

# Sarvajna

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For narration in Chat with Chocolate Program for VSNA Children



## Who is Sarvajna?

- The word 'Sarvajna' stands for "Knowing All" or 'Wisdom Personified'.
- It is a title given by the loving people who understood his deep insight and sharp wit.
- He was aware of all human weaknesses and gave hints for good, contented life.
- He tried to persuade villagers to give up superstition, meaningless customs and traditions.

- He had the rare ability to fill aspects of worldly wisdom in very short and 3 sentences known as tripadis. Tripadis have entertained the masses through puns and humour at the same conveying universal message.
- There is no human aspect Sarvajna has not touched - Religion, philosophy, mythology, geography, and society in all its freakishness, food, clothing, health, hygiene, medicines, vices, need for disciplined life and other innumerable social truth's are reflected in his short sayings.
- So. Sarvajna is a popular sharana, poet, pragmatist, philosopher and monk.

### **What is the life story of Sarvajna?**

We don't have the accurate life details of Sarvajna, but in tradition and in some of vachanas it becomes clear that his parentage unconventional to his times. Sarvajna was born around early 16th Century at Abalur, Karnataka, Hirekerur Taluk, Haveri District (before it was part of Dharwad District). Columbus discovered America, Sri Krishnadevaraya was ruling Vijayanagara kingdom. His real name is indicated as Pushpadatta and Sarvajña appears to have been his Pen name.

His father was a Shaivaite Brahmin, Basavarasa, and his mother, a Kumbara widow named Mali. He was born out of a short but very intimate relationship between Basavarasa and the potter widow Mali! The story goes like this....Basavarasa was returning from pilgrimage to Kashi to his village on foot. On the way one evening, he had to face a thrashing hailstorm and continued rains. The village road was deserted, and he was compelled to seek shelter in a lone cottage of a young single potter woman, a widow, Mali. He fell in love with her, stayed for short time and moved on.

This is how Sarvajna was born to an untraditional parentage which was not acceptable by three counts to the society of those days.

1. First Count: He was born to a Brahmin and Kumbara lady, this intercaste relationship was not acceptable. Remember the Kalyana kranthi happened because of this reason during Basava's time.
2. Second Count: He was born without the sanctity of formal marriage of his parents. Out of wedlock!
3. Third Count: He was born to a widow which was not acceptable by society.

Hence, you can imagine as an outcast child the difficult life he faced while growing up. It is certain that Sarvajna had no formal education. A self-taught person, his enormous knowledge was due to constant travel, ever keen and watchful eyes and ears as extraordinary ability to imbibe and express what he experienced briefly. He died at Masur, Hirekerur Taluk, Haveri District.

### **Who collected the works of Sarvajna?**

For more than three centuries, Sarvajna's vachanas survived and prospered through people's tongue. But it was not available in the form of collected works just like the vachanas of other sharanas.

The Reverend Uttangi Chennappa felt that the humble saint Sarvajna, practiced several precepts laid down in Christianity. For 25 years Uttangi researched this 16th-century Kannada poet.

It required his ceaseless efforts for Sarvajna to appear in book form in 1934. He collected around 2300 vachanas of Sarvajna.

Uttangi's was awarded by the Kannada Sahitya Sammelana for his groundbreaking work on the Kannada poet Sarvajna. Other key works of Uttangi's on Veerashaivism:

- [Basaveshwara](#) and the Advancement of Karnataka (1923)
- [Basaveshwara](#) and the Uplift of Untouchables (1933)
- Lingayatism and Christianity (1969)
- [Anubhava Mantapa](#): The heart of [Virashaivism](#) (1932)

Below are some of the most popular Sarvajna vachanas being used by our people from centuries. They are written in very simple Kannada words but carry very deep and powerful meanings:

ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞನೆಂಬುವನು ಗರ್ವದಿಂದಾದವನೇ?; ಸರ್ವರೊಳು ಒಂದೊಂದು ನುಡಿಗಲಿತು; ವಿದ್ಯೆಯ ಪರ್ವತವೆ ಆದ ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞ.

Sarvajna(Knower of all) was same as YOU. However, by learning one word of wisdom from each person, he became a mountain of knowledge and came to be known as Sarvajna

ಸಜ್ಜನರ ಸಂಗವದು ಹೆಜ್ಜೆನ ಸವಿದಂತೆ ; ದುರ್ಜನರ ಸಂಗ ಬಚ್ಚಲ; ಕೊಚ್ಚೆಯಂತಿಹದು ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞ |

The company of good men is like savouring honey The company of bad men is like the stink of sewage, "Tell me your friends, I will tell who you are"

ಆಡಲೆ ಕೊಡುವವನು ರೂಢಿಯೊಳಗುತ್ತಮನು; ಆಡಿ ಕೊಡುವವನು ಮಧ್ಯಮನು; ಅಧಮ ತಾನಾಡಿ ಕೊಡದವನು ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞ

Here Sarvajna classifies men into three kinds. He who does not speak a word of the charity he gives is a Nobleman. He who gives and speaks of what he has given is normal in nature, there is nothing special about him. He who simply boasts and does not give even a pie is the most inferior of men.

ಸಾಲವನು ಕೊಂಬಾಗ ಹಾಲೋಗರುಂಡಂತೆ; ಸಾಲಿಗರು ಕೊಂಡು ಎಳೆವಾಗ, ಕಿಬ್ಬದಿಯ ; ಕೀಲು ಮುರಿದಂತೆ ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞ.

While borrowing loan it feels like eating desserts. When the loan is due for payment, it feels as painful as a broken rib cage.

ಮೂರ್ಖನಿಗೆ ಬುದ್ಧಿಯನು ನೂರ್ಕಾಲ ಹೇಳಿದರು; ಗೋರ್ಕಲ್ಲಮೇಲೆ ಮಳೆಗರೆದರೆ, ಆಕಲ್ಲು; ನೀರ್ಕುಡಿವುದೇ ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞ?

Giving advice to a fool for hundred years is as useless as a heavy rain pouring on a stone. The stone never drinks the water.

Jaati heenara maneya jyoti ta heenave? Jaati-vijati enabeda! Devanolidaatatane Jaata Sarvajna. Is the shining light in the house of the low born low? Mind! There is no caste high or low. The soul loved by God is the highest born!

Kareyade Baruvavana, Bareyade Ooduvavana; Barigalinalli Nadeyuvavana, Karedu, keradind hodeyenda Sarvajna

