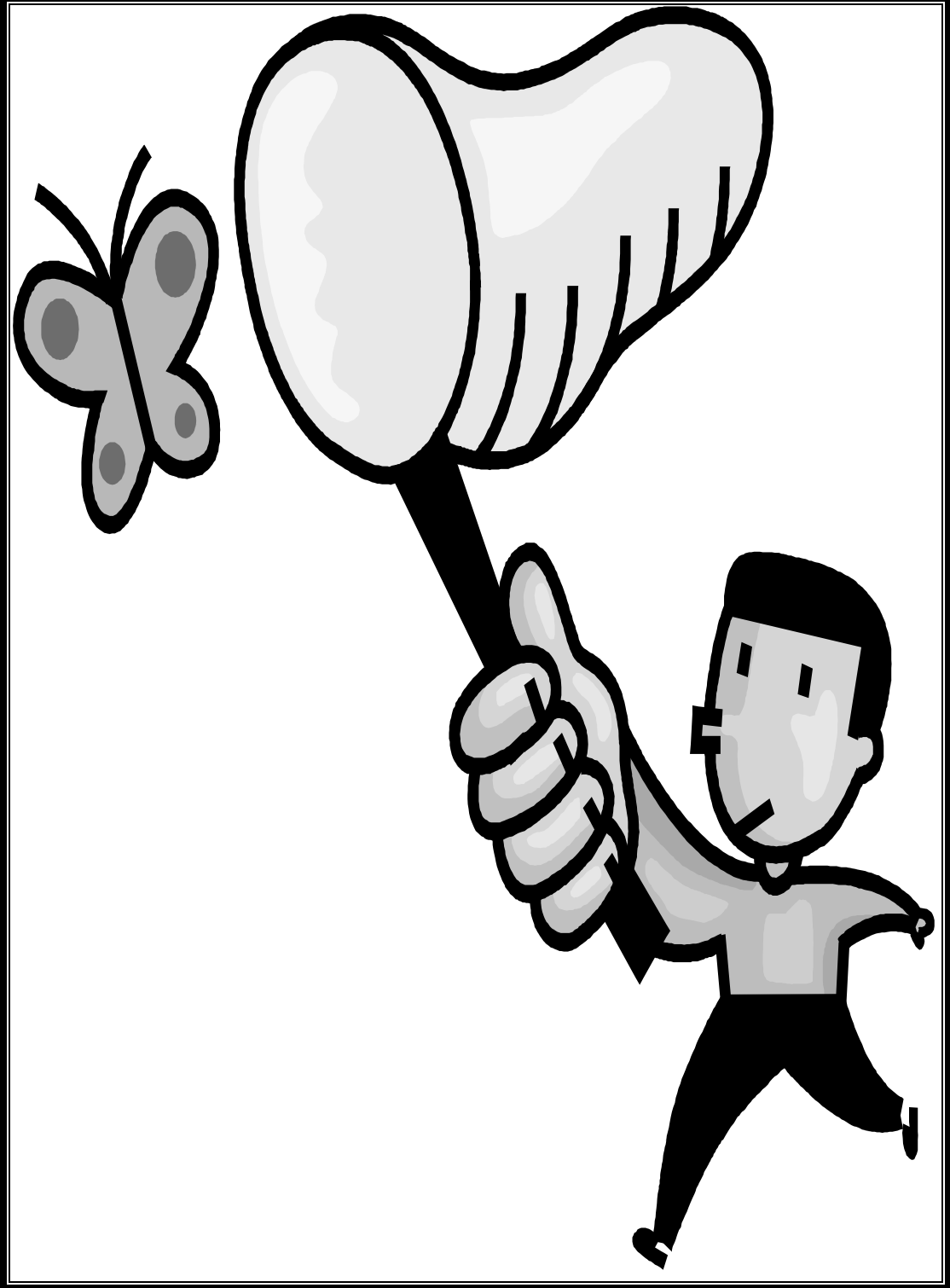


ಕಿರಿಯರ ವಿಭಾರ





Kabini Lodge

Abhijit Ramaprasad

Milpitas

7 years

This year, after my 2nd grade, I visited India during summer break. I went to India for lots of things. I went to India to see my grandparents. I went there to have fun. I went there to see my family. I saw my grandparents, my cousins, my uncle and aunt. I went to India for one more thing, to see what India is like. I went to lots of shops in India. India was a fun place.

We went to a place called Kabini. It was a long drive from Mysore. When we reached there, one of the rangers gave us a map of Kabini. Then we saw the Maharaja's bungalow. This was where the king of Mysore went on hunting trips. Later we had food at a place called Golghar. It is called so because it is a round house. Then we went to our cabin. It was number seven. At 3:00 pm we went to the Golghar again because there was a briefing about our program for the rest of the day. Then we went on a jeep ride in the jungle. We saw a lot of rare things. We saw hundreds of deer. We saw two types of deer. They were spotted deer and mouse deer. We saw many herds of elephants. In one group, there were eight elephants. In other groups, there were fewer elephants. We also saw many types of birds, including the peacocks. On our way back to the lodge some wild buffalos crossed the road very near our jeep. We also got to see three elephants in the camp. My mom took some pictures of elephants.

After we returned to the lodge, we watched a movie called Nagarahole. It was a short movie though. Then I fell asleep after the movie was over.

The next morning we went on a boat ride. We saw lots of birds. Under us there was land. It was buried under water. We saw a few trees sticking up above the water.

Then we went on an elephant-ride. It was really short. Then we went to the Golghar for breakfast. I ate many slices of toast. Then we bought the DVD of the movie we watched previous day. Then we packed up and left Kabini lodge.

It was the first time I was in a forest. First time being in a forest for two days. First time I lived in a cabin and first time going in a jeep. All these things make my trip special. If you are in India, then you must visit Kabini. My trip was also special because I was with my relatives and I had fun.

I had been to lots of places in the U.S.A. One of them was Yellowstone National Park. There were lots of animals in Yellowstone, just like in Kabini. Both places had lots to watch. On both trips, there was something small to live in. Lots of things in Kabini were like Yellowstone. But there was one thing different. The food in Yellowstone was horrible, but the food in Kabini was very good. ♦



A Diamond In My Eye

Shruti Indiresan

Sunnyvale, CA

6 years

A diamond in my eye
Is the Sun.

When I swing up high,
I can see the Sun shining
Like a beautiful diamond in my eye.

I wonder why the sky is so high...
I wonder why the Sun is in the sky...
I wonder how it got up there?

I wonder why the Sun doesn't fall down...
The Sun looks like a head wearing a crown.

The diamond in my eye makes me shine.
That beautiful diamond in my eye
Is the Sun!



ಕಲಿಸಿದಕೈ - ೧೦೦
(ಪ್ರಥಮ ಮಾರ್ಗ ೦೯/೨೫/೨೦೦೬)

ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಹೊಸದ ಪಂಕ್ತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಬೋರ್ಡಿನ ಪದ(ಪುಂಜ)ಗಳನ್ನು
ಪತ್ತೆಮಾಡಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಖಾಲಿಯಿರುವ ಹೊಸದ ಪಂಕ್ತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆಯಿರಿ. ಆಮೇಲೆ
ದಬ್ಬಿಹೊಸಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆದ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬಳಸಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಮಾತಿನ ಅರ್ಥ ಬರುವಂತೆ
ಬರೆಯಬಲ್ಲೀರಾ?

ಕೆ	ನ	ಸಿ	ನ	ವಿ	ತ	ಯ

ಕೆ	ಮ	ಲಾ	ಕೆ	ರ	ತ	ಲ

ಕಾ	ಲಿ	ಲ್ಪ	ಸ	ತೂ	ಹಂ	ತ

ಕೆ	ಲ	ಹ	ದ	ಕು	ತೂ	ನ

ಕೆ	ಮ	ಲಿ	ನಾ	ಕೆ	ಲ	ಕೆ

"ಕಮಲೆಯು ಮಗನು ಬಾರಿಸಿದ ಸೆಂಚುರಿ"

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--



Amazing Brother

Krishna Madhusudan

5th Grade

Santa Clara

Hello, my name is Ben, and I am just a kid trying to lead a normal life, but my powers get in the way of that. Also, I have a little sister, and she is so annoying because she is always bugging me. I have many powers that let me transform into beings of super-human strength and do whatever I want, but the sad part is my sister gets into trouble and I have to save her using my powers. Lots of strange things happen to me on this planet so I always have adventures. Even if my sister is annoying, I can't complain too much because she has also helped me sometimes.

One day, I was in my room looking outside the window. Suddenly, green-haired aliens appeared and started terrorizing the city. They were knocking down buildings. Ah man! Now I had to stop the aliens from causing destruction to the town. I transformed into Steelslice. All my body became made up of steel components and I went to stop them. Right then I saw a freak dragon-like creature with five heads. Aaah! This is going to be a long summer.

"Get that guy my minions," said the alien monster. "Grrrrh!" yelled all of his companions. I wondered what they were doing flying around everywhere, and trying to knock over the skyscrapers. The skyscraper was huge, so I knew I wouldn't be able to hold it up just by myself. I had a very brief moment to think. "That's it, I'll turn into colossal," I thought. He could hold things that were more than thousands of tons. "I'll give you a chance to stop being evil now and go away," I told the monsters.

"Grrrrh!" was the only thing they kept on saying.

"I am the Great Zaborg, so prepare yourself Zero," said the leader.

I was not scared because I knew Colossal had enough strength. I pushed Zaborg back many times and he decided to retreat. He ran away saying, "This is not the last you have seen of me Zero...we shall meet again."

Little did I know that this wasn't the last time we would meet. I didn't know what he was talking about. Zero! Who was that? All these weird questions bubbled up in my mind.

I decided to go back home because I was tired from my battle. When I opened the door, my grandpa said, "Your parents are going to be on vacation so keep your sister safe."

My sister started bugging me and I told her, "I'm not from this planet. I think I'm from a galaxy in a different part of the universe."

"Have you gone nuts?" she asked.

She would never believe that I was really superhero. I would have to prove it to her but how?

"You are being weird again," she said in an annoyed tone. "Whatever Ben, you better keep the house clean while I'm gone to the mall," my sister said.

As she left the house, I decided to morph into a huge dinosaur-like creature. My extremely sharp claws were gleaming in the sunlight. I saw my sister going to her favorite mall. I jumped high in the air and when I landed, it made a huge thud that cracked the Earth's surface just like breaking a toothpick. My sister started screaming and she called for help. Just then I morphed back into a human right before her eyes.

"Wow, you really are an alien creature." She gasped.

I laughed so hard at my prank. "See I told you." Then I quickly turned into Rapid and rushed as fast as I could to the house to fix the T-Rex damage I had caused. I went back home and

opened the door. I saw another person standing inside the living room, but he did not see me yet. I hid behind the door and used my laser vision to see through his mask. To my surprise he looked exactly like me! Who was that guy? I morphed into Rapid because if he tried to capture me I could run away. "Who are you?" I asked from behind the door.

"I am Zero"

I morphed back into my human form. "Why do you look just like me?" I asked.

"That's because I'm your brother Zero. And you are my brother, Shredder."

"Who is this Shredder you are talking about? My name is Ben," I said.

Zero replied, "You are actually Shredder, you are only called Ben on this planet."

"I am your brother for sure and I'll prove it to you. I can morph just like you. Suddenly he morphed into an ape with red eyes. He was surely my brother, I believed him now. Everything about my identity and powers was all starting to make sense to me. I decided to try to find out more information from my brother. "Hey Zero, wasn't there a guy who was terrorizing the city named Zaborg? He was being evil but he left. He said, "I'll be back Zero. Why did he say Zero?"

"Oh, that is the evil Zaborg who I have been fighting in many battles, but it always ends in a stalemate" Zero said. "He is always looking for me, and I think I need to use a new method to defeat him." he continued, "Come on Zero, let's go outside."

"What in the world is happening?" I said when we got outdoors. "Where did all this lava come from? How are we going to get it away from our house? There's no way anyone can stop this."

My brother said, "Don't worry a bit Shredder. I'll take care of this. But, I'll need some help from you for this. Shredder, you just have to turn into a firewall that can absorb heat and I'll slam the lava with a bunch of water. I turned into a rock and split myself apart like my brother wanted me to do.

"Hello! Turn into a firewall already so I can blast the water to you. What are you waiting for?" Zero yelled.

'Bsssh!' This feels weird. I feel rock hard on the inside but molten like on the outside. Wait a minute...My powers were fusing. This was giving me new abilities and strengths.

"Zero, turn into a fire magnet." I said.

"What? How is this going to-?" Zero asked.

"Just do it Zero."

"All the magma is going to burn me up," said Zero.

"Use your water powers quick." I said.

"But I am not morphed into a super water person." Zero yelled.

"But if you concentrate on your powers, they can fuse, so do it. Otherwise the world will become completely consumed by fire. We won't be able to save the people if you don't. So hurry up!" I yelled back.

"Wow, you are creating that huge tidal wave." I said in amazement

"Don't ask me," said Zero. "I am just concentrating on my water powers like you told me."

'Splash!' The water hit the magma, and everything started cooling.

"That must have been pretty cold water to destroy the heat of the magma that quickly." I said.

"Hurray!" the townspeople said.

"But, how are you going to fix this mess up? Our town is so damaged," the townspeople said.

"We'll show you," Zero replied. "Hey Zero, if we turn into Rapid creatures, and then fuse that with being good construction workers, we can clean up everything in no time." I said.

"It's going to take forever even if we have great speed," Zero said.

"Quit whining Zero." I said. "We just gotta do it, now that we know how to use fusion powers."

We flashed around and picked up all of the broken stuff. Then we made new buildings quickly. "Let's go back to your house," Zero then said.

We went back to my house. When I opened the door, no one was there. There was a scary silence and I began to wonder what happened to my sister? I was very worried.

"It has to be the Aliens," Zero said.

"Aliens, what are you blabbering about?" I asked.

"Don't you get it Shredder? The aliens must have taken your sister and brought her to their home planet."

"They can be anywhere Zero. So how will we even track them?" I wondered.

"Do you have anything in head of yours? I can turn into radar." Zero told me.

"Oh that's right. Hurry up and track my sister, we have to do all of this before grandpa gets home."

Zero found the exact location of my sister on the planet Namick. Whoosh! We flew over there at light speed with our powers.

"Wow! This planet is so different" I said when we landed.

"So Zero, you finally came back," said a voice out of nowhere.

"Oh Zaborg, it is you again." Zero said.

"What, there are there two of you? Who are you?" Zaborg said confused.

"I am Zero!"

"And I am Shredder. But more importantly, what did you do with my sister?" I demanded.

"I won't tell you anything. You'll never know." Zaborg said.

I don't have time for this.

"I'll take care of this," Zero said "Shredder, go find your sister."

"Thanks." I said.

"I won't fight you. I have a way to teach you a lesson once and for all." Zero said.

Zero morphed into a duplicate of Zaborg.

"You-You-You-You look just like me."

Zaborg was very confused.

"I am not anything like you. Look at yourself causing havoc everywhere you go. I am a better version of you. I am a new and improved Zaborg that has taken the path of goodness. You can also do this, and have a better life." Zero explained.

Zaborg, saw how bad he was when Zero acted like him. "You are right. I don't really like being this way. I don't even have friends." Zaborg decided to change.

Meanwhile, I was having trouble locating my sister. I put my ear across a wall and heard some noise behind it.

"I will blast this rock with magma cannon," I thought.

"Boooom. Blaassst."

"Ben how did you find me?" my sister said.

I turned into radar and then into a person with magma powers.

"Let's go home," my sister said. "I really don't like it here."

"Sorry but I can't. My brother needs me. He taught me important things and I have to help him too." I said.

"Grandpa is going to be home any minute." said the sister.

Whoosh! I flew to where Zero was.

"Where did that crazy monster, Zaborg go?" I wondered.

"Let's just say I showed him a piece of his mind," said Zero.

"What's that supposed to mean?" I wondered.

"I helped him become a better person, and learn a lesson." said Zero.

"I just want to go home," my sister kept complaining.

Whoosh! We zipped back to Earth, and it was finally over. My sister was safe, and my Grandpa was happy that the house was neat and clean too. No one knew of the great adventure we had just had, but I was happy to finally figure out my true identity and meet my amazing brother, Zero. ♦



Basavanna

Prize winning entry in the Essay competition

Puja Gubbi
6th Grade

There was a revolutionary man who taught that good conduct and moral judgment was heaven. He taught the ideals of a simple life and taught that all men are equal. He practiced what he preached.

This man was Basavanna. Born into a Brahmin family, according to the caste system, his family was pretty well off. They resided in Bijapur in Northern Karnataka. His mother, Madalambike, held a very strict, religious household. The religion was based on Shastras, Vedas and Puranas. When given the sacred thread, he rejected it. He wanted to start his own religion.

Twelve years later he went and studied in the stronghold of Kudalasangama. There, he conversed with many scholars, young and old to sharpen his religious and spiritual skills. From the time Basavanna was born in 1134AD, he was very optimistic. He believed in 'ahimsa' or not killing any living thing whether animal or human being. He also believed in 'nirvana', a state of bliss reached when one has fulfilled all his or her dharma or duty. After his days at the stronghold of Kudalasangama his guru sent him to be the treasurer or accountant for King Bijjala. Even after he resigned from the King's office he was held in a very high position.

He got married to a very lovely girl whom he loved very much. One day, quite a while after their marriage, Basavanna was awakened by a loud crashing sound. He got up to see thieves trying to steal the jewels off his wife who was fast asleep. Instead of punching them, he took the jewels off his wife and gave it to the thieves. In another similar scenario, the thieves stole his cow. The next day the cow's

calf was crying because he wanted milk from its mother. So, Basavanna gave the calf to the thieves. The reason behind this is that he thought of them as God too. This made the thieves to feel guilty and they gave the stolen items back and never committed another crime.

From conversing with the scholars at the stronghold of Kudalasangama Basavanna created his own philosophy believing in a monotheistic way. He believed in only 'One' almighty and perfect God. This deity was Lord Kudalasangama. Mainly he preached equality for all men. To promote this idea, he encouraged inter-class marriages. He strived to remove the idea of one being an untouchable. An untouchable was one who did work like a slave. He hated the caste system and wanted to banish it from the whole kingdom.

His teachings were great. He wrote many Vachanas like this very famous one:

“Do not kill, do not steal, do not utter lies,
Do not lose your temper, do not blame others,
do not glorify yourself,
That alone is purity inside, that alone is purity outside
That alone will please Lord Kudalasangama.”

Instead of writing the Vachanas in Sanskrit, he wrote them in Kannada. This enriched and promoted Kannada greatly.

Even now we have caste system in India and everywhere for that matter. Even though there is no caste system here in America there is still racism. But if all of us now follow Basavanna's teachings, we would have a much better world. Even though he preached it thousands of years

ago, we still don't follow it, but it has made a great impact in our lives. ♦



Earth

Apoorva Handigol

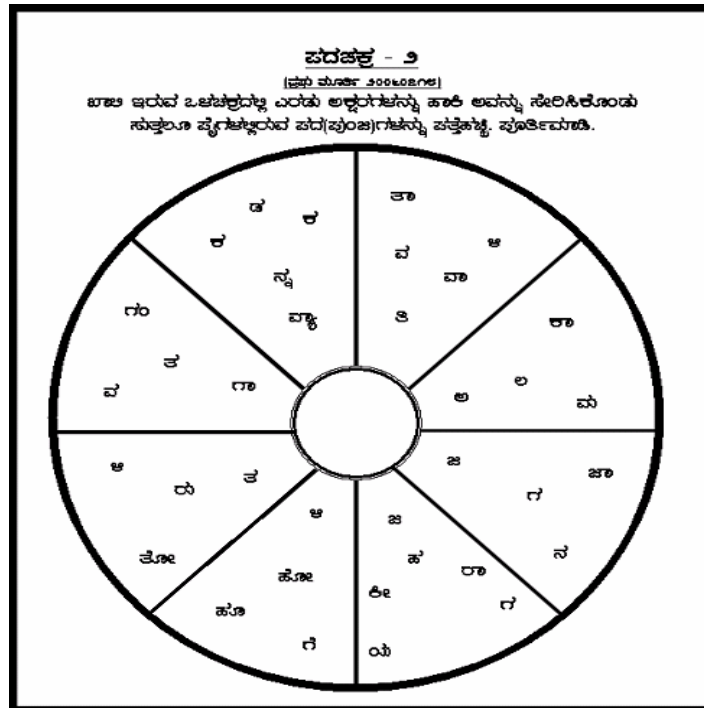
8 years

Fremont

Everyone knows how nice the earth is
A lotus's petals are a key to life
Rain sprinkles to awaken the earth
The dark night's sky is the earth's shadow
Heaven shines his way through clouds

In the sunset, you can see how tomorrow will be
Spring robins give a little touch to us

Watermelon gives sweet juice that runs down your cheeks
Oceans spread a funny feeling inside
Nobody knows why
Deer roam to show us freedom
Exploring as they prance
Rising sun leads the way to a certain path
Friends are happy as they gape at flying butterflies
Under this planet
Life is not far away





Common Origins

Swetha Madhusudan

U.C Berkeley, Sophomore Student

From the beginnings man has always been interested with the concept of God and finding a sense of religion. In the ancient and primitive world, therefore, religion began as a way to unite the social unit with a general acceptance of certain symbols and beliefs, which lent meaning to man's conception of the universe and himself. With these similar ideals being lent to formation of all religions, we can see obvious commonalities in ideals such as adhering to truth, morals, and not harming one's fellow human beings. In fact, the world's monotheistic religions can even seem to agree on specific personages in their holy texts and the notions of an 'Abrahamic God'. These ideas, having been explored by many religious scholars and historians, have displayed clearly noticeable similarities and definitive common origins. Which leads us to ask whether or not there are similar links and common origins that can be traced to the worlds' even more ancient polytheistic religions as well? In this category of ancient religions lies Hinduism, which today is so unique in its practices and cultural beliefs that it does not show much concordance to any other religion. However, the Hinduism of the Aryan past and that depicted in the Vedas does reveal many similarities to the practiced religion of the Greeks, Romans, and Persians. These more abstract connections have led many scholars to wonder if there were a common people or culture that originated all of these schools of thought and then dispersed to different lands to practice the religions independently. These ideas have proven more challenging to piece together due to many lost religious texts and less blatant congruencies. Yet when one looks more closely at the myths, rituals, and early Pantheons that pervade early

India and Europe, striking similarities that strongly indicate common origins provide an interesting window to our very connected past; showing that it is really a small world after all.

The historical migrations of the Aryans that have been documented throughout Asia Minor and Europe in the early 12th century BC provide the early historical basis for this hypothesis. Little concrete fact is known about the first Aryan people. But they were thought to be a nomadic group of cattle breeders and hunters who were often driven to undertake permanent migrations due to droughts and intertribal wars. They are thought to have descended from the Northern part of Central Asia into the lands of India (more specifically Punjab) and the area occupied by the Indus Valley civilizations. Philologists, or language scholars, surprisingly introduced the idea that these very same Aryan people also traveled westward to Europe later on. Nineteenth-century scholars, delving into the history of language discovered remarkable resemblances that linked Sanskrit more closely with Greek and Latin than with any other vernacular in the world. Many important words such as those for father and mother, horse and cattle, and mechanisms of counting were all clearly related. Archeologists soon took interest in this idea of a common people, and found that many of the symbols and rituals developed by the Aryans in Indus Valley resembled those used by the early people of Crete and the Mycenaeans (the predecessors of Greek and Roman civilizations). A recurring motif for these polytheistic religions was the figure of a female goddess that represented the harvest and fertility that was found in similar depiction on clay pots and seals. Also, large baths were

constructed in both cultures for possible purifying rituals that seem to go beyond the concept of daily bathing. Similar notions of ancestor worship and extreme reverence for the dead also belong to the early Indo-European heritage. Both early cultures practiced cremations and either stored remains in urns or disposed of the remains after a purifying ritual. On the anniversary of the death both cultures practiced a time of renewal offerings such as milk, honey, and oil, and continued veneration.

As cultures evolved and became more advanced in their religious development, the parallels between the religion of early India and that of the ancient Greeks and Romans continued to have similarities and connectivity as well. The origins of the Vedas came about at this time and the Rig Veda serves as the oldest and most important source for looking into Aryan psychology and beliefs. Luckily for later scholars, the Aryan tradition opposed the alterations to exact religious pronouncements that occurred when they were written, and the Vedas were committed to memory and handed down orally. Such an accurate portrait of the exact beliefs cannot be found in the European tradition, and thus makes comparison a little difficult. The Vedas consist of hymns dedicated to several different deities. The most important of these Gods can be considered Indra, as nearly a quarter of the hymns are dedicated to his praises. His chief characteristics are his power both on the human plane as the god of battle in aiding the Aryans in their conquests, and mythologically as the thunder god who conquers the demons of drought and darkness. Accordingly, the weapon attributed exclusively to him is the *vajra*, or thunderbolt, and words meaning 'mighty' are applied to him far more frequently than to any other God. He thus, takes the supreme throne as the king of all of the Gods. Similarly, in the Greek pantheon is the mighty Zeus who reigns atop Mt. Olympus as the king of the gods. Like Indra, he wields a thunderbolt as his weapon of choice and is exalted for his bravery in battles against demons, revenge against enemies, and ending

drought. Some of the most basic myths connecting these two gods are the parallel stories of Indra who battles the asura Vrtra, and Zeus who slays the serpent-like Hydra. Several variations of this story are told, but according to the Vedic version, Indra destroys Vrtra who is blocking the rivers of the world and the important flows of light and water for the people. After drinking the sacred soma and obtaining the powers of the vajra, Indra is victorious in this fierce battle against Vrtra who takes on many forms, including that of a snake. Zeus, in similar fashion, slays a serpent-like creature known as the Hydra and protects the waters and cattle herd of a terrified village. The story of Vrtra can also be found in almost exact form in Persian texts, as a major myth in Zoroastrianism. Greater symbolic meaning is often taken from this myth, as it solidifies the positions of Indra and Zeus as the head of the pantheon, and serves as a greater analogy of creating order out of chaos. Another parallel between the Vedic and Greek pantheon are the many myths of a constant quest for the nectar of immortality, or amrita. Zeus and the other Greek gods such as Hera, Hestia, Hades, Poseidon, and Apollo are depicted as engaging in many battles with demonic figures such as the Titans, Cyclops, and Giants for claim to the ambrosia and nectar of immortality. In the Hindu tradition, amrita is valued by the Devas as well and many myths are told of their struggle to keep the precious drink away from the hands of Asuras. Such identical storyline and character development in cultures spread across Asia and Europe cannot be construed as a mere coincidence, and the paralleling myths and deities in these cultures give strong evidence for common origins.

Lesser figures in the Vedas also have what we can deem counterparts in the Greek and Roman myths, and the overall religious attitudes of these groups display similar ideals as well. Mitra, a prominent deity of Vedic times who was associated with vows and promises, seems to have traveled westward, and many Greek and Roman soldiers prayed to a deity of the same

name for the similar purpose of sealing their vows. The deity Surya has obvious parallels with the Roman portrayal of Apollo. Both are described as exceedingly handsome with golden skin and hair, and are best identified with the sun. Surya is said to ride a chariot pulled by seven horses as he brings the dawn each day. In identical fashion, Apollo mounts a chariot and rides across the sky bringing light to the earth. Both also have many stories told about them being associated in relations with mortal women due to their good looks and charm. Kunti, in the Mahabharata epic has her son, Karna, from Surya. Apollo is linked with countless women including the princess Leucothea, Hecuba (wife of the king of Troy), and nymphs such as Daphne and Castalia. The children of these encounters often ended up being revered as demi-gods, due to the super-human powers endowed by their godly parents. Karna, blessed with a divine permanent shield and golden earrings as part of his birth, was able to excel in battle and could not be defeated until he willingly separated the armor from his body. Many other characters in the Mahabharata are the children of mortals and Gods as well, such as Bhima (son of Vayu) and Arjuna (son of Indra), and are accordingly able to overcome magnanimous obstacles with strengths and powers ordained by their godly parents. By Cyrene, Apollo had a son named Aristaeus, who was raised to the status of the patron god of cattle, fruit trees, hunting, and husbandry. Of course we cannot speak of these half-mortal, half-god children without mention of the famous Greek hero Hercules, son of Zeus and Alcmene. He symbolized the ultimate hero and warrior and embarked on a series of 12 tasks (including strangling a voracious lion, killing man-eating horses, and battling a hydra) which allowed him to join the ranks of the Gods on Mount Olympus. Figures of demi-gods such as these being a joint concept in Hinduism and Greek/Roman religions, reveals a similar belief system at the time of an acceptance of the interaction of gods and humans and a similarity in mythological ideas. Overall, Gods in both early cultures are characterized with many

human qualities and flaws. They do not take on the role of omniscient, benevolent, and perfected God figures that develop later on. In fact, the gods are often depicted as having power struggles with each other, playing pranks, having angry wraths, and even falling in love. Indra, Rudra, and Varuna, in the Vedas, are described as having these multi-faceted qualities of mercy and malignance. A conception of gods having many sides and including human-like qualities in the portrayals of gods was a common ideology held in both religious cultures of the time.

Patron gods of the elements are also seen in the Indo-European religions and much significance was given to what is known as “PanchaMahabhoota”. This is the belief that everything in the Universe is made up of the 5 basic elements of Akasha (Space or Vacuum), Vayu (Air), Agni (Fire), Apa (Water) and Prithvi (Earth). The Greeks also recognized the importance of a similar 5 elements and held that a principle of balance was necessary among the different components. Gods such as Triton, who was patron of water and the sea, and Hephaestus, who controlled fire, were somewhat minor in their powers but still had myths and rituals associated with them. In the Aryan tradition, gods such as Vayu, who looked after the air, and Varuna, who later became associated with the water, are revered in some hymns but are given lesser importance. An exception to this, however, is Agni (god of fire) who is invoked before any offerings or sacrifices are made into the fire, and is given a very high place in the Vedic Pantheon. He is portrayed in the Rig Veda as the counterpart of a human priest, who has the exclusive power to carry the prayers and offerings to the higher order deities. Although the Greeks do not have a similar god of the fire, the altar was considered an extremely sacred place in their belief system as well. All offerings to their gods were made through an altar fire or the hearth of the kitchen. Temples were built in a specific fashion with an altar being the center focal point; similar to what is found in Hindu

temples. At the time of the Greeks and Romans, elaborate rituals were performed in order to please the Gods or avoid their angry wrath, with libations all being poured into the fire. It was believed that if the rites were carried out properly, the Gods would automatically have to oblige the proper fruits as their “end of the deal”. Ideas of devotion, compassion, and sharing a sense of connection with God were non-existent at the time. The early Vedic tradition also displays these ideals, with emphasis given to precise reciting of the hymns and priests painstakingly performing rituals in a certain fashion in order to obtain the blessings of the deity. Only in later texts such as the Bhagavad-Gita and Upanishads do new views on prayer, ritual, and ideas of Brahman come about. The religious teachings of the Vedas are more limited to the worship of certain deities in a staunch fashion, which mirrors the teachings and beliefs of the Greeks and Romans.

All of these examples can only begin to scratch the surface of the many paralleling deities or

ritual practices that may have existed at that time. Delving into the culture and religious beliefs of the Indians and Europeans in the developing stages of their respective religions provides countless similarities and links between the two ideologies that cannot be written off as a coincidence. The likelihood of a common group of ancestors for the early Indians and the Greeks and Romans, such as perhaps a common Aryan link, provides a much more logical conclusion for the development of so many similar deities, rituals, and overall foundational ideologies. Obviously no one knows exactly what happened in such a distant era, but following all of the common links is one methodology of being able to interestingly connect two cultures that would otherwise seem distant and unrelated, as actually being surprisingly close cousins in the ancestral past.



Riddles

By: Shruti Indiresan, 6 years

1. What books do mountain climbers like to read?
2. How does an ice cube go to school?
3. What do icicles become when they pop?
4. What kind of cream do ice cubes like?
5. Where do trees live?
6. Where does light live?
7. What do oats eat at a party?

(See answers on page 206)



A Cry for Peace

Sushma Murthy

Eighth Grade
Chaboya Middle School

We must all share this giant ball called Earth,
Despite the differences, right from birth.

Each friendship gives birth to a shrub of peace,
But with each enmity, a hundred will cease.

Let us embrace each other and learn to love,
And allow peace to shower us from the skies above.

We are watering hatred; now a sprout,
Let it grow much longer, its venom will wipe us out.

Heed me now as I say,
Uproot this sprout and throw it away.

Only then will the Berries of Peace thrive,
Its sweet nectar will keep us alive.

Let peace run through our veins like blood,
Only then will love and unity bud.

Let it become a part of us, let it enter our hearts,
Harmony will keep us together; hatred will tear us into parts.

We must all fraternize with one another,
Despite race and color, we must be like brothers.

Let us unite and turn against hatred and war,
Only then can we travel the road of life and go afar.

So let us hold hands and sing out loud,
Let peace and love ring, strong and proud!!!



My Feelings

Abhishek Handigol

Fremont

5 years

I love the color pink,
It makes me want to wink.

I love to see the sky,
It makes me want to fly.

My mother has a son,
And she loves to eat a bun.

My father has a hog,
And he loves to see the fog.

My sister has a star,
Who always wants to eat a chocolate bar.

I love to see the wall,
It makes me bounce a ball.

Answers to Riddles on page 204

Answers:

1. Clifford books!
2. On an icicle!!
3. They become popsicles!!
4. They like ice cream!!
5. In a tree house.
6. In a light house.
7. An Oatmeal!



Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya

Prize winning entry in the Essay competition

Kshithij Shrinath

Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was born on September 15, 1860. He was the second son of Srinivasa Sastry and Venkatamma. His ancestors lived in a place called Mokshagundam in present day Andhra Pradesh. This is how he got his family name. He was born in a village called Muddenahalli in Chikballapur Taluk, Kolar Dist.

When Visvesvaraya was fifteen, his father died. He and his mother went to live with his uncle in Bangalore. He studied in Weslyn Mission High School, and, later, graduated from Central College. Visvesvaraya wished to study engineering further, but, as there was no engineering college in Mysore State then, he secured a scholarship to study in Pune. He graduated in first rank in 1883.

The following year, Visvesvaraya became an Assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department of Bombay Province. For the next 23 years, he rose in ranks until he claimed the second highest rank available. During this time, he invented and patented the automatic floodgates, which he later used in Hyderabad and K.R.S dams also. Visvesvaraya started earning Rs.500 per month, a princely sum, in just twenty months of assuming office. After 23 years, only the Chief Engineer had a higher post than him. Visvesvaraya had all the abilities for the post. However, this post was reserved for Englishmen only. In disgust, Visvesvaraya resigned.

After retirement, Visvesvaraya toured Europe and the Americas. While in Italy, he received a message from Hyderabad Province. The

Moosa River had flooded and Visvesvaraya was to try to stop it's flooding. He suggested that they build two reservoirs and a modern underground drainage system.

While in Hyderabad, Visvesvaraya was contacted by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV of Mysore Province. The Maharaja wished Visvesvaraya to be the new Chief Engineer. After hesitation, he accepted and assumed the post in 1909. He was the first Indian to have such a high position in any Indian state.

Visvesvaraya's greatest achievement as Chief Engineer was the Krishnarajasagara (KRS) Dam. Although he was opposed by the Finance Minister and Madras Province, he convinced the Viceroy that it would not harm anyone else's interest and gained approval.

In 1912, the Maharaja wanted Visvesvaraya to become his Dewan. He accepted. As the Dewan, Visvesvaraya increased the number of schools from 4500 to 11,000. The number of students increased from 140,000 to 360,000 in just six years. At this time, there were no universities in Mysore Province. There were only two colleges which were both affiliated to Madras University. Visvesvaraya fought hard to open a new university, which was opened in 1916. This University was called Mysore University. In 1917, the first women's college, Maharani's College, and the first women's hostel were opened. He opened the Agricultural College in Hebbal in Bangalore in 1913. He also opened Jayachamaraja Polytechnic and the Government Engineering College (UVCE). By the way, my mom went to UVCE.



Because of increasing friction between the Maharaja and himself, Visvesvaraya resigned in 1918.

Visvesvaraya coined the slogan “ Industrialize or Perish! ” He founded the Iron and Steel Works in Bhadravati. He brought it to life and made it earn a profit. Visvesvaraya opened the State Bank of Mysore, along with soap and sandal oil factories.

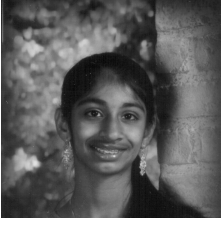
Visvesvaraya won countless awards. He was knighted (Sir) in 1915. He received the Bharat Ratna award in 1955. This is the highest award conferred on any citizen of India. In 1960, Visvesvaraya turned 100. He was congratulated by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Maharaja Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar in a celebration at Lalbagh, Bangalore. Visvesvaraya's eyesight failed after 100. He was a strict disciplinarian and was another name for cleanliness and punctuality. On April 14, 1962, Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya died at the age of 101. His death was mourned by the whole of India.

Visvesvaraya contributed a lot to India, and especially to Mysore State (now Karnataka). He was an energetic man to the end of his days. Without Visvesvaraya, India could be different.
◆

“ಕನ್ನಡದ ಮಕ್ಕಳೆಲ್ಲ ಒಂದಾಗಿ ಬನ್ನಿ
ತಾಯ್ನಾಡ ಜಯಭೇರಿ ನಾವಾಗ ಬನ್ನಿ”

ಸುವರ್ಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ
ಕನ್ನಡಕೂಟದ ಬಂಧು ಬಾಂಧವರಿಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾರ್ದಿಕ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

ಸಂಧ್ಯಾ ಮತ್ತು ರವಿ ರವೀಂದ್ರನಾಥ್



Contribution of Kannadigas to Indian classical arts

Prize winning entry in the Essay competition

Priyanka Prasad

Carnatic Music has been inspired and created by many people; whether they are Kannadigas, Telegus, Tamilians or Malayalees. Yet the 'Father of Carnatic Music' is a Kannadiga by the name of Purandara Dasa. The miraculous story of how he became a composer is well known even today, but many people still do not know all he has done for Carnatic Music. Not only he is said to have composed more than 475,000 songs (although most are lost today), but he has also contributed to the methods of teaching and introduced new concepts. Swaravalis and Alankaras were both created by him. He also introduced the raga Mayamalavagowla for beginners. He has inspired many later composers such as Tyagaraja and created many devotional songs, many on Krishna. Some of his more famous songs are 'Bhagyada Lakshmi Baaramma' and 'Kereya Neeranu Kerege Challi'.

Kanakadasa was mainly a poet, but he also composed a fair number of devotional songs (about 200), which talked about ethical issues and the wrong ideas in society about caste. He greatly contributed to the growth of 'Bhakti' in Karnataka through his songs. One of Kanakadasa's famous songs is 'Baagilanu Theradu.' Kanakadasa learned from the same teacher as Purandara Dasa did: Vyasaraaja.

Through Vysaraaja's guidance, the Carnatic music revolution in India flourished. He

taught two of the greatest and most influential composers of Carnatic music, Purandara Dasa and Kanakadasa. He himself composed many devotional songs, one of the most popular being 'Krishna Nee Beegane Baaro.'

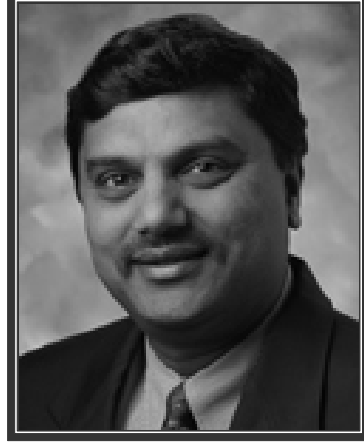
Mysore Vasudevachar is not as well known as composers like Purandara Dasa and Kanakadasa, but he was a very important composer in the 20th century. He composed many Swarajathis, Varnas, Javalis, Tillanas and Ragamalikas.

Dances from Karnataka have always been unique and different compared to other dances. There are a variety of dances, one of them being Kunitha. There are many types of Kunitha, but the most popular is "Dollu Kunitha". Dollu Kunitha is a drum dance combined with singing; it is usually performed at night and is a type of folk dance. Another old and popular dance of Karnataka is Mysore style of Bharata Nataym. It was inspired by Nadir, the traditional dance of devadasis, or temple servants. Yakshagana is a dance drama and a combination of celestial music, colorful and spectacular costumes, drums, singing, and acting. Yakshagana is also traditionally performed at night in fields and is very popular in coastal areas of Karnataka. It generally performs stories out of the Puranas, such Mahabharata and Ramayana. It is such an old dance drama that it has originally been performed since A.D. 1651. One more different kind of dance is Yellamma. It is traditionally performed to please goddesses by temple dancers. Colorful costumes and drums complete the ensemble for this particular dance.



“ಎಲ್ಲಾದರು ಇರು, ಎಂತಾದರು ಇರು,
ಎಂದೆಂದಿಗು ನೀ ಕನ್ನಡವಾಗಿರು”

ಕನ್ನಡ ಕೂಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾರ್ದಿಕ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು



ಬಿ ವಿ ಜಗದೀಶ್

ಅನುರಾಧ ಜಗದೀಶ್

ಕಾರ್ತಿಕ್ ಜಗದೀಶ್

ಅಕ್ಷಯ್ ಜಗದೀಶ್



Three Poems

Meghana Bheemarao

11 years

That Grand Canyon

I got down from the roaring tourist bus,
and I tried to squeeze through the crowd,
so I could be the first one to look,
at that big Grand Canyon.
Then suddenly there was silence
everybody just practically froze,
as they looked at the stunning sight.
Soon I froze too,
and the only thing I heard was,
the birds singing and the owls hooting.
But, all of a sudden,
cameras started flashing, though I just sat
there,
looking at that canyon with its unique style
and colors.
Then people hopped back on the bus,
but me and my family just looked at that
canyon,
that canyon with its stunning sight,
which had captured us all with its charm. ♦

The Rainforest

As the sun rises, the crickets' croak fades
away,
The bees start to buzz,
And the leopards start to play.
From the placid dawn, the rainforest emerges,
Into the buzzing afternoon,
And a sleeping caterpillar comes out,
as a butterfly from a cocoon.
The sound of the rainforest becomes intense,
As so does the heat.
Suddenly the rain comes down,
In a pitter-patter beat.
The rain starts to cease,
And the sky turns a hue of yellow, orange, and
more.
So, the rainforest floor becomes silent,
For all the animals are asleep. ♦

Friends Forever

A true friend is a person who cares for you,
When you are down,
And pretty blue,
A friend always sticks up for you,
All the time,
They always talk to you and give you a dime.
They laugh with you,
Giggle with you,
And just make sure you have fun,
Basically true friends are just,
Friends Forever. ♦



Boy Scout

Rohit Upadhyaya

14 yrs. 8th grade

I had seen many 'Boy Scout' kids in khaki uniform gathering in the school parking lots, city festivals, and always wondered who they are and what they do. I didn't pay much attention to it. I knew, my friend, Patrick Berger is in Boy Scout, as he would occasionally miss our weekend 'cul de sac' street hockey to attend the scout meeting.

That all changed when two months ago Patrick invited me to join the 'Boy Scout' and convinced me that there is a lot of fun even though wearing the uniform is a little boring. I told my parents about my intention, and they agreed after some queries.

I attended the 'Scout' meeting, with my parents. Parents sat with other mentors asking probing questions and as I was introduced to the other scouts and took part in the scout activities. I was formally initiated into Boy Scout.

Later, when we went home, my dad explained it to my mom, "Oh! It is like the RSS, where they do the drills in the parks in India" I didn't know what he was saying, as I didn't know about RSS. He was surprised to see some similarities as we were saluting the flag, reciting the oath of allegiance and instilling nationalism among young adults. They agreed to let me join the 'Boy Scout' but emphasized one condition, "You cannot neglect, Havyaka and KKNC programs". I obliged saying, "of course not. I have many friends there". I have now joined 'Troop 273'

Let me write a few lines about 'Boy Scout'

The word scout comes from the French verb 'ecouter', which means, 'to listen'. Armies have long used scouts to gather information about the enemy. On the American frontier a scout was someone always on the lookout for danger. He also used outdoor skills and knowledge of nature to help him in his work.

The 20th-century scouting program was started during the 'Boer' War, in South Africa, by **Robert Baden-Powell**. Then a colonel in the British Army, he developed a military textbook called 'Aids to Scouting' as a way of training recruits. When Baden-Powell returned to England in 1903, he began to adapt his program to the training of boys. Baden-Powell rewrote his manual as a nonmilitary skill book, which he titled 'Scouting for Boys'. He conducted his first Boy Scout camp on Brownsea Island in 1907, and his book 'Scouting for Boys' was published in 1908. The book rapidly gained a wide readership in England and soon became popular in the United States. In England Boy Scouts formally started on Jan. 24, 1908. Around the same time, troops were spontaneously springing up in America.

'Boy Scout', one of the traditional membership divisions of the BSA, is available to boys who have completed the fifth grade, or who are 11 through 17 years old. The program achieves the BSA's objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness qualities among youth by focusing on a vigorous program of outdoor activities.

Since 1930, the Boy Scouts of America has helped younger boys through Cub Scouting. It is a year-round family program designed for

boys who are in the first grade through fifth grade (or 7, 8, 9, and 10 years of age). Parents, leaders, and organizations work together to achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting.

The Mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

One can join the Boy Scout without regard to race, creed, or economic status, providing them the opportunity to develop character, citizenship, personal fitness, teamwork and leadership skills.

The Scout Oath

*“On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.”*

The Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent
Within two weeks of my joining the scout, I went out for my first ever camping trip, in the nearby campsite in Garin park Hayward. My

parents were worried but excited about my camp, and after returning they asked me many funny questions. I was prompt in saying that, we ‘relieved’ in the wilderness. In spite of being a vegetarian, I had no problem at the camp.

A month later I went to Angel Island with the troop for camping. Last week I attended the week long camp at ‘Wente’ with 500 other scouts. We had so much fun; we didn’t miss even the video games! Recently we volunteered at the city of Fremont festival. This month we are going out for camping and horseback riding. So far I have learnt the ‘camp fire’, ‘knife handling’ ‘wood cutting’ skills.

After joining Scout I made many more friends, and many of them are from my neighborhood.

Scout teaches values, teamwork, communication, leadership, skill for survival, injects national pride and almost everything what Indian parents want in their kids. I encourage all the parents to consider ‘Boy Scout’ for their children.

Reference: for more info please contact
<http://www.sfbac.org/> ♦

To my sister, on her 5th birthday

Little girl, little girl, You are going to turn five today
Little girl, little girl, Today is your birthday
I hope it is your lucky day
You are my best friend every day

- Abhijit Ramaprasad



Kannada Kali Class

Neeti Indiresan

Sunnyvale
(Four years)

I love it when my sister and I are doing *kannada kali* because then we can be together and then we won't be sad. When I turn 5 and my sister will be 7, so *kannada kali* is for both of us, and then it will be fine. I love it when I learn "*kannada kali* talking" because then I will know how to talk like Shruti in her *kannada kali* class.

I learnt "naa...vu... kannaDa kali klaasinalli" song from Shruti because my sister taught it to me. I sing something wrong because I don't know. When she sings "*kathe, kavana*

kELikoMDu" , I sing '*katthe, kavana kEli kondhu*'. Shruti thinks I am funny. Shruti says it is funny because she says, "that means you are listening to donkeys and poems and then you kill the donkey and the poem!!! A donkey is never in our *kannada kali* class and you can't kill a poem because a poem is already non-living!"

So, I like to go to my *kannada kali* class because it will be the best for me. It will help me so that I can learn the song that I don't know. ♦



640 E Alvin Dr., Ste B
SALINAS, CA 93906
Tel: (831) 444-6263
Fax: (831) 444-6168

ಡಾ. ಮೀನಾ ಸುಬ್ಬರಾವ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬದವರಿಂದ
ಶುವಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ,
ಕನ್ನಡ ನುಡಿ, ನಾಡಿನ ಶಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡುತ್ತಲಿ,
ಹೊಸಪರಂಪರೆಯ ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಹುರುಪಿನಿಂದ ಏರುತ್ತಲಿ
ಬಂದಿರುವ ಉತ್ತರ ಕ್ಯಾಲಿಫೋರ್ನಿಯ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕೂಟಕ್ಕೆ
ಅನಂತ ಅಭಿನಂದನೆಗಳು
ಹಾಗೂ

ಶುವಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ - ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

\$Rebate\$ Available\$*



**Are you planning to sell/buy a home?
Are you considering
financing/refinancing your home?
LET US WORK FOR YOU!!!**

***We Have the Knowledge and Experience to
Make Your Home DREAM Come True!!!***

- Free Net Sheets
- Free Comparative Market Analysis (CMA)
- Free Home Buying/Selling Workshops
- ...



- Purchase/ReFi Loans
- Zero cost and/or Zero point Financing
- Bridge/Construction Lending
- ...



Kamala & Mali Venkatesan
408-807-3483 (or) 408-807-3482

