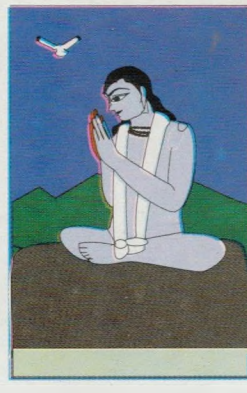
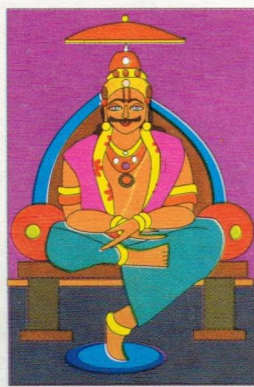


# MAHAJANAS

THE TWELVE GREAT DEVOTEES OF THE LORD



# COLOURING BOOK

*an offering to*  
Sri Sri Prabhupada centennial celebrations

# MAHAJANAS

*Mahajan literally means great person. Lord Krishna is the Supreme Person. He appears on the earth to educate people. Without proper knowledge, human beings cannot be free from miseries. Therefore the Lord Himself comes to give His teachings for the happiness of humanity. Even great sages and demigods become confused about the subtle meaning of the Lord's statements. According to Srimad Bhagavatam there are 12 people who have the proper understanding of dharma or Lord's teachings. These 12 people are called Mahajana. A brief description is given in the following pages.*

*1896-1996*

script: S.Das

illustrations : V.G.Das

to commemorate

*Srila Prabhupada Centennial Celebrations*

1986-1996

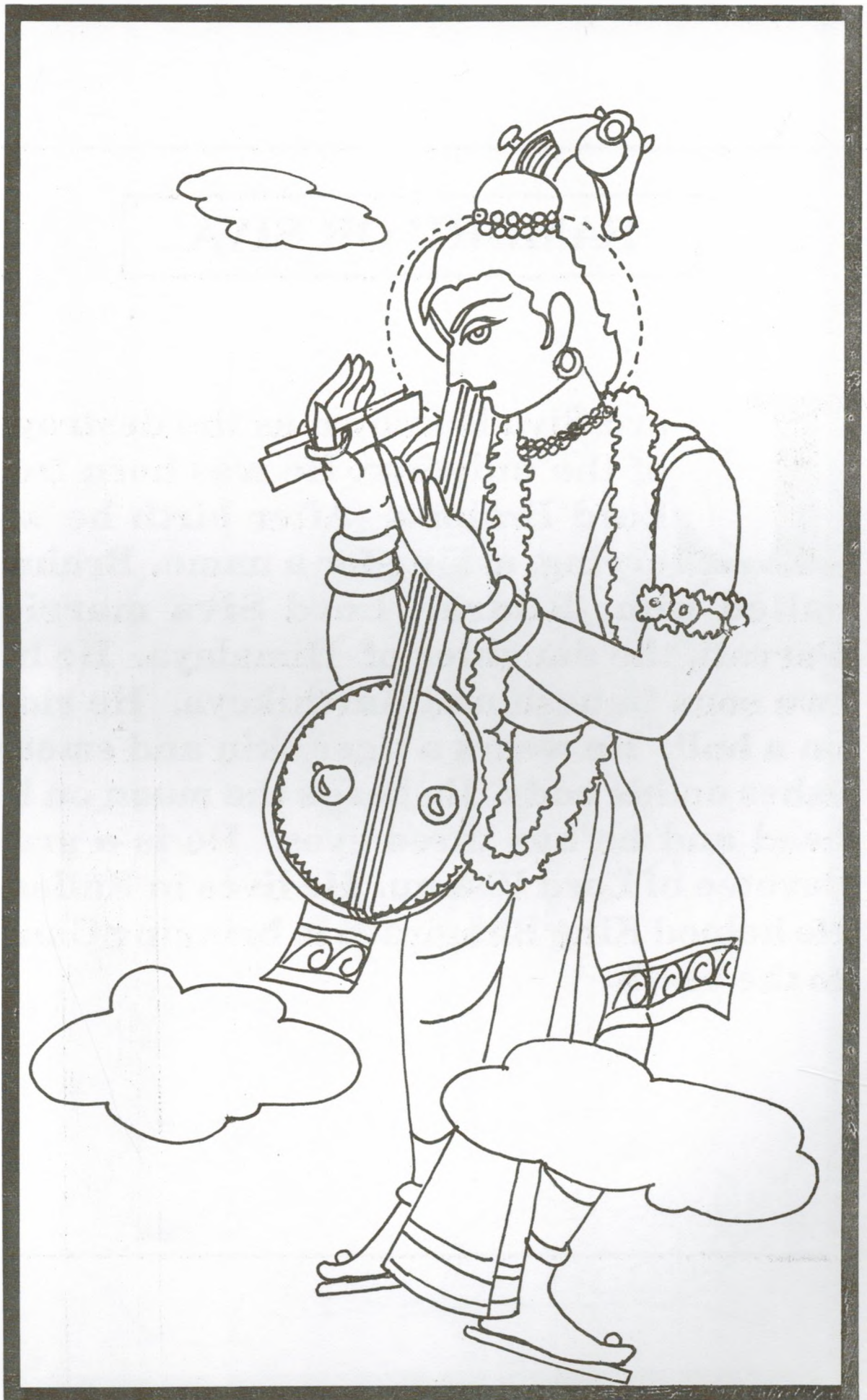
## SVAYAMBHU OR BRAHMA

**H**e is one of the guna incarnations of Lord Vishnu. He is one of the Trimurtis - trinities of vedic Lords. The other two are Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu. Brahma is born from the navel of Lord Vishnu. After birth he performed tapasya for a long time. Lord Vishnu became pleased and gave vedic knowledge to him. Lord Brahma created the universe under the instruction of Lord Vishnu. Brahma has four heads and speaks four Vedas from four mouths. He lives in Satya loka which is the topmost planet in this universe. He rides on a swan. Brahma's famous temple is in Puskara, Rajasthan. He lives for 30 crore 9 lakhs 17 thousand and 376 years.



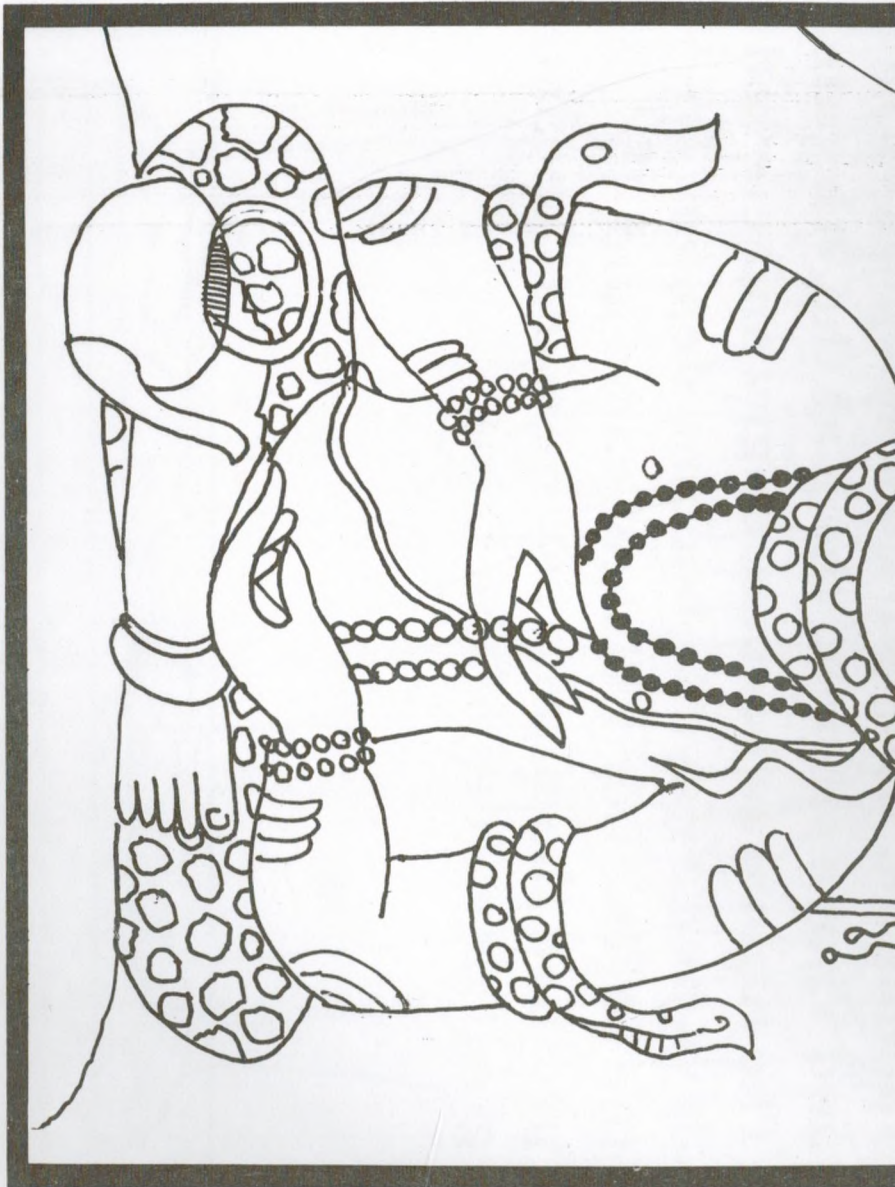
## NARADA

**N**arada is a great devotee of Lord Krishna. He was born from the lap of Brahma. He carries a vina in his hand and sings the glories of Lord Narayana. He travels all over the universe giving instructions about Bhakti. He is the guru of Bhakta Dhruva and Bhakta Prahlad. In his past life he was the son of a maid servant. He associated with saints and became their follower. He went to the forest and meditated on the Lord. Lord Vishnu blessed him and gave him a spiritual body. Narada instructed Veda Vyasa to compose Srimad Bhagavatam.

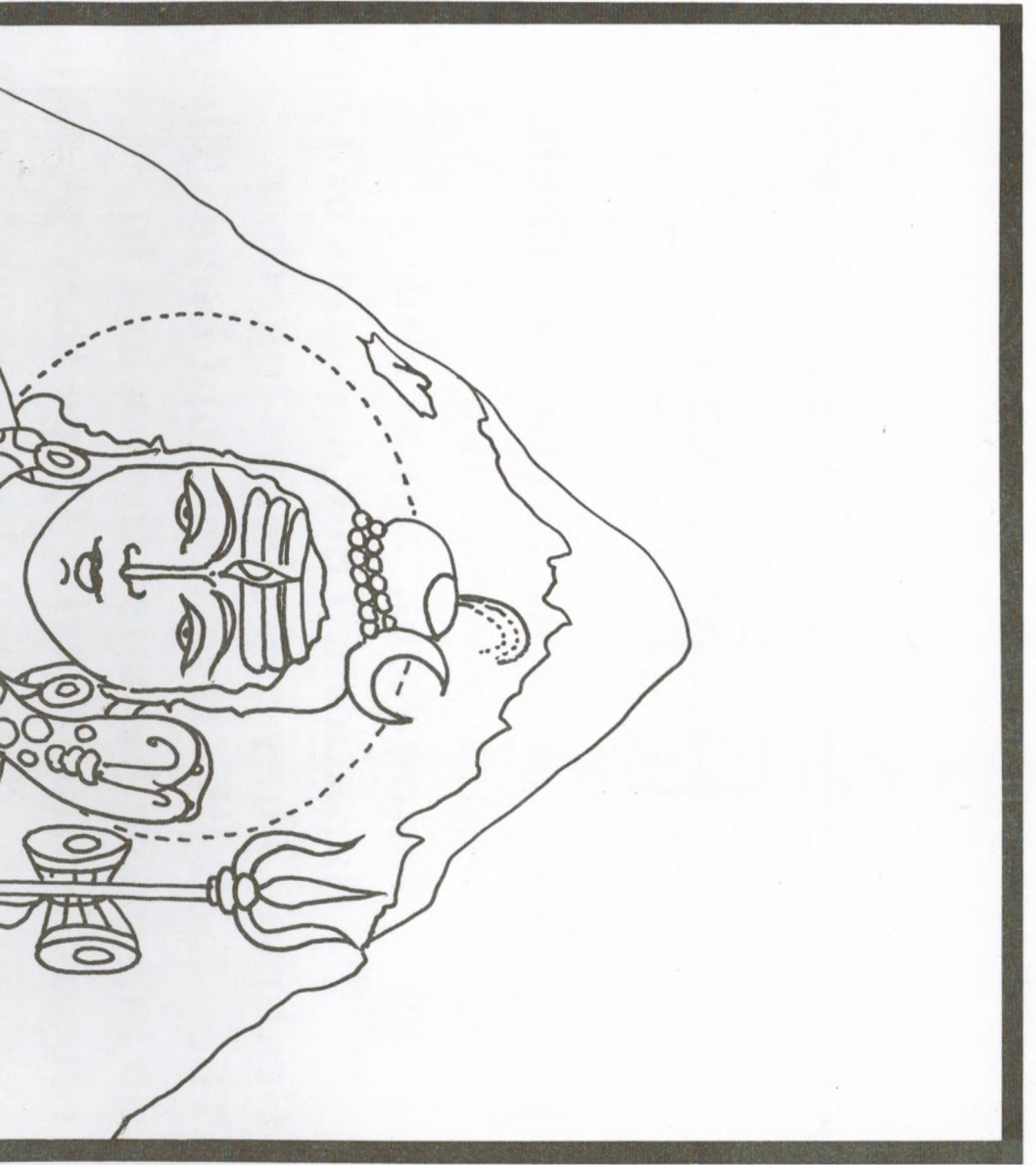


## SAMBHU OR SIVA

**L**ord Siva is known as the destroyer of the universe. He was born from Lord Brahma. After birth he was crying, asking for a name. Brahma called him Rudra. Lord Siva married Parvati, the daughter of Himalaya. He has two sons Ganesh and Karthikeya. He rides on a bull. He wears a tiger skin and smears ashes on his body. He keeps the moon on his head and he has three eyes. He is a great devotee of Lord Vishnu. He lives in Kailash. He helped King Bhagirath in bringing Ganga to the earth.

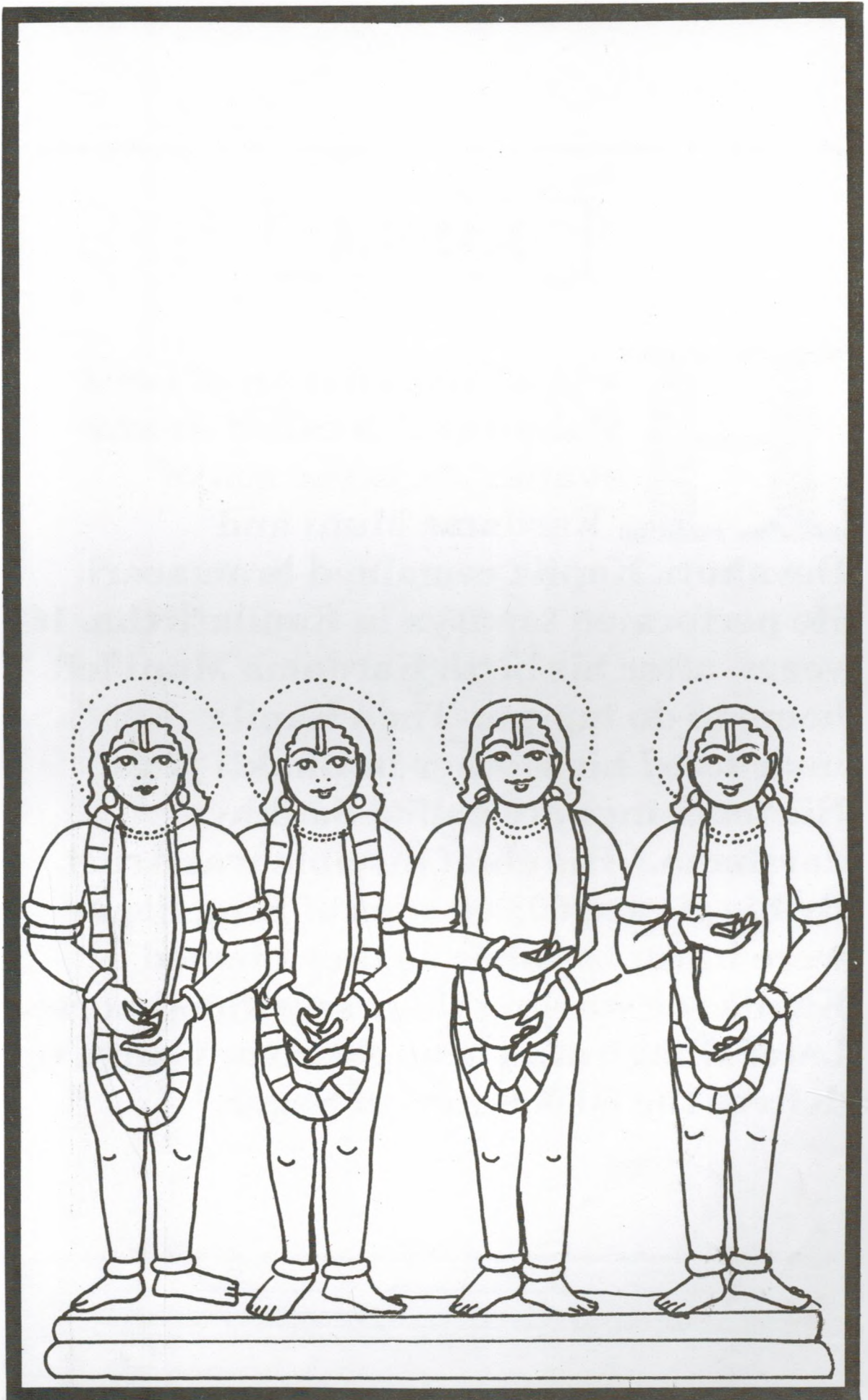






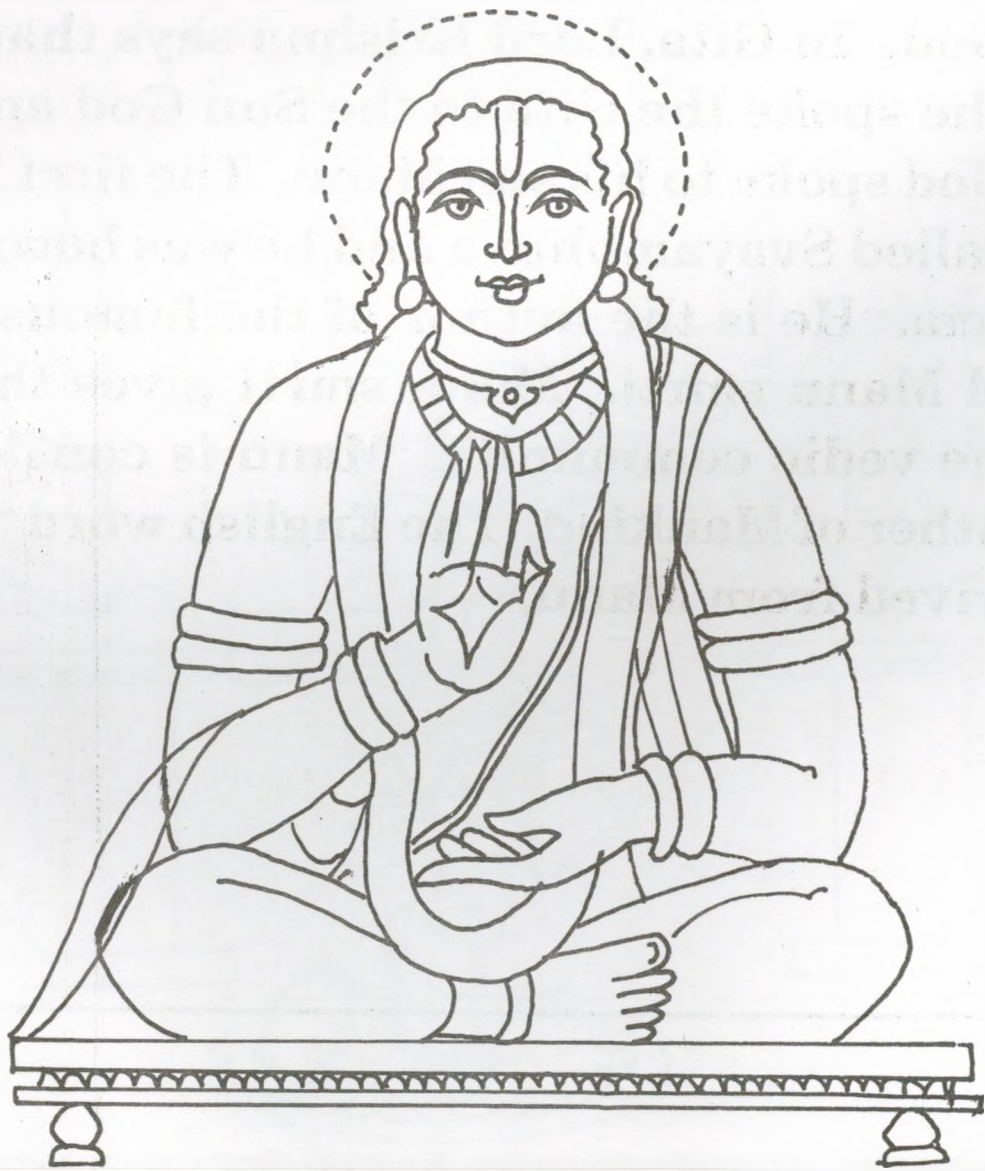
## KUMARAS

**T**hey are four brothers. Their names are Sanaka, Sanandana, Sanat and Sanatana. They are sons of Lord Brahma. They are always together. They look like five years old boys. They do not grow because they want to remain brahmacaris. Once they went to Vaikuntha. The two door-keepers Jaya and Vijaya stopped them at the 7th gate. The Kumaras became angry and cursed Jaya and Vijaya to become demons on the earth. Lord Vishnu came and pacified the Kumaras. Kumaras became great devotees of the Lord.



## KAPILA

**H**e is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and is called Jnana-avataar. He is the son of Kardama Muni and Devahuti. Kapila remained bramacari. He performed tapasya in Kapilatirtha. 16 years after his birth Kardama Muni left home to do tapsya. Then Kapila instructed his mother in Bhakti yoga. His teachings are called Sankhya darshana. His chief disciple was Asuri. By his glance 60,000 sons of King Sagar were burnt to ashes as they blamed Kapila for stealing their sacrificial horse. Later Bhagiratha brought river Ganga to deliver the 60,000 sons of Sagar.



## MANU

**I**n one day of Brahma there are 14 Manus. At present the 7th Manu Vaivasvata is the ruler. One Manu rules for 306720000 years. Vaivasvata Manu is the son of the Sun God. In Gita, Lord Krishna says that long back he spoke the Gita to the Sun God and the Sun God spoke to his son Manu. The first Manu was called Svayambhuva and he was born from Brahma. He is the author of the famous book called Manu smrti. Manu smrti gives the law for the vedic community. Manu is considered the father of Mankind. The English word "Man" is derived from Manu.



## PRAHALAD

**H**e is a great devotee of Lord Narasimha. He was the son of the great demon Hiranyakashipu.

His mother's name was Kayadhu. He heard the glories of Lord Vishnu from Narada Muni when he was still in the womb of his mother. Since his birth he was a devotee and he always meditated on Lord Vishnu. When he was in nursery school he would tell his classmates about Lord Vishnu. His father was angry at him. He tried to kill Prahlad but was not successful. Lord Narasimha appeared from the pillar of Hiranyakashipu's palace and killed Hiranyakashipu.





## JANAKA

**J**anaka was the king of Mithila. He was the father of Sitadevi. For a long time he did not have any child. Once he performed a sacrifice and then ploughed the land . Sita came out of the earth, and Janaka accepted her as his daughter. Sita was married to Lord Rama. Janaka was a very learned person. He used to have an assembly of learned scholars and discuss philosophy with them. Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita that Janaka attained perfection by following his prescribed duties.



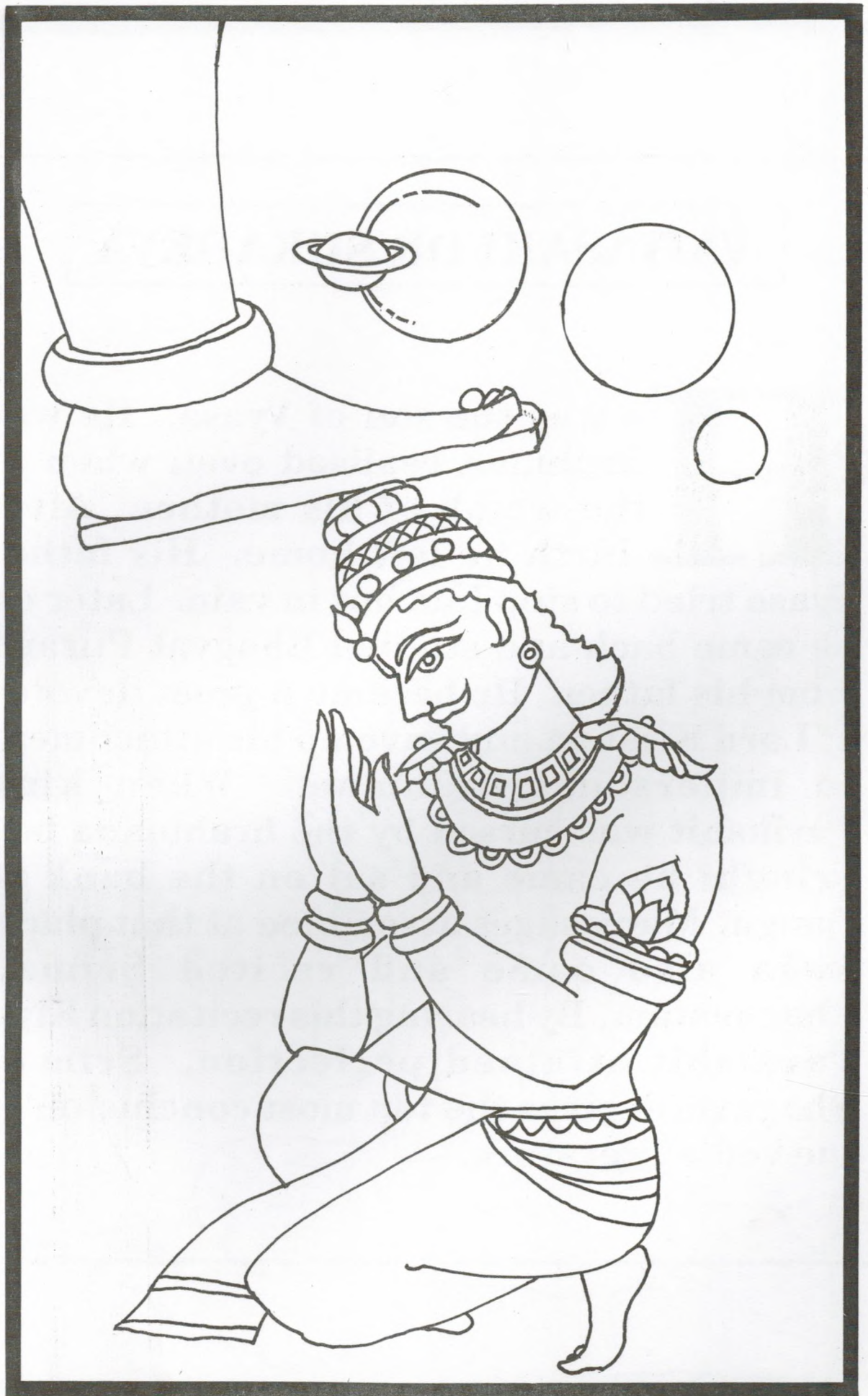
## BHISHMA

**H**e was the eighth son of Santganu and the river Ganga. His original name was Deva -vrata. He took a vow to remain life-long brahmachari and never to ascend the throne of a king. For the solemn vow, he was given the name Bhishma. Santanu gave him a boon to die at his will. He was commander-in-chief of the Kauravas for the first 10 days in the Kurukshetra war. Bhishma did not fight when Shikhandi came in front of him. Taking this advantage, Arjuna shot arrows and made Bhishma fall down. Bhishma lay on the bed of arrows for 52 days. He instructed Yudhisthira Maharaj on the request of Lord Krishna. He left his body while meditating on Lord Krishna who was standing next to him.



## BALI

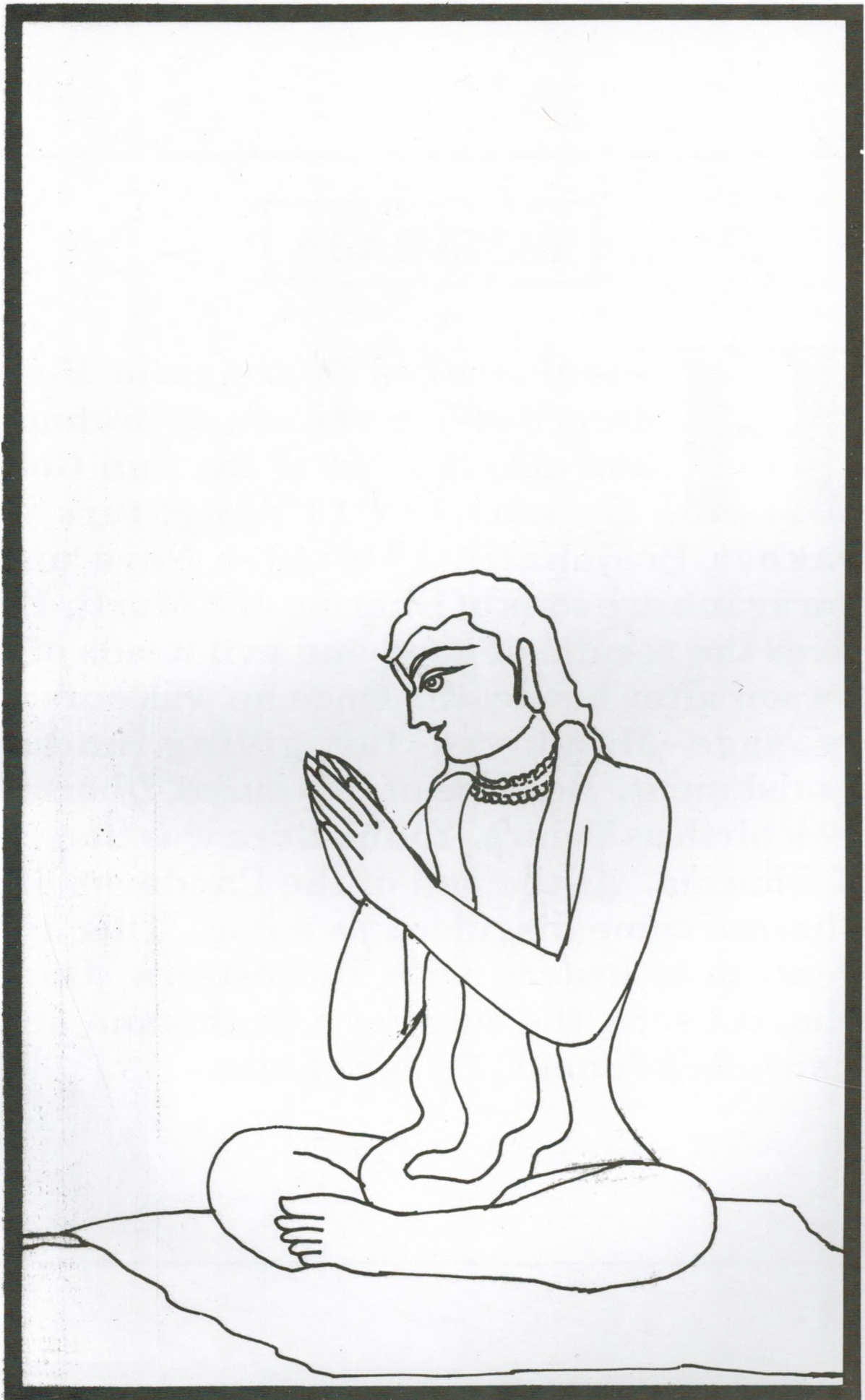
**H**e was the king of the Asuras. He was the son of Virocana and grand son of Prahlad. His guru was Sukracharya. Once he attacked Indra and captured his post. The devas approached Lord Vishnu for help. Lord Vishnu appeared as Vaman from the womb of Aditi, the mother of Indra. To help Indra, Vaman went to beg from Bali. Vaman begged three steps of land. But when he began measuring the land He expanded His body and became Trivikram. He measured the three worlds in two steps and for the third step he captured Bali. In this way Bali surrendered everything to Lord Vishnu. The Lord was pleased and became Bali's door keeper.



## VAIYASAKI OR SUKADEVA

**H**e was the son of Vyasa. He was Brahman realised even when in the womb of his mother. After birth he left home. His father Vyasa tried to stop him but in vain. Later on he came back and studied Bhagvat Purana from his father. He became a great devotee of Lord Krishna and gave up his attachment to impersonal brahman. When king Parikshit was cursed by the brahmana boy Sringhi he came and sat on the bank of Ganga. Many sages assembled at that place. Suka also came and recited Srimad Bhagavatam. By hearing this recitation King Parikshit attained perfection. Srimad Bhagavatm gives the top most conclusion of the vedic literature.





## YAMARAJA

**H**e is also called Dharmaraja. He is described as the son of Brahma, and also the son of the Sun God. He married 13 daughters of Dakhsa Prajapati. The sages Nara and Narayana are sons of Dharma and Murti. He gives the results of good and evil deeds of a person after his death. Once he was cursed by sage Mandavya for giving undue punishment. Because of this curse, Dharma took birth as Vidura. Yudhisthira was the son of Dharma. At the end of the Pandavas life Dharma came disguised as a dog. This dog went up to heaven with Yudhisthira. .Once Dharma took the form of a brahmana and instructed Janaka, father of Sita.





*and be happy*

HARE HARE

RAMA RAMA

HARE RAMA

HARE RAMA

HARE HARE

KRISHNA KRISHNA

HARE KRISHNA

HARE KRISHNA

*chant*



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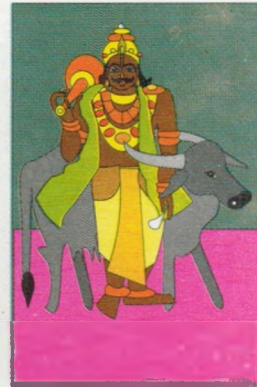
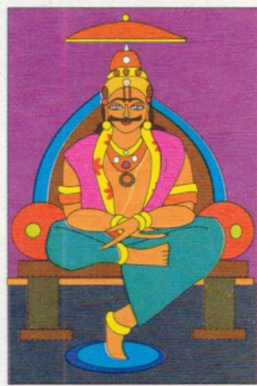
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