

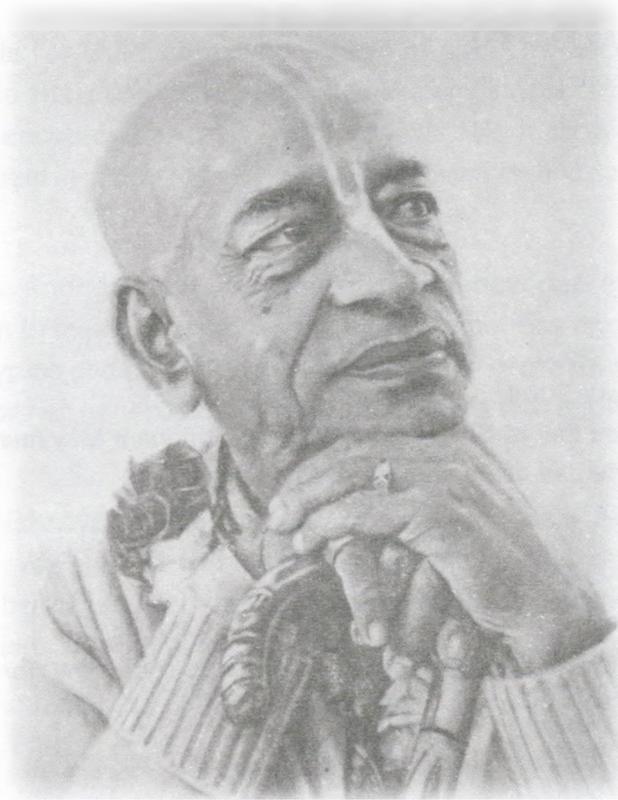
devotees of KRISHNA



devotees of
KRISHNA



Dedicated To



His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder Acharya, International Society for Krishna Consciousness
ISKCON

Compiled by
Radhika devi dasi and Hemangi Gopi devi dasi

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Appearance day of Shri Panchatattva at Shridham Mayapur
Appearance day of Purshottam Das Thakur

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Message for Parents and Teachers

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder Acharya of ISKCON, was very concerned about Vedic education. He said "Child is the father of man, so the basic principle of any type of life is to instruct the children from the very beginning in Krishna consciousness to enable children to grow to be the leaders of human society."

We are very pleased to present before you the 1st edition of 'Devotees of Krishna'.

This book is suitable for children around 9 years of age. The discussions are chosen in such a way as to enhance their understanding of the various aspects of Krishna consciousness. Therefore please encourage them in this respect. We humbly request you all to spend quality time with them in order to help them blossom in Krishna consciousness.

We are thankful to Radhika devi dasi, Hemangi Gopi devi dasi and all the other devotees who have helped in bringing this book out. Bamsi Gopal das and Devaki devi dasi worked tirelessly on the typing and layout design. We are very grateful to Bhaktin Rani Menon and Supriya Kulkarni for her generous contribution towards this publication.

We thank the Vaishnavas all around the world for their blessings, suggestions and continued support. We pray at the lotus feet of Shri Guru and Shri Gauranga that these devotional books be of some help in bringing about a positive change in the rapidly degrading civilisation.

Hare Krishna

Radheshyam Das
Director
Bhaktivedanta Academy for Culture and Education
ISKCON, Pune

23 February 2004

Appearance day of Shri Panchatattva at Shridham Mayapur

Appearance day of Purshottam Das Thakur

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1 The South Indian Brahmana

We have heard many stories
Of the Lord and His devotees
Some engaged in great austerities
Others performed amazing activities.



There was a South Indian brahmana, good and kind
Who faithfully worshipped the Lord in his mind
He took his bath early each day
On the banks of Godavari, he sat to pray.

Like a yogi he sat still and straight
Practicing hard to concentrate
His deity worship took many hours
He offered fruit, incense and scented flowers.

He visited every holy river
Getting water in jugs of gold and silver
All these grand preparations
Were only in his meditations.

Trying his best to please the deity
He collected the paraphernalia of the arati
The grand altar was shining and bright
He wanted everything to be just right

One day he wanted to offer something nice
Therefore he decided to cook sweet rice
Using creamy milk and rice of good quality
Adding some saffron and nuts to make it tasty.



He scraped and stirred with great care
A delicious bhoga he did prepare
After some time in the pot he looked
To see if it was properly cooked.

Thinking that the bhoga would be too hot
He put his finger into the pot
The scorching heat made him open his eyes
He looked at his finger with great surprise



The blisters were causing pain and suffering
But surely the Lord was pleased with his offering
Though everything happened in meditation
The Lord was very happy with his dedication.

Finally he achieved the goal he desired
By this story let's be inspired
It's the effort not the results that please
Let's strive to become loving devotees.





Activity Time

Discussion:



What crisp puffed rice,
I can't wait to eat it...



W.. What's this the
wind has blown away
my puffed rice



Oh Govinda! Please
accept my offering
of puffed rice.
It's all for You

Do you think the Lord will accept his offering?

Krsna was born in a jail cell. Vasudev was very happy. He desired to give hundreds of ornamented cows and other gifts to the brahmanas. But at that time it was not possible. So Vasudeva closed his eyes and offered charity in his mind.

Do you know when he was freed from Kamsa's clutches, now that he was able to, he actually gave all the things which he had previously given in his mind.

Memory Game

Teacher will show you a picture of Krishna. (You could even visit your local ISKCON centre.). Teacher will allow you to look at the deity for 30 seconds only. Then without looking up, write down the answers to teacher's questions. Teacher may ask you questions like:

What is the colour of Krishna's dress?

Which flowers in His garland?



Lets see how many details you can remember. It is so difficult for us to remember details we have just seen. The brahmana was so meticulous in his manasa puja that he remembered every detail. Even something so small as checking if the kheer was the right temperature for the Lord's pleasure.

A Loving Offering

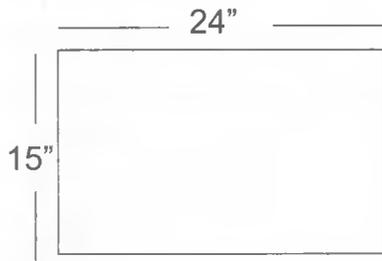
Make a sweet of your choice. In your class discuss which sweet you'll can make for the Lord. In the space below write down the recipe everyone agrees upon.



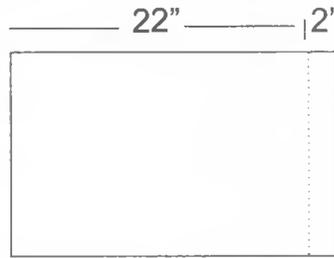
Now offer the bhoga to Krishna. While doing so remember how the south indian brahamana did the offering,.



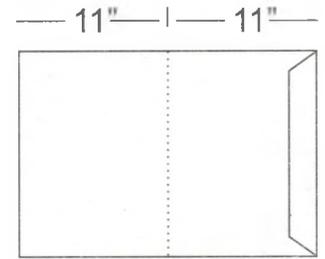
Make a Folder to store your craft work



Take a piece of chart paper



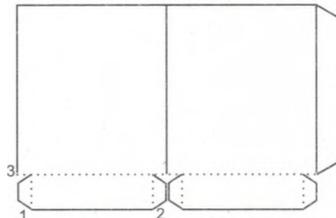
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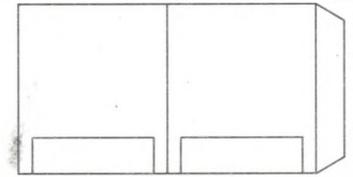
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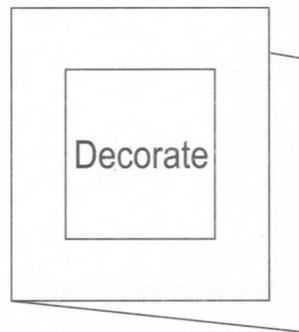
Cut along the dotted line



Fold along the dotted line and paste the sides to form pockets



Your Folder is ready



Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

2 Dhruva



King Uttanapada had two queens named Suniti and Suruchi. Suruchi was more dear to the king than Suniti.

Suniti had a son named Dhruva and Suruchi had a son named Uttama.

One day king Uttanapada had placed Uttama on his lap and was playing with him very lovingly. Little Dhruva tried to climb on his father's lap.

Seeing this, Suruchi, his step-mother, became very angry. She spoke harshly, "How dare you sit on the lap of the king? If you think you'll be the king some day, then remember your wish will never be fulfilled. Only my child can become the king ." King Uttanapada was quiet and did not speak.



Suruchi's harsh words pierced Dhruva's heart like arrows. His lips trembled with anger and his eyes became red. He got up abruptly and went straight to his mother, Suniti. He climbed on to her lap and started sobbing. His mother calmed him down and listened to the whole story. When Dhruva had finished, she bent her head sadly

"My dear son, indeed the harsh words spoken by Suruchi are true. If you truly desire to sit on the throne then you must engage yourself in worshipping the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Your great grandfather Lord Brahma and your grandfather Svayambhuva Manu worshiped the Lord with faith and devotion and achieved their goals."

Although he was only five years old, Dhruva made up his mind. With great determination, Dhruva left his father's house. Though it was dark and lonely Dhruva walked into the deep forest with his heart set on just one goal.

Seeing the sincere devotion of His devotee the Lord always sends His representative..... the great sage Narada Muni appeared before Dhruva. He tried to explain to Dhruva that he was just a small boy and it was not necessary or possible for him to perform such austerities.



But Dhruva was not convinced. He said, "My dear Lord, I have been born in a kshatriya family and therefore cannot tolerate the insulting words

of my step-mother. I want to occupy a kingdom even better than that of my father and grandfather. Please instruct me."

Narada Muni said, "Go to the bank of Yamuna where there is a forest named Madhuvana. Bathe in the waters of the Yamuna three times a day. Perform the eightfold yoga system, different kinds of breathing and so on. Gradually you will be purified and can begin to meditate on the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Chant the mantra 'Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya'.

Perform deity worship by offering water, flowers, fruits and vegetables and tulasi leaves. Thus engage yourself in devotional service of the Lord and soon you will be blessed." Dhruva heard Narad Muni's instructions very carefully.



Then bowing down respectfully he set off for the Madhuvana forest.

After this, Narada Muni decided to go to the palace of king Uttanapada. The king welcomed him with great respect, but it seemed as if he was unhappy.

Narada Muni asked Uttanapada why he was looking so sad. The king said,

"O great sage, I am so fallen that I have abandoned my five year old son. I am very worried about him. Out of affection he was trying to get up on my lap but I behaved in such a hard hearted way. Now he must be wandering in the forest, unprotected. Wolves or other animals may attack him."

Narada Muni pacified the king, "My dear king, do not be anxious. Your son is protected by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Very soon he will complete his task and come back home. He will be glorified all over the world and will also bring honor to you."



In Madhavana, little Dhruva started performing austerities with great care and attention. For the first month he ate only fruits and berries on every third day. In the second month he ate only dry grass and leaves once in six days. In this way he continued his worship. In the third month he drank only water every nine days. By the fourth month Dhruva Maharaj had mastered his senses and inhaled air once in twelve days. In the fifth month he was able to stand motionless on only one leg with his mind completely fixed on the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Dhruva's great austerities caused the three worlds to tremble. All the demigods started feeling suffocated. They approached the Supreme Personality of Godhead and prayed to Him to relieve them. The Lord assured them that He would go and personally stop Dhruva's austerities.

Dhruva was absorbed in meditating on the form of the Lord. All of a sudden his meditation broke and he opened his eyes. He saw that the Supreme Personality of Godhead was personally present before him.



Dhruva Maharaj fell down flat like a rod in front of the Lord. He felt great bliss and happiness. Dhruva wanted to offer many prayers but was unable to do so. He was too overwhelmed to speak. The Lord understood his heart.

Out of His causeless mercy, the Lord touched His conchshell to the forehead of Dhruva. With folded hands Dhruva started offering many beautiful prayers to the Lord.

"I wanted a kingdom that is why I did tapasya. I obtained You who is unobtainable by demigods. I was searching for broken pieces of glass. I got the valuable diamond of Your darshan. I am completely satisfied. I do not desire anything else."

The Lord said, "My dear Dhruva, you have executed my vows. I know the desire in your heart and shall fulfil it. My dear Dhruva, I shall award you the glowing planet known as the Pole star. No one has ever ruled this planet before.

When your father goes to the forest you will rule the entire world for thirty six thousand years and you will always remain young. You will perform many sacrifices and give great charities. At the time of death you will remember Me and come to My abode."

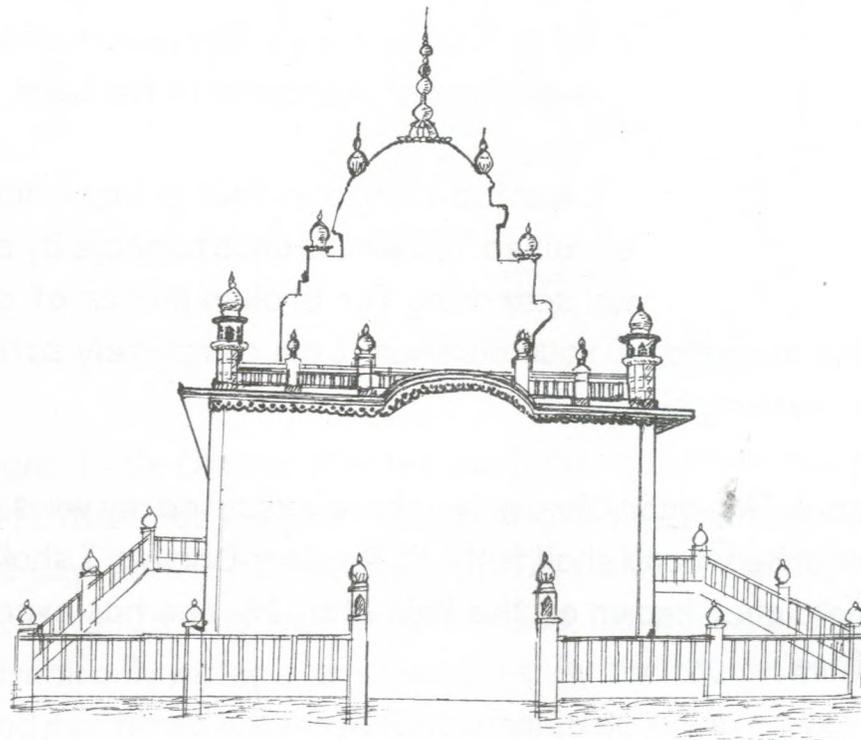
At the end of his life Dhruva Maharaja a golden airplane came to take him back to the spiritual sky. Dhruva Maharaja asked the Vishnudutas "What about my mother? She showed me the way." The Vishnudutas pointed out and Dhruva saw his mother in a similar airplane on her way to the spiritual sky.



Activity Time



Let's make a palace.



Class activity

Take a large sheet of chart paper and draw the shape of a palace. You could copy the shape given or better still draw your own.

Cut small pieces of coloured paper from magazines.

If you want to make a pink palace, use different shades of pink. Choose whichever colour you want. Stick the pieces as close as possible. You may decorate the palace with silver or gold paper.

Remember no piece in the mosaic should be bigger than this

Have fun making a beautiful palace.

Discussion:

In your group discuss

- * How did you feel while you were making the mosaic?
- * Did you feel like giving up mid way? What did you do?
- * Did you continue till the end and complete the picture?
- * Did you take help?
- * Did you leave it incomplete?

Just for making a small mosaic palace, we require so much of determination, effort and patience.

Robert Bruce and the Spider

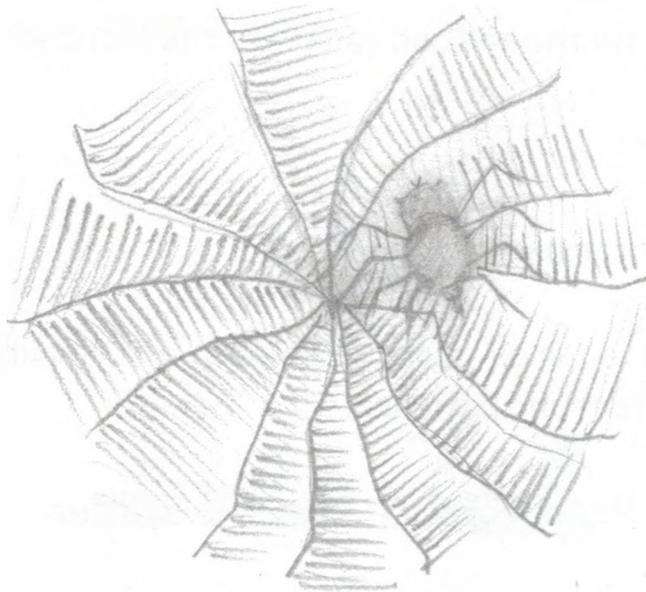
Long ago there was a king Robert Bruce. It so happened that he lost many battles one after another. Feeling very disheartened he went into a dark cave and was hiding there. He thought to himself, " what is the use of all this battling and fighting? I think I am just going to give it up!"

As he sat in the cave, he saw that there was a spider who was trying to build his web high up in the ceiling. The spider was carefully making the web with great effort. And every time he completed a part of it, the web would fall down, and the spider came falling down along with it. Then he crawled up the walls and climbed up to the ceiling of the cave and start weaving new webs all over again.

Robert Bruce was watching very intently. Suddenly it dawned on him that if a little spider could have so much determination and not give up, then he too should do the same.

Robert Bruce became encouraged to try once more. Calling his men, he went confidently to fight. This time he was determined to win the war.

Try try till you succeed!



We have little battles to fight
Choose between wrong or right
This is our everyday plight
Fight we must with all our might
Fight what you may say
That which pulls us the wrong way
The wrong must be chased out
Whether it is within or without
Krishna give us strength, determination....
To follow your instructions

Ryan, Sudhir, Joy went for a party, where they were served cake. Joy asked "Does the cake contain egg". "Yes"



Joy said "Thank you, could I have something else instead, like fruit."

Ryan thought "I love cake. I can't see the egg. Anyway it is impolite to refuse. He said "Thank you I'd like some."



Sudhir said "No I don't want any cake".
(After an hour though he had some cake)

What do you think about their determination.

We also face situations like these sometimes. Discuss any situation you have faced in groups.

Dhruva set out to become the ruler of many real palaces. It was very difficult for him. Yet he did not give up. Do you think it was easy for him to live in the forest?

What did he set out for and what did he achieve?

- ◇ In our day to day life we often have to choose between right and wrong. The choice is ours, are we determined to follow the instructions of the Lord.
- ◇ The Lord sends His representatives to help us.
- ◇ Let us make meaningful goals and pray to the Lord to give us the determination to achieve them.

3 The Wives of the Brahmanas

In the beautiful forest of Vrindavana Krishna, Balarama and the gopas were playing-climbing trees and swinging.... Soon they felt tired and hungry.



Scene 1

(A garden near the bank of the Yamuna)

Cowherd boys

O Krishna, O Balarama listen to us please.
We're hungry. We want milk, curd and cheese.

Krishna Learned brahmanas are performing a sacrifice.
Go there, I'm sure you'll get something nice.

Cowherd boys We will go there right away
And ask for charity as You say.

Narrator They ran through the forest in anticipation
To the brahmanas busy with their preparation

Scene 2

(Brahmanas engaged in sacrifice, chanting of mantras can be heard)

Cowherd boys Lord Krishna and Balarama are quite near.
They're feeling hungry so we're here.
For our dear friends some food we need.

Narrator But the learned brahmanas paid no heed
Involved in their rituals and ceremony
They missed this golden opportunity
They were reciting mantras and lighting fires
But their hearts were full of material desires
Since they had no love and devotion
They saw Krishna and Balarama with mundane vision.



Cowherd boys
(disappointed)

They are not saying yes or no
Back to our friends let us go.

(They walk back through the forest)

Krishna
(laughing)

Why are you looking so confused ?
Beggars are very often refused.
Now hurry up, please try once more
You'll not be disappointed for sure
The wives of these brahmanas truly love Me
And will offer you food readily.

Narrator

The cowherd boys set off, once more.
What would happen? They were not sure.

Scene 3

(Brahmana's wives engaged in different tasks.)

Cowherd boys
(bowing down)

Dear mothers, kindly hear what we say
Krishna and Balarama have come this way
Tired and hungry after the day's play
They are asking for some food today.

Brahmana Wives

Our dear Lords have come here!
To our eyes, They will appear!
We'll pack the food without delay
We were waiting for this blessed day.

Narrator

They went running forth happily
Like rivers rushing to the sea
They saw the beauty of Krishna's lotus like face
His blue complexion and limbs full of grace.

Brahmans Wives

At Your lotus feet lies our destination
With our families, we have no relation
Your glories are the ornaments of our ears
Indeed our hearts are freed of fear
Please tell us what we should do
We can't bear separation from You.



Krishna

My words may make your hearts burn
To your learned husbands you should return
Assisting them is your worldly duty
But your hearts will forever remain with Me
Chant My names and sing
My glories even when far away
With you, in My Deity form, I will forever stay
Now go back home and do not grieve
Very soon, My lotus feet you will achieve.

Narrator

Without saying a word they went away
Krishna's order they did obey
Seeing their wives, the brahmanas were glad
But realising their mistake, they felt bad.

. Brahmanas

Our high birth, learning and knowledge is just in vain
Alas ! false pride and ego is our only gain
Instead of aspiring for a heavenly place
We could have seen Krishna face to face
How blessed are our simple wives !
They have surely perfected their lives.
They pleased the Lord with their simplicity
Their loving devotion and humility.
We were put in such confusion
The Lord has dispelled our illusion
We beg forgiveness from the Supreme
Pure loving devotion is our dream
O dear wives we hope and pray
We'll follow in your footsteps one day.





Activity Time

Discussion: Here is a story for you to read and enjoy

THE BRAHMANA AND THE COBBLER.

During his travels, Narada came across a proud brahmana priest who had just finished his daily fire sacrifice. Seeing the famous sage, the brahmana greeted him, "Namaste, my dear Narada Muni."

Narada Muni replied " May your life be successful my dear brahmana."

"If you are going to the spiritual world", requested the priest "then please do me a favour. Ask Lord Narayana when I am going to join Him there. I think it should be very soon, but I'd like to verify it anyway."



"All right," agreed Narada Muni, "I'll ask Him.."

The next day Narada Muni passed a humble cobbler, the lowest of all castes, repairing shoes on the roadside. "All glories to you Narada Muni," the cobbler called out..

"All glories to the devotees of Lord Narayana," returned Narada. "And how are you?"

"By the grace of the Lord ," responded the cobbler, "All is well, but speaking of the Lord, will you be seeing Him soon?"

"Oh yes," replied Narada. "But why do you ask? Do you want me to speak

hundred lifetimes. The arrogant brahmana was visibly shocked.

"One hundred lifetimes! I don't believe you even saw Narayana. Tell me what He was doing."

"Threading an elephant through the eye of a needle," replied Narada.

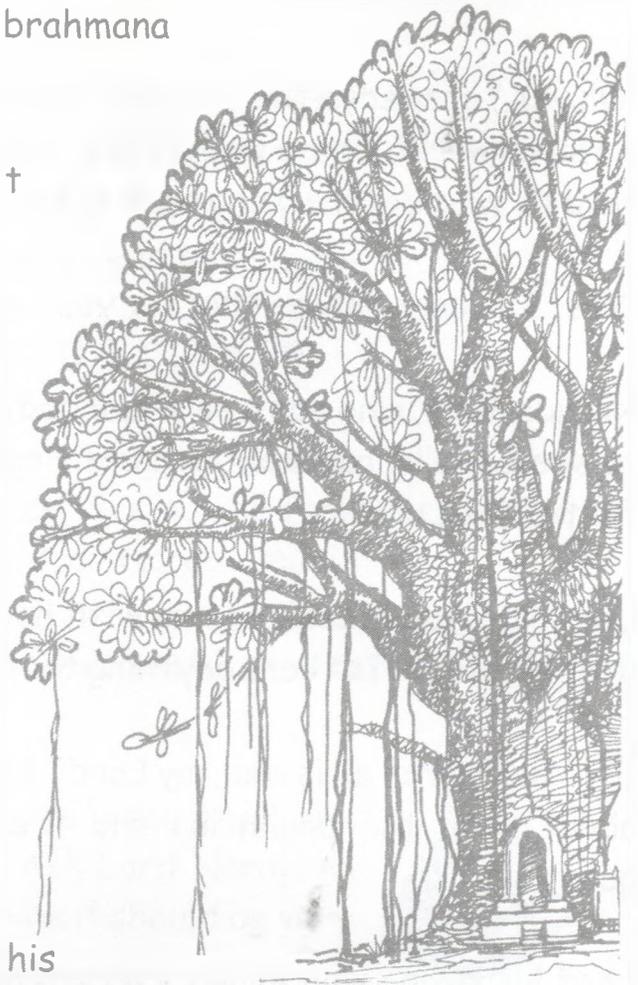
"Impossible! This shows that you never met the Lord and you are trying to cheat me saying imaginary things which can never happen!" ridiculed the brahmana.

Unperturbed, Narada Muni took his leave and went to visit the cobbler. He conveyed Lord Narayana's message that soon he would be returning to the spiritual realm.

"I will go to the spiritual world at the end of this life?" exclaimed the cobbler in great joy. How merciful the Lord is! But my dear Narada, please tell me what my Lord was doing and thus bring pleasure to my heart."

"The Lord was threading an elephant through the eye of a needle," Narada answered.

"Wonderful! Wonderful!" exclaimed the cobbler.



"You actually believe that?" Narada asked .

"Why ? Yes, of course ," the cobbler said without hesitation. "See that big banayan tree across the road ? It came from just a seed. So if the Lord can pack a banayan tree into such a small seed , He can easily thread an elephant through the eye of a needle."

Seeing the difference between the proud brahmana and the faith of the humble cobbler, Narada easily understood why they were to be rewarded in different ways.

What is the similarity between the two stories ?

What do you think pleases the Lord?

How do we know that the cobbler and the wives of the brahmanas' had faith in the Lord ?

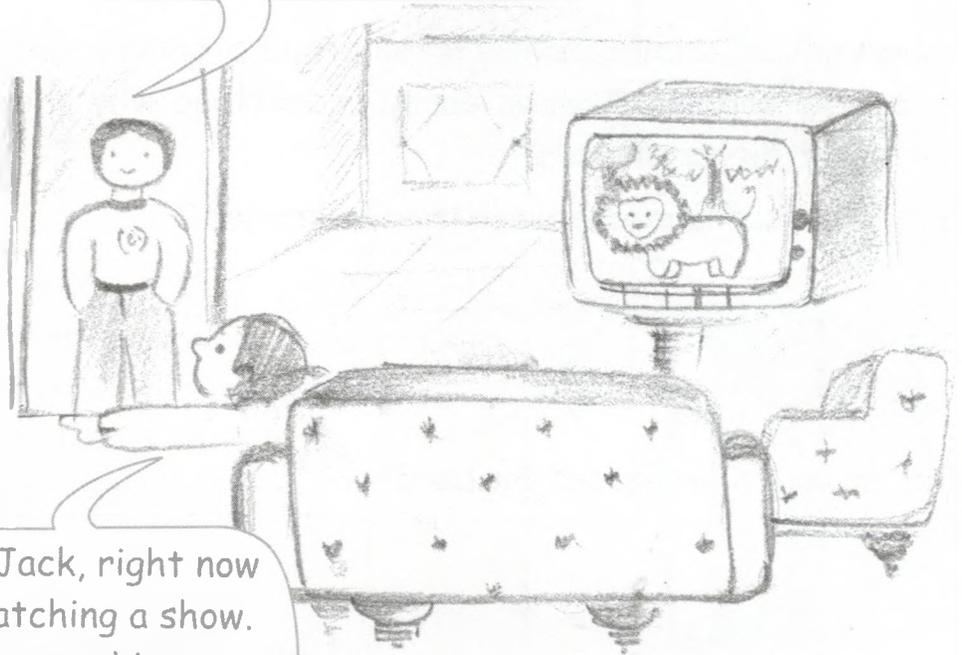
Do you know that robots have been programmed to perform the arati for the Lord? They worship just like you or me. Still there is a difference. What do you think ?



Whatever we do for the Lord we must try to add love
The Lord is a person. When we pray to Him , He is listening.

Jack has come to visit John

Hi! John. I'm so pleased to see you after such a long time, I've so much to tell you.



Yes.. Yes.. Jack, right now I'm busy watching a show. There are some chips on the table, you can go and help yourself.

How do you think Jack feels?

What should John have done?

We often behave like John, we say our prayers and chant the Lord's name. But when the Lord comes, we are busy thinking of something else.

Give your Heart to Krishna



Fold a piece of black chart paper in half.

Using a piece of chalk or a light pencil, draw half of a heart shape along the fold.

Draw shapes inside the heart to cut out.

Cut out the heart shape as well as the inside shapes, then glue different colors of gelatin paper or tissue paper on the back of the paper to cover the inside cut-out shapes.

On the coloured page you will find a face and a circle. Cut them both out. Now cut the inside to the center as shown. Fold the cut circle to form a cone. Glue the edges together and make a cone. This is the body. Now stick the head at the top end of the cone.

Cut a triangular piece of cloth or colourful paper behind the head to form a veil. Decorate the doll using paints, sketch pens, pieces of lace, beads and so on. This doll represents the simple wives of the brahmanas who gave their hearts to Krishna.

4 Mrigari

Narrator

Once upon a time the great sage Narad Muni went to Prayag to bathe at the confluence of three holy rivers the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati.

Narada Muni
(praying near the
bank of a river)

Narayana, Narayana. It is so wonderful to visit Holy places. Everywhere people are chanting Your Holy Names.



Narrator

Narada Muni walked through a forest along a path. Suddenly he came upon a very gruesome sight.

Narada Muni

What is this? Oh how can some one be so cruel! This poor deer has been pierced by arrows. His legs are broken. Who has left him to suffer in this condition? He is neither dead nor alive.

Narrator

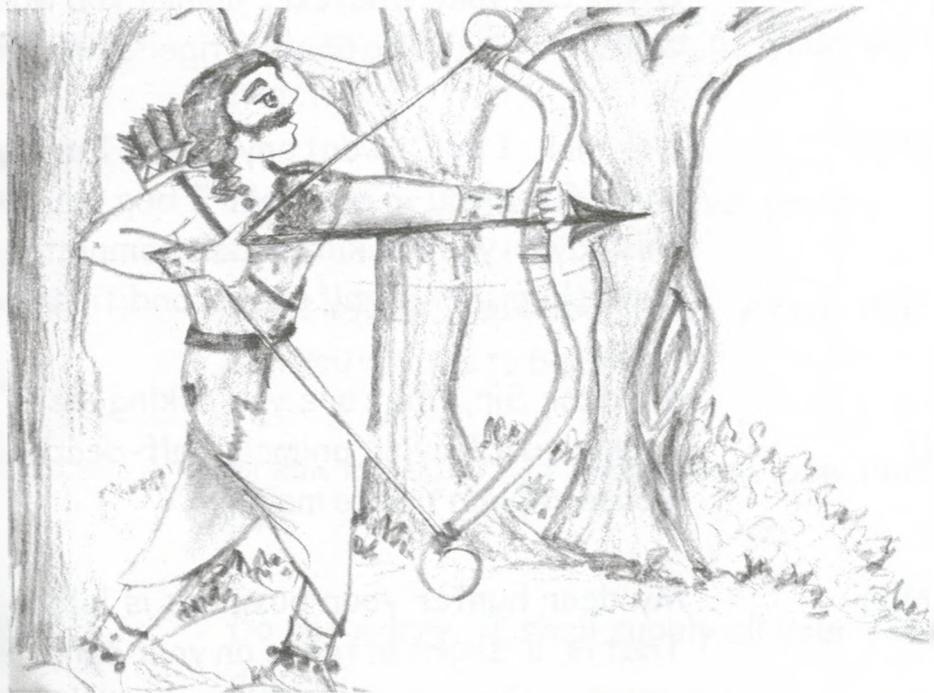
As Narada Muni proceeded he saw more animals in the same condition.

Narada Muni

Oh! Look at this boar he is lying here turning and twisting in pain his body pierced by arrows. And see this little rabbit! Which hard hearted person has been inflicting such torture on these innocent animals?

Narrator

The pure devotees of the Lord are compassionate to all living entities. Narada Muni was walking along trying to find out who had caused this suffering. Narada Muni came across a hunter hiding behind a tree. He had a huge dark body, reddish eyes and a fierce expression. In his hands was a bow and he had many arrows. He was about to shoot another animal.



Mrigari
(angry) O Saintly person, why have you come here? Your presence has disturbed the animals. They have all run away.

Narada Muni I have come here to ask you something. I have seen so many animals lying here in a half-killed state. Are you the cause of their suffering?

Mrigari Yes! It is true.

Narada Muni Why did you not kill them completely?

Mrigari My dear saintly person, My name is Mrigari, the enemy of animals. My father taught me to kill in this way. When I see half-killed animals, I feel great pleasure.

Narada Muni I have one thing to ask you.

Mrigari O you can take whatever animal you want. Or I can even give you a deer or tiger skin if you like.

Narada Muni No! No! I don't want any skins. I only want one thing from you in charity. I beg you that from this day on you will kill animals completely and not leave them in this half-dead condition.

Mrigari
(amazed) My dear Sir, what are you asking me? What is wrong with leaving animals half-dead. Will you please explain this to me?

Narada Muni My dear hunter your business is killing animals. That is a slight offence on your part. But when you give them unnecessary pain by leaving them

half-dead, you are committing great sins. According to the laws of nature all these animals will kill you one after the other in your next life and life after life.

Narrator

In this way the great sage Narada Muni convinced Mrigari that he was performing sinful activities.

Mrigari
(looking worried)

Now I realise I have been engaged in forbidden activities. I have been taught this business from my very childhood. How can I get rid of the reactions of my sinful life? Now I surrender to you.

Narrator

Mrigari fell down at Narada Muni's lotus feet and accepted him as his spiritual master.

Narada Muni
(in a gentle voice)

Mrigari, carefully listen to my instructions and you shall be relieved of your past sinful reactions.

Mrigari

My dear sir, I shall do whatever you say.

Narada Muni

First of all break your bow. After that I shall tell you what is to be done.

Mrigari (shock)

Break my bow? If I break my bow how shall I live.

Narada Muni

Do not worry. I shall supply all your food every day.

Narrator Narada Muni wanted to teach the hunter that it is not our income which is the source of our maintenance. Actually, we are all maintained by the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Mrigari Oh great sage, O spiritual master, please accept me as your humble disciple. See I have broken my bow and now I surrender myself at your lotus feet.

Narrator Narada Muni praises Mrigari and embraces him.

Narada Muni Now please follow these instructions for your spiritual advancement. Return home and distribute all your riches to the pure brahmanas. Then you and your wife should leave home taking one set of clothes with you. Go to the river and make a small cottage. In front of the cottage grow a tulasi plant on a raised platform. Serve the tulasi plant very carefully and continuously chant - Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna,
Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare,
Hare Rama, Hare Rama,
Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

Every day I shall send sufficient food for both of you. You can take as much food as you want.

Narrator Then Narada Muni brought to consciousness all the half-killed animals. The animals got up and swiftly ran away.

Mrigari
(wonderstruck) Oh my spiritual master, you are the saviour of all living entities. Please accept my humble obeisances. I will try to follow all your divine instructions.

Narrator Narada Muni went to his destination. Mrigari returned home and tried to follow his spiritual master's instructions.

SCENE II

(A little cottage in the middle of the forest.
Mrigari and his wife are dressed in simple clothes.
They are busy worshiping tulasi and chanting. Some villagers enter.)



Villager 1 We are so happy that you have given up hunting.

Villager 2 We have brought some fresh fruits for you.

A village lady Please accept these vegetables.

Mrigari Thank you very much. We will just accept a little because we have enough for today.

Narrator The news that Mrigari had become a devotee

spread all over the village. Everyday villagers came with gifts. Some times there was enough food for ten or twenty people. But the hunter and his wife accepted only as much as they could eat. In this way the days passed by. One day Narada Muni and his friend Parvata Muni entered the forest.

Narada Muni

Come let us visit my disciple who was a hunter.

Narrator

The sages approach the cottage. Mrigari sees them from a distance. He begins to run towards his spiritual master. But he seems to run in a very strange way. He goes side to side and reaches Narada Muni after quite some time.

Mrigari

Please accept my humble obeisances. Also please forgive my strange behaviour. Actually there were so many ants on the path and I was trying my best not to step on even one of them.

Narada Muni

Oh my dear hunter, your behaviour is not astonishing. By your devotional service you have developed many good qualities like non-violence and you do not want to give pain to others.

Narrator

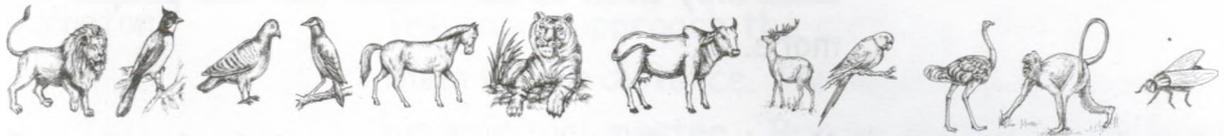
The hunter spread out a straw mat for the sages to sit on. He then fetched water and washed their feet. Then both husband and wife drank that water and sprinkled it on their heads. Then the hunter started to chant the Hare Krishna mahamantra with great love and devotion.



Activity Time

Discussion:

Mrigari was very wicked, he killed animals. We may not kill animals but if we look around there are so many ways in which we human beings behave cruelly towards animals. Discuss.



Good association and bad association

Once upon a time a shopkeeper was selling parrots. There were two parrot brothers. One was sold to a butcher and the other to a king. There was a sadhu who was observing this.

At a later time the sadhu was passing by the butcher's shop. And he heard the parrot shouting. "Catch him. Kill him. You rascal..." The sadhu immediately plugged his fingers into his ears and fled from that place.

In the afternoon he went to the king's palace and he saw the brother of the butcher's parrot. He welcomed the sadhu with sweet words, "O sage! Welcome to our palace. Great souls like you visit people like us to enlighten us about God. Please take your seat. The king will arrive in a few minutes." The sadhu was surprised, he asked the parrot. "How is it that your brother is speaking such harsh words: and you are speaking such sweet words: and you are speaking such sweet words although both of you are brothers?"

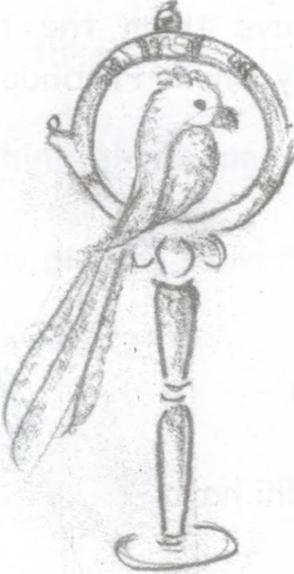
The parrot replied with Sanskrit poetry:

"gau aashanena vakyam shrunoti aham ca rajan vacanam muneenam
nasti asya dosho na ca mad guno va samsarga ja dosha guna bhavanti"

"My brother is hearing the words of a cow eater, whereas I am hearing the words of the great saintly persons visiting the court of my king. My brother has no fault nor do I have any special quality in me. One receives bad or good qualities by virtue of one's association."

If the parrots could talk and tell us their story what would they say?

King's Parrot



Butcher's Parrot

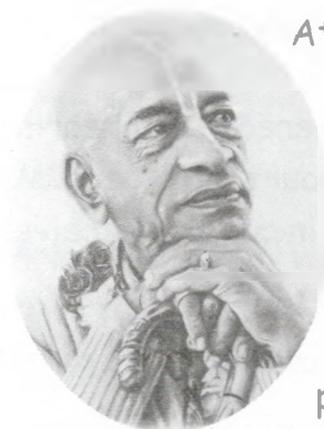


There is a saying :

Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are.

What do you think this means?

HIPPIES TO HAPPIES



At the age of seventy, Shрила Prabhupada went to America to preach about the glories of chanting the holy name. He followed the order of his spiritual master. He had no money and no friends but complete faith in the Lord's Holy Name.

He saw that America was a rich country, but many people were unhappy. Some of them had rejected society and were trying to find happiness in drugs and other forms of intoxication. These people were called hippies. Shрила Prabhupada taught them how to chant. Gradually they gave up all their bad habits and became devotees. Chanting gave them the true happiness that they were looking for. In this way Shрила Prabhupada converted many hippies to 'happies'.



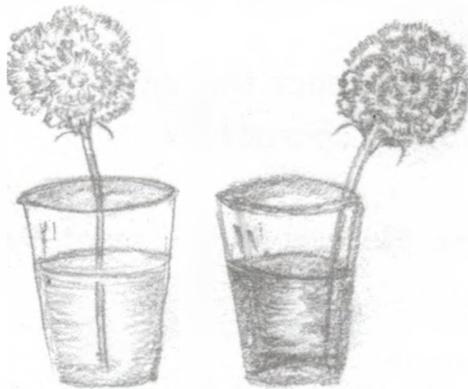
'Sadhu Sangha' 'Sadhu-Sanga'
Sarva Shastre Kaya
Lava Matra Sadhu-Sange, Sarva-Siddhi haya



It is said in all the holy scriptures that by even a moment's association with a pure devotee, one can attain all success.

You become like those you associate with.

An experiment :



Take two glasses one with blue water (you can use ink or food colour) and one with red water.

Now take two white flowers and dip them into the glasses as shown.

Within a short time you will have two coloured flowers.

What did you learn from this experiment?

An exciting class project

Make colourful masks and enact the play of Mrigari.
You will need the following characters.

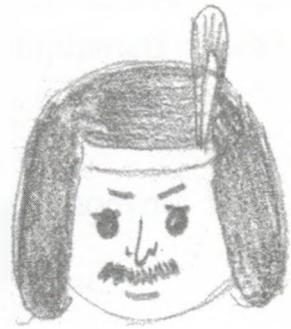
Mrigari, Mrigari's wife, Narada Muni, Parvat Muni, animals like rabbit, deer and so on.

Use scraps of coloured paper, brown paper packets, newspapers, ribbons, wool, feathers and so on.

A few ideas are given below. Use your imagination to make attractive and creative masks. Remember to make holes for the eyes. You may add more dialogues to the drama if you wish.



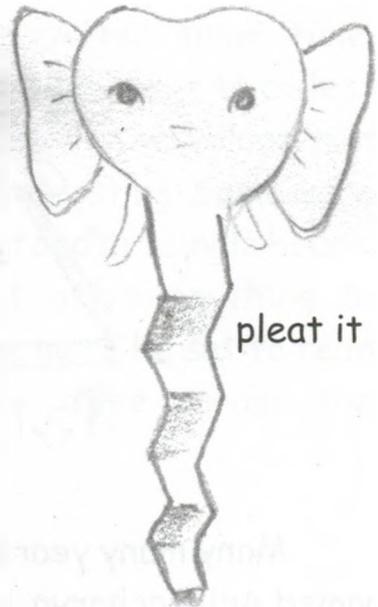
Wool



streamers

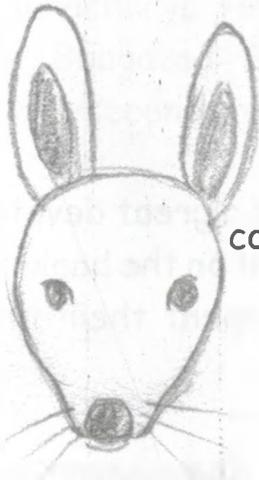


rope

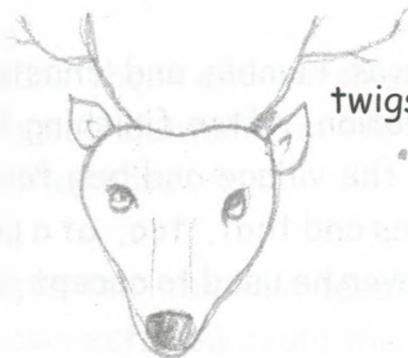


pleat it

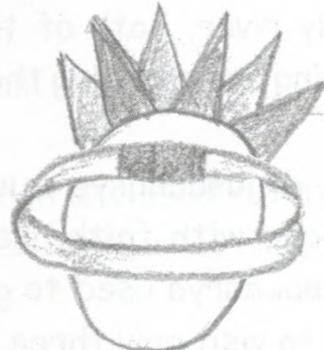
coloured paper



cotton

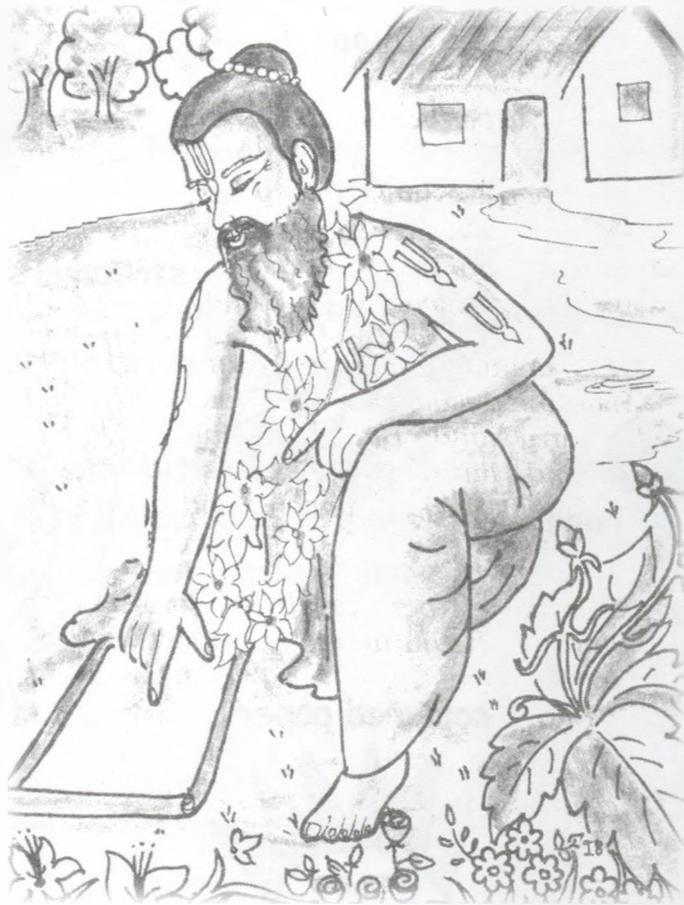


twigs



cut a band to fit your head
stick the ends
stick the mask

5 Arjunacharya



Many many years ago, in South India, there lived a great devotee named Arjunacharya. He lived with his wife in a little hut on the banks of a holy river. Both of them lived a simple life. They spent their time hearing and chanting the glories of the Lord.

Arjunacharya's wife was humble and chaste. She served her husband with faith and devotion. After finishing his morning duties, Arjunacharya used to go to the village and beg for alms. As a rule he used to visit only three houses and that, too, at a particular time so as not to disturb anyone. Moreover he used to accept just enough alms for himself and his wife to live.

Arjunacharya's wife was very satisfied with whatever her husband brought from the village. She never complained about anything.

Arjunacharya was writing a commentary on Bhagavad Gita. Everyday he spent hours reading and writing.

One day, he was so absorbed in reading that he didn't realize that hours had passed by. When Arjunacharya's wife came back from the river after washing clothes, she saw that her husband was so engrossed in writing that he had not gone out for madhukari that day.

There was nothing to eat in the house. After some time, Arjunacharya got up and said that he was going to the village to collect alms. By now it was late afternoon and everyone in the village had finished their midday meal. Some of the ladies were resting. Some were doing other household chores. There was no spare food in a single house. The ladies felt very sad that they could not offer anything to Arjunacharya. He went home empty handed. Once more he sat to read the Bhagavad Gita. In the ninth chapter he came across the twentysecond shloka which says ,

ananyas chinta yanto mam
ye janah paryupasate
tesham nitya bhilyuktanam
yoga - kshemam vahamy aham

This shloka means 'those who worship Me with exclusive devotion, meditating on My transcendental form - to them I carry what they lack and I preserve what they have.'

Arjunacharya started thinking deeply about these words and did not find them to be correct. How could the Lord say, 'vahamy aham' I

personally carry ? All of a sudden Arjunacharya took his pen and scratched the line 'yoga kshemam vahamy aham'. Then he told his wife that he was going to the river for a bath.

Arjunacharya's wife started sweeping and doing other household chores. There were no ingredients for cooking, so she could not do any cooking. She did not mind fasting for a day but she was worried about her husband.

Suddenly there was a knock on the door. She opened the door and saw two beautiful young boys standing there. One had a glowing white complexion and was dressed in brilliant blue. The other was a little shorter. His complexion was deep blue and He wore golden yellow garments. Both of them had beautiful lotus-like eyes and were smiling sweetly. They were carrying heavy baskets tied on a long stick.

"Dear mother, our spiritual master has sent these things for you." They put down the baskets which were loaded with fresh vegetables, juicy fruits, pots of milk, curds, butter and a variety of grains. "My dear children, who is your spiritual master and why had he sent all this? Why are you carrying such a heavy load?", she asked. They replied, "Our spiritual master is Arjunacharya. He has sent all these foodstuffs for you."

Arjunacharya's wife could not believe her ears. "My husband is your spiritual master! He never mentioned that he had any disciples. From where did you get all these foodstuffs?"

"O mother, where shall we keep all these baskets?", asked the boys with a charming smile. As the boys turned to pick up the baskets, Arjunacharya's wife was shocked to see the marks on their backs. There were marks of bruises as if someone had mercilessly beaten them.

"O poor boys, kindly tell me who has beaten you so cruelly?" "Your husband. He makes us work very hard and if we don't listen to him he beats us." Arjunacharya's wife was shocked. She could not believe her ears. She was wondering how her husband could behave in such a cruel way.

"O my poor children, please sit. I will apply some sandalwood paste on your backs to relieve you of the pain." She gently rubbed their backs with the paste. "O mother, please let us go. If Arjunacharya comes back he will be angry", saying this the boys ran away.

After they left, Arjunacharya's wife sat down as if in a trance. She could not forget the vision of those boys even for a moment. She felt as if they had captured her heart. Then she got up and started cooking for her husband.

When Arjunacharya returned home, he could get the delicious aroma of many dishes. He could not understand what was happening.

Arjunacharya's wife was standing at the door with a serious expression. "Oh my dear husband, how could you be so cruel as to beat little children? Why did you make your disciples carry such a heavy load?" Arjunacharya became even more confused. "Which disciples? Which children? Whom did I beat? Kindly tell me what you are talking about."

Arjunacharya's wife told him the whole story. Arjunacharya listened carefully and suddenly realized the truth. He ran inside where his Bhagavad Gita was lying and picked it up. He opened the page he had been reading in the morning. He saw that the pen marks on the shloka had gone! He embraced the Bhagavad Gita in his arms and started weeping bitterly.

"Oh my Lord, what have I done? I doubted Your words.

Yogakshemam vahay aham! It is true! You do come personally to save Your devotees. Oh! Please forgive me, please forgive me." He fell on his knees sobbing bitterly. His wife came to him and gently asked him what had happened.

Arjunacharya explained, "Oh my dear wife, you are so fortunate! Their Lordships Krishna and Balarama came here and you saw Them face to face. You are so fortunate!"

Arjunacharya's wife exclaimed, "Those charming boys were Krishna and Balarama ! Oh! How stone hearted am I! I could not recognize Them!" She started weeping.

Arjunacharya consoled her, "My dear wife, now I have understood that there is no difference between Lord Krishna and the Bhagavad Gita. The Lord takes care of His devotees. He personally carries what they have and provides what they lack. Come, let us chant and sing together."





Activity Time

Discussion:

Teacher will show you an instruction manual.

When we buy a television, washing machine or any other gadget, we get an instruction manual. This instruction manual is prepared by the manufacturers and tells us how to use the gadget properly.

Similarly, Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead and creator of the whole universe. He has given us the Bhagavad Gita.

Lord Krishna spoke the Bhagavad Gita 5000 years ago to Arjuna in the middle of a battlefield in Kurukshetra. In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna gives many instructions to Arjuna. Actually the Bhagavad Gita is for all of us and tells us how to live our lives in the best possible way.

The Bhagavad Gita is famous all over the world and has been translated in many languages.

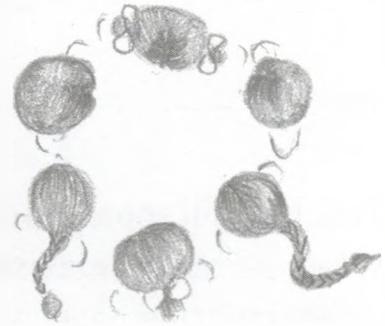
Teacher will show you the Bhagavad Gita.

How many chapters are there?

How many shlokas are there?

Pass it on

All of you sit in a circle. The teacher will whisper something in one ear of the child very softly. That child will very softly repeat the message to the child sitting next to him. In this way, the message passes round the whole circle. The child who receives the message last will say it loudly.



- * What was the original message?
- * What was the message you received at the end?
- * Are they different?
- * How do you think the message changed?

The Bhagavad Gita is not an ordinary book. The pure knowledge of the Bhagavad Gita has been handed down from Guru to disciple. The spiritual master gives the knowledge to his disciples as he has heard from his own spiritual master and the disciple repeats the knowledge just as he has heard it.

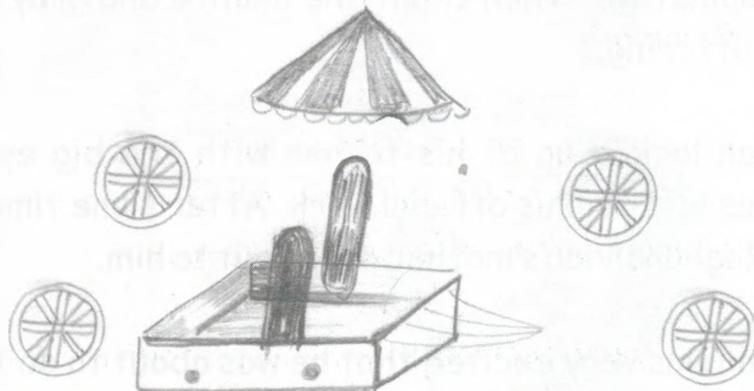
Krishna's message is perfect and complete. Therefore, no one needs to add or subtract anything from it.

The Bhagavad Gita compiled in disciplic succession by Shrila Prabhupada is called "Bhagavad Gita As it is". Why?



Krishna the Supreme Charioteer

- Let's make a chariot
- Take an empty box and cover it with silver or gold paper
- Take 2 candy sticks and attach to the sides of the match-box
- Cut a small circle of chart paper
- Colour it brightly
- Cut the circle upto the centre.
- Fold the circle and stick the edges together to form a cone.
- Put the cone on the top of the candy sticks to form the canopy of the chariot
- Cut four small circles of chart paper. These are the wheels of the chariot.
- Colour them and stick them on the sides of the chariot
You will find the pictures of Krishna, Arjuna and the horses on the coloured page.
- Cut them out and fix them to the chariot.
- Place the chariot on a piece of cardboard.
- This chariot is remind you of the love of Krishna for His devotees.



6 Raghunandan

Not far from Navadvipa, is a small beautiful village named Shrikhanda. The people of the village of Shrikhanda are very kind and loving. Five hundred years ago Mukunda das, a sincere devotee, lived here with his family.. In the heart of this village there was a temple of Gopinath, the worshipable deity of Mukunda das.

Mukunda das was a physician in the king's court. He loved Gopinath and offered Him all the service he could. Everyday he offered rajbhog to the Lord, the Lord's afternoon meal.

One morning it so happened that the king called upon Mukunda das to go somewhere.

Mukunda first went home and asked for Raghunandan his five year old son. Raghunandan ran up to his father. Mukunda das said, "Raghunandan I have to leave the village for some time. You must do Gopinath's raj bhoj offering.

"But I don't know how to do the offering".

"Your mother will cook the bhoga and give you the offering plate. All you have to do is take the offering from your mother and place it in front of Gopinathji. Then chant the mantra and pray to Gopinath to accept the offering."

Raghunandan looked up at his father with the big eyes and nodded. Mukunda das left for his official work. After some time the bhoga was ready and Raghunandan's mother called out to him.

Raghunandan was very excited that he was about to do the offering for

the very first time. He carefully carried the big plate walking slowly towards the temple. The noon sun shone brightly.

Ragunandan unlocked and entered the temple room. There stood Lord Gopinath, flute in hand, smiling sweetly, dressed in yellow silken garments, scented flowers decorated the Lord.

Ragunandan placed the plate in front of Gopinath. He sprinkled holy water on his palm as he has seen his father do. Bell in hand, he closed his eye and chanted the mantra. He did everything just as his father had said. He opened his eyes ever so slightly to see if Gopinath had eaten. The plate was as it was before (full). He closed his eyes to give Gopinath more time to eat. Sitting there he waited for the lord to accept the offering. Then he slowly opened his eyes. The plate was as it was before (full).



"Gopinath O Gopinath why aren't you eating? Please eat My father will be angry with me." Big tears welled up in his eye and fell down his chubby cheeks. "Gopinath please eat." He looked up at Gopinath. "Why won't you eat?"

Lord Gopinath spoke "Ragunandan I have eaten."

Raghunandan cried, "But everything is still over here."

"I just glance at the bhoga and it is offered. I can do everything with all my senses."

"I don't understand. All I know is that the food is still here". He wept and wept, pleading to Gopinath to eat.

Gopinath seeking his love said, "All right, Raghunandan I will eat as you want me to eat".

Then a very amazing thing happened. Gopinath with His lotus hand ate everything what was there on the plate. Raghunandan was overjoyed that the offering had been accepted. He washed the Lord's hands and ran back to his mother with the empty plate.

"Raghunandan where is the prasad?"

"Mother, what prasad? I did the offering and Gopinath ate it all." Puzzled, his mother didn't say anything. Meanwhile Mukunda das returned.

"I have had a very busy day today. Bring me Gopinathji's prasad wife."

"What prasad? Raghunandan says that Gopinath ate all. I think Raghunandan must have eaten all the prasad."

Mukunda das knew that his son was very special. He asked Raghunandan to relate everything that had happened .Then he said to his son," Can you make another offering to the Lord? Let me see how you offer these ladoos".

Raghunandan joyfully ran to the temple. This time Mukunda das hid behind the curtain to watch. Raghunandan said the mantra but nothing happened, he started to cry and begged Gopinath to eat.



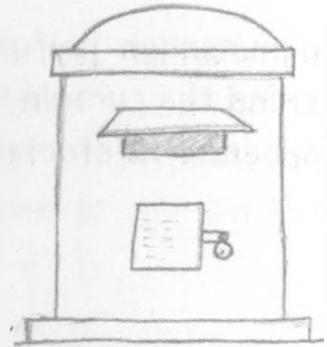
Finally Gopinath took the ladoo from the plate and ate it . Mukunda das fell to his knees bowing to the Lord. With tears in his eyes, he embraced his little son and said, "Indeed you are my father from you I have today learnt how to be a true devotee. All glories to Lord Gopinath and His devotees!"



Activity Time

Discussion:

Draw and colour a postbox. Your post box should look exactly like the real one. You could visit the local post office to see what a post box really looks like.



Now are you ready to answer some questions?

If you put a letter in this post box, where would it go? Why?

A real post box is authorised by the government and connected to the post office. Similarly there is a difference between a deity of the Lord and an idol of the Lord.

A deity of the Lord is the actual form of the Lord as described in the Scriptures. The deity may be made of wood, stone, metal, clay or any other material mentioned in the scriptures.

An idol is a form of the Lord made from imagination. An idol can be used only as a decorative show piece.

Whereas the deity, being the actual form of the Lord, accepts our prayers or anything that is offered to Him.



Krishna has many names according to His different forms, pastimes, qualities and opulences. Krishna's deities are nondifferent from Krishna Himself. Therefore They too, have names representing the Lord, pastimes, qualities and so on.

Match the following:

KUNJABIHARI	Member of the Yadu dynasty
GOPINATH	The all attractive
RASABIHARI	The beautiful blue boy
JAGANNATH	The killer of the Mura demon
SHYAMASUNDAR	The Lord of the Universe
GIRIDHARI	Husband of the Goddess of fortune
MURARI	One who steals the hearts of His devotees
KRISHNA	One who gives pleasure to the cows
GOVIND	The Lord of the gopis
HARI	One who plays in the groves of Vraja
YADAVA	One whose stomach is bound by ropes
DAMODAR	One who relishes different mellows with His devotees
MADHAV	The lifter of the Goverdhana hill

Can you spot the names of the deities?

S	H	Y	A	M	A	S	U	N	D	A	R
K	U	A	H	R	A	D	O	M	A	D	U
A	M	H	T	A	N	I	P	O	G	O	P
L	U	V	A	V	A	V	A	H	D	A	M
A	K	U	N	J	A	B	I	H	A	R	I
C	U	A	A	A	A	I	U	A	M	A	R
H	N	V	H	G	A	H	C	A	A	D	A
A	D	A	D	A	M	A	N	N	S	H	H
N	A	V	A	N	R	O	A	H	A	A	D
D	A	A	R	N	H	A	R	S	R	R	I
J	Y	D	H	A	G	O	V	I	N	D	R
I	H	A	R	T	M	M	U	R	A	R	I
S	S	Y	N	H	S	I	R	K	R	I	G
O	G	I	R	A	H	I	V	A	S	A	R



Make a bamboo tray for the Lord.

Take sheets of newspaper.

Cut out rectangles of approximately 10" X 8".

Take one rectangle and apply glue on it. Keep a small border without glue and place a pencil on it.

Holding the pencil roll the newspaper tightly.

Remove the pencil.

Make 18 rolls in the same way.

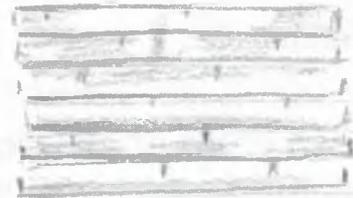
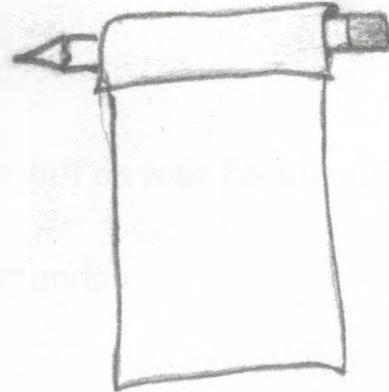
Place 10 rolls next to each other and stick them together to form the base of the tray.

Stick two rolls on each side to form the sides of the tray. You may have to cut them if they are too long.

Apply a thick coat of poster paint in different shades of yellow and brown.

You can apply a coat of transparent nail polish for a glossy effect.

Your bamboo tray is ready.



7 Gopichandan



Scene - 1

(A group of children are walking along. They meet Shyamsundari)

Children

Mataji, where are you going?

Shyamsundari

I am going to the temple.

Children

What are you going to do there?

Shyamsundari

We go there to see the beautiful deity of the Lord, hear His glories and chant His names. We learn a lot in the temple. We dance and sing for the pleasure of the Lord. We also eat delicious Krishna Prasad.

One child You must be enjoying yourself in the temple.

Shyamsundari Yes. Would you like to come to the temple with me, one day?

Children Yes! Yes! We would love to come.

One child Mataji, what do you put on your forehead?

Shyamsundari This is called Gopi chandan.

Children Gopi chandan?

Shyamsundari Yes. Come, I will tell you a story which took place thousands of years ago. Please listen carefully.

(They all sit around Shyam Sundari as she starts telling the story)

Shyamsundari Have you heard of the great sage Narada Muni? The Supreme Personality of Godhead has granted him a boon that he can travel all over the universe according to his desire.

(Narada Muni enters the stage. Music of a Veena is heard.)

Narada Muni Narayana, Narayana, Narayana. The Lord's name is so sweet. I have traveled all over the universe and met so many devotees. All of them are trying to please the Lord in different ways. Yet I would like to find out

who is pleasing the Lord the most.

Shyamsundari

Narada Muni was walking about pondering over this question for a long time.

(Narada Muni walks about, talking to himself)

Narada Muni

This question is beyond my understanding. I think I shall find out from the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself.

(Narada Muni exits)

Scene - 2

(Krishna enters)

Krishna

Oh! Oh! My head is aching.

(Narada Muni enters and bows down)

Narada Muni

Dear Lord, is there something wrong? Are You not feeling well?

Krishna

My dear Narada Muni, My head is aching badly. Ow!

Narada Muni

My dear Lord, kindly allow me to massage Your lotus head.

Krishna

No! No! I've tried everything. Nothing seems to work.

Narada Muni

Then please Lord, tell me how this pain can be relieved.

Krishna
(smiling)

If any of My devotees gives Me the dust of their lotus feet and if I apply that dust to My head, then I will get relief from My headache.

Narada Muni

Dust of devotees' feet on the forehead of the Supreme Personality of Godhead! Narayana! Narayana! Any devotee who dares to do such a thing will go straight to the hellish planets. Which devotee would dare to do such a thing? Oh Lord! Is there no other way?

Krishna

No. My dear Narada Muni, there is no other remedy for My headache.

Narada Muni
(sadly)

Alright. As You desire. I will try my best.

(Narada Muni starts to leave, but he turns back)

Narada Muni

Oh! Lord, actually I had an important question which I.....

Krishna

Not now! Narada Muni, please let Me be relieved from this headache, then I will surely answer all your questions.

Narada Muni

Narayan! Narayan!

(Narada Muni exits)

Shyamsundari

Narada Muni set off to find a devotee who

was ready to give the dust of his feet to apply to the lotus head of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. His heart was full of anxiety. Where would he be able to find such a devotee? As he was traveling up and down he came across a group of learned brahmanas who were preparing to perform a fire sacrifice....

A Brahmana

O great sage, we welcome you. What brings you here?

Narada Muni

I have come on a special mission. Our dear Lord Shri Krishna has a terrible headache.

All Brahmanas
(surprised)

The Lord has a headache?

Narada Muni

Yes. And the only way it can be cured is if someone gives the dust of his feet to the Lord.

All Brahmanas

What? Dust of their feet? This will be a big offence. How can we do such a thing? Impossible!

Narada Muni
(sadly)

Narayana! Narayana! I think I'll go to the Himalayas and ask the yogis who are performing austerities there.

(Curtain closes)

Scene - 3

(The Himalayas; yogis in various yogic postures)

Shyam Sundari

Narada Muni went to the Himalayas and saw a group of yogis. Some were standing on one leg, others were on their heads. They were happy to see Narada Muni.

Yogis

O great sage. Welcome. Please be seated. How can we serve you?

Narada Muni

Narayana! Narayana! You are subjecting your bodies to such difficulties for spiritual progress. I am sure you will be able to give me what I want.

Yogis

Please tell us great sage. We are ready to help you.

Narada Muni

The Lord has a headache and the dust of the lotus feet of His devotees is the only remedy.

Yogis

What! All our great austerities will be in vain. How can we even think of doing such a thing.

Narada Muni

Narayana! Narayana! O where shall I go now?

(He exits)

Shyam Sundari

Narada Muni was feeling quite disappointed. He decided to approach the Lord's loving devotees, the Pandavas.

(The Pandavas enter and bow down when Narada Muni comes)

Narada Muni

O you are the five famous brothers, Yudhisthira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadev. You are so dear to the Lord. You wouldn't ever like Him to suffer in any way.

Pandavas

O Narada Muni, what are you saying? The Lord suffering!

Narada Muni

Yes. The Lord has a headache.

Pandavas

How can we help? What is the remedy for His headache? Do we have to climb some mountains to get herbs? Or maybe go into the thick forests? Do you want us to kill deer and collect musk?

Narada Muni

No! No! No! You don't have to risk your lives or do anything dangerous. The cure for the headache is quite simple. He wants the dust of the lotus feet of His devotees. Pandavas (shocked) Dust of the lotus feet of His devotees! O Great Sage, Krishna is our friend. But He is also the Supreme Personality of Godhead. How can we commit such an offence?

Narada Muni

Narayana! Narayana! I will now go to Dwaraka

(Narada Muni exits)

Scene - 4

Shyam Sundari

Narada Muni went to the beautiful city of Dwaraka. Krishna has sixteen thousand one hundred and eight palaces made of gold and silver and studded with diamonds. Krishna's sixteen thousand one hundred and eight queens lived in these palaces. They were all great devotees of the Lord.

(Narada Muni enters.

Many queens came forward to bow to Him.

Narada Muni tells them the story of the Lord's headache and the remedy)

Queens

Impossible! He is our beloved husband, our Lord and master. Our duty is to serve Him. We won't do such a thing.

A Queen

I have a secret formula given by the royal doctor.

Another Queen

I have rare and precious herbs from the Himalayas....

Narada Muni

Narayana! Narayana!

(He exits)

Shyam Sundari

By this time Narada Muni was really feeling sad. He was wondering where to go.

Narada Muni

Narayana! Narayana! Yes. I'll go to

Gopis A headache!!

Narada Muni And the only remedy is

Gopis Yes tell us quickly. We are ready to do anything.

Narada Muni I don't know if you ...

Gopis O great sage. Why are you hesitating?

Narada Muni Krishna wants the dust of the lotus feet of His devotees. If He applies it on His forehead, He will be relieved of the pain.

Gopis Will such a simple thing relieve Him? Come on let's start collecting the dust immediately.

(All the Gopis start rubbing their feet in the ground and collect the dust in pots)

Narada Muni (astonished) But my dear Gopis are you not scared of committing this grave offence? This may even send you to the hellish planets to suffer for many many lifetimes.

Gopis (laughing) My dear Narada Muni, if we can relieve Krishna's headache for even one instant, we are ready to suffer in hell for millions of life times

Narada Muni Narayana! Narayana! Now I have understood the greatness of the love of these Gopis.

Truly, we should all aspire to follow their footsteps.

(Curtain closes)

Scene - 6

(Scene of Krishna's palace. Krishna is sitting on His throne groaning in pain. Narada Muni enters with a pot in his hand)

Narada Muni

Narayana! Narayana! My dear Lord, I have brought what You asked for.

(Krishna takes the pot, applies the dust and expresses His relief)

Krishna

Ah! Now I am feeling absolutely fine. Narada Muni, I think you wanted to ask Me a question.

Narada Muni
(Bowing down)

My dear Lord, by Your infinite mercy You have answered all my questions. Narayana! Narayana!





Activity Time

Discussion:

The Gopis were always thinking of Krishna. They discussed His pastimes and reminded each other about Him. They never forgot Krishna even for a moment. We, too can make people think about Krishna. How? By wearing a tilaka on our forehead.

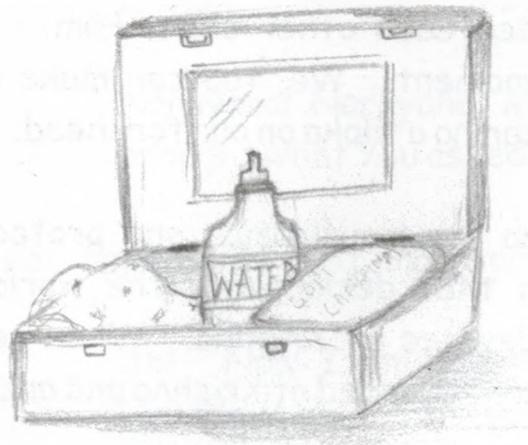
Devotees apply tilaka for purification and protection. Also it is a beautiful decoration that declares to the world that the person wearing tilaka is a devotee of Krishna. When people see devotees wearing tilaka, they are reminded of Krishna and are thus purified.

Vaishnavas generally apply a paste of Gopichandan. Tilaka should be applied carefully and neatly. Special mantras are chanted while applying tilaka on the forehead and other parts of the body.

In this tilaka, write down all the ways in which we can remember Krishna and remind others about Him.



Make a tilaka box



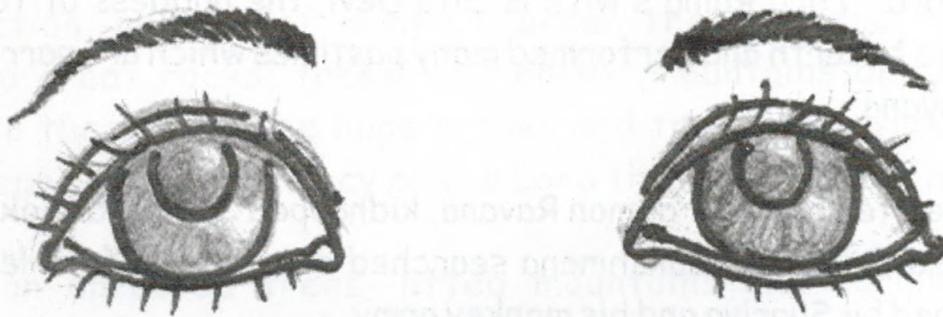
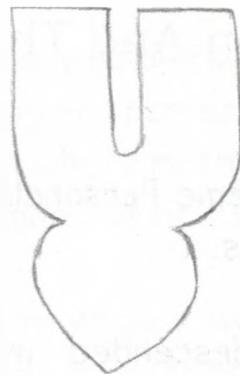
Take a small box.

Stick a mirror on the inside of the lid.

In the box keep a little bottle of water,

a napkin and a stick

or paste of gopichandan.



Decorate Krishna's eyes with gopi dots.

8 Hanuman And The Squirrel

We all know that the Supreme Personality of Godhead descends to earth to protect His devotees.

Many years ago the Lord descended in the Raghu dynasty as Lord Ramchandra. Lord Rama's wife is Sita Devi, the goddess of fortune. They came to earth and performed many pastimes which are narrated in the Ramayana.

The wicked ten headed demon Ravana, kidnapped Sita and took her to Shri Lanka. Rama and Lakshmana searched everywhere for Her. They were helped by Sugriva and his monkey army.



The monkey army had many, many soldiers. Hanuman was the strongest of all. He jumped a hundred yojanas across the ocean. He went into the palace of Ravana and found out where mother Sita was hidden. Ravana's soldiers tried to catch Hanuman but he escaped after setting fire to Lanka.

Finally Lord Rama decided to wage a war against Ravana. A huge bridge was to be built across the ocean. Under Lord Rama's instruction, millions of monkeys began the construction. They tore up great rocks, trees, and entire mountains and brought them to the shore. The huge stones and trees were thrown into the ocean and by the mercy of the Lord they started to float.

Hanuman uprooted trees, lifted mountains and carried large boulders. He was working very hard to please Lord Rama. As he was working. He came across a tiny squirrel who was kicking dust into the ocean. The little squirrel was trying it's best to help in building the bridge. The squirrel too, wanted, to serve Lord Rama. Seeing the squirrel's efforts, Hanuman began laughing and said, "We are carrying big boulders, please move aside or you will get hurt."

Unknown to them Lord Rama had heard this entire conversation. He stepped forward smiling and with a serious voice He addressed Hanuman "My dear Hanuman why are you saying this? Both, you and the squirrel are serving Me. You are lifting mountain peaks and she is moving small grains of sand. According to your capacity both of you are doing your best. I therefore consider your service and the squirrel's service to be equal. Both of you are equally dear to Me.

This incident shows that the Lord sees our efforts and not just the results of our activities. Even the smallest service done sincerely is pleasing to Him.



Activity Time

Discussion:



I never remember long shlokas so I only say some small prayers . Is it alright?



Please don't sing next to me. You sing off tune, it will displease Krishna.



Teacher I'm not going to draw Krishna's birthday card. I don't know how to draw.

Have a discussion. How can we really please Krishna?
Have any of you felt like these children?



Once Shрила Prabhupada was sitting in his room in a temple in America. He was surrounded by journalists and other people who were asking him questions.

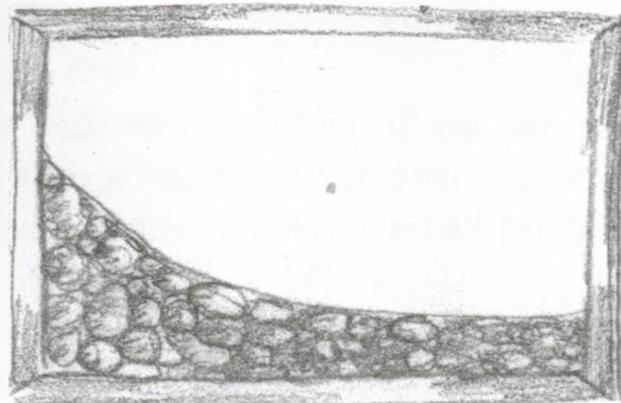
One learned scholar was arguing a lot. Shрила Prabhupada asked him who is God. The scholar tried to answer that question but he seemed very unsure. At that time little Saraswati came running into the room. Shрила Prabhupada said "come here Saraswati, answer this question, "Who is the Supreme Personality of Godhead?"

'Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead' she replied. Shрила Prabhupada was pleased and gave her a cookie. You don't have to be a learned scholar to know the answer. Even a little girl like Saraswati could answer the question. She just repeated what she heard and preached.



Lord Rama built a bridge with the help of His devotees to find His beloved Sita Devi.

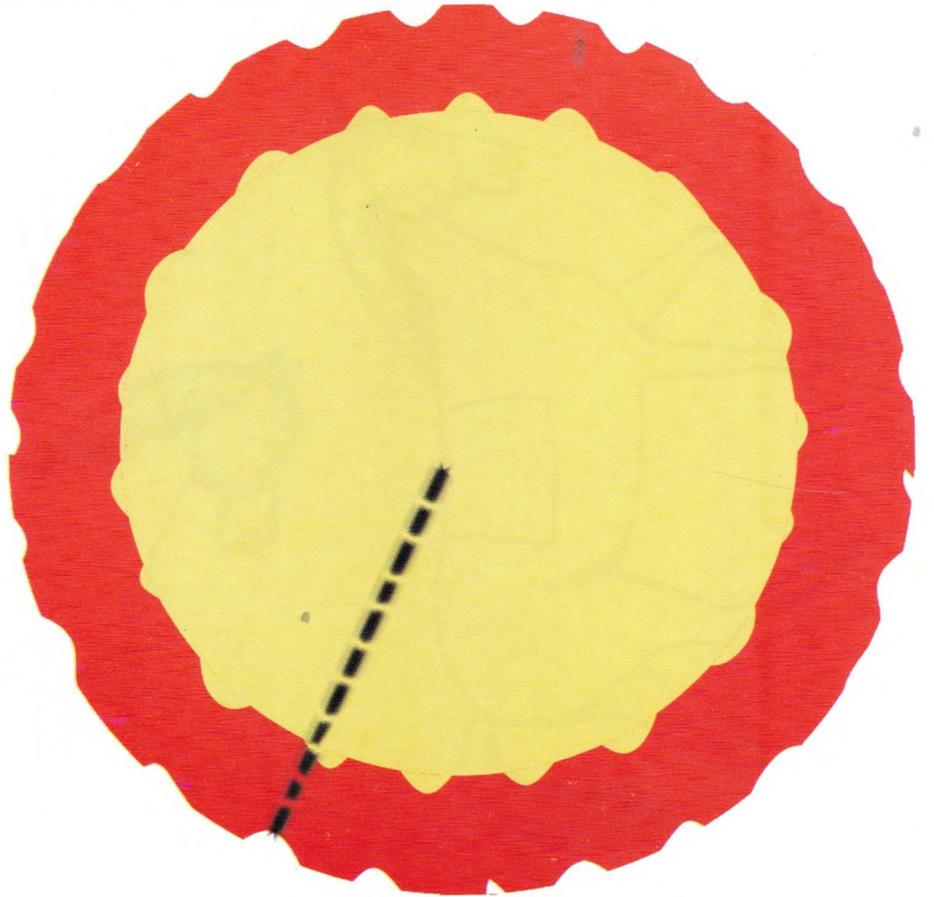
Let us build a bridge too.

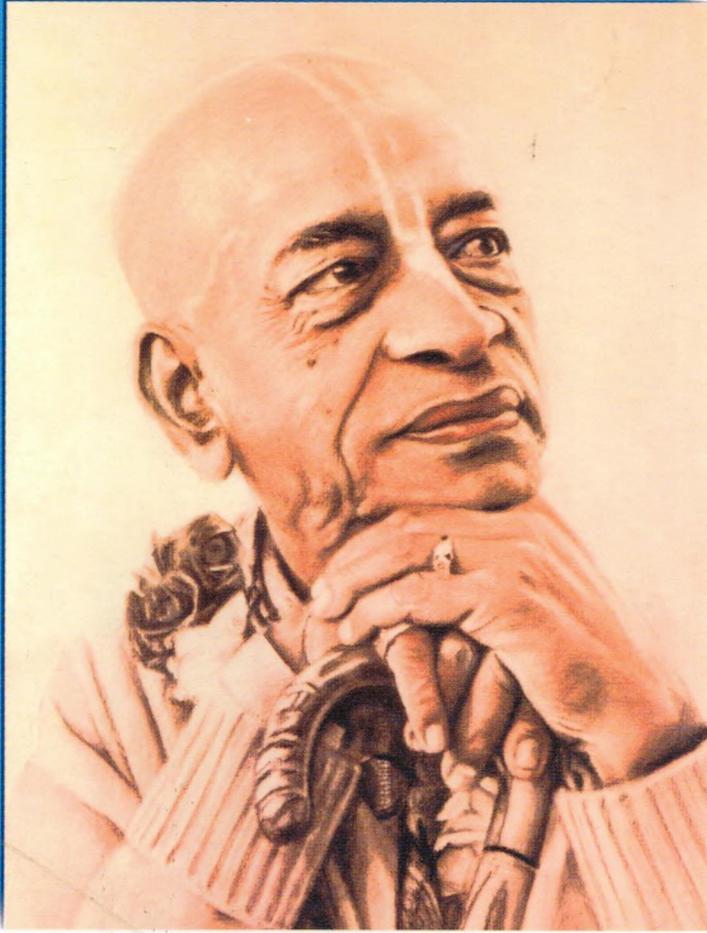


Take a piece of cardboard 12" long and 6" broad. Stick blue paper on it. At one end of the cardboard stick your own picture and at the other end stick a picture of Krishna which you will find on the coloured page.

Now take small rectangular pieces. These are the stones to form a "bridge" between yourself and Krishna. Every time you perform some devotional activity like chanting, reading, visiting the temple, you can stick one stone on the cardboard.

See for yourself how many days it takes to make your 'bridge'. Keep this picture in a place which reminds you how important it is to bridge the gap between us and Krishna.





His Divine Grace
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