

Onam Festival Short Story in English for Kids (PDF)

A long time ago, a wise king named Mahabali ruled over the lands of Kerala. He was intelligent, kind, fair, and loved by the people of his kingdom. Mahabali was the grandson of Prahalada, a learned king who was one of the greatest devotees of Lord Vishnu.

One day, Mahabali was performing a grand yagna for Lord Vishnu. Suddenly, a small young boy entered the hall where this sacred ritual was being performed. The King, bounded by his ethics and customs, welcomed the young boy with sweet gestures and open arms.

He asked the boy what he desired. Interestingly, the boy made a small yet strange request. He requested enough land that could be covered by his three footsteps. Despite being stopped and warned by many learned people, Mahabali agreed to the boy's request.

The moment Mahabali agreed, the young boy, Vamana, transformed into a gigantic and cosmic form, now known as Trivikrama. With his first step, he covered and measured the entire earth. With his second step, he covered the whole sky. However, both steps covered the entire kingdom of Mahabali, leaving nothing to cover in the third step.

Vamana then turned to Mahabali and asked where should he put his third step. Realising who this young guest truly was. Filled with devotion for his lord, Mahabali offered his head for the final step and showed signs of complete surrender.

Impressed by Mahabali's devotion, Lord Vishnu blessed him with immense happiness and prosperity. He sent Mahabali to Pathala (the netherworld) and promised a great reward. Mahabali would be the next Indra in the coming age of Manvanthara and until then, Lord Vishnu would guard the gates of Patahala.

Lord Vishnu was also amazed by Mahabali's devotion towards his subjects. Therefore, he allowed him permission to return to his kingdom once a year to meet his people. Since then, this day has been celebrated with immense joy as Onam.

Moral of the Story

The story of Onam and King Mahabali teaches us about the importance of devotion and selflessness. It reminds us that gods always reward true devotion and a pure heart. We must always spread love and kindness even to the smallest and youngest people in this world.

