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The day of Devaki's wedding arrived. To please Devaki, her father gave her many fine gifts. He gave her four hundred elephants, each with golden garlands. He also gave her many young maidservants, many chariots, and also gave many horses. Devaki's father was very happy, and so was her new husband, Vasudeva.

After the wedding, Vasudeva and Devaki were returning home on a golden chariot. Devaki's brother, Kamsa, was driving. As they passed through the streets they heard drums, conchshells, bugles, and songs. Everyone was joyful on the day of the great wedding.

Suddenly, in the sky there was a loud voice. "Kamsa, you are such a fool!" boomed the voice. "You are driving the chariot of your sister, but you do not know that the eighth child of Devaki will kill you!"

Kamsa was a great demon. He jumped out of the chariot and grabbed Devaki by the hair. He wanted to kill her with his sword.

Vasudeva began to speak very sweetly to the demon Kamsa.

"Please do not be afraid, dear Kamsa," said Vasudeva. "I do not think a child of Devaki will kill you. We do not even have eight children yet. So you need not kill your sister out of fear. If we ever have any children, I will bring them to you."

Kamsa was pleased to hear Vasudeva's promise. He let go of Devaki's hair and allowed Vasudeva to take Devaki home.

The sinful Kamsa did not know that the Supreme Lord Krsna would be Devaki's child.

QUESTIONS: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence.

- 1. Why did Devaki's father give her so many gifts?
- 2. Who was driving the chariot that Devaki and Vasudeva rode on?
- 3. What did the voice in the sky call out?
- 4. What did Kamsa do when he heard the voice?
- 5. How did Vasudeva save his wife?

## LESSON TWO; PROOF READING MARKS.

The sentence below was proofread, and the mistakes were marked with proofreading marks. Each mistake has a number over it so we can understand the changes needed to be made.

Nan da Maharajawas away taken by Varuna.

Correction 1. The spacing in between Nan and da is too big. The Cmark shows that the letters should be moved closer together.

Correction 2. There is no spacing between Maharaja and was, although there should be. The / between the words shows that a space should be there.

Correction 3. The order of the two words, away and taken is backwards. The mark shows that the order of the words should be turned around.

#### EXERCISES.

- A. The sentences below have been proofread and the marks showing the mistakes have been added. Rewrite each sentence neatly and correctly in your notebook.
- 1. Vrn da ban is very beautiful place
- 2. Wud youlide to therego?
- 3. the lakes of Vrndaban ha ve greene grass a round them
- 4. flowers al ways there bloom?
- 5. Does the lakes have flowers lotuse
- 6. The sum mer season in Vrndaban as veree hot.
- 7. but drops of fromwater the waterfalls kep t People Cool.
- 8. can the cuckoos sing if tunes fife?
- 9. Bir ds and pea cocks da nce in Vrnd aban.
- 10. Vrndabam looks green and beauti fool?

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- B. Ask your teacher to give you loose sheet copies of the next two exercises. Marking the loose sheets, you should correct each sentence using proofreading marks. Then copy the sentence neatly and correctly in your notebook.
- 1. once Krs na and balaram was playing with friends there
- 2. the gows began to wander off?
- 3. Do Krsna know this .
- 4. The cows enteredthefar away forest.
- 5. A for est firebegan burning the forest
- 6. The cows afraid became.
- 7. they all began to CRY for krsna To help Them?
- 8. krsna to 1d the boys and cows to close thier ise.
- 9. Krsna saved thim byswallowing UP the forest fi re.
- 10. They opened their eyes and say that krsna saved had Them,
  - C. Using proofreading marks, correct the mistakes in the sentences below on the loose sheets that the teacher gave you. Then copy the sentences neatly and correctly in your notebook.
  - 1. Salva wasan enem y of Yadus the.
  - 2. he prayed to lord siva for a wish?
  - 3. What di salva gett?
  - 4. Salva goot am airplane.
  - 5. He then Attacked the, city, of, the Yadus.
  - 6. the airplane showered rocks on the siteee.
  - all the were people af raid.
  - 8. The armies of the yadus attacked salva.
  - 9. Salfa were veri trick.
  - 10. In the ind, Krsna, killet sulfer.

## THE BIRTH OF LORD KRSNA

The cruel demon Kamsa was always afraid of the eighth child of Devaki. Wanting to save himself from death, he put his sister and his brother-in-law, Vasudeva, in prison. Each time a child was born to them, Kamsa came and killed him.

The eighth child of Devaki was born at night. Vasudeva saw that the child was very beautiful. He had four hands, which held a conchshell, club, disc, and lotus flower. He was dressed in yellow, silk, jeweled clothes, and appeared like a bright black cloud.

Vasudeva and Devaki offered prayers to the child because they knew that He was Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Lord Krsna blessed them and then said, "I order you to take Me to Gokula and bring Me to the home of Yasoda. Leave Me there and return with Yasoda's newly born daughter." Then the Lord changed Himself to look like a normal baby.

As Vasudeva picked up the child and began to leave the prison, all the doorkeepers fell fast asleep. The prison doors opened, although they had been well locked. The night was very dark, but as soon as Vasudeva came out with Krsna, he could see everything just as if the sun were shining.

Great thunder struck in the sky. The rainfall was hard and cold. But Lord Sesa spread his great hoods over the head of Vasudeva and saved him from the rainfall. The Yamuna river was roaring with huge waves. But when Yamuna saw Vasudeva, she opened up and let him cross with baby Krsna.

At last Vasudeva got to Nanda Maharaja's house. He went into Yasoda's room and put baby Krsna down. Taking the little girl, he returned to the prison. The demon Kamsa had been tricked. Krsna would grow up happily as the son of Mother Yasoda.

QUESTIONS: Copy each question and Answer it in a full sentence.

- 1. Why was Kamsa afraid of the eighth child of Devaki?
- 2. What was Kamsa planning to do the eighth child?
- 3. When Vasudeva and Devaki first saw the eighth child, what did He look like?
- 4. Why did they offer the child prayers?
- 5. What was the order of the Lord to them?
- 6 Why didn't the rainfall bother Vasudeva?

### LESSON FOUR: NAMES AND TITLES

## Names of people begin with capital letters.

EXAMPLES: Sridama, Sudama, Adam Jenkins, Winifred Stemple, Stoka Krsna.

When dasa is written as someone's last name, it doesn't have to be capitalized.

EXAMPLE: Arjuna dasa, Bhakta dasa, Baladeva dasa. Sometimes a title is used with a person's name. When this happens, the title of the person always begins with a capital letter.

EXAMPLE: Doctor becomes Dr. President becomes Pres. Mister becomes Mr. Secretary becomes Secy. Senator becomes Sen.

#### EXERCISES

Write these names and titles correctly. After you write the name correctly, use the name in a sentence. If the title can be shortened, shorten it.

- L. President Reagan
- 2. his holiness bhakta swami
- 3. sriman haridas
- 4. Queen elizabeth
- 5. senator barry
- 6. officer Adam smoot
- 7. judge roy bond
- 8. maharaja yudhisthir
- 9. Subal
- 10. princess rukmini
- 11. rupa goswami
- 12. tom olden
  - B. Write five sentences, each with a name in it.
  - C. Write five sentences, each having a name with a title in it.
  - D. Write five sentences, each having a name with a shortened title in it.



## LESSON FIVE: MORE ON NAMES (CAPITAL INITIALS IN NAME AND LAST NAME. FIRST NAME)

A comma is used after a person's last name when it is written before the first name.

EXAMPLES: dasa, Puri; Smith, John; Edwards, Joseph.

The first letter of each part of a person's name are his initials. Initials are written as capital letters and have periods (.) after each letter.

#### EXERCISES

- A. Write down five names of children in the class. Write their last name before their first name.
- B. Write the full name, followed by INITIALS, of everyone in your family.
- C. Choose a mystery person and write down his initials. Then write three clues about the person, which can be read to the class, to help them guess the full name of the mystery person.
- D. Draw pictures of any two people you wish and write their initials under their picture. See if a friend can guess the full name of the person from the picture and the initials.



## LESSON SIX: THE BUTTER THIEF

Baby Krsna was very beautiful, as was His older brother Balarama. Both Krsna and Balarama were naughty little boys. Sometimes They crawled in the muddy clay. They would then smear clay on Their bodies and crawl onto Their mothers' laps. Sometimes They would catch the tail of a baby cow and try to stand up. When the cow would run away out of fear, Krsna and Balarama would be dragged through the mud. Seeing this made the gopis very happy.

When Krsna and Balarama began to walk, They played with Their many friends. Some mornings They would let the baby cows drink all the mother cows' milk. When the gopis came to milk the mother cows, they found no milk. The gopis had to go home with empty pots. Upon returning home, they found that Krsna and Balarama had stolen their butter and yogurt. They said to Krsna, "Why have You stolen our butter and yogurt?"

Krsna answered with a smile on His face, "Why should We steal your butter and yogurt? We have butter and yogurt at Our own house."

Once, the gopis wanted to trick Krsna. They churned butter and then hung the butter pot from the ceiling.

"Krsna won't get the butter now," thought the gopis.

When the gopis were out of the house, Krsna and Balarama came in. Krsna stood on Balarama's back and stole butter from the hanging pots. Then He fed butter, milk, and yogurt to the monkeys.

When Krsna, Balarama, and the monkeys could eat no more, Krsna called out to the gopis, "Your butter is no good. Even the monkeys won't eat it!" Krsna and Balaram broke the pots and threw them everywhere.

Questions Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence.

1. Name three things that baby Krsna liked to do?.

- 2. What did Krsna and Balarama like to steal?
- 3. Do you think it is a good idea for you to steal? Why not?
- 4. How did the gopis try to trick Krsna so He would not be able to take their yogurt?
- 5. Who did Krsna feed the butter and yogurt to?

# LESSON SEVEN: CAPITALIZE THE FIRST LETTER IN THE NAMES OF HOLIDAYS

The first letter in the name of a holiday is a capital.

#### EXAMPLES

Janmastami, Gaura-purnima, Radhastami, Ratha-yatra, Christmas

#### EXERCISES

- A. Correct each sentence below by adding capital letters and commas where they are needed.
- 1. Is janmastami on September 15 next year?
- 2. Who came to the gaura purnima festival on march 15 1981?
- 3. Is labour day on september 3?
- 4. the holiday called thanksgiving is in november.
- 5. the govardhana puja festival in Vrindaban was wonderful.
- B. Write five sentences, each using the name of a holiday.

## LESSON EIGHT: CAPITALIZE NAMES OF MOUNTAINS, HILLS, LAKES, RIVERS, OCEANS, AND SEAS

Names of mountains and hills begin with capital letters.

EXAMPLES: Mandara Hill, Mount Me u, Himalayan Mountains, Rocky Mountains.

Names of lakes and rivers begin with capital letters.

EXAMPLES: Lake Huntington, Ganges River, Yamuna River, Lake Superior.

Names of oceans and seas begin with capital letters.

EXAMPLES: Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Black Sea.

#### EXERCISES

A. Copy over correctly all the names written incorrectly below.

1.	lake huron	11.	Lake Samanta
2.	rhine River	12.	saraswati River
3.	Lake success	13.	tiber river
4.	Mount rushmore	14.	River jordan
5.	smoky mountains	15.	Carribean sea
	mount olympus	16.	mount everest
	Lake Erie	17.	Mount blanc
4	arctic ocean	18.	antarctic ocean
20 00	north sea	19.	red sea
	Dead sea	20.	godavari river
TO.	Doug Don		

- B. Chose five rivers or lakes and use each name in a separate sentence.
- C. Choose five mountains or hills and use each name in one sentence.
- D. Choose five oceans or seas and use each name in one sentence.

Vrndavana forest has green trees with red fruits and flowers, green grass, and cool blue lakes. Krsna and Balarama, the gopis, and the cows are there too. Everyone is happy in Vrndavana.

One day a goddess came to see baby Krsna. She appeared beautiful, with jewels, flowers, earrings, and a very nice smile. All of the gopis thought that she had come to see Krsna.

The gopis did not know that the beautiful goddess was really a witch named Putana. She hadn't come to see Krsna but had come to kill Him. She had spread a very strong poison on her breast.

Putana saw baby Krsna and put Him on her lap. She then put her breast in Krsna's mouth. PUtana thought that Krsna would drink the milk and die.

But Krsna is God; He never dies. Krsna sucked out the milk from her breast, and then He sucked out her life air.

Putana cried, "Leave me, leave me child." But it was too late.

Putana fell down on the ground dead. She didn't look like a goddess anymore. She looked like a demon. Baby Krsna played on the dead demon's lap, but was not afraid.

When the gopis and cowherd men saw Putana, they took Krsna off her lap. They built a fire and burned her big body. When it was burning, it smelled very sweet. She had been touched by the Lord and that had made her pure.

QUESTIONS: Copy each question and then Answer them in full sentences

- 1. Why did the gopis think Putana was a goddess?
- 2. How did Putana plan to kill Krsna?
- 3. What did Putana look like after she was killed?
- 4. Why did the burning body of Putana smell very sweet?

## LESSON TEN: CAPITALIZE NAMES OF TOWNS, CITIES, STATES, AND COUNTRIES

A <u>village</u> is a small group of houses.

A  $\underline{\text{town}}$  has more houses than a village, but fewer houses than a city.

A city is a very big town.

A <u>state</u> is a group of villages, towns, and cities. A state makes rules which the people who live in the state must follow.

A <u>country</u> is an area of land that is often large and made up of many states. A country makes laws for the people who live within it. A country can also do business and make agreements with other countries.

Capitalize names of all villages, towns, cities, states and countries.

#### EXERCISES

70	Write	the	names	of	the	cities	below	correctly.
Α.	write	the	Hames	OI	CIIC	0		

1.	miami	6.	new york
	chicago Vancouver	7.	sydney /
	moscow	8.	paris /
	peking	9.	london /
	los angeles	10.	rome
5.	105 angeres		

B. Using a world map, see if you can match up the cities above with the countries they are in. Make sure you write both the cities and countries correctly in your book.

1.	,	united states
2.		Italy
3.		Australia /
4.		russia/
5.		United states Como do
6.	,	china /
7		united kingdom

8.	,	england			
9.		united	states		
10.		france			

- C. Using a map, find the names of five different states. Then find one city within each state. For each state and city write a sentence.
- D. Using a map, find the names of five countries. Write a separate sentence using each country's name.

LESSON TWELVE: A FRIENDLY LETTER-

 $a \rightarrow Aug. 8, 1980$ 

a. heading

b. greeting

c. body

d. closing

e. signature

Dear Arjuna,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila pada. Things are very nice here in Vrndaban. I go swimming each day. How are the cows and the other boys? Write soon.

d→ Your brother, e→ Sidda babba das. e→ Sidda Baba das.

Notice that the letter is divided into five parts:

- a. The heading is the date that the letter was written.
- b. The greeting is the way of saying hello in the letter.
- It begins with a capital letter and ends with a comma.
- c. The body is what you want to say in the letter.
- d. The closing is a way of saying good-bye in the letter.

Capitalize the first word and use a comma.

e. The signature. This is the name, written in script, of the person who wrote the letter.

## ADDRESSING AN ENVELOPE

This envelope is correctly addressed:

P.O. Box 388, Lake Huntington, N.Y. 12752

> Bhakta dasa, 100 Jacksonville Road, Towaco, N.J. 07082

#### Notice that:

- a. The sender's name and address is in the top left-hand corner.
- b. In the middle of the envelope is the address of the person to whom the letter is being sent.
- c. A comma is used between the city and the state.

EXAMPLE: Towaco, N.J. Lake Huntington, N.Y.

d. Write the zip code after the name or abbreviation of the state.

EXAMPLE, N.J. 07082 New York 12752

#### EXERCISES

- A. Write a letter to a friend. Make sure you use each of the five parts of the letter correctly: the heading, the greeting, the body, the closing, and the signature. Then address an envelope to send your letter. Your teacher can help you find your friend's correct address.
- B. Write a letter to your spiritual master.
- C. Write a letter to a relative.

## LESSON THIRTEEN: KRSNA SAVES NANDA MAHARAJA

Early one morning, Nanda Maharaja took a bath in the Yamuna River. As soon as he entered the water, he was taken away by the servants of Lord Varuna. They took him to the palace of Varuna deep under the water.

Nanda's friends began to shout for Krsna and Balarama. "Your father has been taken," they told the two brothers. "He has been taken under the water."

Krsna and Balarama went straight to the palace of Lord Varuna. They wanted to protect Their father.

When the lord of the water saw Krsna and Balarama, he became very humble. He prayed to Krsna, "My dear Lord, by seeing You I never have to take another body. I am sorry that I have taken Your father, but having seen Your form, I am now blessed. Please take Your father home and be merciful to me."

Nanda Maharaja was surprised. Lord Varuna was a very great demigod, but still he gave all respect to his little son, Krsna. "Isn't Krsna a wonderful child?" thought Nanda Maharaja.

Questions: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence.

- Where was Nanda Maharaja taken?
- 2. Who came to save Nanda Maharaja?
- 3. Why was Nanda Maharaja surprised?
- 4. Why did Varunadeva act in such a humble way toward Krsna?

## LESSON FOURTEEN: COMMON MISTAKES

our are, where (at), need to (at), and ain't Here are some common mistakes that students often make.

our Do not say "are book", say "our book".

where Do not use at after where.

Right: Where does he live?

Wrong: Where does he live at?

isn't or aren't There is no word ain't--don't use it.

Right: This isn't correct.

Right: We aren't going.

need to Do not say, "I need a go," say,

"I need to go."

## AVOID THESE COMMON MISTAKES

#### EXERCISE

- A. After you spot the common mistakes in the sentences below, rewrite the sentences correctly in your notebook.
- 1. This Bhagavatam book belongs to are class.
- 2. Where is the book at?
- 3. They need a go out and preach.
- 4. It is are pen.
  - 5. The boys need a dance at mangala-aroti.
  - 6. To go to are temple is fun.
- 7. Where is the temple at?
  - 8. Ain't I speaking with no common mistakes?
- 9. We need a chant seven rounds.
- 10 $_{\circ}$  Are temple has beautiful Deities.

## LESSON FIFTEEN: KRSNA'S HEADACHE

Once upon a time Krsna had a headache. He called for Narada Muni and said, "My dear Narada, I have a headache. The only cure for it is dust from the feet of My pure devotees. Please get some dust for Me."

Narada left at once. He went to a place where some brahmanas were making an offering to the Lord. Narada said, "My dear brahmanas, Lord Krsna has a headache. Only the dust from His devotees' feet will cure it. Can you give some dust for Him?"

The brahmanas bowed before Narada Muni. With fear in their eyes, they said, "Dear Narada, we cannot give you dust from our feet. We are afraid of going to hell for putting our foot dust near the Lord."

Narada Muni went on. Soon he saw some gopis chanting Hare Krsna. "My dear gopis," said Narada. "Lord Krsna has a headache. He needs your foot dust to soothe His pain. Can you give me some dust for Him?"

The gopis began to collect dust from their feet.

They were happy. Narada asked them, "Aren't you afraid you'll
go to hell if you give foot dust to the Supreme Lord?"

The gopis smiled. "We do not care if we go to hell. We just want to please Lord Krsna. Please quickly take this dust to cure His headache.

Questions: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence.

- 1. What was the cure for Krsna's headache?
- 2. Why wouldn't the brahmanas help?
- 3. Why weren't the gopis afraid of going to hell?
- 4. Who was more pure, the gopis or the brahmanas?

## LESSON SIXTEEN: SINGULAR AND PLURAL ENDINGS

Some words tell about only one person or thing.

EXAMPLES: teacher, flower, fruit, boat

Some words are about more than one person or thing.

EXAMPLES: teachers, flowers, fruits, boats

When a word tells about only one, it is called singular.

When a word tells about more than one, it is called plural.

The letter  $\underline{s}$  is added to most names or things to change them from singular to plural.

EXAMPLES: teacher/teachers flower/flowers fruit/fruits boat/boats cow/cows car/cars house/houses table/tables Sometimes the letters <u>es</u> are added to change a singular word to plural. You can hear the extra sounds.

"es" is added to a naming word to change it from singular to plural if the naming word ends in s, sh, ch, tch, z or x.

EXERCISES

- A. Copy the list of naming words given below on your paper. Write <u>s</u> next to the singular words and <u>p</u> next to the plural words. If the word is singular, change it to plural. If it is plural, change it to singular. Then use each of the singular and plural forms in separate sentences. Use the words from the list below which were taken from the picture of Srila Prabhupada at the front of SB 6:1. Have the sentences describe the picture.
  - 1. karatala 2. garland 3. flowers 4. vyasasana

- 5. petals 6. pillows 7. beadbag 8. eyes 9. hands 10. fingers
- B. Using the same directions as A, describe the Visnudutas (the picture in SB 6:1) stopping the Yamadutas from ripping Ajamila from his body. Use the following list of words:
- 1. arms 2. sword 3. Yamadutas 4. helmets 5. shoe
- 6. cakra 7. boards 8. arrows 9. rope 10. bow
- C. Using the same instructions as A, describe the picture of the Visnudutas helping Ajamila into their airplane made of gold from SB 6:1. Use the following list of words:
- 1. Visnudutas 2. river 3. mountains 4. bush 5. airplane
- 6. cloud 7. tree 8. jewel 9. dhotis 10. feather
- D. Using the same directions as A, write sentences with the following list of words:
- 1. box 2. glass 3. boy 4. pockets 5. beach 6. bus
- 7. wish 8. fox 9. glass 10. fire 11. watches 12. benches
- E. The plurals of a few words are made by changing the letters that stand for the vowel sound of the word.

  man/men mouse/mice foot/feet woman/women goose/geese

Write one sentence with each of the above words in its singular form and one sentence in its plural form. Underline the word used. At the end of the sentence, write  $\underline{S}$  if the word is singular, and  $\underline{P}$  if the word is plural.

In Dvaraka, Krsna lived as a king. He had sixteen thousand one hundred and eight wives. He also had sixteen thousand one hundred and eight palaces.

Each morning, three hours before sunrise, the cocks crowed, and Krsna rose from bed, Krsna smelled the sweet parijata flower and heard the honey bees hum and the birds chirp. He then washed His hands, mouth, and feet, and sat down to meditate.

Later on, Krsna bathed and dressed in clean clothes. He worshipped the sun-god and other demigods. Then He worshipped the brahmanas by giving them many cows.

Each cow that the Lord gave wore a silk cloth and a pearl necklace. Each was tame, peaceful, and full of milk.

Krsna always looked beautiful. He wore flower garlands on His chest and smeared sandalwood paste on His body.

After the Lord finished dressing, he visited temples of the demigods and looked at marble statues of cows and calves.

Riding in His golden chariot, Krsna would then travel to the meeting house called Sudharma. At Sudharma, jokers, dancers, singers, drummers, and actors would please the Lord, and put Him in a happy mood.

Ouestions: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence.

- 1. How many wives did Lord Krsna have?
- 2. What was the first thing that Lord Krsna did when He woke up in the morning?
- 3. When the Lord meditated, what would He meditate on?
- 4. What happened each day at Sudharma?
- 5. What would you do if you could see Lord Krsna each day?

## LESSON EIGHTEEN: HOMOPHONES

Words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings are called homophones or homonyms. Here is a list of homophones you should know.

Kṛṣṇa won the race with Madhumangala. 1. won

There is only one Supreme Lord. one

Which word means "to get victory"? Which word means "a single person"?

The demon's cloak was red. 2. red

We read the Mahabharata in two weeks. read

Which word means "a bright colour"? Which word means "to understand the meaning of something written?"

Did you see the puppet show? 3. see

The sea was a deep blue colour. sea

Which word means "to look at"? Which word means "a body of salt water?"

Kṛṣṇa was the son of Vasudeva son 4.

The sun is Kṛṣṇa's eye. sun

Which word means "male child"? Which word means "the shining planet that lights the universe"?

Can you

	RCISES
Α.	Complete each sentence using the correct word within the ( ).
1.	Hethe prize for steady chanting. (won/one)
2.	I only hadsamosa. (won/one)
3.	The Gita wasby all the guests. (red/read)
	It was covered incloth. (red/read)
5.	Lord Chaitanya bathed in the (see/sea)
6	Can you the Gopal Deity? (see/sea)

7.	The	_of	the	brahmana	tried	to	cheat	his	father
	(son/sun)								
8.	The universe has a	very	sma	11			. (so	n/su	n)

B. Write one sentence for each word.
won, one, red, read, see, sea, son, sun

LESSON NINETEEN: BACK INTO A MOUSE

One day an old sage who lived in the forest saw a mouse. The mouse was being chased by a large cat. The kind sage thought, "I will help that poor mouse." Trying to help, he changed the mouse into a cat.

Having a strong cat's body, the mouse was no longer afraid of the forest cats. But one day a big dog saw him.

Dogs like to chase cats, so the poor mouse had to run for his life.

He ran straight to the shelter of the sage and prayed, "My dear kind sir, you saved me from the cat by giving me a cat's body. Now can you save me from this dog?"

The kind sage quickly changed the mouse into a dog. Feeling safe again, the mouse went back into the forest.

One day the frightened dog ran to the sage's hut. He cried, "My dear sir, a great tiger is chasing me! Can you save me?"

The kind sage said, "In this life there will always be fear. You cannot get free from fear by changing your body."

"Just one more time," begged the mouse in a dog's body. "Please give me a tiger body."

The kind sage changed the frightened dog into a tiger.

But feeling hungry, the tiger looked at the sage and said,

"Now I am a tiger, and I am going to eat you."

But the sage was not afraid. He looked sadly at the tiger and said, "Back into a mouse again!" In an instant, the tiger became a tiny mouse. He squeaked and ran away into the forest.

Questions: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence.

- 1. Why did the sage turn the mouse into a cat?
- 2. After changing the mouse into a cat, why did the sage change the mouse's body again?
- 3. What was the instruction of the sage about fear in life?
- 4. How did the sage save himself from being eaten by the tiger?
- 5. If someone is great and powerful, why shouldn't he become proud?

### LESSON TWENTY: SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

A sentence tells a complete idea. It must have at least a subject and an action word. (verb) If a group of words does not have both a subject and an action word, (verb) it will not make sense.

A group of words that doesn't have both a subject and an action word (verb) is not called a sentence, but is called a fragment. For example: Kṛṣṇa played His flute.

Krsna is the subject of the sentence and played is the verb.

Therefore, Krsna played His flute is a sentence.

Kṛṣṇa from His friends has a subject, Kṛṣṇa, but no verb.

Kṛṣṇa from His friends doesn't make any sense and is a fragment.

Another example: Ran to the forest.

Ran to the forest has an action word (verb), ran, but no subject.

This group of words is a fragment.

To change a fragment into a sentence, the missing part, either subject or verb, must be added. For example, the fragment <a href="Kṛṣṇa from His friends">Kṛṣṇa from His friends</a> can be changed to a sentence by adding the missing action word (verb), hid.

## Kṛṣṇa hid from His friends.

In the fragment Ran to the forest, the missing subject, Kṛṣṇa, can be added and the fragment will be changed to a sentence.

Kṛṣṇa ran to the forest.

#### EXERCISES:

A. Take each of the groups of words below and underline the subject and circle the verb. If the group of words has both subject and verb, it is a sentence. Write sentence next to

is missing either subject or verb, it is not a sentence, but
is a fragment. Rewrite the fragment by adding the missing part,
either subject or verb and other words, to change it into a
sentence. Note that groups of words that are fragments do not
make sense.
<ol> <li>Mother Yasoda the butter.</li> <li>He in the book.</li> </ol>
3. The class chanted.
4. Talked to the guests.
5. Up to the temple.
6. We ran to the arati.
7. Incense is nice.
8. Lots of prasadam.
9 We cannot go.
10. After chanting.
11. I can.
12. We ate all the burfi.
13. Is coming today.
14. We see a lot of devotees.
15. Kṛṣṇa Kamsa.
B. If any of the groups of words below is a sentence, write sen-
tence next to it. If the group is a fragment, change it into a
sentence by rewriting it, adding the missing subject or verb and

all groups of words that are sentences. If the group of words

1. We want to go back to Godhead.

other words.

2. The great green demon the cowherd boys.

- 3. The Bhagavad-gita off the table.
- 4. Prasadam can.
- 5. Flew to the spiritual sky.
- 6. The sannyasi the guest.
- 7. Thumped the gorilla.
- 8. Is effulgent.
- 9. We can sing and dance and feast all day.
- 10. A devotee to preach.

LESSON TWENTY-ONE: NIMAI AND THE POTS

When Nimāi was a little boy, He went to school every day. But, Śacimātā, Nimāi's mother, didn't want her son to go to school.

"Please do not let Him go to school," cried Sacimata to Nimāi's father. "If He goes to school, He will learn Bhag-avad-gītā. He will run away like His brother did. Then He will not want a wife. He will not want a home. He will not want to stay with us. He will just want to chant and dance all day."

"You are right," said Jagannatha Miśra, Nimai's father.

"We will keep Him here with us and never let Him go to school.

He will never read Bhagavad-gita, so He will never want to

leave home."

Nimāi said, "Yes, my dear mother and father, I will do what you want. I will never go to school." But Nimāi was very sad. He became very naughty.

One day, Nimāi went to the place where the old pots were thrown. The pots were dirty and the ground was dirty.

But Nimāi sat down on the pots.

śacimata said, "Oh, no! Oh no! Why are You sitting on these dirty pots? You must come down. You must come down. It is wrong for You to sit on dirty pots."

"Oh? Are the pots dirty? Is this wrong?" asked Nimāi. "I do not go to school, so I do not know what is right and what is wrong."

"This is not good," said Sacimata. "You must come down."
"No," said Nimāi. "I will not come down."

"You must come down," said Jagannatha Miśra.

"I will only come down if you will let Me go to school," said Nimāi. "If you will not let Me go to school and read Bhagavad-gītā, then I will never come down."

"All right, Nimāi. You may go back to school. Now, please come down," said Jagannātha Miśra. Hearing His father's promise, Nimāi got down from the dirty pots.

Jagannātha Miśra and Śacimata then took Nimāi back to school.

Questions: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence.

- 1. Why didn't Śacimata want Nimai to go to school?
- 2. Where did Nimāi sit?
- 3. Why didn't Nimāi come down when His mother asked Him to?
- 4. What is the most important thing we can learn in school?
- 5. Why do we study the Bhagavad-gita in school?

LESSON TWENTY-TWO: RUN-ON SENTENCES

Short sentences with one idea are often better than long sentences with many ideas. In the following sentence, one idea runs into the next idea.

I went to the temple with a friend and my friend's name is Jiva and next year we are going on sankirtan and we will distribute books.

After proofreading the above sentence, the writer decided to make some changes. He marked the sentence with proofreader marks.

I went to the temple with my friend my friend's name is Jiva and next year we are going on sankirtangand we will distribute books.

- . What word must be taken out in three places to break the long sentence into shorter sentences?
- . What proofreader's mark was used to show that words should be dropped?
- '. What proofreader's mark shows that a period should be put at the end of the sentence?
- When a sentence goes on and on, it is called a run-on sentence.

  Break it into shorter sentences. Drop the ands that are not needed. Use a period at the end of each sentence. Capitalize the first word in the next sentence.

#### EXERCISE

A. Read each sentence and think about how it should be changed. Rewrite each long sentence as two or three short sentences.

- 1. Krsna and Balarama moved from Gokula and they traveled by ox cart and they left because demons were bothering the children.
- 2. The cowherd boys were in the pasturing ground all day and they herded the cows and the boys were tired and dirty when they came home.
- 3. One day as they played a huge duck came and tried to hurt Krsna but the duck could not hurt Krsna and Krsna killed the duck.
- 4. Sridama ran faster and faster and Subal tried to catch him and he could not do it and finally both boys began to laugh.
- B. Reread some sentences you have already written in your note-book and see if you can discover two run-on sentences. Copy them in your notebook and use proofreader's marks to correct them. Then write the run-on sentence correctly by breaking it into shorter sentences.
- C. Read some sentences written by one of the other students in your class. See if you can discover three run-on sentences. Copy them in your notebook, correct them using proofreader's marks, and then write them correctly, broken down into shorter sentences.

## LESSON TWENTY-THREE: THE TWO THIEVES

One day baby Nimai was playing alone in the courtyard of His house. Two thieves came by the house and saw Nimai with His beautiful face and His shining jewels.

"Look at that child's jewels," said one thief to the other. "Let's steal them."

Seeing the child all alone, the two thieves entered the courtyard and picked up Nimāi. "Where are we going?" asked Nimāi.

"We are going to get some sweets to eat," said one thief as he put Nimāi on his shoulder.

"Oh, that is very good. Let's go," said the small child. The thieves quickly ran off into the forest.

Nimāi was not a normal child. He was Kṛṣṇa, playing like a small boy. He knew what the thieves had in their minds. The thieves thought that they were running away from Nimāi's house. But by His divine power, Nimāi made the thieves run in a big circle which ended right in the courtyard of His house.

While Nimai was gone, many people came to the courtyard and cried, "Where is Nimai? Who has taken the child?"

As they were looking everywhere for Nimai, two thieves carried Him into the courtyard. Seeing where they were, the thieves were amazed. Full of fear, they put the child down and ran away without His jewels.

Questions: Copy each question and then answer it in a full sentence.

1. Why did the thieves take Nimai?

# THE DEMON WHO FLIES IN THE SKY

The cowherd boys were playing on Govardhana Hill one morning.

"I'll be a thief," said one boy.

"And I'll be a policeman," said another.

"I'll be a lamb," said a third boy. "The thieves can steal me away."

In this way the boys played all around Govardhana Hill. Suddenly a demon named Vyomasura appeared on the hill. Vyomasura means "the demon who flies in the sky."

Vyomasura took the part of one of the thieves and stole many of the cowherd boys who were playing like lambs.

One after another, Vyomasura took almost all the boys and put them in the mountain caves. He even sealed the caves with big stones.

Krsna saw the demon's trick and caught hold of him just like a lion catches a lamb. Vyomasura tried to expand himself like a hill but Krsna didn't let him get away.

Krsna threw him on the ground with great force. Thus the demon was killed. Krsna happily opened up the cawes again to free His friends. They all praised Him and gathered the cows to go back to Vrndavana.

## KRSNA AND THE WHIRLWIND DEMON

When Krsna was one year old, He was fat and happy. One day while playing on Mother Yasoda's lap, He became very heavy. Mother Yasoda had to put Him down and then went to clean her house.

Suddenly a great whirlwind demon came to Vrndavana. He was blowing dust and dirt everywhere. Necause of the storm, no one could see baby Krsna.

The whirlwind demon picked up Krsna on his shoulder and flew away in the sky. When Mother Yasoda could not see her child, she began to cry, "Where is my child? Where is my child?" She became so sad that she fell down on the ground, just like a sad cow.

The demon flew high in the sky with the baby Krsna. He wanted to kill the Lord, but Krsna tricked the demon. Krsna became heavier and heavier. He became so heavy that the demon could not blow around any more.

"This child feels just like a mountain on my back," said the demon. "I can not free myself!"

Krsna would not let go of the neck of the demon. The demon's eyes popped out, and he cried very loudly as he fell from the sky. When the whirlwind demon hit the ground, his arms and legs were smashed. But happy Krsna played on the demon's dead body until His mother came to get Him.

QUESTIONS: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence.

- 1. Why did Mother Yasoda put Krsna down?
- 2. What did the whirlwind demon do with baby Krsna?
- 3. How did Krsna kill the demon?
- 4. Why couldn't the demon hurt Krsna?

#### KESI KILLED

Kamsa was always hoping to kill Krsna. He always thought of Krsna and how happy he would be if that little blue boy were dead.

Once he sent his demon friend Kesi to Vrndavana.

Kesi took on the form of a terrible horse. He entered

Vrndavana with his great mane flying and his hooves digging

up the earth. He began to whinny and terrify the whole

world. His tail was wheeling in the sky like a big cloud.

Krsna knew that the demon had come to fight with Him, but He wasn't even a little afraid.

The little boy Krsna stood in front of the Kesi demon.

Making a great roar like a lion, Kesi ran at Krsna and tried to trample Him. The horse's legs were strong and as hard as stone. Krsna caught one of the legs and tripped the wild horse.

In a moment Krsna picked up the great horse and threw him a long way, just like Gaurda throws a snake. With great anger the horse again rushed at Krsna, his mouth wide open.

Krsna pushed His left hand inside Kesi's mouth. This hand feels like a hot iron rod!" thought the Kesi demon.

As Krsna's hand got bigger and bigger in Kesi's throat, the demon's teeth fell out. He began to choke and his eyes popped out. The giant horse passed stool and urine and then dropped dead on the ground.

From the heavens came showers of flowers. The demigods were pleased that Krsna had killed the Kesi demon so easily.

## THE DEMON PRALAMBASURA

Vrndavana is such a wonderful place. Flowers are always blooming, and there are beautifully decorated deer. Birds are chirping, peacocks are crowing and dancing, and bees are humming. The cuckoos there sing nicely in five kinds of tunes.

As Krsna and Balarama entered the forest, They played Their flutes. They walked beneath fresh new leaves that looked like peacock feathers. They dressed Themselves with those leaves and marked Their bodies with saffron chalk.

Sometimes they danced and sometimes they wrestled. When Krsna danced, His friends clapped and played their flutes and buffalo horns. "You are dancing very nicely," they all said to Krsna.

As they played in the forest, a great demon came to join them. He was dressed just like a cowherd boy, but Krsna knew that he was really a demon.

"Oh my dear friend," said Krsna to the demon. "It is very good that you have come here to take part in our pastimes." Soon the demon was playing just like a cowherd boy.

Krsna was carrying Sridama on His back. The demon Pralambasura, was carrying Balarama on his back. Suddenly the demon began to carry Balarama away from the other boys.

As he ran, he changed into his real form. His body stretched up to the sky; his eyes dazzled like a blazing fire; his mouth was full of sharp teeth.

"How is it that my carrier has changed in every way?" thought Balarama. "This must be a great demon who wants to kill Me."

With His strong fist, Balarama hit the head of the demon, Pralambasura. In an instant the demon lay dead on the ground.

All of the cowherd boys rushed to the place where Balarama stood. "Well done! Well done!" they all said as they looked at the huge demon. Flowers fell from the demigods above and everyone chanted the glories of Lord Balarama. He had killed the great demon, Pralambasura.

#### KRSNA SWALLOWS THE FIRE

The day was bright and beautiful. alarama had just killed a great demon in the forest and Krsna and His friends were playing happily. They were all so happy as they played that they did not see the cows wandering off into the woods. Even the goats and buffalo wandered out of sight.

Seeing that the cows were gone, the boys began to search for them. They traced out the cows' footprints and followed the path of eaten grass.

Soon they heard the crying of the cows. A great forest fire was burning all around them. They were crying, "Dear Krsna and Balarama, we are burning from the heat of this blazing fire. Let us take shelter of Your lotus feet. We are Your dear friends. Please protect us!"

Krsna knew that there was no need to be afraid. While the cowherd boys closed their eyes, Krsna swallowed the whole forest fire.

Thus, all the cows were saved from the heat of the fire. They saw that the forest was green and beautiful again, and that Krsna was with them.

Playing their flutes, Krsna and Balarama took the cows back to the village of Vrndavana.

# KRSNA SAVES NANDA MAHARAJA

Early one morning, Nanda Maharaja took a bath in the Yamuna River. As soon as he entered the water, he was taken away by the servants of Lord Varuna. They took him to the palace of Varuna deep under the water.

Nanda's friends began to shout for Krsna and Balarama, "Your father has been taken," they told the two brothers. "He has been taken under the water."

Krsna and Balarama went straight to the palace of Lord Varuna. They wanted to protect Their father.

When the Lord of the water saw Krsna and Balarama, he became very humble. He prayed to Krsna, "My dear Lord, by seeing You, I never have to take another body. I am sorry that I have taken Your father, but having seen Your form, I am now blessed. Please take Your father home and be merciful to me."

Nanda Maharaja was surprised. Lord Varuna was a great demigod, but still he gave all respect to his little son, Krsna. "Isn't Krsna a wonderful child?" thought Nanda Maharaja.

QUESTIONS: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence

- 1. Where was Nanda Maharaja taken?
- 2. Who came to save Nanda Maharaja?
- 3. Why was Nanda Maharaja surprised?
- 4. Why did Varunadeva act in such a humble way towards Krsna?

# THE STORY OF KING NRGA

The princes of the Yadu family once found a great lizard in a forest well. The animal was trapped and could not get free. The princes tried to help him get out, but they could not free him.

When the princes returned home, they told Lord Krsna their story and asked Him to free the lizard from the well. Agreeing to help, Lord Krsna went to the forest, stretched His left hand deep withing the well, and pulled the lizard out.

Upon being touched by Krsna's hand, the lizard gave up his body. He appeared as a beautiful demigod with his body glittering like gold. He was dressed in fine clothing and costly jewels.

Lord Krsna said, "My dear demigod, your body is so beautiful. Who are you? How did you get into that lizard body? Please tell us."

The demigod bowed to the Lord. His dazzling helmet touched the ground. He then spoke to Krsna. "My dear Lord, I am King Nrga. I once was a very great king who gave away many cows in charity. The number of cows I gave away was equal to the amount of dust on the earth."

"All of the cows I gave away were very special. They were all young, full of milk, and healthy. Their horns were gold-plated and their hooves were silver-plated. They wore silk wrappers and pearl necklaces. I gave these cows, along with land, gold, houses, horses, and elephants to learned brahmanas.

King Nrga had offended the brahmanas. Therefore he had to live in a lizard's body. But he had also performed many pious acts. Because of his piety, the king was able to see Krsna face to face.

King Nrga prayed, "My dear Lord Krsna, I beg for Your mercy. Please bless me so that I will never forget Your lotus feet. Whatever body I am in, I simply wish to think of You."

The king walked around Krsna and bowed down before Him-An airplane came from heaven and King Nrga got in it. He returned to his planet, having seen the Supreme Person.

## KRSNA FREES THE SERPENT

Once upon a time the cowherd men of Vrndavana wanted to worship Lord Siva and His wife Ambika. With Krsna and Balarama they went ot a holy place near the Sarasvati River.

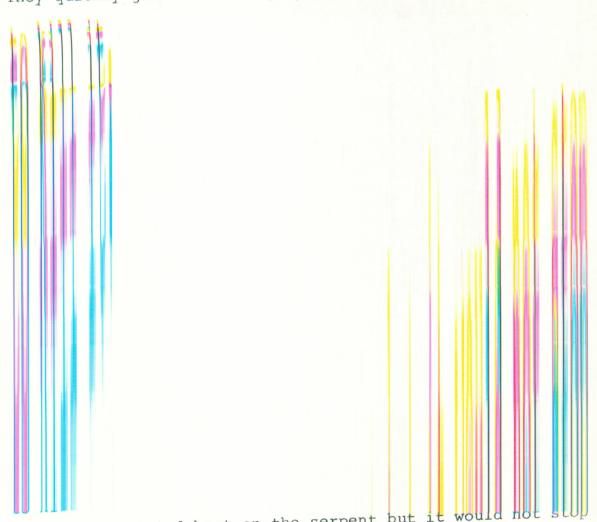
men took a bath in the river and gave away cows to the brahmanas. They fasted one day and at night they laid down by the river to rest.

While they were all resting a serpent came out of the nearby forest and began to swallow Nanda Maharaja.

"My dear son, Krsna, please come and save me," cried Nanda Maharaja. "This serpent is swallowing me."

All the cowherd men got up to see what was happening.

They quickly grabbed burning logs and began to beat the snake



They beat and beat on the serpent but it would not sto swallowing Nanda Maharaja. At last Krsna came and touched the serpent with His lotus foot.

#### BREAKING THE BOW

The demon king Kamsa had planned a big sacrifice to be held in Mathura. He had invited Krsna and Balarama to come and enjoy the sacrifice. But Kamsa's real plan was to kill Krsna and Balarama.

As the two brothers strolled around Mathura, Krsna asked one person, "Where is the great arena for the sacrifice?" When the man told Them the place, Krsna and Balarama headed there.

On the altar of the arena, Kamsa had placed a great bow. This bow was so big and wonderful that it looked like a rainbow in the sky. Many watchmen stood guard around the great bow.

As Krsna and Balarama walked toward the altar, the watchmen shouted, "Don't go near the bow!"

But Krsna didn't listen to them. He forced His way past the guards and picked up the great bow in His left hand. After stringing the bow, in the presence of everyone Krsna drew back the bow and broke it in half. It was just like an elephant breaking sugar cane in the field.

The sound of the bow cracking filled the sky and land and was heard by the demon Kamsa. Kamsa began to fear for his own life.

The guards shouted, "Stop Him! Kill Him!" Quickly there were many guards around Krsna and Balarama, all of them planning to kill the two boys.

Krsna picked up one half of the broken bow and Balarama picked up the other half. They began to beat off all the guards. They even killed a small army which had been sent by Kamsa to the arena.

When Krsna and Balarama had destroyed everyone,
They left the arena. They did not care for Kamsa or his
guards or his army. Feeling satisfied, the two brothers
headed for Their resting camp.

## KAMSA'S VISION

Kamsa had asked Krsna and Balarama to come to Mathura for a great wrestling match. His real desire was to kill Them. When he heard about the breaking of the bow in the arena, Kamsa began to fear the two cowherd boys. He knew that the eighth child of Devaki had come to kill him.

Because of his great fear, Kamsa began to have horrible dreams and visions. When he looked in a mirror, he could not see his head. He saw two sets of stars in the sky, when there was really only one. He began to see holes in his shadow, and he heard buzzing in his ears. All the trees around him seemed to be made of gold, and when he walked, there were no footprints left in the dust or the muddy clay.

In a dream Kamsa saw ghosts riding in a donkey cart. He dreamed that someone gave him poison and he was drinking it. Then he saw himself going naked, wearing only a garland of flowers. All the while he was smearing his body with oil.

Both sleeping and awake, Kamsa saw these different signs which told him that his death was near. He was a demon, and Krsna is expert at killing all demons.

#### KRSNA SLAYS THE WASHERMAN

As Krsna and Balarama passed through the streets of Mathura, They were showered with flowers. Brahmanas offered Them nice garlands and sandalwood paste.

As They walked, They saw a washerman who was also a clothes dyer. Krsna was pleased to speak to the man.

"My dear washerman," said the Lord, "Please give Me some of your nice cloth. If you please Me with nice cloth then I will bless you and all good fortune will be yours."

Krsna was giving the washerman a chance to offer Him something and, thus, make himself very happy. But the man was a friend and servant of the demon King Kamsa. He did not take the chance to become happy; instead, the foolish man became very angry.

"How is it that You are asking for clothing which is meant for the king?" said the washerman. "In the future, don't be so puffed-up. You may not ask for things which belong to the king. You may have to be punished by the king's men."

Krsna didn't like to listen to the washerman in an angry mood, Krsna struck the man with His hand and cut off his head. After that He and Balarama dressed Themselves with the new cloth. They gave cloth to all of the cowherd boys as well. When the cowherd boys had dressed themselves, Krsna and Balarama walked on through Mathura.

One day there was a great wrestling match held in Mathura city. In the early morning Krsna and Balarama took Their baths. As They did Their morning duties, They heard the beating of the drums in the wrestling arena. Feeling excited, the brothers went to the arena to see the fun.

When the boys reached the gate of the wrestling camp, They saw a big elephant of the name Kuvalayapida. The elephant's caretaker was keeping him in front of the gateway so that Krsna and Balarama could not enter.

Krsna knew that He would have to fight with the big elephant. He tightened His dress and spoke in a grave voice, "You rascal caretaker, give way and let Me pass through this gate. If you block My way, I shall send you to death's abode."

Being very angry, the caretaker drove the elephant toward Krsna. Kuvalayapida tried to catch Krsna with his trunk but Krsna moved behind him. Krsna caught the huge beast by the tail and began to pull it backwards. He drug it for twenty-five yards, just like Garuda drags a tiny snake.

Krsna pulled the elephant from right to left, this way and that way, just as He used to pull the calves when He was a small boy. Then He went to the front of the elephant and gave him a strong slap.

Then Krsna wanted to trick the demoniac elephant. He laid down on the ground right in front of the elephant's feet. Kuvalayapida tripped and fell. Out of great anger, the elephant tried to stab Krsna with his strong tusk.

The elephant rushed madly at Krsna, hoping to smash
Him as soon as the mad elephant was in reach, Krsna caught
hold of his trunk and pulled him down. Krsna jumped on
the elephant; s back and broke it. He killed the caretaker too.

Having killed the two demons, Krsna took one of the tusks from the elephant and put it on His shoulder.

Balarama took the other tusk and put it on His shoulder.

Along with the cowherd boys, They entered the wrestling arena.

#### AKRURA'S VISION

Akrura was the dear uncle of Krsna and Balarama. Being a servant of Kamsa, Akrura had been sent from Mathura to get Krsna and Balarama for a great wrestling match.

After saying good-bye to all of the residents of Vrndavana, the two beautiful boys sat on Akrura's chariot and started for Mathura.

On their way, they stopped at the Yamuna river to bathe. Both Krsna and Balarama took Their baths in the river and washed Their faces. They drank the clear water of the Yamuna and then returned to the chariot.

Seeing the boys seated there, Akrura also went to the river to bathe. While standing in the river and chanting his prayers, Akrura saw Krsna and Balarama in the water. He was surprised since he had just seen Them both on the chariot.

Akrura quickly came out of the water to see where the boys were. Once again They were on the chariot. Akrura returned to the river, wondering if he had really seen Them there.

This time Akrura saw not only Krsna and Balarama, but many demigods and angels, too. Balarama had become the great snake Ananta Sesa and was lying down on the water. Krsna had become Maha-Visnu and was smiling beautifully as He rested on the huge snake.

After seeing Krsna in this wonderful form, Akrura began to shiver. With folded hands and a bowed head, Akrura began to offer beautiful prayers to the Lord.

# THE KING AND THE POOR BRAHMANA

In the city of Mithila there lived a faithful brahmana named Srutadeva. Being a pure devotee, Srutadeva was always engaged in Krsna's service. He lived peacefully as a householder and always thought of Lord Krsna.

The king of Mithila was also a pure devotee of Lord Krsna. Although he was very rich, he never desired anything but Krsna's service.

Krsna was very fond of these two devotees. One day He asked His chariot driver to take Him to visit the towns and villages near Dwarka. But Krsna's real desire was to visit His two devotees in Mithila.

When the residents of Mithila heard that Krsna, along with many other great sages, had come to their city, they all ran to offer Him nice gifts. Upon seeing Him, their hearts became full, just as a lotus flower blooms in the sun.

The king of Mithila and Srutadeva both fell at the feet of the Lord and asked Him to come to their homes. Out of His kindness, Lord Krsna expanded Himself into two Krsnas. Not only Krsna, but all the sages expanded themselves in order to go to the king's palace and the brahmana's cottage at the same time.

When Krsna and the sages went to the palace of the king, they were treated royally. The king offered them plush chairs and soft pillows. He washed the feet of Krsna and the sages, and sprinkled the water on the heads of his family members.

The king offerd flower garlands, sandalwood pulp, incense, clothes, jewels, lamps, cows, and bulls to his guests. HE FED them fine prasadam and rubbed their feet. As he served them he spoke sweetly about the glories of Lord Krsna.

At the same time, Krsna and the sages entered the simple home of the poor brahmana, Srutadeva. On seeing the Lord, Srutadeva began to foyfully dance. He could only offer his quests wooden planks and straw carpets to sit on. He and his wife washed the feet of Krsna and the sages, and Srutadeva springkled the holy water on the heads of his family members.

Being very poor, Srutadeva offered simple fruits, incense, scented water, clay, tulasi leaves, kusa straw, and lotus flowers to his holy guests. Because these simple items were offered with the brahmana's love, Krsna was pleased to accept them.

Srutadeva's wife cooked dahl and rice and fed the sages these simple foods. While Srutadeva served, he chanted the glories of Lord Krsna.

Krsna and the sages left Mithila feeling very pleased.

As both the love of the brahmana and the love of the king were pure, Krsna blessed them equally. Krsna only desires love from His devotees. He does not care for wealth.

QUESTIONS: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence

- 1. What city did both Srutadeva and the king live in?
- 2.th king was rich and the brahmana was poor. What did they both desire?
- 3. Why did krsna ask His chariot driver to take Him to visit many towns and villages near Dvarka.
- 4. What did the people of Mithila do when they heard that Lord Krsna was coming?
- 5. What happened to the people's hearts when they saw the Lord?
- 6. How did the Lord go to both the king and the brahmana's home?
- 7. What offerings did the king make?
- 8. What did the poor brahmana offer Krsna?
- 9. Why was the Lord pleased to accept both offerings?
- 10. What does Krsna desire from all His devotees?

#### LORD VISNU'S TRICK

Once a demon named Vrkasura wanted a boon. He met Narada Muni and asked him, "Which demigod should I worship to fulfill my desires?" Since Vrkasura was a demon, Narada told him to worship Lord Siva.

Vrkasura followed Narada Muni's order. He went to a holy place, lit a fire, and chanted prayers. At the same time he cut flesh off his body and offered it to Lord Siva. He wanted to see Lord Siva very much.

Vrkasura cut up his body for six days. Each day he offered his own flesh, but Lord Siva never came. The demon was very sad. He thought, "I will cut off my head and offer it. Then Lord Siva will come and give me my boon."

The next day the demon took his bath in a lake. When his hair and body were still wet, he started to cut off his head. Lord Siva felt sorry for Vrkasura and appeared.

Lord Siva cmae before Vrkasura and said, "Why are you doing this? You do not have to cut off your head to please me. I am pleased if someone offers me water from the Ganges. I do not need your flesh. Because I felt sorry for you, I have saved you. Now I promise any boon you want.

The sinful demon Vrkasura said, "I want the boon that any persons head I touch will crack, and that person will die."

Lord Siva felt sorry. He didn't want to give such a crazy boon to Vrkasura. But he would not break his promise. So Lord Siva granted Vrkasura's desire.

Vrkasura became very powerful. He wanted to first try his boon on Lord Siva. The demon thought, "I will touch Lord Siva's head. When his head cracks, he will die. Then I will take away his wife." He ran at Lord Siva with his hand out. Lord Siva was so afraid that he ran away.

They ran and ran. At last Lord Siva ran to seek help from Lord Visnu. Lord Visnu knew how to save him. The Lord changed Himself into a beautiful young boy and stood before Vrkasura.

Lord Visnu spoke to Vrkasura with sweet words.

"Please do not run after Lord Siva. To tell you the truth,

I do not think that Lord Siva was able to grant your boon.

Let us test it out. Just touch your hand to your own head.

You will see that Lord Siva has not given you any boon at all."

The demon was confused by Lord Visnu's words. As soon as Vrkasura touched his hand to his head, his head cracked and he died. Lord Siva was saved by the trick of Lord Visnu.

QUESTIONS: Copy each question and then Answer it in a full sentence

- 1. Why did Narada tell Vrkasura to worship Lord Siva?
- 2. What did Vrkasura offer to Lord Siva?
- 3. What boon did Lord Siva give Vrkasura?
- 4. Who did Vrkasura try to use his boon on?
- 5. Who saved Lord Siva?
- 6. What did Lord Visnu tell Vrkasura?
- 7. How was Vrkasura killed?
- 8. If you could have any boon you wanted, what boon would you ask for?
- 9. Why would you ask for this boon?

#### THE BURNT FINGER

Once there was a brahmana who lived in India. He was very peaceful because he always thought of Krsna's kindness. But he was very poor. He had no money to use in Krsna's service.

Once he heard some great saints talking about serving

Krsna within your mind. To serve Krsna in the mind is called

meditation. So the brahmana began to serve Krsna in meditation.

First he dressed the Lord in fine cloth. Then he decorated the Lord with jewels. He offered prayers and bowed down before the Lord. All this was done within his mind.

After that he cleaned the Lord's temple. Within his mind he walked to all the holy rivers. Carrying many water jugs mad of gold and silver he filled them with holy water.

He gathered flowers, fruits, incense, and sandalwood pulp. He gave all these to the Lord. All his worship was done within his mind. The brahmana did this for many years.

One day, in his meditation, the brahmana cooked sweet rice for the Lord. He used milk, rice, and sugar. He wanted to offer it to Krsna, but he thought the sweet rice might still be too hot. To test it, within his mind he touched his finger to the pot of sweet rice. Suddenly his finger was burnt! How did that happen? The brahmana was only meditating on touching the sweet rice. How did his finger get burnt?

Lord Narayana in the spiritual world began to smile. He sent an airplane to get the brahmana. When the brahmana came before Lord Narayana, the Lord told everyone about the brahmana's meditations. He then gave the brahmana a spiritual body in the spiritual sky. The Lord was pleased with the brahmana and the offerings within his mind.

QUESTIONS: Copy each question and Answer them in full sentences.

- 1. What is the meaning of the word meditation?
- 2. Does Krsna accept things offered in meditation?
- 3. What service did the brahmana perform with gold and silver?
- 4. How did the brahmana burn his finger?
- 5. How did the brahmana travel to the spiritual sky?
- 6. What would you like to offer Krsna in your mind?

#### SAKSI GOPALA

Once a poor young brahmana boy was going to Vrndavana. He met an old brahmana on the way, and the young boy helped him as they walked. At last they reached Vrndavana. The old man said, "Thank you very much. I could not have come all this way without your help. I want to give you some reward."

But the young boy said, "No, no. It was my duty to help you because you are old and I am young. I must not take any reward."

At that time they were standing before the beautiful Gopala Deity in Vrndavana. The old man said, "My dear brahmana boy, I give you my daughter. She is yours to marry."

"Oh, no," said the boy. "It is not good that you want to give me your daughter. Your son and wife will not like this marriage. But now you have vowed this in front of the Deity of Gopala!"

"Yes, I have vowed in forn of Gopala that you shall have my daughter," said the old man. "So you must marry her."

After saying this before Gopala, both brahmanas returned to their homes.

Many months passed. One day the young boy went to the home of the old man. He spoke to the brahmana in a humble voice. "Once you vowed in front of Gopala that I could have your daughter as my wife. Now you must keep your vow."

"Yes," said the old man. "You may have her." But when the wife and son of the old man heard that their father had given their daughter to a poor man, they were very unhappy. The son became angry, and the wife cried and cried. But the old man told them that he vowed in front of Gopala, and he had to keep the vow.

At last the wife said, "If you give our daughter to this poor brahmana, then I will kill myself."

The old man didn't know what to do. He wanted to give his daughter to the young man, but he didn't want his wife to die. The old brahmana's son then said to the boy, "If my father has made this vow in front of the Deity, let the Deity come here to prove it."

So the young boy left. He went back to Vrndavana and saw the Deity Gopala. "My dear Lord," prayed the boy.
"I am asking You to come and witness my marriage. The old brahmana has vowed to give me his daughter. You must come to witness or he will not be able to keep his vow."

The Deity spoke, "I can not come with you. Do you think a Deity can walk?"

"Yes," said the boy. "If a Deity can talk, then a Deity can walk. Please come with me."

The Deity was very pleased with the boy and said, "Yes, I will come. Take rice and milk to offer Me on the trip. Walk ahead and I will walk behind you. But you must not look back at Me. You will know I am following by the sound of My leg bells."

The boy and the Deity walked for a long way. As they came near the village of the old brahmana, the boy could not hear the bells of Gopala. Being afraid, he turned to see if the Deity was still there. Just then Gopala stopped. He would not walk any further.

The young boy ran to the village and told everyone that Gopala had come to witness his marriage. No one in the village knew how Gopala had walked so far. Only the brahmana boy knew.

The marriage of the poor brahmana boy and the old brahmana's daughter was held in front of the Deity. Then a large temple was built for Gopala. After that day the Deity was called Saksi Gopala—the Gopala Deity who had become a witness.

QUESTIONS: Gopy each question and answer in a full sentence.

- 1. Why did the brahmana help the old brahmana?
- 2. What did the old brahmana want to give the young brahmana?
- 3. Why were the old brahmana's wife and son sad?
- 4. Who came and walked to help the boy?
- 5. What did the brahmana boy offer to Gopala on the trip?
- 6. Why did Gopala stop walking?
- 7. How did the brahmana boy know that Gopala was following him?
- 8. How could the Deity walk?

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