Kshetrayya
(17th Century AD)

Name: Varadayya aka Kshetrayya

Contributions: enta chakkani, inta proddaaye, inka ninnu boanittu naa, aluka, deeruna, aligithe, alAgE manchidi, eelAgaTavE buddhi, manchi dinamu, evvADE, rArA sAmi rArA, valapu nilupa

Language: Telugu

Varadayya lived in Muvva village near Kuchipudi in Krishna district in Andhra. He was a devotee of Lord Krishna in the Muvva temple.

Varadayya is well known by the title “Kshetrayya,” which means “one who has knowledge of kshetras (holy and sacred places)” in recognition of his numerous pilgrimages.

While he was studying dance at Muvva temple of Lord Krishna, he fell in love with a Devadasi (“female servant of God,” a woman who dedicates her life to God and provides services such as dance and music at the temple) and wrote devotional songs involving romance and sensuality - about 4000 devotional compositions. His devotion to Lord Krishna is expressed in a devotional form called Sringara Bhakti (sensual devotion).

Watch a dance clip evoking love, loss, and relationships between self, friend, and lover God, in this contemporary abhinaya (emotional expression) inspired by a poem by Ksetrayya at: http://movingpoems.com/poet/kshetrayya/
Bibliography:
telugu saahitya sameeksha, Nagayya G.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kshetrayya

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." - Mahatma Gandhi

Hinduism is a way of life, with diversity of religion, and Indian teachings share the importance of seva (service).

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Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mritvorma Amritangamaya.
Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!
(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)