte astamana.
 Alidavalla neeratada nirmitangalellavu !
 Kattalegaviyittu moorulokadolage !
 Idarachchugavenu hela,
 Guheshwara !

Translation : Appearance is dawn ; disappearance is
 dusk !
 Dissolved are all creations born of water !
 Darkness descended on all the
 three worlds !
 Tell me, Guheshwara, What is this
 mystery ?