



AIRĀVATA

THE WHITE ELEPHANT



VIṢṆU-BRAHMĀ -KAŚYAPA-BHADRAMATĀ- IRĀVATĪ - AIRĀVATA

A large elephant.

Son of IRĀVATĪ.

Was not human in shape. [sarga 14 Araṇyakāṇḍa Rāmayāna]

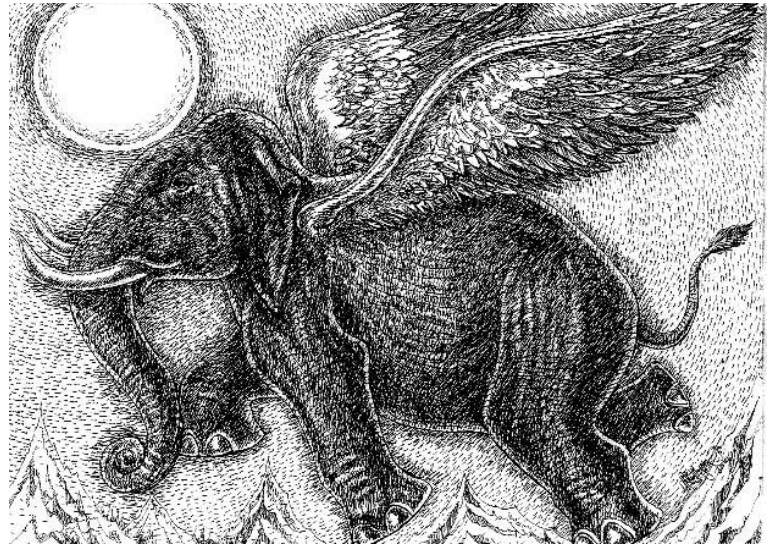
Spotless pearl white in colour.

The most beautiful elephant, king of entire elephant family. [VIṢṆU PURĀṆA]

Also called AIRĀVATAM in Tamil & ERAWAAN in Asia.

AIRĀVATA is one of DIGGAJĀS. He is lord/guardian of EAST. [66 ,Ādi Parva, Mahābhārata]
DIG - DIK [disha] / GAJA- elephant so it is DIG+GAJĀS]

By Indian context AIRĀVATA has seven trunk and four tusk. he also has wings.



In Asia it is considered as AIRĀVATA has three heads.



Also it is considered as he has thirty three heads and each he has three trunks and four teeth. He collects water from universe and give on the earth in form of rain.



AIRĀVATA caused by the churning of the ocean of milk.



Other Legendary related to AIRĀVATA.

A story how he is responsible for churning of the milk ocean.

Some maidens from devloka presented garland to DURVASA. When DURVASA visited indras court he gifted that to indra. indra puth that on tusk of airavat. fragrance of flower attracted bees and airavat get irritate and he destroyed the garden. DURVASA took this as a insult. He gods and they turn old. So for getting amrut they churned the milk of ocean.

How he rose out of the ocean of the milk.

After cursing DURVASA airavata died. He reborn By the churnig of the milk ocean, an cosmic egg evolved . Which broken by bramha eight elephnat with another 8 female born. AIRAVATA is the first one.

How he became Lord of the elephant.

As airavat born first as a RATNĀ [14 RATNĀ are came out by samudramanthan] lord vishnu made him the lord of all the elephnats.

The breaking of AIRĀVATA tusk.

Ones asura names surpadma attacked on the devloka. In this battle JAYATANA son of indra fall dead. Airavata brooked surpadmas chariot. Airavat attacked surpadma who broke his tusk. Airavata later in Himalayas prayed lord SHIVE and got tusk back then he return to the devloka.

HOW AIRĀVATA beacame INRAS VĀHANA.

INDRA was KAŚYAPA son by ADITI. AIRĀVATA also descended from KAŚYAPA, so INDRA took him as VĀHANA.

How AIRĀVATA and the DIGGAJĀS lost their wings

Elephants can fly with their wings before they get cursed by DHIRGHATAMAS. DIGGAJĀS flying in Himalaya mountains. They saw a huge tree which is so beautiful. They land on that tree the branch get broken which make breaking of DHIRGHATAMASAS tapasya. He get angry and cursed.

Ones they insulted wife of lord AGNI so he also cursed that they got skin like desert animals.

They went for the solution to Brahma, Brahma knows earlier what happened , so elephant play with mud and water to get rid of burning sensation.

In India AIRĀVATA is supposed to be,

Ardha-Matanga means Elephant of the Clouds.

Naga-malla means the Fighting Elephant.



other of the Sun.

Ardha-Matanga means Elephant of the Clouds.

-MATANGA- elephant

-Clouds are the form of AIRĀVATA.

-AIRĀVATA= ERAWWAN

[ERAWAAN = ERA (JAL) +WAAN(infinite storage)]

-Who born in Erawaan is AIRĀVATA.

- HAST= HASTI= GAJA

-JALAKUNJARENDRA [JALKUNJAR+ INDRA]

In Maharashtra there is a festive of young girls which is HADGA/BHONDLA. In hast nakshtra young girls perform HADGA by rotating around picture of elephant [AIRĀVATA] which is drawn by seeds. And sings Bhondala [charoli] In hast nakshtra intensity of rain is larger, rain is like showering water by elephant.

It consider that AIRĀVATA took water from space and shower on the earth in this period.

ABHRA-MATANG, ABRAMUVALLABHA are the indication of AIRĀVATA.

Because of this rain people got new crops so the LAXMI came. That is why it called GAJA-LAXMI.

Also there is reference of AIRĀVATA as a form of MEGHA. In PAHADI STYLE drawings there is a scene of GOVARDHANA, there is shown AIRĀVATA showering instead of clouds.

STORY

An eagle is flying through clouds everywhere. It is dry, famine. Sun is just to rise in the sky. A boy is running, through stones and dry trees. He reaches to the small rock in front of which there is a huge mountain in shape of elephant. He saw that sun is rising behind the mountain (east).

He saw, there is sadness in his eyes. He closes his eyes. He remembers the things of his childhood. He playing with the elephant toy, sitting on the elephant and his emotion with elephant that they had who is gone because of famine. Also the story told by his father of AIRĀVATA. How he is the guardian of east and his origin, how he make rain to fall.

He opens his eyes and found the huge mountain in shape of elephant. he looks at the elephant toy which he have in his hand. Tear dropped through his eye and he suddenly through that toy towards the elephant rock. He sat down and look toward ground. He made a image of elephant with his finger. he hide his face under the knees and started crying.

Suddenly air becomes strong it float the image made by him. Small sound happening. As he get up he saw the clouds are turning black and getting rotated. A huge circle on the elephant mountain happed by clouds. Everywhere is dark a beam of light dropped on the elephant mountain and the mountain start shaking. Boy get fluttered. The mountain release the stones and it wake up as the elephant rises. He took out the wings and fli in to the circle of clouds from where light beam is coming.

Boy only looking the miracle what is happening, suddenly a drop fall on face, two, three....! Rain started. He raise his hand. He return to the village where elephants walking behind him. Every where is greenery & nature became beautiful.

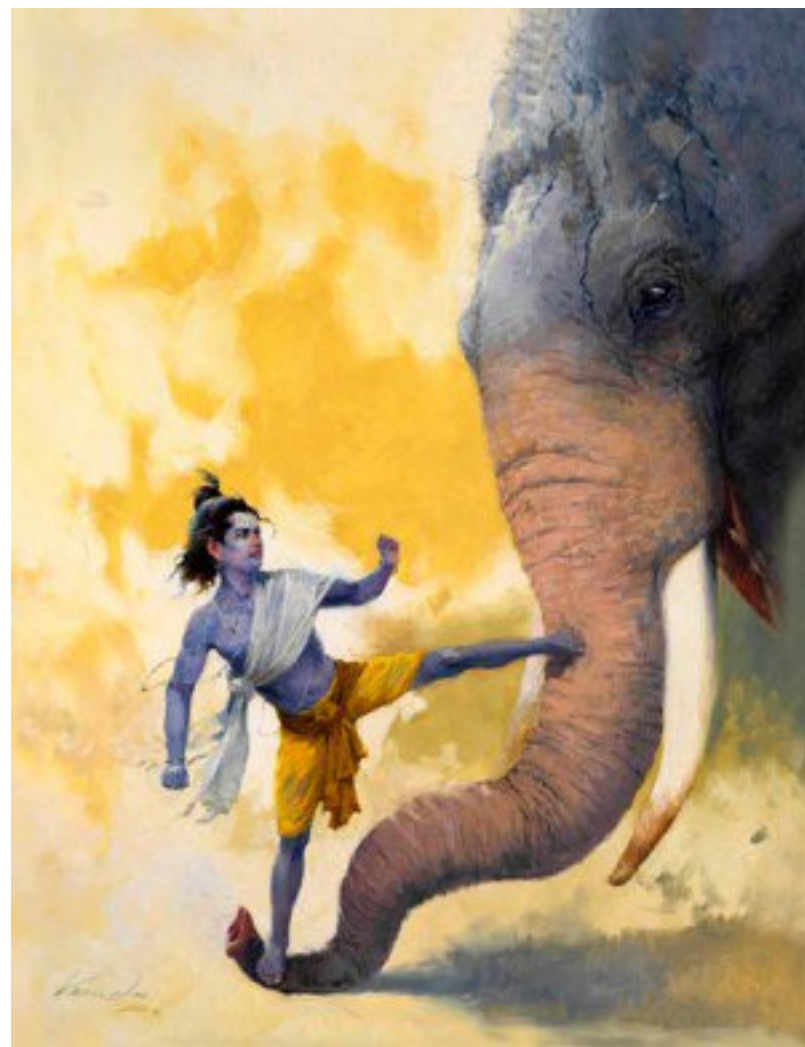
VISUAL STYLE

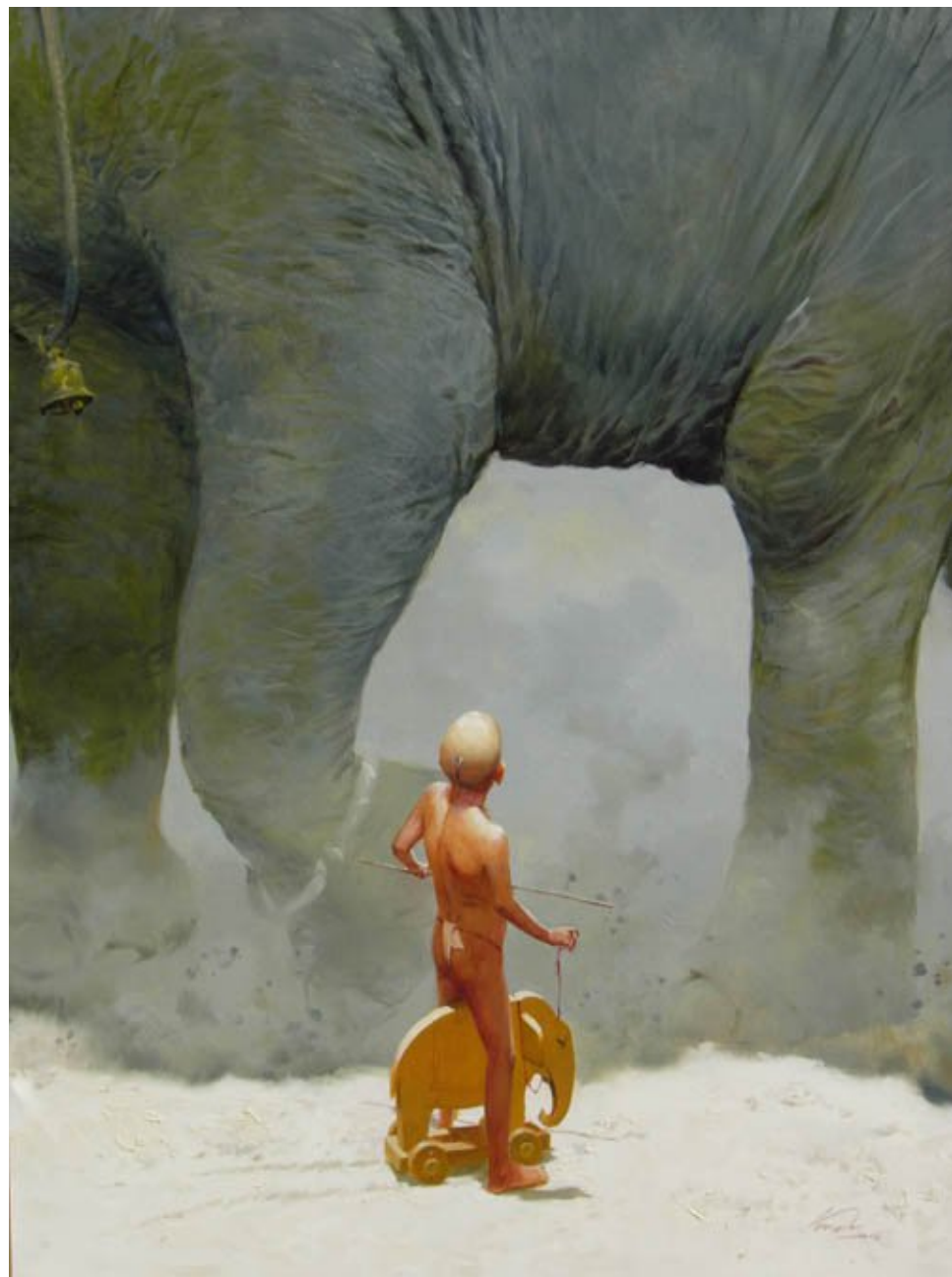
paintings by Robert Lemher





Paintings by Vasudev Kamath







THANK YOU