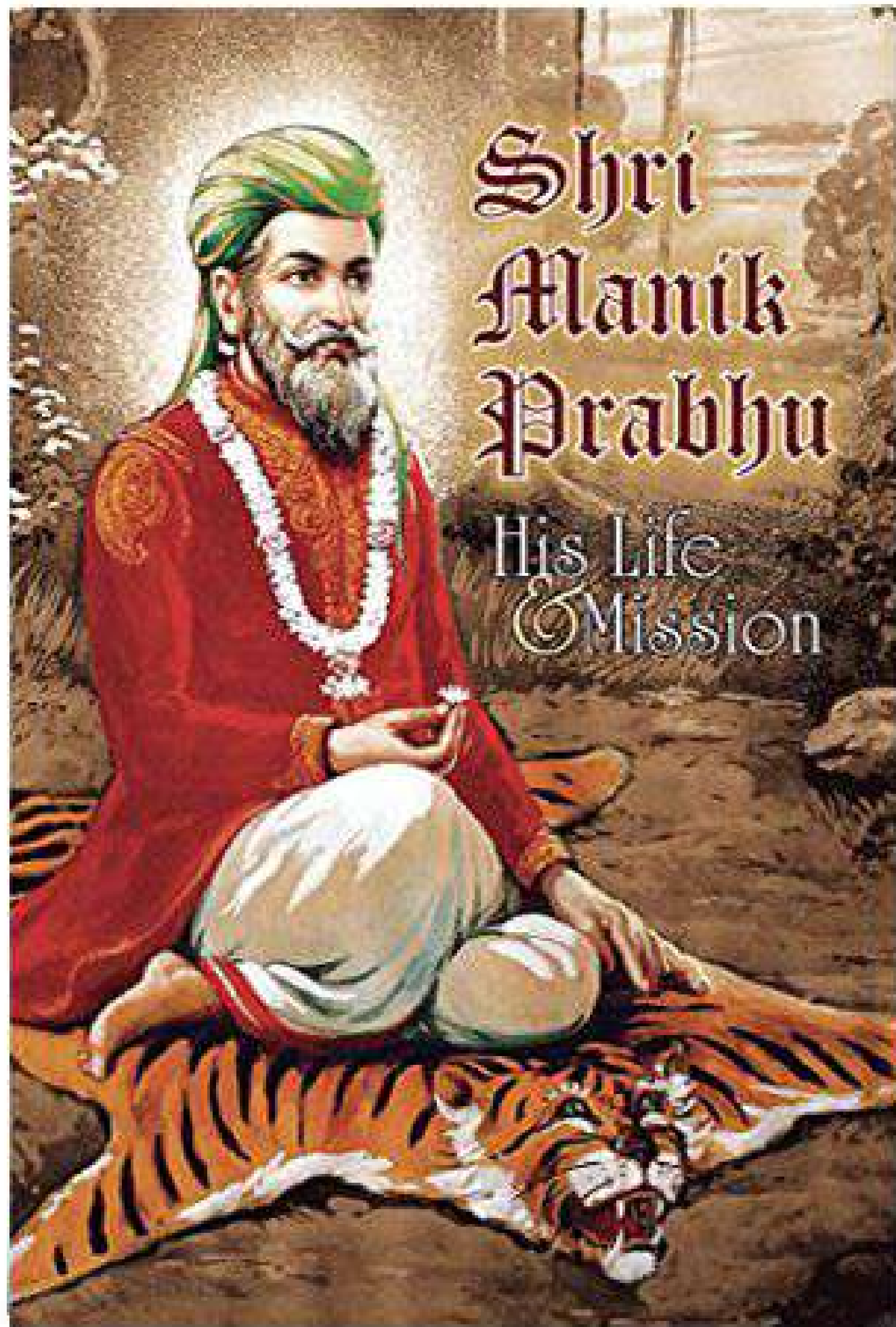






Guru Dattam mahaathamaanam bhaktha kaarya kalpadrumam
Sakalamatha sthaapakam vande ham Manikya Prabhum

Sri Manikya Prabhu was born as the second son to his parents Manohar Nayak Harakude and Bayadevi belonging to Srivatsa gotra, as a jewel from the treasure of their wombs on 12 th December of 1812 (on the auspicious day of Datta Jayanthi). His parents were devotees of Datta. Narasimha Saraswathi Swamy of Ganugapur was their favorite god. They did the parayana of Guru Charitra for sixteen years continuously without interruption. Pleased by their austerity and unswerving devotion, Lord Datta appeared and asked, "Desire anything, I will grant". "We want a son like you" was the reply of the parents. As a result Lord Datta was born to them as their son. He was named "Manikya" by his parents. As the father of Manikya Prabhu died in his childhood, the burden of the family fell on the shoulders of his maternal uncle.

Like Sri Krishna Manikya Prabhu too performed many 'leelas' during his childhood to the astonishment of everybody. People started to believe him as the incarnation of Lord Datta. All his words were taken as prophecy and people called him 'Vedaabhavu' (the silly brother). As a child he had many friends but liked 'Govinda' most. They used to wander together. One day as Govinda did not turn up in time as he used to come every day, Manikya went to Govinda's house to enquire. At his house the relatives of Govinda were crying as he died suddenly. Manikya slowly approached Govinda, he shook him as if to wake him from sleep. "Get up Govinda! Get up. It is very late already! Come let us go" he called him. As a person waking up from his sleep, Govinda rose from his bed suddenly and clearing his eyes said, "Let us go." Hand in hand he ran with Manikya. One day Manikya Prabhu asked a lady mango vendor, "Would you give me some mangoes? I wish to eat them." She replied, "You cannot have them free without money". "I do not have money. If you give me eleven you would beget eleven children. Would you give me now?" Manikya asked. She gave the whole basket of mangoes. She begot five children, after which she came and said, "Five are enough. No more children please." "Let it be done." Manikya blessed her and she bore no more children.

Apparao who was working as Zamedar in the cavalry of Nizam, came to darshan of Bala Manikya along with his wife Bheemabai, seeking children. On the way and in the forest, Bala Manikya was playing

with his friends and quarrelling with them. The couple did not know that he was the child Manikya. When they enquired about the reason of their tussle, "I am indebted eight shells to them, would you give them", Manikya asked Bheemabai. When she gave them, he said, "You will beget eight children", and left the place. Bheemabai and her husband went to Manikya's house and waited for him for three days taking any food. On the third day Manikya came and told Bheemabai, "I have already given you eight children. Why are still fasting?" He ran away to play. Bheemabai was later blessed with eight children.



Kaalabhat, a friend of Manikya Prabhu worshipped Sivalinga daily with bilvapatra (leaves of Bengal Qunice – Aegle mameelos). One day Manikya Prabhu said, "Instead of worshipping that linga why do not you worship the Sankara himself". "Sankara is not perceived directly," replied Kaalabhat. "Then see me", said Manikya Prabhu and he appeared as Siva wearing a tiger's skin, with laces of snakes, matted hair and a trident in his hand. Then onwards with great happiness Kaalabhat offered his pooja with bilvapatras to Manikya Prabhu himself. As Manikya Prabhu was wandering aimlessly and without any responsibility his uncle rebuked him, and so he left the house. He stayed at pilgrim centers and forests.

Like Sreepada Sreevallabha and Narasimha Sarswathi, Manikya Prabhu was also a born celibate (Brahmachari). In the solitude of forests he did severe taps during his childhood. He became a perfect and complete man due to that power of his tapas and led to the subsequent self realization. His face shone with divine glow. He resembled Adi Saankara during the spiritual discussions. Soon, his fame spread to all corners of the country and people poured in, to have his darshan. Their desires got fulfilled and their problems solved. But he did not set aside taking alms till his last. He had no greed for money and he spent the money given by devotees, for religious and beneficial purposes and other requirements. Even then his treasury looked full always. When all of his relatives came and invited him to his house he did not accept. At that time he showed Lord Datta to his mother in wide-open mouth. Thousands of people thronged wherever he stayed.

In the forest, near the village Chalapura, there was a temple of Maruthi. Scared by the wild animals, the temple priest returned before dusk. One day when he went to the temple in the morning, he saw a bundle on the head of Maruthi's idol. When he unfolded the bundle, rags of clothes and a pair

of sandals were seen in it. The furious priest looked around. A young man fast asleep was seen in the open hall (Mandapa) of the temple. The priest woke him up and asked angrily, "Is it you who placed that bundle on the head of Maruthi?" "Yes it is me. As this place is full of thieves I have given it to him to take care" replied the young man, which further angered the priest. He began to beat the young man with a stick. But the blows were seen on Maruthi's body and the garland and garments of Marudhi were seen on the young man. The priest was astonished. Then the villagers came. From them he came to know that the person he was beating was Manikya Prabhu. He fell at his feet and sought his forgiveness.

Venkamma was born in a Vaisya (merchant) community. Her husband died in her childhood. The consequent misery made her averse to earthly bondages and she was searching for a suitable Guru. She heard that Manikya Prabhu was staying at Mylar. She came to him and touching his feet, surrendered herself totally. Prabhu said, "If you want to stay with me, you must not have any ornaments on your body." She immediately disturbed all her ornaments to the poor and needy.

One day Venkamma was taking her bath. Manikya Prabhu sent a message to her, "In whatever situation you are, come to me at once." As per the command she came nude to the presence of Prabhu. Prabhu threw his upper garment, all her sins were burnt away and it was as if she took a new birth. From that day she wore only white garments and bore the sacred ashes. She recited the name Prabhuji always. She was in yoga Samadhi for one year. During that period she conquered hunger and thirst and vanquished the six vices.

In 1862 Venkamma left her physical body. People showed equal honor and respect to her as they showed to Prabhu. When her relatives lifted her body for funeral rites, they could hear the chanting of 'Om' from her. Astonished, they lowered the body. When they again lifted the body the chanting of 'Om' was heard again. This happened thrice. Prabhu came to know about this. "She wants her funeral rites to be performed by Brahmins only. Hence only Brahmins must do", he ordered. Later the disciples of Prabhu 'Rajibua' and his followers built a tomb (Samadhi) and a big temple around it. Venkamma is revered even today in that temple as a holy woman and a great yogini.



Later prabhu, wandering about many villages went to 'Jharani Narasimha Kshetra' near Bidar and stayed there for a few days. When the residents of Bidar invited Prabhu to their houses, he accepted the invitations and staying at the same place where he was, he visited several houses at the same time and received their offerings. This is how he has shown his Viswaroopa (cosmic form). Then he departed for the town of Kalyan. One the way, in the midst of a thick forest Prabhu's palanquin was stopped, caught in profusely intertwined creepers. Prabhu got down and sought the reason for the halt. He perceived that it was the prayer of the local deities of the land that he should stay back and make the

land his permanent abode. He stayed back. He lived there the rest of his life. 'Manikyanagar' was built there after sometime.



In addition to the laying of foundation to the Manikya Nagar, Prabhu established a 'gaddi' – a pagoda or high seat and called it 'Dattaji Gaddi'. Later a 'bandaru khana' (Kitchen_ was also established, where many people came for their meal. Prabhu offered the alms he brought, to the 'Gaddi' and ate a small piece of roti made of Jowar. In the place where Prabhu built the 'Gaddi' a big temple was later constructed. The five kalasad (jars) adorning the top of temple were made of pure gold. The weight of golden sheet used for covering the jars is more than one kilogram of gold. Prabhu held 'daabar' frequently. 'Darbar' means the Darbar of Dattatreya. At times it was held for a week continuously.

At Humnabad, there was an old Brahmin who held philosophical discussions with Prabhu. One day he came along with his wife for the darshan of Prabhu. Venkamma also came for the darshan. Looking at her, 'You have not been seen for four days' asked Prabhu. She that due to her menstrual period she could not come. "Are you disgusted with your periods", asked Prabhu. "Who would like this?" she asked Prabhu. "Why not, look at this old lady. Take some water and pour into her hands", said Prabhu pointing at the old Brahmin lady. Venkamma did as directed by Prabhu. Her menstrual cycle stopped and the same started in Brahmin lady. Later she became pregnant and gave birth to a son at that ripe old age. Prabhu named him as "Manikya". Countless were the miracles performed by Manikya Prabhu.

Sri Nrusimha Bharathi Swamy of Sringeri Peetha and Srimad Abhinava Sankara Bharathi Swamy of Sri Hampi Viroopaksha Peetham had darshan of Manikya Prabhu in the year 1859 and praised him at length. They were permitted to read out the epithets of Prabhu and they also offered their authority over the land between Krishna and Godavari to Prabhuji.

Manikya Prabhu ordered his disciples to dig a pit, in which he would leave his body and a tomb would be constructed. As already hinted to his disciples, he entered the pit and sat in it with 'Sri Gurucharitra' in his hands on the day of Margasira Suddha yekadasi (prior to Datta Jayanthi by three days) i.e. on November 29 th in the year 1865. The pit was closed. Sri Manohar Manik Prabhu, the elder son of his brother succeeded the Peetha.

The divine power of Sri Manikya Prabhu is still alive and vibrant fulfilling all the wishes of his devotees. For the eligible few he gives darshan. Sri Manikya Prabhu is glowing like a lace of most precious stones around the neck of Lord of world – Datta.

In the tradition of Manikya Prabhu the epithets of Prabhu are recited with shouts, hailing that great personage.

One can reach Humnabad by taking a bus from Hyderabad routed to Gulbarga. Manikya Nagar is just at a distance of four furlongs from Humnabad or one can get down at Gulbarga on Pune – Raichur Railway line. Humnabad is 40 Kms. away from Gulbarga and can be reached by bus.

Sathguru did so many favors in excellence

How can I eulogize his unbounded greatness

He blossomed in my heart, thousands of eyes

Showing the true light and driving away all lies

Forget not the word the best of Shivananda.

The left entered and disappeared in right

Both of them united, made the 'cord' straight

It is nothing but the providence of a previous birth

All my miseries gone, I became immortal on earth.

Forget not the word the best of Shivananda.

Avadhootha Chinthana Sree Gurudeva Datta.

