

India's Ancient Tales

Story cum Coloring Book

Pastimes of
NARADA
(The Celestial Spaceman)



VEDIC ARTS Creations

Dedicated to



His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

(Founder-Acharya of ISKCON)

Introduction

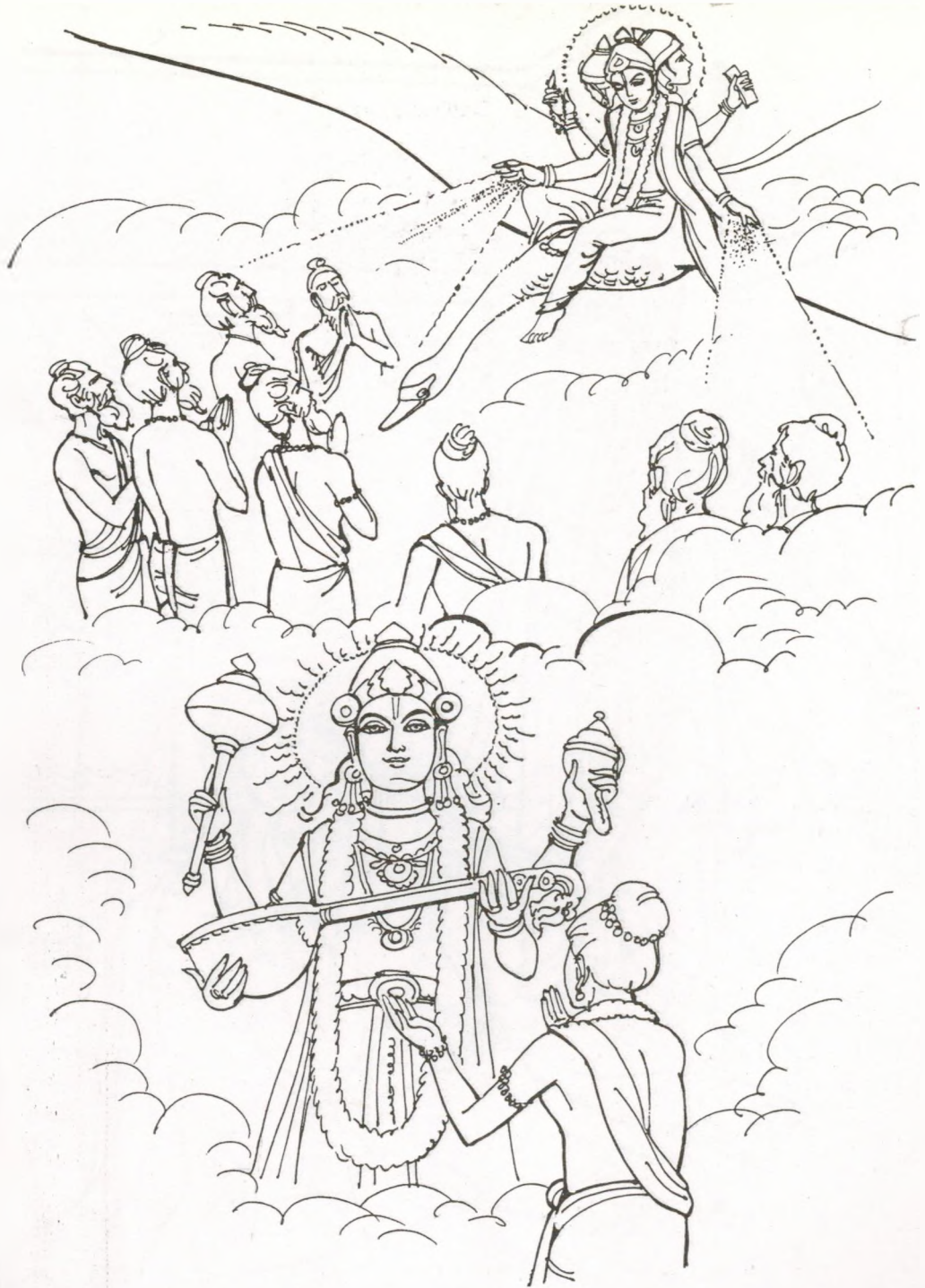
According to the Vedic literatures, Narada Muni was a great mystic sage who has an eternal spiritual body and as a Celestial Spaceman, he always travels unrestrictedly throughout the material and spiritual worlds, playing on his musical instrument 'Vina' and singing joyfully the glories of the Supreme Lord.

Narada Muni is always eager to uplift the people spiritually, and thus he became the spiritual master of many great devoted personalities. He is always ready to give instructions to those who seek spiritual guidance. Narada never had any true enemies in his life, he is always loved and respected by everyone in all the three worlds. Wherever he travels, his presence makes everyone enlightened. He never married and always remained as *naistika-Brahmachari* (unadulterated celibate) in the service of the Supreme Lord.

In *Sri Chaitanya lila*, Srivas Acarya was the incarnation of Narada Muni and Haridasa Thakura was the incarnation of Lord Brahma, the father of Narada Muni.

Vedic Arts takes pleasure in presenting such a wonderful personality like Narada for the children with short stories and beautiful illustrations.

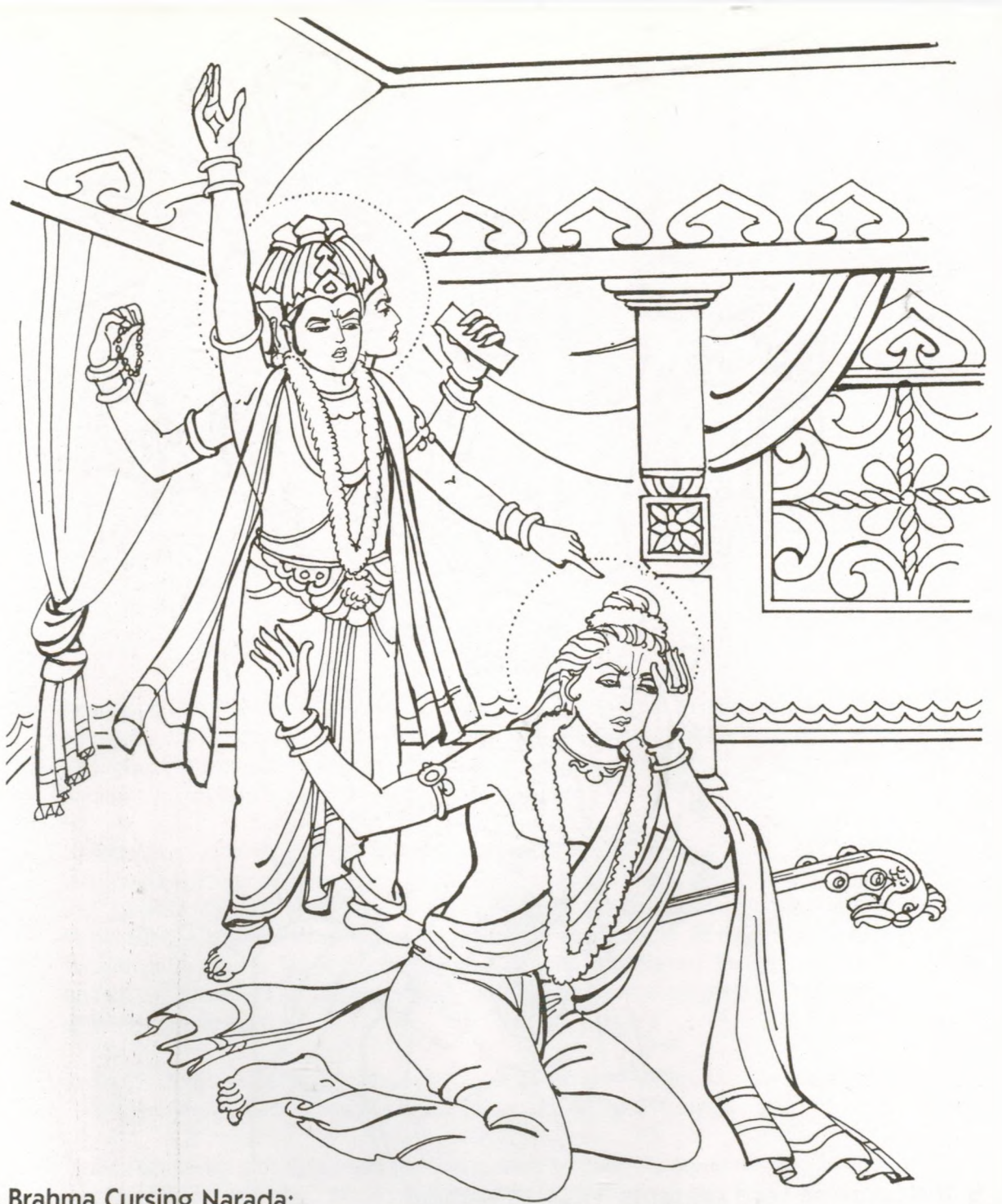
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1. The Supreme Lord presents 'VINA' to Narada:

After lord Brahma created the material universe by the grace of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna, all the *rsis*, such as *Marichi*, *Angira*, *Atri* etc. were created, and NARADA also appeared along with them as the son of lord Brahma. Since the time of his birth, Narada Muni's only desire was to sing always the glories of Lord Krishna (Vishnu).

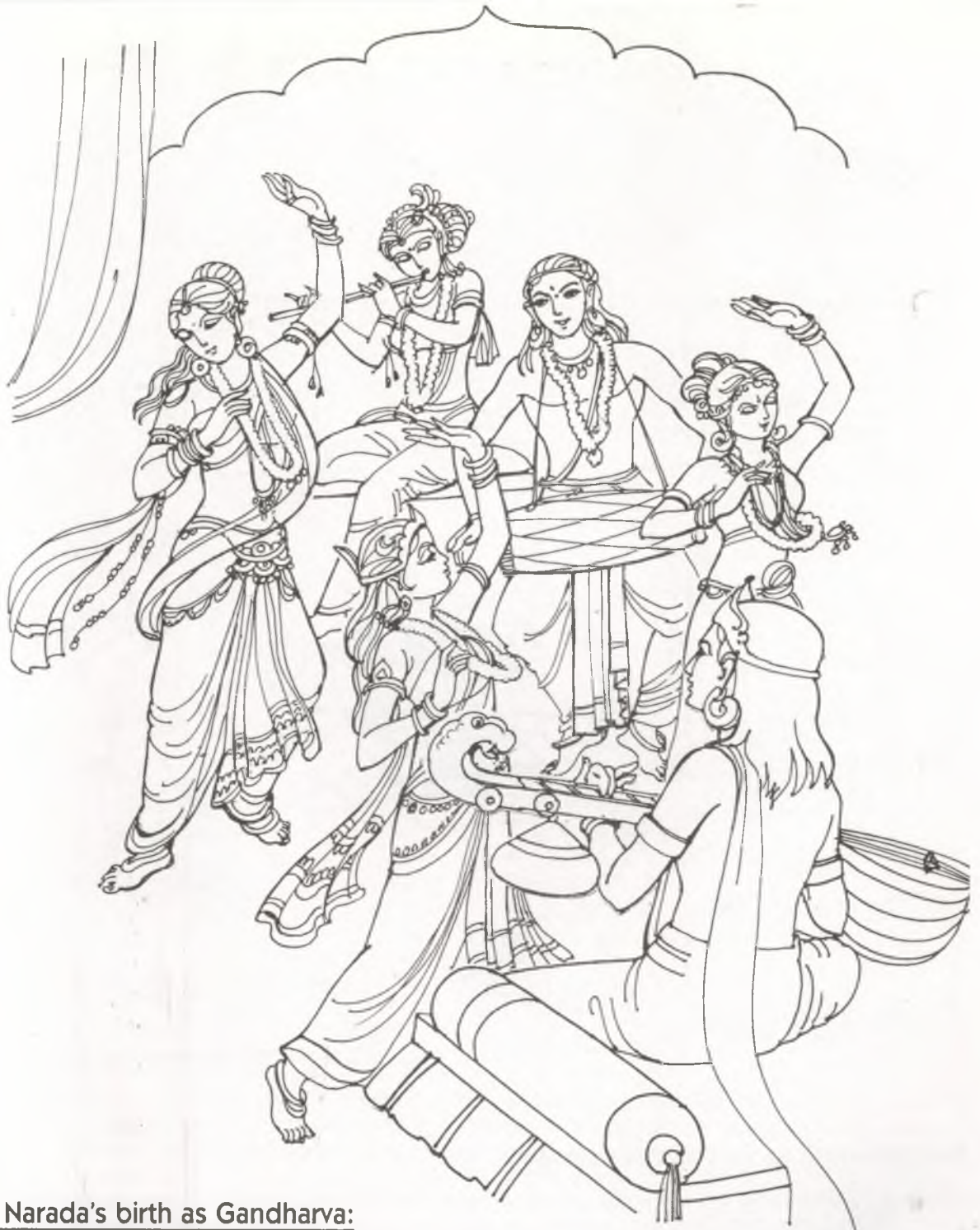
The Lord, being very pleased with Narada's loving devotion, presented him a wonderful musical instrument called 'Vina' which is charged with the transcendental sound vibrations. Thus he happily travelled unrestrictedly all over the Universe (material and Spiritual), playing his *Vina* and singing the transcendental glories of the Supreme Lord.



2. Brahma Cursing Narada:

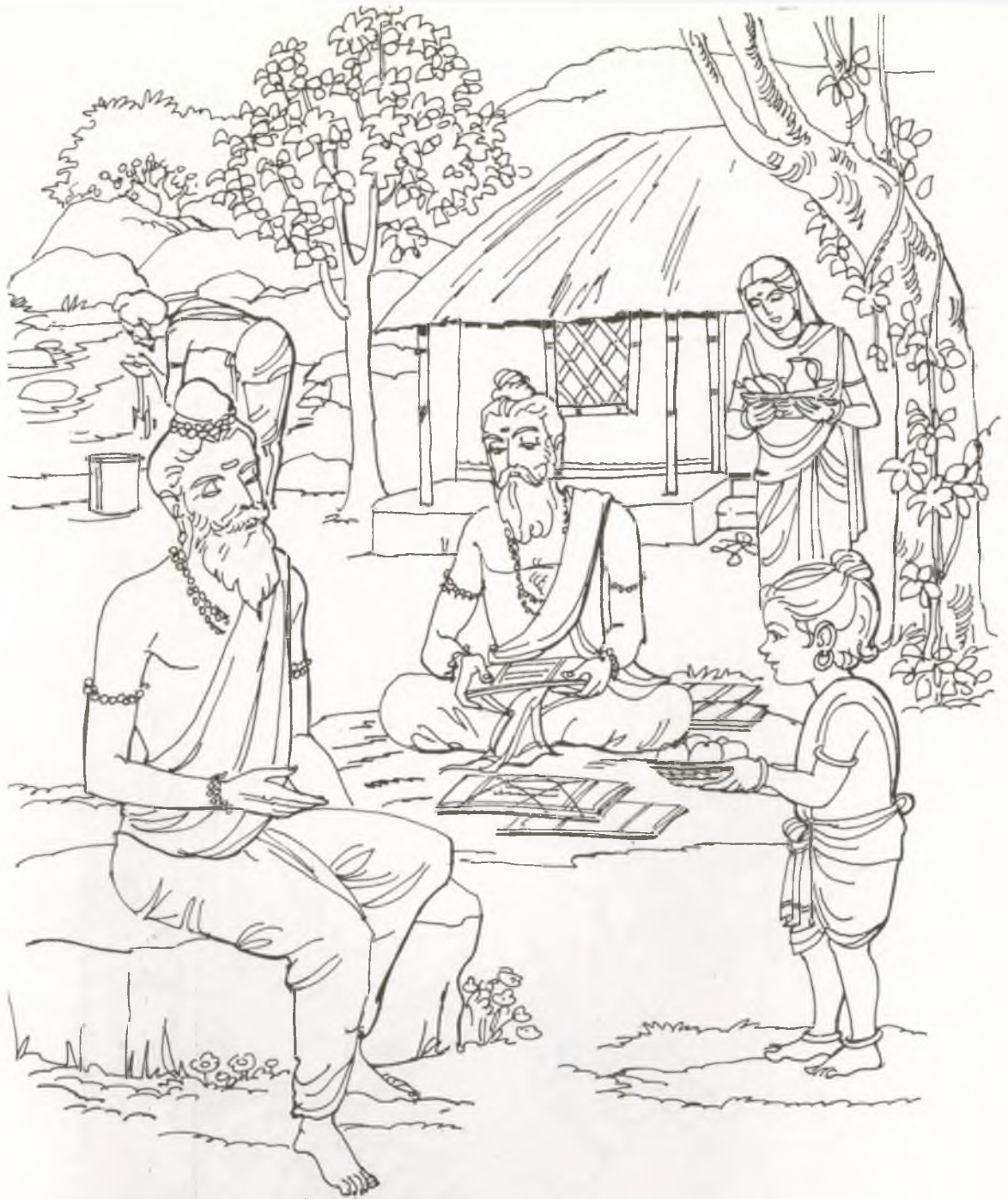
At the beginning of the creation, lord Brahma with a desire to increase the population of the universe, requested his son Narada to give up his wandering nature, get married and become a father of many children. At this, Narada politely replied that he was not interested to take up the household life which is the cause of bewilderment and material grief, rather, he would be simply happy travelling & singing the glories of the Supreme Lord.

When Brahma heard these words, his lips trembled in anger and he cursed Narada..."you fool, since you like to sing, you better become a *Gandharva* (celestial singer in heaven) for one *Kalpa*"....(i.e., 432,000,000 solar years = one day of Brahma).



3. Narada's birth as Gandharva:

Narada then became the *Gandharva* known as *Upabarhانا*, the leader of the *Gandharvas* in the world of demigods. He was an angelic musician who would decorate himself to attract beautiful women. As his popularity grew, he became very proud. One day, accompanied by many celestial women, Narada as *Upabarhانا* attended a musical fest of the demigods. While all were singing and dancing very nicely with proper rhythm & rhyme, *Upabarhانا* (Narada) lost the particular melody (*raga*), because his attraction and attention was drawn towards his beautiful consorts as he was thinking of them only. The demigods became very angry at this and felt that *Upabarhانا* is unfit to be a demigod, so they immediately cursed him to become a *sudra* (low class). Thus Narada, in the next life, became a son of maid servant on the earthly planet.



4. Narada's birth as son of maid servant:

Upabarhana (Narada) was born on Earth as the son of a maidservant. However, by the special grace of Lord Krishna, he remembered his last two births. He and his mother lived in a small house. When he was four years old, few sages came to their house to stay during the *chaturmasya* (the four-months of rainy season). During their stay, the sages taught him about the devotional love of God. The boy took great care of the sages, never allowing his attention to be deviated or distracted - not even for play. Once, he was fortunate to get the remnants of their foodstuffs (*prasadam*). After eating their remnants, his spiritual knowledge was naturally enhanced, destroying his past misdeeds.....

Eventually, Narada once again regained his birth as the son of lord Brahma and continued his devotional service of wandering freely through all the universes, singing & playing on his musical instrument 'Vina' and glorifying the Supreme Lord.



5 Narada saves great devotee-Prahlad:

As Narada Muni was always eager to elevate the people spiritually, he became the spiritual master of many great devoted personalities and Bhakta Prahlad was one of them. Once, Prahlad's troublesome father and great demon Hiranyakashipu, who always afflicted miseries upon all types of people, went to the mountain forest of *Mandarachala* to perform severe austerities to gain more demoniac powers. In his absence the demigods made severe attempts to kill all the demoniac followers of Hiranyakashipu in a warfare. As a result, the demons began to flee, scattering themselves in all directions. Finally, the demigods captured the pregnant wife of Hiranyakashipu because they thought that another 'demon' like Hiranyakashipu was within her womb. The best course, they thought, was to kill the child when he would be just born, and then release the woman....

Narada muni appeared on the scene and asked the demigods to 'immediately release the innocent woman because the child within her womb was faultless and sinless. Indeed, he is a great devotee and an empowered servant of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.' When the great sage Narada Muni had thus spoken, the demigods immediately released Prahlad's mother, circumbulated her, and then they returned to their respective celestial kingdoms.



6 The Deliverance of Nalakuvara and Manigriva:

The two great demigods, Nalakuvara and Manigriva, were the sons of the treasurer of the demigods, Kuvera. As rich man's sons, they became addicted to wine and women. They became so extravagant and senseless that one day they were enjoying with naked girls in a lake. Just at that time, Narada Muni was passing by. But they were so maddened by their love & lust that even though they saw Narada Muni present, they remained naked and were unashamed. They lost their sense of common decency and thus offended the great sage Narada. As a special mercy, Narada Muni cursed these two intoxicated fallen demigods to become *yamala-arjuna* twin trees in the courtyard of Krishna's residence in Vrindavana. This was a fit punishment for them as the trees always remain naked forbearing heat, cold and rain.....

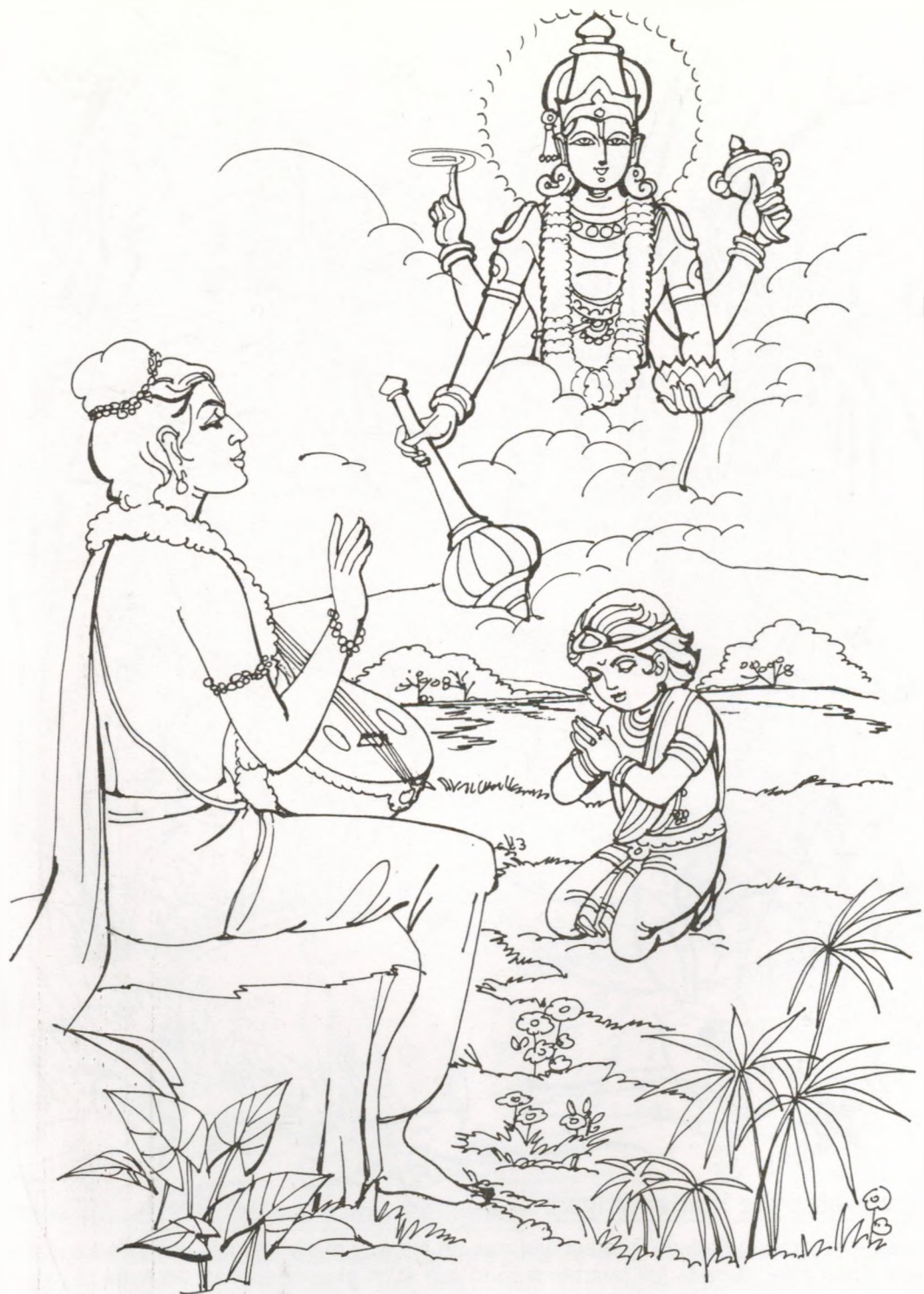
The same demigods were later delivered by little Krishna, in His childhood pastime, after one hundred celestial years.



7 Narada elevates the hunter-Mrigari:

Once, Narada was passing through a forest and saw on his way many animals half-killed and they were suffering with great pain. Narada felt heart-broken to see such ghastly scenes. As Narada went deeper into the forest, he saw a black hunter (Mrigari) with reddish eyes and fierce look behind a tree, ready to kill more animals with his bow and arrows. There were more animals in the forest unaware of the presence of the hunter. As the animals saw Narada, they immediately fled in all directions, and because of this the hunter became very angry at Narada.

But Narada being the most merciful devotee of the Lord, preached Krishna Consciousness to the hunter and delivered the most fallen soul like Mrigari. By that saintly association of Narada, Mrigari became a completely changed person and later he could not bear to give pain even to the lowly creature like ant on the ground.....Narada Muni ki Jai!!



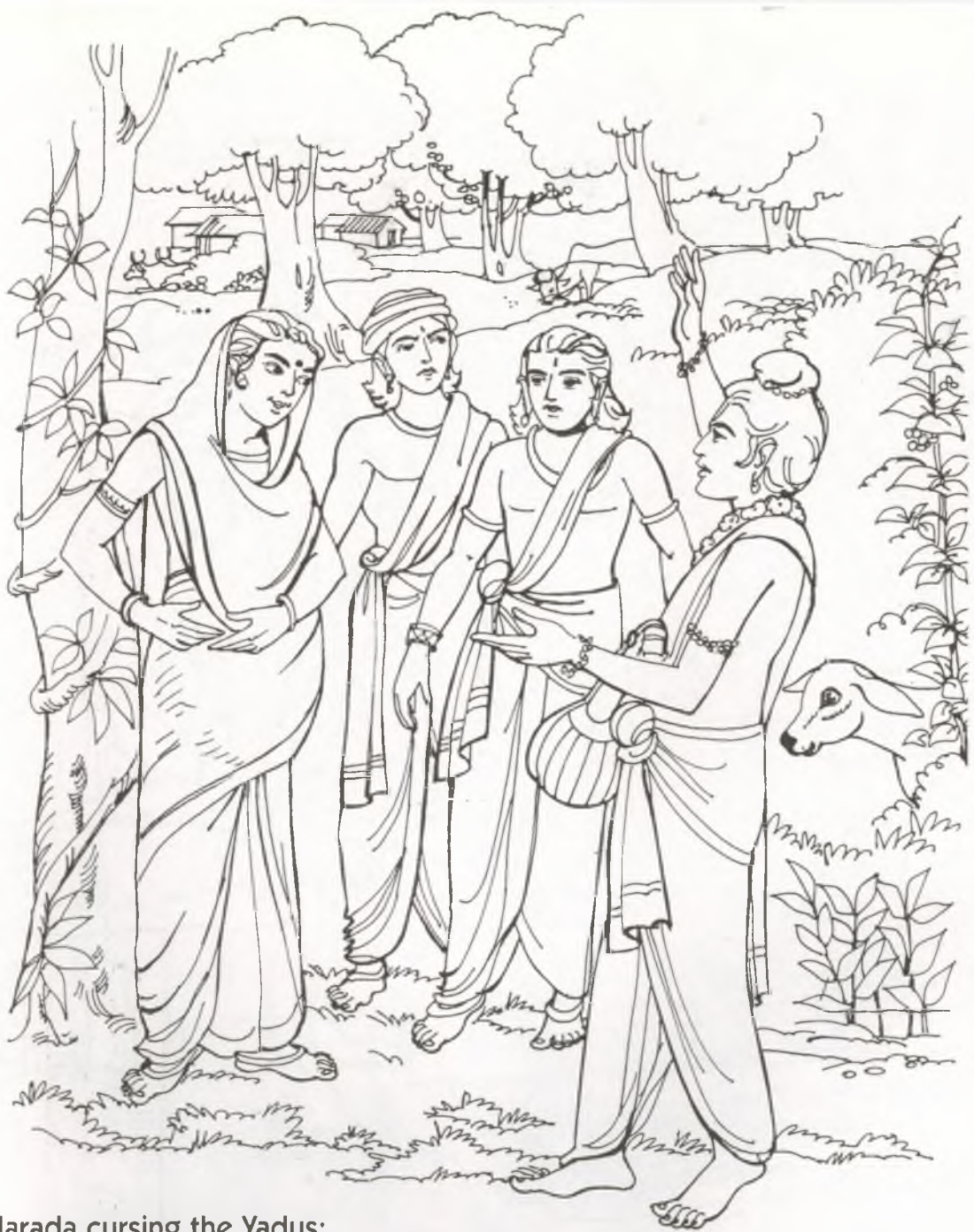
8. Narada instructs Dhruva:

Dhruva, the son of a great king Uttanapada, was determined to go to the forest at his tender age in search of the Supreme Lord. (Please refer to "Dhruva's Great Determination" by Vedic Arts Publications for full story). The Great Sage Narada was astonished at the child's great determination to go to the forest. Being compassionate, he instructed Dhruva to follow the path of devotional service, freeing himself from all material contaminations. Narada initiated Dhruva with the Divine Mantra "***Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya***" to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead.



9. Narada instructs Vyasa to compile Bhagavatam:

Once Srila Vyasadeva, the author of all Vedic literatures, was not satisfied with himself, although he had compiled all the literatures of Vedic values for the all-round welfare of the general mass of people. While he was lamenting for his shortcomings, Sage Narada appeared at the hermitage of Srila Vyasadeva to dispel the cause of his despondency. Being very compassionate towards Vyasadeva, Sri Narada Muni understood the cause of his disciple's dissatisfaction. Vyasadev did not directly explain the transcendental pastimes of the Lord in his earlier literary works. So, Narada instructed him to be engaged in compiling *Srimad Bhagavatam* with direct narrations glorifying the transcendental activities of the Supreme Personality of Godhead and His loving devotees.



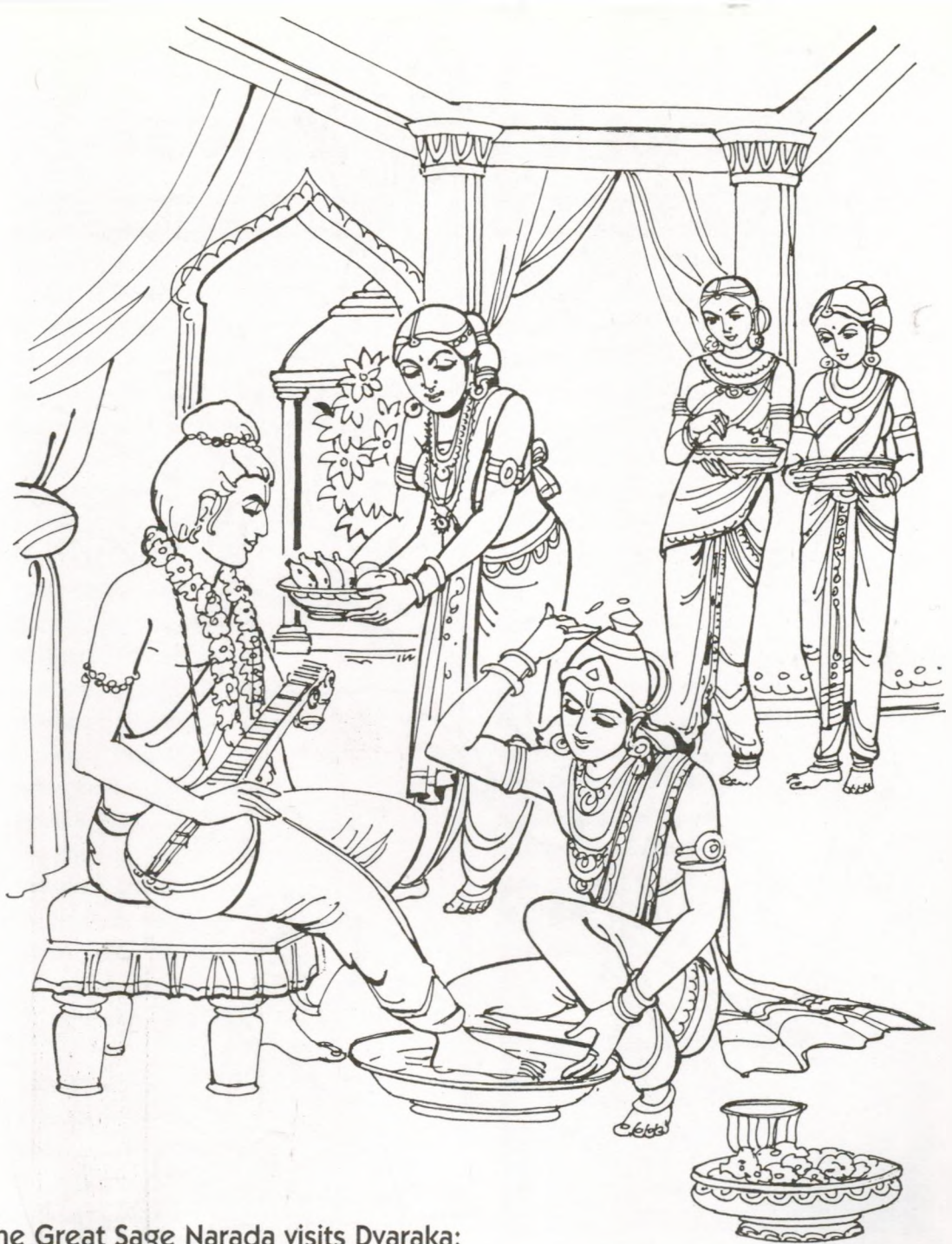
10. Narada cursing the Yadus:

Soon after the victory of Pandavas at the battle of Kurukshetra, Lord Krishna devised a plan to return to His eternal Spiritual abode-*Golokavindravana* along with His associates-the members of *Yadu* dynasty. The device that resulted in the cursing of the *yadu* dynasty took place when many great sages, headed by Narada, gathered at the holy place of *Pindaraka*. At that holy place, the young boys of the *Yadus* brought Samba, the son of Jambavati, dressed like a pregnant woman. Playfully approaching the great sage, the boys brought Samba before Narada and jokingly asked him whether the child of this 'woman' would be a boy or girl ?

Thus ridiculed by the deceit, Narada became angry at the boys and cursed the them:

"You fools! 'She' will bear an iron Club as a child and that will eventually destroy your entire *Yadu* dynasty."

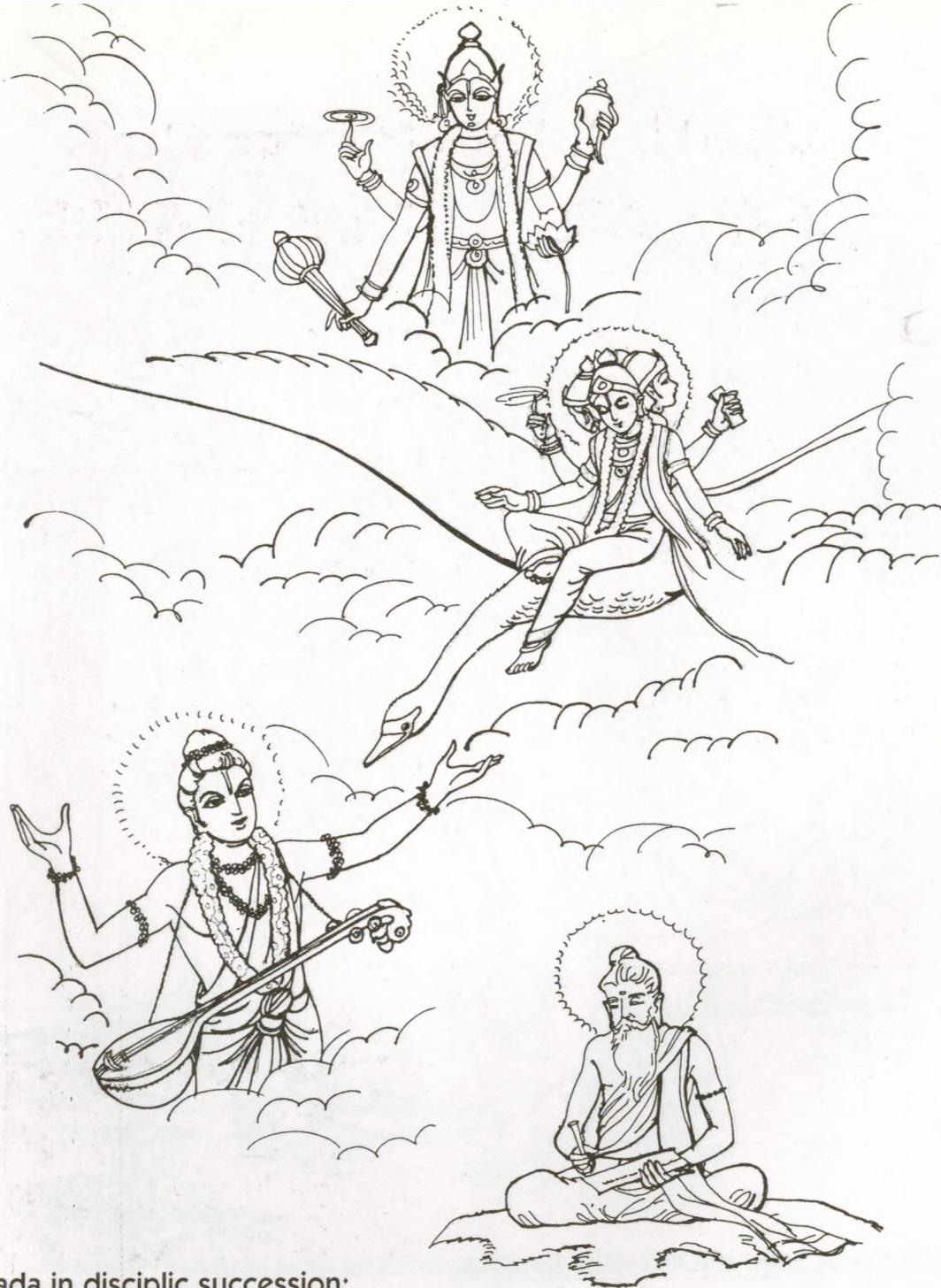
Later, the same iron Club turned into many tall stalks of iron rods with which the *Yadus* destroyed themselves and all went back to their original abode as devised by Lord Krishna.



11. The Great Sage Narada visits Dvaraka:

The great sage Narada heard that Lord Krishna had married sixteen thousand women after erecting the Dvaraka-Fort. He was astonished how Lord Krishna had wonderfully expanded Himself into sixteen thousand forms to marry these women and live with His wives simultaneously in different palaces of Dvaraka.

Being inquisitive to know how wonderfully Krishna was managing His household affairs, sage Narada often visited Dvaraka. One day Narada saw Lord Krishna sitting with Rukminidevi, who was personally engaged in fanning the Lord. Upon seeing Narada, Lord Krishna got down immediately from His bedstead, welcomed and honoured him, washed his feet and sprinkled the water upon His head. It was indeed a magnanimously surpassing quality of the Supreme Lord.



12. Narada in disciplic succession:

All the devotees in the disciplic succession of *Brahma Madhva Gaudia Sampradaya* are stemming from Narada muni because they worship the Deities according to his instructions- namely the *Naradapancharatra* or the *Naradapancharatrika vidhi*.

The original created being of this universe, lord Brahma, known as *Adi-kavi*, was imparted knowledge by the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna, and in turn lord Brahma handed over the same knowledge through *parampara* system to his son Narada. Narada Muni in turn handed down the same knowledge without a change to his disciple Srila Vyasadeva. In this way the disciplic succession had been continuing till today through a chain of Spiritual Masters.

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