

A JUNIOR FOURTH LEVEL COURSE FOR CHILDREN

WONDERFUL KRISHNA



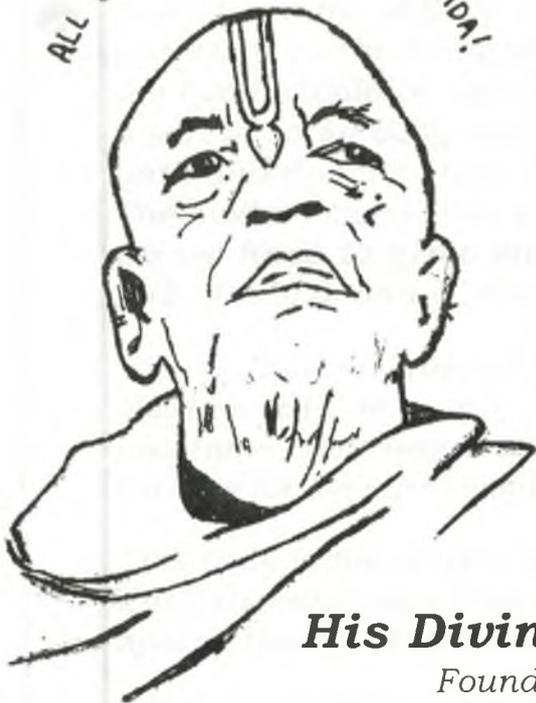
BHAKTI A PRAHLAD SCHOOL (B.P.S.) ISKCON, PUNE 411 001.
PHONE : (020) 841855, 832328



A Junior Fourth Level Course for Children

Wonderful Krishna

ALL GLORIES TO SRILA PRABHUPADA!



Name : _____

Class : _____

School : _____

Address : _____

Phone : _____



Dedicated to

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Founder Acarya of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

Compiled by

Radhika devi dasi, Hemangi gopi devi dasi

Radheshyam das and Vrajabasi das.

Bhakta Prahlad School Series, ISKCON Youth Forum (I.Y.F.),

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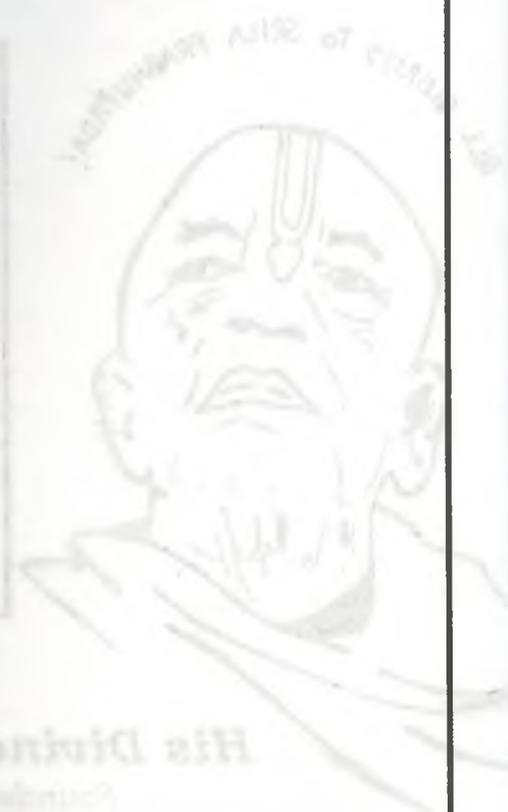
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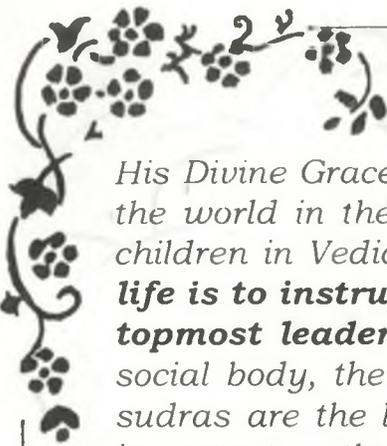
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Our Message to the Parents.....

His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the exponent of preaching Krishna consciousness all over the world in the modern times and the founder acharya of ISKCON was very concerned about educating young children in Vedic education. He wrote : **“...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. Children grow to be the topmost leaders of the human society.** In the Bhagavatam it is said that the brahmanas are the head of the social body, the ksatriyas are the arms of the social body; the vaisyas are the waist of the social body and the sudras are the legs of the social body. The legs may be placed at a lower position, but actually the legs are as important as the head for maintaining the body as it is. It is not that the legs should not be taken care of and just the head should be cared for. But it is a fact that if there is not a head it is a dead body. The modern civilisation is a sort of social body without a head, or actually it is a dead body. The body is dead since the very beginning of its birth and it is the spirit that keeps it moving. Therefore, spiritual enlightenment is the basic principle of civilisation. The modern civilisation is lacking in that respect and there are so many disadvantages on account of this deficiency. **So we have to grow children to become head of the human society and there is great need for this.....”** [Srla Prabhupada’s letter to Hamsaduta 22nd January, 1968].

We, at Bhakta Prahlad School (BPS), ISKCON, Pune are trying to revive the timeless Vedic glory in the lives of children. BPS is a once in a week gathering of children (Junior 5-9 years age and Senior 10-15 years age). These programs were begun in the temple earlier; now we have fourteen BPS centres all over Pune holding these weekly classes for over 200 children.

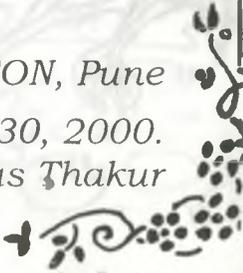
This book is the second level book in a series of six books for the Junior children. We are thankful to Radhika devi dasi, Hemangi gopi devi dasi, Vrajabasi das and Ramananda das for their hard work in bringing out this book. Our special thanks to Bhakta Raj Chopra, for his financial support in bringing out this publication successfully.

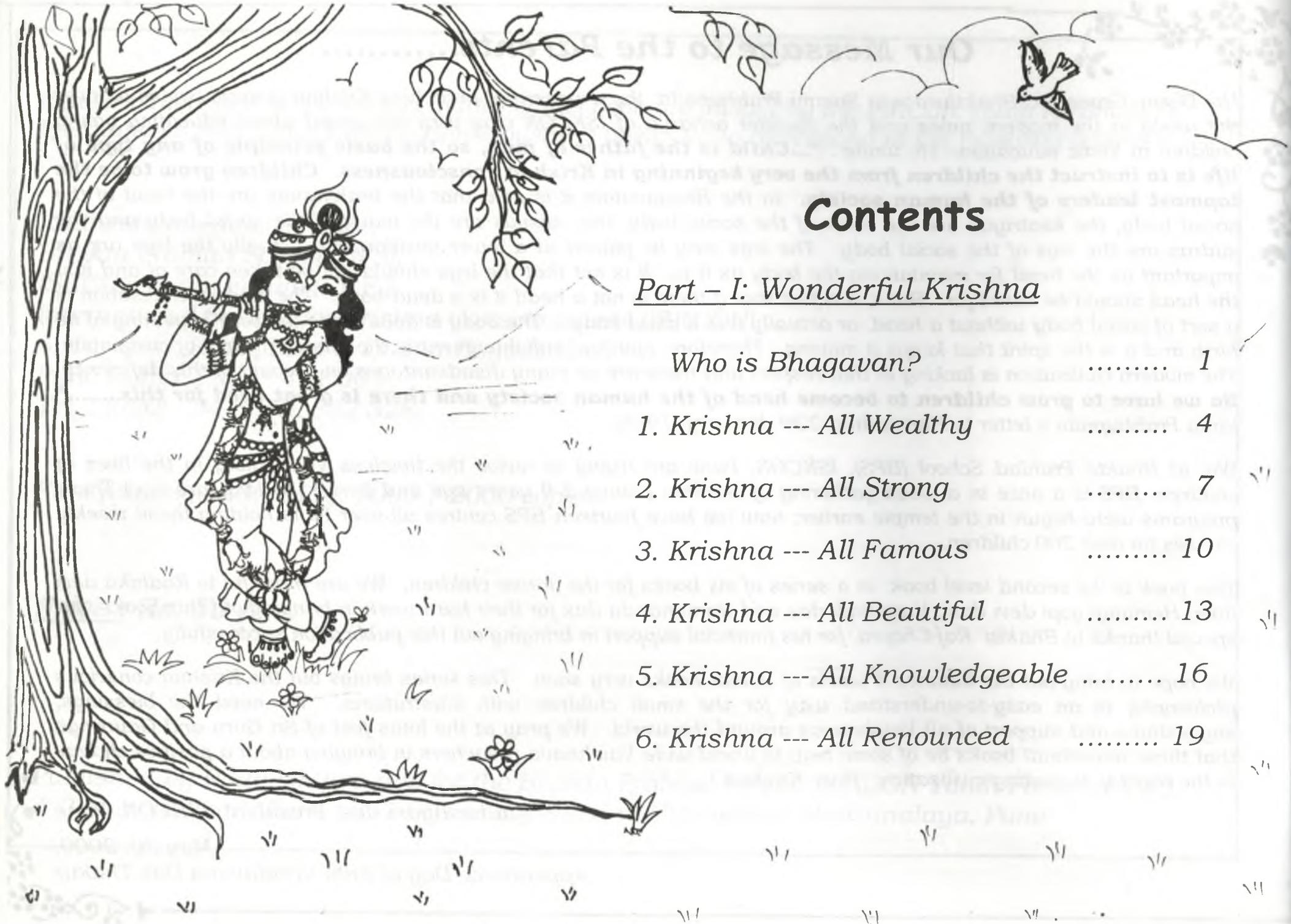
We hope to bring out the balance 4 levels of Junior books very soon. This series brings out the Krishna conscious philosophy in an easy-to-understand way for the small children with illustrations. We need the blessings, suggestions and support of all Vaishnavas around the world. We pray at the lotus feet of Sri Guru and Gauranga that these devotional books be of some help to world-wide Vaishnava preachers in bringing about a positive change in the rapidly degrading civilisation. Hare Krishna.

- Radheshyam das, President, ISKCON, Pune

May 30, 2000.

Appearance Day of Srla Vrindavana Das Thakur





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WHO IS BHAGAVAN?

Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Krishna has many wonderful qualities. We cannot even count them. We are all part and parcel of Krishna. Therefore we also possess some of the qualities.

Let us take an example to understand this: Have you ever-tasted ocean water? Even the tiniest drop tastes salty. Why? Because it is a part of the big ocean. The drop is of the same quality as the ocean, but it can never be the same in quantity. In the same way we all possess a tiny part of Krishna's vast opulences. Everything we have is meant for His service. We are eternally His servants.

We often see a person who may be rich and famous or intelligent and beautiful. However we can never see a person who possesses all these qualities in full. What to speak of possessing these qualities in full, even the little which we have is temporary.

KRISHNA is called Bhagavan. "Bhaga" means 'opulence' and 'van' means 'one who possesses'





Only Krishna is:

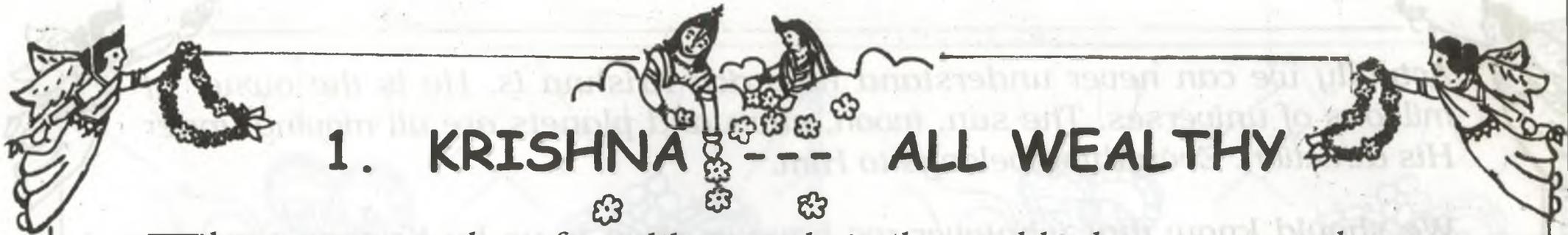
1. All wealthy
2. All strong
3. All famous
4. All beautiful
5. All knowledgeable
6. All renounced

Anyone who possesses all the opulences in full is ALL ATTRACTIVE. In Sanskrit "Krishna" means "ALL ATTRACTIVE". Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. No one can be equal to or greater than Krishna.

Activity

1. Bring pictures of famous personalities you have heard or read about.
2. Can you find out which two Krishna pictures are exactly alike?





1. KRISHNA --- ALL WEALTHY

There are a number of wealthy people in the world who own many houses, factories and cars. People who are very rich are called multi-millionaires. They have beautiful palaces and sometimes own a private island or a beach.

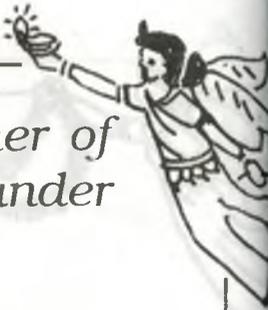
But the wealth of even these multi-millionaires is nothing as compared to the wealth of Krishna. When He came to the earth He displayed His unmatched opulence and wealth. As the king of Dwaraka, He had 16,108 beautiful queens. And He provided each one of them with a magnificent palace. Not only that, every palace was filled with invaluable jewels, diamonds, gold etc. He also had thousands of servants and soldiers. Thus the wealth of Krishna is like the dazzling brightness of the sun, whereas the wealth of even the multi-millionaires is like the brightness of an insignificant firefly.

Now let us hear about the Lord's opulence in the spiritual world, which is far far greater. There are many beautiful prayers, which describe Krishna's abode, Goloka Vrindavana. It is said that He sits on a jeweled throne. His palace is built with spiritual gems and is surrounded by millions of desire fulfilling trees. There are thousands of Goddesses of fortune who are constantly serving the Lord.





Actually we can never understand how rich Krishna is. He is the owner of millions of universes. The sun, moon, stars and planets are all moving under His direction. Everything belongs to Him.



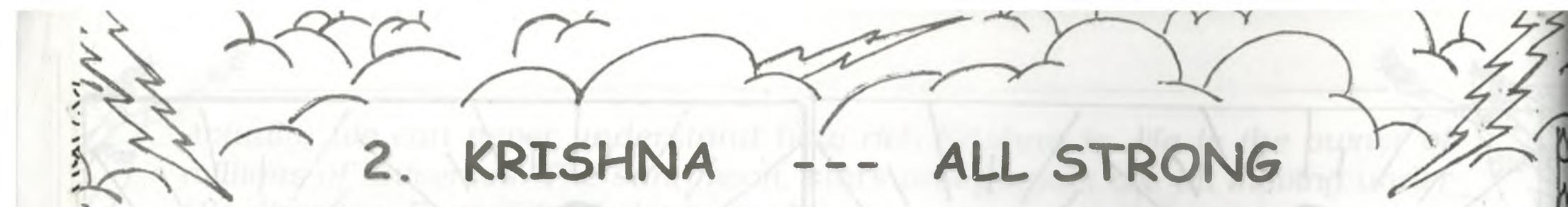
We should know that whatever we have is given to us by Krishna's mercy. We can show our gratefulness to Him by learning how to use everything we have in His service.

Activity

1. Try to learn the 8th sloka from the 10th chapter of Bhagavad Gita (B.G 10.8). Teacher will explain it to you.
2. There are 12 differences in the two pictures. Can you find them?

om pūrṇam adaḥ pūrṇam idam
pūrṇāt pūrṇam udacyate
pūrṇasya pūrṇam ādāya
pūrṇam evāvaśiṣyate (ŚRĪ IŚHOPANISHAD)





2. KRISHNA --- ALL STRONG

Krishna may look like a simple cowherd boy, yet He performs many wonderful pastimes, which show how strong He is. Sometimes He comes to earth to protect His devotees and kill demons.

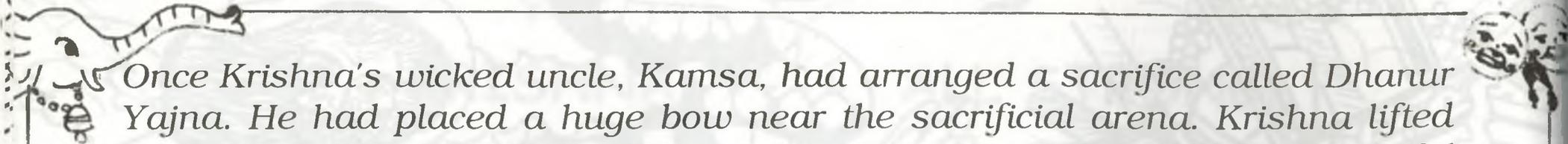
When Krishna was a small boy, He killed a witch called Putana. On His first birthday, He killed a cart-demon, Shakatasura. He killed many demons like the wind demon, Trinavarta and a huge bird demon named Bakasura. There was a fat serpent demon called Aghasura who tried to swallow the cowherd boys, of course Krishna killed him, too.

Once there was a terrible storm in Vrindavana. It became very dark. Heavy rain was pouring from the sky. It seemed as if the whole of Vrindavana was being drowned. The cowherd men and women all called out to Krishna for protection. Although He was only seven years old, Krishna performed an amazing pastime. He lifted the huge Govardhan Hill on the little finger of His left hand as easily as a child lifts a mushroom.

Krishna said, "My dear devotees, I lifted this hill which will protect you exactly like a huge umbrella. Be happy here along with your animals."
Krishna stood in this way for seven days and seven nights.







Once Krishna's wicked uncle, Kamsa, had arranged a sacrifice called Dhanur Yajna. He had placed a huge bow near the sacrificial arena. Krishna lifted the bow and very easily broke it into two pieces. Later he killed the powerful elephant named Kuvalayapeeda. Kamsa had two powerful wrestlers, Chanura and Mustika. Krishna defeated them too. In the end Krishna dragged Kamsa from his seat and threw him in the wrestling arena. Then Krishna beat Kamsa, repeatedly, on his chest, until he died. In this way Krishna showed His supreme strength even as a small child.

Besides this, Krishna is holding the Sun, Moon, stars and all the planets of the Universe. Indeed we cannot understand how strong Krishna is!

Activity

1. Our artist has drawn some demons but forgotten to name them. Can you help?
2. Teacher will tell you the exciting story of "THE KILLING OF KAMSA."



HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE

of India's spiritual wisdom. Bhagavad Gita is recognized as a masterpiece by all classes of people like scientists, philosophers, thinkers and scholars and even by followers of all religions. Even today it is changing the lives of millions of people around the world.

Devotees of the Lord have constructed grand temples like those in Mayapur, where Krishna is worshipped with great love and reverence. Thousands of people come together there and chant the Holy names of the Lord:

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE

The Vishnu-sahasra-nama-stotra describes thousand names of Lord Krishna. But these are only a few of them; Krishna actually has unlimited number of names according to His unlimited pastimes.

Let us join in spreading Krishna's fame. Tell everyone you meet about Krishna.

Activity

1. Complete the Word Grid.
2. Krishna has unlimited names. How many more can you find?
Ask teacher for their meanings.



HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA



WORD GRID

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	T	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	S	H	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	U	R	A	R	I	I
S	S	Y	N	H	S	I	R	K	R	I	G
O	G	I	R	A	H	I	B	A	S	A	R

KUNJABIHARI: One who plays in the groves of Vrāja

GOPINATH: The lord of the gopis.

RASABIHARI: One who relishes different mellows.
with his devotees.

JAGANNATH: The lord of the universe.

SHYAMASUNDAR: The beautiful blue boy.

GIRIDHARI: The lifter of the Govardhan Hill.

MURARI: The killer of the Mura demon.

KRISHNA: The all attractive

Govind: One who gives pleasure to the cows.

HARI: One who steals away all the unhappiness.

YADAVA: Member of the Yadu Dynasty

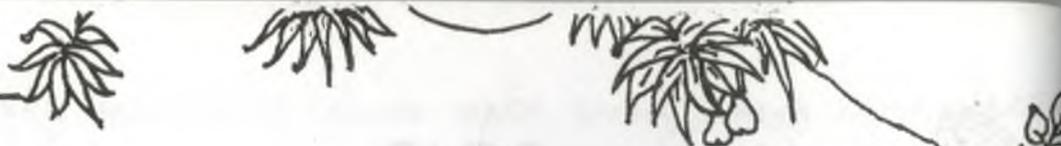
DAMODAR: One whose stomach is bound by

the ropes of love of Raohda maige

MADHAV: Husband of the Goddess of fortune

MANOHAR: One who steals the hearts of

His devotees



4. KRISHNA --- ALL BEAUTIFUL

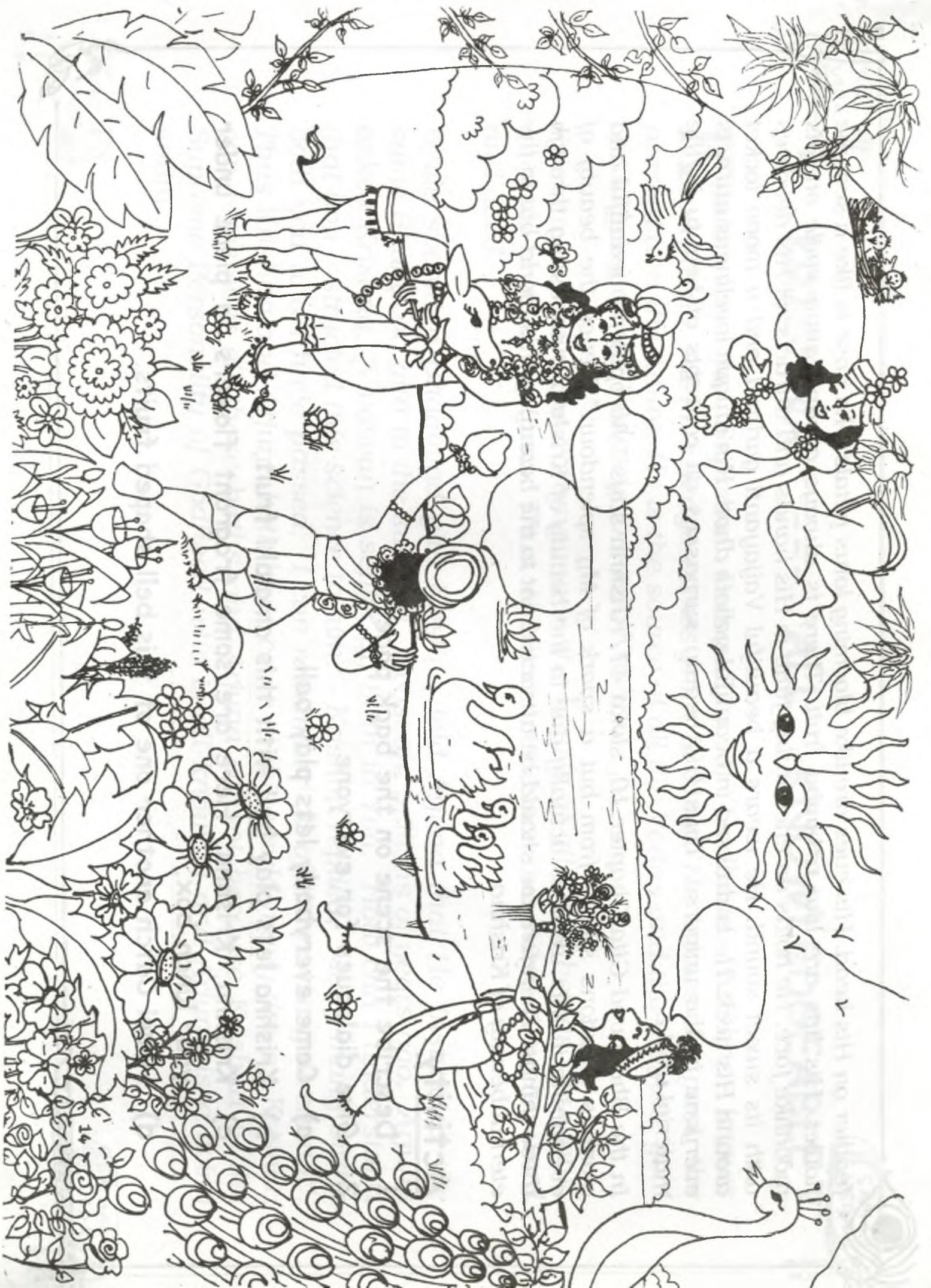
Everyone is attracted by beauty. However every living being is attracted only to others of his own species. For example, human beings are attracted only to other human beings and deer are attracted only to other deer.

But Krishna is all-attractive; when He plays His flute in Vrindavan, all living beings are spontaneously attracted towards Him. The flowing river Yamuna becomes stunned in ecstasy and stops flowing; the hearts of the cows and the deer are charmed as soon as they hear the sweet sound; they spread their long ears and listen intently with tears of joy gliding down their eyes. When the calves, who are drinking milk, hear His flute, their mouths stop moving and they just drink the nectar of the sweet sound of His flute. The birds stop flying and sit frozen on the branches and twigs of the nearby trees; non-moving beings like the stones melt in ecstasy. The clouds stop moving and serve as a soothing umbrella for Krishna.

In Vrindavan, the gopis are engaged in various activities. But as soon as they hear Krishna playing on His flute, some gopis, who are drawing water from the well, let go of the rope; some gopis, who are churning the butter, just stop churning; those who are engaged in house-hold duties, leave everything and rush to meet Krishna with great haste. Whatever they are doing, they just drop it and run swiftly to the forest to meet Krishna. Such is the all-attractiveness of Krishna.

Nothing in the three worlds can match the beauty of Krishna. Krishna has a beautiful threefold-bending form and a charming bluish-black complexion. He wears a peacock







feather on His head. His eyes are like blooming lotus petals. His nose is like a sesame flower. His lips are like a bimba fruit. There is always a captivating smile on His moonlike face. He holds an enchanting flute in His hands and attracts all His devotees with its sweet sound. He wears a beautiful Vaijayanti garland and a moon locket around His neck. He is dressed in beautiful yellow dhoti. His unique loveliness attracts everyone in the universe. Thus His beauty surpasses all concepts of beauty in the material world.

In the Bhagavad Gita Chapter 10, sloka 41, Krishna says " All opulent, beautiful and glorious creations spring from but a spark of My splendour." Hence the beauty of everything in this world is actually due to the beauty of Krishna manifesting through these things. Therefore we should be attracted not to the beauty of this world but to the eternal beauty of Krishna.

Activity

1. Describe the scene on the back page.
 2. Give dialogues for everyone.
 - a) Come everybody lets play ball.
 - b) Krishna lets play ball with this amalaki fruit.
 - c) Krishna, Krishna, Here are some fragrant flowers to place under your lunch box.
 - d) Here! Catch another one of this bell shaped fruits.
- 
- 



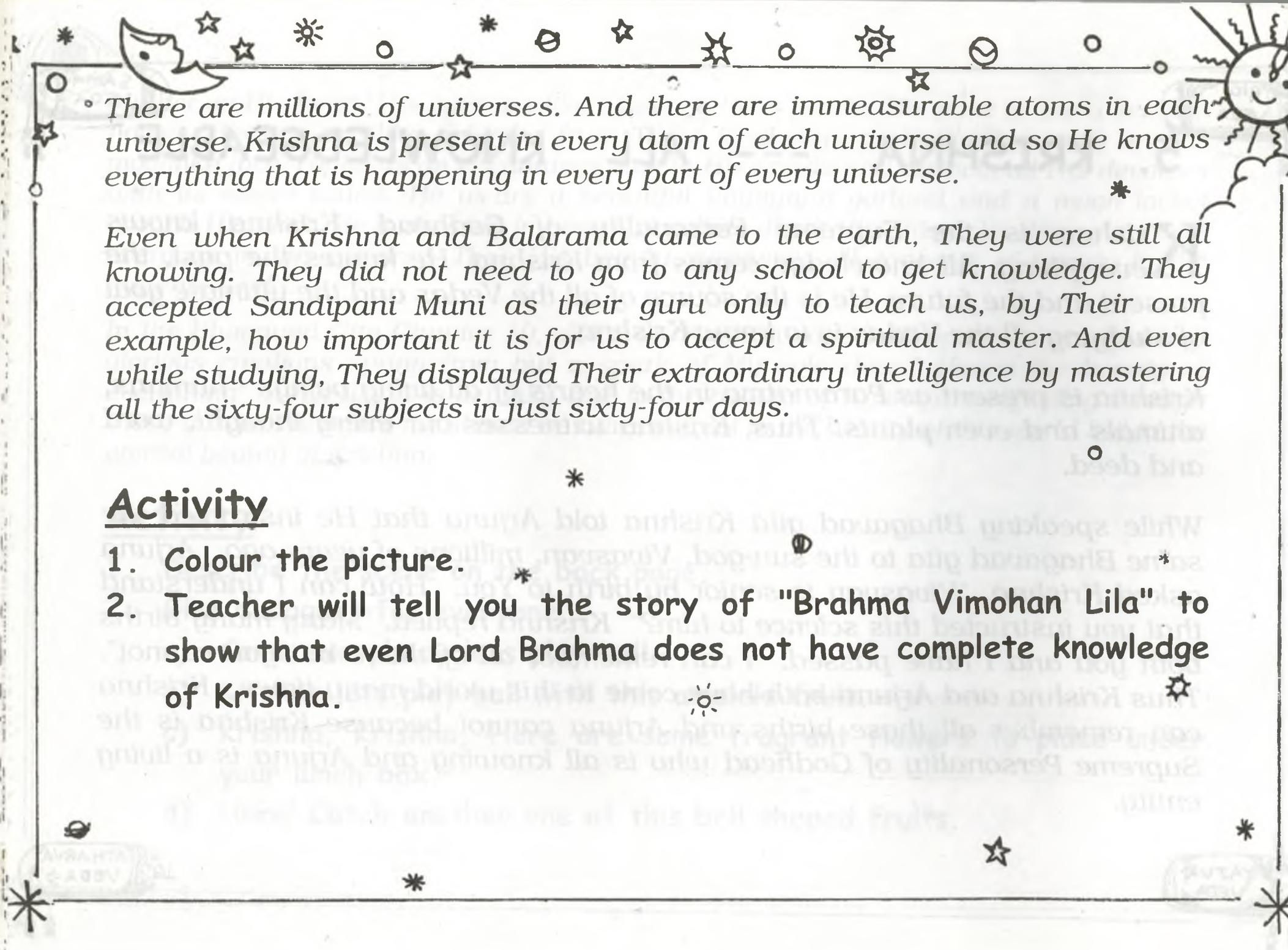
5. KRISHNA --- ALL KNOWLEDGEABLE

Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Krishna knows everything. All knowledge comes from Krishna. He knows the past, the present and the future. He is the source of all the Vedas and the ultimate goal of studying all the Vedas is to know Krishna.

Krishna is present as Paramatma in the hearts of all living beings - humans, animals and even plants. Thus, Krishna witnesses our every thought, word and deed.

While speaking Bhagavad gita Krishna told Arjuna that He instructed the same Bhagavad gita to the sun-god, Vivasvan, millions of years ago. Arjuna asked Krishna, "Vivasvan is senior by birth to You. How can I understand that you instructed this science to him?" Krishna replied, "Many many births both you and I have passed. I can remember all of them, but you cannot". Thus Krishna and Arjuna both have come to this world many times. Krishna can remember all those births and Arjuna cannot because Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead who is all knowing and Arjuna is a living entity.



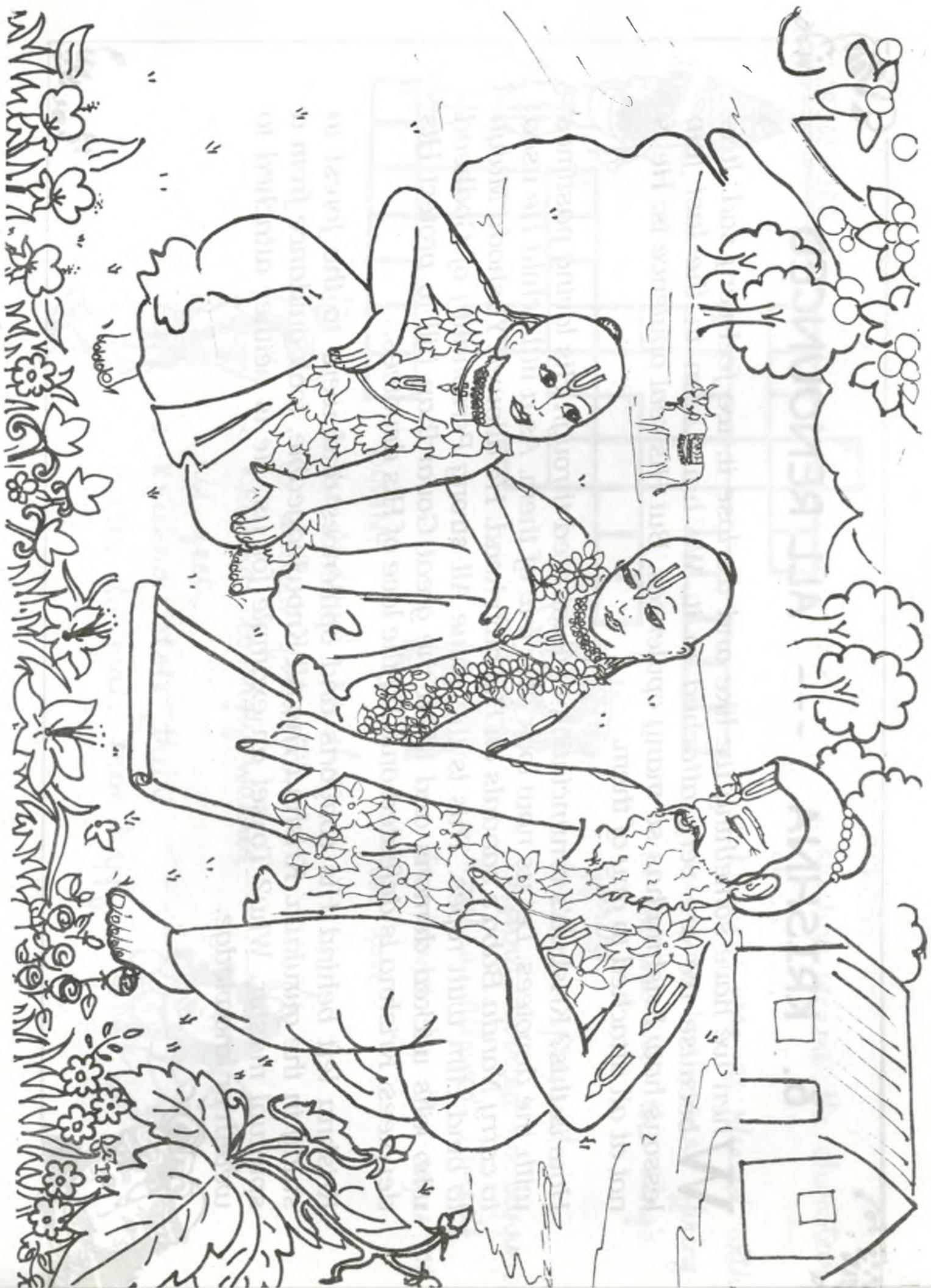


There are millions of universes. And there are immeasurable atoms in each universe. Krishna is present in every atom of each universe and so He knows everything that is happening in every part of every universe.

Even when Krishna and Balarama came to the earth, They were still all knowing. They did not need to go to any school to get knowledge. They accepted Sandipani Muni as their guru only to teach us, by Their own example, how important it is for us to accept a spiritual master. And even while studying, They displayed Their extraordinary intelligence by mastering all the sixty-four subjects in just sixty-four days.

Activity

1. Colour the picture.
2. Teacher will tell you the story of "Brahma Vimohan Lila" to show that even Lord Brahma does not have complete knowledge of Krishna.



6. KRISHNA --- ALL RENOUNCED

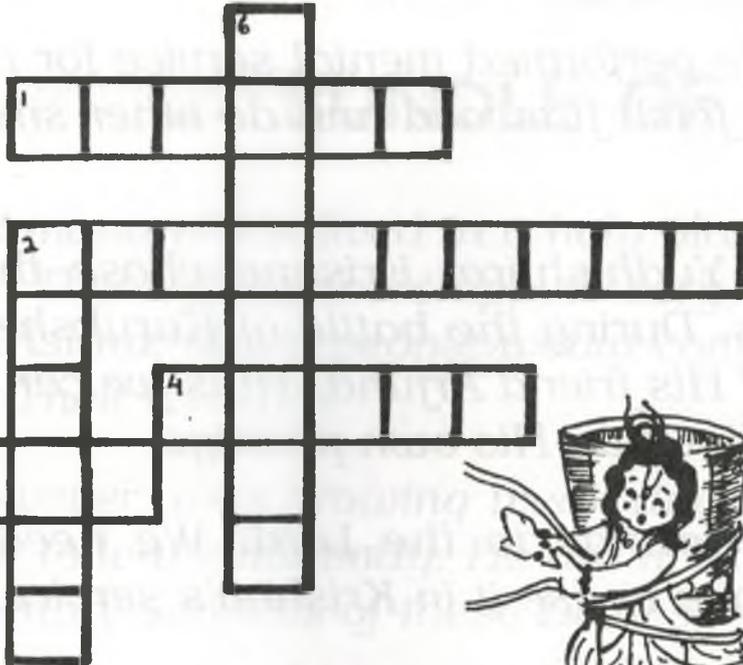
When we have something we like and we lose it, we feel very sad. It is because we are very attached to it. We have seen in the last few lessons how Krishna has so many opulences. But His real opulence is: He is not at all attached to any of them.

How is this? Krishna's renunciation is illustrated through His loving pastimes with the devotees. Let us now look at a few of them. As a little child He used to carry Nanda Baba's sandals on His own head. He allowed Yashoda Maiya to bind Him with ropes. This is the same All strong Personality of Godhead who kills wicked demons and lifted the great Govardhan hill to protect His devotees. Krishna is defeated only by the love of His devotees.

Krishna left behind His comforts and opulences and went to the forest to study in the gurukula. Krishna-The All Knowledgeable, took guidance from a spiritual master. Why? To set an example for us. He is neither attached to wealth or knowledge.



CROSSWORD



DOWN.

1. Krishna lovingly washed his feet.
2. Krishna stole their butter to make them happy
3. Krishna stole their butter to make them happy
6. She ordered Krishna to collect firewood.

ACROSS

1. Krishna became the charioteer of
2. Krishna was as pleased with this poor brahmana's offering as He was with the king's offering.
3. Krishna's playmates.
4. Krishna carried his slippers
5. Krishna allowed Himself to bound by the ropes of her love.



While He was at the gurukula, He performed menial service for His guru and gurumata. She often sent Him to fetch firewood and do other small chores at school.

In the Rajasuya yajna of king Yudhishtira, Krishna chose the service of washing the feet of all the sages. During the battle of Kurukshetra, Krishna Himself, became the charioteer of His friend Arjuna. Thus we can see that His devotees are more important to Him than His own prestige.

Everything we have ultimately belongs to the Lord. We need not falsely renounce anything. We simply have to use it in Krishna's service. This is true renunciation for us.

Activity

1. List ten ways, by which you can serve Krishna.
2. Try to learn the 27th sloka from the 9th chapter of Bhagavad Gita (B.G 9.27).
3. Teacher will explain the meaning and also tell you the story "Lord Krishna visits Bahulashva and Shrutadeva".
4. Complete the crossword puzzle according to the clues given.

1. BUNDLE OF STICKS

An old brahmana priest lived in a holy place, in an ashram, with his seven disciples. There they worshipped very ancient and sacred Deities of Radha and Krishna. Many people would come to see these Deities and make donations for Their worship.

The Guru, however, was growing weak due to old age. He knew that soon it would be time to leave his body. He did not feel confident to hand over to his disciples the entire services of these Deities.

One day a pilgrim donated a large ruby to the Deities.

"I think it should be sold for money," one disciple declared.

"No, no!" another cried. "Radha should wear it."

Yet another gave his opinion, "it would be far better if we cut it into many small rubies. Then we could make a beautiful necklace for Her".

The disagreement among the disciples carried on for so long that the brahmana felt that the Deities would never get their ruby. But he did not interfere. He wanted his students to learn how to manage the ashram themselves. After a while he said, "That's enough. Now each one of you go to the woods. Bring back one stick, no more than an inch thick."





The seven disciples stopped their quarreling and set out to obey their Guru's order. When they returned, the old brahmana took their sticks. He tied them all firmly together with a couple of lengths of rope. He then asked, "Which one of you can break this bundle?"

The seven young men each tried in turn, but even the strongest failed. "It's not possible," they exclaimed, "Watch," their Guru said, cutting the rope with a knife. Taking each stick on its own, he very easily snapped it into two; "I am getting very old. Soon I will die. You are like a bundle of sticks. If you try to help each other, cooperate and work together, you will be strong and serve me well. But if you become divided and fight, you will become weak like these separate sticks. And then, who will care for our Radha and Krishna Deities? Remember united we stand, divided we fall."

Realizing their folly, the seven disciples agreed to set the ruby in a gold ring. That ring, they decided, was to decorate one of Krishna's fingers. Their Guru, pleased at this decision, finally felt ready to leave them. Soon after, he peacefully gave up his body and returned to the spiritual world.

Later, when the people came to see the old brahmana's famous Deities they often asked, "How did Krishna get such a beautiful ring?"
The disciples would always answer, "By the strength of a bundle of sticks."



Activity

In this story we have learnt the importance of unity. Pleasing Krishna is our common goal. We should keep this in mind and co-operate with each other. There are many more values we have to develop, as we grow up. Like you, these devotees are also trying their best to inculcate these values to enhance their Krishna consciousness.

Fill in the blanks. (If you find it tough, use the adjectives given below.)

1. Gopika picks up flowers for her mother. She is _____.
2. Looking at Govinda's smiling face makes everyone happy because he is a _____ child.
3. To please her mother Gaurangi puts her toys in the proper place. She is trying to be _____.
4. Raghunath is well mannered in speech. He is _____.
5. The temple pujari has to wake the Deities at 4.00 a.m. sharp. He has to be _____.

(cheerful, neat, polite, punctual, helpful)





2. 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: although both of you are brothers ?"



Krishna is pleased when we offer to Him with love



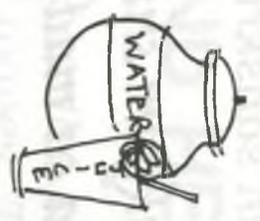
a leaf



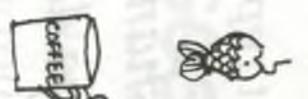
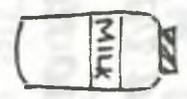
a flower



a fruit



water



meat and alcohol.

Krishna is pleased when we



chart



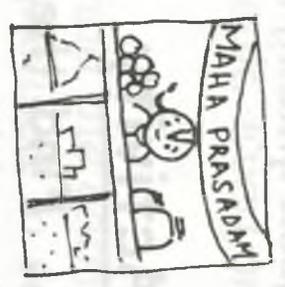
read



dance



gamble



eat prasada

Krishna is pleased when we are



enthusiastic



determined



grude



patient



loving



The parrot replied with sanskrit poetry :

*'gau aashanena vakyam shrinoti aham ca rajan vacanam muneenam
nasti asya dosho na ca mad guno va samsargaja 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 quality by virtue of one's association."

Activity

1. Find the odd one out.
2. Also try and learn the 26th sloka from the 9th chapter of Bhagavad Gita (B.G. 9.26).



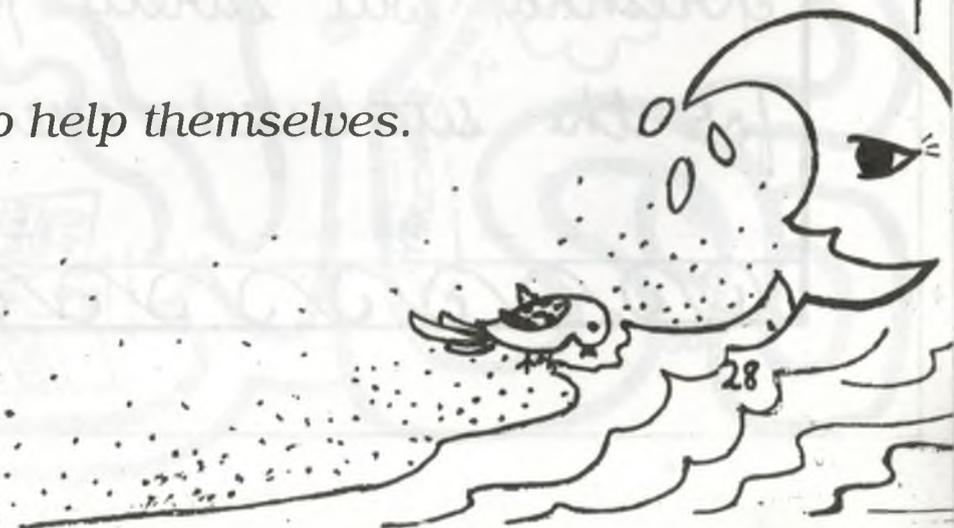
3. THE SPARROW AND HER EGGS

Once upon a time a sparrow laid her eggs on the shore of the ocean. The big ocean carried away her eggs on its waves. The sparrow was very upset and asked the ocean to return her eggs. But the ocean did not listen. The poor sparrow cried in despair but the ocean paid no attention.

The sparrow was very determined to get back her eggs. So she decided to dry up the ocean. She began to pick up the water in her small beak. Everyone laughed at her for her impossible determination.

Soon, Garuda heard the news. Garuda is the king of all birds and the carrier of Lord Vishnu. He came to see his little sister and was very pleased to see her determination. He wanted to help her. He threatened to dry up the ocean if he did not give back the eggs. The ocean was very frightened and quickly returned the eggs.

Thus, we see that the Lord helps those who help themselves.

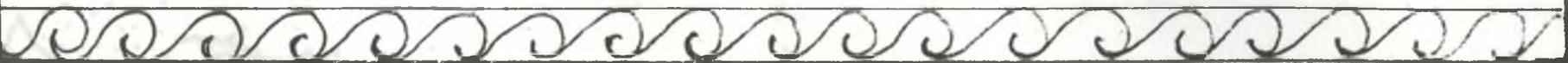


Activity

The Lord helps those who help themselves. The Lord was so pleased with the sparrow's determination that He sent His representative to help her.

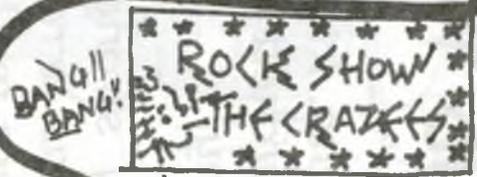
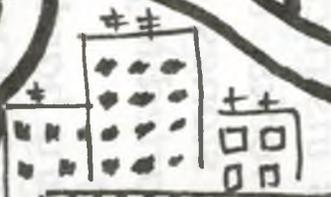
Arjuna loves to go to many places and have fun. But today he is determined to reach the temple. Please help him.

The devotee thinks, *avashya rakshite Krishna*:
"Krishna will surely protect me and give me help
for the successful execution of devotional service"





VIDEO GAMES



HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA



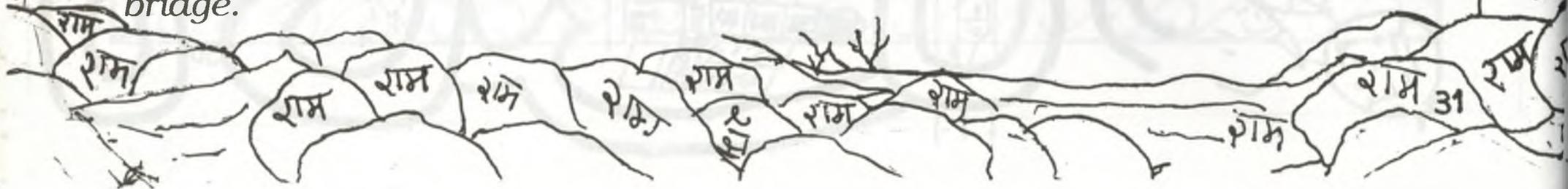
4. HANUMAN AND THE SQUIRREL

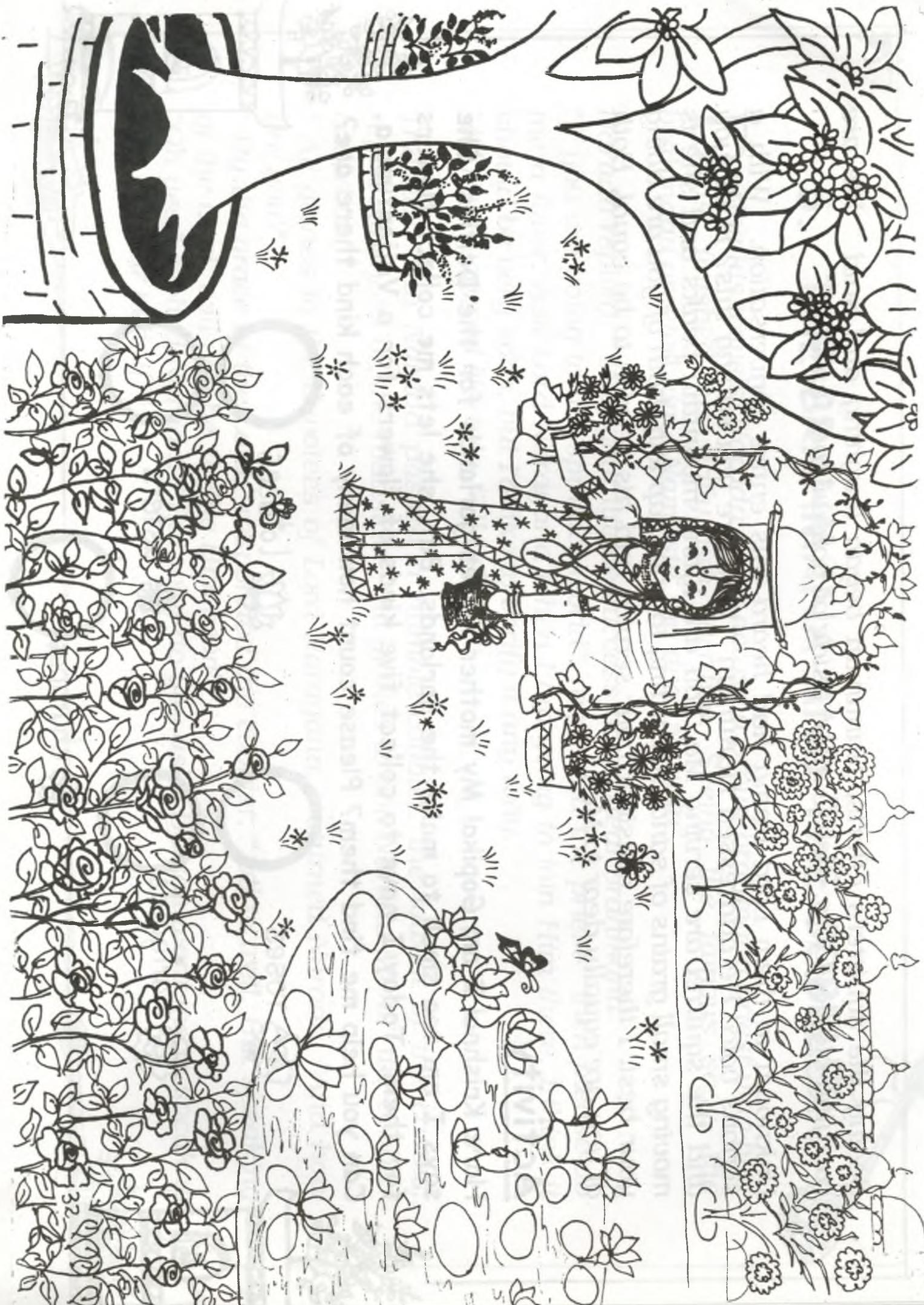
The wicked ten headed Demon Ravana, kidnapped Sita and took her to Sri Lanka. Rama and Lakshmana searched everywhere for Her. They were helped by Sugriva and his monkey army.

The monkey army had many, many strong soldiers. Hanuman was the strongest of all. He jumped 100 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 Lord's mercy they started to float.

Hanuman 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 to help in building the bridge.



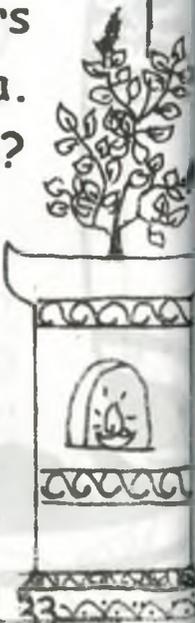
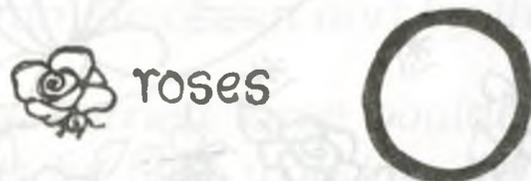


Seeing the squirrel's efforts, Hanuman began laughing and said " We are carrying big boulders, please move aside or you will get hurt."

Unknown to them Lord Rama had heard this entire conversation. With a serious voice He addressed 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 his service to be equal. Both of you are equally dear to Me".

Activity

Hare Krishna! I am Gopika! My mother makes garlands for the Deities. She says I am too small to make the garlands. But, she lets me collect flowers for them. Today I have to collect five kinds of flowers for a Vaijantimala. Can you help me find them? Please count how many of each kind there are?



5. 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".

Narada 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 favor. 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 any way."

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

The next day Narada passed a humble cobbler, the lowest of the 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 to him on your behalf?"





"Oh yes, " answered the cobbler. " You see, I'm very tired of living in this material world. Please would you ask the Lord how many more lifetimes I have to wait before going back to the spiritual world?"

"Yes, I'll certainly do that for you," replied the sage.

Narada, who has a spiritual body, then left for the spiritual world to see Lord Narayana. Upon arriving he bowed his head at the Lotus feet of the lord. Narayana received him with honor and affection. " How are you, dear Narada? Is there anything that I can do for you?"

"By your mercy all is well, my Lord," Narada replied. He then spoke about both the brahmana and the cobbler, putting forward their questions.

Lord Narayana, who knows everything - past, present and future - then informed Narada, " The brahmana will be returning to me only after one hundred lifetimes. But I will see the cobbler at the end of his present life."

Narayana smiled. "When you see the brahmana and the cobbler they will both ask you what I was doing. Tell them I was threading an elephant through the eye of a needle. By their reactions to this, you will understand everything."

Intrigued by the Lord's words, Narada left immediately. Arriving at the house of the brahmana, he told him he would have to wait one 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 took his leave and went to visit the cobbler. He conveyed 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 banyan tree across the road? It came from just a seed. So if the Lord can pack a huge banyan tree into such a seed, He can easily thread an elephant through the eye of a needle."

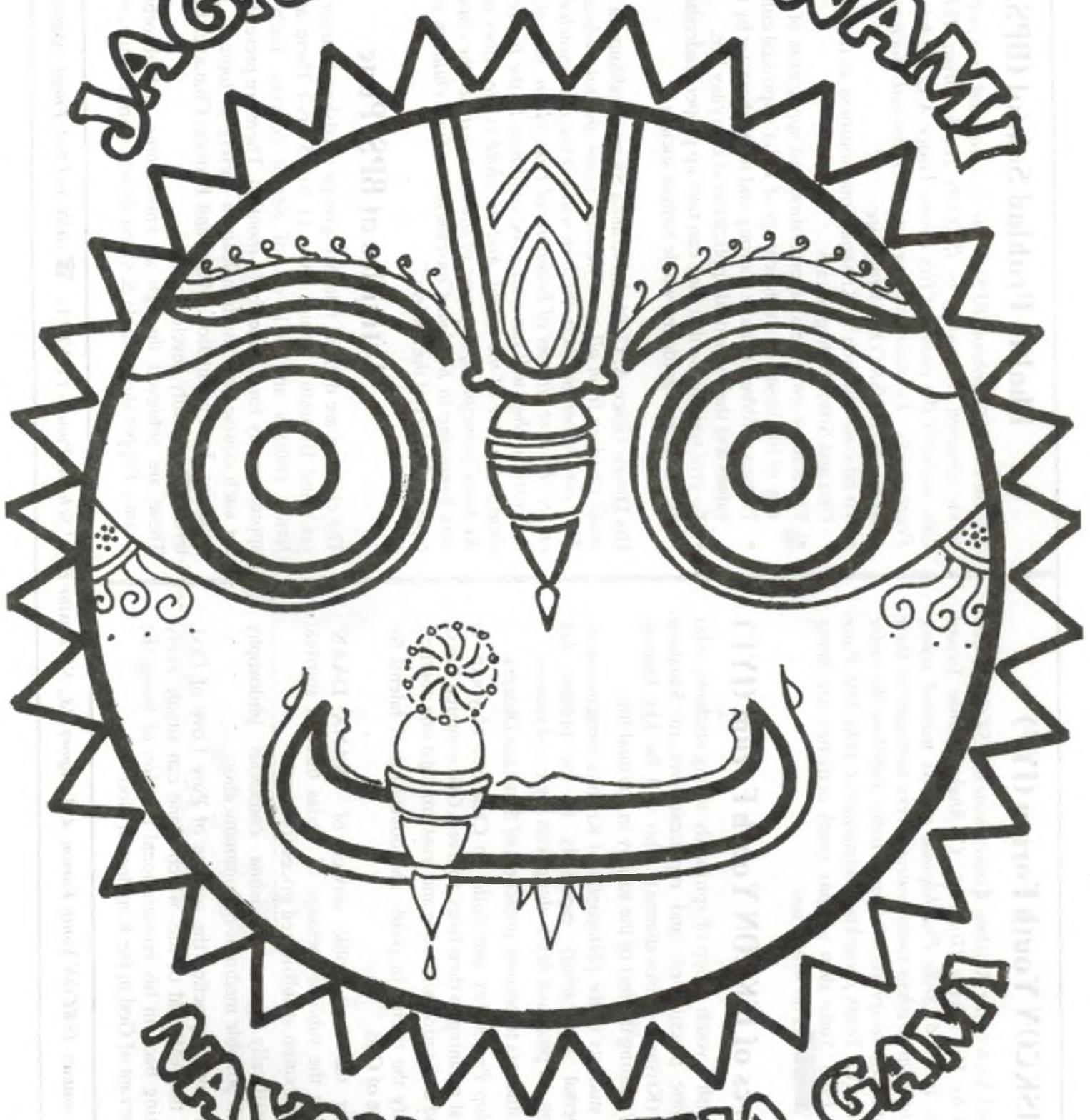
Seeing the difference between the proud brahmana and the faith of the humble cobbler, Narada easily understood why they were to be rewarded in different ways.

Activity

1. Faith and simplicity are very pleasing to the Lord. The Lord is inconceivable. He can do anything. In Jagannath Puri, the Lord performed a very amazing pastime. Krishna presides there in a very amazing form with two large eyes and short hands. He is called "Daru Brahman". All His devotees have full faith in His protection. Do you know why Lord Sri Krishna appears in this special form of Lord Jagannath? Teacher will tell you this most unusual pastime.
2. Colour the picture of Lord Jagannath.

I HARE KR̥ṢṆAI

JAGANNATH SWAMI



NAYANA PATIL GANI

ISKCON Youth Forum (IYF)

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) was established by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in 1966. Srila Prabhupada always wanted young Indians to take up Krishna consciousness very seriously in their own lives and help to spread it all over India, fulfilling the order of Lord Caitanya. Youth preaching blossomed at ISKCON, Pune in January 1996. Since then various youth activities are being carried out in colleges all over Pune.

Objectives of ISKCON Youth Forum (IYF)

1. To establish a youth group of spiritually strong students, who are genuine practitioners and representatives of Sanatana Dharma (Krishna consciousness), who will be like beacon lights for guiding the rest of the society in spiritual life.
2. To train students in the philosophy of Krishna consciousness, its universal applicability especially to the present day generation, its profound depth along with logic and reasons.
3. To train students to become preachers of Sanatana Dharma.
4. To develop Personality and build up Character of youth, to give a real meaning to their lives, to live a God-centered life of purity and dedication with love and trust amongst one another.
5. To identify the talents in youth, and dovetail their talents for the service of God.
6. To render the most noble service of 'JNANA DAAN' distributing the sublime message of Vedas through spiritual books distribution at subsidized prices for youth.
7. To scientifically present Krishna conscious philosophy through all possible mediums of communication.
8. To teach how to practice the science of Pure Love of God, which is the real goal of life, which alone can situate every living being back in his constitutional position of being the eternal servant of God in the Kingdom of God.

Bhakta Prahlad School (BPS)

Bhakta Prahlad School (BPS), Pune is organized as a part of preaching to the children community by ISKCON Youth Forum (IYF), Pune. BPS aims to fulfill the vision of His Divine Grace A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder Acarya of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), which are:

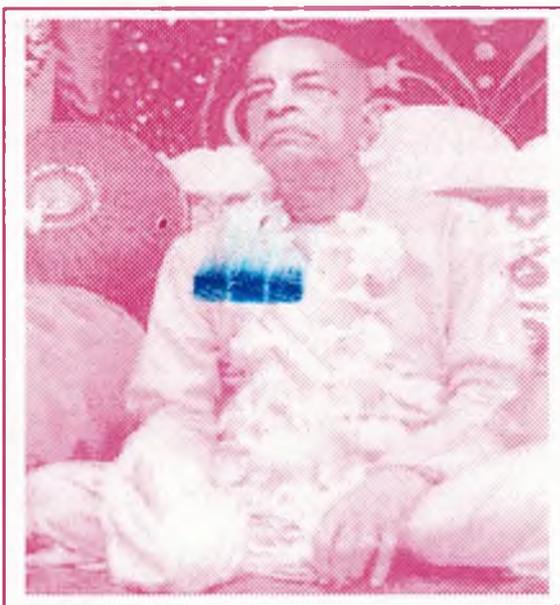
- To educate children in Krishna Consciousness as taught in Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam.
- To increase awareness, appreciation and application of a more natural way of life based on the teachings of India's spiritual culture.
- To train children to have a strong and ideal character by teaching them values and their practical application in everyday life.
- To give training so that they can take up proper leadership positions in the future and guide the whole human society.

His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada said, "Let the small children from all good families come and take education from us. They can be certain their children will get the real knowledge which will create the best citizens of brahminical type, clean, honest, law abiding, industrious, they will have all good qualities. In the future we expect to change the face of the world. And the child is the father of the man. So the basic principle of any type of life is to instruct the children from the very beginning in Krishna Consciousness. Such children grow to be the topmost leaders of the society."

Activities at BPS, Pune

The children are divided into two groups : Krishna / Junior (Age 5 to 10 yrs.) and Balaram / Senior (Age 11 to 15 yrs.) There are 6 levels of Junior courses and 6 levels of Senior courses. Each course lasts approximately for a semester (6 months). There are prescribed text books for each course and children learn a variety of topics – Etiquette and behavior, Japa meditation, Music and Kirtans, Character build-up, Story telling, Personality development, etc.

These are achieved through an entertaining and absorbing blend of Drama, Puppet shows, slide & video shows, spiritual quiz, etc.



His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada,
Founder Acarya:
International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

Srila Prabhupada appeared in this world in 1896 in Calcutta, India. He first met his spiritual master, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami, in Calcutta in 1922. Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, a prominent religious scholar and the founder of sixty-four Gaudiya Mathas (Vedic Institutes), liked this educated young man and convinced him to dedicate his life to teaching Vedic knowledge. Srila Prabhupada became his student and eleven years later, his formally initiated disciple.

At their first meeting, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura requested Srila Prabhupada to broadcast Vedic knowledge through the English language. In the years that followed, Srila Prabhupada wrote a commentary on Bhagavad-gita. He conceived, wrote and edited "Back to Godhead", an English magazine dedicated to his spiritual master, to spread the names of Lord Krishna in the west. The magazine continues to be published bimonthly by his present day followers.

In 1965 when he first arrived by freighter in New York City, Srila Prabhupada was practically penniless. It was after almost a year of great difficulty that he established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in July of 1966. Before passing away on 14th November, 1977, he guided the society and saw it grow to a worldwide confederation of more than one hundred asramas, schools, temples, institutes and farm communities.

Srila Prabhupada's most significant contribution, however, is his books. Highly respected by the academic community for their authority, depth and clarity, they serve as standard textbooks in numerous college courses. His writings have been translated into over thirty languages. The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, established in 1972 to publish his works, has thus become the world's largest publisher in the field of Indian religion and philosophy.

Srila Prabhupada had a great desire to preach the message of Bhagavad gita to the Children and Youth, as they are the foundation of any country. At ISKCON Pune, we have Bhakta Prahlad School for children between age groups: Junior (5 to 9), Senior (10 to 15) and ISKCON Youth Forum (IYF) for students above 15 years of age. We are bringing out these books with the view to educate children and youth in the principles of Vedic knowledge. For more details contact: ISKCON Youth Forum (IYF), 4, Tarapore Road, Next to Dastur boys school, Pune - 411 001, ☎: (020) – 841 855, 832 328.