

Classic Poetry Series

Poonthanam
- poems -

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Poonthanam(1547 - 1640 AD)

Poonthanam was a famous devotee of Guruvayurappan, who lived in Keezhattoor in (Malappuram district), Kerala, India. He was a famous devotee of Lord Krishna (Guruvayurappan). He is remembered for his masterpiece, Jnanappana which means 'the song of wisdom' in Malayalam. Poonthanam was the family name, his personal name is not known.

Poonthanam was born into a Namboodiri Brahmin family. He married at 20, but for a long time, they had no children. He began to propitiate the Lord of Guruvayur and a son was born. He called for a celebration and everybody known was invited, but the child died an hour before the ceremony. Grief-stricken Poonthanam sought refuge at Guruvayur and started praying with the puranic story of Kumaraharanam. He considered Lord Krishna as his son and achieved enlightenment. In his work he writes: "While little Krishna is dancing in our hearts, do we need little ones of our own?" Poonthanam spent the rest of his life reading the Bhagavatham and singing the Lord's glories in simple Malayalam. His magnum opus, Njanappana, was composed during this period. The house which he lived in Malappuram District is now taken care by Guruvayur Devaswom.

He is contemporary of Melpathur Narayana Bhattathiri, another famous poet associated with Guruvayur. Lord Guruvaayoorappan has appreciated Poonthanam's bhakthi various times directly and it is believed that he himself came down to earth and taken Poonthanam personally to Vaikuntam.

Anjana Sridhara

1

Hey, pretty Krishna, who is black and who carries Lakshmi,
Salutations to you with folded hands,
Hey happy Krishna, who is decorated and who is Vasudeva,
Be pleased to remove all my sorrows.

2

Hey Krishna who lives all over the world and who is consort of Lakshmi,
Please come and appear before me,
Hey Krishna who is the only lord of fourteen worlds,
Hey God who fills all the ten directions fully,

3

Oh lotus eyed Krishna, who is the baby cowherd,
Be pleased to come and live inside me,
Oh Krishna who has taken birth on this earth,
Please help me to live without any problems.

4

Oh Krishna, you should put out the raging,
Problems of my heart, oh my baby Krishna,
Oh Krishna who is equal to the formidable Banasura,
I salute you with greatest happiness.

5

Oh Krishna I do not have any desire,
And alas I do not have any desire,
And Oh Krishna the curiosity with in me is great,
To see the beauty of your body, Oh Krishna.

6

Oh Krishna, along with the music of your flute with drum beats,
Oh Lad of the cowherds, please come running to me,
Oh pretty and charitable Krishna, who is playful,
There is no comparison at all for your qualities.

7

I salute your lotus like feet with love for you,
Oh Lord with lotus like eyes,

Oh most pretty one, Oh Krishna, oh son of Nanda,
Please drive away my problems and take care of me.

8

Oh cloud coloured Krishna, Oh star of the clan of Vrushnees,
Oh Krishna with lotus like eyes, I salute you,
Victory to Krishna who is hari, Victory to Krishna who is Hari,
Victory to Krishna who is Hari, Krishna who is Hari.

Poonthanam