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PRESENTS

//SRI GURU RAGHAVENDRA VYBHAVA//

**(A Humble Offering to Parama Hamsa Kula Thilaka Sri Raghavendra Theertha,
On the Auspicious Occasion of Akshaya Thadhige - 2003)**

{Namadheya - Sudheendrachar }

O! Bharathi Ramana Mukya Prana Deva, my Moola Guru, You are the Only Divine Messenger of The Supreme Lord Sriman Laxmi Narayana and I seek Your Blessings to start this most humble work of mine! O! Divine Mother Bharathi Devi, I have come to seek permanent refuge in Your Eternal Empire! Guide me to the altar of The Eternal Truth where only You reign Supreme!

In line with Madhwa tenets, Prana Devaru is slated for the lofty 'Bramha Padhavi' and all those fortunate souls who constantly chant His Holy Name are bound to attain total salvation, in a manner similar to that achieved by dedicated Hari Baktas! In short this is the essence of the life and times of eminent Madhwa Pontiffs such as Sri Vyasa Theerth and Sri Raghavendra Theertha! In an earlier incarnation as Vyasa Theetha, Raghavendra Theertha had worshipped Pranadevaru in a most glorious manner ever! Vyasa Theertha, is singularly credited with the consecration of more than 700 Prana Devara temples, each with an unique characteristic of its own! The most famous one being the Yantrodaraka Prana Devara temple, situated at Chakra Theertha, Hampi. Here, Sri Vyasa Theertha using His stupendous spiritual powers has permanently 'caged' Prana Devaru in a 'Yantra' thereby preventing Him from flying off, and thereby ensuring ordinary mortals to have 'darshan' of Sri Prana Devaru, to their heart's content! Thus 'bound' by a Maha Yati, Yantrodaraka Prana Devaru shines as a proof of the 'sandhane' and 'spiritual-zenith' achieved by Sri Vyasa Theertha!.

Yatiraja Raghavendra, the very embodiment of Madhwa Philosophy of Sriman Madhwacharya, who Himself was the third incarnation of Sri Vayu Deva after Hanuma and Bheema, shines forth as one of the greatest devotees of Sri Prana Devaru! Only the fullest Grace and Blessings of Sri Mukya Prana Devaru enabled a young Venkatanatha to ascend the Parama Hamsa Peeta and was ordained with the Holy Name of Sri Raghavendra Theertha, in the line of the Hamsa Namaka Paramata Himself! In fact, like Hanumantha who had initially expressed His inability to cross the huge ocean in search of Seeta Mata, Venkatanatha also had initially declined to accept the "Peeta" that was offered to Him by Sri Sudheendra Theertha! Coincidentally, both 'seemed' to be unaware of their own 'inner strength' and 'unmatched

ability' and were compelled to perform the seemingly insurmountable task that lay before them, by the stupendous powers of Sri Rama Bakti that was resident inside them! The Sriman Moola Rama Idol which Sri Raghavendra Theertha 'bodily' worshipped for more than five decades (and continues to worship even to this day) ensured a permanent 'sannidhana' of Sri Prana Devaru 'in' Sri Raghavendra Theertha which still continues to this day and age!

Sri Raghavendra Theertha also visited many Prana Deva temples during his Chaturmasa, the most notable one being the temple at Manvi, wherein Sri Raghavendra Theertha gave 'sadgathi' to the re-born Sri Kanaka Dasa! Here it should be understood that it was "Prana Devaru" who was instrumental in granting 'sadgathi' to Sri Kanaka Dasa and Sri Raghavendra Theertha 'acted' as a medium! This incident also underlines the fact that Raghavendra Theertha indeed was the chosen one! The Madhwa Philosophy stresses that when one is Blessed with the fullest grace of Sri Prana Devaru (like Raghavendra Theertha), astounding feats like ridding a person from the endless cycle of birth-rebirth can also be performed with effortless ease!! Raghavendra Theertha during his stay at Kumbakonam also regularly worshipped Sri Prana Devaru and as a mark of His Devotion to Prana Devaru, headed straight for the Prana Devaru temple at Kumbakonam on his triumphant return from His successful "Dhigvijaya Yatra"!

Special mention must be made here about the Pancha Mukhi Prana Devara temple near Mantralaya where Sri Raghavendra Theertha had performed severe austerities and penance for several years and was Blessed with a magnificent 'darshan' of Pancha Mukhi Prana Devaru. The lofty cave temple stands as a testimony to the hoary days gone by when Sri Raghavendra Theertha worshipped Sri Prana Devaru here!! It is another matter that the Lord Pachamuki now visits the Moola Brindavana at Mantralaya regularly, a fact vouchsafed by the periodic 'wear and tear' of gigantic foot-wear kept at the Pachamukhi temple!

Later when Raghavendra Theertha entered Brindavana 'live', an Idol of Prana Devaru was consecrated in front of the Moola Brindavana at Mantralaya by His successor Sri Yogeendra Theertha. The 'Parama Pava(ma)na Sannidhana' of the Moola Brindavana at Mantralaya is as True as the Sun, Moon and the Planets and shall remain so till Eternity!! The occurrence of numerous miracles highlighting the Divinity of Sri Hari is to be attributed to the presence of Sri Prana Devaru serving the Supreme Lord Moola Rama , "upasthith" in the Moola Brindavana! Sri Raghavendra Theertha Himself had extolled the virtues of the Supreme Lord in great measure, attributing all the miracles that took place, only to the Divine Concurrence of Sri Prana Devaru and His Antharyami Sriman Moola Rama!

The 'service' mindedness of two of the Supreme Lord's greatest Baktas - Sri Prana Devaru and Sri Raghavendra Theertha is 'worthy of remembrance' in

every 'living second' of a person's life! These 'Two' are the 'only medium' that is available for laymen to 'reach' the Supreme Lord Laxmi Narayana!.

No doubt that each and every Brindavana consecrated to Sri Raghavendra Theertha carries the customary Idol of Prana Devaru on top! Thus Yati Raghavendra and Prana Devaru are bound eternally by their common goal of 'seva' towards the devotees of the Lord! By steadfastly 'serving' the numerous devotees flocking to the Rayara Brindavanas' where ever it might be situated, Sri Raghavendra Theertha is in turn 'serving' His Antharyami Sri Mukya Prana and the Supreme Lord Moola Ramachandra!!

Before we dwell into the forth coming chapters, we need to understand a little more about the Purvashrama days of Sri Raghavendra Theertha as Venkatanatha. Maha Bhasyakara Venkatanatha was a Maha Siddhi Purusha who had attained " Mantra-Siddhi" over all Mantras, beginning from the Bijakshara Mantra of OM! It is said that once a person has attained such a state (Mantra-siddhi) , he becomes a Master of all Mantras and the resulting power that flows from it!!. Thus the power of Mantra streams out just like a lit up cotton-wick soaked in oil which burns brightly using the resident oil in the wick! The initial spark for the ignition though has to be provided by the person who utters the 'Mantra'!! And only 'Siddhi-Purushas' like Raghavendra Theertha can provide that initial spark with the Grace of Sri Prana Devaru and His 'antharyami' Sriman Moola Rama! Also such a person who has completely mastered Mantras can 'apply' the powers hidden in the Mantra in a particular context that is proportionate to the task/deed to be achieved!

Once Venkatanatha, as fate ordained, was entrusted to the task of grinding sandal wood birches into sandal wood paste!. Venkatanatha in order to alleviate the monotony of the work was uttering the Agni Sukta Mantra while thus engaged in grinding the sandal paste! Unknown to others, the powers of the Mantra being activated by a Maha Siddhi Purusha started 'irradiating' in the sandal paste that was being churned out by Venkatanatha! Also the 'latent heat' of the Mantra did not have any effect on the person (Venkatanatha) who was uttering it, but was 'transferred' to the sandal paste! This incident once again has an astounding parallel in the Ramayana, where in the 'Asuras' of Lanka set fire to the tail of Hanumantha , the messenger of Lord Sri Rama! But the end effect was that the fire destroyed every thing that lay in its path except the 'Ashoka Vana' where in Sita Devi sat immersed in her devotion towards Lord Rama! Likewise the heat from the sandal paste that Venkatanatha had churned out became unbearable to those who applied it to their bodies, but the same did not have any effect on Venkatanatha who was deeply immersed in invoking Lord of Fire (Agni Deva), the Adhipathi of that particular Mantra! This incident also proves beyond doubt about the Fullest Blessings and Grace of Sri Prana Devaru on Sri Venkatanatha! One should also remember here that Venkatanatha uttered the Agni Sukta Mantra without any intention of causing harm to anyone at all, but still the Mantra 'obeying' its Master 'gave' its

inherent effect! Later on in a still astonishing manner Venkatanatha uttered the Varuna Sukta Mantra and neutralized the effect of the Agni Sukta Mantra without even having to touch the 'affected' sandal paste, just like Hanumantha had dipped His tail in the soothingly cool waters of the Ocean without a single hair on His Body being singed in the "Pralaya Agni" that was burning is His Tail!!

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Venkatanatha, the Chosen One, after the Holy ordainment as Raghavendra Theertha, the Holy Name which 'contains' the Name of the Supreme Lord - "Raghava", was now in line to worship the Divine Manifestations of the Supreme Lord Lakshmi Narayana, in a gloriously fruitful manner similar to the worships offered by Sri Mahalakshmi Devi, Sri Bramha Devaru, Sri Mukhya Prana Devaru, Sri Sesa Devaru, Sri Rudra Devaru and an elite Galaxy of extraordinarily Holy Madhwa Pontiffs led by Sriman Madhwacharya Himself and the likes of the incomparable Sri Jaya Theertha, Sri Vaadi Raja, Sri Sripaadaraja and Sri Vyasa Theertha!! The greatness of Sri Raghavendra Theertha is that this Unique Worship of the Supreme Lord was spread over many eons and were performed in many incarnations such as Prahlada Raja, Vyasa Raja and as Raghavendra, and needless to say still continuing from inside the Moola Brindavana of Manchale Ksethra!

Once during his northerly sojourns, Sri Raghavendra Theertha was challenged by a staunch opponent of Vishnu Baktas, who questioned the very relevance of the Immortal Vedas and all branches of Knowledge that originated from them! The disbeliever then challenged Sri Raghavendra Theertha to prove the Supremacy of the Vedas by making a piece of dead wood to sprout! Raghavendra Theertha smiled and sprinkled the Holy Water from His 'Kamandala' on the piece of dead wood and tender leaflets began to sprout from the dead wood in no time! Raghavendra Theertha using his epochal

spiritual powers was able to 're-energize' the dead sap in the wood and once again made it to regenerate! Yes, Raghavendra Theertha had invoked Mukya Prana Devaru while sprinkling the Holy waters on the dead wood! Prana Devaru the Eternal Sustainer of all Forms of Life did the rest! With all Humility, Raghavendra Theertha thus upheld the Supremacy of the Vedas and the Very Origin of the Vedas, Sriman Narayana Himself!

Sriman Madhwacharya, the proponent of the Dwaitha Philosophy had Himself extolled the virtues of Sri Hari in a stupendous manner! In the 'Dwadasa Stotra', Acharya Madhwa has Universalized the Worship of Sri Hari through the path of 'Ultimate Devotion'!. Here Acharya Madhwa gives us a very erudite insight into the Supremacy of Sri Hari! The Creation, Sustenance and Destruction of this entire Universe takes places just by a slight glance from the corner of the eye of Goddess Ramaa Devi, the Divine Consort of Sri Hari!! And such a Goddess Ramaa Devi resides 'permanently' and is 'protected by the Eyelashes of Sri Hari Himself!! It is quite very well known that Sriman Madhwacharya , the founder of the Dwaitha Philosophy, consecrated the Kadagolu Krishna Idol at Udupi and also established various Mutts to propagate the nascent faith with a small but dedicated group of disciples and in turn each of the Mutt was Blessed with a particular Idol representing the Supreme Lord Lakshmi Narayana!. The Sriman Moola Rama Idol, handcrafted by none other than Sri Bramha Deva Himself was one of Truly Divine and Awe Inspiring Idols that came to be with Sri Narahari Theertha, the Moola Yati of the Sri Mutt who was a principle disciple of Sri Madhwacharya. Acharya Madhwa also gifted the equally important Dhig Vijaya Rama Idol handcrafted by Himself and in due course the Jaya Rama Idol was also added, which was handcrafted by none other than Sri Jaya Teertha! Thus the Sri Mutt has over the ages has been Blessed with these three Idols and the same is being worshipped with great religious fervor and devotion by an unbroken line of eminent Madhwa Pontiffs, who are as the 'sastras' hold out none other than 'celestial beings' born as humans in order to carry out the 'worship' of the said Idols!!

It should also be remembered that every Madhwa Yati has been a Hari Dasa and every Hari Dasa has been a Madhwa Yati at heart! It is well known that the Madhwa Pontiffs were ordained with Holy Names and given Divine Idols representing that particular Mutt, which they worshipped with utmost devotion. Likewise the Haridasas also took 'Ankita Namas' , such as 'Purandara' Dasa, 'Kanaka' Dasa, 'Vijaya' Dasa, 'Gopala' Dasa, 'Jaganatha' Dasa and worshipped the Supreme Lord in their timeless compositions which are popular even today! At the same time great Madhwa Pontiffs like Sripaada Raja, Vaadi Raja, Vyasa Theertha and Raghavendra Theertha authored great classical texts on Madhwa Philosophy and most significantly also composed numerous songs on the Supreme Lord, which are equally lilting and glorious in the praise of the Supreme Lord.!! The timelessly encanting composition 'Krishna Nee Begana Baaro.....' of Sri Vyasa Theertha and the

equally soul stirring 'Indhu Enage Govindaa.....' composed by Sri Raghavendra Theertha are a few outstanding examples of the Hari Dasas' who dwelt in the hearts of Madhwa Pontiffs! Also it is said that the great Purandara Dasa (an 'amsha' of Sage Narada) Himself attained 'Poorna Moksha' at the Feet of the Supreme Lord just by the force and conviction of His Eternal Prayers of nearly four lakh compositions !! No wonder that Purandara Dasa used to have daily bath in the River Ganga, even though He was hundreds of miles away from the Holy River! Lord Udipi Krishna Himself turned on His pedestal to give 'darshan' to Kanaka Dasa and the Great Jagannatha Dasa had a magnificent 'darshan' of the Supreme Forms of The Lord, each in four corners of the Moola Brindavana of Sri Raghavendra at Mantralaya! These Haridasas' were in a way Madhwa Pontiffs, Indeed!

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The history of Madhwa Philosophy can be broadly classified into four eras - The Era of Sri Jaya Theertha, The Era of Sri Vaadiraja, The Era of Sri Vyasa Raja and the Era of Sri Raghavendra Theertha. All the other eminent Pontiffs, who no doubt were great scholars of individual merit and accomplishment, were assimilated into these four eras and were greatly influenced by these four Pontiffs or in turn influenced the four great Pontiffs themselves! Even the matchless Haridasas' were also swept away by unstoppable waves of devotion that cascaded from the monumental and path breaking literary works of these four Pontiffs and their simply outstanding individual brilliance that was beyond compare!! The one common thing witnessed in these four eras was the outpouring of scholastic brilliance and the huge magnitude of literary output on Madhwa Philosophy in particular and on Vedic literature in general! In a unprecedented urgency to merge with the "Ocean of Full and Complete Knowledge" that symbolized Sri Ananda Thirtha (Sri Madhwacharya) Himself, this 'Ganga of Knowledge' flowed in tumultuous torrents and swept away everything that lay in its path towards the 'sole and correct path' of 'Dualism' !! Needless to say, each of these four eminent Pontiffs were Graced by the Supreme Lord Hayagreeva Himself! And as a 'divine sign-post' this 'Eternal Flame of Knowledge' symbolized by 'Dwaita' continues to burn brightly similar to the 'Nanda Deepa' (ceremonial lamp) at the inner sanctum of Sri Krishna Temple at Udipi, which continues to burn after nearly eight centuries, when it was first lit up by Sri Madhwacharya Himself!!!

The peerless Haridasas on their part 'sang and danced' in pure Bliss while extolling the Infinite Virtues of The Supreme Lord, thus - //The One who Rests on the Cradle of the Milky Ocean itself, the Four Vedas are the Ropes by which this Cradle is rocked gently, Lord Aadi Sesa Himself serves as the 'Celestial Bed' for this Cradle, Here Lord Hayagreeva rests with Goddess Mahalakshmi in His side// In the 'EeshaVaasyoupanisadh', Sri Raghavendra Theertha invokes Lord Hayagreeva in a intensely riveting manner!. The Pontiff starts the holy work with an invocation extolling Lord Hayagreeva Who accompanied by Maha Lakshmi Devi is always 'present' in Hanuma, Bheema, Madhwa; The Lord is The Very Embodiment of Sri Rama, Sri Krishna and Sri Veda Vyasa! Only then, Sri Raghavendra Theertha continues

with His propitiation of Sri Prana Devaru and Sri Poorna Bodha Guru Theertha (Madhwacharya). This is highly symbolic since it denotes the hierarchy accorded to Lord Hayagreeva , The sole source of all Knowledge starting from the Eternal Vedas.! Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu and Sri Sode Vaadi Raja Swamigalu are the most prominent 'aaradhakas' of Lord Hayagreeva!

Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu was thus completely Blessed by Lord Hayagreeva Himself! This 'huge merit' in turn enabled Goddess Saraswati Herself to be 'Omni present' on the 'tongue' of the Holy Pontiff! It is said that Goddess Saraswati danced on the 'tongue' of Sri Raghavendra Theertha and the 'flower-bunches' that fell off from the flower bedecked plaits of the Goddess (while dancing) later flowed out as "Divine-Words" from the mouth of the Holy Pontiff!! The tenor of the rich voice of the Holy Pontiff in itself sounded like the lofty tunes arising from the strumming of the 'Hamsa-Veena' of Goddess Saraswati! Thus Raghavendra Theertha strode as a Colossus in the Vedic World! He had not only mastered Dwaita Siddhanta, but in order to effectively uphold its Supremacy, had also mastered other 'Siddhantas' that were in vogue! In the earlier incarnation as Vyasa Theertha , great classical works of gigantic religious and literary importance were penned with surprising ease and crystal clear clarity and purity that mirrored the Supremacy of Sri Hari in a truly wondrous and magnificent manner!!.

Every pontiff in the eminent 'Yati Parampare' has left His own inedible mark on the 'Qualitative Quest for Knowledge' and succeeded in achieving this 'goal' within in the confines of the Sri Mutt . Hence the Sri Mutt is even today considered to be a vibrant Vidya Mutt!. Many eminent Pontiffs' enriched this Vidya Mutt by their individual brilliance and this excellence reached a zenith under Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha who shone as a 'scholar par excellence' with the complete Blessings of Sri Hayagreeva Devaru.! It should be remembered here that only ascetics of the highest order can worship Sriman Moola Rama and only persons with the highest level of comprehension and mastery over 'all' branches of Knowledge originating from 'The Vedas' were selected to be ordained as 'sanyasis' to grace the Parama Hamsa Peeta !

Thus being Blessed by Lord Hayagreeva Himself, the very Name of Raghavendra is in itself is enough to over come this 'mundane life' of ours burdened with known and sometime unknown shortcomings that a 'Soul' is deemed to pick-up from countless births and rebirths. The inherent power of the Holy Name of Raghavendra was demonstrated by Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu Himself when He Blessed a poor and illiterate Venkanna and advised him to chant the Holy Name at the time of need! Later after some months passed by the illiterate Venkanna who was grazing cattle in the nearby meadows, was caught hold of by a local ruler who tormented him (the illiterate Venkanna) to read out from the 'royal message' brought by a messenger! The

unlettered Venkanna just did not know what to do! He knew that he could not convince the King however much he tried, for no one would believe a brahmin be illiterate! Venkanna soon realized that his very life was in grave danger if he did not obey the command of the King! Not knowing what to do, Venkanna just closed his eyes and prayed to his Benefactor!. He called out - Raghavendra!...Raghavendra!...Raghavendra! with total devotion and pleaded with his Guru to rid him from this life threatening predicament! Just as he did so, Venkanna began to read out the contents of the letter flawlessly and thereby informed the King about the good news of a birth of a son to him and a victory achieved by his army! The King was so 'overjoyed' with Venkanna that he immediately 'took' Venkanna under his wings and ordered him to accompany him to his Kingdom where after a period of time, the illiterate boy who once roamed about grazing cattle became the Dewan and came to be known as Dewan Venkanna Pant! All this was achieved just by uttering the Holy name of Sri Raghavendra ! Indeed the Holy Name Raghavendra has in itself become a 'Maha Mantra'!

It is said, that Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu had a magnificent 'darshan' of Lord Hayagreeva Himself when He was meditating before the Idol of Sri Srinivasa Devaru at Machale Grama. Lord Hayagreeva 'alerted' the aging pontiff Sri Raghavendra Theertha about the 'task' of having to enter to the 'Brindavana' live on the banks of the River Tungabhadra and continue to 'serve' His devotees for Seven Centuries! The Lord also pointed out the 'site' where the Moola Brindavana was to be consecrated, Himself explaining about the 'glorious past' of the particular spot where earlier Prahalada had conducted His 'Maha Yagnas'!! Thus the live 'Brindavana Pravesha' itself had the 'Divine Sanction' of the Supreme Lord Himself!! And lest it be forgotten, it was Guru Raghavendra's humblest devotee Dewan Venkanna who had earlier been Blessed by the Guru Himself in a magnificent manner, who arranged for the consecration of the Moola Brindavana on the banks of the river Tungabhadra.! This is that elusive "Sri Hari Chitta Sathya" at its Best!!

Another incident can also be highlighted to prove the enormous Blessings that Lord Hayagreeva always bestowed on Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu. It is well know that Sri Raghavendra's favorite disciple Appannacharya could not be present in front of the Moola Brindava during the time of its 'jodane', but was later Blessed by Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu in an astounding manner! Appannacharya who composed the 'Sri Raghavendra Stotra' as he battled the ever rising waves of the swollen river Tungabhadra en route to Mantralaya to have a last 'darshan' of his Guru, could not complete the 'Stotra' and it was Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu (who was meditating upon the Sri Hayagreeva Moola Maha Mantra) who completed the 'Stotra' from within the 'Brindavana', with the monumental verse - 'Saakshi Hayasyotrahi", validating the entire 'Stotra' of Sri Appannacharya to be True with none other than Lord Hayagreeva Himself as Witness!

The Fullest Blessings and Grace of Lord Hayagreeva on Raghavendra Swamigalu was chiefly instrumental in the composition of numerous 'Granthas'. The power 'arising' from the Supreme Truth 'contained' in the "Granthas" itself has bestowed three hundred years 'life span' to the Holy Pontiff!! It is said that no one can extol "fully" the Virtues of the Supreme Lord Lakshmi Narayana better than Sriman Madhwacharya and Sage Narada! In fact when Sriman Madhwacharya gave religious discourses (Pravachanas) Lord Aadi Sesa Himself 'arrived' to partake in such a 'epochal' discourse, the skies above shone with dazzling lights, each one on the hoods of the 'Celestial Serpent'! Owing to his 'proximity' to the Supreme Lord, Sri Lakshmi Narayana, Sage Narada also extolled The Divine Qualities of Sri Hari in a Supremely unmatched manner!! Once Sage Narada narrated this 'Divine Pravachana' to Prahlada Kumara when He was still in His mother's womb! The 'force' and 'content' of that 'Pravachana' of Sage Narada was so powerful that, the yet to be born baby had to "incarnate thrice" as Prahlada Raja, Vyasa Raja and Raghavendra Theertha to totally 'realize' the Supremacy of Sri Hari as extolled by Sage Narada and in the process 'became' the Greatest of all Baghavat Baktas to have worshipped Sri Nara Hari, Sri Krishna and Sriman Moola Rama, respectively!!!

Sri Vyasa Theertha (an earlier incarnation of Sri Raghavendra) is also credited with the crafting of a truly awe inspiring icon of Sri Hayagreeva, which is known as "Sri Vyasa Theertha Kararchita Hayavadhana Devaru". This is a 'Saligrama Shila' Idol and is currently in the possession of the Sripada Raja Mutt. The Sri Mutt at Mantralaya also is in the possession of another rare icon of Sri Hayagreeva which is worshipped with utmost devotion and is kept along with other 'Patada Devaru' on special occasions!

Where ever the Holy Pontiff visited during the course of His 'Dhig Vijaya Yatra' or 'Dharma Prachara', along with the customary ritualized worship of the deities of the Sri Mutt, the Supreme Lord was also 'worshipped' through the composition of "Epic Granthas" that were penned with utmost Devotion and Sanctity!! This "literary gem studded" path in itself led the Holy Pontiff Raghavendra Theertha directly towards the 'vicinity' of His 'Ishta Devta', The Lord of Lords, Sri Krishna Devaru Himself!!

Lord Sri Krishna, The Most Glorious Incarnations of the Supreme Lord Sri Lakshmi Narayana, has been Worshipped from Time Immemorial! Mathura (Birth Place of The Lord), Vraj Bhoomi and Vrindavan (Playground of The Lord), Kurukshetra (Where The Lord "gave' His Vishwaroopa Darshana), Dwarka (resident city of The Lord), Udipi (dwelling place of The Lord in Kaliyuga) and Mantralaya (with the Moola Brindavana of The Lord's Greatest Devotee) are some of the Holiest of All Holy places associated with Lord Sri Krishna. After the Advent of Sriman Madhwacharya, this 'Divine-Worship' received a tremendous impetus with the full force of 'The Supreme Truth'

Eternally Symbolized by 'Dwaita' behind such a 'worship'! The Magnificently Divine Idol of Lord Sri Krishna holding a 'Kadagolu'(churning ladle) in one Hand and a 'rope' in the other Hand, ranks as the most beautiful of all the Idols 'representing' The Supreme Lord! Once, The Mother of Lord Krishna, Devaki, wished to see Her beloved Son as an Infant, since He grew up with His foster Mother Yashoda! So the Lord Himself 'took' this Infinitely Enchanting Form to 'Please' His Mother! This Idol was also worshipped by Rukmini Devi, the Divine Consort of The Lord during the Dwapara Yuga. At the end of the Dwapara Yuga, the valiant Pandava Prince, Arjuna, hid the Idol in a mound of 'Gopi Chandana'!. Thus the Idol lay 'hidden' in the mound of 'Gopi Chandana' for thousands of years! The ancient Dwaraka being a port city, with numerous ships sailing to far away lands, this 'mound of Gopi Chandana' with the Idol of the Lord inside was loaded on to a south-bound ship and was unknowingly being used as a ship anchor! The ship set sail in a southerly direction and when it reached the coast off Malpe, Dakshina Kannada, it was caught in a sudden sea storm, with gales of high speed winds tossing the ship like a toy in the heaving turbulent waters! The worried captain of the ship anxiously searched for a 'place' where he could safely breach the ship. As pre-ordained by The Lord Himself, Acharya Madhwa was at that time strolling along the shore with His disciples in tow! Seeing the distressed ship, Acharya Madhwa immediately hoisted the upper saffron cloth that He wore at that time, in the direction of the ship and guided it safely to the shore! A grateful captain of the ship expressed his desire to gift Acharya Madhwa with the precious merchandise that the ship was carrying! But instead Acharya Madhwa choose ONLY one particular mound of 'Gopi Chandana' which carried the Idol of The Lord Inside!

When the mound was brought ashore, much to the amazement and intense devotional joy of all those who had assembled, the Idol of the Lord was recovered from within the mound by Acharya Madhwa! The minute The Lord's Feet touched the land, it also meant that the Acharya's Dwaita Philosophy had been validated 'By The Arrival' of none other than the Lord Sri Krishna, from Dwaraka, as 'The Supreme Symbol of Dualism'!! Also many disciples of The Acharya, tried to carry the Idol of the Lord inland, but in vain!!. Acharya Madhwa 'lifted' it in on single motion, and carrying Idol of The Lord on His Head, marched towards Udipi and consecrated the Magnificent Idol of Lord Sri Krishna with Full Pomp and Splendor! In due course of time, Srimam Madhwacharya ordained eight 'Bala Sanyasis' to continue the worship of Lord Sri Krishna. Initially, the Sri Krishna Temple was 'home' to all the 'eight pontiffs' but later on 'they' branched out to reside in their own individual Mutt premises located adjacent to the Sri Krishna Temple! It was Sode Vaadiraja Swamigalu who allocated the "rights of ritual worship" to Lord Sri Krishna, known as 'Paryaya', for a period of two years to each of these 'Ashta Mutts'. Thus Sri Krishna Mutt , Udipi, the very bastion of "Universal Madhwaism", stands as a beacon attracting

thousands upon thousands of devotees all year round, this figure swells to millions during the 'Paryaya'! Lord Sri Krishna, The Brightest Jewel of The 'Chandra Dynasty' forever shines as a 'Full Moon' over the adjacent 'Madhwa Sarovara' at Udipi! Apart from the magnificent Idol of Sri Udipi Krishna which was consecrated by Acharya Madhwa, Eight Supremely Divine Icons depicting the Supreme Lord were handed over to His disciples, around which grew the famed 'Udipi Ashta Mutts'! The principal Icons handed over by Sriman Madhwacharya, which are in the possession of the particular Mutts (shown in brackets), and is being worshipped, are as follows :

Yoga Narasimha Devaru (Kaaniyoor Mutt); Boo Varaha Devaru (Sode Mutt); Vittala Devaru (Puthige Mutt); Kaaliya Mardana Krishna Devaru (Adamar Mutt); Aja Vittala Devaru (Pejawar Mutt); Seetha Lakshmana Sahita Kodhanda Rama Devaru (Palimar Mutt); Dwibuja Kaaliya Mardana Krishna Devaru & Ugra Narasimha Devaru (Krishnapur Mutt); Sri Boo Sahita Vittala Devaru (Shiroor Mutt)

One more Icon depicting the Supreme Manifestation of Lord Sri Krishna was also 'given' to His principle disciple Sri Padmanabha Thirtha. This Supremely Divine Icon, known as "Sree Madhwacharya Karachitha Sri Moola Gopinatha Devaru" is currently in the possession of the Padmanabha Thirtha Moola Mahasamsthams, Sri Sripaada Raja Mutt and has come to be worshipped with great devotional fervor by the all the eminent pontiffs belonging to this illustrious 'Parampare' (lineage). The Holiest amongst Holy Madhwa Pontiffs like Sri Sripaada Rajaru and Sri Vyasa Theertha (an earlier incarnation of Sri Raghavendra Theertha) have worshipped Sri Moola Gopinatha Devaru with such dedication that it remains unsurpassed till date! Sri Vyasa Theertha was one of the greatest of 'aaradhakas' of Lord Sri Krishna! The Legendary Glory of Sri Vyasa Theertha and His 'spiritual exploits' re-validates the 'Supreme Truth' in the Dwaitha as propagated by Him, probably with the sole exception of Sri Jaya Theertha Muni! Sri Vyasa Theertha was indeed the 'chosen one', with the Lord Himself 'dancing' to his tunes!! This happened during the time when Sri Vyasa Theertha was studying under His Guru Sri Sripaada Raja. It was another Great Madhwa Pontiff Sri Bramhanya Theertha who 'sent' Vyasa Theertha to study under the Great Sri Sripaada Raja. In fact Bramhanya Theertha and Sri Sripaada Raja were the 'Purvashrama' sons' of two sisters!! Sri Sripaada Raja, the Holiest amongst Holy Madhwa Pontiffs' in the lineage of Sri Padmanabha Theertha (the principle disciple of Sriman Madhwacharya), a Titan of a scholar was also the Greatest Devotee of Lord Gopinatha and Lord Srinivasa of Tirupathi! (which shall be elaborated in future chapters) Once, Sri Sripaada Raja on His way to 'take' a Holy Bath, instructed His disciple, Vyasa Theertha to 'ready' the Idols of the Sri Mutt and prepare for that days rituals by the time He finished His morning ablutions! Sri Vyasa Theertha as per His Guru's command began 'taking out' the Idols of the Sri Mutt one by one from the 'Holy Box' (Devara Pettigey). One particular box

had remained unopened for a very long period of time, since none could open it, thought everyone knew that it must surely contain the Holiest of the Holy Icon of the Lord! The lid of this particular box opened by itself the minute Sri Vyasa Theertha touched it and to His Utter Joy and Bliss He found an Icon of the Lord Sri Venugopala inside! Sri Vyasa Theertha was so overcome by devotion, that He immediately began singing the praise of the Supreme Lord! As He did so, the Icon of The Lord Sri Venugopala began dancing in conformity to His tunes! Sri Vyasa Theertha also began clanging the 'saligramas', each one in each hand, to the beat of His songs! The Lord began to dance accordingly, matching His steps to the sound arising from the clangs of the 'saligramas' and the divine melody of Sri Vyasa Theertha's song! After some time Sri Sripaada Raja returned from His bath and could hear Sri Vyasa Theertha singing aloud and also heard the "mysteriously heavenly sounds" of anklets as if some one was dancing from inside the Sanctum.!! As Sripaada Raja entered the Sanctum, the Lord Venugopala stopped dancing at once, and the Icon to this day, still 'stands' in the same position when the dance stopped midway! Though Sri Sripaada Raja knew before hand about the 'greatness' of His disciple, this incident once again highlights the Divine Blessings that Lord Sri Krishna had bestowed in abundant measure on Sri Vyasa Theertha!

The credit for molding a young 'Vyasa Theertha' goes to His Guru, Sri Sripaada Raja! Sripaada Raja Himself was chiefly instrumental in the 'usage' of Kannada, during the daily ritual worships of Lord Sri Gopinatha! The innumerable short poems/songs/lyrics composed in favor of the Supreme Lord known as 'Sulaadis' are very popular in all Madhwa households!. Sri Vyasa Theertha was immensely influenced by the Great Sri Sripaada Raja and carried the complete Blessings of His Guru!. This is why the Haridaasas' sang "Guruvillade Mokshavelli"!!? Vyasa Theertha went on to 'shine forth' as one of the brightest jewel in the Galaxy of Madhwa Pontificate! One of the most famous composition of Sri Vyasa Theertha is that enchanting song 'Krishna Nee Begane Baaro.....', where in Sri Vyasa Theertha 'describes' the Lord right from His Divine Anklets to the dazzling diamond studded crown!!. All a devotee has to do is to close his eyes' and listen to the song in complete peace and silence!!. The Divine Image of the Lord is 'guaranteed' to 'form' in front of the devotee's eyes! Indeed, one feels Blessed just by singing such divine and timeless composition, penned by the Greatest of all 'aradhakas' of Lord Sri Krishna, Sri Vyasa Theertha.!! Indeed it is an intensely moving sight when the Madhwa Pontiffs' after finishing their daily ritual worship of their individual Mutt deities 'circumambulate' the 'Devara Pettigey' containing the Icons of the Supreme Lord, with their Holy Staff in Hand , thrice, which is in itself equivalent to having visited every Holy Pilgrimage Centre ever heard of !

The path-breaking contributions of Haridaasas' towards 'diffusion' of Sri

Krishna Bakti by the 'force' of their devotional compositions is simply unmatched anywhere! All the complicated tenets contained in the 'Holy Books' known only to a select few, was laid 'thread bare' in the devotional songs composed in Kannada. In fact their eternal compositions has in itself given rise to a new branch of literature known as 'Daasa Sahitya'! The Haridaasas', sang their way into the 'Hearts and Souls' of the populace by their innumerable devotional compositions and thereby Supremely Pleased the Supreme Lord Himself! . It is said that countless Gods and Goddesses also danced along with the Haridasas' in Supreme Bliss and unalloyed Joy in the Praise of the Lord Sri Krishna! The 'bowl for alms' that the Haridaasas' held in their Hands, 'showed' a never ending 'appetite' for 'Krishna Bakti' and could never be 'satisfied' just like the famed 'Akshaya Patre' of the Lord Sri Krishna that would 'never' get empty! Every 'rhythmic stride' that the Haridaasas' 'took' with their legs 'tied with rows of brass bells', every 'taala' (beat) arising from the musical instruments that the Haridasas' 'held' in their hands, with every 'jingle' of the strings of Holy Tulasi beads adorning their necks, and with every 'word' symbolizing the Supreme Lord that the Haridaasa's uttered, took them ahead, one dancing step followed by another dancing step, composition - by composition, towards the Lotus Feet of the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna! These Haridaasas' led by the Great Sri Purandara Daasa, strode successfully in the 'Devotion-filled-path' as envisaged by Acharya Madhwa and attained Salvation at the Lotus Feet of Lord Sri Krishna! The fame of Haridaasas' was such that 'devotees' came from far and wide just to have 'their darshan' instead of the Lord! Though the Haridaasas' themselves, in every single living second of their 'ordained' life were a complete picture of 'deep humility' and 'always deeply engrossed' in extolling the Supreme Qualities of The Supreme Lord ! Their epochal contributions were recognized by the individual affiliated Mutts and the by then reigning Pontiffs'! Thus Purandara Daasa and Kanaka Daasa 'grew' under the auspices of Sri Vyasa Theertha!. Similar to the 'Holy Conch' (Panchajanya) and 'Discuss' (Sri Sudharshana Chakra) that 'dazzled' in the Hands of Lord Lakshmi Narayana , Sri Vyasa Theertha Himself 'dazzled' with the likes of Sri Purandara Daasa and Sri Kanaka Daasa by His side!! All of them bound eternally by their fathomless 'Krishna Bakti' ! Indeed sometimes it is difficult to really comprehend WHO is more 'fortunate'!!, the Lord Sri Krishna to 'have' such devotees (like Vyasa Theertha, and Haridaasas') , or the 'devotees' themselves to have such a Lord!

The influence of these great Haridaasas' as felt even to this day! At Udipi, every day different varieties of food items are prepared for the compulsory ritual offerings to Lord Sri Krishna, but along with all these items, the offerings that Sri Kanaka Daasa used to offer to the Lord, like 'rice gruel' and 'dry Roti' during his times, is also 'symbolically placed' in a silver plate and offered to the Lord compulsorily.! Sri Jagganatha Daasa's Harikathamrutasara, (a detailed elaboration of this

great work would in itself occupy a minimum of 1000 web pages!) a monumental work for all times to come extolling the Supreme Virtues of the Lord, also 'takes' one to hitherto unmapped plains of literary brilliance, not scaled by anyone else! The Madhwa Philosophy 'upholds' this 'devotion filled' path followed by the incomparable Haridaasas', in the realization of the Supreme Lord Sri Hari, and 'had' the 'Supreme Sanction' of Acharya Madhwa Himself! It is said that for ordinary lay men the path to Salvation is 100 years long, but for those who tread the 'Bakti path' ,the path to Salvation is just 10 years long! But this 'Bakti path' is a most elusive path and can be found 'only' on account of past merits gathered in past births and with the able guidance of a True Guru!! The various stages involved in the 'Divine Worship' of Lord Sri Krishna in line with the Madhwa tenets is compartmentalized in the following steps : Shravana; Kirtana; Smarana; Paada Sevana; Arachana, Vandana; Daasya; Sakhya and Aatma Nivedana!!. Though these steps seem to be quite easy to follow and sounds very pleasing to the ears, the 'cultivation' and 'following' of these stages of worship is a different matter altogether!!. Only Yuga Purushas like Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu were 'able to' master this 'devotional art' in toto and were in turn Blessed by the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna with such magnificent 'darshans' that it 'appeared to lessen' the Lord's similar Benevolence to other great devotees! There is a world of difference when a Supremely Holy Pontiff like Sri Raghavendra Theertha 'utters' the Holy Name of the Lord Sri Krishna!! The 'colossal weight' of the "sadhane" of the Holy Pontiff 'earned' in many incarnations, goes behind such an utterance of the Holy Name of the Lord!! When Venkatanathacharya was 'running' a Gurukula during his 'Purvashrama' days, the 'Gurukula' itself was a Divine Temple of the Supreme Lord. Each and every pupil who 'came' to soak in the 'Divine Knowledge' being disbursed by Venkatanathacharya, was 'looked upon' as the Presiding Deity Lord Sri Krishna Himself, similar to the 'Supreme Care and Affection' that Mother Yashoda showered on Her Favorite Son, Sri Krishna !! That is why it is said that 'Vidya Daana' is the most sacred and Holy amongst all Charities!! This also 'proves' that Venkatanathacharya was already 'worshipping' His 'Ista Devta' Lord Sri Krishna even before the Holy Ordainment as Sri Raghavendra Theertha!

In the Truly Immortal song 'Indhu Enaghe Govinda....Ninnaya Paadaravindava Thooro Mukundane....." penned by Sri Raghavendra Guru Sarvabhousmaru using the pen name of "Dheera Venugopala", the 'singer, the listener, the reader, the translator, the bystander' 'lurking' inside each one of us, is instantly transported into the Kingdom of Devotion wherein only the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna Rules!! If one hears this song intently, then one realizes that this song is indeed a 'Mini Biography' of Lord Sri Krishna and it encompasses all the 'Glories' of the Lord right from His Birth, being a favorite child in the eyes of His foster parents, extremely eye-catching Beauty of the Form of the Lord, the Supreme Lord who effortlessly lifted

the gigantic Mandhara Mountain, the Supreme Lord of Goddess Indira Devi.! Further, The Supreme Lord Krishna is 'intensely cajoled' into 'accepting' the 'composer' (Sri Raghavendra) into His Divine All Encompassing Fold, who has finally arrived at the Feet of the Lord after finishing a life time journey marked by the 'milestones of desires', 'chained by unfathomable relationships', straining under the tremendous burdens of sins committed knowingly and unknowingly by straying in wrong paths!! When a 'Yuga Purusha' like Raghavendra Swamigalu Himself, like a child, totally surrenders to the Supreme Lord Krishna with none other savior in sight and pleads with the Lord to show His Supreme Mercy by not taking into account inherent shortcomings (of the Devotees') and help to navigate him (Sri Raghavendra) towards Salvation at the feet of the Lord, one can imagine the 'plight' of other most ordinary mortals like us! Here, it should be perfectly understood that Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu, is praying to Lord Sri Krishna on 'behalf' of His numerous devotees! This outpouring of a Supreme Devotee towards the Supreme Lord is so touching, so moving and so intense that it leaves one gasping for breath and the soul craves for more!! That is the 'literary power' of Sri Raghavendra Theertha showcased in this one single song, we can now imagine the force of his Mastery and Genius that is contained in His numerous other epochal 'Granthas'! All dedicated to the Lotus Feet of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna! In short, this song succeeds in the bringing a Supremely Divine Picture of the Lord of Lords Sri Krishna in front of our eyes'!! It is said that the Lord in the Most Auspicious, and the Most Divine Form of 'BalaKrishna' Himself appeared before Sri Raghavendra Theertha and began dancing to the lilting tunes of this composition, sending the composer Himself into raptures of devotion on account of Sri Parama Hari Bakti! Tears streaming from His eyes, the aged Pontiff watched the little infant Krishna, the Supreme Lord, The One Who could not be Fully Understood even after eons and eons of Earth shattering penance, the Infant Krishna 'seen and experienced' only by His Mother Yashoda!, even the Sapta Rishis Themselves were not Blessed with such a Divine Sight!, now such a Lord was Himself dancing with the soft sounds of the tiny silver anklets tied to Tiny Feet, holding an enigmatic flute in one Hand, the tiny but extremely radiant Face still bearing traces of 'fresh butter', eaten in haste, a mischievous smile glowing on a 'Tiny Mouth' that Hid the Entire Cosmic Universe and Beyond and the feathered peacock plumes tantalizingly peeping out from the small but dazzling crown on a Tiny Head!! Every enchanting Step that the Lord took was matched equally well by the outstanding notes emanating from the 'Veena' being played by Sri Raghavendra Theertha's Hands!! Time stood still -- the divine melodies from the Veena, the heavenly composition being sung in the Supremely Blessed Voice of the Guru, with torrential tears flowing down from his eyes, and the Lord Himself dancing away 'totally immersed and captured' by the 'immense depth of devotion' of Sri Raghavendra Theertha!. Some scholars support the 'school of thought' that Sri Raghavendra Theertha had 'this' darshan of the Lord at Udipi, but others opine that this

'darshan' was just before when Sri Raghavendra Theertha 'entered' the Moola Brindavana, live, at Mantralaya.! But if one goes through the lyrics of the song, then one can feel, that Sri Raghavendra Theertha indeed had 'arrived' at the final stages of His 'avtaara' and pleads with the Lord to 'rid' him of all his earthly connections!! The latter 'reasoning' just slightly out weighs the former!! Could Sri Raghavendra Theertha have sung this song just before 'entering' the Moola Brindavana? Only Lord Sri Krishna Knows! As for laymen like us all we can do is to raise our hands in prayer and chant the Holy Name of the Lord thus - Krishnaya Vaasudevaya Devaki Nandanayacha Nanda Gopa Kumaraya Govindaya Namoh Namaha, a thousand times!! During His 'chaturmasa' stay at Udipi, it is said that Sri Raghavendra Theertha completed religious discourses on 'Chandrike' ten times! The Holy Pontiff also authored 'Chandrikaprakashaka' in the Divine Vicinity of the Lord Sri Krishna at Udipi! The Divine Elucidation of 'The Geeta' by Sriman Madhwacharya and Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha are 'The Best'!! Thus there exists an 'intrinsic bond' that connects Gitacharya (Lord Sri Krishna), Sriman Madhwacharya and Sri Parimalacharya (Sri Raghavendra Theertha)! The Icon of Sri Krishna handcrafted by Sri Raghavendra Theertha Himself during his stay at Udipi, is now in the possession of the Sri Mutt, Mantralaya and is 'shown' during the daily worship of Sriman Moola Rama by the reigning Pontiff.

The 'Mountain of Merit' achieved by Sri Raghavendra Theertha during His 'Pralhada Avatara' was chiefly instrumental in the astounding success (in the realization of the Supreme Lord) of His other two incarnations of 'Sri Vyasa Theertha' and 'Sri Raghavendra Theertha' ! When the Supreme Lord, Maha Vishnu incarnated as Lord Ugra Narasimha, none including Lord Bramha Deva, Lord Vayu Deva, Lord Rudra Deva, Lord Indra, dared to even venture out in front of the Catastrophically Destructive Power of The Lord! But, 'ahead' of even Goddess Maha Lakshmi Devi, the little lad Prahlada with hands folded with sublime innocence and awash in The Ocean of 'Parama Hari Bakti' ,held his ground' and stood before the Full Glory and Awe Inspiring Form of Lord Ugra Narasimha, Who Shone with the Full Radiance of a Trillion Suns!!

Of all the Supreme Lord's Divine Incarnations none is more fearsome (to the opponents of Sri MahaVishnu), more devastating (to all evils plaguing the mind), more awesome (in the realization of the Supremeness of the Lord), than The Ugra Narasimha Avataara!! All other incarnations of Sriman MahaVishnu followed a 'set pattern' wherein the Supreme Lord 'takes birth' and following the natural cycle of life, experiences Infancy, Youth and ONLY then did He 'accomplish' HIS Divine Purpose of Incarnation, which invariably was to uphold the Truth! But the Incarnation of Lord Ugra Narasimha is The Most Unique of All Incarnations! Heeding to the intense single minded devotion of His Devotee, the young Prahlada, Lord Ugra Narasimha 'burst-forth from within a Pillar' with the tremendous impact of

a gigantic volcano and Incarnated INSTANTANEOUSLY and also more importantly The Divine Purpose of His Incarnation (in slaying the evil tormentor of Mother Earth, Hiranyakashipu) was ACCOMPLISHED AT THE SAME TIME!!

Lord Ugra Narasimha at the height of the Incarnation shone forth with the brilliance and radiance of a trillion Suns, and emerged from within the 'Pillar' with such Intensity and Colossal Force that it exceeded the 'Pralaya Nritya' of Lord Rudra Deva, a thousand times!! This unmatched, previously unseen 'Show of Supreme Savagery' of the Lord Ugra Narasimha rocked the Three Worlds with such Intensity that Gods and Goddesses led by Lord Bramha Deva Himself cowered in fright, unable to withstand the Divine Manifestation of Lord Ugra Narasimha! But the little lad Prahlada who was solely instrumental in 'bringing' the Supreme Lord into the courtyard of his house, stood in front of Lord Sri Ugra Narasimha with folded hands, completely cut off from the surrounding world, deeply in meditation of the Supreme Lord! On the other side, stood Goddess Mahalakshmi Devi, also intensely invoking Lord Sri Narasimha.! The radiance emanating from the pristine devotion of Sri Prahlada and the invocation of the Supreme Lord by none other than Goddess Mahalakshmi Devi Herself , in turn ignited with such force that it only succeeded in adding more 'radiance and annihilating power' to the 'all engulfing infernal visage' of The Lord Ugra Narasimha! After the Lord slew the evil Hiranyakashipu, He gently picked up Maha Lakshmi Devi and placed Her on His Lap, accompanied by the thunderous showers of thousands of flower petals that rained down from the Heavens, strewn by grateful Devtas!! Later the Lord beckoned the young Prahlada , who was circumambulating the Lord with utmost devotion! Lord Sri Narasimha, Supremely Pleased by the depth of devotion of Prahlada, Wished to grant him any boon that he (Prahlada) wished for! But the young Prahlada showing 'intelligence' and 'maturity' beyond his tender age, only requested the Lord to 'pardon' his evil father Hiranyakashipu and also begged mercy for the 'mountain of sins' committed by his forefathers who were staunch opponents of Sriman Maha Vishnu! Also with tears streaming down from his eyes due to the unalloyed joy of seeing the Supreme Lord Himself, the young Prahlada pleaded with the Lord that He should grant him only such a boon that would enable him (Prahlada) to be a Vishnu Bakta for ever and nothing else!! This boon fructified totally in "The Realization of the Supreme Lord" in the later incarnations as Sri Vyasa Theerth and Sri Raghavendra Theertha !!

Lord Bramha Deva Himself invokes His Father , The Supreme Lord Sriman Laxmi Narayana as the 'sole recipient' of the 'fruits' of all sacrifices (Homas) and all forms of worships, the 'adhipathi' of every Hymn, every Mantra, ever uttered! It is said during the conduct of every sacred fire rituals in the propitiation of the Supreme Lord, the offerings into the Homa Kund is 'first' accepted by Lord Agni (God of Fire) and offered in turn to the

Supreme Lord Himself! Thus the Supreme Lord pleased by such offerings will bestow huge amounts of all round prosperity to the person who performs such holy fire rituals! When the little lad Prahlada with Pristine Devotion and steadfastness 'called out' for Sri Hari, he was Blessed magnificently by none other than Lord Sri Lakshmi Narashima Himself , who incarnated before Him in All His Glory.! Thus in a way the young Prahlada had 'performed' his first Mahayagna!. And the Devta that He pleased by his first Yagna was the Supreme Lord Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Himself who Bestowed upon Prahlada , the Ultimate Boon in the form of Celestial Cow - Kamadhenu and Celestial Tree - Kalpavruksha!! This was the huge amount of merit 'gained' by Prahalada for his stupendous devotion which 'resulted' in the Divine Incarnation of the Supreme Lord Sri Lakshmi Narasimha!

Down the Ages, thousands of eminent scholars/pundits have tried to 'describe' the Intensity of the Incarnation of Lord Sri Narasimha in its entirety, but none has 'managed' to fully capture this Incarnation better than Sriman Madhwacharya in just 'two' shlokas!! The first two shlokas of the Sri Hari Vayu Stuti, known as the Nakha Stuti, invokes this Supreme Incarnation of the Lord in a stupendous manner!!. The Acharya describes the monumental powers emanating from the terrifying Form of the Lord whose razor sharp Nails itself resembled the feared 'Vajrayudha' of Lord Indra and tore apart the very intestines of the invincible Hiranyakashipu!. The Acharya shows His mastery in the sublime usage of metaphors, when He likens this Action of the Lord (in slaying the evil Hiranyakashipu) to the Lord's own 'hidden' action of banishing the 'Evil Darkness of Ignorance' clogging the Mind and thus liberating it towards Correct Path of Knowledge (The Dwaitha) in the Total Realization of The Supreme Lord Sri Narasimha! This Lord Narasimha, the Supreme Lord of Goddess Laxmi Devi, is the Sole Benefactor of all devotees, 'ahead' of every known Devtas!. The 'Fearsome Sparks' given off from the 'Clash of Fingernails' jumping off from the Hands of the Lord is enough to reduce to ashes, even the 'amshas' of Lord Bramha, Lord Rudra and Lord Indra.!!

The Supremely Blessed Prahalada once again reincarnated as Sri Vyasa Theertha and was born to a pious couple Ramachar and Seetamma. The birth of Sri Vyasa Theertha in itself is a miracle which once again upholds the Supreme Will of Sri Hari! The devoted couple were childless for a very long time. As Fate ordained, one day, Ramachar passed away suddenly.! A grief stricken Seetamma unable to bear the loss of her husband fell at the feet of the great Madhwa Pontiff Sri Bramhanya Theertha was at that time camping on the banks of the River Kanva! The Holy Madhwa Pontiff Blessed Seetamma by saying that she should bear worthy children! The devastated Seetamma wept before the Pontiff saying that she had just lost her husband and how could she be able to bear children and lead the life of a happy housewife when her husband lay dead nearby! But the Great Pontiff Bramhanya Theertha consoled her by saying that her husband was not dead and

that the couple were 'ordained' to lead a fruitful life Blessed with meritorious children!! Indeed, when Seetamma went back to the place where her husband lay dead, she found him 'hale and hearty' and was sitting in anticipation of her arrival.! Seetamma narrated all that had happened to an amazed Ramachar! The overjoyed couple later fell at the feet of the Holy Pontiff Sri Bramhanya Theertha and took His Blessings! The Pontiff also advised the couple that they should 'give away' their first born male child to the Mutt! The Pontiff further instructed the couple that the new born baby should not be placed on the floor and instead the Pontiff gave the couple a silver plate on which the new born baby should be brought to the Mutt! In due course, Seetamma gave birth to a divine baby boy! This radiant child was none other than Sri Vyasa Theertha! The new born baby was carried to the Sri Mutt in a silver plate and handed over to Sri Bramhanya Theertha! The infant was solely fed by the Milk and Holy Water (theertha) thus collected after bathing the Idols of the Lord and the Iconic Saligramas! The infant was brought up under the guardianship of Sri Bramhanya Theertha and at an appropriate juncture was ordained as Sri Vyasa Theertha and went on to 'rule' the Veda Samrajya!

The Eminent Madhwa Pontiff Sri Akshobyatheertha , one of the four principle disciples of Sriman Madhwacharya, once traveled south during His 'Dharma Prachara'! At a particular hilly region strewn with huge rocks and boulders, the Holy Pontiff and His entourage decided to rest for the night in one of the caves in a rocky outcropping! The Holy Pontiff slept alone in the cave, and was Blessed with a 'darshan' of Lord Yoga Narasimha!. The Lord informed the Holy Pontiff that His Holy Form shall be seen on the wall of the cave where Sri Akshobyatheertha rested! An electrified Akshobyatheertha immediately woke up with a start and beheld the Supreme Image of the Lord Sri Yoga Narasimha on the wall of the same cave! This Supremely Divine and Holy Form of Sri Yoga Narasimha can be found today at Mulbagal (enroute to Tirupathi). Later Sri Vyasa Theertha consecrated a 'Prana Devaru's Idol in the courtyard facing the Lord Yoga Narasimha! Just outside this sanctum, the Moola Brindavana of the great Madhwa Pontiff Sri Sripaada Raja, the Guru of Sri Vyasa Theertha is located. Not surprising this sacred spot consisting of the Divine Form of Lord Yoga Narasimha and Sri Prana Devaru on the inside of the cave walls adjacent to the Moola Brindavana of Sri Sripada Raja is considered to be the most holiest and sacred pilgrimage centers for all Madhwas!.

It is too well known that the site where the Moola Brindavana of Sri Raghavendra Theertha at Mantralaya is located at the very spot where Prahlada Raja had conducted his 'Supreme Yagnas'. Another great Madhwa Pontiff Sri Sri Vibhudendra Theertha had observed strict penance here for several years! Once Raghavendra Theertha took Dewan Venkanna to a particular spot on the banks of the River Tungabadra in the village of Manchale and asked for that particular spot to be dug up! When the spot

was dug up, much to every one's surprise, many holy insignias showing evidence of previously performed 'Yagnas', like 'Homa Kund' were unearthed! Sri Raghavendra Theertha explained to Dewan Venkanna that this was indeed the Holy Spot wherein he (Prahlada Raja) had conducted his famous 'Yagnas'!. Sri Raghavendra Theertha also instructed Dewan Venkanna that His Brindavana should be consecrated at this very spot! As per his Guru's wishes Dewan Venkanna arranged for a magnificent Brindavana to be built 'using' the 'Sri Rama Sparshashila' that was specially brought from Madhavaram village! On the day of the Brindavana Pravesha, Sri Raghavendra Theertha as usual performed the Sriman Moola Rama Pooja with great fervor and later distributed the 'theertha' and 'prasadam' to a 'sea of humanity' who had gathered from far and wide! After addressing the huge gathering, the brightest of all jewels ever to adorn the 'Vyjayanthimala' of The Supreme Lord Sri Lakshmi Narayana, Parama Hamsa Kula Tilaka, Sri Sri Raghavendra Theertha, entered the Moola Brindavana on the preordained date of 'Shravana Bahula Bidhige', Circa 1671 AD, on the banks of the River Tungabhadra at Mantralaya.! The 'Aaradhana' day of Sri Raghavendra Guru Sarvabhoulmaru is celebrated with great piety and religious fervor all over the World.! The 'Kalpavruksha', 'Kamadhenu' & 'Chintamani' of a ever rising tide of devotees continues to shower His Blessings from the Moola Brindavana and from every other Brindavana where ever it might be! All the 'fruits of penance' gained from His previous incarnations are being selflessly 'distributed' amongst all His devotees.! Thus another great 'Infinite Yagna' is being conducted by Sri Guru Raghavendra Theertha, from within the Moola Brindavana, for the betterment of Whole of Mankind!

A Divinely Splendid Icon known as 'Shodashabaahu Narasimha Devaru' depicting Lord Ugra Narasimha with sixteen hands, is in the possession of the Sri Mutt at Mantralaya. Special 'poojas' marked by strict rituals are offered to this Icon on the occasion of Sri Narasimha Jayanthi every year, by the reigning Pontiff of the Sri Mutt!

The 'Punya Raashi' of Sri Prahlada Raja, the greatest Baghavat Bakta, was such that he 'had' to reincarnate twice in order to fully 'serve' the Supreme Lord Sri Lakshmi Narayana!. Lord Sri Krishna Himself says in 'The Gita' that whenever the Dharma is threatened, He (Lord Krishna) or His Divine Messengers will incarnate in every Eon to uphold The Dharma and The Righteous! In this Kaliyuga due to the evil influence of 'Kali', the very foundations of 'Dharma' are threatened, with widespread disbelief in the Supremeness of the Almighty, The Supreme Lord Sends His Divine Messengers like Sri Raghavendra Theertha to alleviate the sufferings of Mankind and to uphold the Supremacy of Sri Hari! This is the reason why Lord of the Seven Hills, Lord Srinivasa Willed His Supreme Devotee Sri Prahlada to be born once again and 'shine forth' as Raghavendra Theertha, The Very Embodiment of 'Dharma' and act as a 'Celestial Torch Bearer' by upholding 'The Eternal Vedas'!

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The Eminent Madhwa Pontiff Sri Akshobyatheertha , one of the four principle disciples of Sriman Madhwacharya, once traveled south during His 'Dharma Prachara'! At a particular hilly region strewn with huge rocks and boulders, the Holy Pontiff and His entourage decided to rest for the night in one of the caves in a rocky outcropping! The Holy Pontiff slept alone in the cave, and was Blessed with a 'darshan' of Lord Yoga Narasimha!. The Lord informed the Holy Pontiff that His Holy Form shall be seen on the wall of the cave where Sri Akshobyatheertha rested! An electrified Akshobyatheertha immediately woke up with a start and beheld the Supreme Image of the Lord Sri Yoga Narasimha on the wall of the same cave! This Supremely Divine and Holy Form of Sri Yoga Narasimha can be found today at Mulbagal (enroute to Tirupathi). Later Sri Vyasa Theertha consecrated a 'Prana Devaru's Idol in the courtyard facing the Lord Yoga Narasimha! Just outside this sanctum, the Moola Brindavana of the great Madhwa Pontiff Sri Sripaada Raja, the Guru of Sri Vyasa Theertha is located. Not surprising

this sacred spot consisting of the Divine Form of Lord Yoga Narasimha and Sri Prana Devaru on the inside of the cave walls adjacent to the Moola Brindavana of Sri Sripada Raja is considered to be the most holiest and sacred pilgrimage centers for all Madhwas!.

It is too well known that the site where the Moola Brindavana of Sri Raghavendra Theertha at Mantralaya is located at the very spot where Prahlada Raja had conducted his 'Supreme Yagnas'. Another great Madhwa Pontiff Sri Sri Vibhudendra Theertha had observed strict penance here for several years! Once Raghavendra Theertha took Dewan Venkanna to a particular spot on the banks of the River Tungabhadra in the village of Manchale and asked for that particular spot to be dug up! When the spot was dug up, much to every one's surprise, many holy insignias showing evidence of previously performed 'Yagnas', like 'Homa Kund' were unearthed! Sri Raghavendra Theertha explained to Dewan Venkanna that this was indeed the Holy Spot wherein he (Prahlada Raja) had conducted his famous 'Yagnas'!. Sri Raghavendra Theertha also instructed Dewan Venkanna that His Brindavana should be consecrated at this very spot! As per his Guru's wishes Dewan Venkanna arranged for a magnificent Brindavana to be built 'using' the 'Sri Rama Sparshashila' that was specially brought from Madhavaram village! On the day of the Brindavana Pravesha, Sri Raghavendra Theertha as usual performed the Sriman Moola Rama Pooja with great fervor and later distributed the 'theertha' and 'prasadam' to a 'sea of humanity' who had gathered from far and wide! After addressing the huge gathering, the brightest of all jewels ever to adorn the 'Vyjayanthimala' of The Supreme Lord Sri Lakshmi Narayana, Parama Hamsa Kula Tilaka, Sri Sri Raghavendra Theertha, entered the Moola Brindavana on the preordained date of 'Shravana Bahula Bidhige', Circa 1671 AD, on the banks of the River Tungabhadra at Mantralaya.! The 'Aaradhana' day of Sri Raghavendra Guru Sarvabhoumaru is celebrated with great piety and religious fervor all over the World.! The 'Kalpavruksha', 'Kamadhenu' & 'Chintamani' of a ever rising tide of devotees continues to shower His Blessings from the Moola Brindavana and from every other Brindavana where ever it might be! All the 'fruits of penance' gained from His previous incarnations are being selflessly 'distributed' amongst all His devotees.! Thus another great 'Infinite Yagna' is being conducted by Sri Guru Raghavendra Theertha, from within the Moola Brindavana, for the betterment of Whole of Mankind!

A Divinely Splendid Icon known as 'Shodashabaahu Narasimha Devaru' depicting Lord Ugra Narasimha with sixteen hands, is in the possession of the Sri Mutt at Mantralaya. Special 'poojas' marked by strict rituals are offered to this Icon on the occasion of Sri Narasimha Jayanthi every year, by the reigning Pontiff of the Sri Mutt!

The 'Punya Raashi' of Sri Prahlada Raja, the greatest Baghavat Bakta, was such that he 'had' to reincarnate twice in order to fully 'serve' the

Supreme Lord Sri Lakshmi Narayana!. Lord Sri Krishna Himself says in 'The Gita' that whenever the Dharma is threatened, He (Lord Krishna) or His Divine Messengers will incarnate in every Eon to uphold The Dharma and The Righteous! In this Kaliyuga due to the evil influence of 'Kali', the very foundations of 'Dharma' are threatened, with widespread disbelief in the Supremeness of the Almighty, The Supreme Lord Sends His Divine Messengers like Sri Raghavendra Theertha to alleviate the sufferings of Mankind and to uphold the Supremacy of Sri Hari! This is the reason why Lord of the Seven Hills, Lord Srinivasa Willed His Supreme Devotee Sri Prahlada to be born once again and 'shine forth' as Raghavendra Theertha, The Very Embodiment of 'Dharma' and act as a 'Celestial Torch Bearer' by upholding 'The Eternal Vedas'!