



Sri Thallapaka Annamayya, popularly known as **Annamaacharya** was a popular saint-composer of Andhrapradesh and is revered as “**Padakavita Pitamaha**” (Grandsire of word Poetry) and as “**Sankirtanacharya**” (Acharya of Devotional songs). Annamayya dedicated his life for composing and singing the glories of **Lord Venteswara** of **Tirupati**. It is believed that he composed over 32,000 songs, praising **Lord Venkateswara**. His songs were preserved and propagated by the **Tirumala** temple.

Annamayya was born in the village “**Thallapaka**” of **Cuddapah** district in **Andhrapradesh, India** in the year 1408 A.D in Visakha Masa to the pious parents Narayana Suri and Lakkamamba. He is believed to be the incarnation of “**Nandakam**”, the sword of **Sri Mahavishnu**. In his 16th year, **Annamayya** had a vision of **Lord Venkateswara** and from that day to the last day of his life, he composed at least one song on **Lord Venkateswara**. He married Tirumalamma and Akkalamma.

Annamayya was famous for his musical compositions. The King of Penukonda, Saliva Narasinga was mesmerized by **Annamayya's** songs, and requested **Annamayya** to compose songs on him similar to those on **Lord Venkateswara**. **Annamayya** refused boldly saying “My tongue which is accustomed to sing in praise of God will not sing in praise of a human being.

The musical compositions of **Annamayya** are divided into two divisions, “**Adhyatma Sankirtanalu**” and “**Sringara Sandirtanalu**”. He wrote “**Venkatachala Mahatmyamu**”, and **Sankirtana Lakshanamu**” in Sanskrit. Until 14th Century there were so many devotional songs mostly in Sanskrit. Therefore **Annamayya's** songs became so helpful for the people to comprehend easily as they are all in simple “**Telugu**” language.

“**Jo Achutananda Jo Jo Mukunda**”, lullaby written by **Annamayya** is very popular in Andhra that every Telugu mother sings to put her child to sleep. **Annamayya** reached the abode of **Sri Venkateswara** in 1503 A.D leaving his **eternal treasure of Sankirtanas** to Telugu people.

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