

KOORMA JAYANTHI



Srikurmam Temple which is just 12 kms from Srikakulam Railway Station.

The village Srikurmam derives its name from the temple, which is dedicated to Lord Vishnu in the Avathara of Srikurmam viz., the Avathara of tortoise, and hence the deity itself is called Srikurmanatha. The temple has beautiful pillared mantapas and some of the pieces of sculpture done in granite are masterpieces of workmanship. The Vimana of the temple is built in the characteristic Chola type of architecture, though the outer gates beyond the prakara are much later.

Narahari Tirtharu & Kurmam Temple - During his tours, one night he dreamt that an image of Lord Vishnu was submerged near a tank near the town where he was staying. He made arrangements to bring out that image, and also made arrangements for its proper worship and retired to the banks of the Tungabhadra where he lived till his end. This legendary story of Naraharitirtha is fully borne out by many of the inscriptions and epigraphs that are available at the Srikurmam temple.

ಕ್ಷೀರೋದಧಾವಮರದಾನವಯೂಧಪಾನಾ-

ಮುನ್ಮಥತಾಮಮೃತಲಬ್ಧಯ ಆದಿದೇವಃ |

ಪೃಷ್ಠೇನ ಕಚ್ಚಪವಪುರ್ವಿದಧಾರಗೋತ್ರಂ

ನಿದ್ರೇಕ್ಷಣೋಽದ್ರಿಪರಿವರ್ಧಕಷಾಯಕಂಡುಃ |

(ಶ್ರೀಮಧ್ಯಾಗವತೇ ಕೂರ್ಮಾಸ್ತುತಿಃ)

ಸುರಾಸುರಾಣಾಮುದಧಿಂ ವಿಮುಷ್ಣತಾಂ
ದಧಾರ ಪೃಷ್ಠೇನ ಗಿರಿಂ ಸ ಮಂದರಂ |
ವರಪ್ರದಾನಾದಪರೈರಧಾರ್ಯಾಂ ಹರಸ್ಯ
ಕೂರ್ಮೋ ಬೃಹದಂಡವೋಢಾ ||

(ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾಭಾರತತಾತ್ಪರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಣಯೇ ಶ್ರೀಕೂರ್ಮಸ್ತುತಿಃ)

ಮತ್ಸ್ಯಕರೂಪ ಲಯೋದವಿಹಾರಿನ್
ವೇದವಿನೇತ್ರ ಚತುರ್ಮುಖವಂದ್ಯ |
ಕೂರ್ಮಸ್ವರೂಪಕ ಮಂಧರಧಾರಿನ್
ಲೋಕವಿಧಾರಕ ದೇವವರೇಣ್ಯ ||

ಮಹಾಗಾಧಜಲಾಧಾರಂ ಕಚ್ಚಪಂ ಮಂದರೋದ್ಧರಮ್ |
ಸುಂದರಾಂಗಂ ಚ ಗೋವಿಂದಂ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಂ ಭಜೇಽನಿಶಮ್ |

ಚರಮಾಂಗೋದ್ಧೃತಮಂದರತಟಿನಂ ಕೂರ್ಮಶರೀರಮ್ |
ಕಮಲಾಕಾಂತಮಖಂಡಿತವಿಭವಾಬ್ಧಿಂ ಹರಿಮೀಡೇ ||

ಅಕೂಪಾರಾಯ ಬೃಹತೇ ನಮೋ ಮಂಧರಧಾರಿಣೇ |
ಕ್ಷಿತ್ಯುಧ್ಧಾರವಿಹಾರಾಯ ನಮಃ ಸೂಕರಮೂರ್ತಯೇ ||

VAISHAKA POURNAMI - KOORMA JAYANTHI

Koorma Jayanti is celebrated being the second incarnation or avatar of Lord Vishnu – Kurma Avatar. Koorma means Tortoise and the aim of this particular avatar was to help the Devas (gods) and Asuras (demons) in helping in Samudra manthan (Churning of ocean).

Once Durvasa Rushigalu gave Nirmalya pushpa to Devendra. Devendra put the nirmalya pushpa on his elephant, which kicked with its legs and durvasa was angry over this.

He immediately cursed him, that let Indra shall lose all his properties. Hence, the Devendras lost all their powers and daithyaas with the leadership of Bali Chakravarthy attacked Amaravathi and gained upper hand in the battle between. Soon evil flourished and the asuraas threw devathegalu out of heaven.

The Devas took refuge in Vaikunta and asked Lord Vishnu to help them. He suggested the churning of ocean with the help of Vasuki as a rope and Mountain Mandara to be used as churning rod, which would derive amrit (potion of immortality). By drinking Amrit the Devas will gain immortality and thereby they can defeat the Demons.

Mountain Mandara was used as the churning rod and Snake Vasuki was used as the rope.

But when the churning started the Mount Mandara started sinking in the sea. Then again the Devaas prayed Lord Vishnu for help, who took the form of Koorma or tortoise to keep the mountain afloat.

This Koormakruthi was spread about 100 Yojana and was holding the Mandara mountain throughout the Samudra Mathana Process for so many years.

Thus Koorma Jayanthi is celebrated as a remembrance for the birth of Srimannaarayana’s second incarnation in the form of a tortoise.

“KOORMAVATARA”

Thus Srimannaaraayana was completely responsible for the outcome of Samudra Mathana.

1. He told Devas and Asuraas to do Samudra Mathana
2. When the Mandara mountain was sinking, he made the avataara of Koorma and held the mountain.
3. When Srilakshmi came from the Samudra, he married her.
4. He himself brought the Amritha in the roopa of Ajitanaamaka paramathma.
5. He allowed the daithyas to snatch the Amritha from his Ajithanaamaka roopa and made another avathara as Mohini or Naaraayani roopa and took the Amritha from Asuraas and distributed among the Devathegalu.
6. Thus, Paramathma himself did the entire Samudra Mathana, but just the gave the credits to Devategalu.

Krishnaarpanamastu