

KALAKESARI BIOGRAPHY

By : Vikram Udaykumar

Dear Friends.

This opportunity of sharing the life sketch of **KALAKESARI UDAYKUMAR** gives me an immense pleasure, not only as the son of such a great achiever, but also as a Kannadiga and as an Indian, besides a film fan.

I welcome all the readers to read this life sketch of **GANDUGALI, KALAKESARI, NATASAMRAT, and PAVANASUTHA UDAYKUMAR.**

The information shared in this Life sketch of Kalakesari will amaze the readers while understanding many known and unknown faces of the great personality.

I accept that the details compiled in this write up may have the characteristic of a BIOGRAPHY. But I am not assuming that I am writing the BIOGRAPHY of my Father Sri Udaykumarji. I undertake the credibility of information shared with you is the best known to me from all reliable sources.

You know the challenges faced by any person who writes Biography or Auto-biography.

While writing the **Biography**, the writer may view the happenings in the Biographer's "eyes". Sometimes the Biographer may take the liberty of commenting whether the incidents/ happenings are correct or incorrect.

Similarly while writing an "**Auto Biography**" the writer may feel self-pity or may substantiate the incidents while narrating.

I humbly express my personal opinion that a person who writes the Biography / Auto Biography should be like an Accountant and not as an advocate or a judge.

I affirm that while sharing the life sketch of KALAKESARI UDAYKUMAR with you, I have taken at-most care to be an ACCOUNTANT rather than an Advocate / Judge.

I am grateful to many who have helped me while understanding and aligning the details of my father's life sketch with best possible valuable information. I vow my thanks to Sri Suryanarayana Swamy, Rtd Prof.Sharada vilas College, Mysore, Nandahamsa Sri Venkataraghavan, my mother Smt.B.S.Kamamma Udaykumar, Paternal Aunty (My father's Elder Sister) Smt.Sarojamma, Dr.Mohankumar Kadam who wrote "**Kalabheeshma Udaykumar**", Sri Jagannatha Rao Bahule who has penned many articles on Udaykumar in many Dailies and Periodicals of Kannada (Book - Life sketch of the Kumar Trio 'Kumaratrayaru' is a popular book written by Mr.Bahule) and many more. I am thankful to the friends from electronic media, print media and journalists who are majorly responsible to keep the memories of Kalakesari for such a long period in the memory of his fans. I am thankful to all my family members and other friends

who have helped and initiated me in “accounting” my father and sharing the same memories with you.

I am thankful to everyone who are responsible directly or indirectly in this effort of RECORDING my father and reintroduce him especially to the younger generation. I wish to brush the memories of my contemporary friends and to cherish the glory of past by the people of the earlier decades.

I would love to interact and respond to any information / comments / opinions with the readers regarding this LIFE SKETCH.

**With Best Regards
Vikram Udaykumar.**

UDAY-PURVAJARU (FOREFATHERS OF UDAYKUMAR)

It was early 17th Century. Certain provinces like Nizamabad, Telangana, Kadapa, Panyam of Andhrapradesh, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bellary and several other parts of Karnataka were ruled by Nizams and Nawabs. These areas ruled by Muslim Kings were called as “Mulk” (Meaning Province in Urdu).

There were certain Brahmin families serving the Muslim kings in different capacities as court scholars, Poets, Learned teachers, Shanubhogs (Village Accountants), Sardars(Leaders of small group of warriors), Tahsildars(Area Revenue officer), Shekdar (Revenue officer) etc., Hence these Telugu speaking Brahmin families were called as “Mulkinadu Brahmanulu” and “Teluganulu” , two major sects of Brahmin community. (Historians are requested to spread more light on this information and make it more precise). These Brahmin families were well settled and established economically, respected socially. The Muslim Kings respected and trusted these Brahmin court employees. These Brahmin families were allowed to follow their religious customs without any restrictions.

One of such families who were under the Muslim rulers as SHANUBHOG’s were the forefathers of Kalakesari Udaykumar. As per the family History SHANUBHOG PADMAIAH (Early 17th Century) is identified as the “**Moolapurusha**” (The first person) of the family tree. He belonged to the Brahmin sect. Mulkinadu Brahmanulu, Language Telugu as his mother tongue, an Advaiti (follower of Advaita Siddantha of Sri Shankaracharya) Yajurvedi, born in BHARDWJA GOTRA.

In course of time the socio-political situation of “MULK” underwent major changes. These Brahmin families experienced the pressure and insecurity under the rule of certain new kings. May be the changed, socio-political situation had made them to nomad from their native “Mulk” to other provinces of south India like Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala etc., in search of security, religious freedom and livelihood.

A group of families came in search of safe shelter led by Shanubhog Padmaiah came to Karnataka and settled near Karnataka-Tamilnadu border. The different segments of this group of Brahmin families were settled in BOMMASANDRA,

Sarjapura, Hosakote (Anekal Taluk), Malur (Kolar Dist), Hosur (Now at Tamilnadu) and other places during mid 17th century.

The segment of family led by Sri Padmaiah revamped the family profession Shanubhogike (Village accountants) and settled in the village Bommasandra of Anekal taluk in Bangalore District (Now Bommasandra is in the world map because of Electronics city and Narayana Hridayalaya). The profession of Shanubhogike continued till the life time of Sri SHANUBHOG SRINIVASIAH (1904-1983), Father of KALAKESARI UDAYKUMAR(1933-1985)

*(No concrete written documents to ascertain the lifetime or exact date of birth/date of death of forefather of Shanubhog Srinivasaiah as such there was no facility for such documentation. But the dates are ascertained with the help of reliable sources / available revenue documents of Taluk office.)

The family Tree / Genetic Tree of Sri Padmaiah (Forefather of Kalakesari Udaykumar)

"A MIRACLE"

It was in the mid-18th century. Shanubhog Subbaiah(*1845-1910*) son of Shanubhog Venkataramiah (18th century to end 18th century) and Smt.Muttamma, was the Shanubhog of the village Bommasandra and Muttanallur of Anekal Taluk. He was given with the responsibility of fixing and collecting land tax from Land holders by the Thasildar. It was the responsibility of Shanubhog to regulate the irrigation arrangement of those areas in his revenue control.

A day of miracle came in the life of orthodox god-fearing Brahmin Shanubhog Subbaiah.

It was a day after a heavy rainfall and flood since a fortnight. Shanubhog Subbaiah was supervising the repairs of the damaged tank bund of Muthanallur. While removing the lump of mud he found something which he could not believe his eyes. He found the idols of Lord Venkateshwara Balaji, Sri devi & Bhoodevi (wives of Lord Venkeshwara) and Lord Hanumanji.

Shanbhog subbaiah with the help of villagers brought and installed the idols of Lord Balaji with Sridevi (Mahalakshmi) and Bhudevi at Muthanallur. He built a small temple with the help of villagers of Muthunallur and endowed certain agricultural land owned by him to the temple. Then onwards the tank where shanubogh Subbaiah found the idols became popular as "Devarakere" (Lords tank) or Subbaiahnakere.

Shanubhog Subbaiah brought the idol of Lord Anjaneya (Lord Hanumanji) with the help of villagers to Bommasandra and constructed a small temple at Bommasandra village and installed the idol of Lord Hanumanji with the help of villagers. He became the ordent devotee of Lord Anjaneya and started performing pooja personally. Then onwards, performing pooja of Lord Hanumanji become the custom of further generation of Shanubhog Subbaiah.

Shanubogh Venkataramanaiah (*1870-1930) son of Shanubhog Subbaiah and Lakshmamma was also a very generous person who has helped and endowed several charities and temples of his surrounding villages. He has lost his wife Nanjamma at a very early age. Rest of his life he has spent in public services and performing pooja of lord Anjaneya.

“SURYODAYA” (Birth of Suryanarayanamurthy alias Kalakesari Udaykumar)

Shanubhog Srinivasaiah (1904-1983) son of Sri Shanubhog Venkataramanaiah and Smt.Nanjamma, led a pious, disciplined, generous, god-fearing life. He had ample ancestral property and was the highest land tax paying person of Taluk. Hence he was able to endow generously for many social causes like construction and endowment to schools , free feeding while annual cart festival of the surrounding villages, repairs of temples, charities and helped many needy including endowing part of agricultural land to the burial ground of village community. He married Smt.Sharadamma (1910-1988) D/o.Sri Ramakrishnaiah from Palakkodu in Krishnagiri District, Tamilnadu. Sarojamma, the first daughter of Srinivasaiah and Sharadamma born in the year 1926. Further Srinivasaiah lost three male children consecutively. He was advised to perform “SURYANAMASKARA” a penance for 48 days. He performed it with devotion. Srinivasaiah and Sharadamma visited many pilgrimages of south India praying for a healthy and long living male child. Their prayers were heard.

On 5th March 1933, a healthy male child was born at Palakkadu, a small village in Krishnagiri Taluk, Dharmapuri District of Tamilnadu. This is because it was a custom in Brahmin families that the delivery of the child should be taken care in a women’s father’s house. The couple felt very happy. The relatives and entire surrounding villages participated in the naming ceremony took place in Bommasandra. To acknowledge the blessings of Lord Surya (Son God) the child was named as **“SURYANARAYANA MURTHY”** (The original name of Kalakesari Udaykumar)

The child Suryanarayana Murthy was petly called by his parents and relatives as Narayana. He was pampered by one and all of the village Bommasandra. He was very attractive, sharp and intelligent. He was taught Sanskrit at very early age by the Vedic scholars. Chowla and Aksharabhysa (Head shaving and writing Omkara) were two more religious rituals were performed to the boy Surya at Chikka Tirupathi Venkateshwara swamy temple. In the meantime Srinivasaiah beget three more children who died at a very young age.

Muthanallur, a small village in Attibele hobli, Anekal Taluk was the only village in the vicinity of Bommasandra village had a small primary school. Srinivasaiah admitted his son Surya to the primary school at Muthanallur and was reaching him by bicycle traveling 7 miles (approximately 11km) from Bommasandra to Muthanallur. In the year 1940, Srinivasaiah arranged the Upanayanam (sacred thread ceremony) of Surya and the marriage of his elder daughter Sarojamma with Krishnamurthy of Malur. The Celebration took place in Srinivasa Kshethra Kittiganahalli near Chandapura, Anekal Road.

“BALASURYA”

It was the period the entire country was directly or indirectly participating in the independence movement. Shanubogh Srinivasaiah was also one of the local leaders and was a Gandhian, participated directly in the freedom movement. His concentration on his profession and personal life slowly diverted towards the national interest. He requested his son-in-law Krishnamurthy to take care of family estate, affairs, specially his son Surya.

After primary school surya was shifted to Malur and studied middle school under the supervision of his brother in law and elder sister.

Indiramma, the younger sister of Surya born in the year 1945.

As per the advice of Srinivasaiah, Sarojamma and Krishnamurthy shifted along with their family to Bommasandra and started helping Srinivasaiah in looking after the agriculture.

Surya was admitted to the A.S.B Municipal High School at Anekal in the year 1946.

Here it is necessary to understand a social system prevalent during those days called “VAARANNA”. The system was common in Brahmin society. It had a social cause and collective responsibility of educating all the children of the community. Each family used to take the responsibility of feeding a set of students once in a week. (VAARA-“ANNA”). Students used to serve such families where Varanna was offered, by helping the family in filling the water from public tank (Kere, Kalyani, Bhavi), clean the house, cleaning the pooja articles, performing pooja, helping children in their studies etc., The System was formed so systematically that it never allowed either to think that they are doing any favours.

Surya was helped by few Brahmin families of Anekal in offering him Varanna. He was given with a free shelter by one of Brahmin couple by name Postmaster Venkataramaiah and Jankamma. He was offered Vaaranna in electrical contractor Subbaramaiah’s family and many others.

The impact of Freedom movement was on almost everybody’s life Srinivasaiah’s life and family also was not an exemption.

“SWARAJYA SURYODAYA”

As the freedom movement became more stronger Srinivasaiah used to spend more time in arranging the local public meetings, arranging food and shelter for fellow freedom fighters from his own resources. He use to extensively travel and participate in the meetings with the senior leaders of the movement. His professional and agriculture income was not sufficient to meet the additional expenses. Maintaining the family of almost 10 to 12 became very difficult. Due to his diverted concentration and enormous expenses and generosity, Srinivasaiah slowly started losing his agricultural lands one by one.

But the socio-political changes of preindependence days influenced Surya's life positively.

I.N.A (Indian National Army) founded by Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose was participating very prominently in the freedom fight. I.N.A Ramrao was one among 60 close associates of Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose. In the leadership of I.N.A.Ramrao "Sevadal" a voluntary service organization spreading the freedom movement organizing "Prabhathferi" (early morning marchfast / drill/ group singing of patriotic songs etc.,) public meetings in Karnataka. Sri Rumale Chennabasappa was the leader of Sevadal in Bangalore and surroundings places.

Sri Kalyanasundararaju, a teacher was the local leader of Anekal taluk for the Sevadal movement. The young Surya was attracted by the organization Sevadal. He was a good singer with a attractive voice. This made him to take part in "Prabhathferi" of Sevadal. He used sing and teach the patriatic songs. He became the Swayamsevak (Voluntare) of Sevadal, Anekal Branch. Within a very short period he became prominent leader of Sevadal He dragged the attention of senior leaders of local sevadal like Sri Kalyanasundara Raju, Sri Lingappa and district leader like Rumale Chennabasappa. He used to organize several camps in taluk and district level and led the team of volunteers and took part in social services like cleaning the tanks, digging new water sources, roads in rural areas, serving poor and needy and so on. Surya and his team of volunteers use to take the responsibility of preparing and serving the food for delegates at the state / local level meetings of Sevadal. He used to give 'Guard of Honour' for State and National leader at the meetings with his team mates. He had an opportunity to give Guard of Honour to Pandith Jawaharlal Nehru in one of the meeting held at Bangalore. In one of the camps he was closely associated with Kengal Hanumanthaiah.

"YUVASURYA"

India became independent in the year 1947. Surya and his Sevadal team celebrated the event like their personal victory.

The sevadal culture adopted by Surya in his teenage almost continued as his Lifestyle throughout his life time. Time discipline, patriotism, social service, leadership, active team playing etc., were few of them.

Surya's area of interest diverted from education to the other fields like learning Music, Khanjira (A musical instrument), acting in plays, participating in sports like Kabbadi, cycle racing, running race, and Football.

He was fascinated to Wrestling, Swimming and started spending more time in Gangamma Garadi(Country Gym) and in "Jetty Bhavi" (Jetty's big well) at anekal. Surya appeared for SSLC examination in the year 1948-49 and failed in 4 subjects. He was advised by his disappointed father and other family members to concentrate on education. He was asked to appear for supplementary examination for the completion of balance subjects.

Vedic scholar and a primary school teacher Sri A.Lakshminarasimha Shastry was living in Shankaramata Road Anekal with his undivided family of three major male children with their wives and children and 4 female children. This family was very close to Shanubogh Srinivasaiah and his family. The members of this families used to visit each other frequently and used share ups and downs of their families mutually.

Srinivasaiah requested Sri A.Narayana Shastry, the 3rd son of Sri A.Lakshminarasimha Shastry to supervise the education of his son Surya. Narayana Shastry was a Hindi Pandith and was working in a government school. He was a vedic scholar and was a priest also. He agreed to take care the education of Surya and given the shelter.

Srinivasaiah's assets and the income were not very comfortable. Understanding the difficulties of Narayanashastryji's family, Srinivasaiah extended his best possible support.

Narayana Shastry and his family members helped surya to concentrate on education. Shastryji become Surya's guru for vedic education. Surya started learning Sanskrit, vedic hymns and devatharchana (performing pooja) from his guru.

A.Lakshminarasimha Sastri suddenly underwent a heavy financial problem. He requested Srinivasaiah to help him by buying a portion of his big old house of Shankaramata road. Srinivasaiah agreed and purchased the portion of the house with native tiles as roof and the mud as floor, only with an intention to help shastriji in his financial crisis.

Srinivasaiah advised his daughter Smt.Sarojamma with her husband and children to shift their family to the house he has purchased at Anekal. Surya was once again under the supervision of his brother in law Krishnamurthy.

Meanwhile Smt.Sharadamma gave birth to a female child "VIJAYAMMA" in 1950, the youngest sister of Surya. This female child born in the house of Shankaramata Road, Anekal. Then onwards Srinivasaiah used to spend more time in Anekal. He was visiting Bommanasandra only for Shanubogike whenever it was required. Slowly he has reduced the self cultivation and gave his lands to "geni". This may be one of the major reasons he started losing his property one by one.

Surya appeared for supplementary and failed once again.

Surya was not bothered much about the SSLC results. He was more happy in sevadal activities, swimming, watching dramas played in and around the village Anekal, wrestling, Singing and playing Khanjira.

Srinivasaiah advised him to at least complete SSLC so that he can get a Government employment. He suggested him to re-appear for SSLC supplementary examination. Though Surya was not interested much in studies, due to the compulsion of his parents he re-appeared SSLC supplementary

examination. This attempt also he failed and could not complete the balance subjects.

Disappointed Srinivasaiah advised Surya to take E.P.S Certificate (Eligible for public services) and stop appearing for SSLC examination.

Getting a Government Job was not that difficult during those days. Whoever was not able to complete the SSLC were allowed to obtain an EPS Certificate and join the Government services.

But Surya decided to be self employed and independent. He wanted to become an agriculturist. He asked his father to give him the responsibility of agricultural lands at Bommasandra but Srinivasaiah was not fully confident on his son. Again Srinivasaiah shifted his family to Bommasandra with his son and daughters Indiramma & Vijayamma. He requested his Son-in-law Krishnamurthy to guide Surya in agriculture and to control the financial aspects. Eldest Daughter Sarojamma's family continued staying in Srinivasaiah's Anekal house as her children were getting educated at Anekal.

"CHATHURBUJA SURYA"

Surya in the guidance and support of his father Srinivasaiah and brother in law Krishnamurthy started cultivating the lands and started growing Jasmine flowers. He used to transport the flowers to the city market. But financial transactions was completely controlled and managed by brother-in-law Krishnamurthy.

Surya continued Kanjira playing, Singing devotional songs and participating in stage activities. Srinivasaiah felt such things will spoil his son's future. Being an orthodox Brahmin and very respectful person in surrounding villages, he was afraid that he and his son will get a bad name.

Surya's "Swayam Sevak" activities were uninterrupted. He used to visit Anekal and participate sevadal activities despite of his father's instructions not to waste his time. Spending time wrestling and swimming were two more things attracted Surya very much.

Worried Srinivasaiah started thinking the way of controlling his son Surya. He decided to keep him in track by arranging his marriage.

Sri G.Srikantaiah, a retired Revenue Inspector was one of the close friends of Sri Srinivasaiah. Friends used to meet often in Anekal Taluk office. Srikantaiah was residing in the village Tally, in Hosur Taluk, Dharmapuri District, Tamilnadu. He was residing with his wife Smt.Lakshmiddevamma. The couple had four daughters. Three were already married. The youngest daughter Bagirathamma was at home after her SSLC examination.

Srinivasaiah approached Srikantaiah to help him in finding a good marital alliance to his son. Very shortly Srinivasaiah came to know that Srikantaiah's daughter Bagirathamma was a very suitable alliance to his son. He requested to arrange a formal visit to his place at Anekal.

It was early 1953. Bagirathamma along with her parents visited Srinivasaiah's Family at Anekal. Surya indicated to his elder sister his acceptance and want to convey the same to his parents.

On 5th July 1953 the marriage of B.S.Suryanarayana Murthy with G.Bhagirathamma was arranged in the choultry at Sri Sri Nageshwara Kshethra Srinivasadevaru – Sarvamanya, Kithiganahalli in Chandapura, Chathrakhane – Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District.

Marriage was a celebration for entire surrounding villages for 3 days.

During those days that was a trend to give the initials of husband with new name to the newly married bride.

Suryanarayana Murthy requested his family members to change the name of G.Bhagirathamma as B.S.Kamamma (Bommasandra Suryanarayana Murthy KAMALAMMA).

B.S.Suryanarayana Murthy become "Chathurbuja" and started his family life with B.S.Kamamma in Bommasandra village.

Suryanarayana Murthy thought that after his marriage he will be given with financial independency and elevated social status.

But the controls by father and brother-in-law continued as it was earlier.

However, surya was happy that he got a person to share his dreams and feelings and used to spend his marital life happily.

In October 1954, Suryanarayana Murthy and Kamamma became father and mother of their first male child. It was a jubilation for the entire family and relatives. The child was named as "RAVI"

It was September 1955, Child Ravi was ill seriously. His liver was in trouble. Village Bommasandra was away from all medical facilities. Helpless couple Kamamma and Suryanarayana Murthy were forced to depend on Srinivasaiah for everything. Srinivasaiah has to look towards his son-in-law Krishnamurthy for all his financial requirements. The couple Suryanarayanamurthy and Kamamma were in rough patch of their life. They requested Krishnamurthy for the medical help of their child. The request was turned down for unknown reason. Helpless Surya sold a lightning affected coconut tree for a couple of rupees and walked out his house with wife and child Ravi towards Bangalore.

The couple had only one aim. Their child was to be treated for his illness and he should be saved. They approached Smt.Seethamma, a close relative and well known to Srinivasaiah's family since a very long time.

Their house was in majestic opposite gulli to movieland talkies. The entire family of Seethamma were very warm and eager to help Surya and his ill child Ravi. They morally supported the couple and guided them to doctor of Rason & Brothers. Ravi's treatment started with the help of Seethamma's family members.

Highly self respected couple were very uneasy, but helpless situation made them to accept the days of difficulties. They stayed for 15 days at Seetamma's House.

Surya searched a small rental house of Sampangi RamaShastry at 'Jangama mestri galli' near Majestic paying a rent of Rs.17/month and shifted themselves with their Child Ravi.

Surya started searching some work which will help him to earn money for medical treatment of Ravi.

He contacted several earlier known people. There was only assurances, advices but not a job.

Ultimately in the market yard he was offered with a helper's job in a coffee powder selling agency, "Ravi Coffee Works". It was a jubilation. He wanted his wife to be informed first. He was walking briskly in BVK Iyengar's Road to reach majestic. He was called by a voice, "*Murthy . . . Murthy . . .*" It was the voice of Sri Krishnamurthy, an old friend of Srinivasaiah who was a Harmonium player. He was working in Gubbi Veeranna's Gubbi Chenna Basaveshwara Nataka Mandali. It took few minutes for Suryanarayanamurthy to identify. He immediately realized. He shared his joy and sorrows to that elderly person. Surya requested Krishnamurthy to pay a visit and console his unhealthy son and his wife Kamamma. Understanding the entire situation, Krishnamurthy agreed and visited them. He understood the situation completely. Krishnamurthy wanted to help Surya and his family in any way. He suggested that he will introduce Surya to Sri Gubbi Veeranna and Smt.B.Jayamma.

Surya was not able to decide anything. He was deeply afraid of his father and other family members. He knew very well his father's reaction and unacceptance.

He was in a fix and took two days to decide. Harmonium Krishnamurthy came once again and advised just to meet Gubbi Veeranna and to take his help for a temporary job at the Drama Company. He assured that Surya can go back to Bommasandra at his will. Whenever his son's treatment is over at Bangalore.

Surya got convinced. He decided to meet Gubbi Veeranna and Jayamma with the help of Harmonium Krishnamurthy.

It was early hours of the day in the month of October 1955, Suryanarayana Murthy met Veeranna couple. They were amazed by the personality and looks of Surya. The couple identified an "Artist" in Surya. But innocent, helpless Surya was asking for a job either in Ticket counter or writing the income and expenses of the Drama Company. They smiled. They advised Surya to come to the theatre

from next day. No responsibility or work was offered. He was asked only to observe what is happening around. Gubbi Veeranna suggested to observe the play which was getting exhibited from afternoon till late night for 2-3 days.

Surya was in confusion, “*are they paying salary only for observing Drama ?!*” God knows. Due to certain personal reasons, an artist was away from the company for few days. Surya was asked to say only four lines of dialogues to be delivered by character “Agni” in Dhashavathar.

Surya immediately did so and then asked “*Why Sir?*”. Smt.B.Jayamma told to get ready with makeup and to do Agni’s character that night.

Mechanically Surya did the job. He was afraid if he did not obey their words, he may be asked to go out without salary, which he was not prepared to.

The next morning he was offered a job of “Company Artist” in Gubbi Shri Chennabasaveshwara Nataka mandali on monthly basis.

It took only few days to gain more confidence on stage. Surya accepted the challenge of main roles. He was offered company’s quarters and meals by end of the month.

The Drama Company shifted its camp from Bangalore to Mysore in November 1955. Surya Narayana Murthy & Kamamma with child Ravi were in the quarters of Drama Company. Medical support continued in Mysore, personally supervised by Smt.B.Jayamma with great affection.

It was Deepaavali of 1955. There were lights & crackers everywhere, but for Surya Narayana Murthy and Kamamma the entire world was dark. They had lost their son Ravi forever. Their human efforts failed in front of the destiny. They informed the news to the family. Srinivasaiah, rushed immediately to Mysore. He himself was inconsolable. He asked both Surya and Kamamma to come back to Bommasandra. Surya was not able to take any decisions immediately. He gained time and requested his father to co-operate. Helpless Srinivasaiah went back to Bommasandra. Surya continued on stage.

Shri.Shankar Singh a Producer-Director stayed at Mysore was planning a Kannada film. He was in search of a suitable artist. He watched Surya Playing a lead role in one of the Dramas. He approached Gubbi Veerannaji and asked Surya to meet him at his office. Surya was selected to play a lead role opposite to Smt.Pratima Devi in the cinema ‘Varadakshine’. Mr.Singh Promised Surya that he will inform when the production starts and advised him to continue to work at Gubbi Company.

Meanwhile in the month of December 1955. Kanagal Prabhakara Shastry ji. Elder brother of Puttanna Kanagal, was very close to almost all theatrical companies as play writer and lyricist. He visited Gubbi Company that night. He watched Surya, playing a lead role in “**Bhaktha Prahlada**”. He was spell bound. He was curious about Surya. He was satisfied totally. Kanagal Prabhakar Shastry discussed with Gubbi Veerannaji and Jayamma about introducing Surya

to the Silver screen. Shastry ji assured the same to Surya also. But Surya himself was not aware where his life was being lead. He was a silent spectator of all the incidents which were happening in his life. He was introspecting himself his life graph. He was from a middle class orthodox Brahmin family who were not aware about any form of art or performance, where as life is marching towards a world which he was completely unaware.

It was 24 in January 1956. There was no work and an off for Surya. The couple were trying their best to forget the tragic incident of their son's death. They went to a temple. Afterwards they were watching a cinema in a theatre near their quarters at Mysore. One of his colleagues came in search of Surya and found him with is wife in theatre watching the cinema. He informed Kanagal Prabhakara Shastry was waiting for Surya at the Drama Camp. Surya left the theatre and met Shastry. By then Prabhakar Shastry had already discussed with Veeranna & B.Jayamma took their consent to take Surya and Kamamma to Madras immediately. Surya was told that he is required to move towards Madras for a "Make-up-test" for a Kannada Cinema called "**BHAAGYODAYA**" being produced by Mr.P.R.Babu & Mr.Bhakthavastalam under the banner "Udaya Productions". Surya & Kamamma took the blessings of Veeranna Couple and followed Shastriji to Madras. They traveled in a car to Bangalore same night. Took next day's train to Madras and reached the office of 'Udaya Productions' on 25 January 1956

"SURYODAYA"

It was 26th January 1956. A makeup test was performed on Surya. Producer, Director and Shastriji were very happy. Satisfied team announced that Surya was selected to play the lead role opposite of by then Star Heroine Smt.Sahukar Janaki. A small bit of shooting took place as Muhurth shot. In the evening the team of "Bhagyodaya" movie under the banner "Udaya Productions" renamed Surya as "UDAYKUMAR".