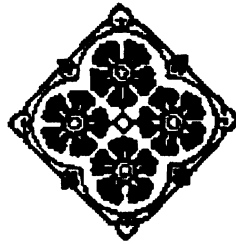


Teacher's Guide
to
Heroes From the Vedas

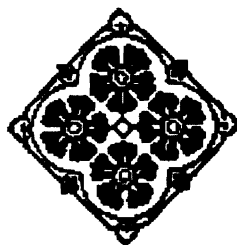
(Damodara Class)



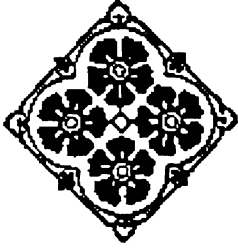
Hare Krishna Sunday School
International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-acarya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Teacher's Guide
to
Heroes From the Vedas

(Damodara Class)



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Introduction

What is a hero? To many children today a hero is some sort of super-being with unbelievable strength and power. It is a half-man, half-other-living-being who can scale a building or fly in the sky.

The purpose of this session is to teach some of the “real” heroes from the Vedic literatures. Some of these heroes, such as Bhima, had great herculean strength. Some of them, like Prahlad, had only his chanting of the Lord’s names as his weapon. Some, like Queen Kunti, had her faith and prayers. In all of the examples in this session, students should gain an understanding and appreciation of what makes someone truly great. It should be noted that even those personalities with tremendous physical strength, like Bhima, were great devotees of the Lord who used their abilities in Krishna’s service.

For a session project, you might want to have the children create a preaching display of the heroes taught in this session. Encourage them to research Srila Prabhupada’s books for more heroes to add to the display. Perhaps each student could write a “book report” about his or her “hero” and present it to the class. At the end of the session, have the preaching display available in the temple for guests to see. You could expand on this idea and have the display as a background for a book table. Students can have various books, such as the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *Bhagavad-gita*, and *The Teachings of Queen Kunti*, on sale at a Sunday feast. This would be a wonderful way for them to tell others what they learned during this session.

Lesson One

1. Begin by reading aloud the introduction in the student workbook. Ask the students, “What is a hero?” Discuss some of the media’s ideas of a hero. (Cartoons, comics, movies, etc.) What are some of the things that make these personalities attractive and “hero-like” to people? Can they name some heroes from the Vedas? What is attractive about these personalities?
2. Before class, have the session verse written on a poster board (Sanskrit and translation). Read each Sanskrit word, have the students repeat after you, then read each line. Have them repeat each line. Encourage volunteers to read the verse alone. Then read a few words at a time of the translation. Have the students repeat after you. Each week, practice the verse in this way. Before you know it, the students will have this verse memorized!
3. Ask for volunteers to read aloud the text in Lesson One. Each student can read one or two paragraphs. Pause often to ask questions to reinforce understanding.
4. Complete the Check for Understanding page together. Students can refer back to the text to correctly spell the names of the Pandavas.
5. Encourage a group discussion using the questions on the next page (Something to Think About and Discuss).
6. Have a race to see who can unscramble the words first on the following page.
7. Allow time for the children to fill in the missing letters on the last page of Lesson One. You can form two teams and again, have a race to see which team fills in the missing letters first.

8. Before class, make copies of the following play, *Bhima Slays the Demon Bakasura*, so each student has a copy. Ask for volunteers to play each part. Using the scripts, have them perform a simple drama. This will be fun and will also reinforce understanding of this pastime. If you would like, this can be practiced each week and performed in the temple room for guests at the end of the session or in the classroom for the parents.

9. If you plan on making a preaching display as a session project, discuss with the students what type of display they would like to make. Discuss where in the temple this can be displayed at the end of the session. Provide drawing paper, construction paper, poster board, markers, crayons, glitter, glue, sequins, scissors, paints and brushes, etc. so students can begin their project. This week they should create something to explain the pastime of Bhima that was just discussed in Lesson One.



BHIMA SLAYS THE DEMON BAKASURA

from the *Maha-Bharata*

* * * * *

CAST: Narrator, Bhima, Arjuna, Yudhishtira, Sahadeva, Nakula, Mother Kunti, Brahmana, Bakasura.

Narrator: Once there lived a great king in the land of Bharata-varsha, known today as India. He was a pure devotee of Lord Krishna named Maharaja Yudhishtira. He also had four younger brothers: Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva. Together they were known as the great Pandavas. They were also said to be born of a divine birth by their mother, Queen Kunti. They lived peacefully executing their duties, while their envious cousins headed by Duryodhana always plotted against them by trying to unscrupulously take away their rightful kingdom. Once their cousin Duryodhana had arranged for a house of shellac to be made for them, and he gave them the house with the intention of burning them all to death, so that he could get their kingdom. But by the grace of the Lord, they escaped. They experienced many hardships, but they always kept Krishna in the center. Here we take you to one adventure they went through, after having escaped the fire of death.

SCENE ONE

The Forest

Bhima: Come along, let's keep moving.

Sahadeva: My dear Bhima, we are not as strong as you. Therefore we need to rest here for a while.

Arjuna: Besides, why are you in so much of a hurry? Where do you want to go? Just be glad we escaped from the house of fire.

Bhima: Well, that's just it, my brother. Why should we be glad that we escaped from death? Why should we have had to go through this anyway, having well known that it was Duryodhana and his evil friends who tried to kill us, just like he has done in the past? We should have killed him a long time ago! Right now I am eager to smash him to bits with my club!

Yudhishtira: My dear Bhima, please calm down! We shall settle everything in due course of time.

Bhima: In due course of time... in due course of time... And when will that be? When we are too old to do anything! No, I can't wait or tolerate this inconvenience caused to all of you. Look at our poor mother — do you think this is a fit way to treat her? No, I am not going to have it. What about when he tried to poison my food? You just want me to tolerate it! I will go and kill him as well as his evil-minded friends!

Kunti: My dear Bhima, please control your anger and listen to your brother. We shall speak with Lord Krishna and your grandfather Bhishma. Surely, they will help us out. Let us rest here for a while and then go to some nearby village for food and shelter. There we shall discuss what to do next.

Nakula: Look, there's a lake! Let's get some water to drink.

Sahadeva: Good, I'm really thirsty. It's such a hot day. (they all drink water. In comes a Brahmana)

Kunti: Excuse me sir, can you tell me where the nearest town is? We need to go there for some food and shelter for a few days before we continue on our journey.

Brahmana: Well, just nearby is a town called Ekachakra where I live. You can all come there. In fact, if you like you can all be my guests for few days. We are always glad to have guests in our house.

Kunti: Thank you very much. That's very kind of you.

SCENE TWO

The Pandavas in the house of the Brahmana

Kunti: No one suspects who we are. So, we should keep our identity a secret. Since we are staying at this nice *brahmana's* house, we can't expect him to feed us all, so I want you to go out and collect alms. Then we shall divide it amongst ourselves. Half will go to Bhima and the other half the rest of us shall share. Be careful now! (Kunti does some cleaning. Brahmana comes in crying)

Brahmana: O my Lord, what am I to do now? How has such a terrible calamity come upon me? O my Lord Krishna, please be merciful and help me out. Please let my son live, somehow or other! (breaks down)

Kunti: My dear *brahmana*, I am sorry but I couldn't help but overhear what you were saying. What seems to be the problem? Is your son sick? What kind of a danger is he in?

Brahmana: Oh, what's the use of telling you? You can't do anything about it!

Kunti: Well, at least tell me, so I can see if there is anything I can do.

Brahmana: No, no. There's absolutely nothing you can do. It's all beyond our control!

Kunti: My dear sir, you have so kindly let us stay in your house, and it bereaves me to see you lament in this way without at least trying to help you. Now please tell me what is causing you so much distress.

Brahmana: If you must know, not far from here is a man-eating *rakshasa* named Bakasura. He used to come and attack our village, killing many people — some he would eat and some he would just kill unnecessarily. This went on for some time. The king was helpless, for the demon was extremely powerful. So the king decided to come to terms with the *rakshasa*. The king arranged that if he would stop attacking the town and killing so many people unnecessarily that he would arrange for lots of foodstuff to be brought to him in a cart. Being a man-eating *rakshasa*, he would also eat the person who took the food. So, it was decided by the citizens that each family would send one person from the house along with the food each month. So, tomorrow it is my turn to send someone, and I have to send my only son. (breaks down. Kunti thinks)

Kunti: Do not lament like this, for I can certainly help you out.

Brahmana: You can help me out? What can you do?

Kunti: Well, since I am the mother of five sons, I shall send one of my sons instead.

Brahmana: No, never! Out of the question! This is not your problem. Why should you send your son to get killed? You don't even belong in this village.

Kunti: I have already decided it shall be done. Besides, you have been so nice to us. I owe you this much.

Brahmana: What, by allowing one of your sons to be killed?

Kunti: Do not worry, he won't be killed. He is very strong. He shall defeat the demon. You should have faith in me. But you must tell no one.

Brahmana: Well, are you sure you want to do this?

Kunti: For certain, as soon as he comes back I shall inform him.

Brahmana: That's very kind of you.

Kunti: Think nothing of it. **(Brahmana goes off)**

Bhima: **(comes in and kicks a table)** This is crazy, I can't stand it any longer!

Kunti: My dear Bhima, please. This is not our house, we are only guests here. What's the matter? Why are you in a bad mood?

Bhima: I'll tell you why I am in a bad mood. Well, here I am, son of a king, the great Maharaja Pandu. I, who am the cousin of the all-powerful Krishna, the leader of the Yadu dynasty, am begging door-to-door and getting doors slammed in my face. O mother, really this is too much for me! Day by day I am getting thinner. Before long I won't be able to lift even a twig. Why can't we gather our allies, attack Hastinapura and get our rightful kingdom by force?

Kunti: Your brother Yudhishtira knows best how to act. You know he wants to avoid battle with your cousins. Anyway, I have some good news for you.

Bhima: What is that?

Kunti: Tomorrow the people of the town are cooking lots of foodstuffs to be taken to some *rakshasa*. All you have to do is take the food over there, eat it all and kill the demon.

Bhima: That sounds like a nice idea. At last I can satisfy my hunger! I would fight with anyone for nice foodstuffs! Is there going to be lots of *puris*, *subjis*, and *laddus*?

Kunti: Yes, of course, my son, they will have all this and lots more. But, be careful of the demon! They say he is very strong.

Bhima: Have no fear, mother. I will meditate on Lord Krishna and He will bring me out victorious. **(the other brothers walk in)**

Kunti: O my sons, you have arrived. Are you all well?

Yudhishtira: Yes, thank you, mother. Here are the foodstuffs. Hey Bhima, where did you get to? I didn't see you all day. How much food did you beg? What's the matter? Why are you looking so happy? Has something happened?

Kunti: Today, the *brahmana* who owns the place where we are staying was telling me of a *rakshasa* who lives near here and terrorizes the village. So, tomorrow the village people are cooking lots of foodstuffs for him. They also have to send one citizen along with the food to get eaten by the demon. Unfortunately, this *brahmana* has to send his only son. So I told him I will send one of my sons — Bhima will go instead, eat all the food and kill the *rakshasa*. That's why he is all excited.

Yudhishtira: O mother, what have you done? You have sent Bhima to his death! Relying on his strength, I was hoping to get our kingdom back! Alas, we will not see you, Bhima, anymore! You who are more dear to me than my own life! O Bhima! Mother, I can't understand why you have done this!

Kunti: Yudhishtira, I know the strength of my own son better than anyone. I know he will kill the *rakshasa* and come out victorious. You need not fear anything. Did he not slay the powerful demon Hidimba?

Yudhishtira: It shall be as you say, mother.

Arjuna: Anyway, if anything comes in the way of our Bhima and some foodstuffs, I don't think they have much of a chance to live. Ha ha!

All: (laughter)

SCENE THREE

The Forest

(Enter Bhima, looks around)

Bhima: I think that's all the foodstuffs there now, no sign of the demon. I must eat all the food before the demon comes, otherwise it will get all scattered during the fight. We don't want all this food to go to waste, now do we? Okay, I will go back behind here and eat everything before he comes. (looks around)

Rakshasa: That was a very good sleep! Now there's nothing like having something to eat! I hope all the food is behind here. The fools last time were late. Why, if they are late I am going to teach them a good lesson or two! (opens curtain) Ah ha... who is this? It looks like he's eaten up all my food. Well, he's going to pay the price with his dear life. Hey you, get up, get up, get up! You rascal, did you eat all of my food?

Bhima: Well, I just happened to bump into all of this and I thought it would be rather a waste to leave it, so I ate it. Is that alright with you?

Rakshasa: Take this! (fight takes place — Bhima still eats with one hand while holding back the furious demon with the other hand)

SCENE FOUR

In the house of the Brahmana

Yudhishtira: Bhima, are you okay? Did everything go well?

Bhima: Yes, thank you, brother. (to mother Kunti) O mother, thank you for that fantastic feast, it was wonderful! Sorry, I didn't save any for you!

Kunti: It doesn't matter, my son. As long as you are happy, we are all satisfied.

Bhima: My dear *brahmana*, the *rakshasa* is now dead and the village people need not fear him any longer.

Brahmana: Who are you, who has the strength to kill such a powerful *rakshasa*?

Bhima: I performed some austerities for the pleasure of Lord Shiva, and he granted me the boon to kill the demon since he was the cause of so much trouble.

Brahmana: And if the king asks who killed him, what shall I say?

Bhima: All you have to say is the same thing, but instead of naming me, say that your own son was invested with the strength of Lord Shiva to kill him.

Kunti: Yes, that's a very good idea, now we must move on to our next destination.

Brahmana: No, no, no, you cannot go now! Please stay for a few more days!

Yudhishtira: No, we must move on now, we only planned to stay here for a little while.

Brahmana: But you saved the whole village — everyone should know!

Kunti: No one should know. If you are at all grateful to us, then our request is that you keep this a secret and let us go quietly.

Brahmana: As you wish, but you are all welcome to return here.

Arjuna: Let's go to Maharaja Drupada's kingdom — I think they are having a marriage festival there!

Kunti: Let's go, then. (the Pandavas exit)

Brahmana: My dear Lord Krishna, thank You for allowing my son to live! Let my devotion to You increase day by day. O Lord Krishna, I pray that I may never forget You and Your devotees, for You are my Lord and my master. Come, son, let us cook a big feast for the Lord.

The End

Lesson Two

1. Recite the session verse. Ask for volunteers to come up to the board and lead the verse. Provide a small reward for those who practiced the verse during the week, such as a sticker, maha-sweet, picture of the Deities, etc.
2. Begin by showing a copy of the *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*. Review the battle of Kuruksetra while showing some of the beautiful paintings in this book. Read aloud the text in Lesson Two. As you come to various verses in the text, you may want to turn to that particular verse in the *Bhagavad-gita*. (It is a good idea to have them marked ahead of time so you do not lose the attention of your students while you are finding the verses). Choose one student to read each verse from the *Bhagavad-gita*. This will bring more awareness to Srila Prabhupada's great literary contribution!
3. Complete the Check for Understanding page.
4. Encourage discussion by reviewing the "Something to Think About and Discuss" page.
5. Have the students look up Chapter 2, Text 31 and write it on the appropriate page in their workbook.
6. Provide art supplies, such as markers and colored pencils, so students can draw a picture of Arjuna's chariot. Have them answer the question, "What did the flag of Hanuman represent?"
7. Have a contest to see who can fill in the missing letters in the sentence on the next page.
8. If you are doing a preaching display as a session project, allow time for the children to continue with that project. This week they can include Arjuna as one of their "Vedic heroes."

Lesson Three

1. Chant the session verse. Encourage volunteers to lead the verse. Encourage those who can to say the verse without referring to the chart.

2. Have available a copy of *Srimad-Bhagavatam, Third Canto, Part Three*. Explain that the pastime they are about to read is written in this book with translations and purports by Srila Prabhupada.

3. Ask for volunteers to take turns reading the text in Lesson Three. If each student reads one or two paragraphs, the reading should move fast enough so you should not lose their attention. Pause occasionally to ask questions.

4. Complete the Check for Understanding page.

5. Provide pencils and ask the class to form groups of two or three students. Have them fill in the qualities of Devahuti on the following page.

6. Refer to the Third Canto paintings of the aerial mansion. Provide colored pencils and allow time for the students to draw a picture of the aerial mansion created by Kardama Muni. Provide glue and sequins and glitter to decorate the mansion. Perhaps these drawings can be part of your preaching display if you are doing one this session.

7. Alternate art project idea:

(Refer to the Third Canto painting of the aerial mansion).

Provide a large cardboard box, construction paper, glue, scissors, glitter, sequins, markers, colored pom poms, pipe cleaners, flat-back jewels, etc. Have the students create a three-dimensional aerial mansion instead of drawing one in their workbooks. (Another idea for your session project/display.)

8. Alternate art project idea:

(Create an offerable and edible aerial mansion). Bring in an empty pint-size milk or juice carton for each student. Provide graham crackers, icing to be used as “glue,” hard candies of different colors, shapes, and sizes. Have each

student assemble an aerial mansion using these food items. Provide safe, plastic knives or wooden craft sticks to apply the icing to the milk carton as “glue.” Then have them place graham crackers over the icing so all sides and top of the carton are covered with crackers. Use the “glue” icing to apply and decorate the mansion with the candies. Offer to Krishna and it is now prasadam! (Note: Each aerial mansion should be made on a sturdy paper plate so the children can take them home in one piece!)

Lesson Four

1. Chant the session verse. By now, most students should be able to lead the verse, as well as have it memorized.

2. Begin by explaining that the pastime about to be read is written about in *Krsna Book, Volume Two*, written by Srila Prabhupada. Ask for volunteers to read one or two paragraphs each of the text in Lesson Four.

3. Complete the Check for Understanding page. When completed, have a student read the entire page aloud.

4. The next page is designed to teach a few of the incarnations of Lord Balarama. Stress the point that whenever Lord Krishna appears in the material world, His brother Balarama appears as well. Generally, Balarama appears as Krishna's older brother. In the pastime of Lord Ramachandra, Balarama appears as Laksmana, Krishna's younger brother. This page can open a lively discussion about Lord Chaitanya and Lord Nityananda and the reason They appeared on Earth 500 years ago.

5. Provide art material for the students to draw Balarama's plow and club.

Alternate art project:

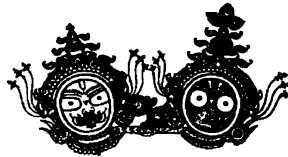
If you have the time and materials, have the students make a plow and club using paper mache. Start by cutting out the plow and club shapes from chicken wire. Wrap many layers of shredded newspaper dipped in liquid starch around the wire shapes. This project is messy, but lots of fun!

6. Allow time to discuss the questions on the page entitled, Something to Think About and Discuss.

7. If doing a preaching display, allow time to include the pastime about Lord Balarama. Has any student found any other "heroes" in the Vedas? Did they do a written/verbal report in front of the class? Did they include their "heroes" in the preaching display?

8. Sequence of events:

If time allows, have the students sit in a circle on mats or chairs. This exercise helps to reinforce understanding of the pastime read in Lesson Four. Begin telling the story by saying, “Once upon a time, Lord Balarama, the eldest brother of Lord Krishna, traveled to the forest of Naimisaranya in India.” The student to your left must continue the story using one sentence only. He or she should say something like, “The great sages assembled in the forest told Balarama about a demon named Balvala.” The student to the left of that child then continues the story using one sentence. Continue going around the circle until the story is completed.



Lesson Five

1. Chant the session. This week, try removing the poster board with the verse written on it so the students can recite it by memory. Reward their efforts with stickers, maha-sweets, pictures, etc.
2. Ask who knows the story of Prahlad Maharaja. Who knows the prayers to Lord Nrsimhadeva? Who would like to sing them in front of the class? (Before class, you may want to copy these prayers and hand out to each student. This would be a nice time to teach these important prayers). When are these prayers sung? (At the end of arotika) Ask if anyone knows the story of why Hiranyakasipu took birth? (Offenses to the Four Kumauras when he was one of the gatekeepers in Vaikuntha) What was the name of Hiranyakasipu's brother? What were the other two births they took?
3. Begin reading aloud the text in Lesson Five. Pause often to ask questions or to reiterate an important point. Refer to the pictures of Hiranyakasipu's body after it was eaten by ants and worms. How determined he must have been to gain power and control!
4. Complete the Check for Understanding page.
5. Discuss the question on the Something to Think About and Discuss page. The answer is: The maha-mantra which should be written on the lines at the bottom of that page.
6. Provide scissors and markers or crayons (blue, brown, red, and yellow) for the students to complete the "movable" puppet of Lord Nrsimhadeva on the next page.
7. An extensive drama depicting this pastime follows. Perhaps this can be informally performed for your other Sunday school age groups using the scripts. Simple set decorations and costumes can be created by the students.
8. If you are making a preaching display, be sure to allow time for the students to include Prahlad Maharaja.

PRAHLADA MAHARAJA AND LORD NRISIMHADEVA (#1)

from *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, Canto Seven, Chapters 2 - 9

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CAST: Narrator, Hiranyakashipu, Guard, Minister, Kayadhu Devi, Indra, Demigod, Servant, Narada, Amarka, Sanda, Lord Vishnu, Prahlada, 3 Boys — Mudha, Tamaguna and Rajaguna, Lord Nrisimhadeva.

Narrator: Many, many thousands of years ago, the two doorkeepers of the spiritual world of Vaikuntha, Jaya and Vijaya, obstructed passage to the boy sages, the four Kumaras, because they did not understand their elevated position. Hence the four Kumaras cursed them to fall down into the deep dark well of the material world. The curse was that they would have to take three births in a demonic family. Thus hurtling down through the layers of the material universe — earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence and false ego — Jaya and Vijaya entered into the womb of Diti and became the twin sons of Kashyapa Muni, who named them Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashipu. Once, Hiranyaksha was causing havoc in the universe, and thus he knocked planet Earth out of its orbit. The Supreme Personality of Godhead Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of a boar, retrieved the Earth, and put it back in its original place. This, of course, disturbed the mind of Hiranyaksha to such an extent that he later challenged the Lord to combat with him. A wonderful fight took place in which all the denizens of heaven waited as the Lord ultimately struck the demon down and killed him.

SCENE ONE

(Hiranyakashipu is in his court in the heavenly planets, enjoying music, dance and wine. Guard bursts in)

Guard: My dear lord, I am so sorry to intrude on your entertainment, but I have terrible news to tell you!

Hiranya: Guard, do you not see me having a good time? Why do you come and disturb me while we are all enjoying ourselves? The news can wait until later. Let the dancing and music continue! (claps, music starts)

Guard: But please — my dear king, it is most urgent that you hear this news now!

Hiranya: Alright, if you want to persist. Tell me the news that can't wait until later.

Guard: But, I think we should discuss this in private.

Hiranya: Oh, really! First you disturb my enjoyment, then you insult all who surround me. They are all part of one nice big family.

Guard: Alright then — today your great brother, Hiranyaksha, was killed in combat!

Hiranya: What, my brother killed? Who? Where? When? Why? Do you know what you are talking about? Do you not know that absolutely no one can defeat my dear brother, who is so powerful that all the demigods fear him! Have you got the right information? If not, I'll have you killed for causing this disturbance!

Guard: No, no, it is true! I am completely sure about it! The information I relate to you about your brother's death is absolutely true!

Hiranya: Tell me what happened. Who did he fight with? Who could have had the strength to kill my brother?

Guard: It was Vishnu, our...

Hiranya: Vishnu!!!

Guard: Yes, Vishnu our arch-enemy, who always sides with the useless demigods.

Hiranya: Well, what happened?

Guard: Your brother Hiranyaksha had knocked the Earth out of its orbit.

Hiranya: Good!

Guard: Vishnu assumed the form of a boar and retrieved the Earth, putting it back to its original position. Your brother charged Vishnu, but as fate would have it, your brother lost the fight.

Hiranya: Tricks, tricks, tricks of Vishnu. He killed my brother by those useless tricks of His. In a fair combat, my brother would have won, without a doubt. This Vishnu has taken the side of the demigods, our enemies. But the battle is not over yet. No, my dear friend Vishnu, the battle is not over yet. I will avenge my brother's death. I will offer Vishnu's blood to my brother! He was always very fond of drinking blood. And only then will I be satisfied!

SCENE TWO

Hiranya: O Danavas, Daityas, and all my assistants, listen to me carefully now! I want you to go to the Earth planet and disturb all the sacrifices meant for Vishnu! Kill all the *brahmanas*, kill the cows! Wherever charity and the Vedas reside, destroy those places! No signs of Vishnu worship should be found anywhere! Go immediately and destroy, destroy, destroy this Vedic culture which the *brahmanas* and Vishnu are so proud of! Go, go, go!!!

Minister: I will arrange for our army to go at once.

Hiranya: Yes, I must avenge my brother. When there is no offering made to Vishnu by the *brahmanas'* sacrifices, then He will dry up and die of starvation, just as by ceasing to water the plant, one kills the plant. In the same manner, I will kill Vishnu and avenge my brother. When Vishnu dies, the whole of the Vedic culture and *brahmanas* will collapse. Ha ha ha! In the meantime, I shall go to perform austerities to gain more power. Then I will be unmatched in my power, fame and glory. No one will be able to defeat me. With Vishnu and the *brahmanas* dead, I shall rule the universe according to the way I want!

Kayadhu: I can't believe our Hiranyaksha has been killed. (she cries)

Hiranya: My dear wife, do not lament so for the death of a great hero, for a hero's death in front of his enemy is glorious and desirable. Sometimes travellers meet together in a place and drink, enjoy and talk, but then they continue on to their destinations. In the same manner, we meet together, form a family, and later we are separated. The spirit soul is eternal and never dies. So what use is your lamenting for a soul passing from its body? In a bewildered state we accept the body, mind, self, family and kinsmen as one's own self, but this is just a misconception. So, do not identify with this body. Come, let us go. I have much work to do.

SCENE THREE

Narrator: Meanwhile, in the valley of Mandara hill, Hiranyakashipu began to perform severe austerities by standing on the tips of his toes, keeping his arms stretched upwards. This position was extremely difficult, but he accepted it as a means of attaining perfection. Because he stood there for so long, ants had built an anthill on top of him, and plants and creepers grew around him. From his body there emanated an effulgent light. (Hiranyakashipu on stage. Demigods appear)

Indra: Look at this Hiranyakashipu! He has performed such severe austerities!

Demigod: He has been standing there for so long, his flesh has been eaten away. Look at the ants — they built a hill around him!

Indra: He has been bitten constantly by ants, but still he does not move an inch. He is maintaining his life on just air alone. He has not moved despite difficulties such as rain, sun, wind, storms, hunger and thirst.

Demigod: We can feel the intense heat coming from his body!

Indra: Look at that smoke coming out of his body. This is completely amazing. It is covering the entire globe with its mountains and islands, which are trembling.

Demigod: Yes, just look at all the stars, they are falling from the sky because of his austerities. All directions are blazing hot.

Indra: We cannot even remain in our own residence or planets because of these disturbances. We must do something about it.

Demigod: Let us approach Lord Brahma and explain our pitiful situation.

SCENE FOUR

(Demigods travel to Satyaloka)

Indra: My dear Lord Brahma, you are the protector of all the residents within this universe, of which you are the maintainer. Thus we have come to take shelter of you. Please help us.

Demigod: Yes, this demon Hiranyakashipu is performing such incredible austerities that it is very difficult for us to stay in our own planets.

Indra: If you think it proper, kindly stop these disturbances, which are meant to destroy everything, before all your subjects are annihilated.

Demigod: There is so much heat everywhere. You must do something to save the whole universe before this Hiranyakashipu destroys it.

Indra: Although you know his plan, please kindly listen to us. Since you acquired your own exalted post by means of severe austerity, meditation and trance, thus he is thinking along the same lines.

Demigod: Yes, he says if you can get your post by performing austerities, then he, too, will perform these kinds of austerities to get Brahma's post.

Indra: His plan is to change all the religious principles and make a mockery out of all the *brahmanas*, demigods and cows.

Demigod: Yes, my dear Lord Brahma, this is certainly most inauspicious that he should curse the *brahmanas*, cows, demigods and Vedic culture.

Indra: My dear Lord, let me say just this one thing. Your post as Lord Brahma is certainly most auspicious for everyone, especially the cows, *brahmanas* and all of us. But unfortunately, if this demon takes over and occupies your seat, then you can be sure that all of this will be lost. (silence)

Brahma: My dear demigods, I hear your pleas with great attention. I am quite aware of all the disturbances caused by this demon Hiranyakashipu. I am also aware of the fact that he wishes to occupy my post. Therefore I shall go and see him. (Brahma leaves)

Demigod: Lord Brahma will sort him out. Come Indrajī, let us return to our abodes.

Indra: No, no, I still am not fully satisfied. We must do something to help the situation. I wonder what we can do.

Demigod: I tell you what we can do...

Indra: What?

Demigod: Nothing, nothing, whatsoever. We are so powerless against the mighty Hiranyakashipu.

Indra: Yes, quite true, I agree with you. But still, my mind tells me we can do something.

Demigod: What then, what?

Indra: (laughs) Yes, I've got it. I've got just the thing we can do.

Demigod: What? Tell me.

Indra: Quite simple. Come, let us make haste, lest we lose valuable time.

Demigod: Yes, but tell me what we have to do.

Indra: Listen carefully, what we have to do is this: when Hiranyakashipu is still out there in the forest, all we have to do is...

SCENE FIVE

(Hiranyakashipu full of creepers)

Brahma: Now where could he be? I can't see him anywhere. I am sure I was told he was here. Ah, what on earth is this? No, I can't believe it's true. It can't be possible. It can't be. O son of Kashyapa Muni, please get up. You are now perfect in your performance of austerities. Therefore I will give you a benediction. You may ask me whatever you want and I shall try to fulfill your desire. **(comes forward)** I am very astonished to see your endurance. In spite of being eaten and bitten by all kinds of worms and insects, you are keeping your life airs circulating within your bones. Certainly this is wonderful. Even saintly persons like Bhrgu could not perform such severe austerities. Nor will anyone else ever be able to do so. Who within the three worlds could sustain his life without drinking or eating for one hundred celestial years? I am certainly conquered by your austerities. **(throws sacred water, Hiranyakashipu's body is restored)**

Hiranya: Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto you, the supreme being within this universe. You are the creator of these cosmic manifestations. Because of you, everything exists. You are the origin of life within this universe. You are known as Hiranyagarbha, the reservoir of the universe. Let me thus offer my humble obeisances unto you, who are the supreme personality of godhead. My dear Brahma, grant me this one boon — that I will never die.

Brahma: My dear Hiranyakashipu, although it may seem that I will never die, according to human calculation, actually I do have to meet mortal death when my time of governing this universe is finished.

Hiranya: Then grant me this — that I will never meet death by any of the living beings you have created.

Brahma: Yes, of course.

Hiranya: Then grant me this — that I will never die during the night or during the day.

Brahma: Yes.

Hiranya: Then grant me this — that I will never be killed inside or outside of any place, grant me no rival in this universe. Grant me power over all the living entities, grant me all fame and fortune. Grant me all mystic powers. Grant me this. I want all of this right now. Grant me all of this, Brahma.

Brahma: Yes, now that is everything. **(leaves)**

Hiranya: Now I am immortal!!! Now, everyone — worship me, Hiranyakashipu, for I'm the Supreme God in the universe! No one can challenge my powers. I am the most powerful man in the universe!

SCENE SIX

Narrator: So, having decided to try to gain the upper hand over Hiranyakashipu, Indra and the demigods went to the palace of Hiranyakashipu while he was performing his austerities in the forest.

Kayadhu: Oh, what shall I do? My husband has gone away for such a long time now! I have heard from our spies that Indra and his army are coming to attack us while we have no leader to guide us!

Servant: Do not worry. You should not react in this way, especially as you are pregnant. Now put your mind at ease. **(loud knocking on door)**

Kayadhu: Oh, no. What's that noise? It looks like Indra is coming!

Servant: Come on, let's make our way around the back. They will never catch us.

Kayadhu: I fear greatly for my child! Come, let us go. **(Indra and company bursts in)**

Indra: You will go nowhere, my lady, for I want to send your child to Yama-loka.

Servant: How dare you speak like that to the queen!

Indra: Out of my way, you imbecile, lest I send you also with the child to visit Yama-loka. Come here, you can make things easy for yourself and others.

Kayadhu: No! Help!

Narada: **(chanting Hare Krishna *maha-mantra*)** My dear demigods, what are you doing with this lady?

Indra: My dear Narada, please accept my humble obeisances. This lady is the wife of Hiranyakashipu. She is carrying within her womb the son of Hiranyakashipu, a snake who will be worse than his own father. So we are taking her until she gives birth to this heinous demon. Then we shall kill him and then let her go.

Narada: No, no, my dear demigods, you are greatly mistaken. Within her womb is a great devotee of Lord Krishna. Even if you tried to kill him, you cannot. His name is Prahlada Maharaja.

Indra: We are so sorry for this mistake. We shall return to our abode.

Narada: **(to Kayadhu Devi)** Please come to my *ashram*. There you will be much safer. I shall look after you until your husband returns from his austerities.

Kayadhu: Thank you so much.

Narada: Come, I have much knowledge to impart to your saintly son.

SCENE SEVEN

Demigod: Did you hear what happened to Hiranyakashipu?

Indra: Yes.

Demigod: Instead of helping us, Lord Brahma made the situation much worse by giving Hiranyakashipu all those benedictions.

Indra: Now this Hiranyakashipu is much more powerful than before. We are completely helpless against his invincible power.

Demigod: Why has Lord Brahma made him immortal? All our weapons will be of no use against him.

Indra: Even my mighty thunderbolt is of no avail against his might. I fear greatly that he will soon come and take my kingdom. (**Hiranyakashipu boldly enters**)

Hiranya: Well, fear not. If you hand over all your kingdom to me, you will be in peace.

Indra: What? Hiranyakashipu, you are back so soon?

Hiranya: Well, you didn't expect me to meditate forever, did you? Now get down from that throne. I am the supreme controller. I am the ruler of the universe. So I think it quite appropriate that I rule my subjects from your throne. Now get down from there!

Indra: Yes, at once.

Hiranya: Come here. Where do you think you are rushing off to? Now bow down to me, your king, or else feel the edge of my sword. You wretch, bend lower, that's better. You too, bend down! Now give me that crown. Good, good, I am very pleased with you, Indra. Yes, indeed I am. Now place this crown on my head and declare to everyone that I am now king of heaven. Go on.

Indra: I hereby declare that from henceforth, I give my entire kingdom over to Hiranyakashipu to rule. Are there any objections?

Hiranya: Good, good, that's what I like to see, a bit of submissiveness around here. Now listen to me, all you human beings, Gandharvas, Siddhas, Charanas, so-called saints, Manus, Yakshas, Rakshasas, ghosts, Bhutas and demons. From today onwards, I rule this universe. I make my own rules. There shall be no worship of Vishnu, no charity, no Vedic culture shall exist henceforth. No sacrifices are to be offered to Vishnu. I shall take all the shares of the sacrifices from now onwards. If by any chance anyone defies this order, he will have to meet with my sword. Everyone — worship me as the supreme god! Alright, you useless Indra, bring me some *Soma-rasa*.

Indra: But that cannot be allowed. It's only for those who have accrued many pious credits.

Hiranya: What did you say, servant Indra?

Indra: Only the demigods are fit... I mean to say, only you have the right to drink it!

Hiranya: (laughs) Go! (Indra brings the *Soma* and Hiranyakashipu drinks it, enjoying)
Alright, you may go.

Narada: *Jai Hiranyakashipu!*

Hiranya: Ah, Narada Muni, welcome. Ah! My wife! Oh, who is this little boy?

Narada: He, my dear Hiranyakashipu, is your dear son, Prahlada. I have been looking after your wife and son.

Hiranya: My son, my son. Come here, let me touch you. I thank you, Narada. Guards, reward him!

Narada: Thank you, but no thank you. *Jai Hiranyakashipu, Jai!*

Hiranya: Come my child. Come to your father. You must feel proud to have a father like me. So I want the best for you, Prahlada. Come, sit with me on my newly accepted throne, which in due course of time will be yours. I want you to learn everything nicely so that when you take over my throne, you will be better than me — and you will be, you will be, just wait and see. You will inherit all my wealth, power, gold — my entire universal kingdom! Now, if this is to happen, we have to arrange a suitable education for you. The sons of my *guru*, Shukracharya — Amarka and Sanda — will be good enough to teach you the art of diplomacy and so forth. Guard, call Amarka and Sanda here at once.

Guard: Yes, sir!

Hiranya: Ah! Welcome, Amarka and Sanda!

Amarka & Sanda: *Jai Hiranyakashipu!* Of what service can we be to you?

Hiranya: Since you are the sons of my *guru*, I think it quite suitable that you teach my son, Prahlada. Give him the best education a child needs. I trust you will do a good job.

Amarka: Oh yes, we will do our best.

Hiranya: So off to school, Prahlada, and learn well the art of diplomacy.

SCENE EIGHT

Demigod: I feel completely depressed about this whole new ruling system. This Hiranyakashipu is too much!

Indra: You feel depressed? You? Ha! What about me? It's my kingdom he stole! My wealth, my women, my precious *Soma-rasa!*

Demigod: I can't believe Lord Brahma gave him all those benedictions! Why doesn't he give us these benedictions so we can fight with him?

Indra: Well, go and stand on your toes and then you might get it! Ah, what to do?

Demigod: He chastises everyone unnecessarily. Everyone is so fearful of him. Why, all the foods, grains, rains, all the life... only flourish due to fear of Hiranyakashipu.

Indra: Stop talking so much. You are driving me crazy!

Demigod: You are just angry because you lost your *Soma-rasa*. I know you, Indra, you just want to get that back.

Indra: Alright, alright, let's not quarrel amongst ourselves. I've got a good idea. Let us pray to Lord Vishnu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He will help us, just as He has done so many times in the past.

Demigod: Yes.

Indra: We offer our respectful obeisances unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Vishnu, who is the well-wisher of His devotees. My dearest Lord, hear our prayer. We have been put into such a distressful condition because of the wicked demon Hiranyakashipu. Please free us from this terrible situation. Protect us, O Lord. Kindly dispose of this terrible demon, whose power is so great that only your Lordship can challenge it.

Vishnu: O best of learned persons, do not fear. I wish you all good fortune. I know about the activities of Hiranyakashipu, and I shall surely put a stop to him very soon. Please wait patiently until that time. One who is envious of the devotees, *brahmanas*, cows, Vedas, religious principles and Me, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, will be doomed and destroyed without delay. When he teases the great devotee Prahlada, his own son, I shall kill him immediately, despite the benedictions of Lord Brahma.

Indra: My dear Lord, You are so kind upon us. Our obeisances are unto You forever. Come, let us go back to our abode. This Hiranyakashipu is as good as dead now.

SCENE NINE

Hiranya: Bring me some more *Soma-rasa*. I like this stuff very much.

Guard: But you had so much already!

Hiranya: I said bring it and let the music begin!

Guard: (claps) Music please. Dance!

Hiranya: Ah, my son Prahlada, come, come here to your father. Let us sit on the throne together. (Prahlada offers obeisances to father) Good boy. Now let me hear what you have learned from the teachers.

Prahlada: One should not mistake this body to last forever, but understand its temporary nature and its real purpose — which is to practice Krishna Consciousness and take shelter of Krishna by serving Him in pure devotion.

Hiranya: Hmm, hmm... What is this nonsense? You two teachers come here. This child's intelligence has been spoiled by the words of the enemy. You must ensure all protection is given to this boy at the *gurukula* so he will not be polluted any further by those devotees of Vishnu who might come there in disguise. Is that quite clear?

Teachers: Yes, sir!

Hiranya: Good. (he leaves)

Amarka: Now, my boy Pahlada, come here. Good boy. Do you not realize you nearly cost us our lives by uttering those words, Pahlada?

Sanda: Now where could you have possibly gotten those wild ideas from?

Amarka: Krishna Consciousness?

Sanda: Hmmm. Krishna Consciousness... Our enemies have been trying hard to convert you, but they won't succeed. We are really your friends.

Pahlada: How can you speak of "enemy" and "friend" when all this is external? Krishna Consciousness is the reality of life, and hence Krishna is really your true friend.

Sanda: What? How dare you say that, Pahlada? I shall beat this Krishna out of your head!

Amarka: No, no, no. How can you lift a stick to the son of Hiranyakashipu? Let us deal with him in a nice manner. Good boy, Pahlada, good boy... Come Pahlada, I've got some nice sweeties for you — *gulabjamans*, *rasagullas*, *sandesh*. Now just tell us where you have learned such things. Who is teaching you this nonsense that Krishna is our friend?

Sanda: Amarka, will you stop?

Amarka: No, you stop it. He nearly told us and you spoiled it! Now Pahlada, who were you going to say told you all these things?

Pahlada: If you cannot get off of this platform of "friend" and "enemy," you will never realize Krishna.

Sanda: How dare you speak like that! You spoil our good name. We will just have to be more severe with you! Alright, let's start school again. Well, ring the bell, Amarka.

Amarka: Alright boys, I am going to ask you some questions. Please answer them correctly. Alright — Mahamudha, what is the goal of life?

Mahamudha: To have lots of sense gratification.

Sanda: And Tamaguna, what development is best?

Tamaguna: Development of economics.

Sanda: Good, good. Now at last we seem to be moving in the right direction. Alright Mahamudha, your turn again. What should one acquire?

Mahamudha: Lots and lots of money.

Sanda: Good boys! Alright Rajaguna, what do we do if someone comes in the way of our enjoyment?

Rajaguna: You kill them.

Sanda: Yes. Mahamudha, what association is best?

Mahamudha: Association with loose women.

Sanda: Alright, let us break for twenty minutes.

(Scene with kids drawing teachers' faces, etc.)

Sanda: Alright Prahlada, I think you must have learned a lot by now. We are proud of you. Smarten up and we will go and see your father and tell him the good news. He will be very proud of you.

SCENE TEN

(Hiranyakashipu and Minister talking)

Hiranya: So, all is going well?

Minister: All is fine. (mother brings son)

Hiranya: Good. Ah, Prahlada, my dear son, come to your father. (Prahlada offers obeisances) Now, tell me what is the best knowledge you have learned in school?

Prahlada: *Shravanam kirtanam vishnoh*, etc... Hearing and chanting about Vishnu, remembering Vishnu, serving Vishnu's lotus feet, worshipping Vishnu, offering prayers to Vishnu, becoming Vishnu's servant, becoming Vishnu's best friend, and surrendering all to Vishnu — these are the nine processes of devotional service. One who follows any of these nine processes is said to have the best knowledge.

Hiranya: You so-called teachers! O unqualified, most heinous sons of *brahmanas*. You have disobeyed my order and have taken shelter of the worst of enemies, Vishnu. You have taught this boy about devotional service. What nonsense is this? I shall chastise you for this!

Sanda: O enemy of Indra, whatever your son Prahlada has said has not been taught by us. His spontaneous devotional service has naturally developed in him. Give up your anger and do not accuse us unnecessarily.

Hiranya: You rascal Prahlada, most fallen of our family, if you did not receive this information from my teachers, then where did you get such rubbish from?

Prahlada: Because of your uncontrolled senses and addiction to the materialistic way of life, your love for Krishna will never be aroused. Only if you surrender to Krishna will you be able to understand.

Hiranya: Me — uncontrolled? Me — surrender to Krishna? I will never do that! I control everything. Everyone surrenders unto me. I am the most powerful man in the universe, and don't you ever forget it! Hmmm, but we'll just see how this Krishna of yours will save you from the jaws of death. Guards, kill this boy at once!

Guards: Yes, sir! (they attempt, but fail)

Hiranya: What's this? You can't kill him. Your weapons won't affect him? Alright, then throw him off that cliff.

Guards: Yes, sir!

Kayadhu: (grabs Prahlada) No, no, don't do this to your own son! Let me speak to him! Please leave our child alone. He is only five years old! Wait until he grows up!

Hiranya: No, no, do not call him my son! He is a disgrace to our family! He has glorified Vishnu, killer of my brother, and thus he is our enemy and must be killed at once! Now, let him go! Guard, take this woman away from here!

Kayadhu: No, no, my son Prahlada!

Hiranya: Take Prahlada away and throw him off the cliff. (guards go, but come back soon)

Guard: It was no use at all.

Hiranya: What do you mean?

Guard: Well, we threw him off the cliff and then went down to see the dead body, but there he was, happily chanting as if nothing had happened.

Hiranya: Throw him, then, in the pit of fire.

Guard: Alright. (goes and comes back) No use.

Hiranya: Not affected by fire? It can't be true, it can't be. What's going on here? I can't believe this is true. Not affected by fire? Alright, bring a big pot of ghee here and I will boil him. (guards bring pot) Alright Prahlada, boil, boil, boil until you're tender enough to eat. What's this? Not affected by hot ghee? Throw him in front of the elephants — let them squeeze the life out of little Prahlada.

Guard: Alright. No use! The elephant just lifted the boy as he chanted and took him for a joy ride!

Hiranya: Then throw him in the pit of snakes!

Guard: Yes, at once! (after a few minutes the guard returns) It's no good! The snakes just ignored him!

Hiranya: Take him to a place where it is extremely cold, windy and rainy. (**guard rushes off but returns in a while**)

Guard: No good, no good!

Hiranya: What's going on here? He is not affected by fire, wind, rain, hot ghee, snakes and elephants! It can't be true! It can't be true! Bring him here! So, Prahlada, I see you have some powers. Yes, you have some powers. Maybe, you would like to take lunch with your father? Come, sit down. Bring some food and lots of poison... enough poison to kill hundreds of men. (**puts in poison**) Here Prahlada, eat!

Prahlada: But first I must offer it to Krishna; only then can I partake of His remnants.

Hiranya: Never mind this Krishna, just eat, just eat.

Prahlada: (**offers the food**) *Hare Krishna.*

Hiranya: It can't be true! Not even affected by poison! I put enough poison in that food to kill hundreds of men. Despite all my endeavors to kill him, he cannot be killed! He is not affected in the least by these treacheries and abominable actions. Even though he is only a mere child, he is completely fearless. He never forgets this Krishna at all. I can see this boy's strength is unlimited, for he has not gotten a single scar despite all my efforts to hurt him. He seems to be immortal. Because of my enmity towards him, I shall die. Oh, what shall I do?!

Sanda: O lord, we know that when you simply move your eyebrows, all the commanders of various planets are most afraid. You have conquered this whole world. So do not be full of sadness or anxiety. As for Prahlada, he is only a boy. Do not take him seriously. We shall try our best to impart good instructions to him.

Hiranya: Alright then, please try your best, as this child disturbs my mind.

Sanda: Come Prahlada, break is over. Back to school. Ah, that's a good boy!

SCENE ELEVEN

Sanda: Alright boys, let's copy this down. The best way to make progress in life is to focus on economic development and to have lots of sense gratification. So I hope this is all very clear. Prahlada, have you copied this down?

Prahlada: Hmmm.

Sanda: Alright, good. We will have a break and I will be right back. This is good news, Prahlada. At last you are beginning to learn how to bend a few rules. Otherwise we'd have to bend your arm this time. After break, we shall discuss "so much wealth I have today, and so much more wealth I will have tomorrow." Alright, be good now, Prahlada.

Friend: Come on, Prahlada, let's play.

Prahlada: My dear demonic friends, do not waste your human form of life by playing around all day. You should engage in serving Krishna. This human form of life is very rare.

Friend: But we are only five years old, Prahlada!

Prahlada: Yes, but we should start at an early age. Otherwise most of our life will be wasted on sense gratification.

Friend: But Prahlada, we want to play. We can serve Krishna when we grow up.

Prahlada: Yes, I know you want to play. But learn how to play for Krishna.

Friend: How can we play with Krishna? We can't even see Him.

Prahlada: My dear non-believers, it is so easy. Just by chanting Hare Krishna and dancing, we can play and serve Krishna. **(they have a *kirtan*)**

Sanda: What is going on in here? Prahlada, is this your doing? You have been polluting these innocent boys by giving them Krishna Consciousness. How dare you! Come, let's go and see your father about this!

SCENE TWELVE

Sanda: Hiranyakashipu... your son is teaching love of Krishna in our school! We just can't control him!

Hiranya: What? O most impudent, O disrupter of the family, lowest among mankind, you have violated my power to rule and therefore you are an ignorant fool. Today I shall send you to the place of Yamaraja. You know when I am angry the entire universe shakes in great fear. By whose power has a rascal like you become so impudent that you appear fearless and overstep my power to rule?

Prahlada: My dear demonic father, my source of power is the same as yours — Lord Krishna. Now give up your demonic mentality and accept Krishna as your master.

Hiranya: You dare minimize my power? You think you can control your mind better than I? Then you should prepare to meet your death. You always talk of this Krishna being superior to me. Then tell me, where is this Krishna? Where is He? For I wish to see Him.

Prahlada: Krishna is everywhere, father.

Hiranya: Everywhere? Is He here? Is He here? Is He here?

Prahlada: Yes, father.

Hiranya: Is He in this pillar?

Prahlada: Yes, father.

Hiranya: Then I shall kill Him! **(strikes pillar with sword, a growl is heard!)**

Narrator: Out from the pillar burst Lord Nrisimhadeva, the half-man and half-lion incarnation of Lord Vishnu. He was anger personified! **(FIGHT SCENE. After a long struggle, Lord Nrisimhadeva takes Hiranyakashipu across His lap and tears out his intestines. Prahlada and the demigods are hesitant to approach Lord Nrisimhadeva because He is so angry)**

Brahma: My dear Lord, You are unlimited and possess unlimited powers. No one can estimate Your power. Long were our hearts full of fear because of this demon; but You, my Lord, are so kind towards Your devotees that You have protected us and killed this demon, despite the benedictions I gave him. You did not violate any of them. He was killed neither in the day or night but at twilight, neither inside or outside but in the doorway, neither by man or beast or demigod but by half-man half-lion, neither in the sky, the sea or the air but in Your lap. No weapons were used, only Your transcendental nails — thus You have kept all the boons intact.

Indra: You are our deliverer and protector. Our shares of sacrifices, which are actually Yours, have been recovered from this demon by You. We were in constant fear of this demon, but You have eliminated our fears by killing him. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You.

Demigod: This form of Yours is truly very powerful, fearsome and rare. Never before have we seen such a wonderful form of Nrisimhadeva. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You over and over again!

Brahma: Prahlada, Lord Nrisimhadeva is extremely angry at your father. Please go forward and appease Him.

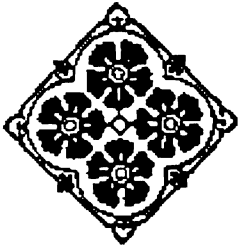
Prahlada: O Lord Nrisimhadeva! How can I offer my prayers to You, when I am born of a demonic family? If Lord Brahma could not satisfy You, I have no chance if I simply offer my humble obeisances unto this wonderful form of Nrisimhadeva! My only request is that Your Lordship please give salvation to my father.

(Namaste prayers by Gandharvas and kirtan)

The End

Lesson Six

1. Chant the session verse.
2. If possible, have a copy of *The Teachings of Queen Kunti*. Pass it around the room and encourage the students to look at the pictures in this book. Explain that these famous prayers were originally written in the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*.
3. Begin by asking for volunteers to read aloud the text in Lesson Six. Some of the history can get a little complicated. Pause often to be sure they are following the story and can answer questions, such as, “Who was Kunti’s father?” “Why did Pandu take his wives to live in the forest?”
4. When you have completed the text, discuss the last line, “The weapon that gave her strength was her complete surrender to the Lord.” Ask the students what it means to be “completely surrendered to the Lord.” What are some of the qualities of a person who is completely surrendered to Krishna?
5. Complete the Check for Understanding page.
6. Supply markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc. for the students to draw a picture on the next page.
7. Divide the class into teams and allow time for students to find as many words as possible within the words “QUEEN KUNTI.” You can time this to make it more fun and exciting.
8. Have the students color in the picture on the next page. If you are doing a preaching display for a session project, allow time for students to add Queen Kunti to the display. Remind the class that they will have a session quiz next week. If they review the workbook, this quiz should be no problem for them to complete. Make arrangements for the preaching display to be seen by visitors in the temple.



Name: _____

Class: _____

Session Quiz
Heroes From the Vedas

Fill in the blanks below:

1. Bhima was one of the _____ brothers.
2. Bhima killed the demon named _____.
3. Lord Krishna drove the chariot for _____ during the battle of _____.
4. Arjuna's true strength came from his deep _____ in the Lord.
5. Devahuti was born in a royal family, yet she gave up all opulences to be the wife of _____.
6. Devahuti's husband created an aerial _____ by his mystic _____.
7. Prahlad's greatest weapon was the _____.
8. Queen Kunti prayed to the Lord for more _____.