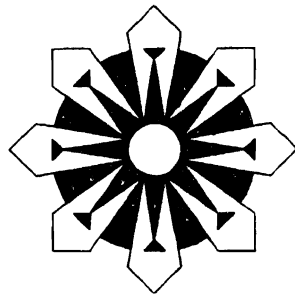


Heroes from the Vedas



(Damodara Class)

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

Name: _____

Class: _____

Heroes

from the Vedas

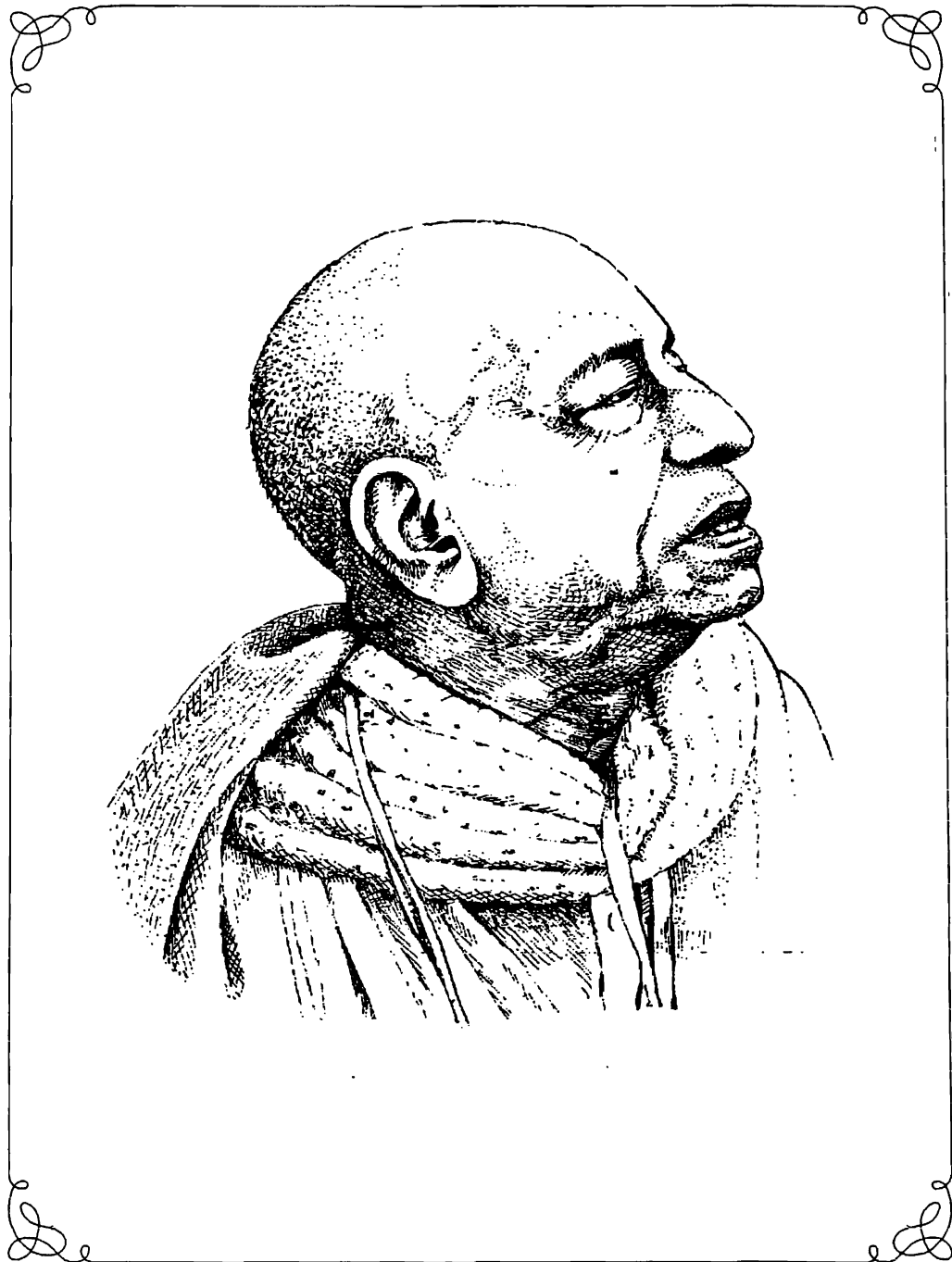
Compiled by:

Sangita devi dasi

Hare Krishna Sunday School

Sponsored by:

ISKCON Foundation



*This book is dedicated to
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
who, through his tireless efforts, gave us true heroes
to read about and worship.*



Session Verse

*yad yad acarati sresthas
tat tad evetaro janah
sa yat pramanam kurute
lokas tad anuvartate*

Translation:

**Whatever action is performed by a great man,
common men follow in his footsteps. And whatever
standards he sets by exemplary acts,
all the world pursues.**

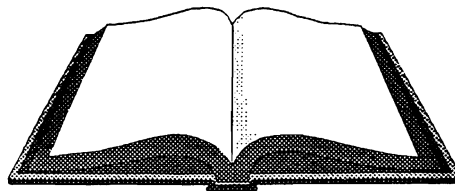
(Bhagavad-gita--Chapter 3, Text 21)

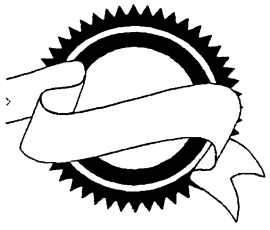
Introduction

“Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!” Super heroes are all around us! We see them on television, in magazines, comic books, and movies. These “Super Heroes” can climb the side of a building, fly through the air, and catch villains single-handedly. Are there really such beings? We all know these cartoon characters are made-up, but the Vedic literature from India tells about people long ago who performed even greater feats than the ones we read about today.

Bhima, for example, exhibited greater strength than we could ever imagine and Hanuman, Lord Rama’s faithful monkey servant, flew over an entire ocean to save Sitadevi. During various battles, powerful weapons were hurled through the air like magic, killing vicious, man-eating demons.

In this session, we will read about some of the exciting adventures of the real “Super Heroes” from the Vedas.





Lesson One

Bhima slays the Demon Bakasura

Once there lived a great king, known as King Yudhishthira. He was honest and kind and good. King Yudhishthira had four younger brothers, each with special qualities of their own. Their names were Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, and Sahadeva. Together, they were known as the Pandavas and were the sons of Queen Kunti. Bhima was especially known for his hearty appetite and herculean strength.

Although they were the rightful heirs to the throne, their envious cousin, Duryodhana, wanted to kill them so he could be the king. He arranged for the Pandavas, along with their mother, to move into a house made of shellac, a material



which burns very easily. By the grace of Lord Krishna, however, the family escaped without harm.

Hiding from the evil Duryodhana, Queen Kunti and her five sons traveled a long distance. They passed through many forests and rivers. Finally, they met a kind brahmana who invited them to stay in his home.

One day, Mother Kunti and her son, Bhima, heard the brahmana crying. Kunti, being very kind, asked the brahmana why he was so sad.

“You are very kind, indeed,” the brahmana said. “But, I am afraid that no one can help me. I will, however, tell you why I am so unhappy.”

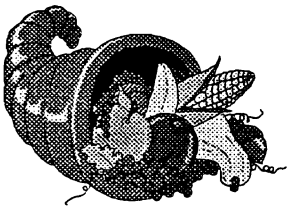
The brahmana then told Queen Kunti about a cruel demon named Bakasura who lived in a cave in a nearby mountain.

“For thirteen years,” the brahmana explained, “this great demon troubled our town. He would come into our town, capture one of our villagers, and then eat him! We lived in constant fear. One day, we all talked about it and came up with a plan. We then went to Bakasura with a proposal.”

The brahmana continued his story with tears in his eyes.

“We told the demon that he was striking terror into the hearts of everyone and that we were living in constant fear of his next attack. We told

him that every week we would cook a cart-load of excellent food. Then we would choose one family member from each home to bring the food to him.



Our offer was that Bakasura could eat the cart-load of food along with the person who brought it. The demon agreed. I am now crying because tomorrow is my turn to go. If I go, my wife and children will have no one to take care of them. I cannot send my wife because our children need her. So, we have decided that we will all go and be killed by this powerful demon, Bakasura.”

Mother Kunti was sorry to see their unhappiness.

“Do not worry, my dear Sir,” Kunti said. “You and your wife will cook the food. Tomorrow I will send my son, Bhima, to the cave of this demon. My son possesses extraordinary strength. I can assure you that he will not be harmed. I only request that you do not tell anyone about this.”

The brahmana and his wife agreed. They prayed to the Lord that the young son of Mother Kunti would not be harmed by the demon.



Mother Kunti told Bhima about her plan.

“Mother, think of it!” Bhima said, with delight. “I will have a cart-load of delicious food to eat! I will kill this demon and rid the town of its terror. But, please, Mother. Make sure that the brahmana’s wife cooks very tasty food.”

Kunti laughed, knowing her son’s hearty appetite.

Early the next morning, the brahmana’s wife finished her cooking. The cart was then piled high with food. Bhima took the cart and traveled toward the mountain cave where the demon lived. Soon he reached the top of the mountain. He was about to call out to Bakasura, but suddenly he stopped.

“Here is some delicious food,” he thought. “I will kill the demon and then eat. But, if I do that, then I will be unclean and therefore unable to eat this food. The best plan is for me to eat everything first and then kill this troublemaker.”

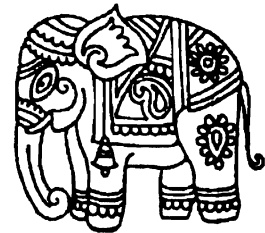
Bhima began to eat the cart-load of delicious food. Then he called out to the demon. Bakasura came out of his cave and saw this young boy eating the cart-load of food that was meant for him. He became very angry.

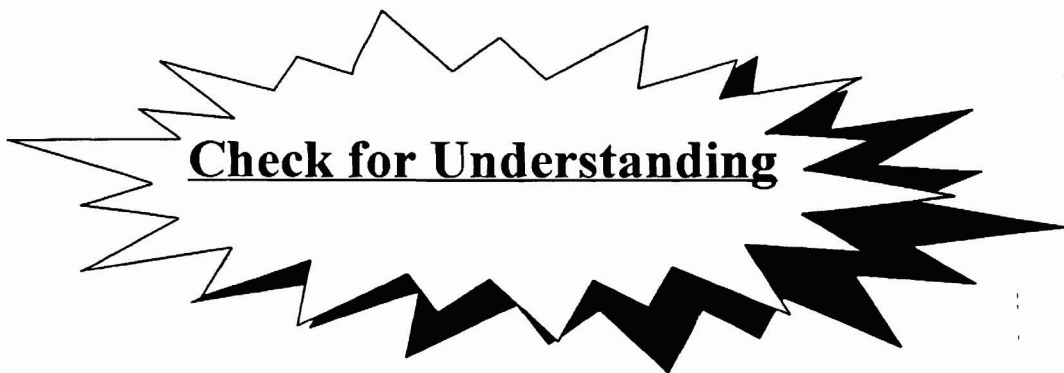
“Who are you?” the demon shouted. “Why are you eating the food that is meant for my enjoyment?”

Bhima smiled and continued eating. Bakasura uprooted a tree and tried to hit Bhima with it. With his left hand, Bhima stopped the demon, while eating a bowl of curd with his right hand. This made the demon even more angry!

“You have been bothering this town long enough,” Bhima said. “You have become too fat. It is time for you to leave your body.”

A great fight began. Bakasura was very powerful, but he was no match for Bhima. Finally, Bhima picked up the demon and killed him as easily as an elephant breaks a piece of sugarcane. He then brought the body of the demon to the gates of the town so the townspeople would be relieved of their fear. Then, Bhima went to the home of the brahmana, bathed, and went to sleep. He was tired from eating a cart-load of delicious food!





Check for Understanding

Write the names of the five sons of Mother Kunti:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

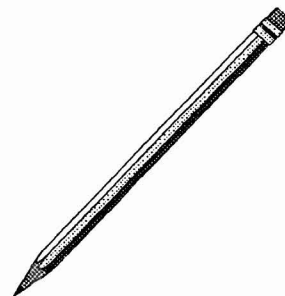
Circle the correct answer:

Bhima fought with the powerful demon named:

1. Aghasura

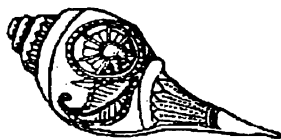
2. Vyomasura

3. Bakasura



**Something to Think About
And Discuss:**

Besides Bhima's great physical strength, what else made him a hero? What other qualities did Bhima have that made him heroic? How can you develop heroic qualities?



Unscramble the following words: 

I B M H A

A S B K U R A A



Fill in the missing letters:

Bh__ma, the

s__n of

Mo__her Ku__ti,

h__d a hea__ty

a__pe__i__e!

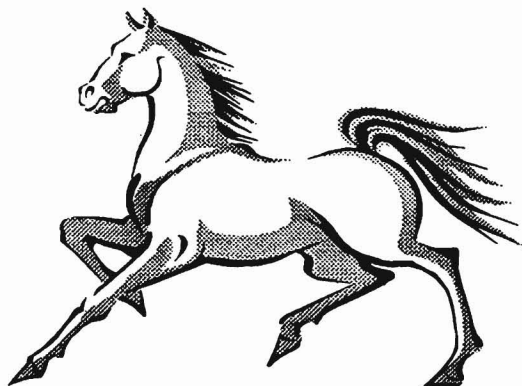
Lesson Two

Arjuna and His Dearest Friend

Arjuna was one of the Pandava brothers and a great devotee of Lord Krishna. When their evil cousin, Duryodhana, cheated them out of their kingdom, war could not be avoided. This became known as the Battle of Kuruksetra.



Because the Pandavas were very dear to Lord Krishna, the Lord agreed to drive Arjuna's chariot. With the Lord on their side, they were assured victory. Before the battle began, Arjuna requested Lord Krishna to drive his chariot in between the two armies. On both sides of the battlefield, Arjuna saw hundreds of thousands of men, horses, chariots, and weapons. He saw Grandfather Bhishma, his teacher, Dronacharya, his friends, and his relatives ready to fight the Pandavas and their army. Arjuna became very sad that anyone would have to die in the war.

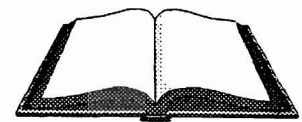


Arjuna, feeling compassion for the soldiers on both sides, said,
“My dear Krishna, seeing my friends and relatives present before me in such a fighting spirit, I feel the limbs of my body quivering and my mouth drying up.”

Arjuna continued, “I do not see how any good can come from killing my own kinsmen in this battle, nor can I, my dear Krishna, desire any subsequent victory, kingdom, or happiness.”

The great devotee, Arjuna, explained to Krishna that he would consider it better for the sons of Dhrtarastra to kill him unarmed than to fight with them. He then sat down on his chariot and refused to fight.

Seeing Arjuna overwhelmed with compassion, Lord Krishna spoke the great words we now read in the *Bhagavad-gita* (Song of God).



Lord Krishna said, “Those who are wise, lament neither for the living nor the dead. Never was there a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor all these kings, nor in the future shall any of us cease to be. As the embodied soul continually passes, in this body, from boyhood to youth to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body at death. The self-realized soul is not bewildered by such a change.”



Lord Krishna explained to Arjuna that we are all spirit souls, part and parcel of the Lord. He told him that we are different from this material body because the body grows, gets older, and eventually dies, but the soul never dies.

Krishna said, “As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, similarly, the soul accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones. The soul can never be cut into pieces by any weapon, nor can he be burned by fire, nor moistened by water, nor withered by the wind.”

The Lord then explained to Arjuna that since he was a ksatriya, it was his duty to fight. After understanding this transcendental knowledge, Arjuna agreed to fight in the war.

The war began! Arjuna did his duty as Lord Krishna ordered. Arjuna's arrows flew faster than raindrops. For eighteen days and nights, both sides fought as hard as they could. In the end, with Lord Krishna on their side, the Pandavas were victorious!



Check for Understanding

Circle the correct answer:

1. Who drove Arjuna's chariot?

- A. Grandfather Bhisma
- B. Lord Krishna
- C. The Pandavas

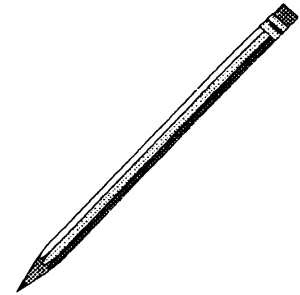
2. Arjuna did not want to fight because he:

- A. was afraid
- B. was overwhelmed with compassion
- C. knew he would lose the war

3. Krishna told Arjuna that the soul:

- A. would never die
- B. could be cut by any weapon
- C. was temporary like the material body

Why was Arjuna a great hero?



***Something to Think About
And Discuss...***

Before the Battle of Kuruksetra began, Duryodhana went to his teacher and compared his army to that of the Pandavas. In the *Bhagavad-gita*, Chapter 1, Text 8, he states:

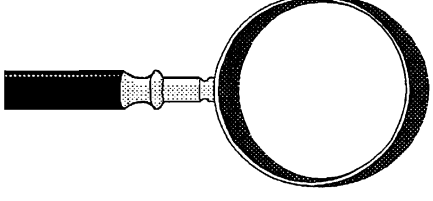
“Here in this army there are many heroic bowmen equal in fighting to Bhima and Arjuna; there are also great fighters like Yuyudhana, Virata, and Drupada.”

There were many signs that he and his army were destined to lose the war and that the Pandavas would be victorious.

What was the main sign that pointed to the Pandavas victory?

Hint:





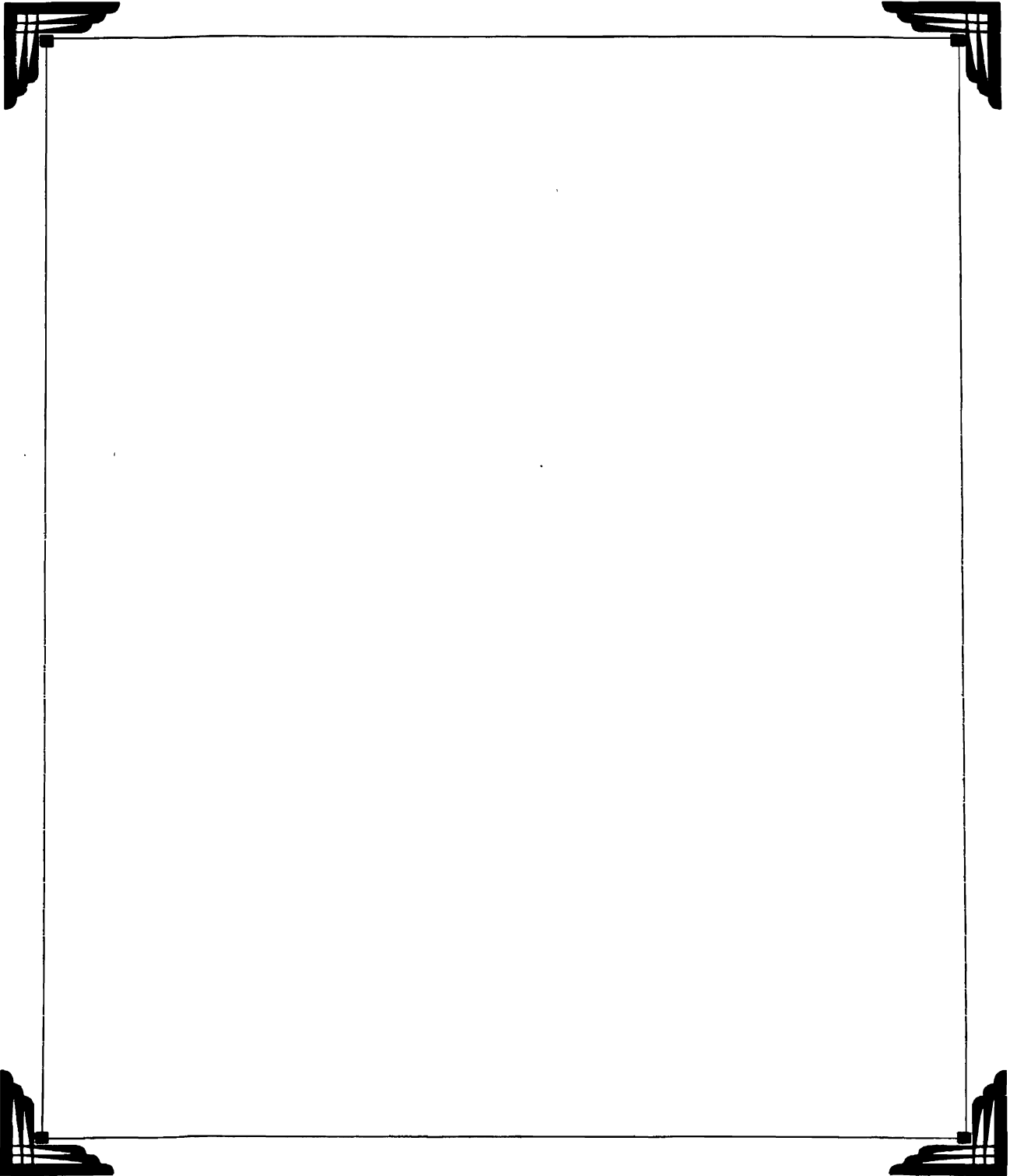
Let's Find It!

In the *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, find

Chapter 2, Text 31.

Write the Sanskrit verse and translation below:

**Draw a picture of Arjuna's chariot.
Be sure to include the flag with Hanuman on it.
What did the flag of Hanuman represent?**



Fill in the missing letters below:

W__EN __RJU__A

S__W H__S

__RIE__DS __ND

R__LA__IVE__ ON

T__E BA__T__EFIEL__,

__E BE__A__E

O__ER__HELME__

WI__H CO__PA__SION.

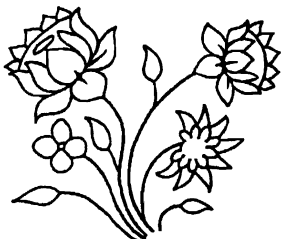
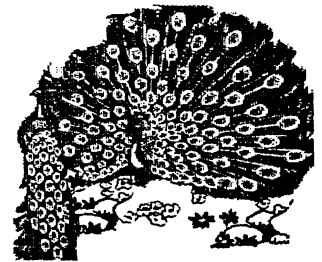
Lesson Three

The Great Vaisnavi, Devahuti

Long ago, there lived a noble emperor named Svayambhuva
Manu who was the son of Lord Brahma. The emperor had a
beautiful and chaste daughter named Devahuti. When Devahuti was old
enough to marry, the emperor and his wife, Queen Satarupa,
mounted their chariot which was decorated with golden
ornaments. They traveled to the banks of the
lake known as Bindu-sarovara which was
encircled by the Saraswati River. Near this lake lived a great
sage named Kardama Muni who performed austerities for
10,000 years for the pleasure of the Supreme Personality of
Godhead, Lord Krishna.

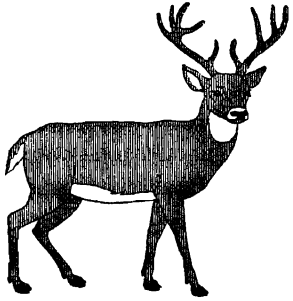


The holy water in this lake was as sweet as nectar. It was called Bindu-sarovara because drops of tears from Lord Krishna's lotus eyes had fallen in the water. The shores of the lake were surrounded by trees and creepers that were rich in fruits and flowers. The melodious sounds of birds could be heard everywhere. Dancing peacocks showed their brightly colored feathers and humming bees searched for nectar from the fragrant flowers.



W

hen the emperor and his royal family arrived on the banks of the Bindu-sarovara, the air was filled with the pleasing notes of ducks, swans, and cranes. Its shores were filled with deer, boars, porcupines, elephants, baboons, lions, and monkeys.



Svayambhuva Manu saw the sage sitting near his humble hut. Kardama was tall with large eyes like the petals of a lotus flower. He had matted hair on his head and was dressed in rags because of not caring for his bodily needs for so many years. The emperor bowed before the great sage who received him with great honor.

“It is my good fortune that I have been able to see you because you cannot easily be seen by persons who have not subdued the mind or controlled the senses,”

Svayambhuva Manu said to the sage.

“I am all the more fortunate to have touched with my head the blessed dust of your feet.”

The emperor then introduced his lovely daughter to Kardama Muni. He explained that Devahuti had been thinking about the sage as her husband ever since she had heard about him from Narada Muni.

“She is, in every respect, fit to be your wife and take charge of your household duties,” Svayambhuva Manu said.

Kardama Muni accepted the young princess, who was filled with good qualities, as his wife. Together, they lived peacefully on the banks of the lake for many years.

Devahuti was the ideal wife. She lovingly served her husband while he performed devotional service to Lord Krishna. She gave up all of the material opulence afforded a princess. She gave up all of life’s comforts. She also gave up pride, envy, greed, and vanity. Having served her husband for a long time, the daughter of Manu, not caring for her own bodily needs, grew weak and thin. Her skin was covered with dirt and her long hair was knotted.

“O, respectful daughter of Svayambhuva Manu,” Kardama Muni said. “I am very much pleased with you for your great devotion and most excellent loving service. Since the body is so dear to embodied beings, I am astonished that you have neglected your own body to use it on my behalf.”



To please his beloved wife, Kardama Muni used his mystic powers to produce a wonderous mansion that flew in the air at his will. The castle was seven stories tall and was made of jewels. It had pillars of precious stones and was decorated with fine furniture, flags, rugs made of silk and linen, and wreaths of flowers that attracted sweetly humming bees. The floors were made of emeralds and its doors were bedecked with diamonds. Gold pinnacles crowned its domes of sapphire. Rubies were set in its diamond walls. Everywhere were gates made of gold. Beautiful swans graced the ponds that surrounded the palace. In this aerial mansion were fragrant gardens, livingrooms, and nicely decorated bedrooms for rest.



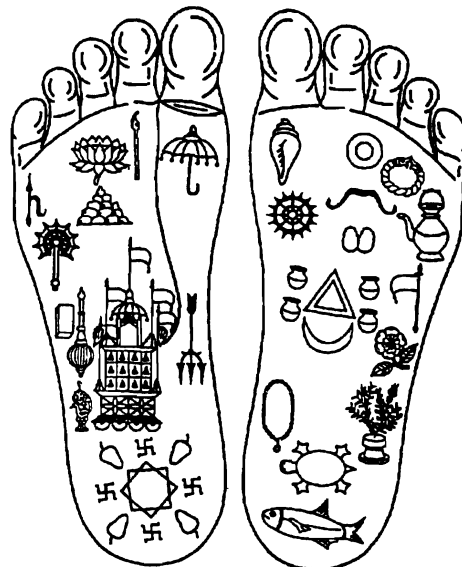
Devahuti looked at her husband's mystic creation with amazement. But, Kardama Muni knew what she was thinking. He, therefore, requested his wife to bathe in the Bindu-sarovara. She dove into the lake which contained the sacred waters of the Sarasvati. In a house inside the lake, Devahuti saw one-thousand maidservants ready to serve her. They bathed the princess with valuable oils and then dressed her in fine cloth. They then decorated her with valuable jewels which shone brightly. In a mirror, Devahuti could see her reflection. The maidservants had decorated her hair with jewels and flowers. She wore strands of pearls and a special locket around her neck. She had bangles on her wrists and tinkling anklets of gold around her feet. When she thought of her dear husband, Kardama Muni, she and all the maidservants suddenly appeared before him.



Devahuti was amazed to find herself in the presence of her husband. She was surrounded by the one-thousand maidservants who served her within the water. Kardama Muni then placed his beloved wife on the aerial mansion he had created for her.

Together, Kardama Muni and Devahuti traveled to many beautiful places in the universe, including Mount Meru, and stayed there for many, many years. After this time, they returned to their hermitage on the banks of the lake.

Later, the great Vaisnavi, Devahuti, had nine beautiful daughters who possessed all saintly qualities. Because of Devahuti's own saintly qualities, and that of Kardama Muni, Lord Krishna, Himself, appeared as their son in the incarnation known as Lord Kapiladeva. At the time of the Lord's appearance, demigods in the form of raining clouds sounded musical instruments in the sky. They sang the glories of the Lord while showering flowers. Lord Kapiladeva had golden hair and eyes like the petals of the lotus flower. His lotus feet bore the marks of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.



Lord Kapila explained to Kardama Muni,
*“Please know that I have assumed this body of Kapila to introduce and
explain the philosophy (of self-realization) to human society again.”*





Check for Understanding

Fill in the missing words below:

1. Devahuti was the daughter of the Emperor _____.
2. She first heard about Kardama Muni from the great sage _____.
3. Kardama Muni performed austerities for the pleasure of the Lord for _____ years.
4. Devahuti lovingly served her _____ on the banks of the _____ lake.
5. After many years, Devahuti gave birth to _____ daughters.
6. Lord _____ appeared as the son of Devahuti and Kardama.
7. Devahuti was a great _____ of the Lord.



Devahuti was filled with good qualities. List some of her qualities below. (Two have been written for you.)

D edicated

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v aisnavi

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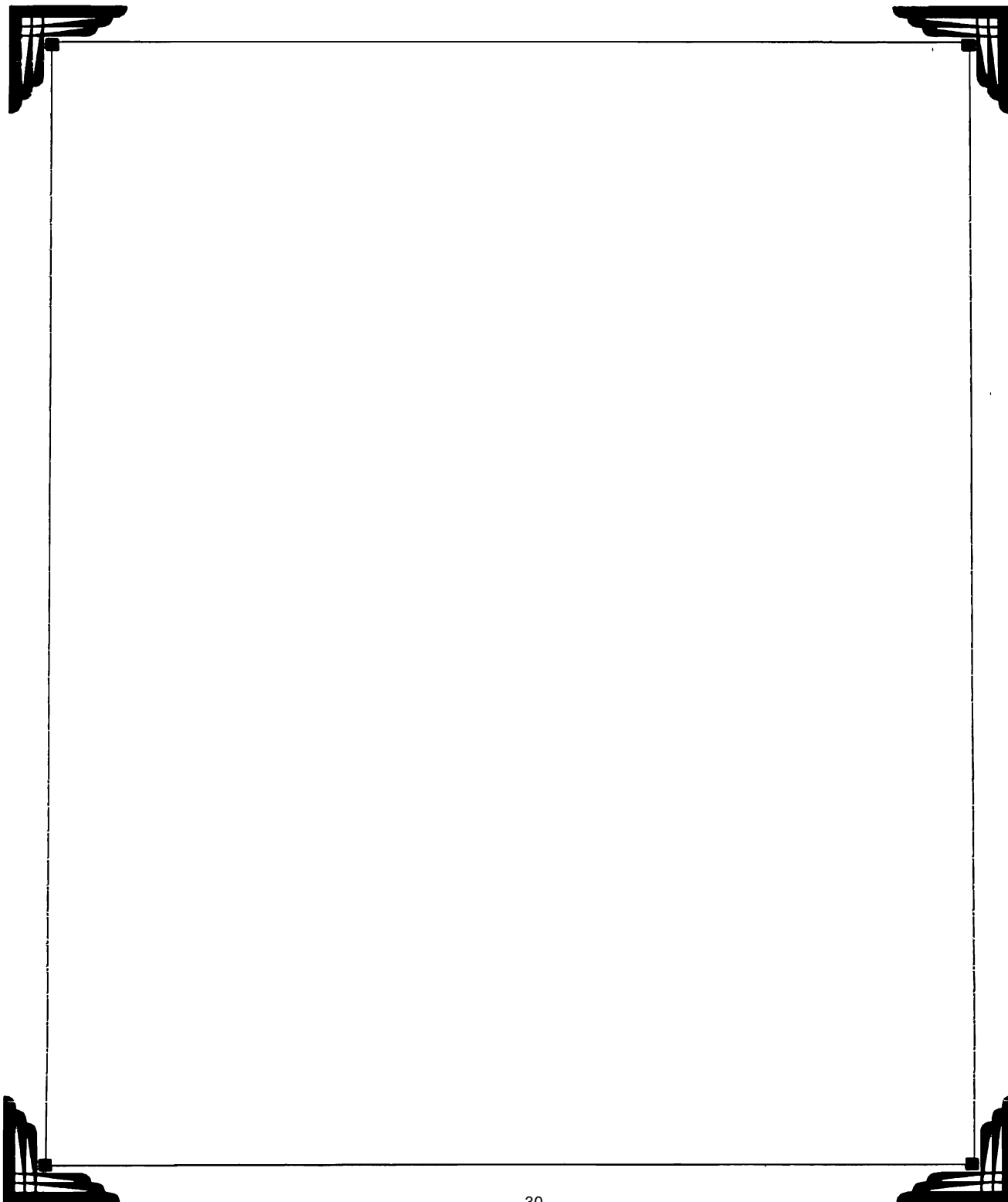
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**Use crayons and markers to draw a picture of the aerial mansion
created by Kardama Muni's mystic powers.**

(Glue on sequins and glitter to form the "jewels.")



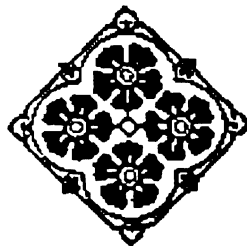
Lesson Four

Lord Balarama Liberates Balvala

Once upon a time, Lord Balarama, the eldest brother of Lord Krishna, traveled to the forest of Naimisaranya in India. In ancient times, this place was used for the meeting of great sages and saintly persons with the aim of discussing spiritual life.



“Our Lord,” the sages said. “There is a powerful demon of the name Balvala. He is the son of Ilvala. Every fortnight on the full moon and on moonless days he visits this sacred place of sacrifice and creates a great disturbance. He comes here and throws upon us contaminated things like pus, blood, stool and urine. He pollutes this sacred place of worship. Therefore, we are humbly requesting that You kill this demon.”



Lord Balarama prepared Himself to meet the demon, Balvala.

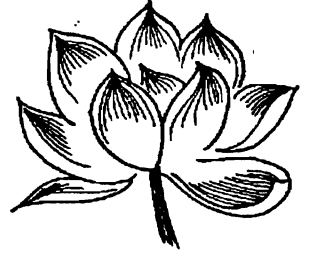
Whenever the demon was about to attack the sacred place, a great hailstorm occurred. The entire sky would be covered with dust. A filthy odor filled the air. Then the demon would shower torrents of stool and urine on the sacrificial arena. After that, the demon would appear to the sages and saintly persons assembled.

Balvala had a gigantic black body and carried a great trident in his hand. His hair, beard, and moustache appeared reddish like copper. His mouth appeared to be very dangerous and fierce. When Lord Balarama spotted the demon, He prepared to attack him. He first considered how to kill the offensive demon. Lord Balarama called for His plow and club and they immediately appeared before Him. The demon was flying in the sky. Lord Balarama dragged him down with His plow and smashed the demon's head with His club.



With a loud scream, the powerful demon who had given so much trouble to the pious brahmanas, fell to the ground like a thunderous mountain.

The inhabitants of Naimisaranya became very pleased to see this and offered their respectful prayers to Lord Balarama. They were greatly relieved that the demon would no longer give them trouble. The sages then performed a bathing ceremony for Lord Balarama. They honored Him by presenting Him with new clothing and ornaments and the lotus flower garland of victory which would never dry up and would last forever.



After this incident of the killing of Balvala, Lord Balarama humbly took permission of the brahmanas to travel to the River Kausiki. After taking His bath in this holy place, He traveled toward the River Sarayu and eventually reached Prayaga where the three holy rivers, namely the Ganges, Yamuna, and Sarasvati meet.

*All glories to Lord Balarama, whose
wonderful pastimes will be praised
for all time!*

Check for Understanding



Fill in the blanks to form a story:

The demon, _____, was giving trouble to the great _____ in the forest of _____.

Lord _____ traveled to this forest. The great _____ told Lord _____ about the demon who had a black _____ and hair the color of _____.

_____ . In his hand he carried a _____.

Lord Balarama called for His _____ and _____.

They immediately came before Him. With His _____

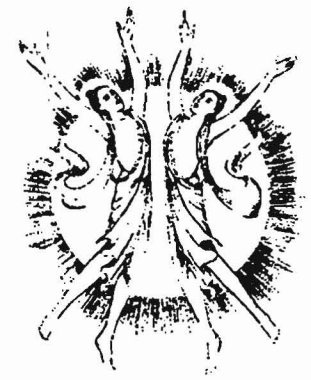
He brought down the powerful demon who fell to the ground like a thunderous _____.

The sages then performed a _____ ceremony for Lord Balarama. They presented Him with new _____,

_____, and a _____ that would never dry up. 🍷

Just as Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, appears in many forms, Lord Balarama, Krishna's brother, appears with Him.

Write the correct name of Lord Balarama next to each incarnation of Lord Krishna.



Lord Chaitanya _____

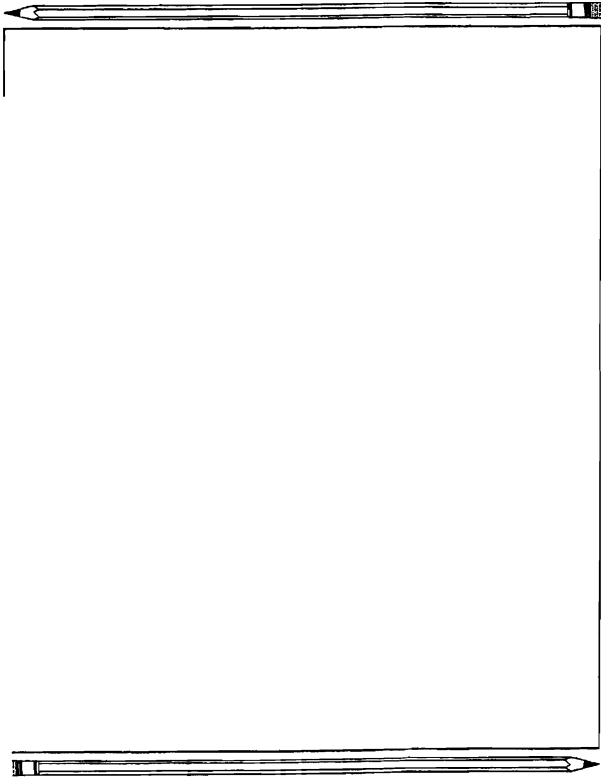
Lord Ramachandra _____



Lord Krishna _____

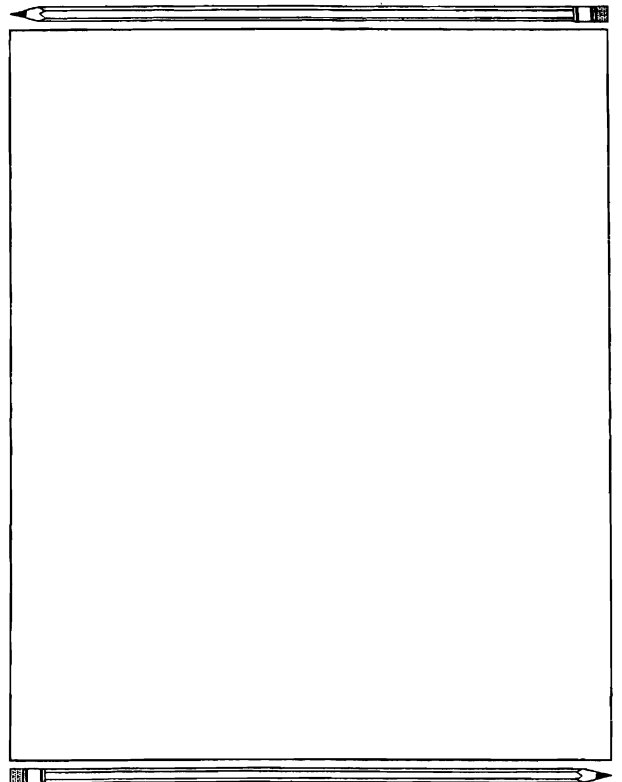


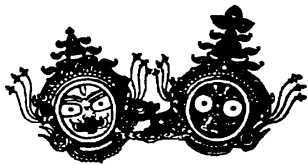
Draw Lord Balarama's club and plow:



☞ Plow

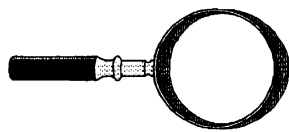
Club ☞





Something to Think About and Discuss!

Lord Balarama possesses great physical strength and uses it to protect the devotees of Lord Krishna. What other pastimes depicts Lord Balarama's physical strength? What pastimes tells about Lord Balarama's other transcendental qualities?

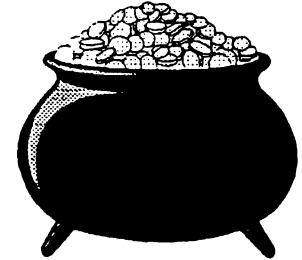


Hint: Look up stories in *Krsna Book* or *Srimad-Bhagavatam* Canto 10!

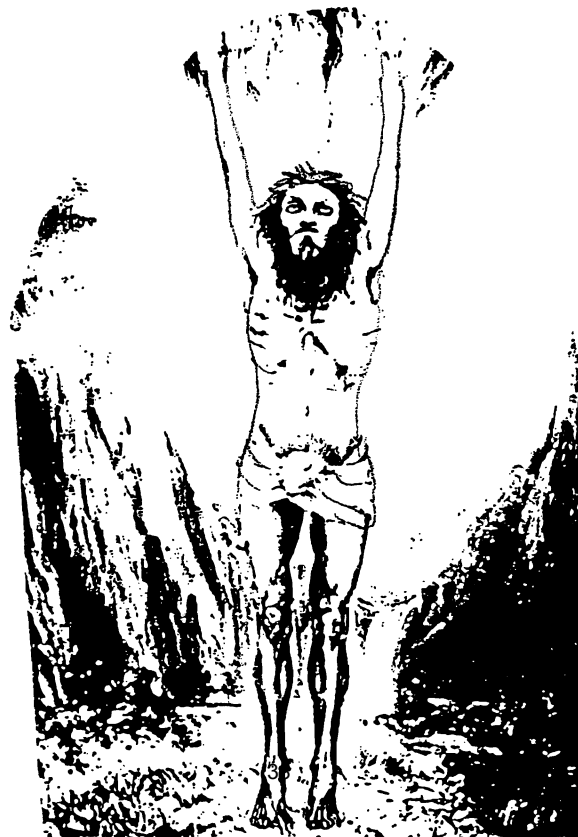
Lesson Five

Lord Krishna Protects Prahlad

Long ago, there lived an evil and ambitious man who wanted so much power that he desired to control the entire universe. He also wished that no one could kill him so he could live forever. He wanted more riches than the demigods. He wanted to be free from old age and disease. This sinful king of the demons was named Hiranyakasipu.



To achieve his dreams, Hiranyakasipu performed austerities for a very long time. In the valley of the Mandara Mountain, Hiranyakasipu stood on the tips of his toes for many, many long years. During this time, he also stretched his arms upward toward the sky. This position was extremely difficult to keep, but he wanted power and riches and immortality so much that he kept this pose as a sacrifice so he could one day gain his power.



From Hiranyakasipu's head came a brilliant light as bright as the sun. ✪ Fire came from the light and its smoke spread throughout the sky until it reached the upper and lower planets. All of the planets in the universe became very hot. Fire blazed everywhere. The rivers and oceans became rough and the mountains and islands began to tremble. Some of the stars and planets in space fell from their positions.

The demigods became very worried by Hiranyakasipu's great power. They immediately went to Lord Brahma and asked him to stop these disturbances.

"We have heard that Hiranyakasipu has taken on great austerities in order to gain strength and power," the demigods said. "Kindly go to him to take care of this troublesome situation."

Lord Brahma, carried by a swan airplane, immediately went to the place where Hiranyakasipu was standing. At first, Lord Brahma could not see the great demon because his body was covered by an anthill and by grass and by bamboo sticks. Because Hiranyakasipu had been standing in the same place for so long, the ants had eaten his skin and blood!



“O Hiranyakasipu, who can stand on the tips of his toes for one hundred demigod years as you have!” Lord Brahma said. “In spite of being eaten by worms and ants you are still standing. You have performed a great sacrifice. Now I shall grant you whatever you wish.”

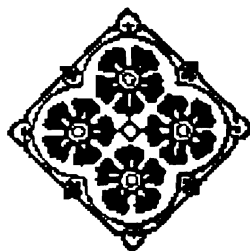
Hiranyakasipu offered his respects to Lord Brahma. He then asked for the following benedictions:

“Please let me not meet death by any living being created by you,” he requested. “Let me not die within or without any home, during the daytime or at night, nor on the ground or in the sky. Grant me that my death not be brought by any weapon, nor by any human being or animal. Grant me that I will not meet death by anyone, living or nonliving. Grant me that I will not be killed by any demigod or demon or by any great snake from the lower planets. Make me the ruler of all living entities. Furthermore, give me all mystic powers.”

“I shall grant you all of these benedictions,” Lord Brahma replied.

“I am immortal! No one can kill me!

I am the most powerful man in the universe!” Hiranyakasipu said.



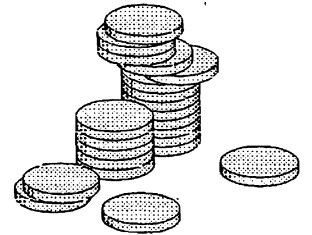


Hiranyakasipu became the conqueror of the entire universe. He moved into the most beautiful palace of Indra, the King of heaven. The steps were made of coral, the floors of emeralds, and the walls of crystal. The demigods, who also lived on the heavenly planets, had to bow down and offer obeisances at the feet of their new demoniac king. Hiranyakasipu was very proud of his opulence and power and was cruel to every living being. The demigods, being fearful of this king, went to the Lord for help.

“Do not fear,” the Lord said. “I know about the demoniac activities of Hiranyakasipu. I will soon take care of this matter for you. Please be patient until that time.”

Time passed and Hiranyakasipu had four sons.

The best son was named Prahlad. He was very attractive and a great devotee of Lord Krishna. He was kind to everyone and had full control of his mind and senses. He was free from pride even though he was born in a rich and powerful family.



Prahlad went to school with other boys in the palace. His teachers were also demons and taught them all about material enjoyment. They told the boys to lie and cheat in order to gain material opulence.

One day, when the teachers had left the classroom, Prahlad began telling his classmates about Lord Krishna. He told them to pray to the Lord, to serve the Lord, and to worship only the Lord.



In this way, the great saint, Prahlad, remained always thinking about Lord Krishna, even though his teachers taught him only about material life.

Once, Hiranyakasipu took his son, Prahlad, on his lap and affectionately asked, “My dear son, please let me know what you think is the best of all the subjects you have studied from your teachers.”



“O King of the Demons,” Prahlad answered, “any person who has accepted a temporary body is full of anxiety because of having fallen in a dark well where there is no water, but only suffering. One should give up this position and take shelter of Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Hearing and chanting about the name, form, qualities and pastimes of Lord Krishna is the best knowledge.”



Hiranyakasipu became very angry! He blamed Prahlad's teachers for telling these things to his son.

"What is this nonsense?" he yelled.

"Whatever your son, Prahlad, has said was not taught to him by me," his teacher said. "His devotional service has naturally developed in him.

"You rascal!" the demoniac king said to Prahlad. "You are most fallen in my family. You have not received this knowledge from your teachers. Where did you get this from?"

"Only by becoming Krishna conscious and taking shelter at the lotus feet of the Lord can one be freed from material contamination," Prahlad explained.

Hiranyakasipu threw his own son onto the ground in anger.

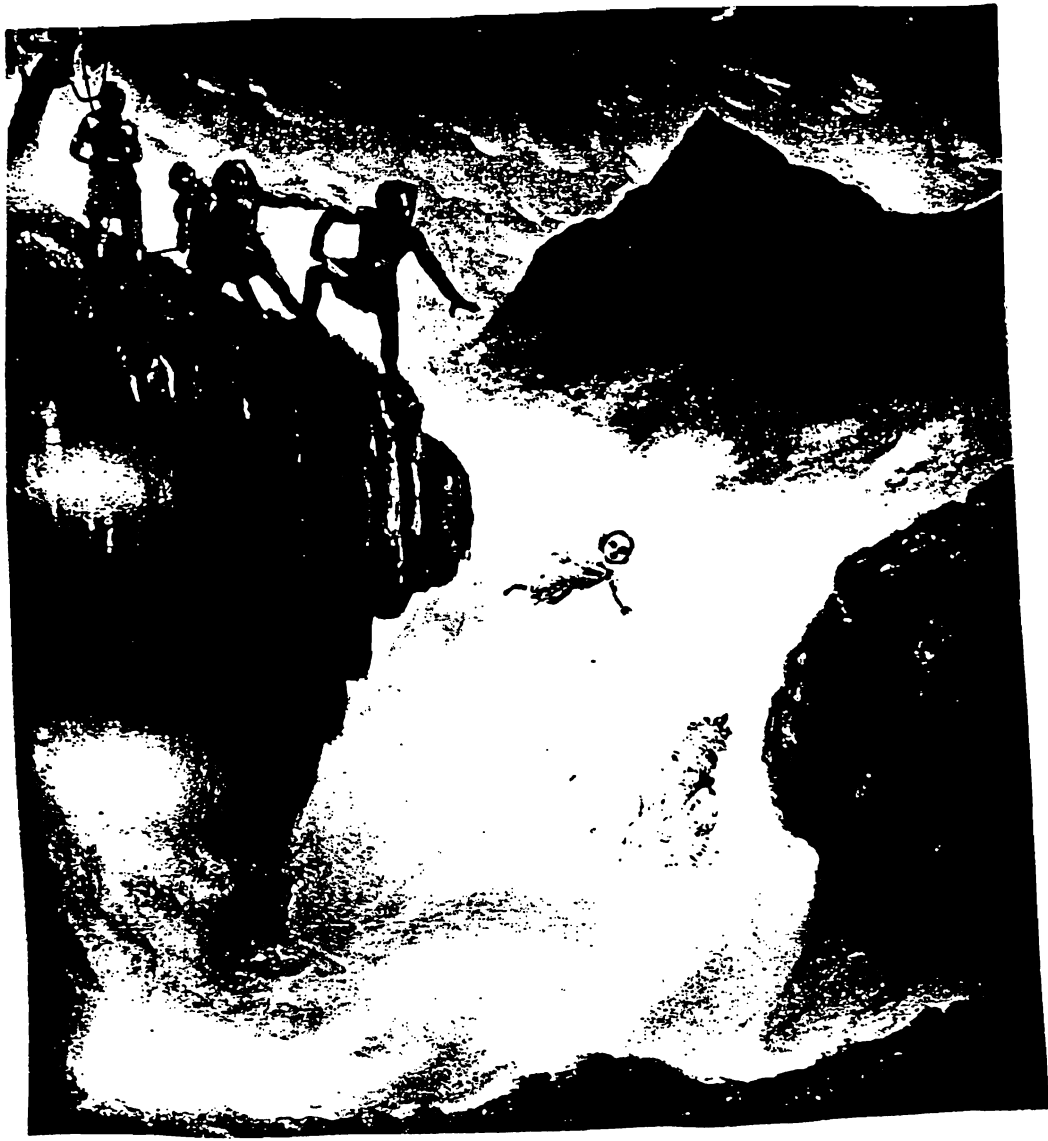
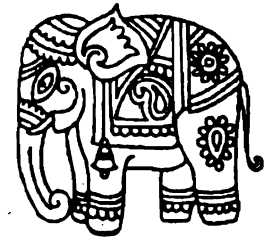
"O demons," he said to his servants, "take this boy away and kill him as soon as possible!"

The servants immediately began striking Prahlad's body with their tridents. But, the great devotee, Prahlad, silently meditated on the Supreme Lord and was not hurt.



Hiranyakasipu became very fearful because his son could not be killed by the demons. He began thinking of other ways to kill him. He ordered the demon servants to throw Prahlad off of a cliff, but Lord Krishna caught the boy so he would not be hurt.

He tried to kill Prahlad by throwing him beneath the feet of big elephants, but Lord Krishna, within the heart of the elephants, instructed them not to harm Prahlad.



Hiranyakasipu gave his son poison, tried to starve him, exposed him to severe cold, wind, fire, and water, and even had heavy stones thrown at Prahlad to crush him. When Hiranyakasipu found that nothing would kill his son, he became very anxious.

“Where did you get these mystic powers, Prahlad!”

Hiranyakasipu yelled.

“From the same place you get your powers from, Father,” Prahlad said. “From Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead!”

“From Krishna?” Hiranyakasipu yelled. “Then I will kill this Krishna! Where is He. Is He here? Is He there? Is He in this pillar?”

Just then, the demon smashed open a pillar in the room. With a loud and powerful roar, Krishna came out of the pillar and pounced upon the demon. In His incarnation as Lord Nrsimhadeva, half-man, half-lion, the Lord took the demon and placed him on His lap. With His long claws, Lord Nrsimhadeva ripped the heart of Hiranyakasipu and killed him instantly.

Thus, the demon’s boons which he received from Lord Brahma remained unbroken. Hiranyakasipu was not killed during the day or night, but during the twilight. He was not killed by man, nor beast, but by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He was not killed on the land, nor sea, but on the lap of the Lord. He was not killed by any weapon, but by the nails of Lord Krishna.

All glories to the Supreme Lord, who always protects His devotees.

Check for Understanding

Circle the correct answers below:

1. Prahlad was the son of _____.

- a. Narada Muni
- b. Hiranyakasipu
- c. Hiranyaksha

2. Prahlad chanted _____ so Krishna saved him from all harm.

- a. Hare Krishna mantra
- b. Om tat sat
- c. Siva mantra

Fill in the blanks below:

Prahlad was a _____ devotee of Lord _____.

He was protected by the _____ who appeared in

His incarnation of _____, half-_____,

half-_____. The Lord protects His _____.



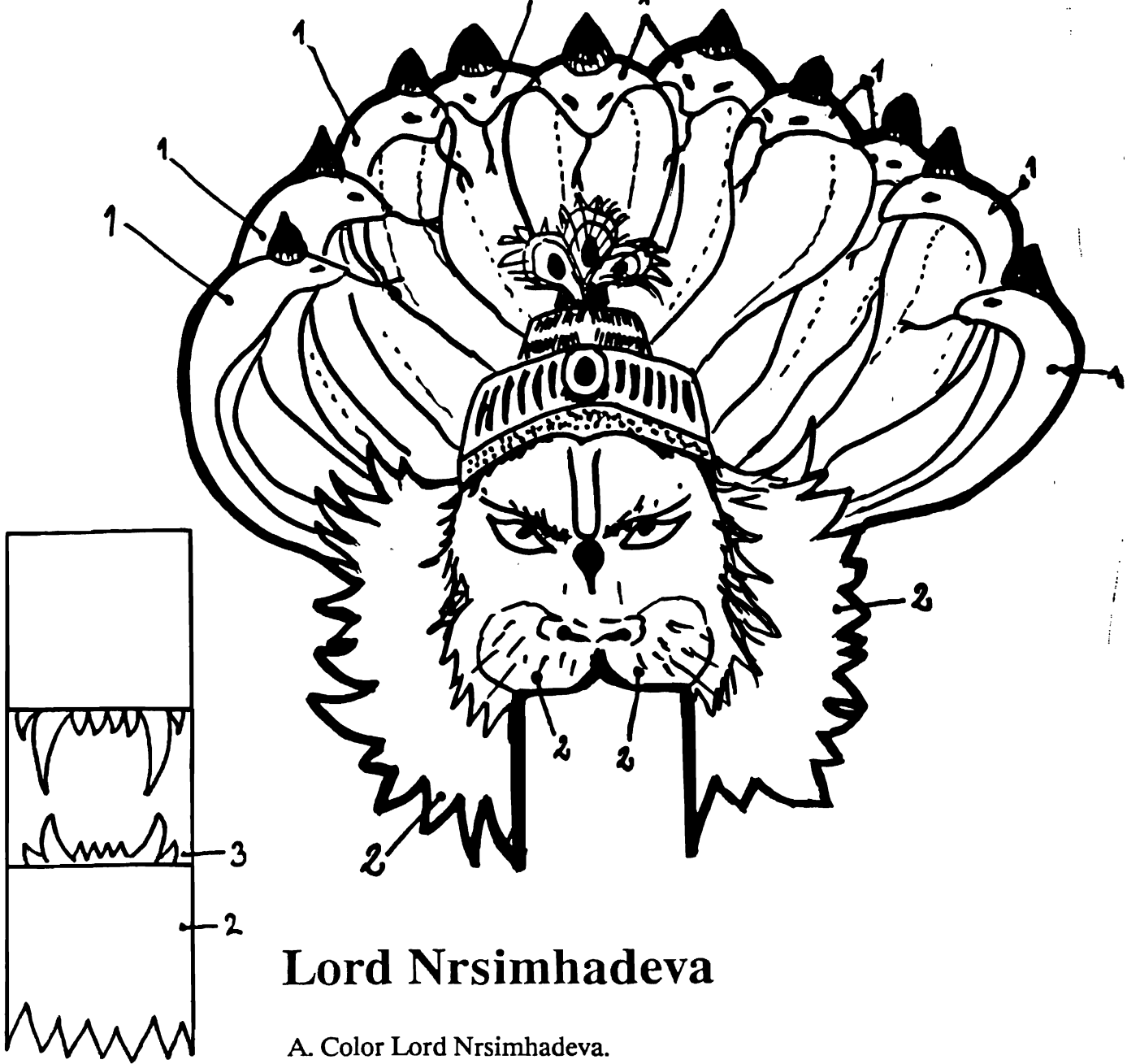
Something to Think About and Discuss

Prahlad Maharaja was a hero.

*What was his greatest weapon against the
King of the Demons?*



Write your answer below:



Lord Nrsimhadeva

A. Color Lord Nrsimhadeva.

1. BLUE (Ananta's upper part)

2. BROWN

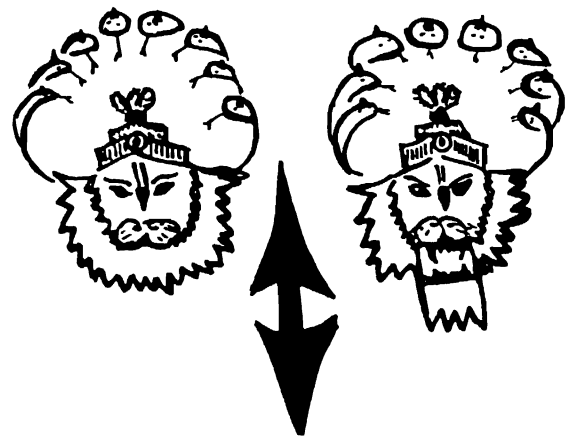
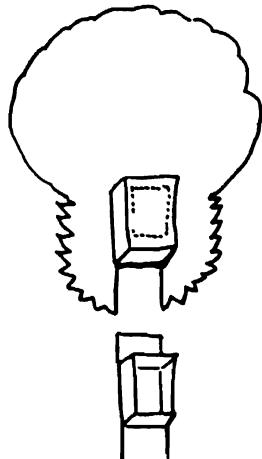
3. RED

4. YELLOW (Nrsimhadeva's face and crown)

B. Cut out His face. Glue to a heavy craft paper.

C. Cut out the jaws and glue them to a match box as shown below.

D. Move the box in and out and let the Lord show His fearsome teeth.





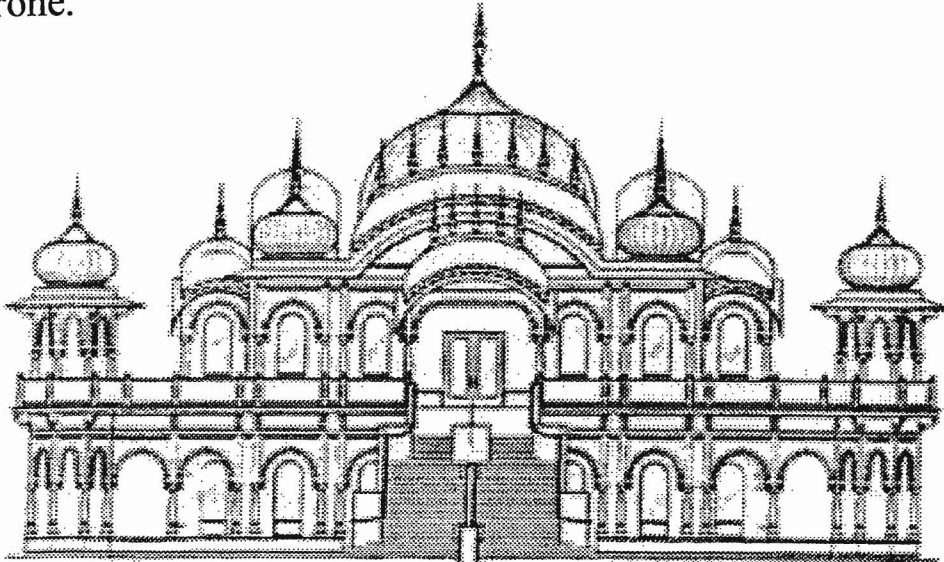
Lesson Six

The Saintly Queen Kunti

Once upon a time, a daughter was born to Surasena, the chief of the glorious Yadu dynasty. Her name was Kunti and she was beautiful and gifted in every way. Because his cousin, Kuntibhoja, was childless, Surasena allowed Kunti to live in the home of Kuntibhoja.

In her new home, Kunti's duty was to look after the many saintly guests who visited. One day, the powerful sage and mystic yogi, Durvasa, came there and was pleased by Kunti's service. Durvasa gave her the boon that she could call upon any demigod to come before her so she could be the mother of his child.

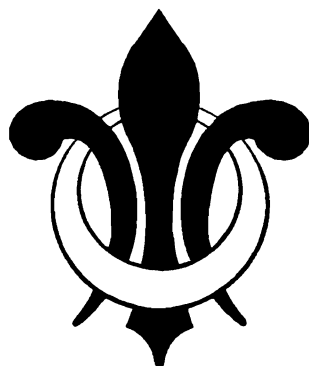
Many years later, Kunti married Pandu who became king because his elder brother Dhrtarastra had been born blind and therefore could not become the ruler. As was the custom for the ruling class, Pandu also married a second wife named Madri. Some time after Pandu had become king, his brother Dhrtarastra married Gandhari who gave birth to 100 sons. The eldest son was named Duryodhana. He was cruel and ambitious and very determined to take over the throne.



After Kunti married Pandu, he was cursed to never be able to have children. He gave up the throne and retired with his wives to the forest. Because he wanted sons, Pandu asked Kunti to use her boon and call upon the demigods for children. First, she called Dharma, the demigod of religion. She gave birth to a son. As soon as the boy was born, a voice in the sky said, “This child will be called Yudhisthira, and he will be very virtuous. He will be splendid, determined, renounced, and famous throughout the three worlds.”

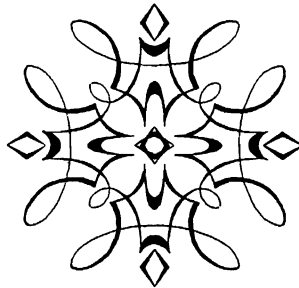


Pandu then asked Kunti to call upon another demigod for a son who had great physical strength. Kunti called for Vayu, the demigod of the wind. She then gave birth to a second son. When he was born, a voice in the sky said, “This child will be the foremost of all strong men.” His name was Bhima.



Pandu then consulted with sages living in the forest. He then asked Kunti to perform austerities for one year. After this time, Pandu said to his wife, “O beautiful one, Indra, the King of heaven, is please with you. Please call upon him to have a son.”

Kunti later had a third son named Arjuna. As soon as the boy was born, a voice in the sky said, “O Kunti, this child will be as strong as Kartavirya and Sibi (two powerful kings of Vedic times) and as invincible in battle as Indra himself. He will spread your fame everywhere and acquire many divine weapons.”



Soon after, Pandu’s second wife, Madri, gave birth to two sons named Nakula and Sahadeva.

The five princes became known as the Pandavas.

Since Pandu had retired in the forest, his brother Dhrtarastra had temporarily assumed the throne until Pandu's eldest son Yudhisthira came of age. But, long before that time, Pandu died as a result of a curse. His wife Madri gave up her life leaving Kunti alone with five young sons. They returned to the Kaurava court where the five sons were raised in royal style under the guidance of their uncles, Dhrtarastra and Vidura.

When Kunti's son, Yudhisthira, was old enough to rule the kingdom, his evil cousin Duryodhana convinced his father to not allow Yudhisthira to be king. He tried several times to kill the Pandavas along with Queen Kunti. But, Kunti and her sons escaped each time by the mercy of Lord Krishna. Finally, Duryodhana cheated his cousins out of the throne. They were banished to the forest to live in exile for thirteen years.



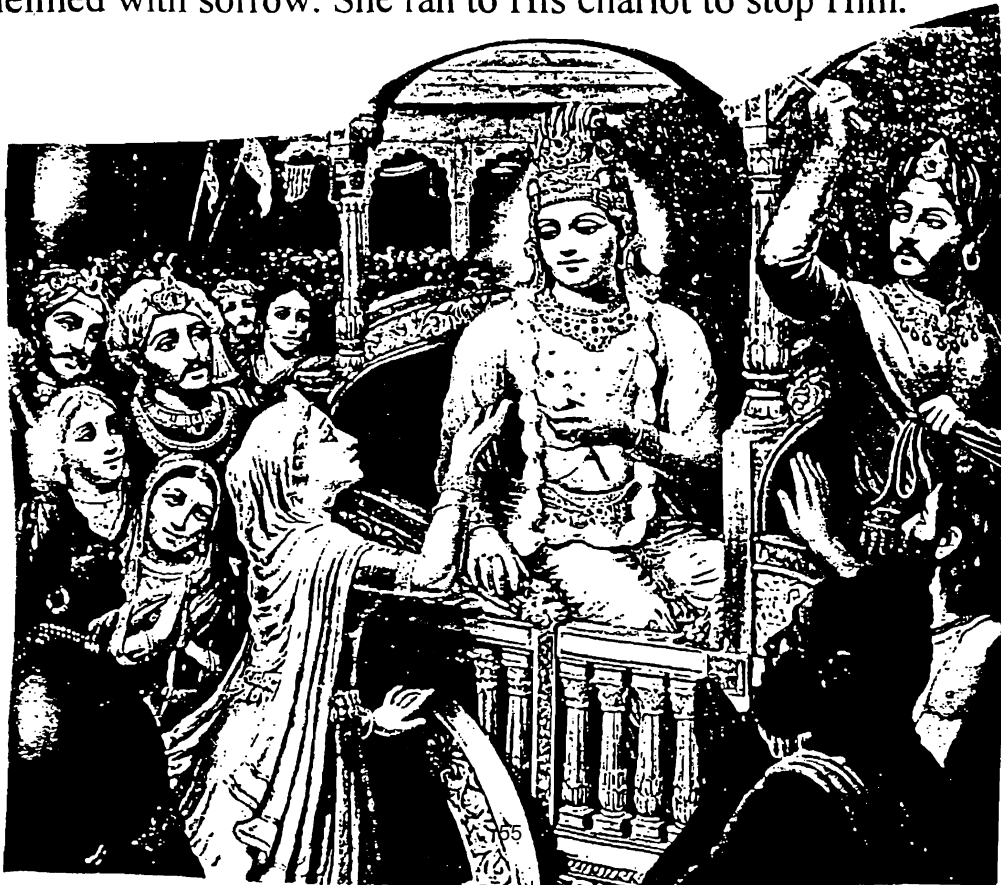
Duryodhana tried to kill the Pandavas by burning their home.



After their exile, the Pandavas tried to peacefully settle these problems with their cousin. Every effort failed. Duryodhana refused to give the throne to Yudhishthira. Therefore, a battle took place called the Battle of Kuruksetra. During this war, Lord Krishna drove Arjuna's chariot and spoke the *Bhagavad-gita*.



When the Pandavas won the battle after eighteen days of fighting, Krishna was about to leave Hastinapura for Dwaraka. For years, Kunti had taken shelter of Krishna who had always protected her and her sons from the evil Duryodhana. Actually, Krishna was her nephew because He appeared as the son of Vasudeva, Kunti's brother. Kunti was also aware of the Lord's eternal, transcendental position as the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Now Lord Krishna was leaving and Queen Kunti was overwhelmed with sorrow. She ran to His chariot to stop Him.





Queen Kunti sincerely spoke to Lord Krishna.

“My dear Krishna,” Kunti prayed, “Your Lordship has protected us from a poisoned cake, from a great fire, from cannibals, from the vicious assembly, from sufferings during our exile in the forest, and from the battle where great generals fought. And now You have saved us from the weapon of Asvatthama.”

Kunti was so saintly that she prayed to the Lord for all of these troubles to happen again and again so she could remember Krishna always.

“I wish that all those calamities would happen again and again,” the Queen prayed, “so that we could see You again and again, for seeing You means that we will no longer see repeated births and deaths.”

After all of Kunti’s troubles, she never forgot to take shelter of Lord Krishna for protection. This saintly woman is truly one of the heroes from the Vedas. The weapon that gave her strength was her complete surrender to the Lord.



Check for Understanding



Fill in the blanks below:

1. Kunti was the daughter of _____.
2. She moved into the home of _____.
3. She was given a boon by the great sage _____.
4. Kunti married _____.
5. Kunti lived in exile in the forest with her husband and his second wife _____.

***Match by drawing lines:**

Bhima

Indra

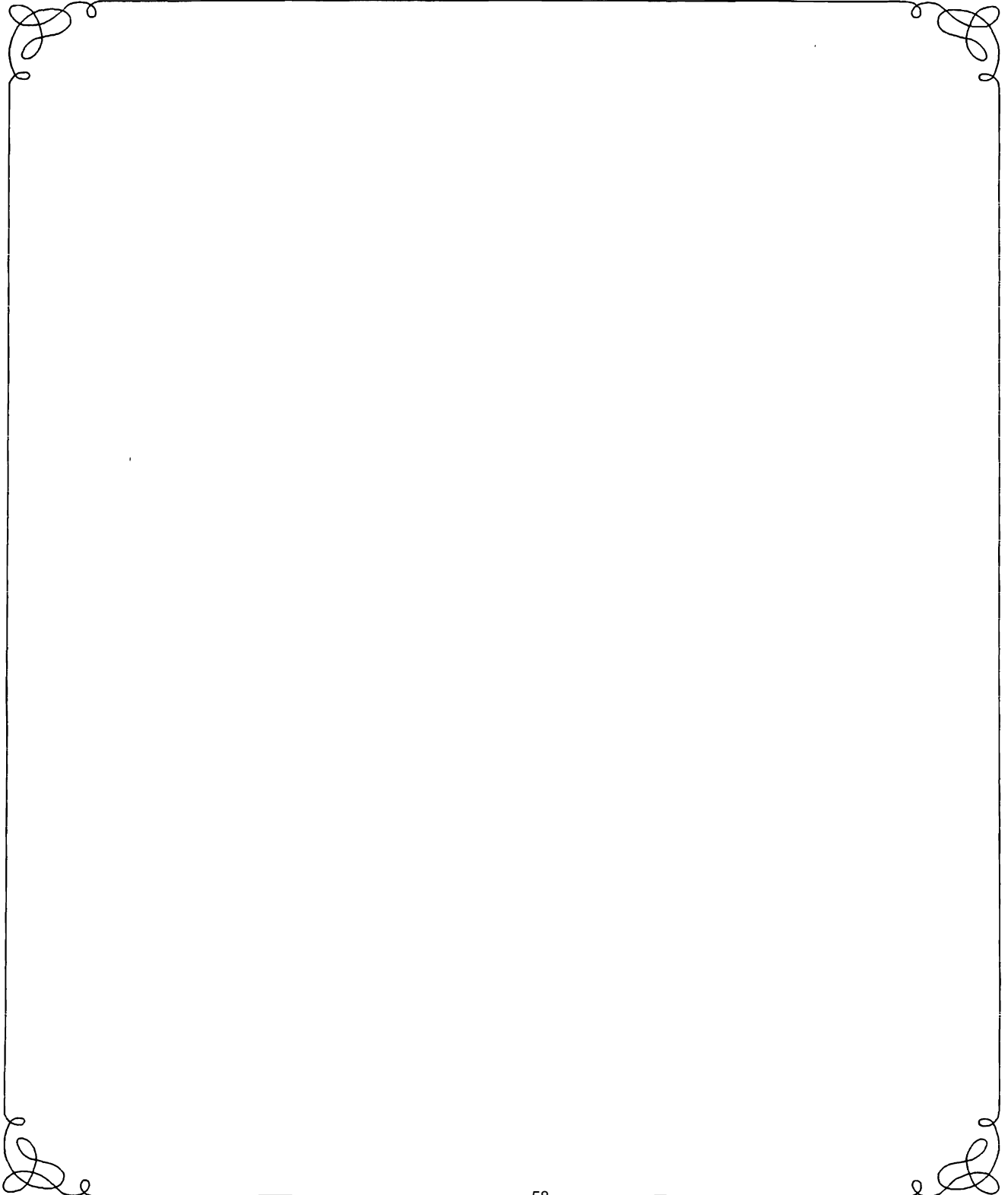
Arjuna

Vayu

Yudhisthira

Dharma

Draw a picture of Kunti praying
to Lord Krishna on His chariot.

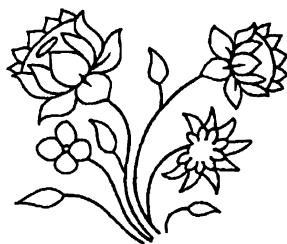


How many words can you find within

Queen Kunti?

Examples: tin

nun



Color the picture below:

