

# KANAKADASA



Kanakadasa belonged to a lower caste but was highly devotional to the Lord Krishna. The head of the Udipi mutt was aware of Kanakadasa's devotion. On Kanakadasa's arrival at the mutt, he immediately made arrangements for Kanakadasa's stay in a hut outside the western perimeter of the main temple. The next day, Kanakadasa went for a darshan or glimpse of the Lord at Udipi temple. The orthodox Brahmin priests did not allow him to enter the main temple and turned him back. A dejected and sad Kanakadasa returned to his hut. He took his tamburi (musical instrument) and went to the other side of the temple and started singing his songs in praise of the Lord Krishna. He was completely immersed in and lost in singing about the Grace of the Lord and with a prayer to the Lord to shower His mercy on him and bless him with His darshan. He did not ask for any worldly wealth as he did not care for it. All he wanted was just a darshan of the Lord. Suddenly there was an earthquake with extreme sound. The idol of Lord Krishna was till then facing the East and He turned to the West to give darshan to the great devotee, Kanakadasa, because he was not allowed into the temple as he belonged to the low caste. The western outer wall crumbled and a few slabs of stone in the inner wall of the sanctum sanctorum gave way. The idol of Lord Krishna which was originally facing East, turned around and faced Kanakadasa who was sitting on the West side of the temple, with tears streaming down his face,



Kanakadasa had glimpse of Lord Krishna. The priests who had denied entry to him came and fell at his feet and asked for his

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