

Vaamana and Maha Bali

Namaskar

Happy Onam to you all. This is a short skit, explaining the reason to celebrate Onam. Onam is celebrated to remind us of the great sacrifice of Mahabali for Lord Vishnu, who came as the dwarf, Vaamana in his fifth Avatar.

Artists required:

5 to 15 or average 10. Some dialogues can be spoken by the lead characters appropriately.

It can be split in several scenes or as one single scene, dividing stage into three parts.

Parvati: Om Namah Shivaya (3 times). Lord Shiva, I have lighted an oil lamp of my awareness to self-realize you.

Shiva: Devi Parvathi, I bless that whoever makes this lamp brighter, will become the ruler of the three worlds. Devi, let this lamp be lit eternally in the Vedaaranyam temple at Tanjore in Tamil Nadu.

Parvati: (Slowly) Om Namah Shivaya.

Narrator: A rat comes to the lamp and while attempting to drink the ghee, his whiskers catch the flame of the lamp, making the lamp burn brighter.

Lakshmi: You are a tiny rat, yet you did the noble deed of making the lamp burn brighter. So, according to Shiva's promise, you will become the ruler of the three worlds.

Mahabali: Devi Lakshmi, will I become the king right away?

Saraswati: Mahabali, you are a rat now. You need to change your form to enjoy the fruits of your action. Only death can bring a change in your form. So chant Lord Shiva's name to attain a good rebirth.

Lakshmi: Your current actions decide your future. You will reap the results of all your actions sooner or later.

Saraswati: As a rat you were greedy for other's possessions. So you will be born as an asura who has more interest in material wealth than in spiritual growth.

Shiva: However, your devotion will grant you the boon of being born as the grandson of the great Prahalad and the son of Devamba and Virochana.

Mahabali chants Om Namah Shivaya (3 times) and moves to Sukracharya. His wife Vindhyavali joins him.

Narrator: The rat was reborn as Mahabali, and married Vindhyavali. He ruled the Earth as a great king, taking care of the welfare of his people.

Sukracharya: Mahabali, you were beheaded by Indra in the fight for Amritha. But using the blessing of Lord Shiva's "Mrita Sanjeevani" mantra, I got back you to life again.

Mahabali: Pranam, Guru Dev. I am fortunate to have you as my Guru.

Sukracharya: Mahabali, I will make you more powerful than Purandara , the current seventh Indra, the king of the Gods. Go and drive him out of heaven and you enjoy the heavenly pleasures.

Mahabali: Indra and Devas, run away from the heaven, I am the king of heaven now.

Sukracharya: 'Bali! You have conquered the three worlds. Now perform 100 Ashwamedha Yagnas or the Viswajit Yagnya to be the victorious of the whole universe.

Vindhyavali: Guruji, We have achieved the three worlds we desired. Please explain why we need to do Yagnyas, when Bali has got all the three worlds.

Sukracharya: This is where all the Asuras make a mistake. They think by attaining the power and wealth, it will remain permanent. All wealth and power is only a form of Energy. When Energy is spent we lose it.

Vindhyavali: So you mean to say that we need to continuously generate and maintain Energy?

Sukracharya: That is right. Energy can neither be created nor destroyed. It can only be transformed from one form to another. All that we enjoy as material pleasure is only by converting our Jeevatma's Energy.

Vindhyavali: Gurudeva, please teach us how to remain always rich and powerful.

Sukracharya: All actions of desires and enjoyment deplete Energy. Sacrificing actions means going beyond the abilities of body, mind and intelligence Ego; to generate more Jeeva- Atma Energy.

Vindhyavali: Guruji, please tell us which are those Good sacrificial actions.

Sukracharya: Doing Pooja, singing the praise of God, Yoga and Meditation and contemplation are all Energy generating actions. But the highest Energy generation is sharing one's wealth of time and Energy. So Daana, which means giving to others, is the highest or noblest action.

Vindhyavali: Surely we will do lot of donations, Guruji.

Sukracharya: Husband and wife together should do charity work and so will enjoy all the pleasures of life equally. Mahabali and Vindhyavali, both of you arrange for the yagna and give charities to all those who come. Do not say no to anybody. This act of giving is Yagna and will generate such high Energy that even the Gods cannot defeat you.

Mahabali and Vindhyavali: – Jai Guru Deva.

Narrator: Indra who fled from the heaven sought refuge in Lord Shiva.

Indra: Save me Lord Shiva, I have lost the heavens.

Shiva: Indra, spend some time in doing prayers to Lord Vishnu the protector.

Saraswati: Indra, you forgot to perform your duties while you were immersed in the luxuries of the heaven.

Lakshmi: You did not perform any Yagnya or sacrifices and spent too much in eating , drinking and watching the Apsaras dancing .

Parvati: Perform right actions now and Lord Vishnu will save you.

Narad Maharishi: Narayana Narayana , please save Indra.

Vaamana Appears.

Saraswati: We are blessed Vaamana Deva, the one born to Aditi Mata and Kashyapa Maharishi.

Shiva: Lord Vishnu, I am blessed to be present at the occasion of your sacred thread ceremony. I will present you the sacred thread given by Brihaspati , the Guru of the Devas.

Saraswati: I will give my rudraksha beads to you Vaamana Deva.

Surya Deva: I will give you the Brahma Danda, the rod of strength.

Ganesha: I will hand over the water pot of Lord Brahma.

Durga: I will give you the umbrella.

Gayatri Devi: I will chant the Gayathri Mantra for you.

Narrator: Gayatri Devi chants Gayatri mantra.

Bhooma Devi : I will offer grass for the pooja.

Shiva: Dear Vaamana , you are now ready to go the Yagnya performed by Mahabali, in Bhrigu-kaccha on the bank of the Narmada River.

Saraswathi: He is doing Ashwa-medha Yagnya under the guidance of his Guru Sukracharya.

Narad: Everyone thinks in this Yagnya, horses are killed.

Lakshmi: Medha means knowledge and Ashwa means horse like power. One has the choice to strengthen one's fire of knowledge of the material world or the knowledge of ones' Self.

Parvathi: Only in giving or sharing and self-reflection, one gains knowledge. So in all yagnyas, donations are given to highly learned people.

Shiva: Vaamana Deva should go to Mahabali's Yagnya. Mahabali has completed 99 Ashwamedha Yagnas. He has now immense Energy and so he will get anything he wishes.

Saraswati: He is now doing the 100th Yagna and the right time to ask for charity.

Vaamana: I will now go and get what I wish from Mahabali.

Narrator: Vaamana at the Yagna –shaala, the place of the Sacrifice.

Vindhyavali: Look how cute this baalak is.

Mahabali : Namaste baalak, Today happens to be the day I give alms to anyone who asks. I will give you anything you want. Please let me know what you want.

Sukracharya: 'The boy is none other than Lord Vishnu. He is very cunning, in three steps he will take all your Jeevatma Sakthi and you will be poor.'

Mahabali : 'Lord Vishnu...!. 'My Lord has come here to ask something from me? This could only be due to the merit earned by me in my previous life.'

Sukracharya: 'Stop! 'Will you disobey your guru, Mahabali?'

Mahabali : You taught me to do good actions, so why do you prevent me from doing it?'

Sukracharya: But don't give all your wealth as donation - that is foolish. You should save something for your old age. Now you don't have a lot, you have only the heaven and Earth. When you get richer than this, donate!'

Vindhyavali: Gurudeva, isn't charity done during hard times, the most meritorious?'

Mahabali : Guruji, can there be any bigger sacrifice in this Yagna than by donating everything?'

Vindhyavali: Let us first wash his holy feet and ask what he desires.'

Sukracharya: I thought you women are more sensible than the men. It looks like you are made for each other. Okay, I know what to do. I will stop the water flowing from the sacred pot.'

Narrator: It is a tradition to offer water before offering any charity. So Sukracharya took the form of a bug and blocked the spout to prevent water from flowing out to prevent the offering. But Vaamana took a grass blade and poked the eye of Sukracharya and cleared the block.'

Vindhyavali: Great Yogi, I am ready to give; extend your hand and receive it.'

Vaamana: I want three steps of land, measured by my feet!'

Mahabali: 'Three steps?! That is all you want! "One who asks me for anything should not feel the need to ask for gifts from anyone else later.'

Vamana: 'If any person cannot be satisfied by three steps of land, there is nothing much he can be satisfied with.'

Mahabali: Okay, please measure the land with your lotus feet.'

Saraswati: Look at the gigantic form Vaamana Deva took, the Trivikrama form. In one step he measured the Earth. In the second step he measured the rest of the Universe.'

Vamana: Vamana :. I have nowhere to keep my third step. Where shall I keep my third step?'

Vindhyavali: You have given Vaamanadeva whatever material possessions you had. But all that was his own creation. So he measured with two feet.'

Mahabali: Thank you for reflecting my Self. I understand that My Ego alone is created by me and so that is the only real offering I could give to God. Lord, so I offer my head for the third feet.'

Narrator: Vaamana then pressed Mahabali to the Sutala, the underworld.'

Sukracharya: Lord Shiva, isn't Vishnu unfair in pushing the great noble king Mahabali to the underworld?

Shiva: No Vishnu is the most just God. The current Indra, Purandra, has not completed the full term of enjoying Heaven for the sacrificial deeds of his previous life.

Saraswati: Mahabali was unfair that he drove Indra out of heaven, before the end of his term-period.

Shiva: So Lord Vishnu returned the heavens to Indra and at the same time rewarded the great sacrifice of Mahabali by making him the next Indra in the forthcoming Saavarani period.

Lakshmi: Not only that, Lord Vishnu the protector, himself is going to work as a security guard for Mahabali's palace.

Lakshmi: I will also accompany my lord Vishnu.

Sukracharya: Lord Vishnu, please forgive me for misunderstanding your greatness. Your actions cannot be understood by common people who are only focused on enjoying material pleasures.

Parvati: Mahabali, this auspicious day on which you gave charity will be celebrated as the Onam festival on earth every year in future.

Shiva: On this Thiru Onam day, all people should know the story of your sacrifice and perform works of charity to make their life prosperous.

Narad : In the front of the house flower designs (pookkalam) will be drawn and three or Seven fort like structure made of clay or wood will be kept in the center.

Ganesha: In the early morning, pooja is done to the pookkalam, and then with rice paste drippings are taken to the inside of the house.

Shiva: This pookalam represents that whoever offers sacrifice and give Ego, will be protected by Vishnu representing the forts and lakshmi will accompany that person or family as prosperity.

Saraswati: Anyone can attain the position of Pitru, Indra, Manu or Brahma by the degree of their sacrificial actions.

Sukracharya: Let Onam remind all the human beings that along with enjoying material pleasures, one should also perform some sacrificial actions to lead a prosperous life.

Shiva: Let all of us bless the devotees on this Onam day.

Everyone: Mangalam to all of you.